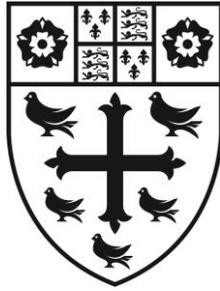


# Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving for  
Dame Vera Lynn

CH

20<sup>th</sup> March 1917–18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Noon



*The whole of the church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn the 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 Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of Choristers.*

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

*Music before the service:*

*Charles Maxtone-Smith, Organ Scholar, plays*

*A Song of Sunshine Alfred Hollins (1865–1942)*

*Melody in G minor York Bowen (1884–1961)*

*Andante tranquillo from Five Short Pieces Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)*

*The Central Band of the Royal British Legion play*

*Second World War Medley arr. Ray Woodfield (b.1931)*

*Miller Memories arr. David Lawrence (1927–2015)*

*The River Kwai March arr. David Cole (b.1948)*

*Popular Songs of World War II arr. David Cole*

*Charles Maxtone-Smith plays*

*Benedictus William Lloyd Webber (1914–1982)*

*Peter Holder plays*

*Land of our birth Ralph Vaughan Williams  
from A Song of Thanksgiving (1872–1958)*

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*Lieutenant General James Swift OBE, representing the Chief of the Defence Staff, Rear Admiral Iain Lower, representing the 1st Sea Lord, Brigadier Christopher Davies OBE, representing the Chief of the General Staff, Air Commodore Richard Fogden, representing the Chief of the Air Staff, Major General Eldon Millar MBE, Defence Services Secretary, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Elisabeth Roberts and Lieutenant Thomas Palmer, are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made and they are conducted to their seats.*

*The High Sheriff of Greater London, Mrs Lynn Cooper, and Mr Hugh Cooper, are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made and they are conducted to their seats.*

*The Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Lady Catherine Hoyle, are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made and they are conducted to their seats.*

*The Right Honourable The Lord McFall of Alcluith, The Lord Speaker, accompanied by The Deputy Yeoman Usher, Ms Fiona Channon, are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made and they are they conducted to their seats.*

*The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Andrew Smith and the Lady Mayoress are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made. All stand as they are conducted to their seats and then sit.*

*The Representative of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Lady Carew Pole DCVO, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.*

*The Representative of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, the Earl of Rosslyn CVO QPM is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.*

*The Lord Chamberlain, The Lord Parker of Minsmere, GCVO, KCB representing Her Majesty The Queen, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand to sing*

## THE HYMN



O praise ye the Lord!  
praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word,  
ye angels of light;  
ye heavens adore him  
by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him,  
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!  
praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord,  
ye sons of new birth;  
praise him who has brought you  
his grace from above,  
praise him who has taught you  
to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord!  
all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord,  
re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory  
forth tell in deep tone,  
and, sweet harp, the story  
of what he has done.

O praise ye the Lord!  
thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured  
all ages along:  
for love in creation,  
for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation,  
O praise ye the Lord!  
Amen, amen.

*Laudate Dominum 427 NEH*  
*Hubert Parry (1848–1918)*  
*from Hear my words, ye people*

*Henry Baker (1821–77)*  
*after Psalm 150*

*All remain standing.*

*The Dean gives*

## THE BIDDING

**I**n this house of prayer, in a place of memory, and in the company of friends we meet to give thanks for the life and work of Dame Vera Lynn. We remember a talent and charm that sustained a breathtakingly long career; the only centenarian to have an album in the top ten. More significantly still, we remember a woman of commitment, courage and resilience, who became the voice of constancy and hope for this nation in wartime. As the Forces' Sweetheart, she was utterly faithful and loyal to those who looked to her in dark times. We remember her work as an ambassador for charities, and we remember her friendships and the encouragement she gave to others. We also recall a woman who loved, and was loved by, her family. Here we will recall the joy and delight she gave and the sorrow as her long life ended. Vera Lynn kept hope alive for others, now we meet in the hope of resurrection and confident in God's grace.

*All sit. Alan Titchmarsh MBE gives*

## A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE

*Katie Ashby & The D-Day Darlings sing*

## THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER

*Jonathan Dimbleby gives*

## A TRIBUTE

## THE PROCESSION OF HONOURS

*A recording of Travellin' Home, sung by Dame Vera Lynn, is played.*

*All stand to sing*

THE HYMN



**O** for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus—the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;  
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of thy name.

*Oxford New 415i NEH*  
*Isaac Smith's Psalmody 1770*

*Charles Wesley (1707–88)*

*All sit. Glenys Creese, Executive Manager of the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, reads*

## A LETTER OF THANKSGIVING

*Anthony Andrews gives*

## A TRIBUTE

*The choir sings*

## THE ANTHEM

**H**ow lovely are thy dwellings fair, O Lord of Hosts:  
my soul ever longeth and fainteth sore  
for the blest courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh do cry to the living God.  
O blest are they that in thy house are dwelling :  
they ever praise thee, O Lord, for evermore.

