



# THE FEAST EVENSONG SERVICE 2023



**Monday 6 February 2023, 5pm**  
**St Paul's Cathedral & Mercers' Hall**

## History of the Feast Service

The first General Meeting or Feast of the Scholars was on St Paul's Day 1661. From that year, an Old Pauline would preach a sermon, either in St Paul's Cathedral or a City Church, and a dinner party would follow for the attending Mercers and Old Paulines.

From the earliest of these meetings, a collection would be taken. This is described in *Brief Histories of The St. Paul's Schools, The School Feast and The Old Pauline Club* written in 1984: "a portion was devoted to sending one or more scholars to a University; a second part went in apprenticing fees; a third sum was devoted to procuring instruction for some boys in writing and arithmetic, while later the balance was spent on the provision of books for the School Library which had been destroyed in the Great Fire of London." Samuel Pepys was one of the earliest donors of books to the School Library in the aftermath of the Great Fire.

For reasons lost in the mists of time, there was a hiatus in the School's celebration of the Feast for around 100 years. Festivities were reinstated in 1931 as recorded in FR Salter's history of the School, "when, two days after the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, a School service was held in the Cathedral for the first time for over a century".

From 1931, it seems, a relatively familiar format was adopted. FR Salter's explanation of proceedings is as follows: "Members of the Mercers' Company (in their robes) and other Governors make a procession into the stalls and the service starts with a Bidding Prayer, composed by the present Surmaster, and ends with Colet's *oratiuncula* read by the High Master. The President of the Old Pauline Club and the Captain of the School read the Lessons, the sermon is preached by an Old Pauline, the School choir sing an anthem and a collection for the Benevolent Fund is taken up by the Stewards of the Feast, half of whom are present and half Old Paulines."

Following the October John Colet Day service becoming the main focus of Patronal celebration for St Paul's and St Paul's Girls' School in 2000, it was not until 2003 that a Cathedral Evensong was agreed with the OPC. The Feast Reception at Mercers' Hall was reinstated in 2006.

In 2021, the first and hopefully only "virtual" Feast was conducted by the School Chaplain with the traditional contributions of Old Pauline the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson (1971-76) preaching, readings by the Captain of School and OPC President, and Colet's *oratiuncula* read by the High Master.

# Order of Service

Please stand when the choir and ministers enter

A short anthem may be sung by the choir

The minister welcomes the congregation and the Versicles and Responses are sung by the choir of St Paul's School

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

O God, make speed to save us.  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

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.*

Praise ye the Lord.  
*The Lord's name be praised.*

Sit while the choir sings the psalms appointed for the day (Psalm 91)

Stand for 'Glory be to the Father' at the end of the final psalm

Sit

## **The First Reading** from the Old Testament

Exodus 23. 1-13

Silence is kept, after which all stand with the choir

# Magnificat

## The Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
*For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.*  
For behold, from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
*For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his name.*  
And his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations.  
*He hath shewed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.*  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat;  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
*He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.*  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen  
his servant Israel, as he promised  
to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
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.*

Luke 1. 46-55

Sit

## The Second Reading

from the New Testament

*Read by Lord Vaizey of Didcot, President of the Old Pauline Club*

Here begins the second chapter of the Epistle of St James

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

James 2. 1-13

Silence is kept, after which all stand with the choir

## **Nunc Dimittis** The Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word.

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared  
before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*  
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.*

Luke 2. 29-32

Turn to face the altar and say together

## The Apostles Creed

*I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead,  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Versicles and Responses are sung by the cantor and the choir

The Lord be with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*

Kneel or sit

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*Christ, have mercy upon us.*  
Lord, have mercy upon 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. Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
*And grant us thy salvation.*

O Lord, save the King.  
*And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
*And make thy chosen people joyful.*

O Lord, save thy people.  
*And bless thine inheritance.*

Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
*Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
*And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

The collect (prayer) of the day  
and the following two collects are sung:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
*Amen.*

Sit as the choir sings

**The Anthem**  
announced by the minister  
Howells, *Behold O God Our Defender*

Kneel or sit

# The Prayers

## Hymn

YE THAT KNOW THE LORD IS GRACIOUS

YE that know the Lord is gracious,  
Ye for whom a Corner-stone  
Stands, of God elect and precious,  
Laid that ye may build thereon,  
See that on that sure foundation  
Ye a living temple raise,  
Towers that may tell forth salvation,  
Walls that may re-echo praise.

Living stones, by God appointed  
Each to his allotted place,  
Kings and priests, by God annointed,  
Shall ye not declare his grace?  
Ye, a royal generation,  
Tell the tidings of your birth,  
Tidings of a new creation  
To an old and weary earth.

Tell the praise of him who called you  
Out of darkness into light,  
Broke the fetters that enthralled you,  
Gave you freedom, peace and sight:  
Tell the tale of sins forgiven,  
Strength renewed and hope restored,  
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,  
Praise and magnify the Lord.

