

# Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING  
TO CELEBRATE THE BICENTENARY OF  
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
Noon

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Two hundred years ago Joshua Watson and other leading members of the Church of England met to found the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales. The first meeting took place on 16th October 1811. Their aim was to build a church school in every parish and at that meeting they launched a major fundraising campaign. Parishes and clergy wanting to build a school could apply to the National Society for a grant so long as the education offered was based on the teachings of the Church of England.

The founders knew that spiritual and moral education was just as important as learning a trade and believed that the worship and instruction of the Church of England was the way to develop 'character' in the pupils.

By 1861 there were twelve thousand schools 'in union' with the National Society across England and Wales; not quite a school in every parish but a phenomenal achievement, all funded by donations from parishes and people. And this long before the government began to provide schools for anyone.

With so many new schools being founded there was an immediate need for teachers, and the National Society itself founded teacher training colleges, as well as helping dioceses set up their own. In succeeding years the National Society took over the Sunday School Institute, developed an examination system, published teaching materials, developed the inspection training and framework, and helped train governors and headteachers.

Today nearly five thousand church schools and academies educate almost one million students, and over fifteen million people in the current population have attended a church school. The National Society still works to support church schools in providing a distinctive education based on the principles of the Anglican Communion, and retains its commitment to serving the poor in some of our most disadvantaged communities across England and Wales. It works in partnership with other faith communities, with local and central government, and with a range of other organizations.

In this anniversary year we are proud to celebrate this legacy today, to express in this service our gratitude to those who founded our work. We celebrate all the schools where Christian education is offered to the children and families of our nations, and we look forward in confidence to the next two hundred years.

*Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.*

*Most of the church, with the exception of the transepts, is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.*

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

*The service is sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, 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:*

Fantasia BK 25 *William Byrd (c 1540–1623)*

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BWV 663 *Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)*

Canzona from Sonata in C minor *Percy Whitlock (1903–46)*

*Banners from dioceses of the Provinces of England and Wales are processed from the Great West Door to the east end of the Abbey.*

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THE PROCESSION OF DIOCESAN BANNERS

Bangor	Bath & Wells
Birmingham	Blackburn
Bradford	Bristol
Canterbury	Carlisle
Chelmsford	Chester
Chichester	Coventry
Derby	Durham
Ely	Exeter
Gloucester	Guildford
Hereford	Leicester
Lichfield	Lincoln
Liverpool	Llandaff
London	Manchester
Monmouth	Newcastle
Norwich	Oxford
Peterborough	Portsmouth
Ripon & Leeds	Rochester
St Albans	St Asaph
St David's	St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
Salisbury	Sheffield
Southwark	Southwell & Nottingham
Swansea & Brecon	Truro
Wakefield	Winchester
Worcester	York

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand. The Choir sings*

### THE INTROIT

**E**XULTATE Deo, adjutori nostro: jubilate Deo Jacob.  
Sumite psalmum, et date tympanum: psalterium jucundum, cum  
cithara.

Buccinate in neomenia tuba: insigni die solemnitatis vestrae.

*Sing merrily to God our strength: shout for joy to the God of Jacob.  
Take up the song and sound the timbrel: the tuneful lyre with the harp.  
Blow the trumpet in the new moon: as at the full moon, upon your solemn  
feast day.*

*Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c 1525–94)*

*Psalm 81: 1–3*

*All sing*

### THE HYMN

*during which the Collegiate Procession, together with the  
Banner of Joshua Watson, moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium*

**P**RAISE 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! 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*  
*Praxis pietatis melica 1668*

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

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

### THE BIDDING

HERE in Westminster Abbey almighty God has been worshipped and young people have been nurtured and educated for over a thousand years. Here over those long years unnumbered people have been inspired to a greater love of God.

Today we assemble to give thanks to God: for the National Society's first two hundred years; for founders, both of the Society and of church schools, colleges, and universities; for trustees, governors, and teachers.

We pray that the light of the Gospel might shine: on the council and staff of the National Society; on diocesan colleagues and those in central and local government, parliament, and assembly; and on all who support and develop places of education and learning. We pray that the young people of our institutions might know the love of God and grow in his service through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All sit for*

### REFLECTIONS

#### THE PAST

The Reverend Robert Wickham  
*Rector, St John-at-Hackney*  
*and*

#### THE PRESENT

The Reverend Jan Ainsworth  
*Chief Education Officer and General Secretary, the National Society*

*All remain seated. The Choir of St Aidan's School, Harrogate, sings, accompanied by dancers from Parish Church CE Junior School, Croydon*

### KING OF KINGS, MAJESTY

**K**ING of Kings, Majesty,  
 God of heaven, living in me.  
 Gentle Saviour, closest friend,  
 strong Deliverer, Beginning and End  
 all within me falls at your throne.

*Your Majesty, I can but bow  
 I lay my all before you now  
 in royal robes I don't deserve  
 I live to serve your Majesty.*

Earth and heaven worship you,  
 God eternal, faithful, and true,  
 who bought the nations,  
 ransomed souls,  
 brought this sinner  
 near to your throne.  
 All within me cries out in praise:

*King of kings, majesty SOF 1404  
 Jarrod Cooper (b 1978)  
 arranged by Mark Pallant (b 1958)*

*Jarrod Cooper*

*The Reverend Edwin Counsell, Deputy General Secretary (Wales), reads*

### PROVERBS 3: 13–22

**H**APPY are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy. The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. My child, do not let these escape from your sight: keep sound wisdom and prudence, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.

*All remain seated. The Choir of St Aidan's School sings*

PSALM 25

**T**O you O Lord I lift up my soul,  
in you I trust O my God.  
Do not let me be put to shame  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

*No one whose hope is in you  
will ever be put to shame.*

*That's why my eyes are on you, O Lord,  
surround me, defend me,*

*O how I need you!*

*To you I lift up my soul.*

Show me your ways and teach me your paths.

Guide me in truth; lead me on.

For you're my God, you are my Saviour,  
my hope is in you each moment of the day.

Remember Lord your mercy and love  
that ever flow from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my rebellious ways.

According to your love remember me,  
according to your love;  
for you are good, O Lord.

*Graham Kendrick (b 1950)  
arranged by Mark Pallant*

*after Psalm 25*

*Children from Manor CE School, York, perform*

SOMETIMES *and* ON EASTER DAY

**S***OMETIMES we look and do not see,  
Sometimes we eat and do not taste,  
Sometimes we touch and do not connect.*

*That shadow in the corner of your eye,  
That soft whisper in your ear,  
That gentle hand upon your arm.*

*The world flies by  
And we miss so much...*

Two disciples were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all the things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' And he said to them, 'What things?' And they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.' And he said to them, 'O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?' And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Sometimes we need to listen with our hearts  
For they tell us so much,*

*Sometimes we need the courage to  
Believe what at first seems impossible,*

*Then the deceptions,  
 The shadows,  
 The ghosts,  
 And the liars  
 Will fade away  
 Like mist on an Autumn morning  
 And we will truly see.*

*Not just sometimes  
 But for all time.*

*Andrew Crisp (b 1965)  
 and St Luke 24: 13–35*

*All stand to sing*

#### THE HYMN

**L**ORD of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
 whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
 be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
 your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
 be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
 your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
 be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
 whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
 be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Slane 239 NEH  
 traditional Irish melody*

*Jan Struther (1901–53)*

#### THE ADDRESS

*by*

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Rowan Williams  
*Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan*

*All remain seated. The Choir sings*

## THE ANTHEM

### ANTIPHON

**L**ET all the world in every corner sing,  
my God and King!  
The heavens are not too high,  
his praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
my God and King!  
The Church with psalms must shout,  
no door can keep them out;  
but above all the heart  
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
my God and King!

