



The Chapel of the  
Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

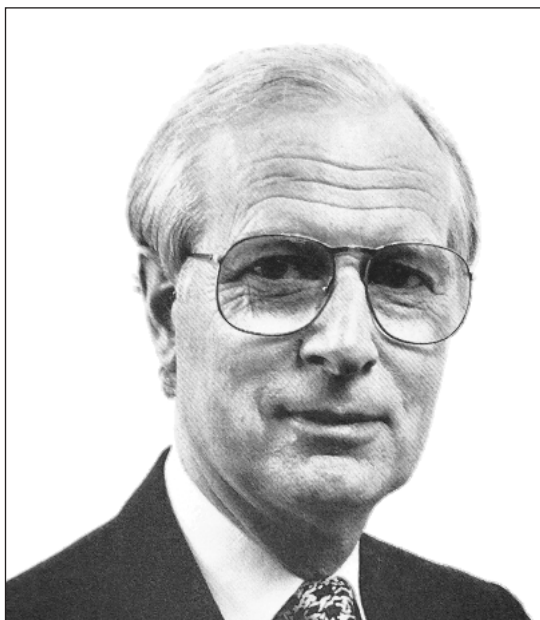
Service of Thanksgiving  
for the Life of  
Merrick Baker-Bates, CMG, CStJ

1939 – 2023

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
2 pm







Merrick Baker-Bates, CMG, CStJ

The Cathedral Consort is conducted by William Fox, Assistant Director of Music. The organ is played during the service by Martin Ford, Acting Sub-Organist, and before the service by Alexander Knight, Organ Scholar.

## Music before the Service

*Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele* (BWV 654) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ* (BWV 639) Johann Sebastian Bach

*Folk tune from Five Short Pieces* Percy Whitlock (1903-46)

*Mein Jesu, der du mich from*  
*Eleven Chorale Preludes* (Op. 122) Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

*O Welt, ich muß dich lassen from*  
*Eleven Chorale Preludes* (Op. 122) Johannes Brahms



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray quietly. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.

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# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The congregation is asked to join in all texts printed in **bold**.*

*Stand as the Choir and Ministers enter.*

## Welcome and Bidding

*given by*

The Reverend Paula Hollingsworth,  
Chaplain, Canon in Residence

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning;  
great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3. 22, 23

Dear friends, today we come together  
to remember before God our brother Merrick Baker-Bates;  
to give thanks for his life  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

We recall with thanksgiving his outstanding contribution  
to the diplomatic service,  
and his natural skill for building rapport  
with many different kinds of people.  
We acknowledge his devotion to his community  
and his service to many philanthropic causes,  
both individuals and organisations alike.

As we bring to God our personal memories of Merrick  
and all he did to enable others to flourish,  
may our constant prayer be that we too might use our gifts,  
as he did, to bring light and hope to others,  
after the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All these our thoughts and prayers we offer  
in the words that Jesus gave his disciples, 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.**

*Sit*

Tribute

*given by*  
Nicholas Barber

*Stand*

Hymn

**I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:  
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.**

**And there's another country I've heard of long ago,  
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.**

Words: Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

Tune: *Thaxted*  
adapted from *The Planets*  
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Sit

## Reading

*read by*

Alan Boaden

By the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12. 3-8

## Tribute

*given by*

Robin Butler

*A soloist sings*

## Anthem

O, for the wings, for the wings of a dove!  
Far away, far away would I rove!  
In the wilderness, build me a nest  
And remain there for ever at rest.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

## Tribute

*given by*

Katy Haber

*Stand*

## Hymn

**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.**

**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.**

**Lord of all kindness, 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.**



**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.**

Words: Jan Struther (1901-53)

Tune: *Slane*  
Trad. Irish Melody

*Sit*

## Poem

*read by*

Cecily Warburton

Not, how did he die, but how did he live?  
Not, what did he gain, but what did he give?  
These are the units to measure the worth  
Of a man as a man, regardless of his birth.  
Nor what was his church, nor what was his creed?  
But had he befriended those really in need?  
Was he ever ready, with words of good cheer,  
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?  
Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say,  
But how many were sorry when he passed away?

