**Background information for National Service of Thanksgiving to mark HM The Queen’s 90th Birthday**

**Friday 10 June 2016**

**St Paul’s Cathedral**

* Canon Michael Hampel, Precentor, St Paul’s has put the service together
* On occasions like these, HM The Queen directs that the choir of Her Majesty’s Chapel Royal sing alongside St Paul’s Cathedral Choir.
* The Cathedral Choir is directed by Andrew Carwood, Director of Music at St Paul’s since 2007.
* The organ is played during the service by Simon Johnson, Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St Paul’s since 2008.
* Music before the service is played by Peter Holder, Sub Organist at St Paul’s since 2014 and by the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment, directed by Wing Commander Duncan Stubbs.
* The fanfare as Her Majesty arrives is sounded by the State Trumpeters of the Household Calvary, led by Trumpet Major Philip Bishop.
* The fanfare as Her Majesty enters the Cathedral is sounded by the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Band of Her Majesty’s Royal Marines Portsmouth, conducted by Captain Ian Davies.
* Before and after the service, the St Paul’s Cathedral Guild of Ringers ring “Stedman Cinques” – there are twelve ringers for the twelve bells, one of the heaviest rings of bells in the world.
* The flowers below the two lecterns either side of the altar, under the Dome have been arranged by the Church of England Flower Arrangers Association (who are also arranging a small arrangement for the BBC Commentary Desk).
* The Wren Brass Ensemble is a group of musicians from Shakespeare’s Globe.
* Before the service the RAF Regiment Band has chosen pieces by British composers including Edward Elgar, Master of the King’s Music in the year the Queen was born, and Guy Wolfenden, who died this year and was leading Royal Shakespeare Company composer.
* The organ music which follows the band music at about 10.30 am, includes “Flourish for an occasion” by William Harris, who taught the Queen to play the piano.
* The Chapter of St Paul’s - the group of seven clergy and laity who form the Cathedral’s Governing Body - together with the Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury move to the Great West Door to begin greeting the various VIPs.
* The new Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, makes his first appearance at St Paul’s at the Great West Door.
* He is followed by the Prime Minister.
* Junior members of the Royal Family begin to arrive at the Great West Door - effectively Royal Family members who are not “HRH.
* Back at the front of the Cathedral, representatives of the principal world faiths process to their places under the Dome.
* The Queen’s Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard followed by Her Majesty’s Bodyguard of the Honourable Corps of Gentleman at Arms move up from the Crypt and along the North Nave Aisle to take up their positions at the West End of the Cathedral. The Gentlemen at Arms will subsequently be walking before and behind the Queen when she moves through the Cathedral to her seat at the start of the service.
* The Lord Mayor (of the City of London) arrives.
* At around about the same time, the choirs and clergy who form the bulk of the main procession move via the South Nave Aisle to the West End of the Cathedral.
* This includes representatives of the principal Christian Denominations, various Clergy associated with the Royal Household, the Primates of the Anglican Churches in the U.K, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
* Members of the Royal Family arrive – effectively those who are HRH
* A fanfare is sounded outside as the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh arrive.
* The Queen is greeted by the Lord Mayor who then walks in front of her carrying the Pearl Sword. This is always borne in front of the Queen when she attends such events in the City of London.
* A second fanfare sounds as the Queen enters the Cathedral.
* The procession forms up and awaits the opening hymn.
* Chapter and other clergy line-up at the Great West Door - starting at the Great West Door and working Eastwards:

The Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean

Canon Mark Oakley, Chancellor

Canon Michael Hampel, Precentor

Canon Philippa Boardman, Treasurer

Canon Tricia Hillas, Canon Pastor -- this month’s Canon in Residence or “Duty Canon”

