



# THE FEAST EVENSONG SERVICE 2022



**Monday 7 February 2022, 5pm**

**St Paul's Cathedral & Mercers' Hall**

# Forthcoming Events

- February**      **The Future of: Health**  
- Matthew Gould and Professor Robert Winston
- March**          **The Future of: The Arts**  
- Simon Fox and Patrick Spence  
**Earliest Vintage Lunch at School**
- May**             **The Future of: Education**  
- Lord Baker of Dorking and the High Master
- June**            **Pauline Festival and Reunions at School**  
**150th Dinner at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill**

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

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



## 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; it was split four ways. 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

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

Sit

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

Genesis 1.26-end

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, OPC President*

Here begins the tenth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Matthew 10. 1-16

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 Queen.  
*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  
Charles Wood, *O Thou the Central Orb*

Kneel or sit



# The Prayers

## Hymn

LORD of all hopefulness

LORD of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could  
destroy,

Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts,  
Lord, at the break of  
the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane  
and the lathe,

Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of  
the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to  
embrace,

Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts,  
Lord, at the eve of the  
day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is  
balm,

Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, Your peace in our  
hearts, Lord, at the end of the  
day.

JAN STRUTHER 1901-53  
MUSIC: SLANE

(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.

## **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 Christopher Vermont, 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
- 9.00pm Event comes to a close

## Donation of Rare Books to 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 Christopher Vermont (1973-78), 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 present Hilary Cummings, School Librarian, with rare books for the Kayton Library.

The donation for this year's Feast is a First Edition of Compton Mackenzie's (1894-1900) most famous novel *Whisky Galore*. Published in 1947, the story is set in World War II and tells of a tiny Scottish island which runs out of whisky. The locals are delighted when a freighter containing 50,000 cases of whisky runs aground on the beach. English officials are sent in to try to recover the whisky and the locals stage a rebellion. It was made into a delightful film in 1949, which will be familiar to many who have never read the book.

The OPC is also helping to conserve one of the School's most heavily used rare books, Thomas Clarkson's *The History Of The Rise, Progress And Accomplishment Of The Abolition Of The African Slave-Trade By The British Parliament Volume II* published 1808. Volume II contains the famous diagrams of the Brookes slave ship which were used in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. This book is taken into lessons in which pupils are learning about the slave trade and lets them experience this contemporary book. It brings the past into the present in a really powerful way. The damage is now so severe that were it not to be conserved and protected for the future this would be the last year where it can be used in this way.

The formal part of the evening ends with the President of the Old Pauline Club toasting the Pious and Immortal Memory of John Colet and The Old Pauline Club, and a few words from the High Master.

*Whisky Galore*

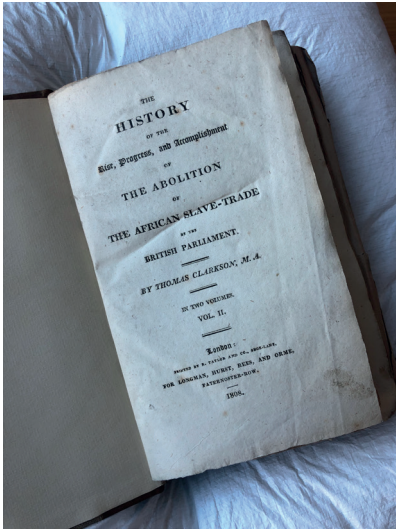
Compton Mackenzie

1947

Chatto and Windus

LONDON

This year's donation: a First Edition of Compton Mackenzie's most famous novel *Whisky Galore*.



The School's copy of Thomas Clarkson's *The History Of The Rise, Progress And Accomplishment Of The Abolition Of The African Slave-Trade By The British Parliament Volume II* published 1808.



# Make a donation

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