Anon.

## Sermon

The Reverend Caroline Burnett,  
Associate Priest, Uplands Group of Churches

## Anthem

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.  
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil:  
For you are with me, you will comfort me.  
Surely goodness and mercy, shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Words: Psalm 23

Music: *Brother James's Air*  
Brother James Leith Macbeth Bain (d.1925)  
arr. Gordon Jacob (1895-1984)

## Prayers

*led by*

The Reverend Tessa Bosworth,  
Assistant Curate

and

The Reverend Allison Twigg,  
Rector, Uplands Group of Churches

Let us now pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

*Remain seated or kneel.*

*The response is*

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*At the end*

God of mercy,  
entrusting into your hands all that you have made  
and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people,  
we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*during which a collection is taken for the work of The Prison Fellowship.*

**They who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let them in constancy  
Follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make them once relent  
Their first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.**

**Who so beset them round  
With dismal stories,  
Do but themselves confound –  
Their strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay their might,  
Though they with giants fight:  
They will make good the right  
To be a pilgrim.**

**Since, Lord, thou dost defend  
Us with thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what may sway,  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.**

Words: John Bunyan (1628-88)  
and Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt.

Tune: Monks Gate  
Adapted from an English folk song  
by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## The Conclusion and Blessing

*given by*

The Canon in Residence

Grant to us, Lord God,  
to trust you not for ourselves alone,  
but also for those whom we love  
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;  
that, as we believe your power to have raised  
our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,  
so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all  
who believe in him;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Remain standing as the Choir and Ministers depart.*

## Organ Voluntary

*Hornpipe from The Water Music*

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

*All are warmly invited to The Happenstance in Paternoster Square for light refreshments after the service.*

*The Prison Fellowship seeks, through prayer and practical care, to help, support and develop a Christian ministry to people in prison and their families. More information can be found at [prisonfellowship.org.uk](http://prisonfellowship.org.uk).*

### Merrick Baker-Bates, CMG, CStJ

After studying modern history at Hertford College, Oxford and attending the College of Europe in 1961, Merrick joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1963, starting his diplomatic career in Tokyo as a language student, and becoming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary there between 1963–68. After being 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary in Washington 1973–76, he returned to Tokyo as 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary, later Commercial Councillor 1976–82. He then left the civil service to join Cornes & Co. for three years, re-joining the FCO as Deputy High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur 1986–89. Becoming the first Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territories in 1990, he was later posted to Los Angeles as Consul-General for five years before his retirement in 1998 to Creaton, Northamptonshire. During a long and varied retirement working with local and other charities including St John Ambulance (for which he was awarded CStJ) and the church, he also served as a sensitivity reviewer marking documents for release at the FCO records office at Hanslope Park.





# The Chapel of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire St Paul's Cathedral



There have been churches and religious buildings on this site since Roman times, the first cathedral dedicated to St Paul being consecrated in 604 by Mellitus, Bishop of the East Saxons.

The building of 'Old St Paul's' – the fourth cathedral – was begun on an enormous scale in 1087 and not completed until 1300. During an extension of this building eastwards, it was agreed that an adjacent parish church would be knocked down on condition that a chapel in the crypt of the cathedral could be used by the parish as their church: the Chapel of St Faith under St Paul's. The new cathedral built by Christopher Wren was completed in 1710 with a new Chapel of St Faith, which since 1960 has also been designated as the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire.

The Order of the British Empire was instituted by King George V in 1917 initially to recognise the considerable civilian contribution to the war effort during the 1914-18 war. It was a pioneering honour in its day, being the first five-class Order for national distribution and the first to admit women to membership. It has become the nation's most well-recognised honour.

Today all members of the Order and those who have been awarded the British Empire Medal, together with their children, are accorded the privilege of being married in the Chapel. Their children and grandchildren may also be baptised in the Chapel.