

Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Stirling Moss OBE

17th September 1929 — 12th April 2020

Wednesday 8th May 2024
11.00 am



'Movement is tranquillity'

Sir Stirling Moss OBE

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Stirling Craufurd Moss was born in West Kensington, London, in 1929 and became one of the most famous and revered Britons of his generation, transcending his, or any other, sport. He was not simply a renowned sportsperson or driver. He was a beloved and almost legendary public figure, whose influence and notoriety was felt so far and wide that Frank Sinatra dedicated the song *That's Life* to him, and that his name can be found in the dictionary. He was the only real-life person to be featured in an original James Bond story, as penned by Ian Fleming, and his name was so synonymous with speed as to have become part of the lexicon. Decades after the end of his front-line career, school children would tell the joke 'What's the fastest insect on earth? Stirling Moth!' and for generations police, not only in Great Britain but in countries on the far side of the world, would ask speeding motorists the question 'who do you think you are, Stirling Moss?' Some still do...

Known almost universally as the greatest driver never to have won the Formula 1 World Championship, he has also been cited simply as the greatest Formula 1 driver. However, for drivers of his era, Formula 1 was only one aspect of motor racing and Stirling Moss is widely regarded as the greatest all round racing driver ever to have lived. Despite being renowned for driving cars with huge disadvantages in power, age, reliable financing, and more, he consistently managed to make the seemingly impossible possible, defeating some of history's greatest drivers and history's most dominant cars, against all odds. With 212 professional victories from 529 starts, across a vast variety of disciplines, statistically he remains the most successful racing driver of all time. His moniker, 'Mr Motor Racing' befits the man who could make anything with wheels a winner.

In an age obsessed with records, comparisons are often based purely on numbers, but these alone can obscure the reality. His versatility allowed him to adapt to cars in a way that no one else could, and in Formula 1 alone he holds several records that are unique, almost all of which are unlikely ever to be broken.

He was the first driver to win a World Championship Grand Prix in a mid-engine car, he was the first to win for a privateer team, and the only person to take the chequered flag without the use of third gear and without rubber left on his tyres. All of these records he accomplished in a single race! A race which gives him another record that will never be repeated: he won it with the full use of only one eye! He was the driver of the lowest powered car ever to have won an F1 Grand Prix. He has won more Championship races than any other driver in history without winning the title, even though today it would take less than three seasons for a driver to race in as many Grands Prix as he did in his entire career. He has won in more marques than any other driver and he is the only driver ever to have won a Formula 1 race in a four-wheel drive car.

He is the only driver ever to have lost a World Championship by a single point, after having advocated for his main rival to have seven points reinstated following that rival having been disqualified.

His skill surpassed the boundaries of what was considered possible in his sport, but his sportsmanship surpassed the sport itself. Stirling Moss became more than a racing driver, he became an icon.

*Stirling Elliot Moss
March 2024*

*‘Success is not determined by how much talent you have, but
how effectively you use that talent’*

Sir Stirling Moss OBE

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

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

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Special Service Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.

Music before the service:

George Herbert plays

Praeludium in F BuxWV 157 Dieterich Buxtehude (c 1637–1707)

Sonata in B flat Op 65 no 4 Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)

Toccatà in F BWV 540i Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The High Sheriff of Greater London, Ms Millicent Grant KC, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made and she is conducted to her seat.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster Locum Tenens is received. Presentations are made and she is conducted to her seat. All stand and then sit.

Sir Jackie Stewart OBE, representing Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, is received. Presentations are made.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, representing His Majesty The King, and His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent are received. Presentations are made and all stand as the Dean conducts them, together with Sir Jackie Stewart OBE, to their seats.

All sit.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The choir sings the Introit

COELOS ascendit hodie
Alleluia!

Jesus Christus Rex gloriae:
Sedet ad Patris dexteram;
Gubernat caelum et terram.

Iam finem habent omnia
Patris Davidis carmina.
Iam Dominus cum Domino
Sedet in Dei solio.

In hoc triumpho maximo
Benedicamus Domino:
Laudatur Sancta Trinitas.
Deo dicamus gratias.
Alleluia! Amen.

*Today ascends to heaven
Alleluia!*

*Jesus Christ the King of glory:
he is seated at the right hand of the Father;
he governs heaven and earth.*

*Now fulfilled are all
the songs of our forefather David.
Now the Lord with the Lord
is seated on God's throne.*

*In this great triumph
let us bless the Lord:
let the Holy Trinity be praised.
Let us give thanks to God.
Alleluia! Amen.*

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

anonymous

*All stand to sing the Hymn, during which the procession moves to places in
Quire and the Sacrarium*



HE who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound—
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
though he with giants fight:
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, though dost defend
us with thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

Monk's Gate 372 NEH

adapted from an English folk song

after The Pilgrim's Progress John Bunyan (1628–88)

Percy Dearmer (1867–1936)

after The Pilgrim's Progress John Bunyan (1628–88)

*All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE,
Dean of Westminster, gives the Bidding*

WE gather to give thanks for the life and achievements of Sir Stirling Moss. We remember the competitor who was ever the gentleman. We recall his rare talent and courage; that compelling ability that made him excel on the race track. 'Movement is tranquillity' he said, and lived out a long life with an eager urgency. We grieve for our loss as we celebrate all that he gave us. Here we will pray for those family members and friends who feel that loss most deeply and we will commend Stirling Moss to the God in whom we all have our beginning and our end.

