

Lord Feversham

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death in hospital on 29 March of Lord Feversham, who was Patron of All Saints, Helmsley, and was much loved and respected both as a member of our congregation and as a leader of the wider local community. He was 64. We extend our condolences and prayers to Lady Feversham and to all their family.

Greetings from the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff

I remain immensely grateful for the wonderful send off, and I miss Helmsley every day. last week I cycled across the Brecon Beacons, twice as high as the North York Moors! As I tried to catch my breath, I started yearning for the gentle climb up Duncombe Park.

I was, of course, deeply saddened to hear of the death of Lord Feversham. He was a true father of the town and its church, and so many words leap to mind in connection with him: humble; witty; good company; intelligent; informed; interested; faithful... Like our Lord, he truckled to no man, and his ability to talk straight made him a wonderful counsellor and friend.

The family's wish is for the funeral to take place at Duncombe Park chapel, attended only by the immediate family. This service will be followed by a burial in the Feversham section of Helmsley's cemetery.

I am deeply honoured that the family have asked me to return to conduct the service, booked for 11 am on Thursday 9 April, Maundy Thursday.

I have hardly had a Maundy Thursday in Helmsley when we haven't had a funeral:

Alison Ticehurst, who was the driving force behind the Walled Garden. Gordon Dale, an immensely faithful churchwarden.

Barbara Wilson, a home communicant for 12 years.

Paul Shuttleworth, Assistant Head at Ryedale School...

It seems the best of days,

as we prepare to mark our Lord's Last Supper and his leaving his friends,

to mark the Lord of Helmsley's leaving us.

Whilst obviously the wishes of the family to have a private funeral must be respected,

I invite you to pay your own respects

simply by gathering along the route which the cortege will take (along Castle Gate, Church Street and Canons Garth Lane)

from the park gates to the cemetery.

It would probably be

particularly appropriate if church members

gathered by the lychgate and along Church Street to honour the man

who was a faithful attender, supporter and patron of All Saints.

I expect the cortege will pass by from 11.40 am onwards.

My first task as a bishop and my last act as your vicar

will be to take Lord Feversham's funeral,

which seems fitting, though immensely sad.

I assure you of my prayers and deepest sympathy for you all at this saddest of times,

as I am assured that you will pray for me in the days ahead.

David