

**ADVENT SERMONS, CONSISTING OF
FOUR ON THE STATE OF THE BLESSED
DEAD, AND FOUR
ON THE COMING OF THE BRIDEGROOM.
PREACHED IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL,
1868 AND 1869**

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Advent Sermons, Consisting of Four on the State of the Blessed Dead, and Four on the Coming of the Bridegroom. Preached in Canterbury Cathedral, 1868 and 1869 by Henry Alford

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HENRY ALFORD

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ADVENT SERMONS,

CONSISTING OF FOUR ON

The State of the Blessed Dead,

AND FOUR ON

The Coming of the Bridegroom.

Preached in Canterbury Cathedral, 1868 and 1869,

BY THE LATE

HENRY ALFORD, D.D.,

DEAN OF CANTERBURY.



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100. w. 185.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and financial management. The text highlights that records should be kept in a secure and accessible format, ensuring that they can be easily retrieved and reviewed when needed.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used for record-keeping. It mentions the use of both traditional paper-based systems and modern digital technologies. The text notes that digital systems offer several advantages, such as faster data entry, reduced risk of loss, and the ability to share information securely across different departments and locations. However, it also acknowledges the challenges associated with digitalization, such as ensuring data security and protecting against cyber threats.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the legal and regulatory requirements for record-keeping. It discusses the various laws and regulations that govern the collection, storage, and disposal of records. The text emphasizes that organizations must stay up-to-date with these requirements to avoid legal penalties and ensure compliance. It also mentions the importance of having clear policies and procedures in place to guide the record-keeping process.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the role of record-keeping in decision-making and strategic planning. It explains that accurate records provide valuable insights into organizational performance, trends, and risks. By analyzing this data, management can make more informed decisions and develop effective strategies for the future. The text also highlights the importance of regular audits and reviews to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the records.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the importance of record-keeping in disaster recovery and business continuity. It explains that records are a critical asset for organizations, and having a robust record-keeping system in place can help ensure that the organization can quickly recover from a disaster or other crisis. The text mentions the importance of having backup copies of records and a clear plan for restoring them in the event of an emergency.

6. The sixth part of the document discusses the importance of record-keeping in research and innovation. It explains that records provide a wealth of data that can be used to identify trends, patterns, and areas for improvement. By analyzing this data, researchers and innovators can gain valuable insights into new technologies, processes, and products. The text also mentions the importance of maintaining a clear and concise record of research activities and findings.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the importance of record-keeping in customer service and support. It explains that records provide a wealth of information about customer interactions, preferences, and needs. By analyzing this data, organizations can improve their customer service and support, leading to higher customer satisfaction and loyalty. The text also mentions the importance of having a clear and concise record of customer service activities and outcomes.

8. The eighth part of the document discusses the importance of record-keeping in human resources management. It explains that records provide a wealth of information about employee performance, training, and development. By analyzing this data, organizations can identify areas for improvement and develop effective strategies for human resources management. The text also mentions the importance of having a clear and concise record of human resources activities and outcomes.

9. The ninth part of the document discusses the importance of record-keeping in environmental management. It explains that records provide a wealth of information about environmental impacts, risks, and opportunities. By analyzing this data, organizations can identify areas for improvement and develop effective strategies for environmental management. The text also mentions the importance of having a clear and concise record of environmental management activities and outcomes.

10. The tenth part of the document discusses the importance of record-keeping in risk management. It explains that records provide a wealth of information about risks, threats, and opportunities. By analyzing this data, organizations can identify areas for improvement and develop effective strategies for risk management. The text also mentions the importance of having a clear and concise record of risk management activities and outcomes.

The State of the Blessed Dead.

I.

I HAVE already announced that during this Advent season I would call your attention to the state of the blessed dead. My object in so doing is simply that we may recall to ourselves that which Scripture has revealed respecting them, for our edification, and for our personal comfort. And I would guard that which will be said by one or two preliminary observations.

With Death as an object of terror, with

Death from the mere moralist's point of view, as the termination of human schemes and hopes, we Christians have nothing to do. We are believers in and servants of One who has in these senses abolished Death. Our schemes and hopes are not terminated by Death, but reach onward into a state beyond it.

Again, with that state beyond, except as one of blessedness purchased for us by the Son of God, I am not at present dealing. It is of those that die in the Lord alone that I speak.

And this being so, it is clear that the first point about them demanding our attention is, the very commencement of their state at the moment of death. And this will form our subject to-day.

We shall be guided in its consideration by two texts of Holy Scripture. The one is that where our Lord answers the prayer of the dying thief that He would remember him when He came into His kingdom, Luke xxiii. 43: "VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE, TO-DAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."

And the other is an expression of St. Paul, Phil. i. 23, not improbably taken from those very words recorded in the gospel of that evangelist who was his companion in travel—
"TO DEPART AND TO BE WITH CHRIST."

Now in both these one fact is simply declared, viz. : that the departed spirit of the faithful man is WITH CHRIST. It is as if one bright light were lifted for us in the midst of a realm brooded over by impenetrable

mist. For who knows whither the departed spirit has betaken itself when it has left us here? One of the most painful pangs in bereavement by death is the utter and absolute severance without a spark of intelligence of the departed. One hour, life is blest by their presence: the next, it is entirely and for ever gone from us, never to be heard of more. One word, one utterance—how precious in that moment of anguish do we feel that it would be! But we are certain it never will be granted us. None has ever come back who has told the story. Where the spirit wakes and finds itself,—this none has ever declared to us; nor shall we know until our own turn comes. Now in such a state of uncertainty, these texts speak for us a certain truth: The departed spirit is WITH CHRIST.

I shall regard this revelation negatively and positively : as to what it disproves, and as to what it implies.

First, then, it disproves the idea of the spirit passing at death into a state of unconsciousness, from which it is to wake only at the great day of the resurrection. If it is to be with Christ, this cannot be. Christ is in no such state of unconsciousness ; He has entered into His rest, and is waiting till all things shall be put under His feet ; and it would be a mere delusion to say of the blessed dead that they shall be with Christ, if they were to be virtually annihilated during this time that Christ is waiting for His kingdom. Besides, how then would the Lord's promise to the thief be fulfilled ? What consolation would it have been to him, what