



ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER



**SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING & BLESSING FOR
THE 40TH VIRGIN MONEY LONDON MARATHON**

**Saturday 3 October 2020
at 6pm on Zoom
(www.ahbtt.org.uk/news/marathon.php)**

**ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER
BYWARD STREET, LONDON EC3R 5BJ
Shining Christ's light on Tower Hill since AD675**

Welcome to All Hallows by the Tower, the oldest church in the City of London and a living and inclusive church serving today's City community.

All Hallows has been the church for the London Marathon for many years, offering a sign of hope for runners reaching mile 23, and there have been a number of marathoners in the staff team and congregation – including our Lay Minister and former Vicar.

The church is open throughout the week and provides a quiet space for prayer and reflection in the midst of the busyness surrounding us. All are welcome all to join our worship, and our Sunday services in church and on Zoom bring together people from all over London and, often, from across the world.

The Saxon Abbey of Barking founded the church in 675, and an arch from the original building remains. Beneath the arch is a Roman pavement, discovered in 1926, evidence of city life on this site for the best part of two thousand years.

Situated next to the Tower of London, the church has dealt with numerous beheaded bodies, including those of Thomas More, John Fisher and Archbishop Laud. William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was baptised and later educated in the church. John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the USA, was married in All Hallows in 1797.

In 1666 the Great Fire of London started in Pudding Lane, a few hundred yards from the church. All Hallows survived through the efforts of Admiral Penn, William Penn's father. In 1940 Hitler's bombs devastated the church; only the tower and the walls remained standing. The late Queen Mother laid a new foundation stone in 1948, and she attended the re-dedication service some nine years later. The vicar at the time was Tubby Clayton, founder of Toc H.

All Hallows has an international ministry through its strong relationship with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, of which it is the London home, and with the Church of the Epiphany, New York. It is also the church for HMRC, and has connections to several of the City's Livery Companies.

HYMN

sung by the Choirs of Blackburn Cathedral

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith. Tune: Lord of the Years

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Rev'd Katherine Hedderly, Vicar, All Hallows

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
All Amen

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

We have come together in the name of God to offer thanks and praise
for 40 years of the London Marathon.

Today, after months of hard work and disciplined schedules, we celebrate all that has been achieved through it by personal dedication in training and competing, and by the generous gift of sponsorship that yearly transforms the lives of many thousands of people around the world.

We thank God for the gift of sport that crosses the frontiers of the world and breaks down the barriers that divide people of different nations and cultures, colours and faiths.

We also give thanks that despite the disruption of the pandemic, this marathon is able to take place, albeit in a different format, in communities across the world, bringing people together across continents to witness to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

Let us pray:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our faults
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading - Isaiah 40.25-31

read by Iain Hook, Director, London Marathon Events Ltd

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

VIDEO

40 Years of the London Marathon

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.7-18

read by Dawn Austwick, Trustee, The London Marathon Charitable Trust

We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture - 'I believed, and so I spoke' - we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

INTERVIEW

Martin Carr, LLM at All Hallows, talks with Libby Lane, Bishop of Derby and lead bishop for sports.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Theme from The Trap (London Marathon Theme) with slideshow of 26 images of the iconic London course. During this piece those present are invited to share greetings, memories, tributes and words of encouragement using the Zoom chat facility.

REFLECTION

Ann Hayes from Christian Aid reflects on the difference events like the Marathon make for charities and their work.

PRAYERS

led by runners from the Christian Aid team

After each petition:

Lord hear us.

All **Lord graciously hear us.**

At the end,

Lord of life,

All **hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

AN ACT OF DEDICATION

led by the Revd Katherine Hedderly

All **O Lord our God,
Grant us the grace
to embrace the tasks of tomorrow
with expectation and courage,
with our eyes wide open
to a vision of achievement.**

**May our hearts and minds be set to strive for what is possible,
so that we may give the best of ourselves.
In so doing, may we offer to you and those we support
the gift of our commitment and our love.
Amen.**

PRAYER

led by Martin Carr, Licensed Lay Minister and London Marathon runner

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen
life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

sung by Dorothy Lawrence

**Fight the good fight with all your might,
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right;
lay hold on life, and it shall be
your joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up your eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its path before us lies;
Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside, lean on your Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and your trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faint not, nor fear; his arm is near;
He does not change, and you are dear;
Only believe, and Christ shall be
Your all in all eternally.**

J.S.B. Monsell 1811-75. Tune: Duke Street

Remain standing for the

CLOSING RESPONSES

All Look at your hands, see the touch and the tenderness,
God's own for the world.

All Look at your feet, see the path and the direction,
God's own for the world.

All Look at your heart, see the fire and the love,
God's own for the world.

All Look at the cross, see God's Son and our Saviour,
God's own for the world.

All This is God's world,
And we will serve God in it.

THE BLESSING

'Irish Blessing' by Bob Chilcott
sung by Jonathan Gregson

HYMN

Sung by St Martin's Voices

**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, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
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, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

Words: William Williams, 1745;
trans. Peter Williams, 1771, alt.
Tune: Cwm Rhondda

***Thank you for joining us this evening,
and to those running tomorrow, Good Luck!***

THE TEAM AT ALL HALLOWS

Vicar:	The Rev'd Katherine Hedderly
Associate Vicar:	The Rev'd Sophia Acland
Licensed Lay Minister:	Martin Carr
Operations & Finance Manager:	Angie Poppitt
Education & History Officer:	Adey Grummet
Organist and Director of Music:	Jonathan Melling
Church Wardens:	Ken Marshall, Di Robertshaw

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