

**Funeral of Lloyd William Armes
St Peter's Church Carlton Colville
11:00am Friday 5th February 2021**

Incoming Music: The Wonder Of It All – George
Beverly Shea

The Gathering
Sentences of Scripture

Introduction
Welcome

Tribute (written by Matt Armes and read by Mark
Ellis)

Prayers of Penitence

Bible Reading: Galatians 3:26-4:7 (from Lloyd's
Christmas card to the Ellis Family 2021)

Sermon

Reflection Music: My hope is built on nothing less
(Cornerstone) - Hillsong

Prayers (including Lord's Prayer)

Commendation and Farewell

Exit Music: How Great Thou Art – Wallingford
Parish Church Choir

Tribute:

Early life

Lloyd was born on Christmas Day, 1948. His parents, Donald and Winifred, ran the Post Office and General Stores on Gorleston Road, Oulton Village. The family would have been well-known in the village and Lloyd's sense of community and friendship would have been sparked from an early age.

Friends remember him to have been a great tennis player in his youth - often playing with friends from the Young People's Fellowship on Saturday nights during the summer at Kensington Gardens.

A gifted pianist and then organist, over the years he played for very many important events in people's lives: lots of weddings, funerals and baptisms; and playing for the church choir (one friend recalls Lloyd frequently being required to display a lot of patience during those rehearsals...).

Lloyd was part of a small singing group, "Sounds Together", with friends - Margaret (who is here today) and Roger and Pauline (who have made the difficult choice not to attend as they are shielding). Roger and Lloyd were very good friends for many years. Lloyd described Roger as "the brother he never had" which, Roger says, he regarded as the greatest compliment.

Roger has spoken on a few of Lloyd's special occasions over the years, including when he was best man at Lloyd's wedding to Christine. He has offered some memories of Lloyd that always bring a smile to his face:

"I first met Lloyd as a young teenager when we were on the Norfolk Baptist Youth Committee... I remember him as a very earnest lad. We got to know him well and when Pauline and I moved to Lowestoft and attended the London Road Baptist Church where Lloyd was a member, we had a lot more to do with

him. He would often come to our house, wearing his slippers, after driving in them from home(!), and sit and chat and drink tea and listen/sing to the Beach Boys.

On one occasion, on a particularly windy evening, with very heavy seas pounding the harbour walls, we went down to view the spectacle. Most of us kept a good distance from the sea wall but Lloyd decided to get closer. Just then a very large wave hit the wall, Lloyd turned to run, slipped and sat on his bottom and was soaked to his skin.

At LRBC we were part of the 'team' who took up the collection in the morning service, moving from row to row, holding the collection bag into which people placed their offerings. The bag itself hung between two wooden handles and on one occasion someone (!) partially unscrewed one of the handles. Lloyd was deliberately given this bag and half way through the collection the weight of the coins caused the handle to completely unscrew, with a tremendous crash! Lloyd was left scrabbling around on the floor, trying to retrieve the contents of the bag!

I shall remember Lloyd with great affection and considered him as a very close friend. In Norfolk parlance, he was a "real good ol' boy".

Work

Many people here will have benefitted from, or been on the receiving end of(!), Lloyd's attention to detail. (A friend has recalled that it didn't matter if you turned up to a function organised by Lloyd and forgot what food you'd pre-ordered: Lloyd would have a record!) It will come as no surprise therefore to hear that throughout his life he worked mainly in accounts and then auditing/risk management.

He worked at Shell UK from 1972 to 1999; based in Lowestoft for most of that time. There followed a stint for Shell in London at the very impressive Shell Mex House - as it was called then - on the

banks of the Thames. Throughout that time he had regular work trips to Aberdeen.

His work then took him much further afield in 2000 when he took a contract with a petrol company in Damascus, Syria. He returned to Lowestoft in 2002 when roles with Bradwell Parish Council and Waveney District Council saw him through to retirement.

Interests

Lloyd played tennis, table tennis and ten pin bowling - all very well.

He had a particular love of Cricket and Football, being more than happy to talk at great length about both! A shared experience of many here today will be finding themselves in the middle of a telephone conversation with Lloyd about one thing or another, only to have him suddenly cut in with a newsflash about the lost wicket in the test match or the goal that had just been scored in the football which he'd inevitably have on in the background. If he had Sky Sports or Radio 5 Live on, he could be pretty content any time of day or night.

On his visits to stay with Matt in Nottingham, they would (in spite of the almost inevitable disappointment at the result) sometimes attend the odd Ipswich away match or perhaps a day or two of a test match at Trent Bridge.

In recent years Lloyd discovered a love of Malta where he holidayed a few times.

Lloyd had quite a dry sense of humour but also found very silly things amusing - Christmas wasn't Christmas without a few late night belly laughs watching the Carry On films with Matt.

Faith

Lloyd's faith was a fundamental part of who he was. He was a member of the congregation at London Road Baptist Church, then Christ Church, and then St Peter's. When living in Damascus he forged close connections with All Saints Community Church there. Any time he'd visit Matt in Nottingham he would attend a Sunday service at one of the local churches - forming links that he would keep.

Lloyd made a valuable contribution over many years to the work of the churches in Lowestoft. He set up regular meetings with the Lowestoft Journal, several times a year, keeping them informed of church events and activities, introducing church leaders to the editor, and so on. Lloyd 'oiled the wheels', helping to maintain a good ongoing relationship. He organised a rota of church leaders to write contributions for the weekly "Church Notes" column, and was occasionally a contributor himself. He was good at patiently chasing up each contributor with a timely reminder.

