

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Duncan Sandys) was elected to Westminster City Council in 1998 at the age of 24. He first represented Millbank Ward which, following boundary changes in 2002, became Vincent Square Ward. Duncan is the City's youngest Lord Mayor.

Vincent Square Ward covers the area of Westminster between the river and Victoria Street. Vauxhall Bridge Road and Horseferry Road are the western and eastern boundaries. The Ward is overwhelmingly residential and has a number of educational establishments including primary and secondary schools and a catering college. The Ward is also home to the Tate Britain, the Royal Horticultural Society and Westminster Cathedral.

In his eleven years as a Councillor, Duncan has been involved in many areas of the Council's activity although he has taken a particular interest in built environment matters. He served on the Planning Committee for eight years (five as Chairman) and is a past Chairman of the Licensing Committee. He was also Deputy Cabinet Member for City Development and for the Street Environment. In addition, he has served on a number of other committees and chaired the South Area Forum.

Duncan has chosen St Andrew's Club as his Mayoral Charity. The youth club, which is based in Victoria, does sterling work with young people from south Westminster.

Outside of his council duties, Duncan works for an international property fund and in his spare time enjoys going to the theatre, reading biographies and travelling and is a keen swimmer. He also serves on the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Council.

He is married to Mary Brown and they have a one year old son, Julian, named after Duncan's father.

THE LADY MAYORESS (Mrs Duncan Sandys (Mary Brown)) is a native of Georgia, USA. Mary Brown graduated from the University of Georgia and began her career in communications working on a political campaign for Congress. She subsequently moved to Washington DC where she worked for a number of senior politicians including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich. After a stint in the private sector at International Paper, Mary Brown returned to the political arena as Communications Director for US Senator Elizabeth Dole. In 2003, she was appointed Communications Director by President George W Bush at the US Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration where she was awarded the Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement in the Federal Service.

After moving to London in 2005, Mary Brown completed a Certificate in Interior Design at the KLC Design School in Chelsea. In addition to her role as Lady Mayoress, Mary Brown is a full-time mother to Julian and advises a small number of clients on interior design.



COUNCILLOR DUNCAN SANDYS – Family Background

Councillor Duncan Sandys is a grandson of Lord Duncan-Sandys and a great grandson of Sir Winston Churchill.

His father, Julian Sandys QC, was the son of Lord Duncan-Sandys and Diana Churchill, Sir Winston's eldest child who died in 1963.

Lord Duncan-Sandys was a cabinet minister in the 1950s and 1960s. He held a number of ministerial posts including Minister for Housing & Local Government (where he introduced the Clean Air Act and the Green Belt), Minister of Defence and Commonwealth & Colonial Secretary. During the Second World War following injury in a car accident, he was Chairman of the Cabinet committee charged with the country's defence against the V1 rockets. As a backbench MP, his private member's Bill created conservation areas. He was the founder of the Civic Trust and lived most of his adult life in Vincent Square. His widow, Duncan's step-grandmother, lives in Pimlico.

Duncan's maternal grandfather, John Martin CBE, was Leader of Exeter City Council in the 1950s and Mayor of Exeter in 1968/69.