

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of
Bob Satchwell

30th August 1948 – 2nd March 2021



Thursday 9th September 2021
at 11:30am

St Bride's Church
Fleet Street
London EC4



Choir

Pie Jesu from Requiem – Gabriel Fauré

Welcome & Opening Prayer

The Rector

Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

First Reading

John 14: 1-6, 27

Read by Moira Sleight

Choir

Ave Maria – Franz Schubert

First Address

Sir Clive Jones

Choir

Bring us, O Lord God – William Harris

Second Reading

'Fleet Street' from *The London Book* – Francis Marshall

Read by Charles Garside

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Bob Satchwell

Champion of Press Freedom

Today we honour Bob Satchwell, a loving family man, a good friend to many and an award-winning journalist who was an indefatigable champion of press freedom.

Journalists in newsrooms everywhere can do their jobs better – sticking up for ordinary people and holding power to account – because of Bob's tireless campaigning. He believed in high standards and a responsible press and bitterly opposed those who would shackle journalism – see his own forceful views on this page.

Bob's legacy will benefit future generations of journalists and the public – but only if we defend the freedom of expression that was so close to his heart.

Jonathan Grun, Former President, Society of Editors

In his own words

Politicians and our other fierce critics are quick to proclaim that freedom of the press lies at the core of our way of life. Inevitably, they then add an all-important 'but...'

Strange how belief in that crucial role and the supposed freedom that goes with it are so quickly reeled in when parts of the media do something of which they disapprove.

They say freedom has to be limited; rights carry with them responsibilities. That is true, but they choose their own definitions of "responsible" and the public interest.

Is it responsible when police use legislation in a way neither relevant nor proportionate without suspicion of any criminal offence being committed? Of course not.

Is it responsible for politicians to cry foul when journalists expose them with their trousers down? No.

Is it responsible when royals forget they are supposed to be revered rather than ridiculed as a result of their own behaviour? No.

Is it responsible for the Press to expose acts of corruption, self-aggrandisement, half-truths and sheer folly? Of course, it is!

The fact is the critics want newspapers that *they* like. Am I wrong to think it peculiar that the most popular papers are those most criticised, especially by people who rarely read them?

Those proclaiming press freedom as a cornerstone of our way of life, should be sure to look again at the meaning of the words etched on the stone.

Tributes from colleagues

Bob was a force of nature who built up the Society of Editors when it was first created. He worked tirelessly for it, and in the cause of media freedom.

Simon Bucks, BFBS

Bob was a giant. He oversaw a seminal report into the lack of racial diversity in newsrooms back in 2013 – and he led the charge. He knew we have not done enough, but he started the movement, so thank you Bob. We owe you a great deal.

Professor Bernie Choudhury, Editor-at-large, Eastern Eye

Bob through sheer personality and graft helped make the Society of Editors into the campaigning organisation it is today. He stood up for the public's right to know and the integrity of journalism with an unflagging commitment which would be deployed at national, regional and local events and in print, online and in the broadcast media. He was a great person to work with on many campaigns.

David Newell, News Media Association

Bob was a tireless champion of journalism, journalists and editors, and a great friend of the NCTJ. He served the NCTJ faithfully as a trustee for nine years and was a passionate supporter of journalism standards and the Journalism Diversity Fund.

Joanne Butcher, NCTJ

Bob was a wise, thoughtful and kind advisor and partner of the Media Trust over many years. He counselled charities on how to work with the media, helped us set up the Community Newswire, and gave a platform to charities and diverse communities at SoE events and conferences.

Caroline Diehl, Executive Chair, Together TV

Bob was a towering figure in our industry. At a time when Bob always seemed to be on the radio fighting the corner for press freedom I remember being in my office and a young reporter saying to me in total awe "Bob Satchwell is on the phone for you": more impressed than if it had been the Archbishop of Canterbury. He deserved that respect.

Moiria Sleight, Editor, Methodist Recorder

Bob's successful battle to defend press freedom in the wake of Leveson will be his enduring legacy to the industry and to the country.