All remain standing for the Procession of Sir Stirling Moss' racing helmet, Monaco Trophy, and British Racing Drivers' Club Gold Stars, which are received by the Dean,

Stirling Elliot Moss reads from a personal letter of Sir Stirling Moss OBE

THE Stars, to me, symbolise all I ever wanted to achieve. Look at the Stars, my son, and know you can do it too. They will be different Stars for something quite different but just as important and precious - to us both - as mine. But take time out, also, to consider the helmet and be reminded that everything worth achieving comes at a cost. If you are lucky, you might never get the bill. But don't bank on it. Before you start, be sure you are willing to pay the price. I was, and I did, and I have no regrets.

All sit

Simon Taylor gives a Tribute

Charles Shields reads the first Lesson

LET us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations. The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and made a name for themselves by their valour; those who gave counsel because they were intelligent; those who spoke in prophetic oracles; those who led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the people's lore; they were wise in their words of instruction; those who composed musical tunes, or put verses in writing; rich men endowed with resources, living peacefully in their homes—all these were honoured in their generations, and were the pride of their times.

Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on generation after generation. The assembly declares their wisdom, and the congregation proclaims their praise.

Ecclesiasticus 44: 1-7; 14-15

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Psalm

THE Lord hear thee in the day of trouble :
the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;

Send thee help from the sanctuary :

and strengthen thee out of Zion;

Remember all thy offerings :

and accept thy burnt sacrifice :

Grant thee according to they heart's desire :

and fulfil all thy mind.

We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the Name of the Lord our God :

the Lord fulfil all thy petitions.

Now know I, that the Lord helpeth his Anointed, he will hear him
from his holy heaven :

even with the wholesome strength of his righthand.

Some put their trust in chariots, and some in horses:

but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

They are brought down and fallen:

but we are risen, and stand upright.

Save, Lord, and hear us, O King of Heaven:

when we call upon thee.

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.

Herbert Howells (1882–1983)

Psalm 20

Sir Jackie Stewart OBE gives a Tribute

His Grace The Duke of Richmond CBE DL, President, Royal Automobile Racing Club, reads the second Lesson

MY friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Galatians 6: 1-10

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing the Hymn



IVOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Thaxted 579 AMR
Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)

All sit

The Dean gives the Address

The choir sings the Anthem

CLAP your hands, all ye people;
shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible;
he is a great King over all the earth.

God is gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God;
sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing ye praises every one that hath understanding.

God reigneth over the heathen;
God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

Sing praises unto our King; sing praises.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Psalms 47: 1–2, 5–8

The Reverend Mark Birch MVO, Canon of Westminster and Precentor, introduces the Prayers

Let us pray.

All kneel or remain seated

Let us give thanks to God for the life and achievements of Stirling Moss; for his gifts of character; his extraordinary competitive drive and ability; for his example of sportsmanship.

O KING eternal, immortal, invisible, Who in the righteousness of Thy saints hast given us an example of Godly life, and in their blessedness a sure pledge of the hope of our calling; grant, we beseech Thee, that being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, and with the good example of those we have known and lost in this life, we may run with patience the race that is set before us, and with them receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

David Coulthard MBE says

Let us pray for the world of motor-racing; for drivers and mechanics; for car designers, builders and sponsors; and for all responsible for safety and sustainability.

L ORD God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, that yieldeth the true glory; through him who, for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life for us, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Derek Bell MBE says

Let us pray for Stirling's legacy; that others may be inspired by his example and achievement, to discover 'tranquillity in movement', to see hope when all seems lost, and to use their celebrity for good.

GRANT to us, O Lord, to know that which is worth knowing, to love that which is worth loving, to praise that which can bear with praise, to hate what in thy sight is unworthy, to prize what to thee is precious, and above all to search out and to do what is well-pleasing unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Right Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon in Residence, says

Let us pray for all who continue to miss him most; that his memory may bring not sorrow, but a blessing.

OETERNAL Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: We beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into the fulness of thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Precentor concludes

Trusting in his promises, let us pray in the words our Saviour 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

AND did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

Jerusalem 488 NEH
Hubert Parry (1848–1918)

William Blake (1757–1827)

The Dean pronounces the Blessing

GOD grant to the living grace; to the departed rest; to the
Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace
and concord; and to us sinners life everlasting; and the blessing of
God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among
you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing

GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save The King.
Send him victorious,
happy, and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The King.

All remain standing as the procession departs

Music after the service:

The organist plays

Final from Symphony no 1

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

The bells of the Abbey are rung

Members of the congregation are requested kindly to remain in their seats until directed to move by the Honorary Stewards

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Hope for Tomorrow



Sir Stirling and Lady Susie Moss were Hope for Tomorrow's founding patrons when the charity launched the world's first mobile cancer care unit in 2007. Their continued support and dedication enabled the charity to grow its fleet of vehicles across England which continue to this day to provide essential cancer care to NHS patients.

To donate via smartphone, please scan the QR code below:





'To finish first, first you must finish'
Sir Stirling Moss OBE