



Festal Evensong *for*  
**Ascension Day**

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Thursday 14 May 2026, 6pm

Officiant and Preacher:  
**The Revd Nicol Kinrade**

*with the*  
**St Dunstan's College Choir**

# WELCOME

**to all who are joining us today, whether in church or online.**

We are delighted you have joined our worship at All Hallows today. Please ask one of our welcomers if you need any assistance during the service.

## **The History of Beating the Bounds at All Hallows by the Tower**

This service of Festal Evensong for Ascension Day follows the Ceremony of Beating the Bounds which took place earlier today, and which traced the boundaries of the united parishes of All Hallows by the Tower and St Dunstan in the East.

Beating the Bounds has its roots in medieval times, when parishes reaffirmed their boundaries by circling them in procession, pausing to beat each boundary mark with wands and pray for the crops. Each year on Ascension Day, All Hallows by the Tower, with the aid of students from St Dunstan's College, beats the bounds of its parish. Prayers are said for the parish, its local and business community and for the City of London.

In taking part in the ceremony, the students of St Dunstan's College return to their roots, as the school originated in the parish of St Dunstan in the East. Although the school moved out of the City in the 19th century, the students return to All Hallows each year to participate in the ceremony of Beating the Bounds, and we are delighted to see this custom continued today.

The students were joined by the Alderman and Common Council of Tower Ward, the Masters, Clerks and other representatives of the various Livery Companies associated with the church, as well as congregation members, friends and well-wishers.

We are extremely grateful to Woods Silver Fleet, who kindly allowed us the use of the 'Silver Darling' for the part of the ceremony which takes place on the river and to TfL for allowing us to use Tower Pier.

### **Security Notice**

We advise you not to leave personal belongings unattended and to keep them in sight at all times. For additional safety and security, 24 hour CCTV recording is in operation on these premises.

*Our church services are recorded and streamed on our website in an official capacity. You may be filmed during the service, and pictures of you may be transmitted online and as mobile content. By sitting in the main body of the church you consent to such filming and to the transmission of any official broadcast on our livestream. If you do not wish to be filmed please speak to one of the welcome team who will direct you to an unfiled area in the north aisle. We also ask that in order to respect other people at prayer, that you do not film, record or take photographs in an unofficial capacity during services.*

## **Music Before the Service**

Pieces from the John Reading Manuscripts at Dulwich College

Organist: David Cook

### **Hymn**

*Please stand.*

**Eternal Monarch, King most high,  
Whose blood hath brought redemption nigh,  
By whom the death of Death was wrought  
And conquering grace's battle fought:**

**Ascending to the throne of might,  
And seated at the Father's right,  
All power in heaven is Jesu's own,  
That here his manhood had not known.**

**Yea, angels tremble when they see  
How changed is our humanity;  
That flesh hath purged what flesh had stained,  
And God, the flesh of God, hath reigned.**

**Be thou our joy and strong defence,  
Who art our future recompense:  
So shall the light that springs from thee  
Be ours through all eternity.**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
All praise to thee let earth accord,  
Who art, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit One. Amen.**

*Latin c. 5<sup>th</sup> century Tr J.M. Neale (1818-66) Tune: Gonfalon Royal*

### **Welcome and Introduction**

The Revd Nicol Kinrade, Vicar of All Hallows by the Tower

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore let us remember God's presence with us now.

*The choir sings the responses to a setting by Alan Smith.*

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.*

## **Psalm 47**

*Please sit*

O clap your hands together, / all ye / people:  
O sing unto / God with the / voice of / melody.  
For the Lord is high, and / to be / feared:  
he is the great / King upon / all the / earth.

He shall subdue the / people / under us:  
and the / nations / under our / feet.  
He shall choose out an / heritage / for us:  
even the worship of / Jacob, / whom he / loved.

God is gone up with a / merry / noise:  
and the / Lord with the sound / of the / trump.

O sing praises, sing praises / unto our / God:  
O sing praises, sing / praises / unto our / King.  
For God is the King of / all the / earth:  
sing ye / praises with / under-/ standing.

God reigneth / over the / heathen:  
God sitteth up / on his / holy / seat.  
The princes of the people are joined  
unto the people of the / God of / Abraham:  
for God, which is very high exalted,  
doth defend the / earth, as it / were with a / shield.

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 / A / men.

## **Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1, verses 1-11**

Read by Marianne Fredericks, Common Councillor, Tower Hill Ward

### **Magnificat**

*Please stand*

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.

*Setting: The Essex Service by Alan Bullard*

## **Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 15-end**

Read by Jade McLellan, Head of Senior School at St Dunstan's College

*Please sit*

*When the Lesson has been read the Paschal Candle, which has burned from Easter Day symbolising the presence of the risen Christ, is extinguished as we remember Christ's last appearance to his disciples and his Ascension to heaven.*

## **Nunc Dimittis**

*Please stand*

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.

*Setting: The Essex Service by Alan Bullard*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*All* **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 Responses are sung by the choir*

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

*Let us pray.*

*Please sit or kneel.*

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

*Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

*○ Lord, show thy mercy upon us.  
And grant us thy salvation.*

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

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

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

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

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

## **The Collect of the Day**

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God,  
that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens;  
so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend  
and with him continually dwell,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the Holy Ghost,  
one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## **The Collect for Peace**

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.*

## **The Collect for Aid against all Perils**

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.*

## **Prayers**

The Revd Nicol Kinrade

## **Anthem**

Cantique de Jean Racine – Gabriel Fauré

## **The Address**

The Revd Nicol Kinrade

*Please stand.*

## **Hymn**

*During the following hymn a collection will be taken towards the ministry of this church. If you are a UK Tax Payer, you can increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing one of the Gift Aid envelopes which are available in the pews.*

**Crown him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Virgin's Son,  
The God Incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won  
Which now his brow adorn:  
Fruit of the mystic Rose,  
As of that Rose the Stem;  
The Root whence mercy ever flows,  
The Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown him the Lord of love:  
Behold his hands and side;  
Rich wounds yet visible above  
In beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye  
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace,  
Whose power a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
Absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end,  
And round his pierced feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,  
The Potentate of time.  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
Ineffably sublime.  
Glassed in a sea of light,  
Where everlasting waves  
Reflect his throne - the Infinite!  
Who lives - who loves - and saves.**

*Matthew Bridges (1800-94) Tune: Diademata*

## **The Blessing**

The peace of God,  
which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
be amongst you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### **Music after the Service**

Prelude in G major BWV 541 – *J S Bach*

***We process to the boundary with the Tower of London  
to complete the Beating of the Bounds.***

## ***The Team at All Hallows***

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Vicar ..... The Revd Nicol Kinrade  
Associate Priest ..... The Revd Dr John Barker  
Parish Administrator ..... Michael Griffiths  
Education & History Officer ..... Adey Grummet  
Director of Music ..... David Cook  
Churchwardens ..... Di Robertshaw & Robert Stichbury  
Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding@ahbtt.org.uk) ..... Sarah Alder

### **All Hallows by the Tower with St Dunstan in the East**

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