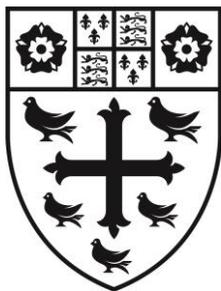


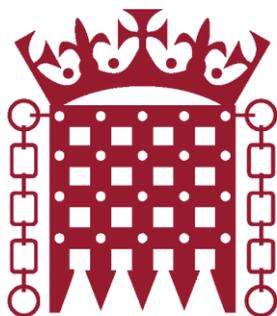
Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving
for the life and work of
The Right Honourable
the Lord Ashdown
of Norton-sub-Hamdon

GCMG CH KBE

1941–2018



Tuesday 10th September 2019

Noon



PADDY ASHDOWN

Jeremy John Durham Ashdown, Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon, was born in New Delhi on 27th February 1941 to Lieutenant Colonel John Ashdown of the British Indian Army and Lois Hudson of Rathfriland, Northern Ireland. After a childhood in India and Northern Ireland, Ashdown was sent to Bedford School in 1952 where his then broad Northern Irish accent earned him the nickname he bore for the rest of his life, Paddy.

As his family were planning to emigrate to Australia as 'Ten Pound Poms', Ashdown joined the Royal Marines in 1959 going on to pass the selection for the Special Boat Service in 1965. Ashdown's service included periods in Borneo during the Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation, in Yemen during the conflict in Aden, and in Northern Ireland. This experience shaped Ashdown's approach to life, confronting obstacles and challenges with a military mindset.

In 1962, after acquiring permission from the First Sea Lord given his young age, Ashdown married Jane Courtenay, the cousin of a fellow Royal Marines officer. They went on to have two children, Kate and Simon, and four grandchildren.

In 1972 Ashdown left the Royal Marines to join the Diplomatic Service, focusing on national security. He was posted to the UK's Mission to the United Nations in Geneva working on the UK's approach to the Helsinki Accords, the final part of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe designed to improve and stabilise relations between the West and the Communist Bloc.

Watching the political turmoil of 1974, Paddy and Jane decided to return to the UK to become active in Liberal Party politics, setting up home in Jane's native Somerset. Ashdown was selected as the Liberal Party candidate for Yeovil, a seat held by the Conservative Party with a substantial majority. While fighting for the seat, Ashdown was initially unemployed. He became a voluntary youth worker before securing jobs in the constituency at Westland Helicopters and then Morlands Sheepskin.

Ashdown eventually won the Yeovil seat for the Liberal Party in the 1983 General Election, and went on to represent the people of

Yeovil for eighteen years. In 1988 Ashdown became the leader of the newly formed Liberal Democrats, created by the merger of the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party. Ashdown was made a Privy Councillor the following year.

After 11 years as party leader, Ashdown stood down in 1999, and gave up his seat in Yeovil in 2001. Ashdown was appointed a peer and became Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon, the village near Yeovil where he and Jane had lived since 1973.

During the wars that led to the break-up of Yugoslavia, Ashdown became a passionate advocate for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This close interest and the expertise on Bosnia that he acquired through numerous visits, led to his dual appointment as the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union Special Representative. Spending four years in the dual UN/EU role, representing the international community and with special powers under the terms of the 1995 Dayton Agreement, Ashdown was highly successful. He rooted out corruption, created multi-ethnic institutions, established the rule of law, brought war criminals to justice, and created a final resting place for those murdered during the Srebrenica massacres.

After those four years in Sarajevo Paddy and Jane returned to their cherished Somerset. In addition to writing many books covering espionage, history and his beloved Royal Marines, Ashdown served as President of UNICEF UK, President of Chatham House, Patron of Hope and Homes for Children, and remained very active in the House of Lords.

Ashdown's achievements were recognised over the years. As well as being a Privy Councillor, he was a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George, a Companion of Honour, a Knight of the Order of the British Empire, and an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur.

Paddy Ashdown died on 22nd December 2018, and is survived by Jane, their children, and grandchildren.

Ian Patrick MBE
former Private Secretary to Lord Ashdown

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

Members of the congregation are kindly requested 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 John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

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

The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays

St Patrick's Breastplate Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)
from Sonata Celtica Op 153

Andante in F K 616 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91)

Ausklang Nacht Richard Strauss (1864–1949)
from Eine Alpensinfonie Op 64

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Lympstone, conducted by Colour Sergeant Dom O'Conner, plays

Capriol Suite Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

David of the White Rock David Owen (1712–41)

Abendsegen Engelbert Humperdinck (1854–1921)

Dido's Lament Henry Purcell (1659–95)

Londonderry Air traditional
arranged by Percy Grainger (1882–1961)

Lux Aurumque Eric Whitacre (b 1970)

Nimrod Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Peter Holder, Sub-Organist, plays

Andante espressivo *from Sonata in G Op 28* Edward Elgar

Prelude on 'Slane' Healey Willan (1880–1968)

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Members of the Diplomatic Corps are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and are conducted to their seats.

