Order of Service
Old Palace School Founders' Day
Croydon Minster
Saturday 27th September 2025
2pm.

The service is held today by kind permission
of the Vicar and Churchwardens

INTROIT *Remain seated*
Lift Thine Eyes – Mendelssohn

HYMN *Please stand*

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluya!
Cry out dominions, Princedoms, Powers,
Virtues, Archangels, Angel's Choirs,
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!

O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of th'eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord.
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!

Respond ye souls in endless rest,
Ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,
Alleluya, Alleluya!
Ye holy twelve, ye Martyrs strong,
All Saints triumphant, raise the song
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!

O friends in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluya, Alleluya!
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the spirit, Three in one,
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!

Athelstan Riley (1858-1945)

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME *Fr. Michael* *Please sit*

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Dear friends, we have come into the presence of God, to thank him for the many blessings which our school has bestowed on us, to commemorate before Him the founders and benefactors of The Old Palace School, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to his way of wisdom and love.

Please sit or kneel

Let us pray:
O God, our Father, we thank you for Old Palace School and for all who have taught, learned and worked there in the many years past, helping to mould us into the people we are today.

Help us to build on the foundations which have been laid, so that the fruit of true learning may abound. We pray that all who have shared in the life of our school may continue to value those good things that bring honour and glory to your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us when to pray and say:

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.

HYMN *Please stand*

Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels,
thou who hast made us, thou who o'er us rulest,
grant of thy mercy unto us thy servants
steps up to heaven.

Send thine Archangel Michael to our succour;
peacemaker blessèd, may he banish from us
striving and hatred, so that for the peaceful
all things may prosper.

Send thine Archangel Gabriel, the mighty;
herald of heaven, may he, from us mortals,
spurn the old serpent, watching o'er the temples
where Thou art worshipped.

Send thine Archangel Raphael, the restorer
of the misguided ways of men who wander,
who at Thy bidding strengthens soul and body
with Thine anointing.

May the blest Mother of our God and Saviour,
may the assembly of the saints in glory,
may the celestial companies of angels
ever assist us.

Father Almighty, Son, and Holy Spirit,
God ever blessèd, be Thou our preserver;
thine is the glory which the angels worship,
veiling their faces.

Rhabanus Maurus (776–856)
Translated by Athelstan Riley and Percy Dearmer

READING

The reader introduces the reading using words from Psalm 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him all his host.
Psalm 148.1,2

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,
for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.
But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.
Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
for the devil has come down to you with great wrath,
because he knows that his time is short!' *Revelation 12.7-12*

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

ADDRESS *given by The Venerable Jenny Rowley (OPA)* *Please sit*

HYMN *Please stand*

At the name of Jesus Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him King of glory now:
'Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

At His voice creation Sprang at once to sight,
All the angels faces All the hosts of light,
Thrones and Dominations, Stars upon their way,
All the heavenly orders, In their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
From the lips of sinners unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious, when from death He passed.

In your hearts enthrone Him;
There let Him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain In temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you In its light and power.

Truly, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
With His Father's glory, with His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

PRAYERS *Please sit or kneel*
led by former pupils

Let us remember before God all those who by their generosity, devotion and service have conferred great and lasting benefits upon our old School. May their example serve as an inspiration to us here today and to those who are past pupils and staff. We remember Mother Emily Ayckbowm, the Founder of Old Palace School, giving thanks to God for her inspiration and her determination to stand up against prejudice, ignorance and class division. For her creative energy and formidable courage in an age where women were largely ignored.

Father in heaven
We give you thanks and praise.

We remember all to whom we are indebted for the old and stately buildings and furnishings of Old Palace School especially Henry, Seventh Duke of Newcastle, without whose generous gift to Mother Emily, Old Palace School would not have come into being.

Father in heaven
We give you thanks and praise.

We remember past pupils, staff, head teachers and governors of Old Palace, by whose talent, learning and devotion the welfare of our School was fostered for the good of this nation and the honour of Your name. We pray that all who have been involved in Old Palace School, may pursue and preserve its ideals, values and scholarship as our Founder intended.

