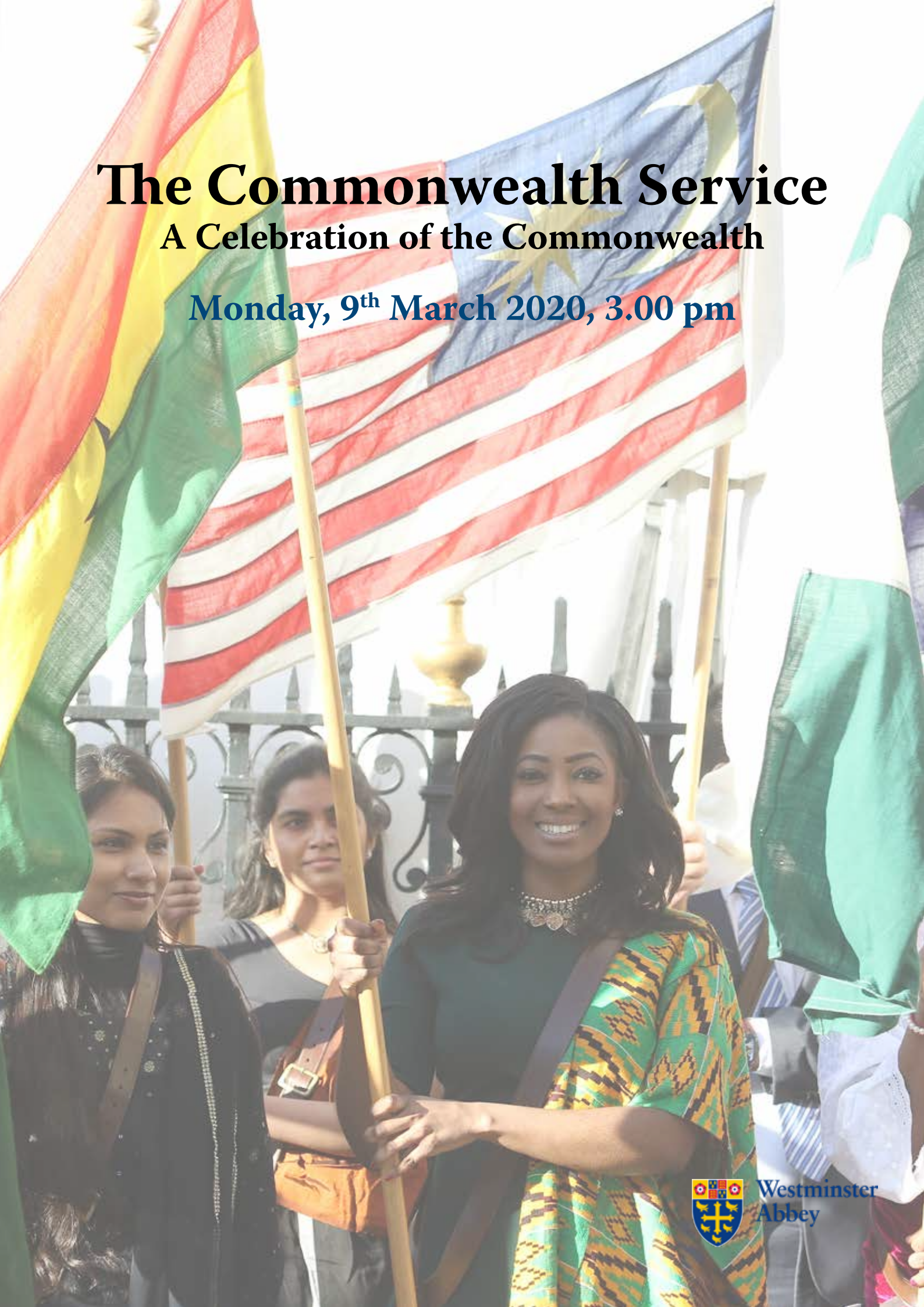


The Commonwealth Service

A Celebration of the Commonwealth

Monday, 9th March 2020, 3.00 pm



Westminster
Abbey



Commonwealth Day Message 2020

On Commonwealth occasions, it is always inspiring to be reminded of the diversity of the people and countries that make up our worldwide family. We are made aware of the many associations and influences that combine through Commonwealth connection, helping us to imagine and deliver a common future.

