

# *The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace*

13th March / Commonwealth Day 2023



Y O U R G U I D E T O T A K I N G P A R T

# Foreword



*The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Secretary-General, Commonwealth of Nations*



**The Charter of the Commonwealth, signed on 11 March 2013, is a landmark document.**

**It is the definitive expression of our values and aspirations - and the essential commitment of all Commonwealth countries.**

It holds that we believe in peace.

That we abhor injustice and we believe that the disparities in our world are too great to be tolerated.

That we believe dialogue and cooperation can remove the causes of war, promote tolerance, combat injustice, tackle climate change and secure development among the peoples of the world.

That we aspire to equality between races and genders, and remain committed to delivering access to affordable health care, education, clean drinking water, sanitation and housing for all citizens.

And that the specific and special qualities of small and vulnerable states, and young people everywhere, deserve special recognition and attention.

These values are the Commonwealth's collective North Star. They stand tall across our family of nations and helped to pave the way for the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted globally two years after the Charter of the Commonwealth was signed.

The values expressed in the Charter transcend cultures, borders and generations. They will always be relevant. But they are tested by the complexities and challenges of the real world.

The measure of the Charter's ongoing importance is how we respond to those tests: in the way we connect, innovate, and transform in order to facilitate a full recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; respond to conflicts and crises in ways that increases resilience; and speed ever-closer to our common future, underpinned by sustainability, peace and prosperity for all the people of the Commonwealth.

Assessed against our own history, and against the vast history of human struggle and progress, the Commonwealth is closer to those values than ever before.

Keeping them active in our minds and hearts is vital, so it is right that, in the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth, we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the Commonwealth. The Flag for Peace is a fitting initiative which has my full support and I hope it forms a comprehensive programme of activities to celebrate Commonwealth Day and promote peace across our family of 56 nations.

I am confident Commonwealth Day will offer people everywhere the chance to reflect on the progress we are making together, the tools our Charter gives us to face the challenges of the world, and the continued importance of our shared moral, ethical and practical framework for the advancement of the Commonwealth's common welfare.

*Patricia Scotland*



# Introduction



Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, Pageantmaster, The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace



**13th March 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter by our late Queen Elizabeth II, one of the most important documents in the long history of this family of nations.**

**The Charter sets out the values and aspirations that unite the Commonwealth's 56 independent countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific, and the 2.5 billion people who live there.**

To commemorate the occasion in the UK, a 90" x 54" **The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace** featuring a white dove of peace in the bottom right hand corner will be sent to every City within the United Kingdom, the raising of which at **11am** on Monday 13th March - Commonwealth Day 2023, will symbolise the UK's commitment to the shared values and principals of the Commonwealth, including co-operation in economic and social development, diversity, respect, friendship and the promotion of peace around the world.

Starting at **10.30am**, the raising of the flag will form part of a brief ceremony in each city during the early morning of 13th March 2023.

## THE CEREMONY

**10.30am:** Guests assemble

**10.35:** Mayoral party including a Town Crier, Bugler/Cornet player or Trumpeter, Piper, Bishop or Mayor's Chaplain and other invited guests, including the Lord-Lieutenant - (where there is more than one city in a county, a DL), form up on the steps of the city or town hall, or another location of choice.

**10.40am:** Town Crier or other community representative steps forward, rings his or her bell and reads out the Commonwealth Proclamation, words of which can be found on **page 4** of this Guide To Taking Part.

**10.45am:** Town Crier steps back and the Bugler or Cornet player steps forward and undertakes the Fanfare, the music of which can be found on **page 6**.

**10.50am:** On completion of the fanfare, the Bugler/Cornet player steps back. The Lord Mayor or Mayor holding the pre-folded Commonwealth flag, accompanied by the Bishop or Mayor's Chaplain, step forward. Bishop or Mayor's Chaplain blesses the flag using the words found on **page 5**. Following the blessing, the Lord Mayor or Mayor thanks the Bishop or Chaplain on behalf of the city and says a few words confirming the importance of the Commonwealth Charter and of the Commonwealth itself.

**10.55am:** A 'lone' Piper steps forward to play Highland Cathedral which was a favourite of The Queen Mother - see **page 7**.

On completion of the Piper, the flag is to be given to the council representative responsible for raising it, in readiness for its raising. We would request that all the 74 cities raise their flags together at **11am** that morning, uniting the cities of the United Kingdom at one moment in time in this celebration of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter by Her Majesty The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. (We would hope that your designated guests would be accompanied by the city's Sword and Mace bearers and any other civic relalia that would add to the colour and pageantry of the occasion).

**11am:** The Commonwealth Flag is raised on the designated council flagpole within their city.

With the support and generous involvement of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, the day's anniversary celebrations will culminate with the ringing of Church bells within the cities of the UK at **8pm**. (See **page 8**).

The sound of bells is synonymous with celebration and marking important moments in history and bells are some of the oldest musical instruments in the world, and certainly the loudest that can be heard for miles across land and sea.

To commemorate their involvement, each city, Town Crier, Cadet, Piper, Lord Lieutenant, DL and those ringing bells will be sent a Certificate of Grateful Recognition enabling them to download, print, frame and keep it, acting as a permanent reminder of their involvement in this historic event, see **page 10**.

Please go to **page 9** to confirm/register your involvement as soon as possible, but no later than **1st December 2022**, enabling us to include your council in this event.