Father in heaven
We give you thanks and praise.

We remember with love those who have sat alongside us in past years, those whose lives are entwined with ours and the life of our school. We remember those from our school

community who have died, especially those who have died during this past year. In our remembering, may our hearts be full of gratitude for the lives we have known and the love we have shared. In the pain of loss, may God anoint old wounds and mend us in mercy. In treasuring their memory may we glimpse the light that always shines beyond the places we can see.

Father in heaven
We give you thanks and praise.

With hope and confidence may we face the challenges of the future as together we embrace all that tomorrow holds.

We conclude our prayers by praying together The School Prayer:
Almighty God, the source of all that is good and holy, we give You thanks for our heritage: for the influences of the past and the dedication of those who have inspired in us the love of learning and the search for truth. May we be quick to respond to the opportunities offered to us, determined to face challenges with courage and perseverance and ready to use our gifts for the benefit of others and for your glory. Give us Lord, vision and hope for the future and grant that by serving one another with joy and imagination we may continue to serve you now and always.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

ANTHEM *Please sit*
For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter
Sung by the Alumnae Choir

NOTICES *Please sit*

THE OLD PALACE SCHOOL SONG *Please stand*

Come comrades, let us all unite in singing
Of this our school we love so well;
And in this old and stately building Its praise and honour tell.
Its ancient stones are very dear to us,
A goodly heritage have we
And loudly rings its call to service:
Pro ecclesia Dei.

Within these walls have great men lived, and laboured,
to keep our Church and country free
O let us follow in their footsteps
Pro ecclesia Dei.
For days of joy we now are sharing,
With courage strong and conscience free
And faileth ne'er this call to service:
Pro ecclesia Dei.

And then in distant days to come when severed
From these our friends by land and sea,
We'll still be faithful to our motto:
Pro ecclesia Dei.
For though the time is swiftly fleeting
And changes come to you and me
Our union lies in call to service:
Pro ecclesia Dei.

Words by A. R. Reeve
Music by: Edward W Groocock F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M.
Singing Master, Old Palace School 1918

THE BLESSING *Fr. Michael* *Please remain standing*

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage, hold fast to 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 among you and remain with you always.

Choir: Sevenfold Amen – *please join in singing from the congregation if you wish*

HYMN

Jesus glorious Prince of Angels,
Of Thine angel chief we sing;
Countless are the shining legions
He is ruling for his king.
Michael! Seraph! Great Commander,
Who upon the dragon trod;
Eyes of lightning, voice of thunder - Cry aloud:
"Who is like God?"

See he comes, the mighty captain,
See he draws his flaming sword;
See he flies in dazzling armour
To the battle of the Lord.
Lucifer and all his angels
Fall from heaven to earthly sod,
As they quail before the war cry - Thund'ring forth:
"Who is like God?"

Michael swings the golden censer
Filled with prayers of saintly tone;
Incense from the golden altar,
Rising up before the throne.

Songs from earth and songs in heaven
Meet where man hath never trod;
like the sound of many waters surging forth:
“Who is like God?”

Glory to the glorious Father,
Glory to the Son who died,
Glory to the Holy Spirit,
Evermore with us abide.
When the touch of God Almighty
Rends the rock and bursts the sod,
May we meet His standard bearer with his shout:
“Who is like God?”

H F Hemy (1818-1888)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Service conducted by:
The Venerable Jenny Rowley (Old Palace Alumnae)
Fr Michael Walcott, Associate Vicar
Minster Organist: Stephen Disley
Pianist: Marian Holmes (Old Palace Alumnae)
Conductor: Veronica Barnes (Old Palace Alumnae)
Minster Verger: Denise Mead (Old Palace Alumnae)

The Old Palace Alumnae thank the Clergy,
Organist and Staff of Croydon Minster.

Please do stay after the Service to enjoy a cup of tea and biscuits and share the many memories we have of our belovèd school.

Pro ecclesia Dei

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Old Palace Alumnae Database

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