

Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE TO CELEBRATE
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

Wednesday 16 September 2009
Noon



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk. We have saved over 340 special buildings, which attract 1.5 million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open, in use, and free to all—living once again at the heart of their communities.

Our fortieth anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate not only our collection of internationally important Anglican parish churches, their past and their future, but also the work of all the people who have been involved in the Trust since 1969. We celebrate the visionary founder Ivor Bulmer-Thomas and all the trustees who have followed him and the communities and campaigners who sometimes fought against the odds to save the church they love from decay, vandalism, and threats of demolition. This is a time to thank the thousands of volunteers who work tirelessly in all seasons to keep the Trust's churches open, welcoming, and alive, the small team of dedicated staff who give their all to the cause, and our supporters, patrons, and donors whose generosity makes so much difference to the work we are able to do. It is also a time to thank the many organisations and professionals who work with the Trust to achieve our shared objectives, including our main sponsors: the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport, and the Church Commissioners of the Church of England. As a small charity we cannot do it alone.

We are very grateful to The Dean and Chapter for allowing the Trust to hold its Anniversary Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey. The Abbey's importance and history is well-known, but we particularly wanted to be here on this occasion because it is a place where everyone in The Churches Conservation Trust can come together to celebrate, give thanks, and look forward. We are united by our concern for the country's unique and wonderful parish churches and all they represent.

Loyd Grossman OBE
Chairman





Volunteers outside St Leonard's Church, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, supporting the work of The Churches Conservation Trust.

Most of the church, with the exception of the North Transept, is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Please ensure that mobile phones, cellular phones and pagers are switched OFF.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist.

The poem A Kind of Quickening, given its first reading today, was specially commissioned for the fortieth anniversary of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Music before the service:

James McVinnie, Assistant Organist, plays:

Fantasia in G ('Pièce d'orgue à 5') BWV 572 *Johann Sebastian Bach*
(1685-1750)

Concerto in F Op 4 no 5 *George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*
arranged by Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Andante espressivo from *Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*
Sonata in G Op 28

Apparition de l'église éternelle *Olivier Messiaen (1908-92)*

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and is conducted to his stall in the Quire. All stand, and then sit.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand. The Choir moves to the Great West Door to sing

THE INTROIT

LOCUS iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum:
irreprehensibilis est.

This place was made by God: a priceless and unblemished sign of his presence.

Anton Bruckner (1824-96)

*Gradual
Mass for the dedication of a church*

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN

*during which the Collegiate Procession
moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium*

CHRIST is made the sure foundation,
and the precious corner-stone,
who, the two walls underlying,
bound in each, binds both in one,
holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved by God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One, in threefold glory,
singing everlastingly.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness,
hear thy people as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls for ay.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
 gifts of grace by prayer to gain;
here to have and hold for ever,
 those good things their prayers obtain,
and hereafter, in thy glory,
 with thy blessèd ones to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father;
 laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
 ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
 while unending ages run. Amen.

Westminster Abbey 205 NEH
Henry Purcell (1659-95)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1679-95
from O God, thou art my God

Latin, c7th-8th century
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-66)

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, says

THE BIDDING

ON behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, I am glad to welcome you to the Abbey and to our celebration of The Churches Conservation Trust.

This place is a House of God and House of Kings, where God has been worshipped daily for well over a thousand years, and where, since 1066, kings and queens have been anointed and crowned. We honour the countless men and women who century after century have given of their own to the greater glory of God.

We come to give thanks to God for this holy place and for all places made holy by prayer, themselves priceless signs of the presence of God that open to those seeking them the eternal vista of heaven, and to pray for all those who lovingly and faithfully conserve them. We shall commend to God for his blessing the work of the Trust.

All sit for

LIVING STONES

Eileen Parry and John Bramham, volunteers, tell of their involvement with The Churches Conservation Trust.

All remain seated. Hazel Tapsell, volunteer, reads

1 KINGS 6: 1-16

IN the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the Lord. The house that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits wide, across the width of the house. Its depth was ten cubits in front of the house. For the house he made windows with recessed frames. He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running around the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary; and he made side chambers all around. The lowest storey was five cubits wide, the middle one was six cubits wide, and the third was seven cubits wide; for around the outside of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house. The house was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the temple while it was being built. The entrance for the middle storey was on the south side of the house: one went up by winding stairs to the middle storey, and from the middle storey to the third. So he built the house, and finished it; he roofed the house with beams and planks of cedar. He built the structure against the whole house, each storey five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar. Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon, 'Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes, obey my ordinances, and keep all my commandments by walking in them, then I will establish my promise with you, which I made to your father David. I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.' So Solomon built the house, and finished it. He lined the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar; from the floor of the house to the rafters of the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress. He built twenty cubits of the rear of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the rafters, and he built this within as an inner sanctuary, as the most holy place.

All remain seated. The Choir sings

PSALM 84

O HOW amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the
Lord: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where
she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and
my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be always praising thee.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee: in whose heart are thy ways.
Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well: and the pools are
filled with water.

They will go from strength to strength: and unto the God of gods appeareth
every one of them in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: hearken, O God of Jacob.
Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

For one day in thy courts: is better than a thousand.