*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*  
*from Five Mystical Songs*

*George Herbert (1593–1633)*

*All kneel or remain seated for*

## THE PRAYERS

*Ben Knight, pupil, says:*

**W**E give thanks to God for the National Society as it celebrates two hundred years; for the vision and determination of Joshua Watson, fellow benefactors, and General Secretaries in making education available to all children in every parish in England and Wales, regardless of their background and social status.

Let us bless the Lord;

**thanks be to God.**

*Charlotte Sutton, governor, says:*

**W**E give thanks to God for those who continue to support and maintain Christian education: for the 4872 Anglican church schools operating throughout England and Wales today; for the Board of Education, the General Secretary, Diocesan Directors of Education, and for the continued commitment to church Schools by Her Majesty's Government.

Let us bless the Lord;

**thanks be to God.**

*Rachel Connolly, pupil, says:*

**W**E give thanks to God for the skill and dedication of teachers and staff; for the gifts of pupils and their passion for learning; and for the commitment of governors and trustees to the personal and academic development of all the pupils and staff committed to their care.

Let us bless the Lord;

**thanks be to God.**

*Rhiane Thornton, headteacher, says:*

**W**E pray for all pupils in maintained church schools: that they may discover their God-given talents and achieve their full potential; that they may apply their gifts for the good of others; and that they may discern their vocation in life.

Lord, in your mercy;

**hear our prayer.**

*Graham Page, teacher, says:*

**W**E pray for all who, as governors, trustees, and school officers oversee the effective delivery of administration in our schools: for the gifts of wisdom and understanding they bring to their work; and for the grace and strength to continue faithfully as custodians of all with which they are charged.

Lord, in your mercy;

**hear our prayer.**

*The Venerable Dr Jane Hedges, Canon Steward and Archdeacon of Westminster, says:*

**W**E pray for God's blessing on the future life of the National Society: for the vision and confidence to continue the work of its founders; that open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit we may advance the coming of God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy;

**hear our prayer.**

All these our prayers and praises let us now present before our heavenly Father, in the prayer 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

*during which the Banners of the Diocesan Procession  
move to places in the Quire, accompanied by  
the National Society Deed*

**N**OW 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.

*Nun danket 413 NEH  
from Johann Crüger's  
Praxis pietatis melica*

*German, Martin Rinkart (1586–1649)  
translated by Catherine Winkworth*

*All remain standing for*

## THE DEDICATION

*The Archbishop of Canterbury says:*

Praise God who made heaven and earth;  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Brothers and sisters; as we give thanks to almighty God for the National Society's first two hundred years, and for the Church's faithful work in offering education for all, let us commit ourselves anew to the Church's mission and ministry in educating and nurturing young people in the service of Christ.

*The Right Reverend John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, says:*

Will you be faithful in supporting and extending the work of church schools and the National Society through prayer and personal commitment?

**By the help of God, we will.**

Will you do all in your power to ensure church schools are alive with the Good News of God in our Lord Jesus Christ?

**By the help of God, we will.**

*The Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales, says:*

Will you actively uphold the dignity and value of everyone as a child of God, inspire one another in the pursuit of wisdom and truth, and strive to develop the gifts which God has given you for the benefit of all?

**By the help of God, we will.**

May God who has given you the will to make these commitments, give you also the strength to fulfil them by the power of his Spirit. Pray therefore for God's blessing.

*The Dean pronounces*

THE BLESSING

**G**O 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.**

*Music after the service:*

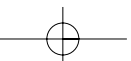
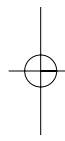
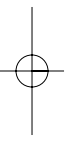
Toccata

*Francis Pott (b 1957)*

*All remain standing as the Procession moves to the west end of the Abbey.*

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

*The bells of the Abbey are rung.*



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Printed by  
Barnard & Westwood Ltd  
23 Pakenham Street, London WC1X 0LB  
By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen  
Printers and Bookbinders  
Printers to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster

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