



Forget
me
not

Songs of Praise

We used this Songs of Praise service for Dementia Action Week 2018 in St Andrew's Church, Shifnal, Shropshire.

The elements of the service are:

- Opening hymn, welcome and prayer
- Three sections in which people are interviewed, each choosing a favourite hymn which is sung at the end of the interview, focusing on:
 - Changing Patterns (interviewing someone affected by dementia)
 - Crossing the Bridge (interviewing someone who can talk about "Pictures to Share" books & memory boxes, resources to help cross the bridge)
 - Working Together (interviewing someone affected by dementia)
- Prayers, blessing and final hymn

The people who spoke in the service were:

- The Leader;
- The three people being interviewed;
- Three readers (of the psalm, epistle and poem); and
- The person leading the prayers.

This document includes the following:

- The Service Sheet (pp3-14)
- The poster advertising the service (p15)
- Explanatory sheets, to brief the people being interviewed (pp 16-18)
- The Leader's script and information (pp 19-21)
- The Prayers (pp22-23)

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May 2018



Songs of Praise



HYMN

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhaunting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

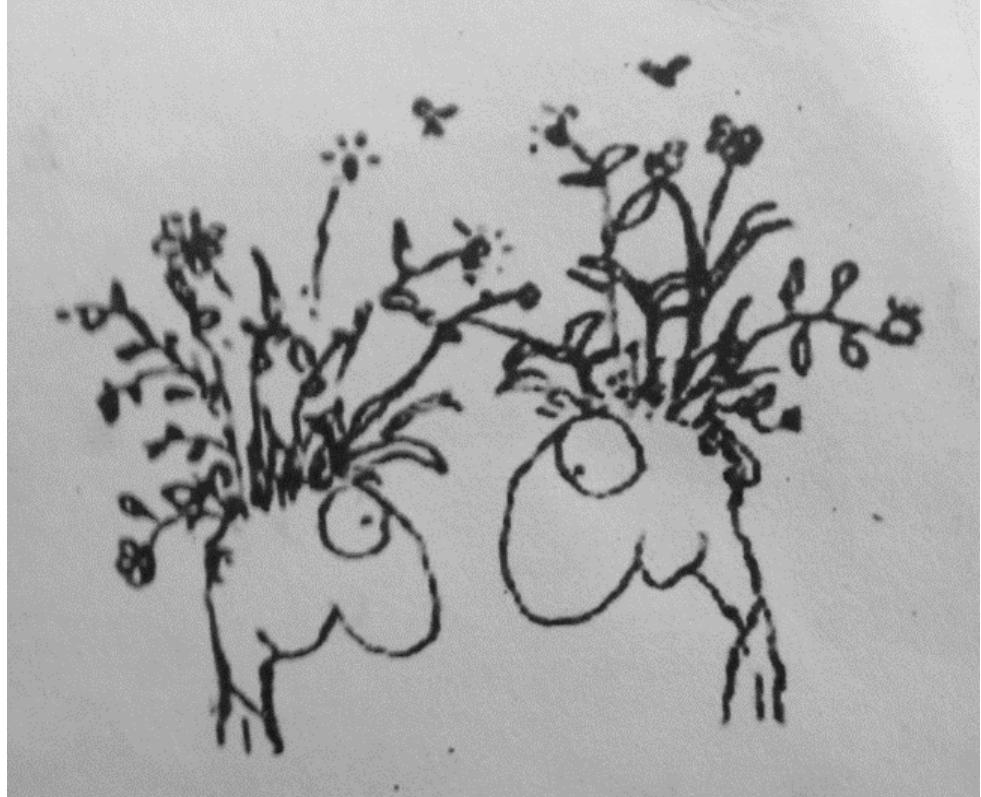


Image and prayer courtesy of Michael Leunig

OPENING PRAYER

We pray for the fragile ecology of the heart and mind.

The sense of meaning.

So finely assembled and balanced and so easily overturned.

The careful, ongoing construction of love.

As painful and exhausting as the struggle for truth
and as easily abandoned.

Hard fought and won are the shifting sands
of this sacred ground, this ecology.

Easy to desecrate and difficult to defend,
this vulnerable joy, this exposed faith,
this precious order. This sanity.

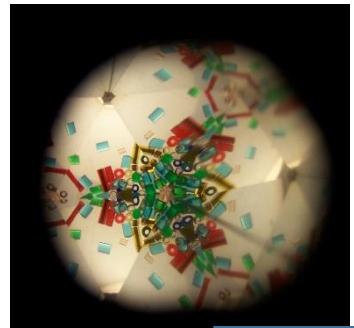
We shall be careful.

With others

and with ourselves. **Amen**



CHANGING PATTERNS



Psalm 90 (verses 1&2, 11&12, 16&17)

In amongst all the changing patterns that come with dementia, we rely so much on the unchanging God, who remains steady for us.

Cc Chris

Lord, thou hast been our refuge:
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
 or ever the earth and the world were made:

**thou art God from everlasting,
 and world without end.**

So teach us to number our days:
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last:
and be gracious unto thy servants.