Yours sincerely,



*Bruno Peek*

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR  
Pageantmaster  
The Commonwealth of Nations'  
Flag of Peace



# Proclamation / Town Criers



## Proclamation

Wording by Jane Smith



*Oyez Oyez Oyez*

*Greetings good citizens of this fine city. Ten years ago our late, great glorious Queen Elizabeth II signed the Commonwealth Charter.*

*A Charter based – in our splendid monarch's words – on "friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace"*

*Today, the citizens of the member countries of our glorious Commonwealth remain loyal to the ideals contained in the Charter.*



*The need to challenge intolerance and inequality. The right of all humankind to health, education, food and shelter.*

*The Charter demands that we tackle climate change and stop the pollution of our oceans.*

*But as Her Majesty had so graciously and eruditely referenced, at its core the Charter seeks peace. Peace both now and for the generations to come.*

*It is therefore most appropriate that on this tenth anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter our fine city receives The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace, symbolising this ongoing commitment to the vision embodied in the Charter.*

*God Save The King.*



# Blessing of the Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace



## The Blessing

**The Blessing** by The Very Revd Jane Hedges

**God our creator, you long for peace between people of every race and language.**

**Send down your blessing upon this flag that it may be a sign of hope for us and all the nations of the Commonwealth.**

**May it inspire in each one of us the desire to celebrate the diversity of gifts you have showered upon us and to treasure all that binds us together.**

**Amen.**



**Majesty**

2021 copyright A. W. Carlisle



**Brass Bands England Chief Executive Officer, Kenny Crookston, commented:**

**"In providing this special service of the playing of 'Majesty' for their respective cities, cornet**

**players nationwide will also bring their own bands, and brass bands in general, to the public's attention in a very positive way, celebrating this unique moment in the history of the Commonwealth.**

**We would like therefore, to encourage cornet players within the cities of the UK to get involved in this important occasion."**



**As we celebrate Commonwealth day in union with friends and colleagues around the World I feel privileged, along with many musicians who are participating, in sharing and recognising the importance of the rich and diverse histories of those member Countries and Territories of the Commonwealth together with the value of being within the framework of such an august and important organisation.**

**The talented uniformed cadet musicians from the United Kingdom feel honoured in taking part and performing, and will cherish the memory of having done so.**

**On behalf of those cadets taking part, I salute the ideals of the Commonwealth and look forward to seeing it progress and evolving in harmony with the rest of the World.**

**Wing Commander Gil Singleton RAFAC  
Principal Director of Music (Royal Air Force Cadets)**



## Highland Cathedral

by Michael Korb and Ulrich Roever

4/4 Slow Air



**“This is a fantastic opportunity for pipers to be involved in a remarkable and unique event. There is a long tradition of pipers in the Commonwealth, with many of the 56 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific having pipers. The chosen tune, Highland Cathedral, is a well-known and fitting one, inspired by events under the reign of King James I when clan chiefs met and pledged to live in peace. A favourite of The late Queen Mother, the tune has been heard at prominent events from the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to the Flag Lowering Ceremony at Government House in Hong Kong,”** said Robert Proctor, Principal Piper, the Commonwealth of Nations’ Flag of Peace.



# Ringling of Cathedral, Minster or Church Bells



Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH  
BELL RINGERS

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is pleased to support the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter on 13th March 2023 by encouraging bell ringers throughout the 76 UK cities and those affiliated bell ringing societies of other Commonwealth countries including Australia, New Zealand and Canada, to ring at 8pm (local time) on that day, to include a minimum of 10 whole pulls of Queens (to mark each year since the Charter was signed). Queens can be rung on any number of bells in the order of descending odd bells then descending even, and would look like this written out for 12 bells: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12.

The sound of bells is synonymous with celebration and marking important moments in history and bells are some of the oldest musical instruments in the world, and certainly the loudest that can be heard for miles across land and sea.

Bell ringing is an activity that combines physics, music, maths and performance but you don't need to be good at any of those to be able to learn to ring. Anyone can learn to ring from age 8+. It's a great team activity with many vibrant young ringers groups across the UK. It's something that transcends age groups, ethnicity, social, economic or educational status. Bell ringing is great for keeping both mind and body active and a great family activity.

To find out more visit us at  
<https://cccbr.org.uk/bellringing/learn/>





# Event Registration



## Event Registration

### Step 1:

Please confirm your involvement as soon as possible, providing the following information, enabling us to register your participation and communicate with you over the next few months, sending it direct to – Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, Pageantmaster, The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace – email: [brunopeek@mac.com](mailto:brunopeek@mac.com)

### Step 2:

Name of Country – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland.

Name of County.

Name of City.

Name of Cathedral, Minster or Principal Church within the City.

Name of Contact – *(It is important, however, that we have only one point of contact for the duration of the event).*

Telephone - landline.

Telephone - mobile.

Email address.

Name of Lord Mayor or Mayor.

Name of Leader of Council.

Email address.

Name of your City Council media representative.

Email address.



*The Commonwealth of Nations'  Flag of Peace*

*Certificate of Grateful Recognition*

13th March - Commonwealth Day 2023

With sincere thanks for your contribution to  
The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace



*Bruno Peek*

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR  
Pageantmaster

The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace



# Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support and involvement in this event



## PROCLAMATION

Jane Smith  
Principal Town Crier  
The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace

## FANFARE BRASS BANDS ENGLAND

Kenny Crookston  
Chief Executive  
AIR TRAINING CORPS  
Wing Commander Gil Singleton

## MUSIC FOR PIPERS

Robert Proctor  
Principal Piper  
The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace

## RINGING OF CATHEDRAL & CHURCH BELLS THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Vicki Chapman - Public Relations Officer

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC OFFICERS

Tracy Frisby - Chairman

## BLESSING FOR COMMONWEALTH FLAG

The Very Revd Jane Hedges  
Acting Dean of Canterbury Cathedral

## ONE VOICE WALES

Lyn Cadwallader - Chairman

## GUIDE TO TAKING PART

Nick Marshall



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The Commonwealth of Nations' Flag of Peace

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Y O U R G U I D E T O T A K I N G P A R T