# Jack and Olly Wheeldon

*“Somewhere over the rainbow”* sung by Eva Cassidy will be played at the beginning of the service.

#### The Gathering

Priest: We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father. Grace and mercy be with you.

All: And also with you

Priest: We have come together to worship God, to thank him for his love, and to give thanks for Jack and Olly; to share our grief and to commend them to the eternal care of God.

The Lord says: I will comfort you as a mother comforts her child, and you shall be comforted.

#### Lighting the Thanksgiving Candles

#### Opening prayers

God of all mercies, you make nothing in vain and you love all that you have made. Comfort us in our grief, and console us with the knowledge of your unfailing love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, you enfold us in your loving arms and keep us in your care; in our grief and shock, contain and comfort us; embrace us with your love, give us hope in our confusion and grace to let go into new life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### Hymn: All things bright and beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful,*

*all creatures great and small,*

*all things wise and wonderful,*

*the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,

each little bird that sings,

he made their glowing colours,

he made their tiny wings:

The purple headed mountain,

the river running by,

the sunset, and the morning

that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter,

the pleasant summer sun,

the ripe fruit in the garden,

he made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them,

and lips that we might tell

how great is God almighty,

who has made all things well:

*All things bright and beautiful,*

*all creatures great and small,*

*all things wise and wonderful,*

*the Lord God made them all.*

#### A Poem “What makes a mother” by Jennifer Wasik

#### The Reading (verses taken from St Mark’s gospel, chapter 10. 13-16)

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

#### The Address

#### The Prayers

Priest: The Lord Jesus is the lover of his people and our only sure hope. Let us ask him to deepen our faith and sustain us at this time.

Lord Jesus, you became a little child for our sake, sharing our human life. To you we pray:

All: bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Priest: You grew in wisdom, age and grace and learned obedience through suffering. To you we pray:

All: bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Priest: You welcomed children, promising them your kingdom.

To you we pray:

All: bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Priest: You comforted those who mourned the loss of children and friends. To you we pray:

All: bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Priest: You took upon yourself the suffering and death of us all.

To you we pray:

All: bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Priest: You promised to raise up those who believe in you,

just as you were raised up in the glory of the Father.

To you we pray:

All: bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Priest: Heavenly Father, you alone can heal our broken hearts;

you alone can wipe away the tears that well up inside us;

you alone can give us the peace we need;

you alone can strengthen us to carry on.

We ask you to be near those whose time of joy

has been turned into sadness,

assure them that with you nothing is wasted or incomplete,

and uphold them with your tender love.

Supported by your strength, may our love for one another

be deepened by the knowledge of your love for us all. **Amen**

Let us offer these and all our prayers to God as we say 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: Morning has broken

**Morning has broken** like the first morning,

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird,

Praise for the singing. Praise for the morning.

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,

Like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight. Mine is the morning

Born of the one light Eden saw play.

Praise with elation, praise every morning,

God’s re-creation of the new day.

#### The Commendation and Closing prayers

*“Songbird”* sung by Eva Cassidy will be as we leave church.

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Jo and Andy have requested that any donations be given to St Andrew’s Church. There will be a plate at the back of church should you wish to make a donation. Thank you.

#### Lighting the Thanksgiving candles

Jack and Olly were two remarkable little lads. Although none of us ever knew them in the conventional sense of the word, they have touched each of our lives for good in a variety of different ways. They have helped others who have experienced the pain of loss, and helped them in their grief too.

We are now going to light two candles: one for Jack and Olly who lit up so many lives in a short space of time; and a second for those children who passed directly from this world into God’s eternal love and care.

**What Makes a Mother**

*By Jennifer Wasik*

*Written with love for all the Mother's missing their babies*

I thought of you and closed my eyes   
and prayed to God today   
I asked, “what makes a Mother”?   
And I know I heard Him say,   
A Mother has a baby,   
This we know is true.   
But, God, can you be a Mother   
when your baby's not with you?   
  
"Yes you can!" He replied   
with confidence in His voice,   
"I give many women babies,   
when they leave is not their choice.   
Some I send for a lifetime   
and others for a day   
And some I send to feel your womb   
but there's no need to stay."   
  
I just don't understand this God,   
I want my baby here.   
  
He took a breath,   
and cleared His throat,   
and then I saw a tear.   
I wish I could show you   
what your child is doing here.   
  
If you could see your child smile   
with other children and say,   
"We go to earth to learn our lessons   
of love and life and fear,   
but My Mummy loved me oh so much   
I got to come straight here!”   
I feel so lucky to have a Mum

who had so much love for me   
I learned my lesson very quick   
My Mummy set me free.   
I miss my Mummy oh so much   
but I visit her each day   
When she goes to sleep   
on her pillow's where I lay.   
  
