



An Observance for Commonwealth Day 2014

In the presence of Her Majesty The Queen
His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall
His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex
Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex

Monday 10th March 2014 at 3.15 pm



#teamcommonwealth
The Commonwealth theme for 2014



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

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

**It is my great pleasure, as Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies,
to welcome you to this very special event.**

In an age of renewed global dangers and uncertainties, while governments may differ
and nations struggle to maintain coherence, the Commonwealth family continues to
knit together as never before. The team between peoples, the partnership, the unifying
association of common values and purpose which is the modern Commonwealth,
stands out increasingly as a network of hope across the planet.

Today's Commonwealth is one of the world's best pressure groups for gender equality,
for youth opportunity, for mutual help and respect between peoples from large nations
and small. Sometimes it falters but always the will and pressure to achieve progress
for the collective benefit of our citizens is there.

Our Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey, in the presence of
the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen, and His Royal Highness
The Duke of Edinburgh, allows us to give thanks for what has been achieved and
for the chance to achieve much more. It proclaims the vitality, and ever increasing
connectedness, of peoples across a third of the planet (with others knocking at the
door) who are determined to work together in every field, from the defeat of poverty
and the stability of governance to sport and games, to art, music, and literature—and
all in the best causes of humanity.

This year, the Observance event, and the day of the Commonwealth, will reach
out as never before in recent times, and be matched by ceremonies, services,
and flag displays across the towns and cities of the United Kingdom, and of other
Commonwealth countries, as a reminder of our common family purpose and of what
together we can do.

The Right Honourable The Lord Howell of Guildford
Chairman of the Council of Commonwealth Societies



HEADLINE ACT.

Because behind every great athlete is
a team rooting him on.

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Team Commonwealth

What is the Commonwealth theme?

Every year, the Commonwealth chooses a theme to provide a focus for its activities. The theme is celebrated throughout the year, with special events taking place during Commonwealth Week, including the Commonwealth Day Observance.

What does 'Team Commonwealth' mean?

This year's Commonwealth theme, 'Team Commonwealth', celebrates how fifty-three widely differing countries can be united in their shared values and work together to further common aims.

Through a series of events and programmes in 2014, the Commonwealth will celebrate the very real spirit of friendship and motivation towards the shared goals and values that exist between Commonwealth members. As competitors from across the globe gather in Glasgow for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, this team spirit will be on display not just within nations, but also between them.

To find out more about the theme and how you can get involved, visit
www.commonwealththeme.org



#teamcommonwealth

The Commonwealth theme for 2014

Before the Observance

Canada			United Kingdom
New Zealand			Australia
India			South Africa
Sri Lanka			Pakistan
Malaysia			Ghana
Cyprus			Nigeria
Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Trinidad and Tobago			Jamaica
Kenya			Uganda
Malta			Malawi
Zambia			Guyana
Singapore			Lesotho
Botswana			Mauritius
Barbados			Nauru
Swaziland			Samoa
Tonga			The Bahamas
Bangladesh			Papua New Guinea
Grenada			Solomon Islands
Seychelles			Dominica
Tuvalu			Kiribati
Saint Lucia			Vanuatu
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines			Antigua and Barbuda
Belize			Saint Christopher and Nevis
Maldives			Namibia
Brunei Darussalam			Mozambique
Cameroon			Rwanda

Music before the start of the Observance is performed by the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra under the direction of Paul Carroll.

The Procession of Flags

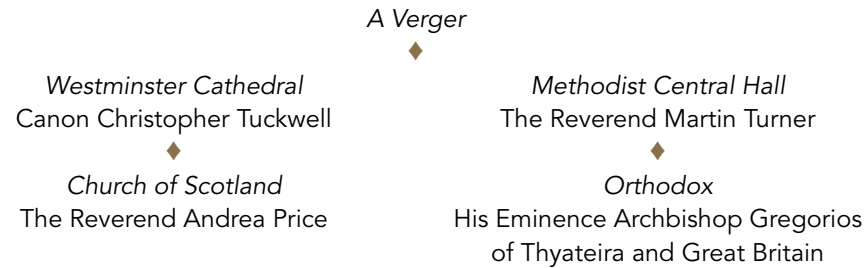
As the procession of Commonwealth flags moves through the Abbey, it is accompanied by the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra. The flags of the member countries of the Commonwealth are carried in the order determined by the date of membership (when read from right to left).

