



St Peter Mancroft
Norwich

Evensong

**for the
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**with Commissioning of this
year's Ministry Experience
Scheme participants by the
Bishop of Thetford**

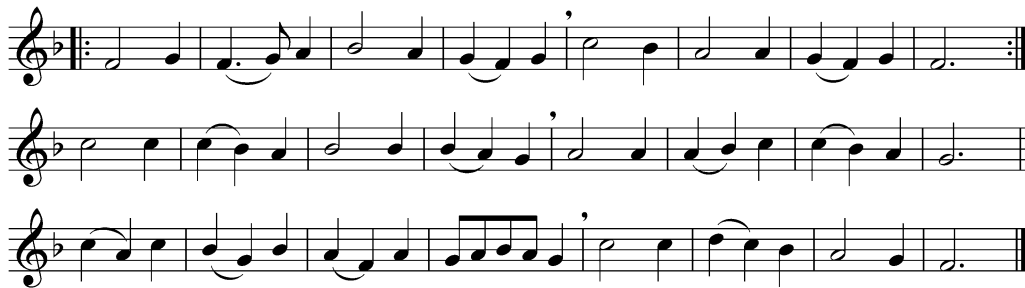
5.00pm, 20th September 2026



*Before the service a short welcome is given by the Vicar of St Peter Mancroft,
The Revd Canon Edward Carter.*

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing, if you are comfortable doing so.



**Ye that know the Lord is gracious,
ye for whom a corner-stone
stands, of God elect and precious,
laid that ye may build thereon,
see that on that sure foundation
ye a living temple raise,
towers that may tell forth salvation,
walls that may re-echo praise.**

**Living stones, by God appointed
each to his allotted place,
kings and priests, by God anointed,
shall ye not declare his grace?
Ye, a royal generation,
tell the tidings of your birth,
tidings of a new creation
to an old and weary earth.**

**Tell the praise of him who called you
out of darkness into light,
broke the fetters that enthralled you,
gave you freedom, peace and sight:
tell the tale of sins forgiven,
strength renewed and hope restored,
till the earth, in tune with heaven,
praise and magnify the Lord.**

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872–1955)
A&M 828

Please remain standing as the Bishop of Thetford greets the people:

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you; **and also with you.**

The Bishop then welcomes the people and introduces the service.

Sealy Preces

Please remain standing as the Precentor and Choir sing:

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

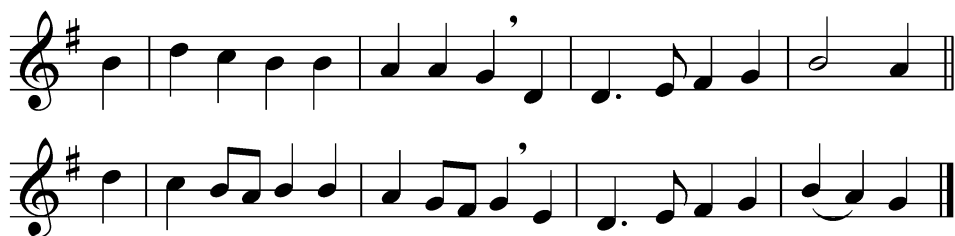
O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Office Hymn

Please remain standing to sing, if you are comfortable doing so.



**The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.**

Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877) based on Psalm 23
A&M 794i

Psalm 119.113-136

Please sit as the choir sings the psalm.

113 I hate them that imagine evil things : but thy law do I love.

114 Thou art my defence and shield : and my trust is in thy word.

115 Away from me, ye wicked : I will keep the commandments of my God.

116 O stablish me according to thy word, that I may live : and let me not be disappointed of my hope.

117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe : yea, my delight shall be ever in thy statutes.

118 Thou hast trodden down all them that depart from thy statutes : for they imagine but deceit.

119 Thou puttest away all the ungodly of the earth like dross : therefore I love thy testimonies.

120 My flesh trembleth for fear of thee : and I am afraid of thy judgements.

121 I deal with the thing that is lawful and right : O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

122 Make thou thy servant to delight in that which is good : that the proud do me no wrong.

123 Mine eyes are wasted away with looking for thy health : and for the word of thy righteousness.

124 O deal with thy servant according unto thy loving mercy : and teach me thy statutes.

125 I am thy servant, O grant me understanding : that I may know thy testimonies.

126 It is time for thee, Lord, to lay to thine hand : for they have destroyed thy law.

127 For I love thy commandments : above gold and precious stone.

128 Therefore hold I straight all thy commandments : and all false ways I utterly abhor.

129 Thy testimonies are wonderful : therefore doth my soul keep them.

130 When thy word goeth forth : it giveth light and understanding unto the simple.

131 I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath : for my delight was in thy commandments.

132 O look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me : as thou usest to do unto those that love thy Name.

133 Order my steps in thy word : and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me.

134 O deliver me from the wrongful dealings of men : and so shall I keep thy commandments.

135 Shew the light of thy countenance upon thy servant : and teach me thy statutes.

136 Mine eyes gush out with water : because men keep not thy law.

Please stand if you are comfortable doing so for the gloria:

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.

First Lesson – Ezekiel 33.23,30 – 34.10

Please sit.