Show thy servants thy work:
and their children thy glory.

And the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:
**prosper thou the work of our hands upon us,
 O prosper thou our handywork.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning is now ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen**



**INTERVIEW
with June Barnes****HYMN**

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me;
how He left His home in glory
for the cross of Calvary.

Refrain:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with the saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost, but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
threw His loving arms around me,
drew me back into His way. *Refrain*

I was bruised, but Jesus healed me,
faint was I from many a fall,
sight was gone, and fears possessed me,
but He freed me from them all. *Refrain*

Days of darkness still come o'er me,
sorrow's path I often tread,
but His presence still is with me;
by His guiding hand I'm led. *Refrain*

He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet;
then He'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet. *Refrain*



CROSSING THE BRIDGE



cc [v1ctory_1s_m1ne](#)

Bible Reading: Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 13 verses 1-3

The writer to the Hebrews encourages us to enter into the world of another person as fully as we are able to do so.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,
for by so doing some people have
shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Continue to remember those in prison
as if you were together with them in prison,
and those who are mistreated
as if you yourselves were suffering.



INTERVIEW**with Marilyn Higson****HYMN**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
'til traveling days are done.



WORKING TOGETHER



cc James Willamour

WILD GEESE

by Mary Oliver

In her wonderful poem, Mary Oliver encourages us to listen to our feelings – love and despair – and to learn from the bigger picture of the natural world and the wild geese, recognising our place in the family of things.



INTERVIEW

with Sheila Dawson-Campbell

HYMN (during which the collection will be taken)

Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us,
you are one with us, Mary's Son,
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ now and every day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
born as one with us, Mary's Son,
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus help us see
you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord.



PRAYERS

After each prayer, we sing together

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with chords that cannot be broken;
bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.



*We finish our prayers by saying together
the family prayer that 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**



BLESSING

HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.



Everyone is welcome to stay and share refreshments together.



You're warmly invited to
FORGET ME NOT TEA
at St Andrew's Church, Shifnal
3rd Thursday @ 3pm

We welcome to Forget-me-not anyone affected by memory loss or dementia, with their family, friends or carers.

*We meet in St Andrew's Church,
Church Street, Shifnal, TF11 9AB
on the third Thursday of each month
starting at 3.00pm.*

We all enjoy sharing a lovely tea together – come for a cuppa & cake!

Before that, we share hymns and prayers and a Bible reading, together with reminiscence/activities on our theme for the month.

We welcome everyone, irrespective of beliefs. We also support and encourage one another by sharing questions and information about memory loss and dementia.

Above all, we enjoy each other's company!

A warm welcome awaits you. For more information, contact Sarah Thorpe on 0798 224 8949 or sarah.thorpe121@gmail.com



Please come and join us
for

Songs of Praise



for Dementia Action Week

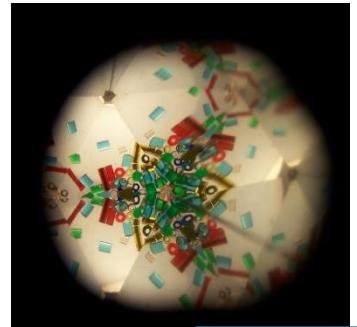
on Sunday 27 May at 6:30pm

at St Andrew's Church, Shifnal, TF11 9AB

- Sing some favourite songs together
- If you'd like to, come wearing your favourite hat!
- Understand a bit more about dementia
- Share a cuppa and cake together after the service

For more information, contact Sarah Thorpe, Dementia Coordinator
at St Andrew's Church, Shifnal, on 0798 224 8949 or sarah.thorpe121@gmail.com

CHANGING PATTERNS INTERVIEW



Cc Chris

READING: PSALM 90

Some verses from this Psalm are said together.

The Leader says:

"If I look through a kaleidoscope and see a lovely pattern, I may want to show you. But if my hand jogs as I pass it across to you, it's gone – the pattern's changed. Rather than focusing on the old pattern that's gone, can we together see the light shining through in a different pattern?"

It can be the same with dementia: we can focus only on the old patterns that used to be good but have gone, or we can acknowledge that patterns are changing and look for the light within the new patterns that are emerging."

The Leader then introduces the person/people being interviewed, inviting them to the front of church.

INTERVIEW (*This needs two or at most three sentences in answer to each question.*)

- Can you tell us something about how patterns have changed?
- Can you tell us about how the light's shining through, now?
- What's the hymn you've chosen and why?

HYMN

CROSSING THE BRIDGE INTERVIEW



CC [v1ctory 1s m1ne](#)

BIBLE READING: HEBREWS 13 vv1-3

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.
Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,
for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison,
and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

The Leader says:

"I love that reading, where the writer says "Imagine what's it's like to be a prisoner. Imagine what's it's like to be mistreated." It's all about entering into another person's world.
In dementia, we've learned to go with the feelings, rather than the facts, not to contradict or challenge, but to cross over the bridge. When we cross the bridge, we enter another person's world, meeting them where they are.

The Leader then introduces the person/people being interviewed, inviting them to the front of church.

