# Westminster Abbey



# Spirit of Windrush

# Contributions to Multicultural Britain A Service of Thanksgiving



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 Noon

## MV EMPIRE WINDRUSH

The 'Monte Rosa' was a passenger liner and cruise ship launched by Germany in 1930. From 1939 it became a German troopship, and after the Allied Forces defeated Germany in 1945 the British took it as a 'prize of war' and renamed it Empire Windrush. The ship continued to be used as a troopship after 1945.

MV Empire Windrush started its Caribbean journey in May 1948 from Tilbury Docks, then sailed to Southampton picking up British troops for service in the Caribbean colonies. Two weeks later it docked at Port of Spain (Trinidad), and announced a fare of £28.10s to those who wished to migrate to Britain, an offer which was repeated at their next stop in Jamaica. The ship visited Cuba, Mexico, and Bermuda, and finally sailed to Tilbury Docks, Essex. It was not until the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948 that more than 500 Caribbean passengers disembarked.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1948, The Times newspaper reported the arrival of the MV Empire Windrush under the headline 'Jamaicans arrive to seek work.' It said: 'Of the 492 Jamaicans who arrived at Tilbury on Monday to seek work in this country, 236 were housed last night in Clapham South Deep Shelter. The remainder had friends to whom they could go and prospects of work. The men had arrived at Tilbury in the ex-troopship Empire Windrush. Among them are singers, students, pianists, boxers and a complete dance band. Thirty or forty had already volunteered to work as miners.'

The report was not entirely correct. There were also migrants from other parts of the Caribbean including British Guiana (now Guyana), Trinidad, Bermuda, and British Honduras (now Belize).

The ship sank in the Mediterranean in March 1954 after a sudden and catastrophic fire in her engine room.

Arthur Torrington CBE Windrush Foundation

For further information about Windrush see: www.museumand.org www.windrushday.org.uk www.windrushfoundation.com





# VICTIM, NO RESURRECTION

The artist Terry Duffy created 'Victim, no resurrection' (VNR) in response to the riots that exploded onto UK streets in 1981. Terry was moved to capture the pain and anguish of so many who suffered the inexcusable consequences of social deprivation and racial inequality.

In the years since its creation this inspirational painting has journeyed to many places of worship both near and far. In doing so it has helped to break down barriers between people; engendering discussion, debate, and meditation. The pilgrimage of VNR became the 'Stations of the Cross', challenging us all as Jesus did to pursue unity, compassion, forgiveness, and love for one another.

This Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary service is station eight on its journey, when Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem; he tells them do not weep for me but for yourselves and future generations (St Luke 23: 28). This is pertinent, for in the tears of the parents of Windrushers were the hopes and fears for their children who left the Caribbean in response to the plea from a motherland in dire need of help.

In the cross we see sacrifice and redemption. As we witness the presence of VNR during this service of thanksgiving may we contemplate on the lessons of hope; love for one another in responding to the call, resilience in the face of rejection, and compassion in the contributions so generously given by the brothers and sisters of MV Empire Windrush, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Dr Elizabeth Henry National Church Institutions, Church of England



# enabling young people to discover and use their talents

We are a registered Christian charity, working with young people to help them discover and use their God-given talents, whilst building the character to sustain their gifts. We work with young people aged 13 to 21 years who are encouraged to participate irrespective of ethnicity, faith, ability, or economic placement.

We share a burning passion to see young people grow in every area, and for us to be able to provide them with the environment and tools for that growth. We create innovative, inspiring, educational and fun projects for all young people, with an emphasis on those who are from challenging circumstances. Focussing on building young people up through quality experiences, we create and implement youth projects London wide and beyond, in response to consultation with the young people in their areas. These projects are positive and productive and serve to show our young people in a favourable light.

www.thehebefoundation.org.uk

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

The whole of the church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

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The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Choir, directed by Karen Gibson. The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist. The dramatic elements of the service are directed by Roy Alexander Weise. The keyboard is played by Vaughan Larmond. The Anthem to Windrush is composed and conducted by Dr Shirley J Thompson and performed by the Windrush Soloists. Pen Mendonça, cartoonist, will be recording the service.

Before and after the service, steel drums are played by the Shern Hall Methodist Youth Steelband, led by Evangelica Solomon.

*The organist plays:* Meditation on 'Brother James's Air'

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

The High Sheriff of Greater London and The Lord Mayor of London are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made, and they are conducted to their seats. All remain seated.

The Right Honourable Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and he is conducted to his seat. All remain seated.

The Right Honourable Theresa May MP, Prime Minister, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and she is conducted to her seat. All remain seated.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and she is conducted to her seat. All stand, and then sit.

All stand.

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London, representing Her Majesty The Queen, is received by the Dean of Westminster at the West Gate. Presentations are made.

All sit.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

#### THE INVITATION

A dramatic exploration of the invitation from the British to Caribbean citizens, highlighting the context for the first migration of Jamaicans and Trinidadians to the shores of Great Britain in 1948

All stand to sing

#### THE HYMN

during which the procession moves to places in Quire, the Lantern, and the Sacrarium



O GOD, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home;

under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

St Anne 417 NEH probably by William Croft (1678–1727) Organist of Westminster Abbey 1708–27 A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

> Man frail, and God eternal Isaac Watts (1674–1748) after Psalm 90: 1–5

From the High Altar, The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

## THE WELCOME

WE come to this holy place where God has been worshipped for over a thousand years, and where kings and queens and the great men and women of our national history and international influence are buried and memorialised, to worship almighty God and to pray for all his people.

