



# St Andrew's Church

*serving the parish of*  
Congresbury, Hewish and Puxton



*A service to commemorate the*

## Fiftieth Anniversary of the Swiss Air Disaster

*and to dedicate the new Memorial Garden*

Monday 10th April 2023 at 11.00am.

# Welcome to St Andrew's Church and to this service of commemoration.

Fifty years ago on Tuesday 10th April 1973, various groups of friends and families left Congresbury and surrounding villages to go on a day trip to Bastle in Switzerland. Shortly before landing the plane got into difficulty and crashed into the Swiss hillside near a village called Herrenmatt, Hochwald. Sadly, twenty members of the Congresbury party died, and as word got round, relatives discovered that in some cases whole families had been lost.

At the Evensong on that first Sunday after the crash Preb. Alex Cran returned from retirement and conducted the service to a packed Church. Today, as a mark of respect for all those who lost their lives, and for their families and loved ones, we will read out the names of all those from Congresbury who died that day and light candles for them on their behalf.

After the service we will then dedicate a new Memorial Garden by the Stable block, next to the Church, as a lasting memory. We would like to thank everyone who has been so generous in enabling this to be possible. It means a lot. For details of those who kindly donated: please see the website: [www.swissairdisaster.uk](http://www.swissairdisaster.uk)

We are mindful of those who share our experience today from the surrounding villages of Axbridge, Cheddar, and Wrington and further afield. We are also mindful of the good people of Dornach, in Switzerland who will gather at the memorial today along with some of the relatives of loved ones who have travelled to Switzerland to also be there.

**Below is a list of those who we remember from Congresbury today. They will always be in our hearts:**

**Aileen Gladys Gill**

**Hazel Mary Gill**

**Ivor James Gill**

**Maija-Liisa (Marie) Gill**

**John Michael Gill**

**Raymond Noel Batt**

**Beryl Gertrude Batt**

**Irene Weaver**

**Agnes Eleanor (Ellen) Rawlings**

**William Alfred (Bill) Price**

**Dorothy Marie (Dot) Price**

**Myrtle Florence Reakes**

**Sylvia Jean Roynon**

**Ellen Mary Roynon**

**Linda Jane Davis**

**Evelyn Maud Davis**

**Grace Louisa Searle**

**Rose Evelyn Clark**

**Florence Durman**

**Kathleen May Atwell**

WELCOME

**An Opening Prayer:**

**God, our Father,  
you blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life.  
As we gather to remember before you our loved ones today,  
we thank you for every memory of love however painful  
for everything good they shared with us and for all that helped  
to make them the character they were and are.  
May you hold them in the tenderness of your hand today  
and be with us as we share this service togethercoming, as it  
does, the day after Easter.  
Hear our prayer through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.  
Amen.**

**Hymn: 'Lord of the Dance'**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He;  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,  
They came with me and the Dance went on.

(Refrain)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
and they left me there on a Cross to die.

(Refrain)

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord Of the Dance, said He.

(Refrain)

**Poem: 'They are gone'** *David Harkins*

You can shed a tear that they are gone  
Or you can smile because they have lived  
You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back,  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that they have left.  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.  
You can remember them and only that they are gone,  
Or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,  
Or you can do what they would have wanted:  
smile, open your eyes, love, and go on.

**Bible Reading:**

**'A hope of things yet to come.'** *Revelation ch 21, verses 1-7*

**Address:**

ACT OF COMMEMORATION

**Hear us,  
O merciful Father,  
as we remember in love those  
who we have place into Your hands.  
Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of old,  
lambs of Your own flock,  
children of Your own redeeming.  
Enfold them in the arms of Your mercy,  
and may they enjoy the glorious company of the saints in light.  
Amen.**

*The names to be remembered are read aloud and a candle lit for each one. At the end, we say:*

**This is the will of Him that sent me  
that I should lose nothing of all that He has given me,  
and I will raise them up at the last day.**

*Everyone is invited, if they would like to, to come and place their own candles around those they remember, surrounding them with light and love.*

LORD'S PRAYER

*Let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught us...*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Hymn: 'All things bright and beautiful'

Refrain

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.  
(Refrain)

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.  
(Refrain)

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.  
(Refrain)

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.  
(Refrain)

## BLESSING

**May the Lord bless us and keep us,  
may His face shine upon us and be gracious to us,  
may He look kindly upon us and give us His peace.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be with us now and for evermore.

**Amen.**

**Music: 'Nunc Dimittis'** set to Acker Bilk 'Stranger on the Shore'

O Lord, now let your servant go in peace,  
Your servant go in peace, according to Your word.  
Mine eyes have seen, have seen Your plan to save  
The plan You have prepared for earth and every man.  
Your Light and Love will reach and spread to every shore  
Till all men are your friends, not strangers any more.

All glory to the Father and the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
God the three-in-one.

**Memorial Garden:**

*The Service continues outside as we dedicate the new Memorial Garden*

**Refreshments:**

*Please joins us at The Memorial Hall, Congresbury for refreshments*

*This Order of Service was kindly donated by*  
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