



The Commonwealth Service

A Celebration of the Commonwealth

In the presence of

Her Majesty The Queen

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge

His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales

His Royal Highness The Duke of York

Monday 14th March 2016, 3.15 pm



AN INCLUSIVE COMMONWEALTH
The Commonwealth theme for 2016

Commonwealth Day Message 2016

WHEREVER we live in the Commonwealth, we can always benefit from being open to the ideas and encouragement of those around us. Each of us can also make a positive difference in the lives of others by being willing to contribute and offer support.

This is an essential ingredient of belonging to the Commonwealth: the willingness to share, to exchange and to act for the common good. By including others, drawing on collective insights, knowledge and resources, and thinking and working together, we lay the foundations of a harmonious and progressive society. The greater the diversity of those included in such a shared enterprise, the greater the gains. Each of us has cause to celebrate the sense of belonging expressed in our 2016 theme: 'An Inclusive Commonwealth'.

Our recognition of this value, and the wisdom of mutual respect for each other, is set out in the Commonwealth Charter. Its opening words, "We the people of the Commonwealth" convey the conviction that individuals, as well as governments, build and shape our success.

Being inclusive and accepting diversity goes far deeper than accepting differences at face value and being tolerant. True celebration of the dignity of each person, and the value of their uniqueness and contribution, involves reaching out, recognising and embracing their individual identity.

At the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, there were forums for women, youth, business and civil society. These forums were a place for reflection on how to contribute collectively to achieving positive global change, for which the Commonwealth is widely respected.

Today, and in the year ahead, the theme 'An Inclusive Commonwealth' is an inspiration for us all. Let us give it practical effect by supporting those in need and those who feel excluded in all walks of life. By doing so, we will continue to build a truly representative Commonwealth community.

Elizabeth R.

Welcome

It is my great pleasure, as Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies, to welcome you to this very special Commonwealth celebration.

The Commonwealth family of nations, great and small, becomes an evermore needed source of strength and hope for all its members at a time of great instability and uncertainty in the world.

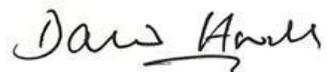
We once again gather at Westminster Abbey to give thanks for the Commonwealth and the advantages of mutual interest and friendship that it offers. It is time to give both inspiration for the future and reassurance to the 2.2 billion men and women, young and old, who are the Commonwealth's citizens and peoples.

Empowered by the miracle of information technology, new ties and new relationships stretching across the Commonwealth are taking shape. Over past decades, few have been more truly percipient in understanding the vast new opportunities and possibilities opening out ahead than Her Majesty The Queen, who is now into her sixty-fourth year as Head and guiding spirit of the Commonwealth family.

Her Majesty has been steadfast in seeing the vision of the Commonwealth take shape and unstinting in her support for the many connections that make the Commonwealth a reality. The Royal Commonwealth Society, of which I have the honour to be President, has particular experience of the strength and inspiration that Her Majesty brings as our Patron.

For that steadfastness, we give deep thanks in our Commonwealth Service today. Across great continents and little islands the curtain is now lifting on a different sort of world for the younger generation, and one which the Commonwealth connection can help make safer and better. Our Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey, in the presence Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and members of the Royal Family, allows us to reflect on the ways in which each member state can play its full part in this future.

We invite people in cities, towns and villages across both the United Kingdom and the whole Commonwealth to join today in celebrating this occasion and reminding ourselves of what we can achieve together.



The Right Honourable The Lord Howell of Guildford
Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies

An Inclusive Commonwealth

What is the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of fifty-three independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to 2.2 billion citizens, and includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries, spanning five regions. Thirty-one of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

What is the Commonwealth theme?

Every year, the Commonwealth chooses a theme to provide a focus for its activities. The theme is celebrated throughout the year with special events taking place during Commonwealth Week, including the Commonwealth Service.

What does 'An Inclusive Commonwealth' mean?

'An Inclusive Commonwealth' refers to the values of tolerance, respect and understanding, as well as equity and fairness, set out in the Commonwealth Charter, and the richness of the Commonwealth as a family of nations in which each member state is valued equally and has an equal voice. In changing times, the need for the Commonwealth to act as an inclusive network for mutual support, development and growth of opportunity and rights for all is as great as ever.

