

JUSTICE SERVICE  
FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX



THE HIGH SHERIFF OF ESSEX

MR SIMON BRICE

Chelmsford Cathedral

Sunday 17 October 2021

3.30pm

**You are warmly welcomed to Chelmsford Cathedral. Today is the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity.**

Everything you need for this celebration is in this booklet. Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off.

**Hearing Aids:** There is a loop system installed throughout the church. If you are a hearing aid user, please turn it to T.

**Music:** The music today is sung by the Cathedral Choir, directed by James Davy, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organist is Hilary Punnett, Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir.

**Collection:** During the service there will be a collection in support of the High Sheriffs' Fund. Please use the envelope provided as this enables us to reclaim tax on your donation.

You are warmly invited to make a financial contribution to the life of the cathedral by making a donation using the contactless giving plates near the doors. Your gift will be used to enable us to deliver our ministry in its varied forms, from hosting community events, cultural activities, maintaining free entry to this glorious building, supporting our musical and worship tradition and much more. If you would like to find out more about our planned giving scheme, please ask one of the stewards. To donate online, please visit the cathedral website, scroll towards the bottom of the page and under the heading "supporting your cathedral" click the link. You can also donate by scanning the QR code below. Thank you.

If the alarm sounds, please exit the Cathedral and, if safe, assemble at the rear of the Shire Hall in the South Eastern corner of the churchyard. Please leave your belongings until it is safe to collect them.

**Rubrics:** Please stand or sit as is comfortable for you.

**Car park code:** 1603

**Live stream:** This service is being live streamed to the Chelmsford Cathedral YouTube channel.

*If you would like to know more about the Christian faith and the life of the Christian community in this place, please ring 01245 294486 or visit us at [chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](http://chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk).*



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## **The High Sheriff and the Justice Service**

The office of High Sheriff is over a thousand years old. The first High Sheriff of Essex who can be identified with any certainty is Leofcild, who held office in 1042 or 1043, during the reign of Edward the Confessor. In 1258 it was decreed that sheriffs should only serve for a single year, and although this was not strictly followed for some years it eventually became established and remains the case today. For most of the Middle Ages, up to 1567, Essex shared its sheriff with Hertfordshire; many English counties were twinned in this way. The first lady High Sheriff of Essex, Evelyn Ward-Thomas, was appointed in 1994; there have since been seven more. The appointment is made by Her Majesty The Queen on advice from her Privy Council, and the present High Sheriff is officially the 841<sup>st</sup> in Essex.

The sheriff was the monarch's agent in the county, whose responsibilities included the administration of justice. In 1154 Henry II introduced the system of Itinerant Justices who were sent out from London to try serious cases that had previously been left to the sheriff. The sheriff was then given the task of looking after the judges while they were in his county. This included meeting them at the county boundary, providing transport and an armed escort to lodgings for them and their entourage, having ready the courts, prisoners, and juries, and in due course executing the sentences that were pronounced.

This arrangement developed into the Assize Court system, which lasted until 1972. Assizes were held three times a year. A High Court judge would stay in the county for at least two weeks, sometimes for six or eight weeks, hearing not only serious criminal cases but also civil cases. At the beginning of each Assizes a church service was held, with the important purpose of appealing to God to grant the judge and all those involved with the administration of justice wisdom and humility in the conduct of cases, and guidance to arrive at a just and fair outcome. In the days of the death penalty, the execution of which was overseen by the High Sheriff, such guidance was felt to be all the more necessary.

The church service disappeared with the abolition of the Assizes in 1972 and the creation of the present Crown Court, which sits all the year round. In its place most counties now hold an annual service for the judiciary, usually at the beginning of the legal year in October, a practice established in Essex by the incumbent High Sheriff, Colonel George Judd, in 1974.

Pastorale from Seven Sketches

## Music before the Service

Percy Whitlock (1903 – 1946)

*Please stand*

### The Civic and Legal Processions

*The Civic and Legal processions move through the Cathedral to their places. This is followed by a fanfare.*

### The High Sheriff's Procession

*Please remain standing as the High Sheriff's Procession enters. This will be accompanied by Trumpet Tune in C major, ZT 698, by Henry Purcell.*

### The Opening Hymn

*We remain standing to sing the hymn, during which the choir and clergy process in.*

PRAISE, MY SOUL

John Goss 1800-1880



**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him! Praise him, praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our forebears in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Praise him, praise him! Praise him, praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him, praise him! Praise him, praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him;  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him, praise him! Praise him, praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.**

*Words: H F Lyte (1793 - 1847)*

## **Welcome and Introduction**

*Please sit as the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall, Dean of Chelmsford, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.*

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

In the name of the Chapter of this Cathedral,  
I welcome you in the peace of Christ.

