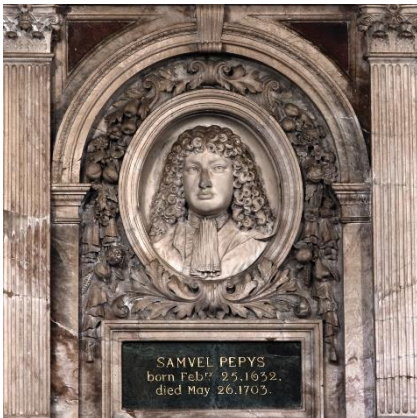


# The Samuel Pepys Commemoration Service

Thursday 28th May 2026  
12pm-12.30pm

*Followed by the*

**Annual Address by  
Guy de la Bédoyère**



## Welcome to St Olave Hart Street

Founded in 1050 and dedicated to a Viking warrior who became King and then Patron Saint of Norway. The first healing miracle here associated with Olaf is recorded in the twelfth century. A Great Fire survivor, thanks in part to the efforts of Samuel Pepys (Master of Trinity House and The Clothworkers' Company) & miraculously restored after the blitz, the story of this church is entwined with London's mercantile and maritime past. Some jest that the whole world has passed through this tiny parish. Pepys, buried here, with his wife Elizabeth, called it his "own church"; the poet John Betjeman described it as, "a country church in the world of Seething Lane." City and countryside. Warrior and healer. Like our own lives, the story of this place is layered rather than clear cut. A place where apparent opposites are held in holy tension. Where lives meet and meaning quietly emerges.

We welcome members of The Clothworkers' Company, the Corporation of Trinity House, The Samuel Pepys Club and other special guests to this service of Commemoration. We are indebted to our voluntary choir, The St Olave Singers for the music, performing under the direction of Colin Spinks, our organist. The officiant is The Reverend Phillip Dawson, Rector.

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## Guy de la Bédoyère

*After the service we welcome back Guy de la Bédoyère to give the Annual Address.*

Guy is a historian and writer with numerous books to his credit. One of the very few people able today to read the system of shorthand used by Samuel Pepys, he has edited the letters exchanged by Pepys with John Evelyn in *Particular Friends. The Correspondence of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn*, covering their 38-year association and friendship. He has also produced the only edition of Pepys's correspondence to be published in modern times in *The Letters of Samuel Pepys*. His Address today draws on his most recent book *The Confessions of Samuel Pepys* which explores, with candour, Pepys' varied and complex relationships with women.

## Excerpts from Pepys' Diary

*Sunday 4 November 1660:*

(Lord's day). In the morn to our own church, where Mr. Mills did begin to nibble at the Common Prayer, by saying "Glory be to the Father, &c." after he had read the two psalms; but the people had been so little used to it, that they could not tell what to answer. This declaration of the King's do give the Presbyterians some satisfaction, and a pretence to read the Common Prayer, which they would not do before because of their former preaching against it.

*Wednesday 5 June 1661:*

So home Sir William and I, and it being very hot weather I took my flageolette and played upon the leads in the garden, where Sir W. Pen came out in his shirt into his leads, and there we staid talking and singing, and drinking great drafts of claret, and eating botargo and bread and butter till 12 at night, it being moonshine; and so to bed, very near fuddled.

*Friday 9 March 1665/66:*

Anon, all home to Sir W. Batten's and there Mrs. Knipp coming we did spend the evening together very merry. She and I singing, and, God forgive me! I do still see that my nature is not to be quite conquered, but will esteem pleasure above all things, though yet in the middle of it, it has reluctances after my business, which is neglected by my following my pleasure. However musique and women I cannot but give way to, whatever my business is. They being gone I to the office a while and so home to supper and to bed.

# Order of Service

## Organ Prelude

Voluntary in A Minor – *Thomas Tomkins*

*Please stand as the Minister and civic party enter and the choir sing the:*

## Introit

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem – *John Blow*

*Words of welcome may be said. We sing the:*

## Hymn

He who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make them once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round  
With dismal stories,  
Do but themselves confound;  
His strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might;  
Though he with giants fight,  
He will make good his right  
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend  
Us with thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.

*Music: Percy Dearmer (1868-1936)*

*Text: John Bunyan, (1628-1688)*

*The congregation may sit for:*

### **The Bidding Prayer**

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth, grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. Grant succour to the poor, comfort to the distressed, healing to the sick and your grace to our Sovereign Lord Charles that all may be governed to the common good. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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 Hon. Mary Ann Slim, Master of The Clothworkers' Company will read:*

**The Lesson** Luke 12.1-3

In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

*The congregation stands to sing the:*

**Hymn**

**Let us, with a gladsome mind,  
praise the Lord, for he is kind:  
For his mercies ay endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Let us blaze his name abroad,  
for of gods he is the God:  
For his mercies ay endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**He with all-commanding might  
filled the new-made world with light:  
For his mercies ay endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

He the golden-tressèd sun  
caused all day his course to run:  
For his mercies ay endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

And the hornèd moon at night  
'mid her spangled sisters bright:  
For his mercies ay endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us, with a gladsome mind,  
praise the Lord, for he is kind:  
For his mercies ay endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

*John Milton (1608-1674)*

*Please sit while the choir sing the:*

### **Anthem**

Hear, O heavens – *Pelham Humfrey*

*Please stand for the:*

### **Wreath Laying**

*Commodore Ian Gibb, Elder Brother of Trinity House shall place a laurel wreath at the memorial of the Diarist and say:*

I place this wreath in memory of Samuel Pepys.

