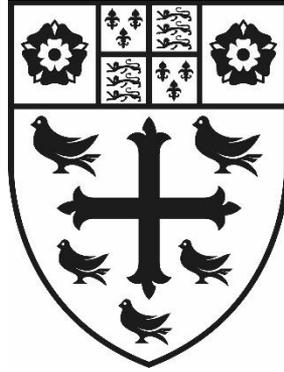


Westminster Abbey



Evensong

*with the Installation of
Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE CSTJ,
Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London,
as High Bailiff of Westminster
and Searcher of the Sanctuary*

Monday 17th May 2021
5.00 pm

HISTORICAL NOTE

The High Bailiff and the Searcher of the Sanctuary were officers of local government in Westminster whose roles evolved from responsibilities and jurisdictions originally exercised by the medieval abbot and convent. The duties were essentially legal, and the two offices have been combined in one person since the late seventeenth century.

The High Bailiff's jurisdiction covered not only the precincts of Westminster Abbey and the parish of St Margaret, Westminster, but also Covent Garden, Piccadilly and Soho. Within this area the High Bailiff was responsible for serving writs and warrants, committing prisoners to the Gatehouse prison (which stood within the Abbey precincts), and the confiscation of forfeited goods. Other duties included attending the Heralds and Officers of Arms when they made any proclamation within his area of jurisdiction, and attending meetings of the Burgess Court, the forerunner of the present-day Westminster City Council. Until 1918 the High Bailiff was also the Returning Officer at all parliamentary elections for the City of Westminster.

The Searcher of the Sanctuary (or Bailiff of the Precincts) had a similar authority to the High Bailiff, but within a smaller area, confined principally to the Close of Westminster Abbey, the area around Parliament Square and St Margaret's Churchyard, and the area between Tothill Street, the Thames, and Horseferry Road.

Both are historic roles, but today the High Bailiff and the Searcher of the Sanctuary acts as one of the principal external advisers to the Dean & Chapter and takes part in the Abbey's most significant ceremonial occasions.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir, clergy, and other members of College enter. The officiant says a sentence of Scripture. The officiant and choir sing the Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, and is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

William Byrd (c 1540–1623)

All sit. The choir sings Psalm 41

Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy :
the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble.
The Lord preserve him, and keep him alive, that he may be blessed
upon earth :
and deliver not thou him into the will of his enemies.
The Lord comfort him, when he lieth sick upon his bed :
make thou all his bed in his sickness.
I said, Lord, be merciful unto me :
heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee.
Mine enemies speak evil of me :
When shall he die, and his name perish?
And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity :
and his heart conceiveth falsehood within himself,
and when he cometh forth he telleth it.
All mine enemies whisper together against me :
even against me do they imagine this evil.
Let the sentence of guiltiness proceed against him :
and now that he lieth, let him rise up no more.
Yea, even mine own familiar friend, whom I trusted :
who did also eat of my bread, hath laid great wait for me.
But be thou merciful unto me, O Lord :
raise thou me up again, and I shall reward them.
By this I know thou favourest me :
that mine enemy doth not triumph against me.
And when I am in my health, thou upholdest me :
and shalt set me before thy face for ever.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :
world without end. Amen.

All stand

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.

Joseph Barnby (1838–96)

The congregation sits, members of College remain standing. The Dean and Canons move to the Lantern, facing west. The Receiver General conducts the High Bailiff to stand before the Dean. The Dean says

The office of High Bailiff of Westminster and Searcher of the Sanctuary is one of the two great Lay Offices of the Abbey. To him the Chapter may look for advice and support. By resolution of the Dean and Chapter assembled in the Jerusalem Chamber on 18th February 2021, Sir Kenneth Olisa, has been appointed to this office in succession to Sir Roy Strong.

The Dean addresses the High Bailiff:

Kenneth, you have been duly appointed High Bailiff of Westminster Abbey and Searcher of the Sanctuary. Will you maintain and guard the traditions of this Collegiate Church and, following the example of your predecessors, contribute by your counsel to its continuing life and contemporary vocation?

By the grace of God, I will.

The Dean addresses the members of the College

Members of College, do you welcome Kenneth Olisa to our College of St Peter, Westminster?

We welcome you.

The Dean addresses the High Bailiff

I, David Hoyle, Dean of this Collegiate Church of St Peter in Westminster, welcome and admit you, Kenneth, to the office of High Bailiff and Searcher of the Sanctuary.

The Dean leads the High Bailiff to his stall, and says

Receive your assigned place in Quire. May you through God's grace enhance the dignity of our ancient foundation and adorn the service that this College offers to God, Crown, and nation.

Let us pray.

All stand.

Remember, O Lord, what thou hast wrought in us and not what we deserve; and as thou hast called us to thy service, make us worthy of our calling; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit for the first Lesson Numbers 27: 15–end

All stand. The choir sings Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :

the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth :

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :

and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :

throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

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.

William Byrd Second Service

All sit for the second Lesson 1 Corinthians 3

All stand. The choir sings Nunc dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :

thy salvation,

which thou hast prepared :

before the face of all people;

to be a light to lighten the Gentiles :

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

William Byrd Second Service

All face east and say together the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

All kneel or sit. The officiant and choir sing the Lesser Litany, the Lord's Prayer, and the Responses

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save The Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The officiant sings the Collects; of the day, for peace, and for aid against all perils

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The officiant says the Prayers; for the Royal Family and for the members of the Order of the Bath

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, Charles Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family: endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God save our Gracious Sovereign, and all the Brotherhood of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath living and departed. **Amen.**

All sit. The choir sings the Anthem

Cantate Domino canticum novum, cantate et benedicite nomini ejus, quia mirabilia fecit.

Cantate et exultate et psallite, psallite in cithara et voce psalmi, quia mirabilia fecit.

Sing to the Lord a new song, sing and bless his name, for he has done marvellous things.

Sing and rejoice and sing praise, sing praise with the lute and sound of a hymn, for he has done marvellous things.

Claudio Monteverdi (c 1567–1643)

after Psalms 96: 1a, 2a; 98: 1b, 6

All kneel or remain seated for the Intercessions, at the end of which all say

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

All stand as the choir and clergy depart.

Please remember to maintain social distancing when leaving the church

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