

THE TOWN MAYOR'S CIVIC SERVICE



held in the presence of
Town Mayor, Councillor Jimmy Carroll
at the
Parish Church of All Saints, Houghton Regis

Sunday 14th April 2024



*The Town Mayor of Houghton Regis
Councillor Jimmy Carroll*

*After this service
all members of the congregation are invited
to All Saints' View for light refreshments.*

As the service begins, we **STAND** for the entrance of the Choir, Civic Party, Clergy, and Standard Bearers.

The procession follows this order,

The Verger of All Saints' Houghton Regis

The Choir of All Saints' Houghton Regis

The Parish Priest of Houghton Regis

The Deputy Mayor of Dunstable

The Mayor of Biggleswade

The Mayor of Sandy

The Mayor of Shefford

The Mayor of Stotfold

The Mayor of Kempston

The Mayor of Ampthill

The Mayor of Harpenden

The Mayor of Leighton-Linslade

The Mayor of Luton

The Mayor of Houghton Regis

The Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council

The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire

The Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire

Standards

During the entrance procession we sing,

***All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.***

**1. Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings.**

All things bright and beautiful...

**2. The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky;**

All things bright and beautiful...

**3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them, ev'ry one.**

All things bright and beautiful...

**4. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.**

All things bright and beautiful...

After this, the Priest says,

In the name of the Father,
✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Priest introduces the celebration and then invites people to pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gave great joy the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life,
and serve you continually with gladness and love;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

After this, we SIT for the first reading,

A reading from the Letter to Saint Paul to the Philippians, (Phil 4:4-9)

Brothers and sisters,

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

After this, we STAND to sing,

**1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**2. My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.**

**3. Yea, though I walk thro' death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**

**4. My table Thou hast furnishéd
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

**5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

After this, we SIT for the next reading,

A reading from the Gospel according to John, *(John 14:1-7)*

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas, one of the disciples, said to Jesus, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We **STAND** to sing,

**1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, 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 every trembling heart.**

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

After this, we SIT for Cllr Carroll's reflections on his mayoral year.

After this, we **STAND** to sing,

**1. I vow to thee my country,
all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love:
the love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters,
the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted
the final sacrifice.**

**2. And there's another country,
I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies,
we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness
and all her paths are peace.**

We **SIT** for the Homily by the Parish Priest of Houghton Regis.

The Choir of all Saints sings “Rejoice in the Lord alway”. Words from Philippians 4:4-7 and music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695).

We **STAND** for the prayers of intercessions.

Let us pray in faith to God,
the only true keeper of the house and builder of the city.

Silence is kept.

For our town of Houghton Regis and for all who live here;
for the work of the Town Mayor and the Councillors;
for members of the Youth Council;
for all who bear responsibility for our common life;
for a vision of community which inspires and brings together;

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

For Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla,
for Members Parliament,
for the armed forces of the Crown;
for all who work for the maintenance of Civil order
and the upholding of the rule of law;
for wisdom and discernment in their several vocations;

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

For the volunteer organisations of our town;
for emergency, social, and care workers;
for commitment and resilience in their work.

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

For the schools of our town,
for our uniformed organisations,
for those who work with and for our children
and young people in education and recreation;

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

For all in need and those who care for them;
for those struggling because of unemployment;
for refugees and those without shelter;
for all who suffer through violence, crime,
exploitation, or neglect;

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

For all our prayers, we say together,

All: 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.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son from the dead
you have broken the chains of despair:
fill your people with joy and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

*After this, we remain **STANDING** for the Act of Commitment.*

Dear friends,
let us pledge ourselves anew
to the service of God and of our fellow citizens;
that we may set aside selfish behaviours,
committing ourselves in mutual service
to the building up of the common life of our town.

**All: Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we commit ourselves to serve you,
our neighbours,
and the whole human family,
in the cause of peace, justice, and righteousness.
Guide us through your Spirit;
grant us virtues of wisdom, courage, and hope,
and keep us faithful,
now and always.
Amen.**

The National Anthem follows.

