



# **CIVIC SERVICE**

in

All Saints Parish Church  
Kingston upon Thames

**To mark the start of the new Mayoral Year**

in the presence of

**The Worshipful the Mayor  
of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames**

**Councillor Chrissie Hitchcock**

on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010

at 3.30pm

## **Please stand for the arrival of the Civic Procession**

### **The National Anthem**

**Welcome** from Rev Jonathan Wilkes, Rector of All Saints

Good afternoon and welcome to All Saints church. We have come here today to mark the beginning of the year in office of our new Mayor, Councillor Chrissie Hitchcock. We have come here to pray for her and to give thanks for the service that she will offer. We are also here to pray for this Borough, thanking God for it and for all those who work to enhance and better the lives of people in our community, and at this time of new government throughout our land we meet to consider, in word and music, how we might embrace a fresh spirit of common endeavour. So, we pray for ourselves, that, together, we might renew our commitment to a collective purpose and a shared vision for the greater well being of the people in this area.

**The Choir will sing the Introit: O taste and see  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)**

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:  
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.  
Psalm 34, verse 8

### **Hymn**

Come down, O love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till he become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

### **Confession**

As we commit ourselves to building a brighter future for the people of this borough let us acknowledge the ways in which we have failed in our call to serve each other and establish a society of righteousness and love. Let us ask God for forgiveness of our shortcomings and strength to recommit ourselves to the ways of justice and truth:

**Lord God, long suffering and of great goodness,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Have mercy upon us,  
deliver us from our shortcomings;  
bind up our wounds  
and revive us with your spirit;  
that we might shine with the light of your love  
and live as you intend.  
Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to himself,  
cleanse us from our sins  
and restore us in his service  
to the praise and glory of his holy name,  
now and forever. Amen

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 4 verses 32-37  
read by the Representative Deputy Lieutenant, Col Geoffrey Godbold**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**Please sit for three reflections on the Promise of new life in different Faith traditions interspersed with verses of Psalm 121 sung by the choir to the setting of Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)**

*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.*

New life and new beginnings bring new journeys. Journeys require destinations, because if we don't know where we are going, we won't know where we will end up. For a Sikh, the ultimate destination of life is to merge and become one with God, like a stream merges back into the ocean. No matter which faith we follow, or whether we even believe in God's existence or not, there is one universal truth that we can all agree on and that is that: Once born, there will come a day when we will die. Sant Jarnail Singh Jee, who is often referred to as the greatest Sikh leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, once said: 'Physical death I do not fear, but death of a conscious mind is a sure death'. So while rejoicing new beginnings and fresh starts, let's also try and focus on our ultimate destinations in life and never let our conscious minds fall asleep, whatever we may chose to do in life.

(Shamsher Singh, Kingston University Sikh Society)

*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.*

In the Hebrew calendar, there are several 'New Year' celebrations. *Rosh Hashanah* is normally known as the Jewish New Year, though it occurs in the seventh month. In the sixth month comes the start of the year for farmers paying their tithes, and the festival of *Tu Bishvat* in the eleventh month marks the new year for trees. Strange as this may seem, it is not all that different to Britain having separate academic years, fiscal years and – determining a Mayor's term of office – municipal years.

These cycles are spread throughout the calendar, and every time, each brings with it chances and changes: an end to the old and new opportunities for the future. The mayoralty of Kingston is now entering its 176<sup>th</sup> year. Abraham died at the age of 175, but, as Kingston's leadership is constantly being renewed and refreshed, it certainly has many, many more new beginnings to come!

(Gabriel Webber, Kingston Liberal Synagogue)

*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.*

Each day begins and ends with a prayer and three are popped in during the day! I pray, each and every time in the hope that maybe it will be heard by the angels and along with the millions of others that are praying at the same time, our prayer for peace, for understanding and unity will not only be heard but answered. I pray that I am given the strength through my faith, to have the ability to guide and bring up my children with understanding, tolerance and compassion. I pray, in the hope that those who take on the responsibility to do right by my children, my loved ones, my neighbours, my community have the same desire to have, keep and build on the strength of our multi-cultural, multi-faith, multi- ethnic community. I hope that we will all take opportunities to engage and listen, to participate in the sharing of knowledge. I hope I pray we can All actively stand and speak together for peace and unity. Ameen

(Uzmer Sadiq, Kingston Mosque)

*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.*

**The Address will be given by the Anglican Bishop of Kingston,  
The Rt Rev Richard Cheetham**

**The Choir will sing the Anthem: The Lord is my Shepherd  
Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989)**

The Lord is my shepherd:  
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.  
Psalm 23:1-4

**We sit or kneel for the prayers** read by Christian young people in the area

We pray for our new Mayor. May God give her the energy to fulfill the length and breadth of her duties, the patience to give her time and attention to all, the discernment to lead and direct the workings of the Council wisely and the inspiration to be a source of vitality and hope. May the love of God, made known in the life of Jesus Christ, be the source of all her service and her service be dedicated to the well being of all.

Let us pray for all those who serve this Borough, whether as Officers, Employees or members of the Council. We give thanks for all those who give their time, energy and commitment to the maintenance and improvement of life in this area. May they be guided by God's spirit, filled with God's strength and inspired by God's love for all of creation. Amen

May God bless this Borough. May it be a place of peace and justice, a place of understanding and respect, a place where the lonely find comfort and the weak find protection. May we learn to look beyond ourselves and reach out to one another in love, forgiveness and understanding. May the spirit of God touch all our lives and fill our hearts. Amen.

### Hymn

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine,  
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die;  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

### **Please remain standing for a prayer of Blessing for the new Mayor**

(The Bishop and other Faith leaders come to the altar step while the Mayor stands before them)

Madam Mayor, as faith leaders in our community we pray for you, all elected members and employees of the Royal Borough of Kingston as you embark on this year of service to the people of our community.

Faith leaders:     May the love of God fill you  
                          May the wisdom of God direct you  
                          May the power of God enliven you  
                          and may the blessing of God be with you, today and always.  
                          Amen.

### **The Choir will sing Psalm 150 (Charles Villiers Stanford 1852-1924)**

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 lute and harp.

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 every thing 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.

### **Act of Commitment - led by The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Ken Walker**

I invite you to join me in stating our determination to build a community of respect and tolerance, a community that is built on love and grounded in courtesy, a community which acknowledges that every member of our society has a right to flourish and a duty to serve their neighbour. We say together:

**Almighty God, we give thanks for this good land in which we live;  
for the education of our young and the protection of the defenceless,  
for support to the vulnerable and help for the weak  
for aid to the sick and care of the elderly.**

**Especially we give thanks for this Royal Borough of Kingston  
and for all those who contribute to its well being.**

**May we join with them  
in the causes of justice, opportunity and peace  
that our communities might be filled with joy,  
underpinned with grace,  
and overflowing with love.  
Amen.**

May almighty God fill us with Grace that we may be strengthened to do his will and enabled to build a community both here in Kingston, and in the world at large, that reflects the presence and love of God. Amen

### **Hymn**

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

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

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
bear me through the swelling current,  
land me safe on Canaan's side;  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

### **Blessing**

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you.  
The Lord bless and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you.  
The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

**Please remain standing  
as the Mayoral and Civic Procession leave the Church**