

A Service of Dedication
for the Stained Glass Window
in memory of James Kenneth Roe of Petleys
by Ven Allie Kerr,
Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley



‘I have set you an example that you should do what I have done for you.’ John 13:15

St Mary’s Downe
Sunday 24th September 2023 2pm
Vicar: Rev John Musson

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Vicar: All things come from you, O Lord.

All: And of your own do we give you.

Vicar: Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for the beautification of your church, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we dedicate this stained glass window to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A welcome from Jane Mendel, daughter of James Roe

HYMN

AMAZING GRACE! how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me;

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear,

The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares

I have already come;

'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there a thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we first begun.

**The Window is described by Stained Glass Artist
David Griffiths ASMGP**

Bible Reading Matthew 20:20-28
Chris Isbell, Churchwarden

Address Ven Allie Kerr

HYMN

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.**

Dedication of window by Ven Allie Kerr

O Lord God, the whole world is filled with the radiance of your glory: Accept our offering of this stained glass window which we now dedicate to you for the adornment of this place and the inspiration of your people. Grant that as the light shines through in its many colours, so our lives may show forth the beauty of your manifold gifts of grace and so help us to offer up our lives to your service through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS

Rev Helen Musson

The prayers end as we pray together:

**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

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

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
We're together on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight 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 may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.**

Closing prayer of blessing
Ven Allie Kerr

'What we have in this window you can only see if light comes through. That is the miracle of stained glass. This window and the stories in it only come to life when God's light penetrates them and comes through them.' *Leonie Seliger ACR, Director of the Cathedral Studios, Canterbury.*

Dame Marion and family thank you for coming along today.
Please make your way across to the village hall for refreshments.



The design for the window in memory of James Kenneth Roe of Petleys kindly donated by Dame Marion Roe DBE, is by Stained Glass Artist David Griffiths ASMP. The overall theme of the window is based on the concept of Service.

In Mark 10:45 Jesus said “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many’ - this is the guiding verse for the design with the central image that of Jesus washing his disciple Peter’s feet with the text from John 13:15 ‘I have set you an example that you should do what I have done for you.’

Service is expressed in many other ways throughout the window: The village of Downe itself is shown as a source of leisure for Londoners who come to Downe on weekends to relax and re-charge, and the capital in turn is there to serve the wider country through government and commerce (the Houses of Parliament and the Guildhall).

Downe Primary school serves the local community in educating the next generation, and the inclusion of the Tree of Life drawing and Down House hint at the contribution to science made by Downe's most celebrated resident, Charles Darwin.

The coats of arms in the window speak of service, too: They are those of Downe School, and of the donors, members of the Roe family, and residents of the village of Downe since 1969, who all serve or served in public office. Dame Marion was created Dame Commander of the British Empire by the then Labour Speaker of the House in recognition – at least in part - for her work to outlaw female genital mutilation. She continues to be active with many charities in efforts to ensure the inclusion of child health policies in government policy.

As the window was designed and made during 2020-2023, the rainbow echoes all those who served during the Covid Pandemic, and the Ukrainian Flag is there too, painted by student Yelizaveta Smirnova. We pray for peace in that country.

Service is thus shown in the example set to us by Christ serving his followers, as well as in the places that serve the nation through government and commerce, and in the places to make us fit for service through education and leisure, and finally in the armorials recognizing service to the community.