

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in 1906 in Breslau, now Wroclaw, in Poland. He had a twin sister, Sabine, and they grew up in a loving and comfortable home. He studied Theology at Tübingen and Berlin, but also in Rome and New York. He was Pastor of the German Lutheran Church in London between 1933 and 1935 and established a friendship with the Bishop of Chichester, George Bell. With the rise of National Socialism under Adolf Hitler, he determined to return to Germany, to oppose its evil idolatry, knowing the possible cost of that decision. He became a leading figure in the Confessing Church and was drawn into political resistance. He was arrested and imprisoned in March 1943 and eventually executed on April 9th 1945, just two weeks before the liberation of Flossenbürg Concentration Camp, where he was held.

This service was originally written for the Good Friday *Churches Together in Windermere* Service in 1995 to mark the 50th Anniversary of Bonhoeffer's death by the Rev'd Alan Gaunt, then the Minister of Carver United Reformed Church, Windermere. Alan was a remarkable poet and an esteemed hymn writer. There are four volumes of his hymns and several of the hymns that we will sing in this service are written by him, including some of his translations of Bonhoeffer's hymns.

The service was repeated in St Matthew's, Wigmore, Kent on the 60th Anniversary, in St Christopher's Cathedral, Bahrain on the 70th Anniversary, and on the 75th anniversary in a St Peter's Zoom service during the Covid outbreak when Bishop David joined us.