

Memorial service for Lord Glenconner
Saturday 18th June 2011: Traquair Kirk at 2.30pm

Welcome and Call to Worship

We have gathered here today to give thanks for the life of Lord Glenconner.

As you know his funeral was last September in St Lucia where he was buried in the village of Choiseul. We're delighted that Deborah and Mona are with us from St. Lucia to join in this service of thanksgiving today.

The psalmist writes

Let the heavens rejoice
Let the earth be glad
Let the sea resound and all that is in it
Let the fields be jubilant and everything in them
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy
They will sing before the Lord

I'm told Lord Glenconner is buried in a beautiful spot in a country graveyard near the sea and it is fitting that we hold this service in Traquair Church a small country church in a beautiful setting this time among the hills.

This service is an opportunity for everyone in the United Kingdom to come together in Lord Glenconner's memory, to reflect on his example and on the meaning of life.

Much has been written about Lord Glenconner's very public story - this service seeks to reflect the more private, family side of his life - if you take time to look around you see that we are surrounded by family history -Up on the wall we have a plaque to Edward Wyndham Tennant - later Cody will be reading a poem he wrote.

So let us now come before God with praise and thanksgiving

Let us worship as we sing our opening hymn **212 Morning has broken**

Let us pray

Loving God,

You have spoken to your people across the centuries
you have lived amongst us
identified yourself with us in Jesus Christ
you dwell within us through your Holy Spirit
making your presence felt

As you come to us, you call us to come to you
promising that in Christ
we shall find rest for our souls
that through Christ our spiritual hunger
will be satisfied
and that from Christ
we shall receive life in all its fullness

Gracious God,

We need all these things today
for as we meet to remember with thanksgiving all Lord
Glenconner meant to us, we feel a great sense of loss
because someone special has gone from our lives

Through this service

as we listen to the words of the Bible
through our prayers, the family tributes
and all we share
help us to draw near to you
help us to hear your words of comfort
and so receive the peace and strength
you long to give us
and be confidence to entrust
all we are and those we love to your care
in this life and the life to come

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Bible reading: Psalm 8

Prayer of Thanksgiving + Lord's Prayer

Let us pray

Loving God,
Being here, among the family and friends of Lord Glenconner and listening to the words we have heard have brought back all sorts of thoughts, feelings, and memories of him and we are sad that he is no longer here to share our lives.

He was a good person who led a very full and interesting life and we thank you for the many ways he showed his love for us through the goodness, concern, love and help which he gave to those whose lives he shared.

Each one of us has special memories, some private, some which we can share with others and enjoy in the retelling. We thank you for these memories, and the knowledge that while we live he will not be forgotten.

Help us to be grateful for the good times we shared together. Forgive us for any hurt that we might have caused him and help us not to be haunted by the thoughts of what might have been

We thank you that for Lord Glenconner there will be no more pain, suffering or hardship and that death lies behind him no longer to be feared.

Help us through his death to see more deeply into the meaning of his life and our own and to grasp more firmly the hope that life is longer than our years and the love you have shown us in him is stronger than death.

God who holds all of us with arms of love and compassion and who knows all we feel and endure we ask that at this time you will be especially near to his family especially, for Lady Anne, Christopher, Amy and May, and for his grandchildren Euan, Cody, Bella, Demetra, Honor and Greta and for his

wider circle of friends and families here in the UK and in the West Indies.

We pray that you will support them and help them in the coming days to adapt to life without him so that in the knowledge of your love they may honour his memory by looking to the future, making the most of the many opportunities that come their way and living their lives to the full.

Hear this our prayer as together we pray saying

Our Father.....

Amen

Intimations

The family have asked me to say that everyone is welcome to join them for tea after the service at Glen and to remind you that on the way out – there is an opportunity to put something in the collection plate to help with the work of the Church in this Parish and the wider world

Hymn 476 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord