



**Commemoration Service in Celebration of
the Sesquicentenary of the Foundation of
The Leys School, 1875 - 2025**

King's College Chapel
Friday 14 February 2025

We are very grateful to the Dean, Fellows and staff of King's College, Cambridge, for their kindness and help in allowing us to celebrate our Sesquicentenary in their Chapel, as we did for our Centenary fifty years ago.

Started in 1446 by Henry VI (1421-71), King's College Chapel took over a century to build. It has the largest fan vault in the world and some of the finest medieval stained glass. It is also the venue for the Christmas Eve service, *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, which is broadcast to millions around the world.

Almost exactly 150 years ago, on 16 February 1875, The Leys opened with 16 boys, all from English Methodist families. 150 years later, we gather as a School community of 565 pupils, both boys and girls. Together with staff and Governors, we give thanks for the foresight and energy of our Founders, for the generosity of our Benefactors, for the wisdom, dedication and support of our Staff and Governors, and for the achievements of our pupils, past and present.

"They dreamt not of a perishable home who thus could build."

- Ecclesiastical Sonnets, William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

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Order of Service

Music before the service: Prelude and Fugue in G major,
BWV 541, J S Bach (1685-1750)

(Please stand)

Processional Hymn

How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

John Mason (c.1645-1694)
Tune - Coe Fen, Kenneth Naylor (1931-1991)

Welcome: The Dean of Chapel, The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry

Introit: Let all the world in every corner sing*

Lucy Walker (1998-)

Introduction: Mr Martin Priestley

(Headmaster)

Bidding Prayer: Rev Simon Coleman

(Chaplain)

The Lord's Prayer: *(said)*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

*anthem commissioned by The Leys for the Sesquicentenary

Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me save that thou art.
Be Thou my best thought by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true Word;
Be though ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower;
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise;
Be thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Be thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, 8th century
translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)
Tune - Slane, Irish Traditional Melody

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(Please sit)

First Lesson: Proverbs 1 vs 1-9

(read by Sir Matthew Rycroft OL - Chair of Governors)

¹The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

²For learning about wisdom and instruction,

for understanding words of insight,

³for gaining instruction in wise dealing,
righteousness, justice, and equity;

⁴to teach shrewdness to the simple,
knowledge and prudence to the young—

⁵let the wise also hear and gain in learning,
and the discerning acquire skill,

⁶to understand a proverb and a figure,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

⁸Hear, my child, your father's instruction,
and do not reject your mother's teaching;

⁹for they are a fair garland for your head,
and pendants for your neck.

This is the Word of the LORD,

Thanks be to God.

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Hymn

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord!

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade men rise and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching
in every deed and word;
to all alike proclaiming:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord!

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord!

Edward Hayes Plumtree (1821-1891)
Tune - Thornbury, Basil Harwood (1859-1921)

(Please remain standing)

Second Lesson: Mark 4 vs 1-9

(read by Emily Hutson & Harry Crossley, Senior Prefects)

The Parable of the Sower

¹Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' ⁹And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

This is the Gospel of Christ,
Praise to Christ our Lord.

(Please sit)

Anthem: Te Deum in B flat

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Sermon: Rev Canon Dr Jennifer Smith

(Superintendent, Wesley's Chapel & The Leysian Mission)

Response: God be in my head *(sung by the Choir)*

David Briggs (1962-)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

*(led by, Rev Helen Hollands, Chair of District;
and Rev Charles Fraser, Head of Divinity & CCF)*

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver;
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy host above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune - Blaenwern, W.P. Rowlands (1859-1921)

(Please remain standing)

Statement of Commitment:

(led by Riccardo Bondanza & Vivienne Ayres, Moulton)

All need to be saved; therefore,

Do all the good you can.

All can be saved; therefore,

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can.

All can know themselves saved; therefore,

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can.

All can be saved to the uttermost, therefore,

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can.

We have been saved, therefore,

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can. Amen.

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School Hymn

Joyful word at parting spoken,
Be it to our friends a token
Of a bond of love unbroken:
Χαίρετε, Χαίρετε,
Word to give new friends our greeting,
Word for former friends when meeting,
Sing we all, the word repeating,
Χαίρετε, Χαίρετε.

Though the spring be swiftly going,
Summer suns shall bless its sowing,
Autumn's wealth and joy foreshowing,
Χαίρετε, Χαίρετε,
Youth and age in work combining,
Minds and hearts with love entwining,
Years advancing, years declining,
Χαίρετε, Χαίρετε.

Mindful of a home which never
Distance from us all can sever,
Mindful of our friends for ever,
Χαίρετε, Χαίρετε,
Word of joy with kindness spoken,
Telling of a bond unbroken,
To departing friends our token
Χαίρετε, Χαίρετε.

translated from the Latin, by Rev B Hellier
Music by F. James
Descant and harmonisation by M. Kenworthy

Blessing

(The Dean of Chapel)

Dean: Give us, O God, a deep longing for thy love
and firm resolve to do thy will.

And guide all members of this School,
in the ways of truth and justice,
mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Dean: Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no-one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
give honour to all;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Organ voluntary: Toccata from Symphonie V
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)



Organist: David Briggs, Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral
Church of St John the Divine, New York City.

Choirmaster: Max Kenworthy, Director of Music, The Leys School.