We gather in this house of God  
to give him praise and glory  
in thanksgiving for our freedom under the law,  
the Queen's peace, and our national heritage.

In prayer and praise, in Scripture and in song,  
we celebrate God's mighty deeds, his justice and his love;  
and seek his will in our own day  
that we may be instruments of his peace  
in a broken and needy world.

## Confession

*The High Sheriff's Chaplain, The Revd Canon Janet Nicholls, says*

Dearly beloved brethren,  
the Scripture moveth us, in sundry places, to acknowledge  
and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;  
and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before  
the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father;  
but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and  
obedient heart;  
to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same,  
by his infinite goodness and mercy.  
And although we ought, at all times,  
humbly to acknowledge our sins before God;  
yet ought we chiefly so to do,  
when we assemble and meet together  
to render thanks for the great benefits that we have  
received at his hands,  
to set forth his most worthy praise,  
to hear his most holy Word,  
and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary,  
as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you,  
as many as are here present,  
to accompany me with a pure heart,  
and humble voice,  
unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me;

*All*     **Almighty and most merciful Father;**  
**we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.**  
**We have followed too much the devices and desires**  
**of our own hearts.**  
**We have offended against thy holy laws.**  
**We have left undone those things**  
**which we ought to have done;**  
**and we have done those things**  
**which we ought not to have done;**  
**and there is no health in us.**  
**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.**

**Spare thou them, O God, who confess their faults.  
Restore thou them that are penitent;  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesu our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name.  
Amen.**

### **Absolution**

*The Bishop of Chelmsford announces the Absolution*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Psalm**

*119 v 33 - 48*

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes : and I shall keep it unto the end.  
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law : yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments : for therein is my desire.  
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies : and not to covetousness.

O turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity : and quicken thou me in thy way.

O stablish thy word in thy servant : that I may fear thee.

Take away the rebuke that I am afraid of : for thy judgements are good.

Behold, my delight is in thy commandments : O quicken me in thy righteousness.

Let thy loving mercy come also unto me, O Lord : even thy salvation,  
according unto thy word.

So shall I make answer unto my blasphemers : for my trust is in thy word.

O take not the word of thy truth utterly out of my mouth : for my hope is in thy judgements.

So shall I always keep thy law : yea, for ever and ever.

And I will walk at liberty : for I seek thy commandments.

I will speak of thy testimonies also, even before kings : and will not be ashamed.

And my delight shall be in thy commandments : which I have loved.

My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved : and my study shall be in thy statutes.

*Please stand*

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.

*Please sit*

### **First Reading**

*Romans 8 v 28, 31 - 39*

*Read by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst*

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



*Please stand to sing*

## Hymn

SLANE

Traditional Irish Melody



**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

*Words: Jan Struther (1901 - 1953)*

*Please sit*

## **Second Reading**

*John 8 v 1 - 11*

*Read by the High Sheriff of Essex*

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

*Please remain seated as the choir sings*

## **Anthem**

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee. The darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day. The darkness and the light to thee are both alike. God is light and with him is no darkness at all. Oh let my soul live, and it shall praise thee, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for evermore.

*Text: Isaiah 26 v. 3; Psalm 139 v 11; 1 John 1 v. 5; Psalm 119 v 175*      *Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 - 1876)*

## **The Sermon**

*The Revd Canon Janet Nicholls, Chaplain to the High Sheriff & Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain*

*Please stand to sing*

## Hymn

REPTON

C. Hubert H. Parry 1848-1918  
from a song in his oratorio *Judith*



**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!**

*Words: John Whittier (1807 - 1892)*

*Please sit or kneel*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers will be led by the Rev'd Kate Moore. After each bidding a time of silent prayer is kept before the response.*

Let us pray for Christ's Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, that is, for the whole congregation of Christian people throughout the world, and for all ministers of God's holy word and sacraments.

Lord, in thy mercy

*All*     **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the peace of the world, for the leaders of nations and for peoples of all cultures and creeds that we may learn to live together in justice and righteousness.

Lord, in thy mercy

*All*     **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II, for the royal family, for the Queen's most honourable Council, for all Ministers of State in this realm and Commonwealth, for the High Court of Parliament, and for Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant in this County of Essex.

Lord, in thy mercy

*All*     **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the High Sheriff of Essex, for Her Majesty's Judges, for the Coroner, magistrates, lawyers and all who administer the law in this County, for the Police Service, the Prison Service and the Probation Service and all those in their care, that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

Lord, in thy mercy

*All*     **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our Mayors and Councillors, and all who serve their community in local government, that they may carry out their responsibilities with wisdom.