C.A. ALINGTON 1872-1955  
(Taken from the *New English Hymnal*)

The details of the order of service were kindly provided to us by the Cathedral, not for use at the Evensong but only in this commemorative booklet.



## Appendix

Elements of the School's traditional Feast Service, which have in recent years been incorporated into the John Colet Day Service, can be found on the following pages, including the Bidding Prayer, Colet's *Orantiuncula* and Erasmus' Prayer for Enlightenment.

### Introduction and Bidding Prayer

For the greater part of its history, St Paul's School, which John Colet, the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, founded in 1509, occupied buildings within the shadow of the medieval cathedral and then, after that was destroyed in the Great Fire, of the masterpiece of Sir Christopher Wren in which we would usually assemble for worship at this time.

The Feast commemorating the Conversion of St Paul is an annual reminder of the generosity and foresight of our founder and also an occasion to affirm the link between the Cathedral Church and our School.

Since John Colet's day, we have come together for the Feast Service to give worship and praise to our heavenly Father, thanking him especially for our founder and benefactors, to pray for the Mercers' Company, for our other Governors, and for all members of our School, and to remind ourselves of the long and honourable tradition to which we are heirs. We therefore re-dedicate ourselves to be true to the highest standards of the past and resolve anew to serve God and our fellows in the future.

Let us now ask the Holy Spirit to inspire our worship, recollecting in silence God's presence with us and our dependence upon his loving providence.

Scripture quotations are from  
New Revised Standard Version Bible:  
Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the  
Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All  
rights reserved worldwide.

## Colet's "Oratiuncula,"

### - A little Prayer to the Boy Jesus, Patron of the School

*Domine noster, Iesu suavissime, qui puer adhuc anno aetatis tuae duodecimo in Hierosolymitano templo inter doctores illos sic disputasti, ut stupefacti uniuersi tuam super excellentem sapientiam admirarentur: te quaesumus ut in hac tua schola, cui preces et patrocinaris, eam quotidie discamus et literaturam et sapientiam, qua possimus in primis te, Iesu, qui es ipsa uera sapientia, cognoscere, deinde cognitum eundem te colere et imitari; atque in hac breui vita sic ambulare in via doctrinae tuae, sequaces vestigiorum tuorum, ut, quo peruenisti ipse, ad aliquam eius gloriae partem, decedentes ex hac luce, possimus nos quoque tua gratia feliciter peruenire. Amen*

English translation:

Jesus, our most gracious Lord, who as a boy of twelve so debated with the teachers in the Temple of Jerusalem, that all those eminent men were amazed and marvelled at your exceedingly great wisdom: grant that, in this school of which you are both pattern and patron, we may daily learn both knowledge and wisdom, so that, firstly, we may come to know you, Jesus, who are the true wisdom, and then, in that knowledge, may both honour and imitate you; may we so walk in the way of your teaching through this brief life, following in your footsteps, that when we leave this light, we too may, by your grace, joyfully attain some part of that glory into which you yourself have entered. Amen.

## Erasmus - Prayer For Enlightenment

O Lord Jesus Christ, who art the true light of the world, ever rising and never setting, who with thy saving countenance dost create and keep all things in heaven and earth and make them glad; enlighten our hearts, we beseech thee, with thy favour, that the dark night of wickedness and the clouds of doubt may be dispersed, and that so with thy light shining in our hearts we may pass our whole life without sin, and may walk honestly as in the day, cleansed from all the works of darkness: who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, world without end.  
Amen

# Old Pauline Club Feast Reception & Supper

6.05pm Arrival at Mercers' Hall for soft drinks reception

6.40pm **Speeches and presentations**

Welcome by Adam Fenwick, Master Mercer

Presentation of Rare Book Donation to St Paul's School from the Old Pauline Club by Lord Vaizey of Didcot, OPC President

*Toast to the Pious and Immortal Memory of John Colet*  
*Toast to the Old Pauline Club*

Acceptance of OPC Donation by Hilary Cummings, School Librarian

Closing speech by Sally-Anne Huang, High Master

7.00pm Guests seated for Supper in the Livery Hall and Large Court Room

Noah Zhou (2014-2019) will be performing a short piano recital as guests take their seats for dinner.

9.00pm Event comes to a close

## Noah Zhou (2014-19)

Beginning his musical journey at the age of 5, Noah has gone on to be awarded the full-fee Sir Elton John Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music, where he currently studies with the Emeritus Head of Keyboard, Christopher Elton.

Noah has been the recipient of a number of awards, notably 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize at the YPF European Grand Prix (2022), the Royal Philharmonic Society of Great Britain's Duet Prize for Best Young Instrumentalist (2018) and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at Valsesia Musica International Competition (2021). He frequently performs in concert venues all over the world, from the Royal Festival Hall in London and Amsterdam's Bimhuis and Muziekgebouw, to Rio's Sala Cecilia Meireles (Brazil) and Sendai's Hitachi Systems Hall (Japan).