The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants



The Procession of Honoured Guests and Participants

The Representatives of the Christian Churches



The Observance

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex are received. Presentations are made. All remain seated.

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall are received. Presentations are made. All remain seated.

A fanfare is sounded. All stand.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh are received. Presentations are made.

All sing

The National Anthem

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.

The procession forms and moves through the Nave and the South Quire Aisle, into the Lantern, Sacrarium, and Quire.

The Observance

All remain standing to sing

The Hymn



Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

St Denio 377 NEH
from John Roberts's Caniadau y Cyssegr 1839

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–1908)

The Observance

The Order of the Procession



The Observance

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

The Bidding

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, I welcome you warmly to Westminster Abbey, this House of Kings, the place of coronations since 1066, and House of God, in which almighty God is honoured in daily worship.

In this year of the Commonwealth Games, we think in particular of the unique character of the Commonwealth, bringing people together from countries large and small, rich and poor, each with their own distinctive histories and traditions, and building from all the teams a coherent international community, Team Commonwealth.

United by ties of friendship, we gather here representing the Commonwealth's rich diversity of faiths. We shall pray, each in our own way, that all may learn to depend on each, and each be dependable for all. Let us recall the words of St Paul: 'If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.'

As we come into the presence of almighty God, let us pray for a moment in silence.

Silence is kept.

Now let us pray for the spread of God's kingdom of freedom, peace, and justice, in the words Jesus taught his disciples:

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.

All sit.

The Observance

The Commonwealth Day Message 2014 from Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth

In July this year, the opening of the 20th Commonwealth Games will be marked by the arrival in Glasgow of the baton that started its journey from Buckingham Palace five months ago.

Many of us are following closely the news of the baton relay as it passes through the 70 countries and territories whose teams will gather for the Games. The images bring vividly to life what we mean by the Commonwealth family: it is wonderful to see the warmth, shared endeavour and goodwill as the baton is passed through the hands of many thousands of people.

Affinities of history and inheritance from the past are strong, yet we are bound together by a sense that the Commonwealth is a powerful influence of good for the future. People of all ages from different cultures are weaving an ever-growing network of links which connect us in our diversity and our common purpose. It is this unity that is expressed in this year's theme: 'Team Commonwealth'.

While national teams will be concentrating on the competition in August, Team Commonwealth will have a longer focus, working together to achieve a more enduring success.

Experiences of life differ widely throughout the Commonwealth, and we each make contributions from sometimes very different viewpoints. But we are committed to the same goals. Together we offer each other encouragement and draw strength from this mutual support.

The understanding that we belong together, and are able, through teamwork, to achieve far more than we could do alone, has always been at the heart of our approach. For all of us this is now captured in the Commonwealth Charter which sets out the values and principles which guide and motivate us.

This year, more children and young people are participating in Commonwealth Day celebrations. Advances in technology enable us to reach a greater number of young people in schools, on-line using the 'Commonwealth Class' initiative, and through events in local communities where the Commonwealth flag is being raised.

I am delighted that in this, the year of 'Team Commonwealth', we will be working to build a brighter, united future in which every one of us can play a part and share in its rewards.

Elizabeth R.

The Observance

A Performance by The Pipes and Drums of Gordon's School

All remain seated for

A Reflection by The Right Honourable The Lord Coe CH KBE

All remain seated. Phillippa Yaa de Villiers reads

Courage—it takes more

It takes more than breath to be alive
more than blood to find your line
more than a hand to throw a stone;

it takes a heart, a heart
beaten into bricks and built into a house
a house where humanity finds a home.

The house is in the street and the
street lies on the land, a land of
corpses and speeches, a land of

lies. The lies we tell to keep
the best for our own—family country god
whatever we imagine is our home.

The best of us are rivers who give themselves to oceans
rivers who throw themselves over cliffs into oceans
rivers who never look back never regret what they've given
and the more they give the more flows out—

Will you won't you will you won't you walk behind Mandela—
follow his feet along Justice street? Won't you will you
beat your heart into a home for all humanity?

He was not alone—a million hands held him up
colossus—and there is no house
without mortar no wall without foundation
no Mandela without Mbeki Sisulu Dadoo
no Biko without Ngoyi without Sobukwe, without Goldberg

The Observance

no Fisher without Slovo without First;
and will you walk behind them, and shout freedom
through your thirst, spend your breath for justice
to prison or to death?

