

The Blessing of
St Giles' Fair,
Oxford



5:00pm, Sunday 8th September 2024

*The Welcome by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Mike Rowley
The Rev'd Anthony Buckley, City Rector, introduces the service. Our
thanks to The Oxford Salvation Army Band for accompanying the hymns.
Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Wells for providing the Fairground organ for
music before and after the service.*

Hymn

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
Thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.**

**Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise:
Thou mine inheritance through all my days;
Thou and Thou only the first in my heart:
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

Old Irish Text, versified by Eleanor Hull.

The Rev'd Claire Browes, of St Giles', prays

O Lord of love and happiness, we pray thee to send thy blessing upon the great St Giles' Fair to be held in this City of Oxford. May it be a source of recreation and innocent pleasure to old and young, may all who come know that their gladness comes from thee, the source of all true happiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray together 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**

Hymn

**TELL out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name - the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

The Reading, Matthew 5:1-10, The Rev'd John Smallman of St Michael's

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they
will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Address, given by the Rev'd Anthony Buckley of St Michael's

Hymn

*AMONG our ancient mountains,
and from our lovely vales.
Oh! let the prayer re-echo
'God bless the Prince of Wales!'*

**With heart and voice awaken
those minstrel strains of yore,
till Britain's name and glory
resound from shore to shore!**

*Among our ancient mountains,
and from our lovely vales.
Oh! let the prayer re-echo
'God bless the Prince of Wales!'*

The Blessing, The Rev'd Canon Peter Groves of St Mary Magdalen

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.**