

ST TEILO'S CHURCH, ST FAGANS MUSEUM

COMPLINE AND ANTIPHON  
OF THE HOLY CROSS  
TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2011

COMPLINE WITH ANTIPHON  
OF THE NAME OF JESUS  
THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2011

FOLLOWING THE ORDER DRAWN UP AT  
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL AND USED IN  
CHURCHES IN WALES DURING THE LATE  
MIDDLE AGES



THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP  
IN LATE MEDIEVAL  
CATHEDRAL AND  
PARISH CHURCH

## ORDER OF COMPLINE AND ANTIPHON

*Tuesday: in honour of the Holy Cross*

*Thursday: in honour of the Holy Name of Jesus.*

Versicles and responses

Psalms 4, 30 (vv.1-6), 90 and 133, sung with one antiphon

Chapter

Hymn

Versicle and response

Nunc dimittis with antiphon

Kyrie, Pater noster, Credo

Preces

Confession and absolution

Preces

Collect

Benedicamus Domino ('Let us bless the Lord')

Procession to the Rood for the Antiphon Ceremony

(comprising Antiphon, Versicle and Collect)

Compline is an ancient monastic service sung at nightfall, later adopted by the whole Western Church. By the end of the Middle Ages it was often sung before retiring to bed.

The votive antiphon ceremony that follows Compline this evening also has early roots and derives from the ancient custom of praying for a special intention or saint as a conclusion to an Office. During the later Middle Ages it became common for this short ceremony to be sung before the rood, or a related statue or image, sometimes with polyphonic embellishment.

Both observances this evening are sung in Latin plainsong, though the antiphon following the psalms, some of the hymn verses, and the closing votive antiphon are all embellished with simple polyphony, provided by singers or organ.

## THE HOLY CROSS

13 September is the eve of the Feast of the Exaltation ('raising up') of the Holy Cross, sometimes called 'Crouchmas' ('Cross Mass') or 'Roodmas' in the medieval Church. This is traditionally held to be the day when the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was dedicated in the year 335, following discovery of part of the True Cross by Saint Helena, mother of Constantine the Great. On the following day (14 September) the cross was brought outside for public veneration. Devotion to the Cross subsequently became widespread throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, with many places observing a votive antiphon of the Holy Cross each Friday (or in some cases a complete Mass and Office).

## THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Liturgical devotion in honour of the Holy Name of Jesus made its first appearance during the fourteenth century, but became increasingly widespread across England during the later fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. This was in part thanks to the efforts of Lady Margaret Beaufort (1441/3–1509), mother of Henry VII, who managed to secure both a Papal Bull and an indulgence for the Feast of the Holy Name, thereby helping to establish it in 1489 as an official feast of the Church, to be celebrated on 7 August. The devotion commemorates the Name of our Saviour, and the divine gifts that pronouncement of that Name bestows – grace, goodness, health and power. It devotion celebrates not a moment in the life of Christ but a feature of his humanity, and one in which we all share – the giving and the meaning of a name.

# THE EXPERIENCE OF WORSHIP PROJECT

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Thursday 6 October, 2011: Salisbury Cathedral*

17.30 Latin Eucharist of the Holy Name of Jesus

Before and after this Eucharist, there will also be a related course introducing and reflecting on the Jesus Mass and devotion to the Holy Name on at Sarum College, Salisbury (advance booking required – see below).

*Sunday 9 October, 2011: Salisbury Cathedral*

9.30 Procession of the Holy Name of Jesus before the Eucharist

On the preceding day, Saturday 8 October, there will be an introduction to the Procession in the Quire of Salisbury Cathedral. This will begin at 14.15 pm, and will last about one hour. No booking is required.

## FURTHER DETAILS AND BOOKING

[www.experienceofworship.org.uk](http://www.experienceofworship.org.uk)

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## ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Compline has been devised as part of the research project *The Experience of Worship in late Medieval Cathedral and Parish Church*. The project is part of the UK-wide research programme, *Religion and Society*, funded jointly by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. The project is led by Professor John Harper, director of the International Centre for Sacred Music Studies, Bangor University. The other core members of the research team are Dr Sally Harper and Judith Aveling (Bangor University), Dr Paul Barnwell (Oxford University), and Dr Magnus Williamson (Newcastle University). The partner organisations are Salisbury Cathedral and St Fagans National History Museum Wales, near Cardiff.

The Experience of Worship project team wish to express their warmest thanks to the curatorial, interpretative and educational staff of St Fagans National History Museum, for their support and collaboration in this venture.