'An Inclusive Commonwealth' offers possibilities for building on work undertaken for the 2015 theme, 'A Young Commonwealth'. The principle of inclusiveness could be interpreted in a variety of ways, both nationally and globally, according to context. There might, for instance, be further exploration to deepen understanding of Commonwealth collaboration in fields such as gender equality and the new global Sustainable Development Goals.

An Inclusive Commonwealth

The Commonwealth theme for 2016

thecommonwealth.org/inclusivecommonwealth
[#inclusivecommonwealth](https://twitter.com/inclusivecommonwealth)



Before the Service

The Commonwealth Service will be broadcast live on BBC One from 2.45 pm.

The use of private cameras, video, or sound-recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organ is played by Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.

The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, directed by Trumpet Major Philip Bishop, and the Fanfare Team from the Band of the Irish Guards, directed by Major Bruce Miller, both participate by kind permission of Major General Edward Smyth-Osbourne CBE, Major General commanding the Household Division.

Outside the Great West Door, The Melodians Steel Orchestra play:

Colour Blind	Robert Thompson
Back ah Yard	Robert Thompson
Sweet Oil	Robert Thompson
Mas Que Nada	Jorge Ben Jor (b 1945) (arr Steve Allen)
Autumn Leaves	Joseph Kosma (1905–69) (arr Robert Thompson)
The Man Who Sold The World	David Bowie (1947–2016) (arr Amy Daniel)

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir, under the direction of Paul Carroll, perform:

The Commonwealth Anthem	
Allegro <i>from</i> Violin Concerto no 2	Paul Carroll (b 1955)
“This Too Shall Pass”	Natasha Senanayake (b 1987)
“Peace For All Nations”	arr Paul Carroll
Andante <i>from</i> Piano Concerto no 2	Paul Carroll
“Nigeria”	Paul Carroll
“Celebration Ode”	Paul Carroll
“Botswana, Botswana”	Paul Carroll
“Tango”	Paul Carroll
The Commonwealth Anthem	
“Abdelazer”	arr Paul Carroll

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays:

Prelude and Fugue in C bwv 547	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Prelude <i>on</i> Rhosymedre	Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Before the Service

Medallists from the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Samoa 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games process through the Nave, followed by the flags of the Commonwealth nations.

Canada			United Kingdom
New Zealand			Australia
India			South Africa
Sri Lanka			Pakistan
Malaysia			Ghana
Cyprus			Nigeria
Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Trinidad and Tobago			Jamaica
Kenya			Uganda
Malta			Malawi
Singapore			Zambia
Lesotho			Guyana
Barbados			Botswana
Swaziland			Mauritius
Tonga			Nauru
Fiji Islands			Samoa
The Bahamas			Bangladesh
Papua New Guinea			Grenada
Solomon Islands			Seychelles
Dominica			Tuvalu
Kiribati			Saint Lucia
Belize			Saint Vincent and The Grenadines
Antigua and Barbuda			Vanuatu
Saint Christopher and Nevis			Maldives
Namibia			Brunei Darussalam
Mozambique			Cameroon
			Rwanda

The flags of the member countries are carried in the order determined by the date of membership (when read from right to left).

The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

An Honorary Steward



The Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society

Claire Whitaker OBE



The Chairman of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship

Lyn D Hopkins



Director General of the Royal Over-Seas League

Major General Roddy Porter MBE



The Chairman of the English-Speaking Union

The Right Honourable The Lord Boateng

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

A Verger



*Representing the
Zoroastrian Community*

Malcolm M Deboo



*Representing the
Chief Rabbi*

Rabbi Vivian Silverman



*Representing the
Sikh Community*

The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE



*Representing the
Buddhist Community*

The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala



*Representing the
Muslim Community*

Shaykh Dr Mohammad Bahmanpour

*Representing the
Bahá'í Community*

Patrick O'Mara



*Representing the
Jain Community*

Dr Natubhai Shah



*Representing the
Jewish Reform Synagogues*

Rabbi Colin Eimer



*Representing the
Hindu Community*

Trupti Patel



*Representing
Liberal Judaism*

Rabbi Danny Rich

The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

A Verger



Methodism

The Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins

The Church of Scotland

The Reverend Andrea Price



The Coptic Orthodox Church

His Grace Bishop Angaelos



The Roman Catholic Church

Canon Christopher Tuckwell



The Orthodox Church

His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios
of Thyateira and Great Britain



The Service

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales are received. Presentations are made. All remain seated.

