

The Temple Church

Wednesday 13 May 2026, 5.45p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG *On the Eve of Ascension Day*

Welcome to this service. It is a pleasure to see you here this evening. The Chancel was consecrated in the presence of King Henry III on Ascension Day 1240; the King had intended to be buried here. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The words for the service can be found from p. 47 of the white booklet. The public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

It is a particular pleasure to be joined this evening by members of the International Women's Forum, meeting in London this week; and by The Revd Canon Angela Tilby and those who will be staying on for the launch (7.00pm) of her new book, *Good Faith: Why England needs its Church*. Everyone here for the service is most welcome to stay for drinks in the Round and, if they have time, for the Book Launch.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Sonata No. 5, Mvt 1

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

INTROIT

Cœlos ascendit hodie Jesus Christus rex gloriæ, Alleluia!
Gubernat cœlum et sedet ad Patris dexteram, Alleluia!
Jam finem habent omnia patris Davidis carmina, Alleluia!
Jam Dominus cum Domino sedet in Dei solio,
in hoc triumpho maximo, Alleluia!
Benedicamus Domino, laudatur Sancta Trinitas,
Deo dicamus gratias, Alleluia! Amen.

*Today Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, has ascended into the heavens, Alleluia!
He sits at the Father's right hand and rules the heaven, Alleluia!
Now are David's songs fulfilled, Alleluia!
Now is the Lord with his Lord,
He sits upon the royal throne of God in this his greatest triumph, Alleluia!
Let us bless the Lord: let the Holy Trinity be praised,
Let us give thanks to the Lord, Alleluia! Amen.*

*Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), in Three Latin Carols
Words: 12th century*

HYMN 147 (omit v 5)
Hail the day that sees him rise

All remain standing

WELCOME AND SENTENCE

PSALM 150 (*Talbot*)

O praise God in his holiness:

praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts:

praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:

praise him upon the harp and lyre.

Praise him in the cymbals and dances:

praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:

praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let everything that hath breath:

praise the Lord.

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.

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
Verses from Daniel 7

Daniel spake and said, "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

"I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things: 'The saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. And the kingdom and dominion,

and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT (*Murrill in E*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON

Acts 1. 1-11

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, “which,” saith he, “ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” And he said unto them, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Murrill in E*)

All remain standing and in the tradition of the Temple Church face East to say together:

THE CREED (*p. 51, white booklet*)

THE COLLECTS OF THE DAY AND FOR EVENSONG

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

All sit.

ANTHEM

Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus.
Stantes erant pedes nostri: in atriis tuis Ierusalem.
Ierusalem quae aedificatur ut civitas: cuius participatio eius in idipsum.
Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus, tribus Domini:
testimonium Israel ad confitendum nomini Domini.

Gloria Patri et Filio: et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper:
et in secula seculorum. Amen.

*I rejoiced at the things that were said to me:
We shall go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet were standing: in thy courts, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem, which is built as a city: that is compact together.
For thither did the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:
the testimony of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, now, and for ever:
world without end. Amen.*

Music: Donna Chiara Cozzolani (c.1602-1678)

Words: from Psalm 122

The convent of Santa Radegonda of Milan was the most famous centre of women's music in 17th century Italy, its members "gifted with such rare and exquisite talents in music that they are acknowledged to be the best singers of Italy. They fill hearts with wonder, and spirit away tongues in their praise. Among these sisters, Donna Chiara Margarita Cozzolani merits the highest praise." – Picinelli, 1670

THE PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

HYMN 218

The head that once was crowned with thorns

THE BLESSING

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sonata No 5, Mvt 2

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

There will be a retiring collection. If you prefer to donate online kindly scan the QR code below.



The congregation is warmly invited to refreshments in the Round Church after the service. A donation to help cover our costs is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

**7.00pm, following Evensong:
You are warmly invited to stay on for the
BOOK LAUNCH: 'GOOD FAITH: WHY ENGLAND NEEDS ITS CHURCH'
by Angela Tilby**

The Revd Angela Tilby is Canon Emeritus of Christ Church Cathedral Oxford, and a Canon of Honour at Portsmouth Cathedral. She lectures on early Church history, spirituality and Anglicanism, and is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day'.

**A SPECIAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
CHORAL EVENSONG**

Wednesday 22 July, 6pm

A special service as we bid farewell and happy retirement to Robin Griffith-Jones, The Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple.

Followed by drinks and jazz in Church Court.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please refrain from all filming, recording and photography during the service.

Thank you.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday 17 May, 11.15am

CHORAL MATTINS: THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

To celebrate William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament which was first published in 1526; it is the basis of almost all later New Testament translations including the King James Bible.

Sung by Temple Singers

Music to include: If ye love me (Tallis), The word is a lantern (Purcell)

Sunday 24 May, 11.15am

CHORAL COMMUNION: WHIT SUNDAY

Monday 8 June, 5.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Sung by The Temple Church Choir

To include music by Noble and Bairstow

Wednesday 17 June, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sung by The Bar Choral Society

Sunday 21 June, 11.15am

CHORAL MATTINS

Sung by The Temple Church Choir

Followed by Father's Day Sunday lunch in Middle Temple for members of the Inns and their guests.

To book for the lunch: 020 7427 4800

Tuesday 23 June, 7.30pm

CONCERT: A CELEBRATION OF BENJAMIN BRITTEN

The Bar Choral Society

Greg Morris, *conductor*; Francois Cloete, *organ*

For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

Thursday 25 June, 6pm-7pm

CONCERT: SONGS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Temple Singers, Temple Church Choristers, Temple City Singers,
and children from local schools.

This concert will centre around Michael Tippett's 'Four Songs
from the British Isles' alongside folksong arrangements by
Benjamin Britten. This concert is kindly supported by The Michael
Tippett Musical Foundation.

Free Admission

Friday 26 June, 8pm

COMPLINE

Sung by the Temple Church Youth Choir

Sunday 28 June, 11.15am

CHORAL COMMUNION

Followed by the Big Picnic in Inner Temple Gardens.

To book for the Big Picnic: www.innertemple.org.uk/events

Thursday 2 July, 6.30pm

CONCERT: SPEM IN ALIUM THE 40 VOICE SPECTACULAR

Temple Singers, Thomas Allery, *conductor*

Music to include: Celia Virgo (Gabriel Jackson),

Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener).

For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

Thursday 16 July, 7pm

CONCERT: THE KING SHALL REJOICE: A BAROQUE CORONATION

Temple Church Choir, Temple Players

Thomas Allery, *conductor*; Charles Andrews, *organ*

Music to include: Zadok the Priest, Let thy Hand be strengthened (Handel).

For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be
contacted confidentially at safeguarding@templechurch.com or
020 7427 5650.