It takes more heart than you think you have
but you are a river and
heroes are heroes because we make them heroes
motho ke motho ka batho babang
river, ocean falling, falling into the sun—
and when languages are forgotten
and our day of life is done
only when we stand together
can we say that we have won
one heart one love
one.

Phillippa Yaa de Villiers (b 1966)

All remain seated. The Choir of Westminster Abbey sings

The Anthem

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
deep peace of the flowing air to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the gentle night to you;
moon and stars pour their healing light on you;
deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you,
deep peace of Christ to you.

John Rutter (b 1945)

adapted from an old Gaelic rune

A Reflection by The Right Honourable The Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE

A Performance by Visual Statement Dance Company

'The March of the Hermit Crabs in the Rain' is a Scottish response to a Caribbean poem and forms part of a project involving 1080 young people from the east end of Glasgow.

The Observance

All stand to sing

The Hymn



God is love: let heaven adore him;
God is love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is love, eternal love.

God is love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Abbot's Leigh 185 NEH
Anthony Caesar (b 1924)

Timothy Rees (1874–1939)

The Observance

All sit. Joel Hodgson reads

1 Corinthians 12: 12–26

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

A Performance by Laura Mvula

The Address by Malala Yousafzai

The Observance

The Choir sings

The Anthem

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.

The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly:
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.
The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all the heart
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.

Kenneth Leighton (1929–88)

George Herbert (1593–1633)

The Observance

All remain seated or kneel for

The Prayers

Canon Christopher Tuckwell, representative of the Roman Catholic Church, says:

Let us pray.

O almighty God, you have called us to faith and life, and encourage us with such a great cloud of witnesses. Grant that we, encouraged by the example of your saints, may persevere in running the race that is set before us, until at length we may receive with them the fullness of your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Venerable Bogoda Seelamiwala, representative of the Buddhist community, says:

The Buddha was in the city of Vaisali when he spoke these words to the Licchavi people to help them to live together in peace and harmony.

May the people have frequent gatherings.

May their meetings be well supported.

May the people assemble and disperse peacefully and attend to their business in concord.

May they follow the constitution.

May they respect seniority.

May they respect the rights, needs and aspirations of all people.

May they respect all faiths and wise people.

Mahaparinibbana Sutta, D N 16

The Observance

Rabbi Danny Rich, representative of the Liberal Jewish community, says:

'How good and how pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together!'

Psalms 133: 1

Eternal God, we pray for the coming of the day when all Your children will live together in peace and friendship; when oppression, discrimination, and prejudice will be relics of the past, and all humanity will be filled with Your spirit. May that day come soon: the day foreseen by our prophets; the day for which we have longed during the course of a hundred generations, when all men and women will know and understand that they are brothers and sisters, and be united in humble reverence before You, and in mutual love and respect. **Amen.**

Anil Bhanot OBE, representative of the Hindu community, says:

The body is the chariot, the intellect the charioteer;
the senses are the horses, the mind the reins;
our goals are the paths the chariot rides upon, and
the rider is the Atma, the Holy Spirit, the Self.

the Katho-Upanishad

When all our faculties work in unison and the intellect guides us to the right aims in life, the Self verily enjoys the journey. Thus we pray for all the teams participating in the Commonwealth Games this year to achieve their goals with exemplary sportsmanship, and to help bring joy to the entire Commonwealth of Nations. Om.

Arezoo Farahzad, representative of the Bahá'í community, says:

Note ye how easily, where unity existeth in a given family, the affairs of that family are conducted; what progress the members of that family make, how they prosper in the world...And if the sphere of unity be still further widened out, that is, if the inhabitants of a whole country develop peaceable hearts, and if with all their hearts and souls they yearn to cooperate with one another and to live in unity, and if they become kind and loving to one another, that country will achieve undying joy and lasting glory. Peace will it have, and plenty, and vast wealth.

