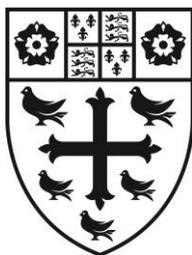


Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving
for the life and work of
Vice Admiral
Sir Donald Gosling KCVO RNR
2nd March 1929–16th September 2019



Wednesday 11th December 2019
Noon



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in 1929, Donald Gosling's early years were disrupted by the Blitz. The continued bombing of the capital forced his mother Maisie to move the family from South London to a village near Dorking.

After settling in Surrey, Don earned his pocket money through a paper round, and as a film-rewinding boy at the local cinema, before finally fulfilling his ambition to join The Royal Navy.

His enduring love for the sea begun when Maisie took him, aged nine, to Portsmouth Harbour to see ships preparing for war. He vowed that one day his life would be in the Navy. He was at first refused entry, having tried to enlist at the age of 14, but in 1943 he joined the training ship *Arethusa*, based in Salcombe, and a year later he began general service on HMS *St George*.

His first seafaring appointment was as Upper Yardman on the cruiser HMS *Leander* in the Mediterranean. During his time on board the ship, he was involved in the 1946 Corfu Channel incident when British ships came under fire from Albanian forces. His time serving on *Leander* meant a great deal to him, and he was later to name both his house and his yacht after the warship.

After his reluctant farewell to the Navy in 1948, Don began work in the surveyors' department of Westminster City Council. It was there that he met fellow serviceman Ron Hobson. Ron sought Don's advice about buying a bombsite in Holborn for £200 with the idea of turning it into a car park.

The two decided to go into business together, and Don and Ron's partnership flourished as they built a vigorous property development company that became National Car Parks. 650 sites made it the largest parking operator in Europe. Together the pair founded numerous other business, including a transport company which controlled 300 coaches, and the Green Flag breakdown service, which sponsored the England football team in 1994.

Following the sale of NCP in 1998, the friendship with Don and Ron continued and they worked together on many property ventures. Don also concentrated on his philanthropic support of good causes and institutions, but he was particularly active as a major benefactor of the opportunities abroad to upgrade the crew quarters of HMS Queen Elizabeth.

As Chairman and then President, he was at the heart of the White Ensign Association for almost half a century. He was a leading figure in the Submarine Memorial Appeal and the HMS Ark Royal Welfare Trust, vice-president of Seafarers UK, a trustee of the Fleet Air Museum and the Royal Yachting Association Seamanship Foundation; a patron of the Submarine Memorial Appeal and HMS Ark Royal Welfare Trust, and a Younger Brother of Trinity House. In 2012 he donated £25m to help preserve HMS Victory. His support helped transform the future of the UK's four principal naval museums.

He was a member of many other organisations, including the charitable Saints and Sinners Club and the Grand Order of Water Rats.

Don was knighted (KBE) in 1976, and appointment Knight Commander of The Royal Victoria Order (KCVO) in 2004, for services to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Outward Bound Trust.

His dedication to the Navy was recognised with a series of honorary ranks in the Royal Naval Reserve, from Captain through to Vice Admiral. In 2012, Her Majesty The Queen appointed him Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom, a ceremonial honour being the Sovereign's personal gift.

Don was married in 1959 to Shauna Ingram. The couple have three sons; Mark, Adam, and David and seven grandchildren.

Adam Helliker

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 David Hoyle, 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 Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.

Alexander Hamilton, Organ Scholar, plays

Imperial March *Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*
arranged by George Martin (1844–1916)

Hymn Prelude on Rhosymedre *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
(1872–1958)

Chorale Prelude on St Ann's *Hubert Parry (1848–1918)*

Chanson de Matin Op 15 no 2 *Edward Elgar*
arranged by Herbert Brewer (1865–1928)

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Collingwood, conducted by Captain Tom Crane RM, plays

Prelude *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
from 49th Parallel

O magnum mysterium *Morten Lauridsen (b 1943)*

Elsa's procession to the Cathedral *Richard Wagner (1813–83)*
from Lohengrin

Band of Brothers *Michael Kamen (1948–2003)*

Hymn to the Sea *Michael McDermott*

Fantasy on British Sea Songs *Gordon Langford (1930–2017)*

The Organ Scholar plays

Meditation on Brother James' Air *Harold Darke (1888–1976)*

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Vice Admiral Sir David Steel, representing Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, The Honourable Lady Ogilvy, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

Major William McLean, representing His Royal Highness The Duke of York, is received by the Dean and Chapter.

Admiral Sir George Zambellas, representing Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, is received by the Dean and Chapter.

