



# Old Palace of John Whitgift School

Independent Girls' School

Pre School to Sixth Form



## Leavers' Service

Friday 28 May 2021

The service will be led by  
**The Reverend Dr Andrew Bishop**  
*Chaplain to the John Whitgift Foundation  
and Priest-in-Charge, Croydon Minster*

# Hymn

## Choir

### Shine, Jesus Shine!

Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!  
Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!  
As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!

# Introduction and Opening Prayer

## Fr Andrew introduces the service saying

Today we give thanks to God for all those students leaving Old Palace of John Whitgift School this year and ask his blessing upon them as they go forward on their journey in life.

We pray that all our leavers will continue to love learning and seek to grow in wisdom and equipped to face an ever-changing world of challenge and opportunity.

And so we say together:

**All**

**Father,  
you promised where two or three are gathered in your name,  
You are there in their midst.  
With this assurance and confidence,  
we ask for your blessing on the class of 2020.  
We pray for your protection and guidance  
in the weeks and months to come.  
We ask your blessing on our teachers,  
on our families and on all who have supported us  
throughout our time at Old Palace.  
We pray that we may be people of emotional intelligence  
and courage,  
who will employ our skills and knowledge  
to serve you wherever we may go  
and in all that we do.  
Amen.**

# Reading

Read by Demi Bako, Head Girl

## **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians**

*Colossians 3.12-17*

You are God's chosen race, His saints: He loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

All

**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn

## Choir

### Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

# Gospel Reading

Read by Lisa Inneh, Deputy Head Girl

## A reading from the gospel according to St John

*John 20.11-18*

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

All

**Thanks be to God.**

# Homily

The Revd Dr Andrew Bishop

## Prayers of the Faithful

Read by Shanjan Kodeeswaran and Rajan Dosanjh

Let us pray for all world and religious leaders. May they govern and lead with wisdom and compassion so that all people may act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with their God.

Lord hear us,

**All Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for all people throughout the world whose lives have been affected by the coronavirus. We remember the sick, those who care for them with compassion and courage and we remember all whose lives have been cut short by this disease.

Lord hear us,

**All Lord graciously hear us.**

Let us give thanks to God for the Founders of our School, especially John Whitgift. May the values and ideals, which inspired them continue to influence and shape the lives of all who pass through this "old and stately building".

Lord hear us,

**All Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank God for our teachers who have encouraged and motivated us during our time at Old Palace. We ask your blessing on all of the staff and pray that their tireless commitment to the students here will continue to be one of the hallmarks of the School.

Lord hear us,

**All Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank God for the friendships we have formed during our time at Old Palace. We are grateful for the memories that we share and ask God and each other for forgiveness for the times when we may have caused upset and hurt by what we said or did.

Lord hear us,

**All Lord graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for all members of our families and members of our School community who have died. May their souls be at rest.

Lord hear us,

**All Lord graciously hear us.**

Please stand

# The School Song

## Choir

Come comrades, let us all unite in singing  
Of this our school we love so well:  
And in this old and stately building  
Its praise and honour tell.  
Its ancient stones are very dear to us,  
A goodly heritage have we,  
And loudly rings its call to service  
Pro Ecclesia Dei.

Within these walls have great men lived and laboured,  
To keep our church and country free.  
O let us follow in their footsteps  
Pro Ecclesia Dei.  
For days of joy we now are sharing,  
With courage strong and conscience free,  
And faileth ne'er the call to service.  
Pro Ecclesia Dei

And then in distant days to come when severed,  
From these our friends by land and sea,  
We'll still be faithful to our motto  
Pro Ecclesia Dei.  
For though the time is swiftly fleeting  
And changes come to you and me,  
Our union lies in call to service  
Pro Ecclesia Dei.



Remain standing

## The School Prayer

All

Almighty God, the source of all that is good and holy, we give you thanks for our heritage: for the influences of the past and the dedication of those who have inspired in us the love of learning and the search for truth.

May we be quick to respond to the opportunities offered to us, determined to face challenges with courage and perseverance and ready to use our gifts for the benefit of others and for your glory.

Give us, Lord, vision and hope for the future and grant that by serving one another with joy and imagination we may continue to serve you now and always.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## The Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

All

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be  
consoled  
as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

# Final Blessing

**The Revd Dr Andrew Bishop**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;

and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you now and always.

**Amen.**

**All**

**The service is followed by a short address from:**

Mr S Talleux, Head of Sixth Form  
Ms H Ford, Deputy Head, Academic  
Mrs J Burton, Head

**We will also have some musical performance from the Choir  
after the addresses.**

Choir: 50s melody medley  
Nadia Hussain: Syrinx, Debussy (flute)

We would like to thank Miss Orr for accompanying the choir  
during the Service.





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**Old Palace  
Alumnae**

[www.opoga.org.uk](http://www.opoga.org.uk)

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part of the  
**john  
whitgift  
foundation**