A fanfare is sounded. All stand.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and His Royal Highness The Duke of York are received.

Presentations are made.

All remain standing to sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)

The Service

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN



OPRAISE ye the Lord!
praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before him,
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!
praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord,
ye sons of new birth;
praise him who has brought you
his grace from above,
praise him who has taught you
to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord!
all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord,
re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story
of what he has done.

O praise ye the Lord!
thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured
all ages along:
for love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord! Amen, amen.

Laudate Dominum 427 NEH
Hubert Parry (1848–1918)
arr James O'Donnell and Richard Barnes

Henry Baker (1821–77)
after Psalm 150

The Service

THE PROCESSION OF THE QUEEN

The Beadle

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The Cross and Lights of Westminster

The Minor Canons

The Canons' Verger

The Canons of Westminster

The Dean's Verger

The Dean of Westminster

The High Steward The High Bailiff

The Queen's Almsmen

An Honorary Steward

The Commonwealth Flag

The Commonwealth Secretary-General

The Chief Honorary Steward

The Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies

The Commonwealth Mace

His Royal Highness
The Duke of Edinburgh

Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Cambridge

His Royal Highness
Prince Henry of Wales

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

His Royal Highness
The Duke of Cambridge

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York

Suites-in-Attendance

The Service

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

ON behalf of the Dean and Chapter, I welcome you warmly to Westminster Abbey, for our annual celebration of the Commonwealth, in a year in which we particularly give thanks for the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth.

This year's theme is An Inclusive Commonwealth so, as we give thanks for our diversity of faiths and for the variety of resources and circumstances of our countries, let us pray that we may be united in one common bond of mutual support and friendship.

First, we pray in the words of Jesus for the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace:

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.

The Service

All sit for

A REFLECTION

from the Nave Pulpit

by

Sara Ezabe Malliue

Social Inclusivity Campaigner and Queen's Young Leader

All remain seated. The choir sings

JUBILATE DEO

OBE joyful in the Lord, all ye lands : serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God : it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanks-giving, and into his courts with praise : be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting : and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Matthew Martin (b 1976)

Psalms 100

The Service

All remain seated. Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh reads from the Sacrament Steps

UNITY

Maluna a'e o nā lāhui apau ke ola ke kanaka
"Above all nations is humanity"
(Hawaiian proverb)

LET'S talk about unity
in London's Westminster Abbey
did you know there's a London in Kiribati?
Ocean Island: South Pacific Sea.
We're connected by currents of humanity
alliances, allegiances, histories
for the salt in the sea, like the salt in our blood
like the dust of our bones, our return to mud
means while 53 flags fly for our countries
they're stitched from the fabric of our unity
it's called the Va in Samoan philosophy
what you do, affects me
what we do, affects the sea
land, wildlife—take the honeybee
nature's model of unity
pollinating from flower to seed
bees thrive in hives keeping their queen
unity keeps them alive, keeps them buzzing
they're key to our fruit and veg supplies
but parasitic attacks and pesticides
threaten the bee, then you and me
it's all connected—that's unity.

There's a 'U' and an 'I' in unity
costs the earth and yet it's free.
My grandad's from Tuvalu and to be specific
it's plop bang in the middle of the South Pacific
the smallest of our 53 commonwealth nations
the largest in terms of reading vast constellations
ancestors were guided by sky and sea trails
way before Columbus even hoisted his sails!
What we leave behind, matters to those who go
before
we face the future with our backs, sailing shore to
shore
we're earning and saving for our common wealth
a common strong body, a common good health
for the salt in the sea, like the salt in our blood
like the dust of our bones, our return to mud
means saving the ocean, saving the bee
means London's UK seeing London's Kiribati
and sharing our thoughts over a cup of tea
for there's a 'U' and an 'I' in unity
costs the earth and yet it's free.

