

**St Mary's Church
Chedzoy**

All Souls' Prayers and Poems



***You are invited to a special service on
Sunday 1st November at 11:00am to
remember and give thanks for loved
ones who are no longer with us and to
light candles in their memory***

If you would like to contact us our details are:

Rev Kirsty Wells – (01278) 685480

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Few people in the UK will not have been affected by the loss of a loved one over these past years. Particularly as a nation we have mourned the loss of our late Queen Elizabeth. In our own community we have lost people very dear to us, and we have sometimes struggled to mourn those losses. We hope these prayers and poems will bring some comfort.

St Paul says:

“For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8: 38-39.

I Weep in Love

Meditation by an Indian Christian

I am glad, Lord, for I wept today.

And I hid my tears inside my handkerchief.

Still my eyes were burning, and my head got hot; my heart was beating fast and I felt weak, solemn thoughts rose up from my mind, and a note of thankfulness played its melody in my being.

Why? I do not know.

I know that drops of tears which I hid in my kerchief have been a stepping stone for me to thee.

Lord, I cry, make me weep,
and give me tears to flow;

Thy loving touch transforms my grief into
joy and peace.
I weep in love –
I am glad, Lord, for I wept today

Prayer of St Francis de Sales

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather,
look to them with full hope that as they arise,
God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through
all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will
carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the
same understanding Father who cares for you today
will take care of you then and every day.

He will either shield you from suffering
or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

I'm Free by Janice M. Fair-Salters

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call, I
turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, to
laugh, to love, to work, to play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the end of the day.

If my parting has left a void, then
fill it with remembered joy. A
friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, ah,

yes, these things too I will miss. Be not
burdened with times of sorrow, I wish
you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savoured much, good
friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,

God wanted me now, He set me free.

Jesus, You said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted" (Matthew 5:4, NIV). I am mourning; send me
Your comfort now. Wrap Your arms around me and hold me tight.
Send angels of mercy to me. Shower Your comfort on me
through those around me, and keep far from me those
whose words and actions are no comfort.

Amen.

A reading from 'All in the End is Harvest' Ed. Agnes Whitaker

A bereaved woman described the snowdrops she was sent as "a
point of hope". Again and again natural beauty brings symbols:
symbols of a new stage, a step forward, or symbols for the future.
Again and again, too, the days and seasons reflect our feelings. It
does undoubtedly calm us to reflect on the awesome age and
grandeur of mountains, the limpid tranquillity of lochs and burns,
huge waves curling over rocks and sending up high plumes of
spray, or the palest green velvety leaves of beechwoods, shot
through with sunlight – even if the result is what Hesse calls
'sorrow-steeped enchantment'. More importantly, we might gain
either slowly or dramatically a sense that we are at home in the
universe, a sense of tranquillity within the accustomed patterns, a
tranquillity that might gradually take away the fear and alarm
from our lives...

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

*May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft
upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold
you in the palm of His hand.*

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