*All* Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those in need, sickness or adversity, especially for prisoners and refugees, and for those who are hungry, homeless or destitute, that they may find shelter, safety and peace.

*All* Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who face danger through their service to their country, community or fellow human beings, especially for those who serve in our armed forces and emergency services.

*All* Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We remember Lord the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that on both sides of that division we are surrounded by your love. May those who mourn find peace in you and faith to sustain them through difficult days. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collects

O God,  
our life, our health, our salvation,  
look with mercy on your people.  
Stir up in us a saving faith,  
that believing, we may be healed,  
and being healed, we may worthily give you thanks.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

*Choir* **Amen.**

*The High Sheriff's Chaplain says Archbishop Cranmer's Prayer for Justice.*

O heavenly Father,  
at whose hand the weak shall take no wrong  
nor the mighty escape just judgement:  
pour thy grace upon thy servants our judges and magistrates,  
our barristers and all others officers of our courts,  
that by their true, fruitful and diligent execution of justice and  
equity to all men equally, thou mayest be glorified,  
the commonwealth daily promoted and increased,  
and we all live in peace and quietness, godliness and virtue;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All*      **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.**

*Please stand*

## Hymn (NEH 368)

CWM RHONDDA

John Hughes 1873-1932



**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside,  
death of death, and hell's destruction  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.**

*Words: William Williams (1717 - 1791)  
translated from Welsh by Peter Williams (1727 - 1796)*

*Please remain standing*

## The Blessing

*The Bishop of Chelmsford blesses the congregation*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no-one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour all people;  
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.**

## 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!**

**Thy choicest gifts in store  
on her be pleased to pour,  
long may she reign;  
may she defend our laws,  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice  
God save the Queen!**

*The congregation is asked to remain standing until the processions and the civic dignitaries have moved through the nave.*



## **Organ Voluntary**

*Toccata from Symphony no.5*

*Charles-Marie Widor (1844 – 1937)*

## **Reception**

*Directly after the service there is a reception in the Cathedral to which all are warmly invited.*

## **The High Sheriffs' Fund**

The High Sheriffs' Fund was set up in 1993 to reward community and voluntary activities in Essex, with particular emphasis on those which promote community safety and crime prevention. Each year the High Sheriff awards grants totalling about £30,000 to voluntary groups and charitable organisations. This is a very worthwhile cause and one that should appeal to everyone who is involved in the criminal justice system in Essex. Moreover, every £2 raised is matched by £1 from the Proceeds of Crime Act. The fund is managed by the Essex Community Foundation (registered charity no. 1052061).

If you wish to make a donation, please use the envelope provided so that we can claim Gift Aid. Thank you.

## **The Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Peter and St Cedd**

Chelmsford Cathedral was, until 1914, simply St Mary's, the parish church of Chelmsford. There was a Norman church on the site, and very possibly a Saxon one before that, but it was rebuilt in the 15th century. An inscription on the nave, now lost, included the date 1424, although some features, such as the elegant fan arch on the north side of the chancel, are considered to be a decade or two older than that. The new church is a classic example of East Anglian Perpendicular, with its aisles and clerestory, impressive west tower, and two-storey porch decorated with flint and stone flushwork.

The first major change came in 1800 with the collapse of the nave roof. The damage was repaired by the county surveyor John Johnson, who reused what materials he could, supplemented with artificial Coade stone (seen also on Johnson's nearby Shire Hall). Additions were made later in the 19th century by Frederic Chancellor, including the north transept and outer north aisle.

Following the church's elevation to cathedral status in 1914, Sir Charles Nicholson prepared an ambitious design that would have more than doubled the size of the building. Fortunately this scheme was shelved in favour of a more modest enlargement of the chancel in 1926–8, followed by the addition of the vestries on the north side, in turn enlarged in 2003–4.

The greatest change, however, was the comprehensive reordering of the interior by Robert Potter in 1983–1984. This involved the replacement of most of the existing furnishings with newly-commissioned works, including the patchwork hanging by Beryl Dean behind the east wall that picks up the colours of the stained glass in the window above it. Giuseppe Lund made the steel and bronze ambos (pulpits) either side of the chancel arch, as well as the screens of rough, tapering steel spikes to the chapels of St Cedd and St Peter at the west end of the nave. This reordering, and the introduction of a number of works of art since then (including sculpture by T. B. Huxley-Jones, Georg Ehrlich, and Peter Eugene Ball, and Mark Cazalet's painting *The Tree of Life*), achieved the transformation of a parish church into a cathedral, which has been described as 'a jewel box of contemporary art'.



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