

St Margaret's Church  
Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING  
FOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF  
SIR SYDNEY CHAPMAN  
17<sup>th</sup> October 1935–9<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Noon







## ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand as the Choir and Clergy process. The Choir sings*

### THE INTROIT

**U**NTO him that overcometh shall be given of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. On either side of the river groweth the tree of life: the leaves of the tree are for thy healing. In the midst of that fair city flows the river of water of life, clear as crystal. Who so will, let him take of the water of life freely. Who so drinketh of this water shall never thirst. Take thou the leaves of the tree of life, so shalt thou enter in through the gates of the city.

*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

*Revelation 2: 7; 22: 2, 17, 14*

*The Rector gives*

### THE BIDDING

**B**ORN in Macclesfield, the son of an architect, Sydney Chapman followed the path of an architect and town planner, soon entering the House of Commons as the Member for Handsworth in 1970, and then more permanently for Chipping Barnet in 1979, sitting in total for over thirty years. The environment, built and natural, were his heart and his delight, famously opposing over-development and the choice of Stansted Airport, but more notably proposing the National Tree Planting Year—the ‘Plant a Tree in ’73’ campaign. A devout and spiritual man, faith played a large part in Sir Sydney’s life, as did his commitment to the Council for Christians and Jews, on which he served as Vice-Chairman.

As we give thanks for Sir Sydney, remembering his love of nature, his passion for architecture and his devotion to God, we join our prayers with those of his family in the words of the General Thanksgiving:

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

*All sing*

#### THE HYMN

**I**VOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:  
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

*Thaxted 579 AMR*  
*Gustav Holst (1874–1934)*

*Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)*

*All sit for*

#### TRIBUTES

*by*

The Right Honourable The Lord Ryder of Wensum OBE

*and*

Philip Porter

*All remain seated. The Choir sings*

#### THE ANTHEM

**H**OW lovely are thy dwellings fair, O Lord of Hosts: my soul longeth and fainteth sore for the blest courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh do cry to the living God. Blest are they that in thy house are dwelling: they praise thee, O Lord, for evermore.

*Johannes Brahms (1833–97)  
from Ein Deutsches Requiem*

*Psalm 84: 1, 3*

*All remain seated for*

#### A TRIBUTE

*by*

Christine Bateson, sister of Sir Sydney Chapman

*All stand to sing*

#### THE HYMN

**A**BIDE with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

*Eventide 331 NEH*  
*William Monk (1823–89)*

*Henry Lyte (1793–1847)*

*All sit. Roger Shrimplin, Honorary Secretary, Royal Institute of British Architects, reads*

WISDOM 3: 1–5, 9

**B**UT the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

*All remain seated. The Choir sings*

PSALM 121

**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.

*Walford Davies (1869–1941)*

*Pauline Buchanan Black, Director-General, The Tree Council, reads*

REVELATION 21: 22–22:5

**I** SAW no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

*All kneel or remain seated for*

THE PRAYERS

*The Reverend Stephen Griffiths, Team Rector, Cherwell Valley Benefice, says:*

Let us pray.

**O** FATHER of all, we pray to thee for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray thee, with those who mourn, that casting every care on thee they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO, former Chairman, Council of Christians and Jews, says:*

**L**ORD God of Abraham, bless the children of thy covenant, both Jew and Christian; take away all blindness and bitterness of heart, bless the work of reconciliation between people of all faiths, and hasten the coming of thy kingdom, when we shall dwell together in mutual love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**O** HEAVENLY Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ hast given us a true faith, and a sure hope: help us, we pray thee, to live as those who believe and trust in the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting, and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life; through the love of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

All these our prayers and praises let us now present before our heavenly Father, in the prayer our Saviour Christ hath taught us:

**O**UR 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

**G**UIDE me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.

*Cwm Rhondda 368 NEH  
John Hughes (1873–1932)*

*William Williams (1717–91)  
translated by Peter Williams (1727–96) and others*

*All remain standing. The Rector gives*

### THE BLESSING

**G**OD grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*Music after the service:*

Fantasia in G BWV 572

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

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

**A retiring collection is taken for St Mary's Church, Lower Heyford.**

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Westminster Abbey was built as part of a Benedictine monastery, and as a sacred place for the crowning and burial of the English kings and queens. Since it was never intended to serve the needs of the local community, in about 1150 a parish church was built by the Abbey's monks to be the parish church for the people of Westminster.

The church, immediately adjacent to the Abbey, was dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, a fourth-century saint whose colourful but apocryphal legend appealed to mediaeval piety. The present building, the third St Margaret's on this site, was begun about 1488 and consecrated on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1523. In the reign of Edward VI, Lord Protector Somerset wanted to pull down the church to provide stone for his great new palace on the Thames, Somerset House, but the citizens of Westminster turned out in force with bows, clubs, and staves, and sent the workmen packing!

St Margaret's has played a major part in the local history of Westminster for many centuries, and has associations with many historic figures: Geoffrey Chaucer, William Caxton, John Milton, and Samuel Pepys worshipped regularly in the Church; Sir Walter Raleigh's body was buried here after his execution in October 1618; and Sir Winston Churchill was married at St Margaret's in 1908.

On Palm Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 1614, the Speaker of the House of Commons led Members of Parliament to St Margaret's for a corporate celebration of Holy Communion, thus beginning an association with St Margaret's and the House of Commons so that even today St Margaret's is popularly known as 'the parish church of the House of Commons'. The front pew on the right hand side is reserved for The Speaker. The House came to the church for a Thanksgiving Service at the end of the Second World War in 1945, and to mark the opening of the new Chamber of the Commons in 1950. Members of Parliament and the officers and staff of the Palace of Westminster often come to St Margaret's for weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other occasions.

In recent years, the Parliamentary link has been further strengthened by the fact that one of the Wardens is a Member of Parliament.

In 1972, because the resident population of the parish had shrunk to only a few hundred people, St Margaret's ceased to be a parish church and was merged with Westminster Abbey by Act of Parliament.

It is easy to overlook the size and magnificence of St Margaret's because of its close proximity to the Abbey, but it has, by any standards, a notable perpendicular interior, with majestic slender pillars, and fine tracery in the east and west windows. The church has undergone several extensive restorations, including, most recently, necessary repairs to the roof, tower, and walls; most recently, the church has added facilities for a Sunday School in the North Tower, and a ramp to improve accessibility.