The Observance

Note then: if every clan, tribe, community, every nation, country, territory on earth should come together under the single-hued pavilion of the oneness of mankind, and by the dazzling rays of the Sun of Truth should proclaim the universality of man; if they should cause all nations and all creeds to open wide their arms to one another, establish a World Council, and proceed to bind the members of society one to another by strong mutual ties, what would happen then? There is no doubt whatsoever that the divine Beloved, in all His endearing beauty, and with Him a massive host of heavenly confirmations and human blessings and bestowals, would appear in His full glory before the assemblage of the world.

from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Maulana Raza Shabbar, representative of the Shia Muslim community, says:

'Team Commonwealth' gives us the dignity to hold people from all parts of the Commonwealth together on one platform despite the diversity of cultures, languages and traditions. This has been accomplished with courage and sincerity of prayer to God. We should recite in all humility:

O God, I ask Thee for Thy Mercy which embraceth all things through which Thou dominateth all things, towards which all others are humble.

We pray for unity and wisdom among all the people of the Commonwealth, for their good health and better living. May we all receive the blessings of God the Almighty for all of us here together.

The Reverend Martin Turner, representative of the Methodist Church, says:

Heavenly Father, we pray that the Commonwealth might continue to be a blessing to your world. Inspire within us a spirit of service that, united in heart and mind and as good stewards of your gifts, we might work together for the common good, strive for justice and peace, and support one another in our various needs; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Observance

All stand for

The Act of Affirmation to the Commonwealth

The Secretary-General says:

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity. We affirm our respect for nature, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and for it as a whole. We affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace between peoples and nations.

Joining together as members of one worldwide Commonwealth family, we celebrate the theme 'Team Commonwealth', the spirit of teamwork that inspires us, and the ties of friendship that enable us to work with one another towards creating just and peaceful societies, achieving sustainable and inclusive social progress, advancing democracy, and building economic resilience with prosperity in which all citizens can share.

We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, and pledge ourselves to its service, now and in the future.

The Observance

All sing

The Hymn



Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good and ill,
who ever lives!

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love!
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

Darwall's 148th 475 NEH
John Darwall (1731–89)
arranged by James O'Donnell

Richard Baxter (1615–91)

The Observance

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

The Blessing

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Music after the service:

Grand Chœur in D Op 18

Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)

Members of the congregation are asked to remain in their places until invited to move by the Stewards. Those in the Nave will be asked to leave by the Great West Door. Those seated in the Lantern and Transepts leave by the North Door.



A RETIRING COLLECTION IS TAKEN FOR

the Malala Fund

For more information, see page 29

Speakers *in order of appearance*



**The Right
Honourable
The Lord Coe
CH KBE**

Sebastian Coe is
Executive Chairman
of CSM Sport and

Entertainment and was recently elected Chairman of the British Olympic Association. He was Chairman of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Seb set twelve world records during his athletic career, and at the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 he won Gold in the 1500m and Silver in the 800m, a feat which he repeated in Los Angeles in 1984. He retired from competitive athletics in 1990 and became a Conservative MP. In 2002, he was made a Peer.

Seb is Vice President of the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) and Chairman of the Sports Honours Committee. He received a Companion of Honour in the 2013 New Year's Honours List.



**Phillippa
Yaa de Villiers**

Born in
Johannesburg,
South Africa,
Phillippa Yaa
de Villiers is a

writer and performer described as 'compassionate, insouciant and outspoken'. Her one-woman show *Original Skin* is based on her own experience and explores transracial adoption, apartheid and relationships, and has toured in South Africa and to Germany. Her second collection, *The Everyday Wife* (Modjaji Books 2010), won the South African Literary Award for Poetry in 2011, and she co-edited *No serenity here: an anthology of African poetry* which was translated into Mandarin in 2010. Her story *The day that Jesus dropped the ball* won the 2009 Writing Beyond the Fringe Award and was translated into Flemish, French and Dutch, and broadcast in Europe.

Phillippa Yaa de Villiers has been asked to write this year's poem in recognition of both the twenty-year anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections, and as a tribute to Nelson Mandela's life work. This was a period of the Commonwealth's history when the family of nations came together in the spirit of teamwork to support a new South Africa.

Speakers



The Right Honourable The Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE

Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE is one of Britain's greatest

Paralympic athletes, winning sixteen Paralympic medals in five Paralympic Games, including eleven gold medals, and is six-times winner of the London Wheelchair Marathon over a career spanning sixteen years. Now retired from competitive sport, Tanni's current roles include membership of the boards of London Marathon, Transport for London, and the London Legacy Development Corporation. In March 2010, Tanni was made a crossbench peer, becoming Baroness Grey-Thompson of Eaglescliffe in the County of Durham.



