

CEREMONY of BLESSING  
at  
THE NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

26th May 2012                      10.30 a.m.

Over the past 180 years,  
these old marble walls  
have witnessed the burials  
of more than 2,000 people.

This is a lovely and much loved place,  
with its flowers, butterflies, bushes, trees,  
and lawns.

As a place of repose for the dead  
and of refreshment for the living,  
it stands as an urban oasis,  
a secret garden in the heart of this busy city.

What was sown as perishable in this place,  
will be raised imperishable;  
what was sown in humiliation  
will be raised in glory;  
what was sown in weakness,  
will be raised in power

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, our heavenly Father,  
you are the God not of the dead  
but of the living.

We ask your blessing on this resting place,  
which guards our beloved dead,  
both those who long have lain here

and those who in the days to come  
will be brought here to rest in peace.  
May it always be held in honour,  
respected with reverence,  
and cared for with love.

Grant that those who have fallen asleep  
may wake to your love,  
and that the gates of this place  
may be for them the gates of eternal life.

Comfort those who will come here  
in sorrow for their loved ones.  
Wipe all tears from their eyes,  
and fill them with your peace.

Bless, we pray, the work of those  
who labour to make and keep this place  
a place of peace and love and joy:  
the stone-masons who give new life  
to its crumbling walls;  
the gardeners who nurture the earth  
and fill it with gladness and beauty;  
the trustees whose care and faithful service  
make this place a continuing delight.

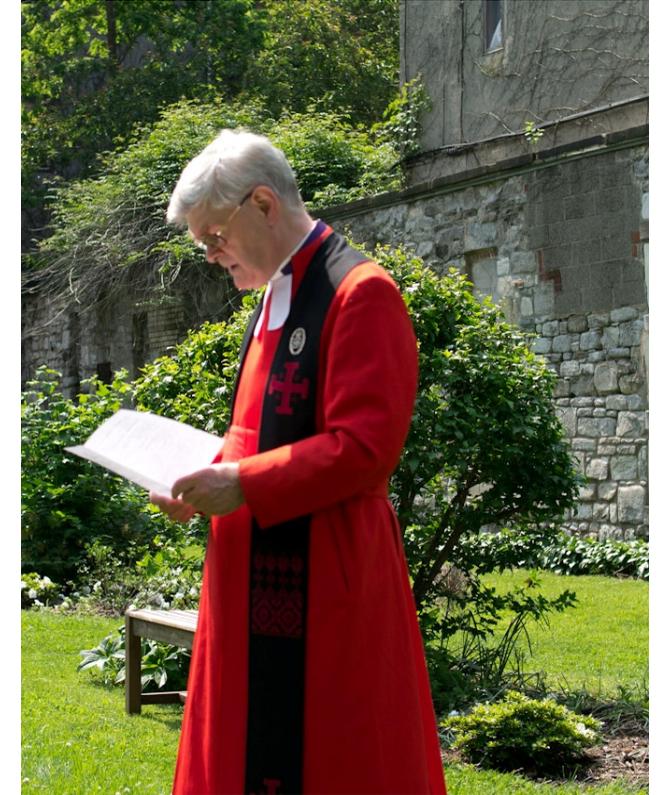
Assure us all that the souls of loved ones  
who lie here buried in peace,  
are safe with you for ever.

BENEDICTION

And now, the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you.

And may the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen

The Reverend Charles Robertson, LVO  
Minister-Emeritus of Canongate Kirk  
(The Kirk of Holyroodhouse)  
Edinburgh, Scotland



*It is believed that interdenominational concerns  
may have prevented the Cemetery from ever being  
consecrated. When Mr. Robertson came from  
Edinburgh for the marriage of his daughter,  
Margaret, to Kevin Cancienne in the Cemetery on  
27 May 2012, he felt that a blessing was in order.  
The entire Cemetery family is grateful to him for  
his thoughtfulness and eloquence.*