

# Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving  
on the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Noon

## THE SCHOOL

On this very day in 1573, Queen Elizabeth I granted a Charter brought by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, for 'the establishment of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Barnet'. It is both fitting and an honour that we can celebrate the significant milestone of Queen Elizabeth's School's 450th anniversary in the place where Elizabeth I was crowned.

In its early years, QE carefully forged a path as a market-town grammar school, educating both day and boarding pupils in its schoolhouse, Tudor Hall, and successfully overcoming challenges such as a three-year outbreak of plague that started in 1603. During the English Civil War and Protectorate, the Governors evinced loyalty to the Crown, with several sent to the Tower. Finances were a perennial concern, and on occasion the school had to have recourse to the generosity of the Governors to stay afloat. In 1637, these pressures were somewhat eased when the Governing Body construed a provision in the Charter requiring the free tuition of local boys as applicable only to poor boys. The number of pupils with subsidised places was limited; the ranks of those paying tuition fees increased.

As Britain rose to become a major international trading power in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Governors modernised the curriculum, introducing new subjects, taught in English, that would better prepare boys for burgeoning opportunities in commerce, the professions, and public service.

In the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 1873, at a time of national education reforms, Queen Victoria approved a plan for QE to become a state-funded suburban day school and to offer an increasing number of free places based on performance in an entrance examination.

By the 1920s, the school was outgrowing its Wood Street site, so a new campus was constructed in Queen's Road and opened in 1932 by Prince George. The site sustained damage during an air raid in 1941. Many Elizabethans served in the two world wars, with 113 paying the ultimate price. During the 1950s and 1960s, the school continued to grow. In September 1971, under a borough-wide education plan, QE joined the comprehensive school movement, a change that brought with it a doubling of the intake. Within a few years, however, the roll had fallen sharply, and Barnet Council was eyeing QE's closure. Under Eamonn Harris, Headmaster from 1984, the school's reputation recovered. He took advantage of new legislation to break free from local authority control and to reintroduce, in 1994, academic selection.

Over subsequent decades, QE has risen to fresh heights. There have been extensive new facilities, supported by contributions from parents and others. Traditions of service are maintained through programmes such as peer mentoring and local voluntary service. And an unwavering focus on academic performance has placed the school at the top of examination league tables. QE was the 2022 Sunday Times State Secondary School of the Year, while 2023 has seen a record 47 offers of places from Oxford and Cambridge.

Today's service reflects the school's long path from ancient to modern: from our Tudor foundations, represented by our Charter and by music from the reign of Elizabeth I, through to the school of today, seen in the reading of a new poem and the premiere of the anniversary anthem which the school commissioned from Howard Goodall.

Inspired by our long history, enjoying success in the present, and looking with hope toward the future, Queen Elizabeth's School is thriving from ancient roots.

*Mr Barrie Martin MBE FRICS IRRV*

*Chairman of Governors, Chairman of the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's School*

*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 Right Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon in Residence.*

*The service is sung by the school's Chamber Choir, with guest singers from the staff, Old Elizabethans, and St Albans High School for Girls, conducted by Miss Ruth Partington, Director of Music, Queen Elizabeth's School.*

*The Orchestra is conducted by Miss Caroline Grint, Assistant Director of Music*

*The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.*

*Music before the service*

*The Indian Ensemble plays*

*Tani Avartanam*

*The Sub-Organist plays*

*Flourish for an Occasion* *William Harris (1883–1973)*

*Benedictus* *Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*  
*from Sonata Britannica*

*Rhosymedre* *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

*The School Orchestra plays*

*Crown Imperial* *William Walton (1902–83)*

*The Sub-Organist plays*

*Chorale Fantasia on* *Hubert Parry (1848–1918)*  
*'The Old Hundreth'*

## A NOTE ON TODAY'S SERVICE

Today's service covers, in turn, four broad themes: foundations; challenges; service unto others, and hope for the future. The banner that will be carried through the Abbey with the School Charter was presented to the school by His Royal Highness Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Rohan Kumar's poem was the winning entry in the school's 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poetry Competition. The final anthem, a new commission by Howard Goodall, is based on the schools' Mission Statement and Founder's Day Service.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The choir sings the Introit in the Quire*

**O**LORD, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen to rejoice in thy strength; give her her heart's desire, and deny not the request of her lips; but prevent her with thine everlasting blessing, and give her a long life, even for ever and ever. Amen.

