**Helen Newman**

Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani said that she had met Helen and David six years ago at Launde and spoke of Helen’s qualities as a priest, that she was extremely kind and loyal and always sharing her faith. She was an influential presence, caring, insightful, authentic and compassionate and always ready to challenge Guli in a straightforward way and was extremely honest in everything she did. Guli’s spoke of Helen’s deep faith and her deep love for people and that she never lost her sense of fun and always thought of others and that she was a special gift, leaving her mark on everyone she met both at Launde and in the diocese and beyond.

The lead chaplain spoke of Helen leading her team, giving therapy and listening to people’s stories and giving spiritual comfort to families and the dying. That once she borrowed a dog to take to a dying patient to see of the joy that gave. That Helen was always careful and caring with the dying and took funerals and memorial services for the families of those she had supported. Helen had been instrumental with twinning LOROS with a hospice in Malawi and always happy, in her work representing Christ with love and acceptance. The lead chaplain spoke of how Helen spoke about the importance of being open about death and didn’t fear it but had cherished the time she had left.

David spoke of Helen as a wonderful wife and mother and friend to many and of how they had shared Helen with so many people, but knew that her commitment to the family was as absolute as it was to those she served and supported in times of need. David spoke how Helen had strong opinions and was able to bring people together and disagreements. He said that her many qualities were reflected in her hospitality and her commitment, always facing reality and that she always told people the truth and to hold onto God in every situation. David spoke of her powerful simple human faith founded on care and compassion, always being open and transparent, always being available for people. David said that her wish to include everyone was not always easy, talking and helping those in need at all times. We also learnt of Helen’s happy family life and of the love all her children and grandchildren had for her. David concluded by saying the she had a gift to open up the souls of all challengingly and prophetically and that there was hope for all.

The Bishop Searle spoke of Helen and of her work with the dying, of Christ as the hope giver and that all hope comes from him and spoke of Christ in his sermon not asking people to change but giving out blessings, not for the rich and powerful but for the poor and those in great need - that in difficult places God was always there for us and that Helen we not afraid to go to those places to support others. She spoke of meeting Helen twenty years before and of Helen’s family life and her work in the hospice in times of celebration and of God with us in the dark times and the light and of her gift of sharing the light and living well on the journey into death, She spoke of the on line Holy Week Retreat from Launde that in the most difficult times we have the hope of the resurrection that it is Christ who takes us through death to be with him. Bishop Searle spoke of Helen’s family who brought her great joy and of her many gifts and of her legacy that in dying she gave us the gift of hope that Christ will guide us home.