

*A Service of Celebration  
for the Life of*



*Elsie Dawes*

*29<sup>th</sup> November 1936 – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026*

St Mary's Church, Easebourne  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
3pm

*Service led by Reverend Canon Derek Welsman*



# *Order of Service*

**Opening Music**  
*Cantata 140 J.S Bach*

**Welcome and Sentences**



*Organist*  
*William Wallace*

## Hymn

*How great thou art*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

*Refrain*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

*Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

*Refrain*

## Opening Prayer

### Reading

*1 Corinthians 13*

### Poem

*'She is gone' – David Harkins*

*Read by Helena*

You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back,  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,  
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 her and only that she is gone,  
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,  
Or you can do what she would want:  
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

**Eulogy**  
*Read by Philip*



## Poem

*Anonymous*

*Read by Heather*

You go on up the pathway, love  
And I'll wait here for a while.  
I know how much you love the sea  
And the call of the gulls and the open sky.  
You stride out, not a care in the world  
And when I'm done here, come back for me.

You go on up the mountain, love  
And I'll wait here for a while,  
I know how much you love the heights,  
The sound of the stream as it trickles by.  
You stride out, as free as a bird  
And when I'm done here, come back for me.

You go down the marshes, love  
And I'll wait here for a while.  
I know how much you love the morn  
With the sparkling dew and the geese flying high.  
You stride out with your hands in God's  
And when I'm done here, come back for me.

**The Prayers** *concluding with* **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*Thine be the glory*

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Refrain:*

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Refrain*

## Closing Music

*'Somewhere over the Rainbow' - Israel Kamakawiwoole*

*'What a Wonderful World' - Israel Kamakawiwoole*

*Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive, little used and preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, glass in one hand and golf club in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming.... WOW – what a life!*





Thank you all for being here today to honour Elsie  
Your presence, love, and support mean so much to  
her family and to all who loved her.



After the service you are warmly invited to  
The Spread Eagle Hotel, Midhurst, GU29 9NH  
to carry on remembering Elsie's special life.

Donations in memory of Elsie can be made to support  
Sage House Tangmere, Dementia Support

via [www.merrittsofmidhurst.co.uk](http://www.merrittsofmidhurst.co.uk)  
Funeral Notices – Elsie Dawes

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