This is particularly striking when we see people from nations, large and small, gathering for the Commonwealth Games, for meetings of Commonwealth governments, and on Commonwealth Day. Such a blend of traditions serves to make us stronger, individually and collectively, by providing the ingredients needed for social, political and economic resilience.

Throughout my life, I have had the opportunity to see and hear how membership of the Commonwealth family means so much to those living in all parts of the world, often in places that are quite remote. Advances in technology and modern media have now enabled many more people to witness and enjoy - with remarkable immediacy - this experience of Commonwealth connection, in areas such as education, medicine and conservation.

Looking to the future, this connectivity means we are also aware, perhaps as never before, that wherever we live, our choices and actions affect the well-being of people and communities living far away, and in very different circumstances. For many, this awareness awakens a desire to employ our planet's natural resources with greater care, and it is encouraging to see how the countries of the Commonwealth continue to devise new ways of working together to achieve prosperity, whilst protecting our planet.

As members of this very special community, on this Commonwealth Day, I hope that the people and countries of the Commonwealth will be inspired by all that we share, and move forward with fresh resolve to enhance the Commonwealth's influence for good in our world.

ELIZABETH R.

Welcome

Today we meet again at this annual celebration of the precious common values and the togetherness of our great Commonwealth family.

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for as the wonders of the age of connectivity bind us ever more closely, and as the sharing of every interest, every project, and every ambition becomes ever easier across this whole enormous network.

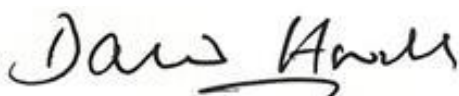
There is also more to do. In an increasingly divided and fractured world, our shared values of democracy, justice, and equality are under pressure. It is up to all of us to defend these values. Our wonderful Commonwealth network, numbering almost a third of humanity, is defined by the values we share, which makes us uniquely placed to do this.

With over half of the Commonwealth's population under the age of 30, our young people, with their determination to end wars, violence, suffering, poverty, and discrimination, are our best chance for creating a better future and world, for each and all.

As the Commonwealth's Chair-in-Office moves from the United Kingdom to Rwanda in June, we look forward to civil society and governments continuing to come together to advance the Commonwealth's values, and the value of this great network itself as a power for good in the world.

The Royal Commonwealth Society is honoured to organise this great occasion in the Commonwealth calendar each year and is deeply grateful that, once again, the most dedicated and constant champion of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen, our Patron, is with us for today's service. By her presence, with many of her family, The Queen reminds us all of the unending readiness and dedication required to serve great causes, and the Commonwealth of peoples and nations in particular.

For this we do indeed celebrate and give heartfelt thanks.



The Right Honourable the Lord Howell of Guildford PC
President, The Royal Commonwealth Society



Dr Linda Yueh
Chair, The Royal Commonwealth Society

Delivering a Common Future

WHAT IS THE COMMONWEALTH?

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to 2.4 billion citizens, and includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest, and poorest countries, spanning five regions. 30 of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

WHAT IS THE COMMONWEALTH THEME?

Every year, the Commonwealth chooses a theme to provide a focus for its activities. For 2020, the Commonwealth theme will act as the focus for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), for Commonwealth Day, and for the work of the Commonwealth more generally.

WHAT DOES 'DELIVERING A COMMON FUTURE: CONNECTING, INNOVATING, TRANSFORMING' MEAN?

Our diverse family of 54 Commonwealth countries connect at many levels through extensive and deep-rooted networks of friendship and goodwill. Together, the countries and people of the Commonwealth tackle climate change and its effects. We work to find sustainable ways of using the natural resources of our planet, its land and ocean, so that our environment is protected. Together, we work to build peace and harmony through social and democratic development. Together, we encourage inclusive economic empowerment and fair trade so that all people, particularly women, young people, and those in marginalised communities can share the fruits of progress and prosperity. Together, we are delivering a common future by connecting, innovating, and transforming our societies.