Joel Hodgson

Joel Hodgson, a twenty-six-year-old from Belize, was adopted by a Scottish couple at the age of four. He grew

up in Scotland, and in 2010 his life dramatically changed and he became homeless. To survive, he started selling the *Big Issue*, and through that Joel managed to secure himself a corporate placement at a top city law firm. Joel was recognised by his employers, who gave him a permanent job and invited him to carry the London 2012 Olympic torch in the run up to the Games. Since then, Joel has been determined to try and compete for Belize at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the city in which he first arrived when he was adopted. He continues to act as an ambassador for the *Big Issue*, and to support homeless charities.

Speakers



Malala Yousafzai

Born in 1997, Malala Yousafzai grew up in the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan. Since the age of

ten, Malala has campaigned for the rights of girls to receive an education.

In October 2012, the then fifteen-year-old Malala was shot by the Taliban while travelling home from school on the bus with her friends. Following the attack, Malala was flown to Birmingham to receive treatment, and by March 2013 she had made a remarkable recovery. Now living in Birmingham with her family, Malala has become internationally known for her courage in refusing to be silenced and continuing her fight for the right of everyone to receive an education.

Malala has received numerous awards, including Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and Conscience, the International Children's Peace Prize, the 2012 Tipperary International Peace Award, the Premi Internacional Catalunya 2013, the 2013 Simone de Beauvoir Prize for Women's Freedom, the Oklahoma City 2013 Reflections of Hope Award, Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award

2013, and *Glamour's* Woman of the Year Award 2013. Malala was nominated for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize and was named as one of 'The 100 Most Influential People in the World' in 2013 by *Time* magazine. Malala's book, *I am Malala*, has been published in over twenty-seven territories. Following the outpouring of support that Malala received throughout her ordeal, she set up an international fund, the Malala Fund, which is dedicated to helping promote education for girls throughout the world.



His Excellency Kamallesh Sharma

Kamallesh Sharma has been Commonwealth Secretary-General since 2008. A career diplomat, Mr Sharma

had previously served as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and was the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Timor Leste. As India's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva and New York, he was spokesperson for developing countries in the Uruguay Trade Round and was closely involved in the development of the Monterrey Consensus and Millennium Development Goals. He is currently Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra



The mission of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra is to 'use music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries'. In October 2011, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Western Australia, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra was given the unique support of all the Commonwealth Heads of Government. This support was listed as one of thirty unanimous agreements in the Final Communiqué. The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir were hugely honoured when Her Majesty The Queen became their Diamond Jubilee Patron in 2012.

In 2012, as a contribution to the legacy of Her Majesty's sixty years as Head of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir launched a major pan-Commonwealth initiative, the Commonwealth Music Partnership, which links all the choirs, orchestras, and music schools in the Commonwealth to create opportunities for educational exchange.

Today's performance has been made possible by the generous support of Donald Best.

The Pipes and Drums of Gordon's School

Gordon's School is a voluntary-aided secondary school with academy status near Woking, Surrey. It was founded in 1886 by public subscription as the national memorial to general Charles Gordon CB of Khartoum. Queen Victoria was the school's first patron, and the reigning monarch has been ever since.



A unique and famous feature of Gordon's is their fifty-strong pipes and drums band. The pipes and drums play not only for their nine annual ceremonial parades and other activities, but are also in high demand for fêtes, charity dinners, balls and other events outside the school. The pipes and drums wear a form of military uniform incorporating the Gordon tartan. Led by their Bandmaster, Cecil McCready, the band, and the newly formed dancing team, has continued to grow and develop into a very popular and important aspect of the school and the local community.

The Choir of Westminster Abbey



The Choir of Westminster Abbey is renowned worldwide as one of the finest choirs of its type. Comprising some thirty boys (all of whom attend the Abbey's dedicated residential Choir School) and twelve professional adult singers (known as Lay Vicars), the Choir plays a central role both in the daily choral services in the Abbey and in the many royal, state, and national occasions which take place there. In addition to fulfilling its responsibilities in Westminster, the Choir undertakes an extensive programme of recordings, broadcasts, concerts, and tours, travelling in recent years to Australia, the United States, the Far East, Russia, Hungary, Spain, and Italy. The Choir is directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers, and the organ is played by Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.

