

St Margaret's Church
Westminster Abbey



A Service for the New Parliament

Tuesday 23rd July 2024
9.30 am

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 requested kindly 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 Right Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon Rector.

The service is sung by the St Margaret's Consort, conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey.

The organ is played by Thomas Trotter.

The organist plays:

*Allegro assai, Andante, and Allegro Moderato Johann Christian Bach (1735–82)
from Concerto in D Op1 no 6*

The Right Honourable The Lord McFall of Alcluith, Lord Speaker, is received at the East Door. All stand as he is conducted to his 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 to sing the Hymn as the clergy and choir enter



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.

*Slane 339 NEH
traditional Irish melody*

*Irish, c 8th century, translated by Mary Byrne (1880–1931)
and versified by Eleanor Hull (1860–1935)*

All remain standing. The Right Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon Rector, gives the Welcome and Bidding

The Bidding concludes

GO before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Canon Rector introduces the Confession

IN the light of Christ's grace and strength, let us acknowledge our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his forgiveness.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;

Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others;

Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

THE almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

All sit. The Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, reads the first Reading

WITH what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6: 6–8

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Psalm

TEACH me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes :
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law :
yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.
Make me to go in the path of thy commandments :
for therein is my desire.
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies :
and not to covetousness.
O turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity :
and quicken thou me in thy way.
O stablish thy word in thy servant :
that I may fear thee.
Take away the rebuke that I am afraid of :
for thy judgements are good.
Behold, my delight is in thy commandments :
O quicken me in thy righteousness.

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.

*John Stainer (1840–1901)
after Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)*

Psalm 119: 33–40

The Right Honourable The Lord McFall of Alcluith, Lord Speaker, reads the Second Reading

MARY said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned to her home.

Luke 1:46–56

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing the Hymn



ALL my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Michael 333 NEH
Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650–80)
translated by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby GCVO, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of All England and Metropolitan, gives the Address

The choir sings the Anthem

OS justi meditabitur sapientiam,
et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.

*The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.
The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip.*

Anton Bruckner (1824–96)

Psalm 37: 30–31

The Reverend Mark Birch MVO, Precentor, leads the Prayers

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

All kneel or remain seated

FOR His Majesty The King; for his Government and Loyal Opposition; for the leaders of the political parties; and for all who assist them in the discharge of their duties: that they may build up our common life, and work together for the good of the whole nation. Mindful of their public service, we remember Members of both Houses and parliamentary staff who have died since the last Parliament was formed.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Reverend and Right Honourable The Baroness Sherlock OBE, Priest Vicar, says

FOR the Principal Officers of the Palace of Westminster: for the Speaker and the Lord Speaker, the Clerk of the House, the Clerk of the Parliaments, the Serjeant at Arms, and Black Rod, that they may properly enable the work of Parliament and serve diligently, without fear or favour.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

FOR all staff who work within the Palace of Westminster, and for their families: that their lives might be enriched and their work appreciated within the life and business of Parliament.

Lord, in your mercy;
hear our prayer.

The Reverend Mark Harris, Chaplain, Christians in Parliament APPG, says

FOR all who have been elected Members of the House of Commons: that they may represent their constituents with integrity and impartiality, and promote justice and equity among all people.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

FOR all who sit in the House of Lords: for the Lords Spiritual, for all life peers and hereditary peers; that they may use their wisdom and experience for the better governing of this nation.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Father Christopher Colven, Roman Catholic Duty Priest in Parliament, says

FOR Tricia Hillas, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, for her successor, soon to be appointed, and for her new ministry as a bishop; for all Christians working in Parliament: that they may be endued with gifts of good counsel and true godliness, working faithfully for the coming of God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

FOR the strengthening of our national values of democracy and tolerance; for God's protection against intimidation and threats of violence; that all may live and work in peace and freedom, with mutual trust and confidence.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Venerable Tricia Hillas, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, says

LORD, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and his Government, to Members of Parliament and to 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 humankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. **Amen.**

The Parliamentary Prayer, as used daily in the House of Commons

The Precentor concludes

All these our prayers and praises let us now present before our heavenly Father, in the prayer 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 stand to sing the Hymn



PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
come ye who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew
all the Almighty can do,
he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ay we adore him.