The arrival on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948 of the Empire Windrush at the Port of Tilbury brought more than 500 men and women from the Caribbean to live in Britain and to contribute to the recovery of this country from the rigours and devastation of the Second World War.

Following the British Nationality Act of 1948, all citizens of British colonies had been accorded Citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies. This first arrival marks the beginning of significant migration from the Caribbean. Seventy years later, we come to give thanks for the lives, commitment, and courage of those original settlers, to celebrate the rich diversity of multicultural Britain in our own day, and to pray that all people in this land as elsewhere may live together in harmony and mutual respect.

All sit. The choir sings

# THE ANTHEM

A S I travel through this pilgrim land, there is a friend who walks with me; leads me safely through the sinking sand, it is the Christ at Calvary. This would be my prayer, dear Lord, each day to help me do the best I can, for I need thy light to guide me day and night, blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

Jesus, hold my hand, for I need thee every hour. Through this pilgrim land protect me by thy power: hear my feeble plea: O Lord, look down on me. When I kneel in prayer, I hope to meet you there: blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

Let me travel in the light divine that I may see the blessed way. Keep me that I may be wholly thine and sing redemption's song some day. I will be a soldier brave and true and ever firmly take a stand, as I onward go and daily meet the foe; blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

When I wander through the valley dim toward the setting of the sun, lead me safely to a land of rest, if I a crown of life have won. I have put my faith in thee, dear Lord, that I may reach the golden strand: there's no other friend on whom I can depend; blessed Jesus, hold my hand.

Albert Brumley (1905–77)

Jesus hold my hand Albert Brumley

#### MIXED WELCOME

A physical theatre expression of testimonies of the first Windrush settlers in Britain; the unforeseen conflicts, the reality of survival, as well as the unexpected welcome from existing communities in Britain

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



MY hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the 'whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found, dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

Solid Rock William Bradbury (1816–68) after Edward Mote (1797-1874)

The Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Queen, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and Priest Vicar of Westminster Abbey, reads from the Great Lectern

### THE FIRST LESSON

THUS says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29: 4–11

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

# THE ANTHEM

FAITHFUL one, so unchanging; ageless one, you're my rock of peace. Lord of all, I depend on you; I call out to you, again and again, I call out to you, again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble; you lift me up when I fall down. All through the storm, your love is the anchor; my hope is in you alone

Brian Doerksen (b 1965)

Brian Doerksen

Jayden Hamilton reads from the Nave Pulpit

# THE SECOND READING

T is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But 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.

2 Corinthians 4: 6–9

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

# THE ADDRESS

*by* The Reverend Canon Joel Edwards Nadine Benjamin, Gweneth-Ann Rand, Ronald Samm, and Byron Jackson sing

#### THE ANTHEM

 $T^{\text{HE boat anchored forth, the waves stood high}_{\text{To the Motherland, we set our sights}}_{\text{Holding dreams, and hopes, and plans,}}_{\text{Our heads held high}}$ 

And there you were, Lord Your arms around us Your nest held strong, so we could learn to fly! Your house stood strong, so we could learn to thrive.

We worked, and we toiled to build this land To your Service, we were honour-bound Through it all We learned to keep your grace always

And there you were, Lord Your arms around us Your nest held strong, so we could learn to fly! Your house stood strong, so we could learn to thrive.

Bles-sed are those whose strength is in you! My soul yearns e'en faints for your courts Hear our prayers Lord Look on us with favour Hear our pray'rs, Dear Lord!

And now we pass the baton on To our children, and their children grown Holding dreams, and hopes, and plans, Their heads held high

And there you are, Lord Your arms surround us Your house stands strong, so we will always fly! Your house stands strong, so we will always thrive.

Give thanks and praise to you our Father We thank you O Lord Give thanks and praise for evermore!

Psalm to Windrush: for the Brave and Ingenious Shirley J Thompson commissioned for this service by the Windrush Commemoration Committee

# PRAYERS FOR THE FUTURE

A physical and lyrical expression of the journey that the Windrush generation have been on since their settlement in the UK through to the present day. A thanksgiving celebration of resilience, tolerance, and overcoming. A prayer for our future

At the end of the prayers The Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon in Residence, says

All these, our prayers and praises, let us offer to the Father in the words our Saviour has taught us.

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 HYMN



TO God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, Who yielded his life an atonement for sin, And opened the life-gate that all may go in:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son; and give him the glory—great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer the promise of God! The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

To God be the Glory 463 H&P William Doane (1832–1916) Frances van Alstyne (1820–1915)

## THE BLESSING

**G**<sup>O</sup> 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 faint-hearted; 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. **Amen.** 

All remain standing as the procession moves to the west end of the Abbey Church

*Music after the service* 

Toccata on 'Now thank we all our God'

Egil Hovland (1924–2013)

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung

# Members of the Congregation are kindly requested to remain in their seats until directed to move by the Stewards

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Hebe Foundation