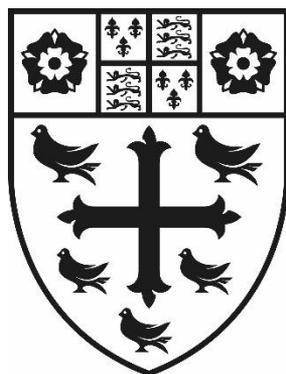


St Margaret's Church
Westminster Abbey



A Service of Inauguration for
The Reverend Patricia Hillas
as Chaplain to The Speaker
of the House of Commons

Wednesday 4th March 2020
9.30 am

THE CHAPLAIN TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

In pre-Reformation days the provision of a priest to pray over, and for, Parliament while it was sitting in Westminster was easily accomplished by waylaying any Benedictine monk from the Abbey of Westminster. However, in subsequent times, changed circumstances meant that a more permanent arrangement became necessary.

The office of Speaker's Chaplain, as we know it now, is a product of the Cromwellian Parliaments. The first time that a clergyman was regularly present in the House of Commons to conduct prayers was in Richard Cromwell's Parliament in 1659; although the first appointment of a Chaplain (and so called) was in the following year when Edward Voyce was named in the Commons Journal of 8th September 1660.

Since then seventy-nine priests have been appointed by the various Speakers of the House of Commons to serve as the Speaker's Chaplain, which is in effect Chaplain to the House of Commons. Surprisingly, it was not until towards the end of the nineteenth century that a Canon of Westminster was among them. F W Farrar (who served between 1890 and 1896) was the first of these and eight of his twelve successors have come from the Abbey.

The duties of the Speaker's Chaplain include not only conducting, in the chamber of the House, the Prayers which must always precede the commencement of the day's business, but also to be available for the many and various ministerial tasks that are needed within the Parliamentary Estate, both for the Members and for the large number of staff who work there. Additionally, services are regularly held in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft: weddings, marriage blessings, baptisms, as well as many other ceremonies and occasions. The Chaplain is always available to provide a confidential ministry of counsel, prayer, and support within the busy and demanding life of the Palace of Westminster.

PRIESTS VICAR OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The office of Priest Vicar of Westminster Abbey was created in 1974 when the number of Minor Canons at the Abbey was reduced. Priest Vicars are non-residentiary appointments and their task is 'to assist at services and sing services in the absence of the Precentor or Chaplain'. Originally four priests were appointed to the office. At the present time there are twenty-five in post. Some of those currently appointed by the Dean are singers, whilst others assist generally at the services in the Abbey, at St Margaret's, and in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft which is part of the Royal Peculiar at Westminster and where consequently the Dean is Ordinary.

The whole of the church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn the hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the choir of St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, directed by Greg Morris.

The organ is played by Richard Pearce.

The organist plays

Lied

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Deputy High Steward, Councillor Ruth Bush, is received at the East Door. All stand as she is conducted to her seat, and then sit.

The Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, is received at the East Door. All stand as he is conducted to his seat, and then sit.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter. The choir sings

THE INTROIT

O nata lux de lumine
Jesu Redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.

*O Light born of light,
Jesus Redeemer of the world,
deign in mercy to hear the prayers and praises
of those who kneel before you.*

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.

*You who once deigned to take flesh
for the sake of those who were lost,
make us members
of your blessed body.*

Thomas Tallis (c 1505–85)

anonymous, 10th century

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, says

THE BIDDING

We come together today to celebrate and inaugurate a new ministry, as Tricia Hillas formally begins her role as Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

As we do so, we give thanks to God for those who have exercised this important ministry over the past 350 years, officiating at prayers in the Commons and serving as pastor to all who work in Parliament. Through times of national celebration and in times of great uncertainty, we acknowledge their contribution to the spiritual life of our land.

Our presence here in St Margaret's reminds us of our historic and continuing common purpose, and we pray for our ecumenical partners and representatives of other faiths, as well as those from the Abbey, who will support the ministry of the Chaplain.

We ask God's blessing on Tricia, that she may counsel the uncertain, comfort the distressed, proclaim the word of hope, in season and out of season, whilst in all things giving glory to God. And we pray for the life and work of Parliament and all who serve the nation in this place.

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals; but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. **Amen.**

The Parliamentary Prayer

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN



Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth, and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Lord of the years 81 CP
Michael Baughen (b 1930)

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b 1926)

All sit. The Venerable Elizabeth Adekunle, Archdeacon of Hackney, reads

THE FIRST READING

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3: 14–21

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE PSALM

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills :
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord :
who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved :
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel :
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper :
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
so that the sun shall not burn thee by day :
neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil :
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in :
from this time forth for evermore.