Mr Gavin Ralston, Lay Member of Chapter

Mrs Pim Baxter, Lay Member of Chapter

Emma Davies, Registrar

Virger

Nigel Seed QC, Diocesan Chancellor

Bishop of London

Archbishop of Canterbury

The Reverend Helen O’Sullivan, Chaplain

The Reverend Rosemary Morton, Succentor

The Reverend James Milne, Sacrist

* The opening hymn “O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” is a hymn sung at Epiphany when the church celebrates the visit of Kings to the Christ Child – thus recalling the Queen’s Christian faith and her humble devotion to Christ.
* After the fourth verse, the organ will improvise with the assistance of the Brass players until everyone is in place and the final verse will be sung.
* During this movement, the Chapter bows to the Queen when she reaches her seat.
* The Bidding Prayer is delivered by the Dean – written by the Precentor, Canon Michael Hampel, for this occasion, using phrases which are repeated later on in the service in the act of thanksgiving led by the Ecumenical Representatives and Representatives of World Faiths.
* After the Lord’s Prayer, the choir sings a rousing Jubilate (Psalm 100) set to music by William Walton who was asked to write it for his own 70th Birthday by the Huddersfield Choral Society in 1972.
* The Succentor, Rosemary Morton, prays the Collect – written by the Precentor, Canon Michael Hampel, for this service.
* The Old Testament reading is read by the Canon Pastor, Canon Tricia Hillas, this month’s Canon in Residence (“Duty Canon”) – verses from Psalm 139 which speak of God knowing us even before we are born and remaining with us at every stage of our lives.
* The following hymn “Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us” picks up on the same theme as the previous reading and is set to a German tune, reminding us of the Queen’s ancestry.
* The Prime Minister reads the New Testament reading which speaks of God supplying our needs through the beauty and bounty of creation and encourages us not to worry about the things that God will supply for us but to focus on our faith in God’s Kingdom – a focus which the Queen has observed throughout her life.
* The theme of the Kingdom is picked up in the next hymn “King of glory, King of peace” – this time to a Welsh tune accompanying the words of the great seventeenth century English poet and priest, George Herbert.
* The Archbishop of Canterbury preaches the sermon.
* The choir sings a rousing anthem based on Psalm 47 “O clap your hands all ye people” set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams.
* The prayers specially written by the Reverend James Milne, Sacrist of St Paul’s, are led by six people, five of whom represent aspects of the Queen’s life and role and one of whom was born on the same day as the Queen.
* Clare Balding, BBC Commentator, whose family has trained some of the Queen’s Horses, represents the sport of horse racing.
* Oscar Matthews is a Deputy Sergeant Footman in the Royal Household.
* Hilda Price from Cardiff, the widow of an Anglican Priest and a leading light in the Mother’s Union, was born on the same day as the Queen – 21 April 1926.
* Fitzrene Headley, a young Barrister from Gray’s Inn, represents the Law.
* Cadet Lance Corporal Tamara Cakmak, of the City of London Academy, Islington, “Honourable Artillery Company” Combined Cadet Force represents the Armed Forces.
* Baroness Scotland is Secretary General of the Commonwealth of which the Queen is Head and for which the Queen has a particular affection and regard.
* Each of the descriptions of God in the prayers is taken from the Psalms in the Old Testament.
* They include a special reference to the fact that today is the 95th Birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh.
* They conclude with one of the official prayers of the Church of England published by the Archbishops for the Queen’s 90th Birthday.
* The next three items in the service are intended indirectly to be Birthday gifts for the Queen.
* The anthem “I love all beauteous things” has been specially written for the Queen’s Birthday by Judith Weir, Master of the Queen’s music, and sets a poem by Robert Bridges who was Poet Laureate in the year the Queen was born.
* It speaks of the human desire to mirror divine creativity with our own humbler efforts.
* We now hear from two nonagenarians, Creator of Paddington Bear Michael Bond, who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 13th January, and Sir David Attenborough, BBC Broadcaster, who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 8th May.
* Michael Bond has written a reflection on the passing of the years from the point of view of one born in 1926 – he speaks of the trials and tribulations of growing up in those years in a wonderfully humorous manner but then looks back seriously at it all and quotes the famous words of Louise Haskins, words which the Queen’s Father, George VI, quoted in his Christmas Broadcast of 1939, just after the country had gone to war.
* Remembering that the Queen learnt to play the piano, under William Harris, penultimate BBC Young Musician (of 2014), Martin James Bartlett, performs “Burlesque” by Arnold Bax who was George VI’s last Master of the King’s Music and the Queen’s first Master of the Queen’s Music.
* The Ecumenical Representatives and Representatives of the World Faiths now assemble on the Dais for an act of thanksgiving for everything the Queen stands for, led by the Bishop of London.
* The final hymn “Lord, for the years” is a text written by the great contemporary hymn writer Timothy Dudley-Smith who celebrates his 90th Birthday on 26th December later this year – it speaks of God walking alongside us in all that happens to us day by day.
* The tune of this hymn by Michael Baughen has been specially arranged for this service by Cathedral Organist, Simon Johnson.
* The Archbishop of Canterbury gives the blessing.
* We sing the National Anthem.
* The Chapter escorts the Queen out followed by members of the Royal Family while Simon Johnson performs a movement from Elgar’s “Sonata in G major”, quintessentially British and by the composer who was Master of the King’s Music in the year the Queen was born.