

Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE TO CELEBRATE
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

NHS 60

Wednesday 2 July 2008

2 pm

HISTORICAL NOTE

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Health Service (NHS). Over the last 60 years the NHS has shown the world the way to healthcare, not as a privilege to be paid for but as a fundamental human right, and the principles that underpin the NHS – universal, integrated and free at the point of need – remain as fundamental today to the NHS as they were when the service was launched in 1948.

This milestone anniversary provides everyone with a unique opportunity to recognise the work and achievements of those who have contributed to the NHS, making it such a deeply appreciated part of our national life.

‘It shall be the duty of the Minister of Health...to promote the establishment of a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of the people...and the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of illness.’

*Section 1
National Health Service Act, 1946*

‘I believe it will lift the shadow from millions of homes. It will keep many people alive who might otherwise be dead. It will relieve suffering. It will produce higher standards for the medical profession. It will be a great contribution to the wellbeing of the common people of Great Britain.’

*The Right Honourable Aneurin Bevan MP (1897-1960)
House of Commons, April 1946*

The whole of the Abbey is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Please ensure that mobile phones, cellular phones, and pagers are switched OFF.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service:

James McVinnie, Assistant Organist, plays:

Pièce d'Orgue BWV 572	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)</i>
Alleluyas	<i>Simon Preston (b 1938) Organist of Westminster 1981-87</i>
Benedictus Op 59 no 9	<i>Max Reger (1873-1916)</i>
Rhapsody I in D flat	<i>Herbert Howells (1892-1983)</i>

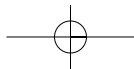
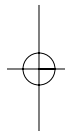
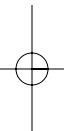
The Procession of Representatives of the Faith Communities moves to the North Lantern. All remain seated.

The Procession of Ecumenical Representatives moves to the Sacrarium. All remain seated.

The Right Honourable Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and is conducted to his place in Quire. All remain seated.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received. All stand as the Lord Mayor of Westminster is conducted to her place in Quire, then sit.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales is received. All stand. Presentations are made.



ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain standing. The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

O SING unto the Lord a new song: let the congregation of saints praise him.

Let them praise his name in the dance.
For the Lord hath pleasure in his people.

Humphrey Clucas (b 1941)

Psalm 149: 1, 3a, 4a

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN

*during which the Collegiate Procession
together with His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium*

PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
come ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew all the Almighty can do,
he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for ay we adore him.

*Lobe den Herren 440 NEH
Melody from Praxis Pietatis Melica 1668
Descant by James O'Donnell (b 1961)*

*Joachim Neander (1650-80)
translated by
Catherine Winckworth (1827-78)
and Rupert Davies (1909-94)*

All remain standing for an excerpt from a

BBC RADIO BROADCAST, JULY 1949

by

The Right Honourable Aneurin Bevan MP
Minister of Health 1945-51

*All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of
Westminster, says*

THE BIDDING

SIXTY years after that great start of the National Health Service for the United Kingdom, we are as conscious as the Service's founder of the overwhelming volume of need, and as aware of the friction, controversy, and doubt, as well as of the great hopes still vested in the National Health Service.

We gather as representatives of all: who provide health care; who improve the quality of provision; who support and plan; who determine policy; and above all who benefit from the Service.

We come into the presence of God to celebrate, to give thanks, and to pray for the National Health Service now and in the future. Let us begin with a moment of silence.

Silence is kept.

Praise the Lord, O my soul: and forget not all his benefits.
Who forgiveth all thy sin: and healeth all thine infirmities.

Psalm 103: 2-3

All sit. Ashley Brooks, Patient, reads

ECCLESIASTICUS 38: 1-14

HONOUR physicians for their services, for the Lord created them; for their gift of healing comes from the Most High, and they are rewarded by the king. The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence of the great they are admired. The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise them. Was not water made sweet with a tree in order that its power might be known? And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvellous works. By them the physician heals and takes away pain; the pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God's works will never be finished; and from him health spreads over all the earth. My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. Offer a sweet-smelling sacrifice, and a memorial portion of choice flour, and pour oil on your offering, as much as you can afford. Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him leave you, for you need him. There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, for they too pray to the Lord that he grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.

All remain seated. The Choir sings

PSALM 103: 1-13

PRAISE the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me praise his holy Name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul: and forget not all his benefits.