Magnificat in F – Herbert Brewer

Please remain seated, and then stand for the gloria.

MY soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

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.

Please stand if you are comfortable doing so for the gloria:

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.

Second Lesson – Acts 26.1, 9-25

Please sit.

Nunc Dimittis in F – Herbert Brewer

Please remain seated, and then stand for the gloria.

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.

Please stand if you are comfortable doing so for the gloria:

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.

Apostles' Creed

Please remain standing as the congregation says the Creed together:

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 Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Sealy Responses

Please remain standing as the Precentor and Choir sing:

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.
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 for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Choir Anthem: The Lord is my Shepherd – Howard Goodall

Please sit.

Hymn

Please stand to sing, if you are comfortable doing so.



**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 in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**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 man'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.**

Rop tu mo baile, a Choindiu cride(Irish, 8th century)
trs. by Mary E Byrne (1880–1931) versified by Eleanor H Hull (1860–1935)
A&M 595

Sermon – given by the Rt Revd Ian Bishop, the Bishop of Thetford

Please sit.

The Commissioning

Please remain seated. The Bishop interviews briefly each participant in the scheme, and then leads this prayer:

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us
into the fellowship of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop then commissions the participants in these words:

Do you believe that God has called you to share the ministry of the people of God in this community as a participant on the Ministry Experience Scheme?

They reply: **I do so believe.**

Will you help to lead Christ's people in this place in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you work together with clergy colleagues, members of the ministry team, and with all who follow the way of Christ in this community?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you be diligent in prayer and in all studies that will deepen your faith, and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you seek the transformation of all people in Christ so that we become prayerful, pastoral and prophetic in our Christian witness?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?

By the help of God, I will.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

N, may the Lord bless you. **Amen.**

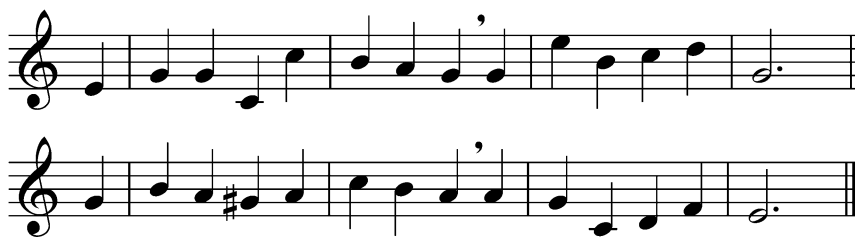
**Prayers of Intercession – led by the Revd Dr Fiona Haworth,
Coordinator of the Diocese of Norwich Ministry Experience
Scheme**

Please sit or kneel. The prayers end with these words, said by all together:

**THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all
evermore. Amen.**

Final Hymn, with Collection for the Ministry Experience Scheme in Norwich Diocese

Please stand to sing, if you are comfortable doing so.



**My God, how wonderful thou art,
thy majesty how bright,
how beautiful thy mercy-seat
in depths of burning light!**

**How dread are thine eternal years,
O everlasting Lord,
by prostrate spirits day and night
incessantly adored!**

**How wonderful, how beautiful,
the sight of thee must be,
thine endless wisdom, boundless power,
and awful purity!**

**O how I fear thee, living God,
with deepest, tenderest fears,
and worship thee with trembling hope
and penitential tears!**

**Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,
almighty as thou art,
for thou hast stooped to ask of me
the love of my poor heart.**

**No earthly father loves like thee,
no mother, e'er so mild,
bears and forbears as thou hast done
with me, thy sinful child.**

**Father of Jesus, love's reward,
what rapture will it be,
prostrate before thy throne to lie
and gaze and gaze on thee!**

Frederick William Faber (1814–1863)
A&M 729

Blessing

*Please remain standing for the blessing and as the choir and ministers depart,
and then sit to enjoy the voluntary.*

Organ Voluntary, played by Julian Haggett, Organist

Toccata, Adagio & Fugue: Toccata BWV 564i – Johann S Bach (1685-1750)

*Following the voluntary you are invited to stay for some light refreshments,
which will be served at the West end of the church.*

For over 10 years, the Church of England's Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) has offered an opportunity for those aged 18-29 to spend a year growing in ministry and leadership skills through church placements, training and mentoring. MES lets people discover more about their gifts helping them discern God's calling on the life.

More recently Future Youth (FY) has been launched alongside MES. If you already know you are passionate about children, young people and families (CYPF) ministry then this could be for you.

Every person's year looks different but is formed around practical ministry experience, such as kids and youth work; chaplaincy; community work; preaching; digital media or event organisation. The year includes some theological study which can be tailored to you - it doesn't matter if you have no prior experience or already have a theology degree. Future Youth focuses on CYPF ministry opportunities with specific training geared towards this important area ministry.

For many, MES has been a step towards ordination or other church ministry; others say they have a clearer sense of God's purpose as disciples in wider society and the workplace, and already Future Youth is bearing long term fruit as people find a calling to full-time paid CYPF ministry roles. If you're unsure on your specific calling and just want to learn what it's really like being part of church ministry, there will be a place for you.

Both MES and FY are voluntary schemes that are free to do with accommodation and living expenses provided. All participants attend the National MES Conference.

Scan the QR code for more details on the Church of England website.