Before the Service

The service will be broadcast live on BBC One from 2.15 pm.

The use of private cameras, video, or sound-recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organ is played during the service by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist, and before the service by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.

The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, directed by Staff Corporal (Trumpet Major) Matthew Screen, and the Fanfare Team from the Band of the Grenadier Guards, directed by Lance Sergeant Michael Sinclair, participate by kind permission of Major General Chris Ghika CBE.

Before the service, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo perform outside the Great West Door.

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays

Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 541

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring

Frederick Delius (1862–1934)
arranged Eric Fenby (1906–97)

Intermezzo from 5 Pieces for Organ

Healey Willan (1880–1968)

The Griffin Schools Commonwealth Choir sings

Singing for Peace

Chegwin/Lole

Power in me

Rebecca Lawrence

Singing all Over the World

Craig Hawes

Fanfare for the Commonwealth Woman!

Anthonia Zadrage

Tutira Mai

New Zealand, traditional

Senwa Dedende

Ghana, traditional

Ophelia letter blow'way

Trinidad, traditional

Together we can Change the World

Mark Shepard

Train Song

Bengal, India, traditional

The Commonwealth Chorale

Graham Dinnage
words by Vivienne Cox

Peter Holder, Sub-Organist, plays

Finale Jubilante from 5 Pieces for Organ

Healey Willan

Prelude on the Old Hundredth Op 15

John Joubert (1927–2019)

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The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

An Honorary Steward

•

The Vice-President of the Royal Commonwealth Society
His Highness the Aga Khan IV

•

The Chairman of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Fellowship
Brigadier Anthony Faith CBE

•

The Chairman of the English-Speaking Union
Professor James Raven

•

The Chairman of the Royal Over-Seas League
The Honourable Alexander Downer AC

•

Athletes from England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland process

The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

A Verger

*Representing the
Zoroastrian Community*
Malcolm Deboo

*Representing the
Jewish Reformed Synagogues*
Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers

*Representing the Buddhist
Community*
The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala

*Representing the Shia Muslim
Community*
Maulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi

*Representing the
Muslim Community*
Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra

Representing the Hindu Community
Trupti Patel

Representing the Sikh Community
The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE

Representing the Bahá'í Community
Padideh Sabeti

Representing the Jain Community
Dr Natubhai Shah

Representing Liberal Judaism
Rabbi Danny Rich

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCHES

A Verger

The Church of Scotland
The Reverend Angus MacLeod

The Pentecostal Churches
The Reverend Joe Aldred

The Roman Catholic Church
Canon Christopher Tuckwell

The Methodist Church
The Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins

The Coptic Orthodox Church
His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos

The Armenian Orthodox Church
His Grace Bishop Hovakim

The Greek Orthodox Church
His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas

The Syriac Orthodox Church
His Eminence Archbishop
Athanasius Toma Dawod

The Procession of the Flags

The flags of the member countries are carried in the order determined by the date of membership (when read from right to left)

Canada			United Kingdom
New Zealand			Australia
India			South Africa
Sri Lanka			Pakistan
Malaysia			Ghana
Cyprus			Nigeria
Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Trinidad and Tobago			Jamaica
Kenya			Uganda
Malta			Malawi
The Gambia			Zambia
Guyana			Singapore
Lesotho			Botswana
Mauritius			Barbados
Nauru			Eswatini
Tonga			Samoa
Fiji Islands			Bangladesh
The Bahamas			Grenada
Papua New Guinea			Seychelles
Solomon Islands			Tuvalu
Dominica			Saint Lucia
Kiribati			Saint Vincent and The Grenadines
Vanuatu			Belize
Maldives			Antigua and Barbuda
Saint Christopher and Nevis			Brunei Darussalam
Namibia			Cameroon
Mozambique			Rwanda

The Service

*Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex are received.
Presentations are made. All remain seated as they are conducted to their seats.*

*Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are received.
Presentations are made. All remain seated as they are conducted to their seats.*

*Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are received.
Presentations are made. All remain seated.*

*Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall are received.
Presentations are made. All remain seated.*

A fanfare is sounded. All stand.