Dr Paul Knapman DL, Deputy Lieutenant for Westminster, representing the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London is received by the Dean and Chapter and is conducted to his seat.

Her Royal Highness Princess Mabel of Orange-Nassau is received by the Dean and Chapter and is conducted to her seat.

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Deputy High Steward, Councillor Ruth Bush, is received by the Dean and Chapter. All stand as she is conducted to her seat, and then sit.

His Excellency Željko Komšić, Croat Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is received by the Dean and Chapter and is conducted to his seat.

Lieutenant Colonel Neil Watkinson RM, representing His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, is received by the Dean and Chapter.

Mr Russell Corn, representing Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, is received by the Dean and Chapter.

The Lord Boyce KG KCB OBE KStJ DL, representing His Royal Highness The Duke of York, is received by the Dean and Chapter.

Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Coryton RM, representing His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, is received by the Dean and Chapter.

All stand as the Royal Representatives are conducted to their seats in the Lantern.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The choir sings

THE INTROIT

TO thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul;
my God, I trust in thee.

*Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)
from the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*

Psalm 25: 1a

All sing

THE HYMN

during which the procession moves to places in Quire and the Sacrarium

ALL creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest man both warmth and light:

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,

O praise him, Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in One:

Lasst uns erfreuen 263 NEH

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

after a melody in Geistliche Kirchengesäng Cologne, 1623

St Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)

translated by William Draper (1855–1933)

All remain standing. The Dean gives

THE BIDDING

WE come to give thanks to almighty God and to celebrate a man whose restless life embraced the Royal Marines, the diplomatic service, membership of Parliament in both Houses, the leadership of a political party, and finally a triumphant period of successful command representing the United Nations and the European Union in strife-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Few people surely have experienced such a variety of careers and opportunities for effective leadership as Paddy Ashdown, The Right Honourable Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon.

We are pleased to welcome at this service, with his family and close friends, representatives of each stage of his developing responsibilities and his charitable works. The breadth of his associations is represented by the main address to be given by Sir John Major.

At this time, we continue to pray in particular for the justice and peace for which Lord Ashdown worked in a world too riven by faction and fear.

All remain standing for

THE PROCESSION

*the Standard of the Royal Marines Association and
Lord Ashdown's Royal Marines Officers' Sword are brought
forward by Michael Shannon of the Royal Marines Association and
Matthias Theurel, presented to the Dean, and placed on the High Altar*

The band plays

Lo See the Conquering Hero *George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)*

*Major General Matthew Holmes CBE DSO, Commandant General Royal
Marines, says*

ETERNAL Lord God, who through many generations has united and inspired the members of our Corps, grant thy blessing, we beseech thee, on Royal Marines serving all round the globe. Bestow thy crown of righteousness upon all our efforts and endeavours and may our laurels be those of gallantry and honour, loyalty and courage. We ask these things in the name of him, whose courage never fails, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Royal Marines Prayer

All sit for

THE TRIBUTE

by

Alisoun Downing

The Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Husein Kavazović, reads

THE FIRST READING

ALLAH zahtijeva da se svačije pravo poštuje, dobro čini, i da se bližnjima udjeljuje, a razvrat i sve što je odvratno i nasilje zabranjuje; da pouku primite, On vas savjetuje.

I ispunjavajte obaveze na koje ste se Allahovim imenom obavezali i ne kršite zakletve kad ste ih tvrdo dali, a Allaha kao jamca sebi uzeli, jer Allah zna ono što radite.

I ne budite kao ona koja bi svoju pređu rasprela kad bi je već bila čvrsto oprela, i ne služite se zakletvama svojim da biste jedni druge prevarili samo zato što je jedno pleme mnogobrojnije od drugog. Allah vas time samo iskušava, a na Sudnjem danu će vam, doista, objasniti ono oko čega ste se razilazili.

Da Allah hoće, učinio bi vas sljedbenicima jedne vjere, ali, On u zabludi ostavlja onoga koga hoće, a na pravi put ukazuje onome kome On hoće; i vi ćete doista odgovarati za ono što ste radili.

I ne služite se zakletvama svojim zato da biste jedni druge varali, da se ne bi poklznula noga koja čvrsto stoji, i da ne biste nesreću iskusili zato što ste od Allahova puta odvrćali; a patnja velika vas još čeka.