*William Byrd (c 1540–1623)*

*after Psalm 21*

*All stand to sing the Hymn as the Procession moves through the Abbey to places in the Lantern and the Sacrarium.*



**A**LL 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.

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.

*Michael 333 NEH*

*Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650–80)*

*Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

*translated by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)*

*The Right Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon in Residence, welcomes the congregation and introduces The Lord's Prayer*

**W**ELCOME to Westminster Abbey for this thanksgiving and celebration to mark the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. We ask God's blessing on each one of you here; the pupils and staff, governors, parents and friends, all who support them, and on all those who remain part of the School as former pupils or members of staff.

As we gather, let us pray in the words our Saviour 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 sit. Mrs Helen Edmunds, Head of History, gives the Charter reading*

ELIZABETH by the Grace of God of England, Ireland and  
France Queen, Defender of the Faith.

To all to whom this present writing shall come, greeting!

Know thee that we, at the humble request of our well beloved cousin and counsellor, Robert, Earl of Leicester, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Master of our Horse, in behalf of our faithful and liege subjects and the inhabitants of our Town of Barnet, in the counties of Hertford and Middlesex, there to erect and for ever to establish... one Common Grammar School in the said Town of Barnet, or near the same, which shall be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth for the education, instruction and bringing up of boys and youth... and the same to continue for ever.

In testimony whereof we have caused these, our letters, to be made Patent. Witness ourselves at Westminster the 24th day of March in the 15th year of our Reign. Anno Domini 1573.

*Ugan Pretheshan and Mustafa Sayfi, Senior Vice-Captains, process the School Charter, and Shuaib Adam, Vice-Captain processes the Banner to the High Altar. During the procession the choir sings the Anthem*

THE heavens are telling the glory of God  
the wonder of his work displays the firmament.  
To day that is coming speaks it the day  
the night that is gone to following night.  
In all the lands resounds the word  
never unperceived, ever understood.

*Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)  
from The Creation*

*after Psalm 19: 1–4*



*Raghav Janga, Year 7, reads*

LIFE, believe, is not a dream  
So dark as sages say;  
Oft a little morning rain  
Fortells a pleasant day.  
Sometime there are clouds of gloom,  
But these are transient all;  
If the shower will make the roses bloom,  
O why lament its fall?  
Rapidly, merrily,  
Life's sunny hours flit by,  
Gratefully, cheerily  
Enjoy them as they fly!  
What though Death at time steps in,  
And calls our Best away?  
What though sorrow seems to win,  
O'er hope, a heavy sway?  
Yet Hope again elastic springs,  
Unconquered, though she fell;  
Still buoyant are her golden wings,  
Still strong to bear us well.  
Manfully, fearlessly,  
The day of trial bear,  
For gloriously, victoriously,  
Can courage quell despair!

*Charlotte Brontë (1816–1855)*

*The choir sings the Psalm*

THE Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill:  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

*Jessie Irvine (1836–87)*  
*Crimond NEH 459*

*Psalm 23*  
*Scottish Psalter 1650*

*Darren Lee, School Captain 2023, reads the Lesson*

**H**APPY is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her. The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

*Proverbs 3: 13–26*

Thanks be to God.

*All stand to sing the Hymn*



FATHER, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

*Sussex 357 NEH*  
*traditional English melody*

*Aspiration after Psalm 23*  
*Love Maria Willis (1824–1908)*

*All sit. Mr Neil Enright, Headmaster, gives the Address*

*All stand to 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 295 AMNS*  
*Gustav Holst (1874–1934)*

*Urbs Dei*  
*Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)*

*The Reverend Robert Latham, Sacrist, introduces the Prayers*

Let us pray.