Her Majesty The Queen is received. Presentations are made.

All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)

The Service

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN



PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
 come ye who hear,
 brothers and sisters draw near,
 praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
 hast thou not seen
 all that is needful hath been
 granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
 ponder anew
 all the Almighty can do,
 he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
 biddeth them cease,
 turneth their fury to peace,
 whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
 Let the Amen
 sound from his people again:
 gladly for ay we adore him.

Lobe den Herren 440 NEH
Praxis pietatis melica 1668
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren
Joachim Neander (1650–80)
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)

The Procession of The Queen

The Beadle

•
The Choir of Westminster Abbey

•
The Cross of Westminster and Lights

•
The Minor Canons

•
The Canons' Verger

•
The Receiver General

•
The Canons of Westminster

•
The High Steward

•
The Queen's Almsmen

•
An Honorary Steward

•
The Commonwealth Flag

•
The Commonwealth Secretary-General

•
The Prime Minister

•
The Chief Honorary Steward

•
The President and Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society

•
The Dean's Verger

•
The Commonwealth Mace

•
The Dean of Westminster

•
Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Cornwall

•
Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Cambridge

•
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

•
His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales

•
His Royal Highness
The Duke of Cambridge

The Service

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

ON behalf of the Dean and Chapter, I welcome you warmly to Westminster Abbey for our annual celebration of the Commonwealth.

We gather, in this house of prayer, to celebrate our common life as God's people and to celebrate as a Commonwealth of Nations. Today, we look for the words to express a hope we can share, the common future in which all might flourish.

So, we pray for God's guidance. We seek the gifts of an imagination that can hope abundantly and a courage to seize that hope. Confident in the richness and range of our Commonwealth, we are one people with one hope under God.

Let us pray, in the words our Saviour gave us:

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.

All sit. One-Drum plays

INTORE

Alexandra Burke sings

AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN

All remain seated for

A REFLECTION

Anthony Joshua OBE

The Service

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

○ BE joyful in the Lord, all ye lands :
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God :
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise :
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting :
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

Benjamin Britten (1913–76) in C

Psalm 100

The Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister, reads

THE READING

WANTING to justify himself, the lawyer asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Luke 10: 29–37

The Service

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest—to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

St Denio 377 NEH
from John Roberts's *Caniadau y Cyssegr* 1839

Walter Smith (1824–1908)

All sit for

A REFLECTION

Suli Breaks

The Service

All remain seated for

THE PRAYERS

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, representing the Greek Orthodox Church, says

DIRECT our steps to fulfil your commandments. Transform our hearts so that we may experience the peace, love, and unity that only comes from you. Break the barriers of hatred and injustice which shatter our society. Grant us faith and love as we sojourn toward a better future, together.

Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, representing the Muslim Community, says

OLORD! You are peace and from you is peace. You created us from a single pair and made us into different people so that we may know one another. God, enable us to respect this diversity, join together our hearts, free us from hunger, disease, hate, and prejudice. Through your grace and your mercy, answer our prayer.

The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, representing the Buddhist Community, says

MAY we all strive towards overcoming the unwholesome state of mind which has already arisen. May we all strive towards preventing the unwholesome state of mind which has not yet arisen. May we all strive towards producing a peaceful state of mind which we have not yet experienced. May we all strive towards continuing the peace of mind which we have already experienced.

Rabbi Danny Rich, representing Liberal Judaism, says

LONG ago the Rabbis wrote: A single human family was made at creation for the sake of peace, so we cannot say 'My ancestor was greater than your ancestor'. The Commonwealth reflects this in its celebration of a single, diverse family under the sovereignty of God, and I pray that our Creator might imbue us with the ability to see each other through God's eyes, as equals.

The Service

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

ANGEL-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.

For we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best which thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

The Service

Craig David sings

UNBELIEVABLE

The Melodians Steel Orchestra play

COMMONWEALTH MELODY

All stand. Baroness Scotland of Asthal OC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, says

THE ACT OF AFFIRMATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH

LET us now stand to pledge ourselves afresh to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of the Commonwealth.

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity.