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Mr Tony Venning a member of The Samuel Pepys Club shall place a bouquet beneath the memorial of Elizabeth Pepys and say:*

I place these flowers in memory of Elizabeth Pepys.

**All: Thanks be to God**

*The Minister will say this Commemorative Prayer:*

O, Lord, according to whose true promise we gather in Thy name; we remember before Thee all who have worshipped in this place, especially Thy servants, Samuel Pepys and his wife, Elizabeth. We praise Thee for their strong faith, high courage, and loyal devotion to duty. And we pray that we in our time may so serve our generation on earth as to be fitted for Thine eternal service in heaven: who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest ever, one God, world without end.  
Amen.

*The choir will sing:*

### **The Pepys' Club Grace**

**Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits:  
who giveth food to all flesh for his mercy endureth for ever.  
Amen.**

*Music by Matthew Locke (1621-1677)  
Composer in Ordinary to Charles II*

*Of this particular piece Pepys writes on the 1st September 1667: 'Lord's Day ...spent all the afternoon, Pelling, Howe, and I, and my boy, singing of Locke's response to the Ten Commandments, which he hath set very finely, and was a good while since sung before the King, and spoilt in the performance – which occasioned his printing them for his vindication, and are excellent good.'*

## Final Hymn

*During the hymn a collection will be taken for the work of the church. Please gift aid your donations if you are able by completing the yellow gift aid envelopes. A card reader is available at the back of the church. Alternatively use the QR code to make a one-off or regular donation online.*



**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
Let us find thy promised rest;  
Take away our love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver;  
Let us all thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy host 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 Heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

*Music: William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)*

*Text: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

*The congregation remains standing for:*

### **The Blessing**

God grant to the living, grace;  
to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,  
peace and concord;  
and to us and to all his servants, life everlasting.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,  
be among you this day and always.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

**Thy choicest gifts in store  
On him be pleased to pour,  
Long may he reign.  
May he defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause,  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the King.**

*As the Minister leaves, the organist will play the:*

### **Organ Voluntary**

Voluntary for Double Organ – *Matthew Locke*

*Please remain seated while the church is prepared for the Annual Address.*

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Olave Hart Street and All Hallows Staining  
with St Catherine Coleman is a Registered Charity Number 113089

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## Special Services & Events

**Friday 29th May 2026 – 7pm-8.20pm – Candlelight Concert by David Pinoit (cello) and Ben Schoeman (piano) performing Bach, Saint-Saens and Rachmaninoff**

Unreserved Seating. Ticket sales, which support the work of the church, £20 available at this link: <https://www.ticketsource.com/ben-schoeman/>

**Saturday 30th May 2026 – 7.00pm – “Incendiary” – Samuel Pepys in Words and Music by Hamblett's Productions (World Premiere)**

Starring soprano Grace Davison and actor Edward Bennett. Presented by Hamblett's in association with Harmonic Artists & MW Music and Artists. Tickets £32.52-43.36 including booking fee available at: <https://www.ticketsource.com/hamblett's/>

**Tuesday 2nd June 2026 – 6.00pm-7.00pm – St Olave Lecture – The Strange History of Samuel Pepys's Diary. Tickets £5.**

Join us for Compline by Candlelight from 5.30pm-6.00pm in our medieval crypt chapel followed at 6pm by our next St Olave Lecture. Professor Kate Loveman joins us to talk about her award-winning book exploring how Samuel Pepys's Diary has been received through the ages, since its first publication 200 years ago.

**Tuesday 9th June 2026 – 5.30pm-6.15pm – Choral Evensong**

A traditional service of Choral Evensong sung according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, with readings from the King James Version of the Bible. The choir sings music by Bruckner, Dyson, Tomkins and Handel.

**Sunday 14th June 2026 – 12.30pm-5.30pm-London Festival of Architecture Guided Tours of St Olave Hart Street – From Ruins to Restoration.** We welcome visitors for guided tours during the London Festival of Architecture in the month which marks 75 years since the post-war restoration of the church began. The Festival Theme for 2026 is 'Belonging'. Our tours will reveal some of the stories of those who have called this place their 'own church' since its foundation in 1050. Tours will start every hour 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm and 5.30pm. Self guided visits welcome at other times.

Sign up for events via Eventbrite: <https://stolavehartstreet.eventbrite.com>