

Bishop Wordsworth's School

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR FOUNDER'S DAY



“Storms make the oak grow deeper roots”

George Herbert

Friday 4 April 2025
Salisbury Cathedral

WELCOME

The quotation on the front of our order of service comes from a famous local poet and priest. George Herbert (1593-1633) lived on the outskirts of Salisbury and was Vicar of the Churches of Fugglestone with Bemerton. His poetry leapfrogs the ages with surprising ease and I have often turned to this quotation about oak trees and roots this year. Bishop's has not had the year we had expected, yet as we come once more to Founder's Day, our school has deep roots from which to draw strength and confidence as we enter a new stage of our life together.

"Roots" forms our theme this morning. We will start with a lone voice speaking John Wordsworth's own words from beside his monument in the Trinity Chapel. Our founder loved our school. A friend of his commented "it was the first place he went on arriving at home, and he thought all his visitors would like to see it too". You can hear his pride in these words. Look carefully and you will be able to glimpse the Cross and candles of the procession beside his monument through the iron tracery behind the High Altar.

We will move to give thanks for Old Wordsworthians who have died during the year. We have common roots with them and each matters to us. We have revived words from the 1950 Bishop Wordsworth's School Chapel prayer book to commission our new prefects for whom today marks the start of their tenure, getting in touch, once again, with our roots.

We are delighted to have Revd Ross Meikle, Missioner for young people at the Cathedral as our preacher this morning. Since arriving in Salisbury a year ago, Ross has quickly become a friend to Bishop's, leading Eucharists in the school Chapel, assemblies in the Sport's Hall and helping at our whole school Eucharist a few weeks back. He is a writer and story-teller; his background before Ordination was in theatre and he memorably points out in a blog that his surname rhymes with treacle! We are delighted to have him, Canon Edward Probert, our Governor and very long term friend, and Katie Fitzsimmons, Diocesan Director of Education with us today as we end a term and look forward towards a new chapter for our school.

Revd Canon Dr Stella Wood, School Chaplain

A Prayer from the 1890 Order of Service for Founders, Benefactors and Worthies, compiled by Bishop John Wordsworth.

O God of our fathers, who hast given us grace to meet together this day to commemorate the mercies which Thou hast shown forth in this Thy house from generation to generation: hearken we beseech Thee to the supplications of Thy servants; and grant that all who in the coming year shall enter this house to seek a blessing from Thee may feel with joy that Thou hast heard their prayers and granted their requests according to Thy perfect love and wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

Canon Edward Probert

The congregation remains seated as a procession moves to Bishop John Wordsworth's memorial in the Trinity Chapel. His words are spoken by Jonathan Ivess-Mash, Year 13 Historian.

"I should like to see Salisbury a great educational centre. I should like to found a school which shall be equal to the greatest and best of our public schools".

This is my prayer for my school:

O GOD our heavenly Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift, we beseech you to bestow your blessing on our school. We praise you for the heritage into which we have entered, and pray you to make us worthy to maintain and strengthen all that is good in our traditions. Give to all who work here the true love of knowledge which makes all study a discovery and a joy. May the spirit of loyalty and devotion bind us all more closely together, that we may labour not for our own advantage but for the common good. May your wisdom guide and prosper our work and games and every activity of our school life, that we may grow in the love of all that is true and honest and of good report. And when we go out into the world may we carry with us the ideal and the power of service, which you give us in Your son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

INTROIT

Stabat Mater
Pergolesi

Soloists: Olivia Kerr and Shivam Padiyar,
Year 13

INTRODUCTION AND BIDDING PRAYER

Led by Dr Stuart Smallwood, Head Master

We have come together to offer our thanks to God both for the work of John Wordsworth and his vision in establishing his School and for the service of its staff, past and present. We have come to pray for the boys and girls who are its being and its purpose and for all those who have passed through its doors to serve the wider community.

So, as we prepare to join in these acts of worship and praise, we remember the many blessings bestowed by God upon our School through past years. As we offer our thanks for all his goodness to us and to our predecessors, and ask for his guidance for times to come, we pray that he will help us to realise his presence, respond to his love and live our lives to his praise and glory.

We gather our prayers and thanksgivings together, saying

**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.**

The congregation stands to sing

PROCESSIONAL 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.