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, also representing Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, are received by the Dean and Chapter.

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex are received by the Dean and Chapter.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge is received by the Dean and Chapter.

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall are received by the Dean and Chapter.

All stand as the Members of the Royal Family and Royal Representatives are conducted to their seats in the Lantern, and then sit.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand. The choir sings

THE INTROIT

OSING 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 sing

THE HYMN

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



IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest—to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

St Denio 377 NEH

Walter Smith (1824–1908)

from John Roberts's Caniadau y Cyssegr 1839

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

WE come together, in this holy place, to give thanks to God, as we make our memorial of Donald Gosling. We celebrate, today, a life, lived fully, generously, and joyously.

In this royal house we give honour to a man who delighted to serve the Crown. In this place of lasting memorial and monument we recall his enduring love of the Royal Navy, and his loyalty to the bonds of commitment that unite it and the traditions that sustain it.

Blessed with great gifts and the discipline to use those gifts to effect, he was a man whose consequent good fortune was shared so very generously. He was a man in whose company so many of us rejoiced and a man we held in affection. By example he directed us all to seek the common good. So, as we honour his generosity of spirit, we will commit ourselves afresh to the tasks of grace and kindness and we will pray that God will grant him joy in the company of the blessed.

All remain standing for

THE PROCESSION

the White Ensign is brought forward by Petty Officer Gary Wright, escorted by Chief Petty Officer Glyn Kemsley-Harper, and flanked by Leading Hands Christopher Redman and Nathan Edwards, presented to the Dean, and placed on the High Altar

The band plays

The Sir Donald Gosling Fanfare

Jon Yates (b 1948)

Leander March

Ted Whealing

Admiral Tony Radakin CB ADC, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, says

LORD 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.**

Francis Drake (1540–96)

All sit for

THE TRIBUTE

by

Jimmy Tarbuck

Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex reads

THE FIRST READING

SE EK the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55: 6–13

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

THE PSALM

THEY that go down to the sea in ships :
and occupy their business in great waters;
These men see the works of the Lord :
and his wonders in the deep.
For at his word the stormy wind ariseth :
which lifteth up the waves thereof.
They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep :
their soul melteth away because of the trouble.
They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man :
and are at their wit's end.
So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble :
he delivereth them out of their distress.
For he maketh the storm to cease :
so that the waves thereof are still.
Then are they glad, because they are at rest :
and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.
O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness :
and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men.

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

Psalm 107: 23–31

THE SECOND READING

WHEN the fourteenth night had come, as we were drifting across the sea of Adria, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. So they took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. But when the sailors tried to escape from the ship and had lowered the boat into the sea, on the pretext of putting out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, 'Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.' Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and set it adrift.

Just before daybreak, Paul urged all of them to take some food, saying, 'Today is the fourteenth day that you have been in suspense and remaining without food, having eaten nothing. Therefore I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive; for none of you will lose a hair from your heads.' After he had said this, he took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat. Then all of them were encouraged and took food for themselves. (We were in all two hundred and seventy-six persons in the ship.)

Acts 27: 27–37

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 Reverend Canon Roger Royle

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

THE heavens are telling the glory of God
the wonder of his work displays the firmament.
To day that is coming speaks it the day
the night that is gone to following night.
In all the lands resounds the word
never unperceived, ever understood.

*Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)
from The Creation*

after Psalm 19: 1–4

The Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Sacrist, introduces

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray

All kneel or remain seated. The Sacrist says

Let us give thanks to God for Donald's long life, for its many joys and blessings, and let us remember those who mourn him.

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; that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served Thee here and are now at rest, may with them at length enter into the fullness of Thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Venerable David Stanton, Canon in Residence, says

Let us pray for the charitable causes he supported, for their work and for those they serve.

PREVENT us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Venerable Martyn Gough, Chaplain of the Fleet, says

Let us pray for all who serve in the Armed Forces of the Crown, and especially within the Royal Navy.

OETERNAL Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end: be pleased to receive into thy almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants, and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our island may in peace and quietness serve thee our God; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours; and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sacrist says

Let us pray with confidence 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 sit for

THE TRIBUTE

by

WO1 Nick Sharland RN

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which the White Ensign is retrieved from the High Altar

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 Queen, 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

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 Dean and the Sub-Dean conduct Members of the Royal Family and the Royal Representatives to the West end of the Abbey. The band plays

Extracts from *Henry Wood (1869–1944)*
Fantasia on British Sea Songs

The organist plays

Marche Héroïque *Herbert Brewer (1865–1928)*

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
The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
and The White Ensign Association*