We affirm our respect for nature, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and for it as a whole.

We affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace between peoples and nations.

Joining together in kinship and affinity, in diversity and unity, as members of a worldwide family of nations, we build on shared inheritances.

We cooperate with mutual respect and goodwill to deliver a common future for the good of all.

Through Commonwealth connection we learn from one another, and innovate to transform our communities, our nations, and our world.

All respond

We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a powerful influence for good in the world, and pledge ourselves to its service, now and for the future.

The Service

All sing

THE HYMN



LOVE Divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, 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 every trembling heart.
Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts 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 heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Blaenwern 408i NEH
William Rowlands (1860–1937)
arranged by James O'Donnell

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

The Service

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GOD grant to the living grace; to the departed rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us sinners life everlasting: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The clergy and choir, together with Her Majesty The Queen and Members of The Royal Family, move to the west end of the Abbey Church.

Music after the service

Creation Dance

Neil Cox (b 1955)

**Members of the congregation are asked to remain
in their places until invited to move by the Honorary Stewards**

The Bells of the Abbey Church are rung

Retiring Collection

COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

2020 has been designated by the WHO as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife in recognition of the care that nurses and midwives provide 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If countries are to achieve universal health coverage, nurses and midwives are key. The Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation is a federation of national nursing and midwifery associations in Commonwealth countries.

Our major focus over the past few years has been on supporting the development of standards, scopes of practice, and continuing professional development frameworks. Our clinical focus has been on leadership, maternal and child health, and working with countries to assess, amend, or write new mental health legislation.

Participants



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is a world-class event, rooted in Scottish tradition. Performed to a live audience of 220,000 each year on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, the Tattoo features music, precision performances, and dance from military and cultural acts from around the globe. Committed to celebrating and promoting traditional Scottish art forms, the Tattoo is presenting performers from Pipers Trail, Hjaltibonhoga, and Tattoo Dance Company. Representing Scottish traditions in piping and drumming, fiddle playing, and highland dance, the performers are enduringly popular elements of any Tattoo performance.



The Griffin Schools Commonwealth Choir and the Purcell School's Brass Quintet

The Griffin Schools Commonwealth Choir includes children from Riverley Primary and Willowbrook Primary. Both of these schools are members of the Griffin Schools Trust where music and the arts are at the heart of the curriculum. The children's cultural backgrounds represent different regions of the Commonwealth. The accompanying brass quintet consists of young musicians from The Purcell School, the oldest specialist music school in the Commonwealth. They were all identified by The Commonwealth Resounds, which supports collaborative partnerships and performances with a special focus upon young people and the developing world.



One-Drum

The One-Drum Foundation is a UK-registered charity made up of a collective of London-based African master drummers, dancers, musicians, and performers emanating from the diversity of Africa's rich ethnic traditions. Its charitable purpose is to advance the education of the public in the arts, history, and culture of African music, in particular, but not exclusively, through the provision of educational workshops and performances. One-Drum Foundation's authentic African drumming and dance is the beat of the heart, the pulse of the blood, and the rhythm of life.

Participants



Alexandra Burke

Since 2008, Brit Nominee Alexandra Burke's career has gone from strength to strength within the music industry with her debut single, Hallelujah, holding a European record for the most single sales within just 24 hours, selling over 105,000 copies in one day. Alexandra has since developed a strong career in musical theatre, becoming one of the most sought-after leading ladies of the West End. Until April 2021 Alexandra will be on tour with a brand-new adaptation of My Best Friend's Wedding. As an Ambassador for Breast Cancer Care, Diabetes UK, Wellchild, The Princes Trust, The Melissa Bell Foundation, and Notting Hill Carnival, Alexandra will always find some time for charity amongst her work commitments. In 2018 Alexandra set up The Fall Ball Foundation.



Anthony Joshua OBE

Anthony Joshua OBE is the two-time unified heavyweight champion of the world, holding the WBA, WBO, IBF, and IBO titles. Anthony is also an Olympic Gold Medalist, having won the Super Heavyweight category at London 2012. Born in Watford, Anthony has a strong Nigerian heritage with his parents Yeta and Jonathan moving to the UK from Nigeria in the 1980s. Anthony has become one of the greatest sportsmen the UK has produced, selling out stadiums and fighting all over the world.



The Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP

Boris Johnson became Prime Minister on 24th July 2019. He was previously Foreign Secretary from 13th July 2016 to 9th July 2018. He was elected Conservative MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip in May 2015. Previously he was the MP for Henley from June 2001 to June 2008.



Suli Breaks

Suli is a London-based performance poet. The artform embraced him while he was pursuing his university law degree. He connected more to the street-level aesthetic of spoken words than he did to the requisites of an academic setting. Suli gained wider appeal via the Why I Hate School but Love Education that went viral, garnering 2 million views within a three-day span. Suli would love it if he has managed to inspire a generation of kids to aspire towards greater heights, despite personal circumstance. For now, he's busy imagining, sketching, and realizing his dream to revolutionize poetry, and to create a universally recognizable brand in the process.

Participants



Craig David

Craig has supported numerous charities throughout his monumental career including Caudwell Children, Rays of Sunshine, and Comic Relief. He is very honoured to be part of today's celebration of the Commonwealth. Having sold over 15 million albums, achieved 16 Top Ten hits, multi-platinum status in more than 20 countries, taking over festival stages around the world, and selling out headline tours in seconds, critically acclaimed multi-award winning artist, Craig David has also achieved two UK Number 1 albums, multiple BRIT Award and Grammy nominations, 4 MOBO Awards, as well as becoming a 3-time Ivor Novello Award winner.



The Melodians Steel Orchestra

The Melodians Steel Orchestra are a South London based steel orchestra. Since its formation in October 1987 by Terry Noel, the award-winning Melodians Steel Orchestra has provided opportunities for young people from varied social and racial backgrounds to develop musical skills, techniques, and a wide repertoire including classical, modern, calypso, pop, and jazz compositions. Terry Noel was awarded an MBE in 2015 for his contribution to music. The Melodians has travelled to 33 countries around the world as well as many performances throughout the UK.



The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC

Patricia Scotland took office as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in April 2016. She serves the 54 governments and 2.4 billion citizens of the Commonwealth. Born in Dominica, she moved to the UK at an early age. A lawyer, she became both the youngest and first black woman to be appointed Queen's Counsel. She is the only woman since the post was created in 1315 to be Attorney General for England and Wales.



The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The Abbey's world-famous choir of boys and men plays a central role both in the daily choral services in the Abbey and in the many royal, state, and national occasions which take place here. In addition, the choir's schedule includes a wide range of high-profile recordings, broadcasts, concerts, and overseas tours. All the choristers are educated at the Abbey's unique Choir School. Auditions take place throughout the year, and enquiries are welcome at any time.

With thanks to

The Royal Commonwealth Society would like to thank the following organisations in the Council of Commonwealth Societies for their support in 2020:

- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Commonwealth Countries League
- Commonwealth Games Federation
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK)
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Corona Worldwide
- English Speaking Union
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Goodenough College
- Pacific Islands Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland
- Royal Over-Seas League
- The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship

The Society would also like to thank the following Commonwealth organisations for their support:

- Association of International Accountants
- Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation
- Rotary International



Behind the Scenes

The Commonwealth Mace

The Mace, carried by Darrion Narine (Trinidad and Tobago), goes before Her Majesty The Queen. It was a gift of the Royal Anniversary Trust to The Queen in her role as Head of the Commonwealth, on the fortieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. The Mace is used on special Commonwealth occasions, including the Commonwealth Day celebrations in London, and at biennial Heads of Government Meetings.

Flowers

The striking flowers you see around the Abbey have been prepared by the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies under the direction of Marilyn Marsh and Genevieve Hall.

Flag-bearers

The flag-bearers have been recruited with the support of the High Commissions accredited to the UK, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and the Pacific Islands Society of the UK and Ireland. The Commonwealth Flag is carried by Oluwaseun Ayodeji (Nigeria).



THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2020



Share your ideas, celebrate your story and write for a better world

Since 1883, the Royal Commonwealth Society has delivered The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, the world's oldest international writing competition. It is an important way to recognise achievement, elevate youth voices and develop key skills through creative writing.