Paul Linford, Publisher, HoldtheFrontPage

Bob Satchwell gave me the inspiration to attend annual conferences and pick up knowledge to improve my news network. I will remember his friendly manner and professional advice. He was an excellent mentor indeed.

Juanita Brock, South Atlantic Islands News Team

Always passionate, knowledgeable, and full of common sense. A real leader who left his mark on our industry.

Peter Barron, Former Editor, Northern Echo

Persuasive, encouraging, cajoling – Bob was a great leader of the Society of Editors and a huge support to me personally during my presidential year.

Liz Page, Former President, Society of Editors

He was a peerless advocate for the cause of press freedom in the meetings we had down the years with police, politicians and judges about issues of open justice. Always he fought for the reporter simply trying to do their job. His knowledge, experience and enthusiasm made a real difference in making the case for crime and court reporting.

John Battle, ITN

A towering media figure, but unlike some who fit that description, Bob was modest, friendly, generous and perceptive.

Sir Geoffrey & Lady Olwen Cass, Cambridge University Press

We were part of the team that lobbied Home Secretary Jack Straw during the drafting of the FOI Act. As you would expect, Bob was tenacious in pushing for maximum transparency.

**Nick Carter, Former Editor, Leicester Mercury;
Former Chair, Parliamentary and Legal Committee, Society of Editors**

Bob was a phenomenon. He defied gravity and time, seemingly squeezing 28 hours out of a 24-hour day on a regime fuelled by willpower, hard work, hope – and pub lunches. His relentless energy confirmed the Society of Editors as the UK's champion of media freedom.

Ian Beales, Former Editor, Western Daily Press

I worked with Bob during his 9 years as a key, supportive and influential member of the Defence and Security Media Advisory (DSMA) Committee. I saw first-hand his skill and his determination to balance the requirements of a free media with the need to maintain the necessary arrangements for national security. He was the one to whom others turned for his open, honest and clear views, often on the most intractable issues.

Dominic Wilson, Chair, DSMA

He was a force to be reckoned with when it came to upholding media freedom and the public's right to know. The news industry owes him a huge debt of gratitude. He helped so many organisations punch above their weight.

Paul Horrocks, Former President, Society of Editors

One of the outstanding journalists of his generation, and a great defender of our trade. Bob was passionate, inspiring, and always great fun.

Neil Benson, Editors' Code of Practice committee

Bob was such a key figure in the many battles the industry fought to defend a free and open press and in establishing the Society of Editors as a force to be reckoned with.

John McLellan, Director, Scottish Newspaper Society

Bob's spirit and love for the news business was only matched by his commitment to fighting for press freedom and his personal loyalty to all of us.

Doug Wills, Chair, London Press Club; Editor Emeritus, Evening Standard

Bob was the journalist's journalist, never content until it had all been won, the story told.

Geoff Elliott, Founding President, Society of Editors

Bob was a wonderful man and I will forever remember his warmth, kindness, friendship and humour during the years we worked together.

Claire Meadows, Society of Editors

Bob, such a gentleman. Kind and thoughtful with a cheeky sense of humour. A privilege to work for him. He had so much passion for the Society and what it stands for and for life in general.

Angela Upton, Society of Editors



Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Third Reading

Sea Fever – John Masfield
Read by Chris Satchwell

Choir

Sailing – Gavin Sutherland arr. Andrew Gant

Second Address

Anna Bridgman

Choir

Brindisi from *La traviata* – Giuseppe Verdi

Prayers

The Rector

Hymn

Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

Blessing

The Rector

Organ Voluntary

The Dam Busters march – Eric Coates



*There will be a retiring collection to be shared between
St Bride's Church and UKSA, a non-profit maritime training centre of excellence*

*There will be a reception following the Service at
the Humble Grape, 1 St Brides Passage, EC4Y 8EJ*

RECTOR

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Robert Jones

ORGANIST

Benjamin Giddens

CHOIR

The Choir of St Bride's

HEAD OF FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

James Irving



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