Selina Tusitala Marsh (b 1971)

The Service

All remain seated. Ellie Goulding sings from the Nave

FIELDS OF GOLD

YOU'LL remember me when the west wind
moves
Upon the fields of barley
You'll forget the sun in his jealous sky
As we walk in fields of gold

So she took her love
For to gaze awhile
Upon the fields of barley
In his arms she fell as her hair came down
Among the fields of gold

Will you stay with me, will you be my love
Among the fields of barley
We'll forget the sun in his jealous sky
As we lie in fields of gold

See the west wind move like a lover so
Upon the fields of barley
Feel her body rise when you kiss her mouth
Among the fields of gold
I never made promises lightly

And there have been some that I've broken
But I swear in the days still left
We'll walk in fields of gold
We'll walk in fields of gold

Many years have passed since those summer
days
Among the fields of barley
See the children run as the sun goes down
Among the fields of gold

You'll remember me when the west wind
moves
Upon the fields of barley
You can tell the sun in his jealous sky
When we walked in fields of gold
When we walked in fields of gold
When we walked in fields of gold

Sting (b 1951)

All remain seated. The Honourable Dr Joseph Muscat KUOM, Prime Minister of Malta, reads from the Great Lectern

ROMANS 12: 9-18

LET love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The Service

All remain seated. Simphiwe Simon Shibambu, bass, sings from the Sacrament Steps

QONGQOTHWANE

I GQIRHA lendlela nguqongqothwane
Ilgqirha lendlela kuthwa nguqongqothwane

Ebeqabel' egqithapha uquongqothwane
Ebeqabel' egqithapha uquongqothwane

*The witchdoctor of the road is the beetle
The witchdoctor of the road is said to be the beetle*

*He has passed by up the steep hill, the beetle
He has passed by up the steep hill, the beetle*

Traditional Xhosa song

All remain seated for

A REFLECTION

from the Great Pulpit

by

Kofi Annan GCMG CSG

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Service

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



LET all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!

Luckington 394 NEH
Basil Harwood (1859–1949)

George Herbert (1593–1633)

The Service

All sit or kneel for

THE PRAYERS

The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, representing the Buddhist Community, says:

The Lotus Sutra is as if a great cloud arises in the world and covers everything. This beneficent cloud contains moisture. It conceals the sun and cools the earth. Everywhere, equal, and immeasurable the rain pours down and moistens the earth. The dry earth is moistened everywhere and the herbs and trees grow up thickly. Out of this cloud the same rain waters these grasses, trees, and shrubs. The Buddha is exactly like this. He appears in the world as a great cloud which covers everything universally. Once appearing in this world he illuminates and explains the essence of the teachings for the sake of sentient beings. The Great Seer, the Bhagavat, expounds this to the assembly of all the heavenly beings and humans.

The Lotus Sutra

Rabbi Danny Rich, representing Liberal Judaism, says:

The eighth-century BCE Hebrew prophet Isaiah declared:

In days to come, Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the God of the hosts of heaven has blessed, saying: 'Blessed be Egypt, my people, and Assyria, the work of my hands, and Israel, my heritage.'

Today we are all the children of Egypt, and of Assyria, and of Israel.

Eternal God, we pray for the coming of the day when all your children will live together in peace and friendship; when oppression, discrimination, and prejudice, will be relics of the past, and all humanity will be filled with your spirit. May such a time come soon, and last forever.

Trupti Patel, representing the Hindu Community, says:

Let us walk together; let us sing together; in togetherness can we understand each other's minds; thus did the ancient seers share together to reach their divine ends. May our intentions come together; may our hearts become inseparable; may our minds become as one to truly know one another; may we all unite in togetherness.

The Service

Shaykh Dr Mohammad Bahmanpour, representing the Muslim Community, says:

O God, we thank you for these moments of prayer, and for all that you have given us since we were born, up to this moment. Make us appreciate what you have given us and inspire us to use your blessings in a way that would not displease you. You have given us wealth and comfort; assist us in sharing our wealth with others, and to dispense comfort to all. Help us to make our wealth a common wealth, and our common wealth a global wealth. Bless us with peace, and do not punish us with war. Bless us with understanding, and do not punish us with ignorance. Forgive us for what we do in your name. Pardon what we do in the name of your most honourable Messengers. Give us faith, fill our hearts with love and benevolence, and make us just, as you are just.

His Grace Bishop Angaelos, representing the Coptic Orthodox Church, says:

As we gather in the spirit of the unity and diversity of our Commonwealth, we give thanks to you, Lord, for the faithful stewardship of Her Majesty The Queen, and pray that you continue to grant her, and all who lead with her, your blessing, wisdom, and support.

We thank you, Father, for your image and likeness that is equally bestowed upon all humanity. We remember all those affected by the current turmoil in the Middle East, the resulting crisis of displacement across the world, and all who are unable to live with dignity; that the hearts of their oppressors be softened through the realisation of the value and sacredness of every life, and the dignity of all humanity.