**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!**

The Priest gives the blessing,

The Lord be with you
All: and also with you.

God grant to the living grace; to the departed rest;
to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth,
and all mankind, peace and concord,
and to us sinners, eternal life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

We sing the final hymn,

**1. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

***Thine be the glory,
risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry,
thou o'er death hast won.***

**2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness,
hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.**

Thine be the glory...

**3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

Thine be the glory...

*We remain **STANDING** as the Civic Party, Choir, Clergy, and Standard Bearers exit the church after the hymn.*

The History of Houghton Regis

In the history books references to Houghton Regis have been found at the time of Edward the Confessor. In 1086, it was entered into the Domesday Book, which was a record of a survey of the land of England carried out by the commissioners of William I.

The name of Houstone was recorded in the Domesday Book, but many different versions of the name were recorded between the years of 1086 and 1353. The village name was recorded as Kyngshouton in 1287; while the name of Houghton Regis as seen today, was first used in 1353. The name Regis was used even in the days of the Domesday Book, as it was a royal manor. It has also been thought that the name Houghton was of Saxon origins with “Hoe” meaning spur of a hill and “Tun” meaning village. Whichever the true meaning, it is certainly interesting reading.

The street names in Houghton Regis hold many clues regarding the social history of the area. It is known that Puddlehill (where Chalk Hill is now situated) was occupied from Neolithic times. Before Watling Street (now the A5) was cut through the chalk, Puddlehill and Maidenbower were on the same piece of downland. The hamlets of Puddlehill, Sewell, Bidwell and Thorn formed part of the parish of Houghton Regis and are still recorded as such today.

England was the subject of many invasions in earlier times, and in 878 AD there were raids by the Danes, which lead to England being divided. Houghton Regis was in the middle of the two sides and Anglo-Saxon chronicles record an occasion in 913 AD when the Danes set out to raid Luton. Thanks to local people the aggressors were driven away, and by the time Edward the Confessor came to power in 1046, this was a peaceful land once more.

The oldest known building, which is standing in Houghton today, is All Saints' Parish Church, (situated next to Bedford Square), which was built in the 13th/14th century. Before this a Saxon Church stood on the same site and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Most of modern day Houghton Regis has been built around its magnificent structure, and many people still enjoy visiting the church and worshipping there.

Locally Houghton Regis is famous for Houghton Hall (listed as an ancient monument), which was built for Dame Alice Milard in 1654 and completed in 1700. Nowadays this building is no longer a private residence and is currently used as offices. The Hall once had large and magnificent grounds surrounding it, and although part of the site has been broken up, what remains is a popular area for strollers and dog walkers alike.

The Crown Inn, situated along East End Road, is another part of local history that is still appreciated today. The inn is on a register of alehouse licences of 1822, and it is possibly the same building, which appears on a parish valuation of 1797. The area has been constantly changing and over recent years has been the subject of much re-development.

The local boundary lines have been the subject of many changes, with much land being taken away from the Parish of Houghton Regis. The area today known as High Street North was formerly part of Upper Houghton and was added to Dunstable in 1907. In April 1933 a few local streets underwent a name change, during the extension of the borough of Dunstable, and Poynters Road Dunstable, which leads into Houghton Regis, was one of those streets. It was originally known as Park Road South, whilst Park Road North has still retained its original name.

The boundary lines continued to change well into the 1950s when the Brewers Hill Estate was being built. This estate was again originally incorporated into Upper Houghton, but was lost to Dunstable when the borough was extended. The Parish of Houghton Regis was not happy about this, and the Parish Council put up a strong case in their defence (1953) including the scandalous increase in rates!