Who forgiveth all thy sin: and healeth all thine infirmities.

Who saveth thy life from destruction: and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things: making thee young and lusty as an eagle.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgement: for all them that are oppressed with wrong.

He shewed his ways unto Moses: his works unto the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He will not always be chiding: neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins: nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth: so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
Look how wide also the east is from the west: so far hath he set our sins from us.
Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children: even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.

All stand

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Richard Marlow (b 1939) after William Smith (1603-45)

All remain standing. Louisa Baxter, Gastroenterology Registrar, Barts and The London NHS Trust, reads

THE GOSPEL

WHEN Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk?" But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the paralytic—'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

Mark 2: 1-12

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN

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.

Choir 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.

All 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.

*Praise, my soul 436 NEH
John Goss (1800-80)*

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)
after Psalm 103*

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Right Reverend Michael Perham
Bishop of Gloucester
and

Chairman, The Hospital Chaplaincies Council

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

THE spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations as the earth bringeth forth her bud.

*Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
from The Apostles Op 49*

from Isaiah 61

All remain seated. The Dean introduces

THE REFLECTIONS

The Choir sings:

THE Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

*David Nicholson CBE, Chief Executive, the National Health Service,
gives*

THE FIRST REFLECTION

The Choir sings:

MY soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Elizabeth Farrelly OBE, Governor, The Royal London Hospital, 1948-1954, retired lecturer and lifelong volunteer, gives

THE SECOND REFLECTION

The Choir sings:

YEA, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

The Right Honourable Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister, gives

THE THIRD REFLECTION

The Choir sings:

MY table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint
and my cup overflows.

Ed Mayne, Patient, gives

THE FOURTH REFLECTION

The Choir sings:

GOODNESS and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

*Brother James's Air, traditional Scottish melody
arranged by James O'Donnell*

Psalm 23, Scottish Psalter 1650

All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Graeme Napier, Minor Canon of Westminster, leads

THE THANKSGIVINGS AND PRAYERS

LET us give thanks for these first sixty years of the National Health Service, for those whose vision and foresight brought it into being, for those whose dedication through the years has enabled its growth and success; and let us pray for those who now benefit from its services and those who labour for its good.

Silence is kept.

FOR the beauty and wonder of creation; for the gift of life itself; for our ability to enjoy that life and our determination to preserve and enhance it: let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Right Reverend Thomas Williams, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, Catholic Bishop for Healthcare, representing the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster:

FOR all the achievements of the first sixty years of the National Health Service; for the vision and inspiration of those who planned its inception; and for the goodwill and perseverance of the first healthcare professionals to work within its structures: let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Reverend Debbie Hodge, Free Churches Secretary for Healthcare:

FOR all teaching and training, and for all that is done to overcome past failings, and to improve the methods and standards of healthcare for the future: let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Reverend Professor Huw Jones, Vice-Chair, The Hospital Chaplaincies Council:

LET us pray for all who work within the National Health Service, its staff and volunteers, for medical professionals and for chaplains and all who provide pastoral care; for God's blessing upon every attempt to prevent illness, overcome pain and suffering, and bring comfort, support, and security to those in need.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The Reverend Richard Lowndes, Senior Chaplain, Southampton Hospitals University Trust:

LET us pray for those who work in medical, scientific, and technological research; that their labours may enable the Service to provide the best in healthcare for this nation.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The Reverend Edward Lewis, Chief Officer, Multi-faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy, Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen, and Priest Vicar, Westminster Abbey:

LET us pray for all who are sick in body or mind, for those undergoing medical treatment, for those in convalescence, for those suffering from diseases which have as yet no cure, and for those approaching death; that in receiving care or cure, they may know the love of God.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The Minor Canon concludes:

All these our prayers and praises we offer to our heavenly Father in the words our Saviour Christ has taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

NOW thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore. Amen.

Nun danket 413 NEH
from Johann Crüger's
Praxis Pietatis Melica c1647

German, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)
translated by
Catherine Winckworth (1827-78)

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GO forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that
which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-
hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and
serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the
blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing to sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour,
long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice:
God save The Queen.

All remain standing as the Collegiate Procession, together with His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, moves to the west end of the church. Presentations are made.

Music after the service:

Toccatina and Fugue in F BWV 540

Johann Sebastian Bach

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until directed to move by the Stewards.

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung.

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