

Lord, for the years

Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926–

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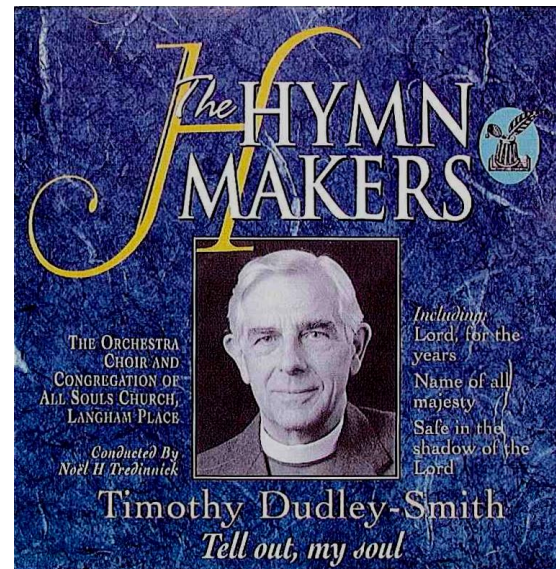
***Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.***

***Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.***

***Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.***

***Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.***

***Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.***



Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926 in Manchester, England) was educated at Tonbridge School, before studying maths and then theology at Pembroke College, Cambridge. After graduating in 1947, Dudley-Smith began his ordination training at Ridley Hall. He was ordained deacon in 1950 and priest in 1951 by Christopher Chavasse, the Bishop of Rochester.

He has occupied a number of church positions, including parish priest in the diocese of Southwark (1953-1962). In 1955, he was appointed Editorial Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance and editor of the new *Crusade* magazine, created after Billy Graham's 1954 London mission. He also served as President of the Evangelical Alliance from 1987 until 1992. Dudley-Smith also began serving with the Church Pastoral Aid Society, serving as Assistant Secretary from 1959, then as Secretary until 1973. He served as Archdeacon of Norwich from 1973 to 1981 and as Bishop of Thetford from 1981 until his retirement in 1992.

Dudley-Smith began writing comic verse while a student at Cambridge; he did not begin to write hymns until the 1960s. Many of his several hundred hymn texts have been collected in *Lift Every Heart: Collected Hymns 1961-1983* (1984), *Songs of Deliverance: Thirty-six New Hymns* (1988), and *A Voice of Singing* (1993). The writer of *Christian Literature and the Church* (1963), *Someone Who Beckons* (1978), and *Praying with the English Hymn Writers* (1989), Dudley-Smith has also served on various editorial committees, including the committee that published *Psalm Praise* (1973).

A member and honorary vice-president of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, he has also been awarded fellowships from the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada and the Royal School of Church Music. In 2003, he was appointed an Order of the British Empire "for services to hymnody". In July 2009 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Durham University.

source: hymnary.org hymnary.org/person/DudleySmith_T

Wikipedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Dudley-Smith

sung by: **The Royal Garrison Church
of All Saints, Aldershot** www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js