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.

Henry Walford Davies (1869–1941)

Psalm 121

The Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, reads

THE SECOND READING

You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5: 43–48

THE ADDRESS

by

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable
Dame Sarah Mullally DBE
Bishop of London

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy;
Walk beside us down the years till we see you in your glory.
Striving to attain the heights, turning in a new direction,
Entering a lonely place, welcoming a friend or stranger.
I am here, I am with you. I have called: do you hear me?
Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value,
Jewels sparkle for a while; what you long for is not lasting.
Rulers govern under me with my insight and my wisdom.
Those who know me know my love, those who seek me find their answer.
God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit coeternal.
Glory be ascribed to you, now and to the end of ages.

The Call of Wisdom
Will Todd (b 1970)

Michael Hampel (b 1967)
after Proverbs 8

All stand for

THE INAUGURATION

The Speaker addresses the Dean

Mr Dean, I present to you Patricia who has been appointed to serve in the House of Commons as my Chaplain. I ask that you would now bless her and her ministry there, that it might be to God's glory and in the service of all who work within the Palace of Westminster.

The Dean says

Patricia, you have been appointed to serve as Speaker's Chaplain in the House of Commons; your duties are many and of high responsibility. You will conduct the prayers with which every parliamentary day commences, asking the blessing of almighty God on all the proceedings of the House. You will provide diligent and sensitive pastoral care for Members, their assistants, and for the Officers and other staff of the House. You will conduct worship and administer the sacraments and offices of the Church in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft in the Palace of Westminster. You will be a friend and pastor to many.

Do you believe, so far as you know your own heart, that God is calling you to this ministry?

I do so believe.

Will you commit yourself to serving the mission and ministry of God in Westminster?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you work with your fellow servants in the Gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you accept the discipline of this Church, and give due respect to those in authority?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to grow in holiness and grace?

With the help of God, I will.

People of God, will you welcome Patricia and support and uphold her in her ministry now and in the years to come?

With the help of God, we will.

Will you now kneel and receive God's blessing for your fulfilling of these weighty tasks.

God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servant Patricia the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing

THE HYMN



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be thou my inheritance now and always,
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

THE PRAYERS

The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Precentor, says

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

All kneel or sit. Charles Williams, Dean's Virger, St Paul's Cathedral, says

For the life of this nation: for The Queen, for Her Majesty's Government, and for all who occupy positions of leadership and responsibility within this land; and for all who provide spiritual and moral leadership; that they may ever seek to lead the nation in peace, and in accordance with the will of God.

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

Helen Wood, Speaker's Secretary, says

For all who work in the Palace of Westminster: for Members of Parliament, for members of the House of Lords, for The Speaker and The Lord Speaker, and for officers and staff of the Palace; that they may be endued with the gifts of integrity and righteousness, and that they may always seek to promote truth and justice.

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

Canon Pat Browne, Roman Catholic Duty Priest in Parliament, says

For all involved in Christian ministry in the Palace of Westminster and here in St Margaret's Church: for Tricia as she takes up her ministry as Chaplain to The Speaker and for all who give counsel, support, and guidance; for a spirit of wisdom and true godliness.

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

Laurence Target, Churchwarden at St Mary-at-Hill, says

For Tricia's ministry amongst the people of St Mary-at-Hill; for the mission and ministry of the Church of God in that place; for Tricia as Priest in Charge; for the Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council; and for all who minister within the Diocese of London; that they may continue faithfully to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

Wei Hei Kipling, friend, says

For Tricia's family: for Andrew her husband; that they may continue to find in one another strength, companionship, support, and encouragement; and may they also be nurtured in the gift of love.

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

The Precentor says

All these our prayers let us now present before our heavenly Father, in the words our Saviour Christ gave 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 stand to sing

THE HYMN



Love Divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Blaenwern 408i NEH
William Rowlands (1860–1937)
descant by James O'Donnell (b 1961)*

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

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 among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Music after the service:

Alla breve BWV 589

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

‘We live between the act of awakening and the act of surrender. Each morning we awaken to the light and the invitation to a new day in the world of time; each night we surrender to the dark to be taken to play in the world of dreams where time is no more. At birth we were awakened and emerged to become visible in the world. At death we will surrender again to the dark to become invisible. Awakening and surrender: they frame each day and each life; between them the journey where anything can happen, the beauty and the frailty.’

from Divine Beauty: the Invisible Embrace
John O’Donohue (1956–2008)