For over a decade Lloyd was also the Secretary and driving force of the Lowestoft Christian Men's Network, liaising between church reps to build up a fellowship network across the various denominations. Activities usually included food and a visiting speaker. Lloyd was always keen to know how many churches were represented, and he could be relied on to hand out copies of the program for the next six months, reminding members of the next date in the program, and encouraging all to bring a friend along next time.

Other

Lloyd was very proud of the achievements of his children: Jonathan, Matt and Hannah, and was very fond of his daughter-in-law, Maria.

His grandchildren brought him a huge amount of joy and pride and was particularly interested in talking all things football with Jacob and hearing about Eloise learning to play the piano.

Now free from all the aches and pains he suffered over recent times, he is 'safely home' with the Lord whom he served. Respected; organised; methodical; well-thought-of; popular; a great friend; Grandad; Dad. He will be missed but very fondly remembered.

Bible Reading:

Galatians 3:26-4:7

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

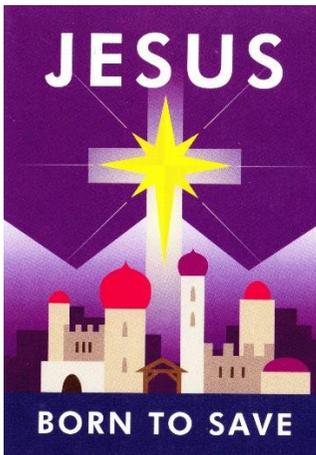
4 What I am saying is that as long as an heir is under age, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³ So also, when we were under age, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces^[a] of the world. ⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.^[b] ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba,^[c] Father.' ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Sermon:

Paul writes this letter around AD48 or into the AD50s to counter the claims of legalistic Jews who were telling the Galatian believers that they must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved. As Lloyd would easily tell anyone, that's nonsense.

In the whole Bible, there is no more passionate, comprehensive, yet concise statement of the truth of the gospel than Galatians. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone. No work can earn salvation. The *NKJV Study Bible* says the apostle Paul reveals in this letter the arrogance of people who want to earn their salvation by works that can easily be identified; amounting to a desertion of the gospel's truth and a turning away from God. We can stand justified before God only through faith in Jesus Christ; Paul emphasizes repeatedly that nothing else will save us.

For those of us that would like to picture the audience for this letter, Galatia is now modern central Turkey, not a million miles away from Lloyd's Syria of course. But my inspiration for this reading comes from a Christmas card that Lloyd sent to my family this Christmas.



It stood out enough to be used in one of our YouTube services at Christmas – Jesus Born to Save, and the reading inside was Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

And I could have left it just with those words, except I think Lloyd would have wanted you all to hear that opening line ‘So in Christ Jesus you are ALL children of God through faith. We can stand justified before God only through faith in Jesus Christ. In Paul’s time those differences between Jew and gentile, master and slave, men and women were perhaps markedly different from today, or are they? The Jews despised the gentiles, slaves were crushed under the power of their masters; men looked down on women, regarding them as inferior. Yet in Christ there was none of this, there was and should be no difference.

Among Christians, who share the same inheritance, there can be no difference between high church and low church, catholic or protestant, between rich and poor, or between foreigner and national. As we each look about us within our churches, in and out of the physical building I might add, do we see any of these differences? Are those of lower class treated the same? Are women treated the same as men? Are there differences made between foreigner and nationals? Pray that we cannot, in a world that is still as divided as Paul’s world. Such differences should not be, the church and the world belong to Christ, in whom there is no difference. We are all one in Christ. If we allow any of these differences to remain then we are guilty of dividing Christ’s body into pieces.

Going off piste slightly here to reflect practically on this idea and where we are today... Archbishop Justin last week said “Until the virus is defeated everywhere it is defeated nowhere”. As Christians we are ALL equally children of God, those of us in the UK are no more entitled than our brothers and sisters in Europe, Africa, Asia, America. If we are to say we are all one in Christ then we need to show this not just to another Christian but to the world. To act together then the virus can be defeated. To greedily protect one nation whilst leaving

another unprotected is only to leave that one nation open again.

And if we are ALL children of God And because we are children,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
'Abba Father!'. Many a minister has then brought that down to
the voice of small children – 'Daddy'.

To see Lloyd out of St Peter's for the final time we are going to
stand and listen to How great thou art.

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

Combining what little I knew of Lloyd I can fully understand that
Lloyd may well have reached out and called 'Daddy' as Christ
came and took him home, with joy filling his heart.

Matt reflected on his dad's organisational skills, and I'm sure from
time to time I must have annoyed Lloyd as he chased me for
items for the Lowestoft Journal, perhaps Jeremy had the same
issue? But last Easter, in the first lockdown, Lloyd chased me
to see whether the church (which of course was 'closed')
would participate in an Easter advert (I'm not sure 'No' was
ever going to be the answer!)... Amazingly not only did he get
an advert in, it made the front page!

"Who would die for his enemies? Who could rise from the dead?
Who can give eternal life? Only Jesus."

Before we hear that final hymn, we are going to listen to another
of Lloyd's choices for this service, according to notes found by
Matt. Cornerstone. Listen out for these words...

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest friend
But wholly trust in Jesus name

Christ alone
Cornerstone
Weak made strong
In the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all

Amen