With the continuing trend for progress the Tithe Farm Estate was built during the 1960s with its shopping centre Bedford Square being a typical example of 1960s architecture. The original Tithe Farm, which stood on the site of Bedford Square, had a Tithe Barn built in the 15th century by Abbot John Moore. Unfortunately, the farm and barn were demolished during the 1960s developments. The estate was built to ease the housing problem in the Capital to house the over spill. The Dunstable Gazette of January 1954 reported that local authorities within 100-mile radius of London were in discussions about providing assistance with housing. The area evolved with its own community life and identity, separate from those of Luton and Dunstable and with its own local facilities.

Unfortunately, during the redevelopment of the area many small shops and businesses along the High Street have been lost, taking with them historic buildings. This has been one major change between the way Houghton Regis once looked, and today. Examples of businesses which once stood are K Edwards - Provision & Grocery Stores at 100-102 High Street Houghton Regis (now a car sales showroom), The White Horse and Five Bells Public Houses and The Queen St bakery, which was one of the several local bakeries owned by Mr. P Ward (once a local delivery boy). Houghton Regis was also home to The Portland Cement works.

Redevelopment of the area continued through the 1970s when the Parkside Estate was built and has continued ever since. With the cost of housing increasing in the cities, people from all over the country have continued to settle here due to somewhat lower prices and the ease of travel into London via rail and road networks.

The new developments around the town have brought larger than expected archaeological sites, the most important of these finds, has been the 25 Mesolithic Pits (Mesolithic era was 8,800 BC to 4,500 BC). The finding of these pits are of international importance owing to the large number found. See, Mesolithic pits found on Houghton Regis building site - BBC News.

Archaeology has been found throughout various development activity, including the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Celtic, Romano-British, Roman, Saxon and Viking eras. These will help to enrich the heritage of Houghton Regis.

Houghton Regis Town Mayors

1980 -1981 Cllr JBP Kinchella, JP

1981 -1982 Cllr PT Jones

1982 -1983 Cllr RE Ingleton

1983 -1984 Cllr Mrs J Kinchella

1984-1985 Cllr BR Morsley

1985-1986 Cllr JA Pergunas

1986-1987 Cllr ME Platz

1987-1988 Cllr ER Bartley

1988-1989 Cllr JBP Kinchella, JP

1989-1990 Cllr D Barrett

1990-1991 Cllr Mrs J Kinchella

1991-1992 Cllr RH Turner

1992-1993 Cllr CE Williams

1993-1994 Cllr Mrs TR Moreton

1994-1995 Cllr Mrs HP Jones

1995-1996 Cllr Mrs RE Bird

1996 -1997 Cllr FJ Goodchild

1997-1998 Cllr Mrs CM Pymont

1998 -1999 Cllr RH Turner

1999-2000 Cllr PSC Hamill

2000 -2001 Cllr Mrs D Hamill

2001 -2022 Cllr SW Howell

2002 -2003 Cllr DT Hill

2003-2004 Cllr EA Gilchrist

2004-2005 Cllr S Gilchrist

2005-2006 Cllr SM Lagnado

2006-2007 Cllr CJ Carey

2007-2008 Cllr EW Ball

2008-2009 Cllr AS Swain

2009 -2010 Cllr Mrs LM Walmsley

2010-2011 Cllr RD Hines

2011 -2012 Cllr AL Roberts

2012-2013 Cllr DJ Jones

2013-2014 Cllr P Williams

2014-2015 Cllr Miss LJM Ellaway

2015-2016 Cllr RA Shimmin

2016-2017 Cllr C.R.L Slough

2017-2018 Cllr Ms JA Hillyard

2018-2019 Cllr KL Wattingham

2019-2020 Cllr MS Kennedy

2020-2021 Cllr TK McMahon

2021 -2022 Cllr CL Copleston

2022 -2023 Cllr Y Farrell

2023 -2024 Cllr JW Carroll

*The Parish of All Saints' is the Church of England
in Houghton Regis, Linmere, Thorn, Bidwell West, and North Dunstable.*

allsaintshr.co.uk - @allsaintshr

Photo of Cllr Carroll: Joanna Cross Photography

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