Lobe den Herren 440 NEH
Praxis pietatis melica 1668

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren
Joachim Neander (1650–80)
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)

All remain standing. The Canon Rector gives 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:

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

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

The bells of St Margaret's Church are rung

THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY INSTITUTE

Westminster Abbey Institute aims to nurture and revitalise moral and spiritual values in public life and service. We work with parliamentarians and public servants of all faiths and none, convening discussion, nourishing reflection, and providing public and private spaces to explore issues of ethics and morality in public life. We seek to support, resource and enrich MPs in their vital public service, and to celebrate public service as a force for good, attending to the 'moral muscles' we need in a changing and demanding world. Join our monthly reflective sessions for MPs, take part in our conversations or sign up to keep in touch.

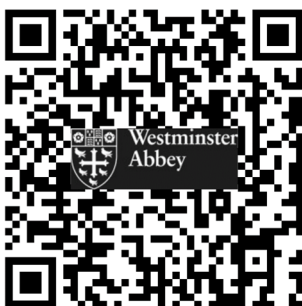
Contact our Director, Dr Edge Watchorn, to find out more and get involved: edge.watchorn@westminster-abbey.org

SAVE THE DATE: PARLIAMENTARY CAROL SERVICE

All Members, Peers, and Estate Staff are warmly invited to attend the Parliamentary Carol Service in St Margaret's Church on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 4.15 pm.

WEEKLY SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH AND THE ABBEY

All are welcome to attend the weekly 6.00 pm Sung Eucharist here in St Margaret's Church, sung by the St Margaret's Choristers during term time (commencing Sunday 9th September 2024). Members and staff will also be very welcome at Evensong, sung at 5.00 pm on weekdays (other than Wednesdays) by the Abbey Choir. Please see the Westminster Abbey website for full details of services in the Abbey and St Margaret's Church:



CHRISTIANS IN PARLIAMENT ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The Christians in Parliament APPG is an ecumenical group working to support all Members and staff in their work in Parliament. We seek to commend the personal and public goodness of the Christian Faith to all through Tuesday lunchtime chapel services, Bible study, prayer and fellowship groups, 1-1 pastoral support, speaker events and group discussions. We also organise the annual National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast in Westminster Hall.

Please visit christiansinparliament.org.uk
or email claire.newman@parliament.uk for more information.

THE CHAPEL OF ST MARY UNDERCROFT

Holy Communion services

The Chapel seeks to be a place of refuge, peace, and reflection amidst the busy nature of our working lives. Holy Communion services, led by the Speaker's Chaplain, are held in the Chapel, whilst the Houses are sitting, each Wednesday at 1pm. Each service lasts half an hour (45 minutes).

There is a Roman Catholic Mass at 6.00 pm every Wednesday whilst the Houses are sitting, led by the Roman Catholic Duty Priest, Father Christopher Colven. All are welcome.

One Wednesday per month (for Members and Peers only), there is a service of Holy Communion in St Margaret's Church at 7.45 am. This is followed by a light breakfast and fellowship including a speaker sharing on a chosen topic. We end at 9.00 am sharp.

Other services and events

The Chapel also hosts services for other Christian groups in Parliament, including the Cross Party group Christians in Parliament.

Special gatherings and events are held in the Chapel through the year and you are warmly encouraged to join the Chapel mailing list. To do so please contact The Chapel Verger on wilkinsh@parliament.uk

The Chapel of St Mary Undercroft is available for the following services at which The Speaker's Chaplain officiates:

- baptisms of Members or staff of both Houses with at least two years' service, and their direct descendants;
- weddings and services of blessing for Members or staff of both Houses with at least two years' service, and their direct descendants;

The Chapel is a Royal Peculiar controlled by the Lord Great Chamberlain and under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Dean of Westminster. Before applying in writing, it is helpful to discuss the dates and confirm the availability of the Chapel with Black Rod's Office via chapelbookings@parliament.uk

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 9th 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, 17th 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. 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. However, Members of both Houses, and the officers and staff of the Palace of Westminster, often come to St Margaret's for their weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other occasions.