I ne zamjenjujte obavezu datu Allahu za nešto što malo vrijedi - ono što je u Allaha - za vas je, da znate, bolje!

Ono što je u vas - prolazno je, a ono što je u Allaha - vječno je. One koji su trpjeli Mi ćemo, sigurno, nagraditi mnogostrukom nagradom za ono što su činili.

Onome ko čini dobro, bio muškarac ili žena, a vjernik je, Mi ćemo dati da proživi lijep život i doista ćemo ih nagraditi boljom nagradom nego što su zaslužili.

Kur'an 16: 90-97

God commands justice, and goodness, and generosity towards relatives. And he forbids immorality, and injustice, and oppression. He advises you, so that you may take heed.

Fulfil God's covenant when you make a covenant, and do not break your oaths after ratifying them. You have made God your guarantor, and God knows what you do.

And do not be like her who unravels her yarn, breaking it into pieces, after she has spun it strongly. Nor use your oaths as means of deception among you, because one community is more prosperous than another. God is testing you thereby. On the day of resurrection, he will make clear to you everything you had disputed about.

Had God willed, he would have made you one congregation, but he leaves astray whom He wills, and he guides whom he wills. And you will surely be questioned about what you used to do.

And do not use your oaths to deceive one another, so that a foot may not slip after being firm, and you taste misery because you wandered from God's path, and incur a terrible torment.

And do not exchange God's covenant for a small price. What is with God is better for you, if you only knew.

What you have runs out, but what is with God remains. We will reward those who are patient according to the best of their deeds.

Whoever works righteousness, whether male or female, while being a believer, we will grant him a good life—and we will reward them according to the best of what they used to do.

Qur'an 16: 90–97

The choir sings

THE MOTET

I WOULD be true, for there are those that trust me.
I would be pure, for there are those that care.
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer.
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless.
I would be giving, and forget the gift,
I would be humble, for I know my weakness,
I would look up, laugh, love and live.

Londonderry Air
traditional Ulster melody
arranged by Andrew Reid (b 1971)

Howard Arnold Walter (1883–1918)

The Reverend Peter Thomas, Priest-in-Charge of Norton-sub-Hamdon
2005–17, Rector 2017–19, reads

THE FIRST LESSON

HOW beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
 who announces salvation,
 who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
 together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
 the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
 you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there!

Touch no unclean thing;
go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves,
you who carry the vessels of the Lord.

For you shall not go out in haste,
and you shall not go in flight;
for the Lord will go before you,
and the God of Israel will be your rearguard.

Isaiah 52: 7–12

Thanks be to God.

The Right Honourable the Baroness Grender MBE reads

THE SECOND LESSON

IN the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 St Timothy 4: 1–7

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

ETERNAL Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
and gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
our brethren shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go:
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Melita 354 NEH
John Dykes (1823–76)

William Whiting (1825–78)

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Right Honourable Sir John Major KG CH

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

HALLELUJAH: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah! The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!

*George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
from Messiah*

Revelation 5: 12, 9, 13

The Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Sacrist, introduces

THE PRAYERS

Let us give thanks to Almighty God for the life of Lord Ashdown, and pray that we may follow his good example in the service of his country and of wider humanity.

All kneel or remain seated. The Right Reverend David Urquhart KCMG, Bishop of Birmingham and Prelate of the Order of St Michael and St George, says

LOOK upon our lives, O Lord our God, and make them thine in the power of thy Holy Spirit; that we may walk in thy way, faithfully believing thy word and faithfully doing thy commandments; faithfully worshipping thee and faithfully serving our neighbour; to the furtherance of thy glorious Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL says

OLORD of hosts, stretch forth, we pray thee, thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect the forces of our Queen in every peril of sea and land and air. Shelter them in the day of battle, and in time of peace keep them safe from all evil; endue them with loyalty and courage; and grant that in all things they may serve as seeing thee who art invisible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, says

LORD, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her Government, to Members of Parliament, and to all in positions of responsibility the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals; but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. **Amen.**

Mike Penrose, Executive Director, UNICEF UK, says

ALMIGHTY God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: Kindle, we pray thee, in the hearts of all people the true love of peace, and guide with thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity thy kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Reverend Dr Jamie Hawkey, Canon in Residence, says

OLORD our God, from whom neither life nor death can separate those who trust in thy love, and whose love holds in its embrace thy children in this world and in the next: so unite us to thyself that in fellowship with thee we may be always united to our loved ones whether here or there; give us courage, constancy, and hope; through him who died and was buried and rose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sacrist says

Let us pray for the fulfilment of God's Kingdom, in the words our Saviour 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.**

THE SECOND READING

I HAVE no wish to make a long speech on subjects familiar to you all... What I want to do is, in the first place, to discuss the spirit in which we faced our trials. After that I shall speak in praise of the dead.

