

## Funeral Service

Alan Austin Taylor



Croydon Crematorium  
Tuesday, 28 April 2020, 11.15 am

Service Conducted by Rev'd Russell Furley Smith  
Music for the Service provided by Alan's favourite band - Band of  
HM Royal Marines (click on links in the text to watch YouTube videos)

Entrance Song - [Sailing](#)

### Scripture Sentences

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

*Psalm 46:1*

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

*Matthew 5:4*

Welcome to Croydon Crematorium and to the funeral service of  
Alan Austin Taylor.

### Preface

We have come together to do honour to  
and to give thanks for the life of  
Alan Taylor who has died.

<http://www.wonderness.co.uk/alan.html>

We have come to commend him into God's eternal loving care,  
Here we will mourn his death,  
honour his life  
reverently commit his body to be cremated  
and we will comfort each other.

We meet in extraordinary and challenging times.  
Many are unable to be with us today.  
We remember them  
as they will be remembering Alan and yourselves.

Today you come, I imagine,  
with mixed emotions.  
Sadness at his death  
and thanksgiving that he was part of your lives.

In a spirit then of both sadness and thanksgiving  
we approach God in prayer.

Prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi  
Lord make me an instrument of your peace...  
Where hatred lives..... Let me show love;  
Where injury has divided and hurt.....  
May I sow reconciliation bringing pardon, healing and deliverance.  
Where doubt pervades....  
Let me show true faith in you  
Where despair destroys....  
Let me bring the hope of your Gospel  
Where darkness is the covering....  
May I dispel it by bringing light of your presence  
Where sadness consumes....  
May I sow joy,  
that all may with joy, draw water from you  
the wellspring of our salvation;  
Lord, of all consolation, grace and love,  
grant that I by your Holy Spirit  
may console, understand and love all whom I meet,  
communicate and share this earth with,  
seeking always to serve their needs rather than my own.  
For in giving we receive,  
in pardoning we are pardoned

and in dying we are born to eternal life.  
Amen

In discussions with you it has been decided not to try and reflect on Alan's life in any detail today.  
You know all the details anyway.  
There will be opportunity to celebrate a good life, well lived, at a memorial service when that becomes possible.

### Words from Woodie

Dear Alan,  
You were the foundation that I built my life on, made from the hardest rock.  
You're the toughest act to follow! Ego-less, happiest when you were helping others, saintly (even), the finest role model a son could ask for.  
Those who were touched by your generosity and kindness know this and, along with us, are looking forward to giving you a proper send off (when we're allowed) to give thanks for your marvellous life.

### Words from Russell

Let me just say this today.

Alan is remembered today  
and will be remembered beyond today  
as a gentle, gentleman.  
Since his death, people at church have been remembering Alan as a kind, humble, quiet, faithful member of the church.  
Also as a good short mat bowls player.  
He served with distinction as an elder  
and as a church secretary.  
He served the wider church too.  
He had a successful professional career.  
But more importantly,  
he was surrounded by the love and care of Cecily, of you  
and the rest of the family,  
even during the tough last few years  
coping with memory loss and Alzeimers.  
But still Alan remained, in essence, a man of love and peace.  
May he now rest in peace – never forgotten.

Today is a day to remember Alan,  
and as we listen to this next piece of music  
this would be the perfect time to think of a great memory,  
maybe you laughed together,  
maybe you cried together,  
but all of these are memories of a great man.

Reflective music: [Elgar – Nimrod variation](#)

### Prayer

Creator God,  
Lord of life and conqueror of death,  
our hearts are grieving because Alan,  
whom we love, has died.

As we stand on the boundary between life and death,  
we praise you for your precious gift of life,  
for giving Alan to be with us,  
and for the journey which we have shared  
with her on earth.

Help us to release him as he journeys on,  
confident that death is not an abyss of emptiness  
but a crossing over into new and richer experiences  
of your love and grace.

In the midst of our grief and loss,  
give us the peace of Christ,  
who passed through the deep waters of death for us all,  
and by your power was raised to glorious life.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

**Amen.**

### Bible Verse - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

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 kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
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 tear and a time to mend,  
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

Committal Hymn – [The day thou gavest Lord is ended](#)

Committal

Reading - Romans 8

St Paul, writing to Christians in Rome, said:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us....

For I am sure that neither death, nor life... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Having entrusted Alan into the hands of God,  
we now commit his mortal body to be cremated  
in sure and certain hope  
of the resurrection to eternal life  
through our Lord Jesus Christ  
who died, was buried,  
and rose again for us.  
To God be glory for ever. Amen.

Silence

*God be in my head and in my understanding.*

*God be in my eyes and in my looking.*

*God be in my mouth and in my speaking.*

*God be in my heart and in my thinking.*

*God be at my end and my departing.*

Prayer

Almighty God,

you have bound together all your people in heaven and earth in one holy fellowship: let not our thoughts linger here, but help us to believe that Alan's life has made a new beginning, with your mercy and your love still around him.

Strengthened by this assurance, may we return to the duties which await us in the world, resolved to be more faithful to you and more helpful to one another, for the sake of those no longer with us upon earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Gaelic Farewell

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rain fall softly upon your fields until we meet again,

And may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

### The Blessing

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with Alan and with you, today and always. Amen.

Exit Music: [Heart of Oak](#)



Web pages & Service coordination by Paul

<http://www.wonderness.co.uk/alan.html>