Aside from his own performances, Noah is excited to be working as co-artistic director towards the launch of his own music festival in the summer of 2023 - The Piano Concerto Festival. The event is focused around granting pianists access to a professional orchestra, with which they will be invited to perform, and also aims to provide them with connections to future performance opportunities.

## **Donation to the Rare Books Collection in the Kayton Library**

Evensong in the Cathedral will be followed by a reception and supper at Mercers' Hall at which the guests will be welcomed by Adam Fenwick, Master Mercer.

All Old Paulines and their guests, together with Upper Eighth pupils and parents, are invited to the Reception each year.

Lord Vaizey of Didcot (1981-85), Old Pauline Club President will make the rare books presentation to Hilary Cummings, School Librarian.

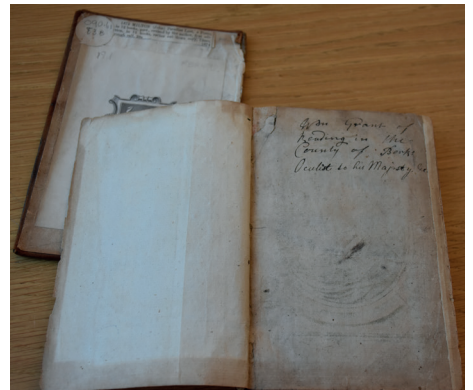
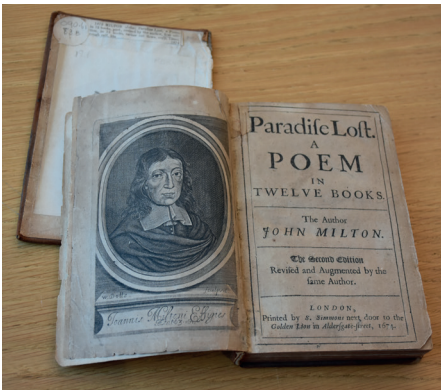
This year, the OPC has chosen to make a donation to conserve two books in the School's Rare Books Collection. These are both so damaged that they are unusable in their current state.

*Pharetra Doctorum Philosophorum Et Poetrum* is the school's second-oldest book and a beautiful example of early printing. Published in Nuremberg in 1472, it is so old that it predates title pages, page numbers and a statement of the author's name. To put that in context, Johannes Gutenberg's Bible was first printed in around 1455 and William Caxton started the first English printing press in 1476. The book has remarkably bright black printing with red, rather wobbly, handwritten capitals and notes, including some delightful manicules. At 550 years old, this book is perfect to show to pupils who are fascinated by the quality of early book production, particularly when compared with modern paperbacks.

The second book is a second edition of John Milton's *Paradise Lost* from 1674, the year of his death. This is the edition where Milton divides the poem into the familiar twelve books rather than the initial ten. The book has an ownership inscription from John Grant of Reading, Oculist to His Majesty, who was one of the earliest cataract surgeons in England. Next year is the 350th anniversary of Milton's death and the Kayton Library team hope to be able to display many of the school's copies of his works. This lovely little book will be able to be included when it has been conserved.



*Pharetra Doctorum Philosophorum Et Poetrum*



*Paradise Lost, second edition*

# Forthcoming Events

**8 February**

## **Community Eucharist**

A service is held on the last Wednesday of each half term to which all OPs, parents, staff and pupils are invited. It is followed by a complimentary breakfast.

**1 March**

## **Law Network**

**2 March**

## **Pauline Perspectives**

'This House believes that climate change can only be solved by limiting individual freedom'

**7 March**

## **Topical Tuesday**

*Nationalism Past and Present – the uses and misuses of the medieval past to justify modern ethnic nationalism* with Dr Andrea Ruddick

**9 March**

## **Cotter Cruickshank Lecture**

The New Hellenism: Classical Education in Edwardian Britain with Professor Tim Rood (1982-86)

**20 March**

## **Not-for-profit Network**

**22 March**

## **Community Eucharist**

**22 March**

## **Finance Network**

**30 March**

## **Earliest Vintage Luncheon**

**26-27 April**

## **Giving Day**

For details of forthcoming events, please visit:  
[opclub.stpaulsschool.org.uk/events](https://opclub.stpaulsschool.org.uk/events)

Alternatively, please scan this QR code using your phone to access the website:



# Make a donation

If you would like to support the  
150th Appeal, please visit:

[www.stpaulsschool.org.uk/OPCAppeal](http://www.stpaulsschool.org.uk/OPCAppeal)

Alternatively, please use your phone camera to scan the code  
below to access the website.



[opclub.stpaulsschool.org.uk](http://opclub.stpaulsschool.org.uk)

## St Paul's School Development

St Paul's School  
Lonsdale Road  
London SW13 9JT

020 8746 5343

Please contact Ellie Sleeman,  
Director of Development and Engagement  
for more information:  
[ems@stpaulsschool.org.uk](mailto:ems@stpaulsschool.org.uk)



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**