Westminster Abbey

A SERVICE TO DEDICATE A MEMORIAL TO MATTHEW BOULTON 1728–1809

Friday 17th October 2014 Noon
MATTHEW BOULTON

Matthew Boulton was born in Birmingham in September 1728, the son of a buckle and button maker. After attending a local school, Boulton joined the family business in the early 1740s, taking over when his father died in 1759. The following year he leased land at Handsworth, two miles from Birmingham town centre, and began building the great Soho Manufactory. He soon became what Josiah Wedgwood called ‘the Most compleat Manufacturer in Metals in England’. Jewellery, ‘toys’ (small metal goods), Sheffield plate and sterling silver tableware, ormolu (gilded ornamental wares) and coins all poured out of his workshops and were exported around the world. The Soho Manufactory became a must-see stop for early industrial tourists, who were fascinated by the sight and noise of its machines and its hundreds of employees.

Boulton’s interests ranged from astronomy and meteorology to chemistry, electricity, medicine, the arts, classics, music, and many others. In 1766 he became a founder of the Lunar Society. Meeting on nights when they could travel by a full moon, this influential group of ‘natural philosophers’ met to share their scientific ideas, enlivening their discussions with the occasional experiment.

In 1775, Boulton saw the potential of James Watt’s work on steam engines and offered him a partnership at Soho. Boulton & Watt engines were to power much of the Industrial Revolution, in Britain and across the world.

In 1788 Boulton established his Soho Mint. In 1797 he won a contract to produce Britain’s copper coinage, and in the next two years struck c 45 million coins at Soho—a giant leap in the mass-production of money. Boulton even re-equipped the Royal Mint with his machinery and sold complete mints abroad.

Boulton was very active in public life. He worked hard for the establishment of the Birmingham Assay Office in 1773. He was involved with both the Birmingham Dispensary (which provided medicines for the poor) and the General Hospital, and was also active in the founding of Birmingham’s Theatre Royal. In 1794, he served as High Sherriff of Staffordshire.

When Boulton died in 1809, James Watt wrote: ‘had Mr B. done nothing more in the world than what he has done in improving the coinage, his fame would have deserved to be immortalized.’ As Watt hinted, he did far more than that. His deeds still affect us today, not just in his home city but all over the world.
Boulton & Watt steam engines contributed significantly to the foundation of Britain’s nineteenth-century wealth. The Soho Manufactory’s insurance scheme, which provided assistance for the workers in times of sickness, was the model for later schemes.

The setting up of the Birmingham Assay Office was a vital factor in the expansion of the jewellery and silver trades in Birmingham, still the main centre of gold jewellery production in Britain. The Birmingham Assay Office continues to test and hallmark millions of precious metal items every year.

The Soho Manufactory was demolished in the 1860s, but its products can still be seen in museums and historic houses around the world. In Handsworth, Boulton’s home, Soho House, is now a museum run by Birmingham Museums Trust. Parts of the Soho Foundry survive at Smethwick. Boulton & Watt’s Smethwick engine, the world’s oldest working steam engine, is at Thinktank, the Birmingham Science Museum, while the Archives of Soho, housed in the Library of Birmingham, provide an unprecedented insight into Matthew Boulton’s life and businesses.
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.

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 Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service:

Martin Ford, Assistant Organist, plays:

Organ Concerto in F HWV 293 George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Voluntary in C Op 5 no 1 John Stanley (1712–86)

Movements from Music for the Royal Fireworks HWV 351 George Frideric Handel

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham is received at the Great West Door and conducted to his seat. All remain seated.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the Choir and Clergy move to their places.

All remain standing. The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

TEACH me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end.

Thomas Attwood (1765–1838) Psalm 119: 33

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

THE BIDDING

WE come to add another illustrious name, that of Matthew Boulton of Birmingham, to the long list of distinguished men and women from the United Kingdom and from overseas who are buried or memorialised in Westminster Abbey.

Here, alongside the kings and queens, noblemen and women, and the shrine of our own saint, the scientists and inventors, novelists and playwrights, poets and actors, politicians and public servants, founders and benefactors, churchmen and women, will henceforth be a memorial to one of the great manufacturers, an early industrial revolutionary, a generator of wealth that enabled so much other achievement.

James Watt was given a memorial 189 years ago, within a few years of his death, in St Paul’s Chapel near the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor, behind the High Altar. Now an omission will be corrected. Matthew Boulton, without whom his achievements might not have been recognised, will be memorialised beside his business partner.
All sing

THE HYMN

O WORSHIP the King
all glorious above;
O gratefully sing
his power and his love:
our shield and defender,
the Ancient of days,
pavilioned in splendour,
and girded with praise.

This earth, with its store
of wonders untold,
 Almighty, thy power
hath founded of old:
hath stablished it fast
by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

O tell of his might,
O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path
on the wings of the storm.

O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
while angels delight
to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
with true adoration
shall sing to thy praise.