Let me say that our system of Government does not copy the institutions of our neighbours. It is more the case of our being a model to others, than of our imitating anyone else. Our constitution is called a democracy, because power is in the hands, not of a minority, but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law; when it is a question of responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability that a man possesses... And just as our political life is free and open, so is our day-to-day life in our relations with each other... We are free and tolerant in our private lives; but in public affairs, we keep to the law. This is because it commands our deep respect.

We give our obedience to those whom we put in positions of authority, and we obey the laws themselves, especially those which are for the protection of the oppressed and those unwritten laws which it is an acknowledged shame to break.

Our love of what is beautiful does not lead to extravagance; our love of the things of the mind does not make us soft.

We make friends by doing good to others, not by receiving good from them... When we do kindnesses to others, we do not do them out of any calculation of profit or loss; we do them without afterthought, relying on our free liberality... I declare that in my opinion, each single one of our citizens, in all the manifold aspects of life, is able to show himself the rightful lord and owner of his own person, and do this, moreover, with exceptional grace and exceptional versatility.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

*during which the Royal Marines Association Standard
and Lord Ashdown's Royal Marines Officers' Sword
are retrieved from the High Altar*

I VOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Lentire 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 remain standing. Mark Ashdown reads

THE THIRD READING

MAY the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Irish Blessing
traditional*

All remain standing for

THE LAST POST

Silence is kept

REVEILLE

The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GOD grant to the living grace; to the departed rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, 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

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.

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart. The band plays

A Life on the Ocean Wave *Henry Russell (1812–1900)*
Quick March of the Corps of Royal Marines

The organist plays

Allegro maestoso from Sonata in G Op 28 *Edward Elgar*

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung

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

*There will be a retiring collection in aid of
UNICEF and Hope and Homes for Children*

THE GALLOPING HORSE

Looking back, I see that I have led an exceptionally fortunate and varied life—a life of the sort which is probably no longer available to younger generations in Britain. I have taken a lot of risks, some of them very foolish. But in the end they seemed to have worked out as, or better than, I had any right to expect.

And now I have all I need or could wish for, and am very content.

Except for one thing. I cannot work out where it all went, this feast that has been laid before me and which I have devoured with such voracious appetite.

I cannot somehow find the way to connect the eighteen-year-old of that sunny May morning in 1959, standing by the side of the Exe estuary on the little station halt at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, and the person I seem to have become now. In one sense or another, all lives are journeys. For me that scene of fifty years ago, which is still very fresh in my mind, marks the beginning of an odyssey which has led through many different adventures to the place in which I now find myself. But, looking back, I have almost no idea how I got from there to here. For mine has not been, in any sense, a planned life. It has been a haphazard one: its course may from time to time have been altered by my will, but its overall shape appears to me to owe more to providence than intention. I seem to have lived like one of those seventeenth-century merchant adventurers who sailed out of the great port of Bristol to search the seven seas for opportunity and adventure. And now, thanks to good fortune, favourable winds and excellent friends, I am returning with an ample store of treasure and a huge cargo of memories.

Our greatest treasure, of course, is our family. Perhaps things are changing now for modern politicians, and, if so, that is a very good thing - politics and family life have not easily mixed in the past, as the bleak record of breakdown, drug problems, and worse amongst the children of politicians shows. But our children have ended up, not just as fine human beings to be proud of, but also as our greatest friends.

This is almost all down to their strengths and their mother's skills. For I was not, I fear, a very good father in the conventional sense, at least until I realised that I could not control their lives or live them for them. I have a debt I feel I owe to fortune for them, and have a joy of being with them when we can.

Ask me what was the pinnacle of it all, and I would not hesitate with the answer: 9th June 1983, the night we won Yeovil at the general election. For there is no privilege greater than representing the community you live in, and love, in Parliament. The only one that perhaps comes close, is to stand before your fellow citizens at election time as one amongst three Party Leaders who have the chance to put before our countrymen our visions for their future. And I have been fortunate enough to do that, too. But I also cannot now imagine my life without the little, beautiful country of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its remarkable people being a part of it.

But how did it all happen? Where has it all gone?

Lao Tse said that a man's life passes before him with the speed of a galloping horse. And, content though I am, so it sadly seems.

from A Fortunate Life (2009)

Paddy Ashdown