INTERVIEW (This needs two or at most three sentences in answer to each question.)

- Can you tell us something about the “Pictures to Share” books and the memory bags/boxes?
- How do they help us to cross the bridge and enter another person’s world?
- What’s the hymn you have chosen, and why?

WORKING TOGETHER INTERVIEW



cc James Willamour

READING: WILD GEESE by Mary Oliver

In her wonderful poem, Mary Oliver encourages us to listening to our feelings – love and despair – and to learn from the bigger picture of the natural world and the wild geese, recognising our place in the family of things.

The Leader says:

Have you ever wondered about why wild geese fly in a “V” formation? Scientists have discovered that the geese work together, taking it in turns to take the lead. Flying in formation, they can fly 70% further than any one bird could fly alone.

We've found it's the same with dementia. When we can work together, we work as a team and we are better able to support people with dementia, helping them to live as well as they can.

The Leader then introduces the person/people being interviewed, inviting them to the front of church.

INTERVIEW (*This needs two or at most three sentences in answer to each question.*)

- Who were the people who were most helpful, in the early stages?
- Who are the members of the team you're relying on now?
- What hymn have you chosen and why?

FORGET-ME-NOT SONGS OF PRAISE

LEADER'S SCRIPT

OPENING HYMN

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING PRAYER (*Leunig prayer, read from the service booklet*)

CHANGING PATTERNS

(*After Psalm 90*)

If I look through a kaleidoscope and see a lovely pattern, I may want to show you. But if my hand jogs as I pass it across to you, it's gone – the pattern's changed. Rather than focusing on the old pattern that's gone, can we together see the light shining through in a different pattern?

It can be the same with dementia: we can focus only on the old patterns that used to be good but have gone, or we can acknowledge that patterns are changing and look for the light within the new patterns that are emerging.

INTERVIEW

- Can you tell us something about how patterns have changed?
- Can you tell us about how the light's shining through, now?
- What's the hymn you've chosen and why?

HYMN

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

(After the reading from the letter to the Hebrews)

I love that reading, where the writer says “Imagine what’s it’s like to be a prisoner. Imagine what’s it’s like to be mistreated.” It’s all about entering into another person’s world.

In dementia, we’ve learned to go with the feelings, rather than the facts, not to contradict or challenge, but to cross over the bridge. When we cross the bridge, we enter another person’s world, meeting them where they are.

INTERVIEW

- Can you tell us something about the “Pictures to Share” books and the memory bags/boxes?
- How do they help us to cross the bridge and enter another person’s world?
- What’s the hymn you’ve chosen and why?

HYMN

WORKING TOGETHER

(After “Wild Geese” by Mary Oliver)

Have you ever wondered about why wild geese fly in a “V” formation? Scientists have discovered that the geese work together, taking turns to take the lead. Flying in formation, they can fly 70% further than any one bird could one bird could fly alone.

We’ve found it’s the same with dementia. When we can work together, we work as a team and we are able to help people live well with dementia for longer.

INTERVIEW

- Who were the people who were most helpful, in the early stages?
- Who are the members of the team you’re relying on now?
- What hymn have you chosen and why?

HYMN *(during which the collection is taken)*

PRAYERS

(See separate sheet)

BLESSING

Changeless God, hold us steady in all the changing patterns of our lives,
that we might recognise your light shining through.

Jesus Christ, walk with us as we dare to cross the bridge
to enter fully into another person's world.

Holy Spirit, bind us together as we learn how to fly in formation,
that together we might discover your abundant life day by day.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and with all those whom you love
today and always. **Amen**

FINAL HYMN

PRAYERS FOR SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE

As we share our prayers, we draw close to God and also to one another.

If you are comfortable to do so, can I invite you to hold hands or link arms with people around you, as we share our prayers together.

God of love,

We pray for all who are affected by dementia,
and for anyone facing unchosen challenges in life.

Help us all to know your unchanging love for us.

As patterns of life change,

help us to open our hands and our hearts in the letting go,
help us to expand our horizons of love;
and, day by day, help us to notice the light shining through
in new patterns and unexpected places.

Bind us together, Lord.

SING: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together

with cords that cannot be broken;
bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.

God of the present moment,

Thank you for meeting us where we are,
even when it's not a place we want to be,
and for promising that you will be with us
and will keep us wherever we go.

Following your example and drawing on your love,
help us to have the imagination and courage
to move out of our comfort zone and cross the bridge,
meeting both friends and strangers where they are
and finding life and love as we connect with one another.

Bind us together, Lord.

SING: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together

with cords that cannot be broken;
bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.

God of community,

We pray for all who are working together in dementia research,
For all who are working together to provide care and medical support
for people affected by dementia,
for all who are working together to make
our churches and communities more dementia-friendly.

Bless this and all places of community and connection,
helping us to work together with integrity to build resilient communities,
finding that life is broader and deeper, fuller and finer,
when it is shared in compassion and love.

Bind us together, Lord.

SING: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken;
bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.

We finish our prayers by saying together the family prayer that 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