SENIOR CATEGORY

Born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2006 (14-18 years of age)

1. Imagine you are President of one of the Commonwealth's 31 Small States and you have been invited to give a speech on climate change to other Commonwealth leaders, what will you say?
2. There is no Planet B: How will climate change affect you and your community?
3. 'We will never stop fighting for this planet' - Greta Thunberg. How can young people make change happen?
4. The destruction of the oceans is everyone's concern.

AWARDS

One Winner and Runner-up will be chosen from each category and brought to London for a week of educational and cultural events, culminating in a special Awards Ceremony. A number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards will be given in both the Senior and Junior categories, rewarding excellence in writing. All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

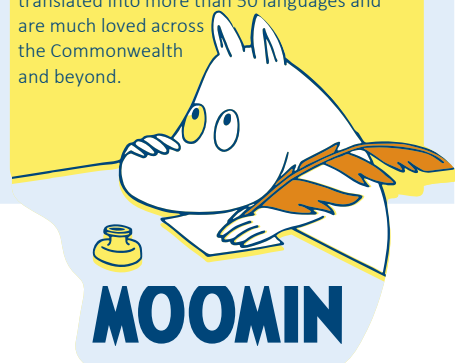
More information: www.thercs.org/competition

JUNIOR CATEGORY

Born on or after 1 July 2006 (under 14 years of age)

1. Imagine you are Planet Earth, what would you say to humans?
2. A Blue Commonwealth: it is not too late to save our oceans. True or false?
3. In 2019, students in more than 100 countries walked out of school to protest climate change. How can young people get their voices heard and make a difference?
4. My planet, my place.

The Moomins, created by Finnish artist Tove Jansson, are a family of friendly, brave trolls who live an adventurous life in the idyllic and peaceful Moominvalley in harmony with nature. The original Moomin books have been translated into more than 50 languages and are much loved across the Commonwealth and beyond.



MOOMIN



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



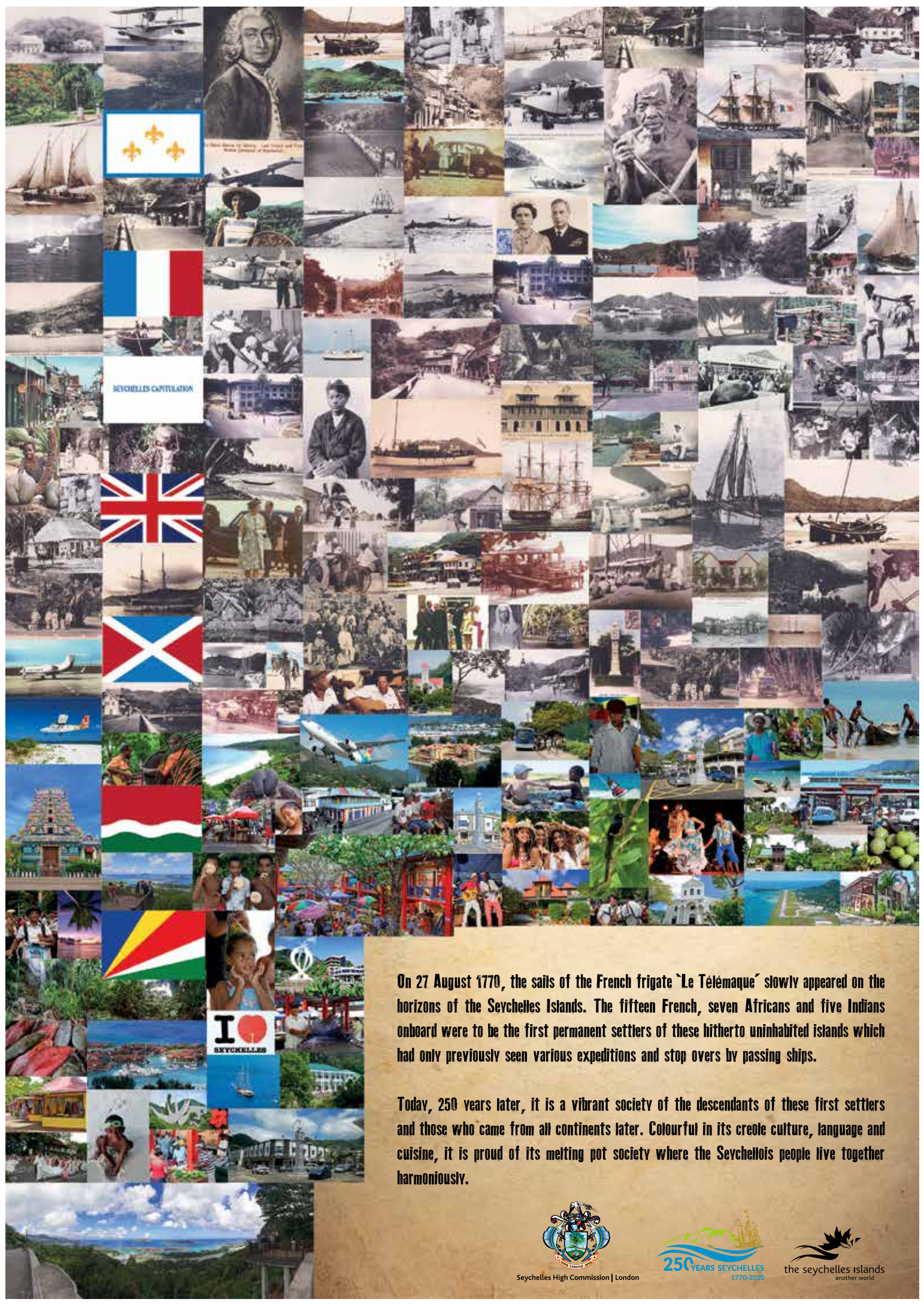
Join the Abbey Association 15 months of membership for the price of 12

