

PRESS RELEASE

Royal Society celebrates 350th anniversary at St Paul's Cathedral



London (24th MAY 2010)

On **Wednesday 9th June at 5pm**, St Paul's holds a special evensong in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society. **All are welcome to attend.**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams will preach and the Cathedral Choir will sing Edward Elgar's *Great is the Lord*, a piece of music first performed for the 250th anniversary of the Royal Society.

The Revd Dr Giles Fraser, Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral said:

"We are delighted that The Royal Society is celebrating its 350th anniversary at St Paul's and that the Archbishop of Canterbury is preaching at the service. Both science and religion are rooted in a deep sense of wonder at the universe and an insatiable curiosity about life itself. In an age where some can only see the tension between them, it is worth reflecting how much they have in common"

This special evensong also strengthens a historic connection between St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Society. The cathedral's architect, Sir Christopher Wren, was one of the founding members of the Royal Society and the society was officially founded in 28th November 1660, following a lecture by Wren, then Gresham Professor of Astronomy.

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Note to editors:

St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

The Royal Society's anniversary celebrations

Between November 2009 and November 2010, the Royal Society will be celebrating its 350th anniversary, promoting a spirit of enquiry, excitement and engagement with science. The Society will be working with organizations across the country to raise the profile of science and bring scientific activities to new audiences. More information about the anniversary year can be found at www.royalsociety.org