



**A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION
TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY
OF THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE
OFFICERS' CLUB, LIVERPOOL**

THE SEA URCHINS

25 SEPTEMBER 2021

LIVERPOOL PARISH CHURCH
OUR LADY & ST NICHOLAS

“It is upon the Navy, under the good providence of God, that the Safety, Honour and Welfare of This Realm do chiefly depend”

*Preamble to the Articles of War in the reign of Charles II in 1661
although there have been various forms of this statement*

***By Captain Patrick Walker CBE Royal Navy
An excerpt from his Foreword to our book
“Hold Fast”***

One of the overriding pleasures from my Naval service is the camaraderie that I have been fortunate to enjoy both while serving and now in my retirement. And this is at the heart of what the Sea Urchins stand for: an opportunity to meet and share experiences in convivial surroundings with a wonderful range of like-minded people.

So, I wish to express my sincere thanks and congratulations to all those Sea Urchins, past and present, who have voluntarily accepted responsibility for supporting, developing and maintaining our Club as the warm and welcoming organisation it is today. May their successors continue in a similar vein to preserve this for the next one hundred years.

Choir Introit

*O be 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 thanksgiving, 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.*

Words: Psalm 100

Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Liverpool

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease,
Turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.

*Words: German, Joachim Neander (1650-80) trans.
Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)
Music: Lobe den Herren – anon. (German, 17th century)*

Bible Reading (Psalm 107 vv.23-30)
Captain Patrick Walker CBE Royal Navy

Choir Psalm

Psalm 67

- 1 *God be merciful unto us, and bless us * and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us;*
- 2 *That thy way may be known upon earth * thy saving health among all nations.*
- 3 *Let the people praise thee, O God * yea, let all the people praise thee.*
- 4 *O let the nations rejoice and be glad * for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.*
- 5 *Let the people praise thee, O God * let all the people praise thee.*
- 6 *Then shall the earth bring forth her increase * and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.*
- 7 *God shall bless us * and all the ends of the world shall fear him.*

*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.*

**Address by the President,
concluding with the Naval Collect**

Lieutenant Commander John Glover RD Royal Naval Reserve

Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Self denying, death defying,
Thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

Words: James Edmeston (1791 – 1867)
Tune: "Mannheim", from F Filitz's Choralbuch, 1847

Sermon

The Rector of Liverpool

Choir anthem

*Achieved is the glorious work;
The Lord beholds it and is pleas'd.
In lofty strains let us rejoice!
Our song let be the praise of God.*

Words: Gottfried von Swieten

Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Prayers

Prayers of Intercession

The following response is used

Priest: Lord in your mercy

All: hear our prayer

At the end of the prayers we join together in the Lord's Prayer

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.

Solo
“Homeward Bound”
Danielle Louise Thomas

Reading
“Sea Fever”
John Masefield (1878-1967)
Mrs Pamela Brown MBE SSStJ JP MNM DL

Hymn

During the hymn there is a collection for the work of Liverpool Parish Church and the Club's nominated charity - Mission to Seafarers

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go:
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

*Words: William Whiting (1825–1878)
Music: Melita John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)*

The Blessing

The Rector of Liverpool

National Anthem

Danielle Thomas **and congregation**

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!

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign:
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
God save the Queen!

*St Nicholas' Singers directed by Stuart Keen.
Organist: Ian Wells*

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CLUB

The Club was formed in 1921 as the “Sea Urchins Lunch Club” and the logo from the 1923 Rule Book had a Trident above the Urchin rather than the Naval Crown we have today.



It was not until 1923 that the name was changed to the “Royal Naval Reserve Officers’ Lunch Club” and then shortly after the word “Lunch” was deleted.

So, why a Sea Urchin and “Hold Fast”?
The same question was asked by the Liverpool Journal of Commerce and Shipping and the now definitive answer is:

....the fact that the sea urchin, are a specie of shellfish, which fastens itself to the rock when it is impossible to release it. The organisers of the club, therefore, chose this title having in mind the grit and determination shown by all RNR Officers in times of emergency and peril.

By early 1926, the Club membership stood at over 300, such was the popularity of the regular weekly lunch meetings and annual dinners.

The Club has prospered over the years, but whilst not having the membership numbers today, the purpose of the Club as stated in 1921 has not changed and is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago:

to maintain and foster social intercourse amongst Royal Naval Reserve Officers, sea-going or otherwise, and to give the opportunity to discuss matters of service and general interest and to meet periodically at lunch or otherwise, at a place selected by the Committee.

The Members continue to put the world to rights, to “swing the lamp” and contribute to the Wardroom Mess bar profits!

Here’s to the next One Hundred Years!

