

In thanksgiving for the life of

# Christopher Ohlson

followed by woodland burial



GreenAcres Heatherley Wood, Grayshott Road,  
Headley Down, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 8LA

1pm Monday 15 March 2021

*This gathering is held under Covid-19 restrictions. Please wear masks when inside the Pavilion and beyond, and maintain a distance of at least two metres from others. Please be in the Pavilion no later than 12.55pm. Music: 'Now thank we all our God'*

We gather to give thanks for Christopher and to commit his body to the Earth.

Christopher and Finna met and married at St James's Church Piccadilly London. He described himself as a 'secular Christian'. Some Christian language will be used today - notably at the 'commendation' (of Christopher's soul to God) and the Committal (when his body is committed to the Earth) though the overall aim is the expression of a wider and inclusive sense of the mystery and wonder of life.

*Please stand as the coffin is brought in. 'God Be In My Head' is played.*

## INTRODUCTION

Hugh Valentine

## CELEBRATING THE MAN

*Music*

A tune that made Christopher smile: Test Match Special

*Christopher's early life*

Peter Ohlson, cousin

*Poem*

Alta Quies *A E Housman*. Read by Karen Archer

*Other recollections*

Ray Crocker

*Music*

Christopher enjoyed a rewriting by Fred Kaan of the Magnificat (found in Luke's Gospel) sung to the tune of 'The Red Flag':

Sing we a song of high revolt;  
Make great the Lord, his name exalt:  
Sing we the song that Mary sang  
Of God at war with human wrong.  
Sing we of him who deeply cares  
And still with us our burden bears;  
He, who with strength the proud disowns,  
Brings down the mighty from their thrones.

By him the poor are lifted up:  
He satisfies with bread and cup  
The hungry folk of many lands;  
The rich are left with empty hands.  
He calls us to revolt and fight  
With him for what is just and right  
To sing and live Magnificat  
In crowded street and council flat



*Our life together*

Finna

*Poem*

Karen Archer reads Late Fragment by *Raymond Carver*

*Afterwards we remain seated and listen to 'I wish I knew how it would feel to be free' sung by Nina Simone. It will be repeated as the coffin is carried out; please follow it outside.*







## THE BURIAL

We make our way to the grave, a walk of about 5 minutes. On arrival, we gather around the grave whilst maintaining a safe distance from others.

*The coffin is lowered into the grave.*

## THE COMMENDATION

*If you wish to, please join in saying the text in **bold***

**Give rest, O God, to Christopher, with your saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting**

You alone are immortal, our creator and maker; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to the earth we shall return: 'Dust you are, and to dust you shall return'.

**Give rest, O God, to Christopher, with your saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting**

Into your hands, O Lord, our faithful creator and most loving God, we commend Christopher. For he is yours in death as in life. Gather him to yourself in gentleness and peace, that he may enjoy that rest which you have prepared for all your faithful people; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Go forth upon your journey from this world: in the name of God; in the name of Jesus Christ and in the name of the Holy Spirit. May you dwell this day in peace. **AMEN**

**Christopher: as God freely gave you to us, so we freely let you go. We thank you for travelling with us and for all you gave us. And with our love we continue to surround you.**

*Now is the time to cast upon the coffin a handful of earth or flowers you may have brought.*

## THE COMMITTAL

We have entrusted Christopher to God's care, and we now commit his body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

*We say together:*

**"Love is not changed by death and nothing is lost, and all in the end is harvest." <sup>1</sup> AMEN**

## THE BLESSING

A blessing is said

*Please make your way to the car park where Finna will join us after she has spent some private moments at the graveside. Covid-19 restrictions prevent catering. You might consider bringing your own refreshments in some easily accessible form to raise a toast to Christopher, and to the universe that brought him to birth.*

1: from Edith Sitwell's poem, *Eurydice*



*For information about the venue*  
*[www.greenacresgroup.co.uk/heatherleywood-park](http://www.greenacresgroup.co.uk/heatherleywood-park)*