All sit. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

O CLAP your hands, all ye people : shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible : he is a great King over all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout : the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God : sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth : sing ye praises every one that hath understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen : God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.
Sing praises unto our King; sing praises.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Psalm 47: 1–2, 5–8

The Service

All remain seated for

A REFLECTION

from the Great Pulpit

by

His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

All stand for

THE ACT OF AFFIRMATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH

LET us now stand to pledge ourselves afresh to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of the Commonwealth.

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity. We affirm our respect for nature, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and for it as a whole.

We affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace between peoples and nations. Joining together in kinship and affinity as members of one worldwide Commonwealth family, we celebrate this great global good, the value it adds for all humanity, and the encouragement we each receive as members of ‘An Inclusive Commonwealth’.

We cherish the spirit of teamwork that inspires us, and the ties of friendship that enable us to work with one another towards creating just and peaceful societies, achieving sustainable and inclusive social progress, advancing democracy, and building economic resilience with prosperity in which all citizens can share.

All respond:

We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, and pledge ourselves to its service, now and for the future.

The Service

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN



LOVE divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Blaenwern 408i NEH
William Rowlands (1860–1937)
arr James O'Donnell

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

The Service

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

UNTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The clergy and choir, together with Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family, move to the west end.

Music after the service:

Allegro Maestoso from Sonata in G Op 28

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

**Members of the congregation are asked to remain
in their places until invited to move by the Stewards.**

Retiring Collection

Royal Association for Deaf people (RAD)

Founded in 1841, the Royal Association for Deaf people is one of the oldest charities working with Deaf people in the UK. It is committed to celebrating and supporting Deaf culture, history and language, and to delivering specialist services that are responsive to the needs of the Deaf Community.

RAD provides a wide variety of services for Deaf people including advocacy, communication support, children, youth and transition, employment and skills, information, advice and guidance and social care. In addition to working within local communities, RAD also works with mainstream services to help them ensure their services are accessible to Deaf people. Throughout 2016, RAD will be hosting a series of events that celebrate both the achievements of the Deaf Community, and their 175th birthday.

Speakers

Sara Ezabe Malliue

Sara Ezabe Malliue is a Queen's Young Leader and advocate for social inclusion. She is a law student at the University of Malta, who has faced discrimination because of her faith. This year she launched the social media anti-discrimination campaign #RedefiningUS to raise awareness about hate speech and the need to support people who feel discriminated against.

Dr Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta

Dr Joseph Muscat was born on the 22nd January 1974. He graduated with Honours from the University of Malta in Public Policy and later as Master of European Studies. In 2007 he attained a Doctorate of Philosophy in Management Research from the University of Bristol. He successfully contested the first European Parliamentary elections in Malta in 2004. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Outstanding Young Person of the Year. In June 2008 he was elected as the Leader of the Partit Laburista. Dr Muscat took office as Prime Minister of Malta on the 11th March 2013. He is married to Michelle and they have twin daughters, Etoile Ella and Soleil Sophie.

Kofi Annan

Kofi A Annan was the 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations and is the founder and chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation. In 2001, he and the United Nations were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. Kofi Annan was praised for being "pre-eminent in bringing new life to the organization." (Norwegian Nobel Committee, October 2001)

His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma

During his eight-year tenure as Commonwealth Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma has focused on advancing the Commonwealth as a values-based organisation, the empowerment of young people, the advancement of women's rights and the special needs of small states. At their Commonwealth Meeting in Malta in November 2015, Heads of Government "commended his contributions to fostering a Commonwealth that is a strong and respected voice in the world; enlarging its networks...and sustaining its global relevance and profile. They paid tribute to his commitment to improving the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth."

Performers

The Melodians Steel Orchestra

The Melodians Steel Orchestra are a South London based steel orchestra formed in 1987. Since its formation in September 1987 by Terry Noel, the award winning Melodians Steel Orchestra has provided opportunities for young people from varied social and racial backgrounds to develop musical skills, techniques and a wide repertoire including classical, modern, calypso, pop and jazz compositions. Travel is encouraged, with frequent performances in London, throughout the UK, Europe and further afield.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir (CYO) mission is “to use music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries”. An accredited Commonwealth Organisation, CYO works full-time to engage communities in the values of the Commonwealth. In 2012 HM The Queen became its Diamond Jubilee Patron. To mark this honour, CYO created the Commonwealth Music Partnership, which links millions of musicians across the Commonwealth to participate in fully-funded opportunities. CHOGM 2011 Final Communique published unique, unanimous Commonwealth Heads’ support of CYO and in 2016 CYO established the Commonwealth Music Council, to curate a music archive of each Commonwealth country.