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL

Led by Dr Wood, Chaplain

Let us remember with thanksgiving at this time those from this School community who have died during the last year. Among them Christoph Nikolin, James Herlihy, Keith Ralls, Martyn White, Mark Slocombe, Martin Holloway and Richard Taylor.

O Eternal Lord, who holdest all souls in life, we beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served Thee here and are now at rest, may at last enter with them into the fulness of Thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A prayer of John Wordsworth)

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord;
And may light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.

*Candles are lit beside the font for each person we remember
as the Chamber Choir sing*

ANTHEM

Lux Aeterna
Edward Elgar

THANKSGIVING

Led by Harry White & Lizzie Guy
Cathedral Prefects, 2025-2026

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
Let us pray with joy and thanksgiving.

For the school which unites us,
past and present,
staff and students.

Thanks be to God.

For John Wordsworth, our Founder

Thanks be to God.

For governors who steer the school
through good times and hard times.

Thanks be to God.

For all who have taught,
and inspired by their teaching.

Thanks be to God.

For the freedom to learn
and the knowledge that brings freedom to others.

Thanks be to God.

For the beauty of art and the majesty of music.

Thanks be to God.

For time together on stage and field.

Thanks be to God.

For this Cathedral Church built in a generation
and a beacon of hope for generations since.

Thanks be to God.

For all that has been,
for all that is,
for all that is to come,

Thanks be to God. Amen.

We sit for the reading

READING

Psalm 1
“They are like trees planted by streams of water”

Read by Mr Barry Smith, Bursar

OBOE SOLO

Gabriel's Oboe
Morricone

Played by William Edwards

READING

An extract from Robert MacFarlane's book, 'Underland'

Read by Ben Dennis
Head Boy 2025-2026

ANTHEM

Cantique de Jean Racine
Gabriel Fauré

READING

An extract from *The Fellowship of the Ring*
J.R.R. Tolkien

Read by Rosie White
Head Girl 2025-2026

ADDRESS

Revd Ross Meikle,
Missioner for young people, Salisbury Cathedral

We stand to sing

HYMN

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains us, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the world, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our world where we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

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.

The congregation sits

COMMISSION OF THE NEW TOP SIX SENIOR PREFECTS

Dr Smallwood and Canon Probert

ANTHEM

In Paradisum
Gabriel Fauré

PRAYERS

Led by Sam Saneie, Deputy Head Boy
and Anika Dharendra, Deputy Head Girl 2025-2026

The congregation stands

THE RE-DEDICATION

Mindful of those who have gone before, and of the inheritance entrusted to us, let us rededicate ourselves to the service of God and humanity.

**God our Father, we commit ourselves afresh
to building up what is good
and breaking down what is hateful.
We dedicate our minds,
our gifts,
and our skills
to seeking the truth you reveal,
showing the compassion you lived,
and building the world you imagined
in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

We remain standing for

HYMN

**I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

***Dance then wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

**I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame:
the holy people
said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high,
and they left me there
on a cross to die:
*Dance then wherever....***

I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance
and I still go on:
Dance then wherever....

They cut me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the life
that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord
of the Dance, said he:
Dance then wherever....

We remain standing for the

BLESSING

Canon Probert

Please remain standing until the Choir and Clergy have left the Nave.

Our thanks to all who have taken part today, to Revd. Mark Wood for playing the organ for us and to the Cathedral who welcome us so often. We wish you all a safe, restful and very good holiday. To all of you who are revising, know that we are behind you.

RETIRING COLLECTION



For today's collection we ask for your generosity towards Alabaré.

Founder's Day is an important day for the BWS Community as we reflect and celebrate the values and history of our school. Every year a charity is chosen for the collection which is an amazing way to support our local community.

Alabaré is a charity based here in Salisbury that supports homeless people all across the country. They provide accommodation, support and drop-in services for all those affected by homelessness. By providing support they help people who are alone and suffering out of homelessness and aid them in finding the way to a brighter future. Within the last year they have helped 2,894 people, and with more demand they rely more now than ever on kind donations.

We believe that this is an amazing charity to donate to, so any donations you can give no matter how big or small would make a huge difference.

Thank you very much for your support.

Flora Youens – Chair of the Charity Committee 2024-2025