*All kneel or remain seated.*

*Mr Matthew Rose, OE 2002–09, Head of External Relations, says*

Inspired by the school's long history, we praise God for our founder Queen Elizabeth I and pray that we may continue to thrive from our ancient roots.

**O**LORD God, the maker and builder of every house not made with hands, we give thee thanks for this school in which we have our share. Give thy blessing, we beseech thee, to all in this our body, to the headmaster, to the teachers, to the boys and to those who minister to our needs. Inspire us, O Lord, so to do our work today, that, even as we are being helped by the remembrance of the loyal lives of those who came before us, so our faithfulness in thy service may aid those who shall take our places. Remember, O Lord, for good, all who have gone forth from this school, to labour elsewhere in thy kingdom. Grant that both they, and we, may fulfil thy purpose for us in this life, and finally may attain thine everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

*The School Prayer*

*Mrs Emi Aghdiran, Governor and Director of The Friends of Queen Elizabeth's School, says*

Remembering the challenges the school has faced over the years, we praise God for our successes in the past and present, and pray that nothing may hinder our focus on pupil nurture and development, and academic performance.

**O**HOLY Spirit, whose presence is liberty, grant us that freedom of the Spirit which will not fear to tread in unknown ways nor be held back by misgivings of ourselves and fear of others. Ever beckon us forward to the place of thy will which is also the place of thy power, O ever-leading, ever-loving Lord. **Amen.**

*George Appleton (1902-93, Archbishop of Jerusalem 1969-1974)*

*Alexander Ford, Year 10, says*

Looking with hope to the future, we praise God for the many blessings we have received at his hands. We ask his blessing on each of us here and pray that the school will continue to promote kindness, compassion, and a generosity of spirit.

**A**LMIGHTY God, who art the source of truth, and whose Spirit leads us into all truth; may all who teach and all who learn in our school be set free from everything that might hinder our search for the truth; and, finding truth, may we learn to use it for the good of all and for thy greater glory. **Amen.**

*All sit. The choir sings*

**W**E pray for a renewal of our faith and that, in all the tensions and confusion of this present time, we may continue to trust in your name, and find your love in strength and peace.

We pray that your Church may grow in faith, so that sharing Christ's suffering and death, we may share in the glory of his resurrection

A renewal of faith

*Gillian Rogers (1934–2019)*

*Olivia Sparkhall (b 1976)*

*Aahan Shah, Year 9, reads*

**W**HERE the mind is without fear and the head is held high  
Where knowledge is free  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
By narrow domestic walls  
Where words come out from the depths of truth  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit  
Where the mind is led forward by thee  
Into ever-widening thought and action  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

*Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)*

*All stand. The Headmaster leads the Act of Rededication*

**O**N this day of reflection and thanksgiving, we now reaffirm our commitment to the school's mission, understanding that together we form a community of Elizabethans.

I invite each house, in turn, to declare their presence.

Broughton:

**Adsumus**

Harrisons':

**Adsumus**

Leicester:

**Adsumus**

Pearce:

**Adsumus**

Stapylton:

**Adsumus**

Underne:

**Adsumus**

*Led by Darren Lee, School Captain, the pupils all say*

**We pledge that we will dedicate ourselves to our learning and in the service of others. That we will act with kindness and generosity of spirit to share our talents for the benefit of our neighbours near and far, making the most of the opportunities available to us, and seeking to set an inspiring example to those who take our places.**



*Led by the Headmaster, the staff all say*

**We pledge that we will loyally guide those in our care, nurturing them in their scholarship and their personal development; protecting them and preparing them to live fulfilled and faithful lives.**

*Led by the Headmaster, the governors, parents, and Old Elizabethans all say*

**We pledge that we will offer our sincere support and counsel, aiding those who teach and those who learn to be empowered; and giving what we can to ensure that the school is an environment in which all can flourish.**