Hanover 433 NEH
William Croft (1678–1727)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1708–27

Robert Grant (1779–1838)

All sit. Councillor Shafique Shah, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, reads

ISAIAH 61: 1–4

THE spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
All remain seated. The Choir sings

JUBILATE DEO

O BE joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

William Boyce (c 1711–79) in C

Psalm 100

Dr Colin Brown, Director of Engineering, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, reads

REVELATION 21: 1–7

THEN I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

All stand as the Procession moves to the Chapel of St Paul. The Sub-Organist plays:

March from An Occasional Oratorio HWV 62 George Frideric Handel
All remain standing for

THE DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL

Marion Roberts, Chair 2007–10, The Lunar Society, says:

I ASK you, Mr Dean, to receive into the safe custody of the Dean and Chapter this memorial in thanksgiving for the achievements of Matthew Boulton.

The Dean replies:

TO the greater glory of God and in thankful memory of Matthew Boulton, and of all that he achieved and contributed in the field of manufacturing and to the life of the City of Birmingham and the United Kingdom, I dedicate this memorial: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A wreath is laid by Jacob Pearson and Ellie Coleman, students, Matthew Boulton College, Birmingham.

All sing

THE HYMN
during which the Procession returns from the Chapel of St Paul

THE spacious firmament on high,
with all the blue ethereal sky,
and spangled heavens, a shining frame,
their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun from day to day
does his Creator’s power display
and publishes to every land
the works of an almighty hand.
Soon as the evening shades prevail
   the moon takes up the wondrous tale,
and nightly to the listening earth
   repeats the story of her birth;
whilst all the stars that round her burn,
   and all the planets in their turn,
confirm the tidings, as they roll,
   and spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
move round the dark terrestrial ball;
what though nor real voice nor sound
   amid their radiant orbs be found;
in reason’s ear they all rejoice,
   and utter forth a glorious voice;
for ever singing as they shine,
   ‘The hand that made us is divine.’

Addison’s 267 NEH  Joseph Addison (1672–1719)
John Sheeles (1688–1761)  after Psalm 19

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

Sir Nicholas Goodison

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

PRAISE the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Sion.
For kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and queens thy nursing mothers.
As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of our God: God upholdeth the same for ever.
Be thou exalted, Lord in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.
Hallelujah.

William Boyce (c 1711–79)  Psalm 147: 12; Isaiah 49: 23; Psalm 48: 7; Psalm 21: 13
All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Sacrist, leads

THE PRAYERS

In thanksgiving to almighty God for Matthew Boulton, let us pray for all who, through their skill and generosity, seek to build up and enrich our cities and society.

The Very Reverend Catherine Ogle, Dean of Birmingham, says:

ALMIGHTY and ever-living God, who hast created all things and fashioned men and women in thine own image, we thank thee for thy servant Matthew Boulton; grant, we beseech thee, that all we who this day remember with thanksgiving his boundless gifts of creativity and ingenuity might endeavour in our own lives to embrace and employ thy manifold blessings; for the glory of thy Name’s sake. Amen.

Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, Birmingham, says:

TUDH aagai ardaas hamaree, jio pind sabh tera
Kahu Nanak sabh teree vadiaaee, koi naaou na jaanai mera.

Before you, God, I offer my humble prayer;
This body, soul and my whole being are yours.
Says Nanak, all glory belongs to you, my creator;
How insignificant is my own name, before such infinite greatness.

Guru Arjan Dev Ji (1563–1606)
from the Guru Granth Sahib Ji

Councillor Ian Ward, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council, says:

O GOD, who dost gather thy children together, that they may prepare a city for habitation and dwell together in unity: we pray for all who bear authority in our cities and our towns; for local government officers, and all who give their time and energy in caring for the common good. Grant them to plan and work for thy glory, and the delight of man. And continue to raise up, we beseech thee, men and women who offer service to the community as a vocation from thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Muhammad Afzal, Birmingham Central Mosque, says:

All praise be to Allah alone, the Sustainer of all the worlds, Most Compassionate, Ever-Merciful, Master of the Day of Judgment. (O Allah!) You alone do we worship and to You alone do we look for help. Show us the straight path, the path of those upon whom You have bestowed Your favours, not of those who have been afflicted with wrath, nor of those who have gone astray.

al-Fātihah 1: 1–7

The Reverend Professor Vernon White, Canon in Residence, says:

ALMIGHTY God, King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray for this our nation. Guide with thy eternal wisdom The Queen and her counsellors; make us strong in faith and righteousness and in the love of freedom; and grant that we may still be counted worthy to play our part in leading the nations of the world into the paths of peace; for the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sacrist concludes:

All these our prayers and praises let us offer to God our 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.
GUIDE me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell’s Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan’s side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

Cwm Rhondda 368 NEH
John Hughes (1873–1932)
William Williams (1717–91) translated by Peter Williams (1727–96) and others
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 among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Music after the service:

Introduction and Fugue in A minor  James Nares (1715–83)

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

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.

The Dean and Chapter of Westminster acknowledges the support of all the individuals and organisations that have made this service and the new memorial possible.