The Visual Statement Dance Company

Award-winning Glasgow dance company Visual Statement is renowned for its imaginative and innovative approach to introducing young people to the performing arts. Its performance today is part of a ten-month dance project inspired by

A River of Stories: Tales and Poems from Across the Commonwealth, compiled by Alice Curry and illustrated by Jan Pieńkowski on behalf of the Commonwealth Education Trust. 'The March of the Hermit Crabs in the Rain' is a Scottish response to a Caribbean poem by Bahamian poet Ashley Saunders; a colourful ocean jig fusing crab movements and Scottish traditional dance, accompanied by an audio track which blends the poem with a traditional Celtic melody.

Scottish responses to a story from the Pacific, *The Rain Maker* by Tuvaluan writer Taia Teuai, and a poem from Africa, *Woman's World* by Botswana poet Baralong Seboni, also form part of this project. All three dances will feature in The Queen's Baton Relay event as it travels through the City of Glasgow in the build-up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games.



Performers

Laura Mvula



Laura is a classically trained singer-songwriter, whose music fuses orchestral soul with velvety harmonies. The twenty-six-year-old is a unique collision of her Caribbean background and classical music. Her voice, layered and sensuous, is a one-woman symphony.

Laura has been described as 'The voice of 2013' by the *Evening Standard*, played the main stage at Glastonbury last summer, and her Top Ten UK debut album was shortlisted for the Barclaycard Mercury Prize in 2013 and hailed 'a masterpiece' by the *Sunday Times*. Laura was also shortlisted for the BRITs' 'Critics Choice Award' in 2013 and 'Best New Act' at the Q Awards, won 'Best Female' and 'Best R&B/Soul Act' at the 2013 MOBO Awards, and was nominated for the 'Best Female' and 'British Breakthrough Act' awards at the 2014 BRITs. You might also recognise her as being one of 'Britain's Leading Ladies' for the Marks & Spencer campaign that ran in late 2013.

Clyde

Clyde is the Official Mascot of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. The thistle is cheeky, gallus, and full of Scottish banter—but still takes plenty of pride in being the friendly face of the Games. Created by thirteen-year-old Beth Gilmour, Clyde was unveiled to the world on 20th September 2013. Since then, he has toured Scotland and beyond, spreading the joy of the Games to the people he meets—and he's met quite a few! The popular mascot has crossed paths with more than 600,000 on his travels, and uses Twitter to keep in touch with over 7,000 followers. Friendly and fun-loving, he perfectly embodies the spirit of the Games, and of the Commonwealth.

Clyde and Glasgow 2014 are delighted to support the Commonwealth Day celebrations at Westminster Abbey today, in the year that Glasgow welcomes the world.



Retiring Collection



Your donation today will be used to support the Malala Fund.

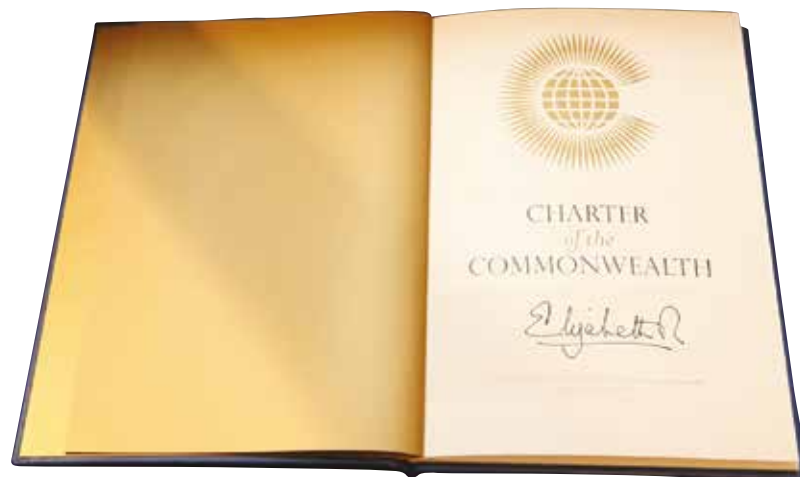
There are 600 million adolescent girls in the developing world. They are an undeniable force for social and economic impact. But only if given the opportunity.