*Led by the Headmaster, all say*

**We pledge that we will approach our work with respect, empathy and integrity; for the betterment of ourselves, our peers, our School, our Elizabethan community, and our wider world. We are thankful for the opportunities we enjoy and look forward with hope for the future, striving that we may leave a legacy of good when our time comes to pass.**



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 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. Rohan Kumar, Year 11, reads*

**Y**OUNG and wild the waterdrop falls  
With a mesmerising gleam we watch it glide  
Glide through the air and pierce the clouds  
So fragile, yet so brave  
So small, yet so proud

As a school, we watch as it tumbles through the sky  
A new hope but a charmingly familiar sight  
In need of teaching and guidance, trusted with a new school tie  
We watch as it hurtles towards us  
A daring maverick... hungry to achieve

And in the ancient waters of our school, It is nurtured and cared  
for,  
Surrounded by four and a half centuries of memories and wisdom  
We inspire it to grow, learn and develop  
Pursue interests and even struggle  
So that when the time is nearly upon us

We push up and raise it to the sky as a son, a student, part of our  
next wave

Nurtured talents all morphed and moulded into one one single  
opportunity, the opportunity to achieve

And so, what was once a singular water drop finds itself with its  
place in our history

Finds itself as part of the wave, the waves we make

And when those waves rise with the force of

Elizabethans old to propel them

We salute you

Not as a boy, but a man

Not as a child, but an adult

Not as one water drop, but a force in the waves we make.

*Rohan Kumar (b 2007)*

*written for the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of Queen Elizabeth's School*

*The choir sings the Anthem*

**W**E honour those whose purpose made this place  
Benefactors, patrons, teachers, volunteers  
Their labours made it so, that this our school  
Should prosper these four hundred and fifty years.

And be it known we gladly take the torch,  
Building fellowship and progress with our peers  
Our talents shared to serve the greater good:  
Ideals upheld four hundred and fifty years.

So let us fill this place with hope  
Sing with one voice our grateful pride  
That like an oak, it draws its strength  
From ancient roots spread deep and wide.  
From ancient roots  
From ancient roots  
From ancient roots spread deep and wide.

Achievements, trophies, leaders play their part  
Without values, though, they're passing souvenirs  
To nurture generosity and poise  
Keeps faith with these four hundred and fifty years.

So let us fill this place with hope  
Sing with one voice our grateful pride  
That like an oak, it draws its strength  
From ancient roots spread deep and wide.  
From ancient roots  
From ancient roots  
From ancient roots spread deep and wide.

Queen Elizabeth, Gloriana!  
Queen Elizabeth, Gloriana!  
We think ourselves most fortunately borne  
Under such a star  
Queen Elizabeth, Gloriana!

So, fearless, meet the road ahead  
Face fate and fortune in our stride  
That like an oak, we draw our strength  
From ancient roots spread deep and wide.  
From ancient roots  
From ancient roots  
From ancient roots spread deep and wide.

*Howard Goodall (b 1958)  
commissioned for this service*

*based on Queen Elizabeth's School  
Mission Statement and Founder's Day Service*

*All stand for the Blessing*

**G**O 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 fainthearted; 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.**

*All remain standing. The Procession moves to the west end of the Abbey Church*

*The organist plays*

Toccatà in F minor

*William Ralph Driffill (1870–1922)*

*The orchestra plays*

Pomp and Circumstance Op 39  
March no 4

*Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*

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

*The bells of the Abbey Church are rung*



# The Friends of Queen Elizabeth's

*The Friends of Queen Elizabeth's – or FQE – is a registered charity which exists to support the School and its pupils.*

*Founded in 1966, it has a fantastic track record. In fact, over several decades, FQE has been at the heart of major capital projects which have transformed the School's campus into a superb learning environment. The Charity seeks to ensure that pupils from all backgrounds can be provided with the best educational opportunities possible.*

*Whilst celebrating the School's history, FQE hopes that the anniversary year can deliver its own legacy to current and future generations of pupils.*



*Donations are gratefully received. Scan the QR code to access the online donation platform.*

*FQE is a registered charity, no. 289174*