Membership benefits include:

- Free entry to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries
- Programme of events
- Early notification of selected services
- Discounts in the shops
- 10% discount in the Cellarium Café
- Quarterly e-newsletter

Please contact the membership office on 020 7654 4843
or association@westminster-abbey.org and quote CW15412
to claim this membership offer!





SEYCHELLES CAPTIVITY



I  SEYCHELLES

On 27 August 1770, the sails of the French frigate 'Le Télémaque' slowly appeared on the horizons of the Seychelles Islands. The fifteen French, seven Africans and five Indians onboard were to be the first permanent settlers of these hitherto uninhabited islands which had only previously seen various expeditions and stop overs by passing ships.

Today, 250 years later, it is a vibrant society of the descendants of these first settlers and those who came from all continents later. Colourful in its creole culture, language and cuisine, it is proud of its melting pot society where the Seychellois people live together harmoniously.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Through youth empowerment, education and high-level advocacy, the Society champions literacy, equality and inclusion, the environment and connected communities across the Commonwealth's 54 member nations. Founded in 1868, the RCS is non-partisan, independent of governments and relies on public generosity to achieve its mission.

BETTER CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

In this divided world, there has never been a greater need for the Commonwealth's values. Through events such as the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey, we champion the power of connected communities to build a better world.



A MORE EQUAL COMMONWEALTH

Our goal is a Commonwealth where all people are treated equally within their communities and before the law, regardless of their sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or other status.

CHAMPIONING LITERACY

Since 1883, we have delivered The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, the world's oldest international writing competition. Today, we work to expand its reach, providing life-changing opportunities for young people around the world.



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Through initiatives such as The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, we work to protect one of the world's most important natural habitats - our forests. Since 2015, over 3,495,000 hectares have been protected for future generations.



www.thercs.org



@RoyalCWSociety



@RoyalCommonwealthSociety

The Royal Commonwealth Society is a registered charity in England and Wales (226748), incorporated by Royal Charter.





THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

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Founded in 1868, the RCS is non-partisan, independent of governments and relies on public generosity to achieve its mission.



The Abbey is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aids to the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound-recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

Photographs from this event are available from <https://gallery.picturepartnership.co.uk/gallery/cwd2020>