

## Wonderful friends and family

You should all be on this list, but some names you might like to know are:

Graeme Anderson: Holy Trinity Church Coventry  
Sam Corden and Jeremy Bevan: Ecclesiastes  
Pam Hopkins and Wilfrid Kendal: Hebrews  
Words from Mark's students: Jasmine Desmond  
Words from Mark's colleagues: Saul Jacka  
Prayers: Katrina Paxson and Jane Hutton  
Words from Mark's family: Stuart Rodger  
Music: Brian Chappell and Chris Howard  
The garden: Friends  
Order of service production: Syma Khalid

## Donations in memory

No-one is expected to give anything or do anything, but if your wish to support a charity two which were dear to Mark's heart, in large part because of his children's involvement, were Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra (Please make a cheque out to Coventry Youth Orchestra Parents' Association and pass it to Alison or Rowena) and Association of Young People with ME (go to <http://www.ayme.org.uk/donate>, please note this charity will become Action for M.E. after 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017)

# We welcome you to a time to remember and celebrate Mark Rodger's life



## Welcome

We gather today to celebrate the life of Mark Rodger. To share our memories of him, to testify to his love for God, and to find comfort in God's promises of hope. Mark's family and friends are scattered all over the world and are here with us today in spirit.

Mark would have wished for us to enjoy being here and to be uplifted and comforted by this service, not burdened by solemnity or heavy heartedness or indeed bored by the whole proceedings — this is a wish shared by his family.

As many of you know, music was a key part of Mark's life. He grew up in a Methodist tradition and particularly enjoyed singing bass-parts on hymns – so please give it a go.



And can it be that I should gain  
 An interest in the Saviour's blood?  
 Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
 For me, who Him to death pursued?  
 Amazing love! how can it be  
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
 Amazing love! how can it be  
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,  
 So free, so infinite His grace;  
 Emptied Himself of all but love,  
 And bled for Adam's helpless race:  
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
 For, O my God, it found out me.  
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
 For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
 Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
 Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
 My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
 I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
 My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
 I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
 Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
 Alive in Him, my living Head,  
 And clothed in righteousness Divine,  
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

## Prayers written by Mark's Goddaughter and Niece

Mark Eternal God, from whom we come and to whom we return, You are ever present with us; you are our strength, our guide, our refuge, our rock, and our redeemer. We know that your love never fails, and we can find comfort in that knowledge when it seems our sorrows may overcome us.

We come today filled with that sorrow, knowing we will not see Mark again on this earth. But we also gather with expectation, trusting in your great promises, and knowing that from death comes everlasting life.

We meet in gladness, too, remembering the joyous times we spent with Mark: the music he produced with friends and family; the dedication he gave his students and the congeniality with his colleagues; the laughter shared as the three brothers competed and joked; and especially the love he showed for Alison, Elisabeth, Rowena, and his extended family. And so we ask, merciful God, that these memories continue to flow through our minds as we go into the world. Loving God, to all of us gathered here, and those remembering Mark from afar on this day, grant your peace, bestow upon us your compassion, and let your light shine upon us so that we may continue in the knowledge of your love and grace.  
 In your most precious name we pray, Amen

## Words from Mark's family

### Doxology

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

*Jude 24–25*

Oh Lord my God when I in awesome  
wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have  
made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling 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!

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.

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

*Carl Gustav Boberg (1859–1940)*

## **A reading from Mark's favourite New Testament Book**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ... Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

*Hebrews 12*



## Thoughts on Hebrews 12

### Words from Mark's colleagues

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,  
Should set His love upon the sons of men,  
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,  
To bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,  
When Bethlehem's manger was His only home,  
And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,  
As with His peace He graced this place of tears,  
Or how His heart upon the Cross was broken,  
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,  
And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,  
For yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship, When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,  
Or who can say how great the jubilation  
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
And myriad, myriad human voices sing,  
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:  
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King.

*William Young Fullerton (1857–1932)*

## A Time for Everything

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.

*Ecclesiastes 3*

## Thoughts on Ecclesiastes 3

### Words from Mark's students