



St Edmund's Church
Southwold

A Celebration of Creativity and Service
Including prayers for the recently
elected Town Mayor



Sunday 23rd June 2024
at 11:00am

In partnership with



SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

SOUTHWOLD
ARTS FESTIVAL

Welcome

A very warm welcome from all at St. Edmund's Church for this service celebrating both the creativity of the Southwold Arts Festival and the community service offered by so many, but particularly by the members of our Town Council. Today's service includes prayers for the newly elected Town Mayor of Southwold and for each of us, an opportunity to reflect on the importance of using one's own gifts to bring benefit and joy to others.

Christians believe that the creativity and service we offer to one another brings delight to the heart of God, the divine Creator, who in Christ demonstrates sacrificial service to all.

May God bless you through the words, prayers, and music of the service today.



There are toilet facilities through the door at the rear of the church behind the font.

Please could we ask you to turn mobile devices to silent mode for the duration of the service.

A retiring collection will be taken at the end of the service to support the mission and ministry of the parish church. You can donate using cash, the contactless device by the porch door, or by scanning the QR code below with your phone.



If you are able, please stand for the processional hymn.

During which, standards are brought forward.

Processional Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Words of Welcome

The Rector of Southwold, the Revd Russ Gant

The Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
who delights in all you have made;
guide by your Spirit, the people of this town,
that we may be faithful to the mind of Christ
and seek in all our purposes to enrich our common life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Anthem

*'Praise be to God' by Alan Bullard
Sung by the Choir of St. Edmund's Church*

Prayers of Confession

Lord, when we have failed to use the gifts, skills, and
resources you have given us for the benefit of all,

All **Forgive us and help us.**

When we have served only our own interest, overlooking
the needs of our neighbours and wider community,

All **Forgive us and help us.**

When we have ignored our need for you loving Lord,
turning instead to the ways of the world,

All **Forgive us and help us.**

Receiving Forgiveness

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his
Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our failures and
bring us to the full knowledge of his love for us,
through Christ our Lord,

All **Amen.**

First Reading

*Read by Lin Le Versha –
Director, Southwold Arts Festival*

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft!

“And I have personally appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to be his assistant. Moreover, I have given special skill to all the gifted craftsmen so they can make all the things I have commanded you to make: the Tabernacle; the Ark of the Covenant; the Ark’s cover - the place of atonement; all the furnishings of the Tabernacle; the table and its utensils; the pure gold lampstand with all its accessories; the incense altar; the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils; the washbasin with its stand; the beautifully stitched garments - the sacred garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to wear as they minister as priests; the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place.

Exodus 31: 1-11a

The Southwold Hymn

To the tune 'Aurelia'

Here, where we meet in worship,
above our Suffolk strand,
twin symbols of salvation,
a church and lighthouse stand.
Here each fulfils its purpose,
as church and lighthouse share,
for stranger as for native,
a ministry of care.

The lighthouse beams its message
and seeks to show the way,
that those who sail in darkness
may see the light of day.
The church declares the gospel,
the song of light and love;
the word that gives life meaning
and points to God above.

Now, Christians sing together
and celebrate our Lord.
His goodness will transform us
through Christ, His loving Word.
A stairway to His kingdom;
a guide to all who search;
this is the gate of heaven:
our lighthouse and our church.

*(Fred Pratt Green verse 1,
Eric Potts verses 2 & 3)*

Second Reading

Read by the Town Mayor, Cllr Simon Flunder

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

Philippians 2: 1-8

Sermon

Tableaux De Provence - 4th Movement

by Paule Maurice

Performed by Zach Knight - Alto Saxophone

Accompanied by Victor Scott - Director of Music,

St Edmund's Church

The Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John
They came with me and the Dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be...

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a Cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be...

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance, and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be...

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
Dance, then, wherever you may be...

Prayers

*Led by Revd David Bradburn – Minister
Southwold United Reformed Church*

We sit or kneel to pray.

The prayers conclude by saying together the Lord's Prayer.

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.**

Covehithe

by Blake Morrison

Read by Sue Puddimore

The tides go in and out
but the cliffs are stuck in reverse:
back across the fields they creep,
to the graves of Covehithe church.

From church to beach
was once a hike.
Today it's just a stroll.
Soon it'll be a stone's throw.

And that path we took
along the cliffs has itself been taken,
by winter storms.
The wheat's living on the edge.

What's to be done?
I blame the dead
in their grassy mounds,
the sailors and fishermen

longing to be back at sea
who since they can't get up
and stride down to the beach
entice the sea to come to them.

'New York, New York'

By Frank Sinatra

Performed by Archie Lartey

*Accompanist Emma Wong – Director of Music,
St Felix School*

I'll go in the strength of the Lord

Led by the Leiston Band

I'll go in the strength of the Lord
In paths He has marked for my feet;
I'll follow the light of His word,
Nor shrink from the dangers I meet.
His presence my steps shall attend,
His fullness my wants shall supply;
On Him, till my journey shall end,
My unwavering faith shall rely.

*I'll go (I'll go,) I'll go in the strength, I'll go in the strength of the Lord,
I'll go, (I'll go,) I'll go in the strength, I'll go in the strength of the Lord.*

I'll go in the strength of the Lord
To work He appoints me to do;
In joy which his smile doth afford
My soul shall her vigour renew.
His wisdom shall guard me from harm,
His power my sufficiency prove;
I'll trust His omnipotent arm,
And prove His unchangeable love.

I'll go (I'll go,) I'll go in the strength...

I'll go in the strength of the Lord
To conflicts which faith will require,
His grace as my shield and reward,
My courage and zeal shall inspire.
Since he gives the word of command,
To meet and encounter the foe,
With his sword of truth in my hand,
To suffer and triumph I'll go.

I'll go (I'll go,) I'll go in the strength...

The Act of Dedication

The Councillors and Officers of the Town Council remain standing.

The rest of the congregation sits.

The Town Mayor stands before the Rector.

The Rector addresses the Town Mayor, saying

Cllr Flunder, your fellow Councillors have shown their confidence in you by electing you as Mayor of Southwold. As first citizen of the town will you use your authority as in the sight of God?

The Town Mayor replies, saying

I do so, God being my helper.

The Rector addresses the whole Council, saying

It is your responsibility to promote the welfare of the town and all its inhabitants during the coming year. It is a responsibility shared by the Council and its Officers. Will you carry out this high responsibility as in the sight of God God?

The Town Mayor, Councillors and Officers reply, saying

We will so do, God being our helper.

The Rector addresses the congregation, saying

It is your responsibility as members of the community to support the Town Mayor, Councillors and Officers of the Council through your prayers, encouragement and by participating in the life of this community. Will you carry out your duty as citizens as in the sight of God.

The congregation replies, saying

All **We will so do, God being our helper.**

The Councillors and Officers of the Town Council are seated.

The Mayoral Charge

*The Town Mayor, Cllr Simon Flunder
sets out his vision for the next term of office.*

I vow to Thee my country

During which, standards are returned.

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect: the service of my love.
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best.
The love that never falters the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

All remain standing for

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

The Blessing

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.
Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary

'Toccata from Symphony V' by C.M. Widor

Please remain in your seats until the procession has left the church.

Service order extracts from Common Worship Services
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