*Johannes Brahms (1833–97)  
from Ein Deutsches Requiem*

*Psalm 84: 1, 3*

*All sit. Sir Tim Rice reads*

## 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4-11

**N**ow there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

*The Dean gives*

## THE ADDRESS

*The choir sings*

## THE ANTHEM

**H**oly is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict; from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia!

*William Harris (1883–1973)*

*Salisbury Diurnal*

*The Reverend Robert Latham, Sacrist, introduces*

## THE PRAYERS

Let us give thanks to God for the life and work of Dame Vera Lynn, our beloved sister in Christ, and let us pray for the causes and people that were close to her heart.

*All kneel or sit, as Chaplain General Designate to Her Majesty's Armed Forces The Reverend Michael Parker QHC reads*

**W**e give thanks to God for Vera's unwavering commitment to the serving personnel and veterans of Her Majesty's Armed Forces. For the gifts she used to bring comfort, confidence and hope to this nation in its darkest hours. For her courage to serve in places of danger. For the friendship and blessed memory of the 'Forces' Sweetheart'. We pray for all serving personnel and veterans at home and abroad.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*The Reverend David Wallis, Vicar of Ditchling, reads*

**W**e give thanks to God for Vera's heart for people and community. For her interest in the life of the local and particular, whilst carrying national fame. For the voice that graced homes and halls, humble and grand. For her length of life, and her generous spirit. We pray for the communities she knew and loved, for this nation and all its people.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

*Tom Jones, Trustee of the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, reads*

**W**e give thanks to God for the support and concern Vera gave to improving the lives of others. For her compassion and kindness. We pray for the work of the Royal British Legion; for Breast Cancer UK; for the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, for the children they serve, their families and carers; for the work of the Dame Vera Lynn Charitable Trust; for the many charities she supported and represented throughout her life.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

*Virginia Lewis-Jones reads*

**W**e give thanks to God for Vera's gifts as wife, mother and friend. For her strength of character, her creativity, and sense of fun. For gifts enjoyed and shared. For fond memories and a lasting legacy of hope, humour and love. We pray for her family and friends, and for all those whose lives she touched and blessed with her presence. For all who have gathered here today.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

*The Sacrist says*

As we lift our prayers of thanksgiving for the life and legacy of Dame Vera to Almighty God, let us pray with confidence the words our Saviour has taught us:

**O**ur 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)*

*All sit. Susan Fleet MBE reads*

## GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART

They listened as one  
They applauded as one  
No voice was more welcome or dearer,  
Fainthearted before  
Their spirits would soar  
At the sweet, gentle sound of young Vera.

Over cliffs painted white  
No blue birds in flight  
But she knew we would see them tomorrow,  
And on that sunny day  
When freedom held sway  
Fun and laughter would banish all sorrow.

What pleasure, what joys  
She brought to “her boys”  
That would make them feel brighter and bolder,  
On all terra firma  
From Blighty to Burma  
She stood with them, shoulder to shoulder.

A well chartered course  
A sweetheart, tour de force  
She would carry and take all before her,  
Every stage and dance floor  
Heard the girl from next door  
Number one in the charts – they adored her.

A remarkable Dame  
In the great Hall of Fame  
Has now taken her fond final curtain,  
A life full and free  
To one hundred and three  
And we *will meet again*, that’s for certain.

*Michael Claughton*

*Katherine Jenkins OBE sings*

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

*All stand. The Dean pronounces*

THE BLESSING

**G**od 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 Holy Spirit, be  
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*All remain standing for*

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**G**od 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.*

*Music after the service:*

Paeon

*Percy Whitlock*

*The Central Band of the Royal British Legion play*

The Cockleshell Heroes

*Sir F Vivian Dunn (1908–1995)*

Dambusters March

*Eric Coates (1886–1957)*

*The bells of Westminster Abbey 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 collection in aid of the Dame Vera Lynn Charitable Trust.  
Donations may also be made online at [www.dameveralynntrust.org](http://www.dameveralynntrust.org)*

*Honours presented include Companion of Honour  
Dame Commander of the British Empire  
Burma Star and War Medal  
Commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau  
Officer of the Order of St John  
Freedom of the City of London  
Honorary Citizen Saint Sever Calvados  
Royal British Legion Lifetime Member.*

*Other Honours awarded include Honorary Fellowship of Laws*

*Master of Music  
Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers  
Brand Personality Award from the Asia Pacific Foundation  
Brit Award – Lifetime Achievement Award  
Variety Club International Humanitarian Award  
Women of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award]  
Novello Award for Outstanding Services to British Music  
Nordoff Robins Music Transforming Lives O2 Silver Clef Awards Icon Award  
The Help the Aged Golden Award for Outstanding Service to the Community  
Outstanding Contribution Award by Soldiering On Awards  
The Variety Club The Children's Charity Golden Heart Award  
Spirit of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Award*