Selina Tusitala Marsh

Selina Tusitala Marsh is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland. Tusitala is her grandfather’s name and means ‘teller of tales’, a legacy into which she has grown. Selina’s critical and creative work focuses on giving voice to Pacific communities. She was a Poet Olympiad for the 2012 London Olympics, and her award-winning poetry collection, *Fast Talking PI (Pacific Islander)* (2009), featured at the 2012 Frankfurt Book Fair. Selina won the 2015 London Literary Death Match, was recently a Judge for the 2015 Samoa Observer Tusitala Pacific Short Story Competition, and the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards.

Performers

Ellie Goulding

Ellie Goulding is an English singer-songwriter. In 2010, she topped the BBC's annual 'Sound of' poll, won the Critics' Choice Award at the Brit Awards, and released her debut album 'Lights'. Her cover of Elton John's 'Your Song' reached number two in the UK in December 2010 and on 29th April she performed the song at the wedding reception of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Goulding's 2012 album, 'Halycon', included the single 'Burn' which went on to become her first UK number one single. At the 2014 Brit Awards she received the award for British Female Solo Artist and in November 2015 released her third album, 'Delirium'. In December 2015, Ellie received her first Grammy Award nomination for Best Pop Solo Performance. Ellie's stats alone give you some idea of how far she has come, with two number one albums, two Brit Awards, 28 million records sold and Vevo views exceeding 2 billion and more than 2 billion streams.

Simphiwe Simon Shibambu

Simphiwe Simon Shibambu is a South African bass-baritone currently studying for a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance at the Royal College of Music (RCM). Simon is the recipient of a full ABRSM scholarship, has won the inaugural Amazqi Omzansi National Singing Competition (Durban, 2013) and First Prize and the Audience Prize at the Clonter Opera Competition (February 2015). He has recently been accepted on the Jette Parker ROH Young Artist Programme. Today he performs Qongqothwane, a traditional song of the Xhosa people of South Africa that is customarily sung at weddings to bring about good fortune.

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The Abbey's world-famous choir of boys and men plays a central role both in the daily choral services in the Abbey and in the many royal, state and national occasions which take place here. In addition, the choir's schedule includes a wide range of recordings, broadcasts, concerts and overseas tours. Chorister auditions take place throughout the year and enquiries are welcome at any time via the Abbey website: www.westminster-abbey.org/choir-school.

Behind the Scenes

The Commonwealth Mace

The Mace, carried by Kishva Ambigapathy, Chair of the Commonwealth Youth Council, goes before Her Majesty The Queen. It was a gift of the Royal Anniversary Trust to The Queen in her role as Head of the Commonwealth, on the fortieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. The Mace is used on special Commonwealth occasions, including the Commonwealth Day celebrations in London, and at biennial Heads of Government Meetings.

Flowers

The striking flowers you see around the Abbey have been prepared by the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies under the direction of Jane Rowton-Lee.

Flag-bearers

The flag-bearers have been recruited with the support of the High Commissions in London, who each nominate a flag-bearer from their own country usually resident in the United Kingdom. The Commonwealth flag is carried by Angelique Pouponneau, Vice Chair (Inclusion & Engagement) of the Commonwealth Youth Council and is accompanied by an escort of Brownies from the United Kingdom.

The Council of Commonwealth Societies (CCS)

The CCS is a group of organisations which promotes the value of Commonwealth Day and seeks to raise the profile of the modern Commonwealth. The CCS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of its member organisations:

- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Commonwealth Countries League
- Commonwealth Education Trust
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (International Secretariat)
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK)
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Corona Worldwide
- English Speaking Union
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Goodenough College
- Pacific Islands Society
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- Royal Over-Seas League
- Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship
- West India Committee



The Abbey is served by a hearing loop.
Users should turn their hearing aids to
the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested
to refrain from using private cameras, video, or
sound-recording equipment. Please ensure that
mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic
devices are switched off.