Around the world, girls are denied a formal education because of social, economic, legal and political factors. And in being denied an education, society loses one of its greatest and most powerful resources.

The Malala Fund aims to change that.

Education empowers girls to raise their voices, to unlock their potential, and to demand change. The Malala Fund's solutions are grounded in inspired innovation: they are girl-centric approaches to education that support the Fund's goal of creating a world where every girl reaches her true potential.

The Commonwealth Charter



On this day last year, Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, signed the Commonwealth Charter.

The Charter brings together the values and aspirations which unite the Commonwealth—democracy, human rights and the rule of law—in a single, accessible document.

The Charter expresses the commitment of member states to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth.

The Charter also acknowledges the role of civil society in supporting the goals and values of the Commonwealth.

Behind the Scenes

The Commonwealth Mace



The Mace, carried by Mr David Lartey, goes before The Queen. It was a gift of the Royal Anniversary Trust to The Queen in her role as Head of the Commonwealth, on the fortieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. The Mace is used on special Commonwealth occasions, including the Commonwealth Day celebrations in London, and at biennial Heads of Government Meetings.

Flowers



The striking flowers you see around the Abbey have been prepared by the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies under the direction of Jane Rowton-Lee.

Flag-bearers

The flag-bearers have been recruited with the support of the High Commissions in London, who each nominate a flag-bearer from their own country usually resident in the United Kingdom. The Commonwealth flag is accompanied by an escort of Brownies from the United Kingdom.

The Council of Commonwealth Societies (CCS)

The CCS is a group of organisations, which promotes the value of Commonwealth Day and seeks to raise the profile of the modern Commonwealth. The CCS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of its member organisations:

- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Commonwealth Broadcasting Association
- Commonwealth Business Council
- Commonwealth Countries League
- Commonwealth Education Trust
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK)
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (International Secretariat)
- Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
- Corona Worldwide
- English-Speaking Union
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Goodenough College
- Nexus Strategic Partnerships
- Pacific Islands Society
- Pakistan Society
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- Royal Over-Seas League
- Soundseekers (Commonwealth Society for the Deaf)
- Papua New Guinea Church
- Victoria League
- West India Committee

With thanks to:



HEAD NV is a leading global manufacturer and marketer of premium sports equipment and apparel. With a focus on innovation and the development of the next generation of technological advanced products, HEAD ensures every athlete can perform to their very best. HEAD is the proud sports sponsor of 'Team Commonwealth' because behind every great athlete is a team rooting him on.



Aggreko is proud to support Commonwealth Observance Day. With over fifty years' experience, we are the world leader in the supply of temporary power and temperature control solutions. With over 190 locations worldwide, we understand the power of teamwork.



Founded in 1886, the Trust works with educational partners and practitioners to increase educational opportunities by investing in a balanced portfolio of initiatives which together have the greatest potential for making long-term material advances in primary and secondary education across the Commonwealth. In addition to Visual Statement's dance project, the trust has sponsored Phillippa Yaa de Villiers to write and perform the poem for today's Observance.



Cambridge University Press is the publishing business of the University of Cambridge, and its purpose is to further the University's objective of advancing knowledge, education, learning, and research.



The Commonwealth Essay Competition



Run by the Royal Commonwealth Society since 1883, the Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest and largest schools' international writing competition, open to all young people aged eighteen and under. For 131 years, the competition has evolved alongside the RCS and changing political systems, and is now a tool to promote the values of the modern Commonwealth.

Past winners include authors, journalists, politicians and academics, including Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong, and Elspeth Huxley. The competition provides a platform for students to compete with their peers in each of the fifty-three member countries that make up this unique association, but it is also a window into the experiences and the sentiments of the Commonwealth's most important generation.

The Commonwealth Essay Competition 2014 is run by the Royal Commonwealth Society, in partnership with Cambridge University Press, and was launched in November 2013. Over 700 of the young people in attendance today have already participated in this year's competition, writing on the theme of 'Team Commonwealth'.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Images below from the 2013 Observance



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Founded in 1868, it is non-partisan, is independent of governments and is supported solely by public generosity. The Society engages with its youth, civil society, business and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Its primary focus is the promotion of young people throughout the Commonwealth.

The Royal Commonwealth Society is constituted by Royal Charter and is a registered charity (no. 226748) in England and Wales.

Photographs from this event are available from www.picturepartnership.co.uk