REMEMBERING CICELY

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE TO REMEMBER
DAME CICELY SAUNDERS
OM DBE FRCP FRCN

Tuesday 23 June 2015
in the Dame Cicely Saunders Room
at St Christopher’s Hospice
51-59 Lawrie Park Road
Sydenham, London SE26 6DZ

ORDER OF SERVICE

StChristopher’s
Welcome
Andrew Goodhead

At the service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Dame Cicely Saunders in Westminster Abbey in 2006, the bidding read by the Sub-Dean began with the words of our Gospel today, Matthew 25. The Sub-Dean suggested that no-one knew how influential those words had been on Dame Cicely, but that they reflected the heart and soul of her life’s work.

Today as we remember Cicely’s death 10 years ago we have heard from those who knew her, aspects of her life; as a doctor, friend, scientist, inspiration and godmother. In our short service in this room named in memory of her, we will reflect on Cicely’s life of faith.

Hymn

Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey.
We are brothers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you;
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we’ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we’ve known together
Of Christ’s love and agony.

Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

Richard Gillard
Prayer

God of grace, we give you thanks that you place your calling upon men and women in every age. We recognise the depth of faith in your Son, Jesus Christ, shown in the life and work of Cicely Saunders and all those who were drawn to work with her in the formation of the modern hospice movement. We commit ourselves to continually develop the work which began in this place and spread across the world. Journey with all those who work to offer care to the dying and support for their family members, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

From the Templeton Prize
Speech May 1981
Dr Mary Baines
Honorary Consultant

Hospice is about a special kind of living and in a sense is still concerned with travelling: patients, families, elderly residents and the staff and volunteers who meet them all find they are drawn into a journey of the spirit.

However, this new development began with a building ... Not the first hospice, but the first that set out, not only to care for a mixed group of patients, but also the develop research and teaching.

When I believed that God was calling for a new Home I knew nothing of all this, only that a young man called David Tasma, originally from the Warsaw ghetto, had left me £500, saying “I’ll be a window in your home”, and that he also said, “I want what is in your mind and in your heart.” Here was a commission from a dying man who felt he had made no impact on the world, a commission to give meaning to his life by creating a home dedicated to openness and to the balance of mind and heart, or skill and friendship.
A reading from the Old Testament
Isaiah 43 vv1 -2, 19-21
Rev Len Lunn
Chaplain 1987-2004

1 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Hymn

O Thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
Upon the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for Thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart’s desire
To work and speak and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up Thy gift in me.

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death Thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788
A reading from the New Testament
Matthew 25 vv31-46
Dr Catherine Dent
Wives’ Fellowship Vice-President

31 “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Address
Rev Len Lunn
Chaplain 1987-2004

and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
Prayers
We pray for St Christopher’s Hospice and thank you for the vision you gave to Dame Cicely Saunders. We give thanks for those who pioneered the work of the hospice movement with her. We pray for all those who work in this place; staff and volunteers and thank you that for all who seek to support dying people.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We thank you that Cicely’s work included a commitment to education and research and that so many people, capturing the vision of hospice have been innovative in creating a hospice in their own setting to meet the needs of a diverse population. We ask that the work of hospices across the world will continue to educate and train, innovate and change.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We pray for patients, their family members, carers and friends. For those who receive care from this place in diverse settings that the end of life might be in a familiar place; for those who receive care in this place, that the end of life might be surrounded by those whom they love. We pray too for the bereaved and all who support them, that in journeying with another in grief, a new beginning may come.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We pray for our future. As we give thanks for the life and work of Cicely Saunders, we commit ourselves to developing new ways to ensure good care is available to all who are dying and support is given to those close to them.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

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

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

William Walsham How 1823-1897

A Prayer of St Augustine

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wait, or watch or weep today, and give your angels charge over those who sleep; tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love’s sake.

Amen.

The Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you; may the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we met again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

We are grateful to Kenneth Green for playing for our service today.
“You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die”

“I did not found hospice; hospice found me”

Dame Cicely Saunders