I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God: than to dwell in the
tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is a light and defence: the Lord will give grace and
worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a
godly life.

O Lord God of hosts: blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen.

James Coward (1824-80)

Loyd Grossman OBE, Chairman, The Churches Conservation Trust, reads

REVELATION 21: 9-22

ONE of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last
plagues came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the
wife of the Lamb.' And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high
mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of
heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare

jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The angel who talked to me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width; and he measured the city with his rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, one hundred and forty-four cubits by human measurement, which the angel was using. The wall is built of jasper, while the city is pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the wall of the city are adorned with every jewel; the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates are twelve pearls, each of the gates is a single pearl, and the street of the city is pure gold, transparent as glass. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

THY hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thornbury 485 NEH
Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

Edward Plumptre (1821-91)

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Very Reverend Victor Stock
Dean of Guildford

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

BLESSED city, heavenly Salem,
vision dear of peace and love,
who of living stones art builded
in the height of heaven above,
and by Angel hands apparelled
as a bride dost earthward move.

Out of heaven from God descending,
new and ready to be wed
to thy Lord, whose love espoused thee,
fair adorned shalt thou be led;
all thy gates and all thy bulwarks
of pure gold are fashioned.

Bright thy gates of pearl are shining,
they are open evermore;
and, their well earned rest attaining
thither faithful souls do soar,
who for Christ's dear name in this world
pain and tribulation bore.

Many a blow and biting sculpture
polished well those stones elect,
in their places now compacted
by the heavenly Architect,
nevermore to leave the Temple
which with them the Lord hath decked.

To this Temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving kindness
hear thy servants as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always. Amen.

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

*Latin, 7th-8th century
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

All remain seated. The Reverend Michael Macey, Minor Canon of Westminster, leads

THE THANKSGIVINGS AND PRAYERS

LET us give thanks to God for the work of The Churches Conservation Trust over these past forty years; for the vision of Ivor Bulmer Thomas and all our founders in establishing a means by which a precious part of the nation's heritage is preserved and conserved.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Chloe Cockerill MBE, Development Manager, The Churches Conservation Trust, continues:

LET us give thanks for the many volunteers, key holders, architects and craftsmen, script writers and printers, trustees, and staff who devote their time to the work of the Trust; for their dedication to the cause, and for the friendships which they have conceived and nurtured.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The Reverend Brian McHenry CBE, Trustee, The Churches Conservation Trust, says:

WE give thanks for the new lease of life given to these churches through the endeavours of The Churches Conservation Trust; for the way in which our buildings are used by the community, for the community.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Crispin Truman, Chief Executive, The Churches Conservation Trust, says:

LET us pray for those who welcome visitors to Trust churches; that their dedication and enthusiasm may help those visiting to appreciate the buildings in our care and to learn something of the nation's history enshrined within their walls.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The Very Reverend Peter Judd, Dean of Chelmsford, and Trustee, The Churches Conservation Trust, continues:

Let us recall how these places of worship were built for the glory of God and for the edification of humanity. Let us pray that they may continue to speak to us, and to the many visitors who are drawn to our churches, of God's glory and of the continual peace and presence of Christ, both in our hearts and in our communities.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The Minor Canon says:

AS we listen to *Music for Awhile*, an ensemble which performs annually in All Saints, Alton Priors, let us offer our own prayers of thanksgiving for the work of The Churches Conservation Trust.

All remain seated. Music for Awhile plays

Epistle Sonata in F K244

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)*

The Minor Canon concludes:

All these prayers we offer to the Father in the words our Saviour Christ has taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All remain seated. Pauline Stainer reads

A KIND OF QUICKENING

PUT your ear to the quoins.
You might think
a redundant church
would be loud
with the sound of silence,
but sacred cantatas
rise to the spandrels.

Look through the squint.
St. Mary-at-the-Quay
in her field of windscreens,
where crane-drivers
glide over the hammerbeams
as if sighting eternity
seawards.

Smell the mown grass
in the roofless nave,
when children circle-dance
like Wisdom before the Lord
until the sea-fret rolls in
and they pull-up
their pearled hoods.

And the weepers on the tomb –
do they look up
in sunlight
as we repair the fabric,
salt-laden limestone,
an altar frontal
transfigured by the silkworm?

We still celebrate
the energy of otherness.
That shadow on
the lime-washed chancel
not simply Christ
as makeweight
on the flowering tree

but a jazz-singer,
dress blue as hyssop
against the downbeat dust,
while on the skyline
wind-turbines turn
to the preaching
of the swallow.

Pauline Stainer (b 1941)

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

NOW thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Nun danket 413 NEH
from Johann Crüger's
Praxis Pietatis Melica c1647

German, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)
translated by Catherine Winckworth
(1827-78)

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GO forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Music after the service:

Tocatta and Fugue in F BWV 540

Johann Sebastian Bach

All remain standing as the Procession moves to the west end of the church.

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until directed to move by the Stewards.

*There will be a retiring collection in aid of the work of
The Churches Conservation Trust*

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung by the Westminster Abbey ringers and Neil Skelton, volunteer, The Churches Conservation Trust.



The Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Knotting, vested in The Churches Conservation Trust 1 April 2009 upon the fortieth anniversary of the Trust's foundation.