I stroke her hair and kiss her cheek   
and whisper in her ear,   
Mummy don't be sad today   
I'm your baby and I'm here.”   
  
So you see my dear sweet one,   
your children are okay   
Your babies are here in My home   
and this is where they'll stay.   
They'll wait for you with Me   
until your lesson is through.   
And on that day that you come home   
they'll be at the gates for you.   
  
So now you see   
what makes a Mother   
It's the feeling in your heart   
It's the love you had so much of   
right from the very start.   
  
Though some on earth may not realize   
that you are a Mother until their time is done.   
They'll be up here with me one day   
and know you are the best one.

#### The Commendation and Closing prayers

Priest: Let us commend Jack and Olly to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

God of compassion, you make nothing in vain, and love all that you have created; we commend to you Jack and Olly for whom Jo and Andy poured out such great love, and for whom they cherished many hopes and dreams. Grant them the assurance that these children, though not seen by us, are seen and known by you, and will share the risen life of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

We have entrusted Jack and Olly to God’s mercy, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who died, was buried and rose again for us. Now we commit them into your ever caring and gentle love; they brought the promise of joy into so many lives; enfold them now in your eternal life, in the name of our risen Saviour who was born and died and lives with you and the Holy Spirit for ever. May they now rest in peace and share in his great glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, surround Andy and Jo, Declan, Rhys, Shane and Danielle with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your love, and strength to meet the days to come. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

May our Lord Jesus enfold you with love, fill you with peace, and lead you in hope, to the end of your days; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Jack and Olly Wheeldon** (0)

Special Order of Service .05.16

**vv from Mark 10** 24.06.16

Some years ago, we took a holiday on the Northumberland coast. Most of our time was spent on the beach, but on one of the days, we decided to visit Kielder Water. Kielder Water is a huge man-made reservoir. The weather was perfect and there was a sense of peace and calm in the air. The water, too, was completely smooth. And I simply couldn’t resist picking up a pebble and throwing it into the middle of the lake. We then just stood and watched as the ripples slowly spread out across the lake, eventually the shore on every side.

For me, that picture says a lot about why we are here today. At the heart of this service is Jack and Olly. Those ripples are ripples of love that surround Jack and Olly, who are clearly at the heart of this service. They are where everything begins.

The first ripple of love comes Jo and Andy who, from the moment Jo knew she was carrying them, surrounded them with love. I well remember the love in Jo’s voice as she told everyone their news. Jack and Olly would have known what it was to be surrounded by love. Love is more than words; and the boys would have felt and known that love

The next ripple would be Declan, Rhys, Shane and Danielle; and other members of their families, who together looked forward to Jack and Olly’s birth and no doubt started to anticipate it in many different ways.

The next circle would include friends, neighbours, acquaintances who also shared in the joy of two new babies. At each level, there would be a sense of joy and anticipation, and love both for the new babies and for their parents. Gradually, the ripples spread and embraced so many lives, ourselves included.

When you think about it, that pool only exists because of the shore, or bank, that contains it. Without the shore, there would simply be no lake. I believe that shore to be God himself. For the most part, we are quite unaware of him, just as we tend to forget just how important the shore is in containing the lake. But that doesn’t make him any less real, just because we are not aware of him for much of the time. And the ripples that touch each of our lives eventually touch the shore as our loving Father welcomes Jack and Olly into his everlasting care.

As we stood by the shore, watching the ripples come toward us, we suddenly realised that many of them hit the bank and then bounced back towards the centre. God knows something of the pain you may well experience at this time, and his love reaches out to you to bring you peace and comfort. Had we waited by the lake a few more minutes, I’m sure we would have seen the ripples return to the centre where they first began, completing that circle of love for Jack and Olly; a reminder of the promise of eternal life which we often call heaven.

When we lit the thanksgiving candles at the beginning of the service, I suggested that Jack and Olly, and Jo and Andy, had already helped lots of people who had suffered similar pain and loss. These are the ripples that spread out from them and touch our hearts too. When I think about it, the thing that helps more than anything else is having someone to share our grief with. To put it into words can be incredibly helpful, and Jack and Olly, Jo and Andy have helped others to do just that. Jack and Olly have made a real difference. They will remain in our hearts for ever, just as they share in God’s heavenly kingdom, along with those you love and now share all that God has prepared for them.

Today, we give thanks for the ways in which Jack and Olly have touched our lives for good. We pray too that God will help us and be with us in the days and months to come.

**Amen**