Westminster Abbey

A Service of Thanksgiving for Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE

2nd April 1943—7th November 2022

Thursday 13th July 2023
11.00 am
Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce joined the Royal Navy in 1961. After completion of basic training, he qualified as a submariner in 1965 and in the next seven years he served in HM Submarines ANCHORITE, VALIANT, and CONQUEROR, and also qualifying in this time as a torpedo and anti-submarine specialist. He then completed the Submarine Commanding Officer’s Qualifying Course in 1973 and subsequently commanded HM Submarines OBERON and OPOSSUM before serving as a staff warfare officer to Captain (SM) Submarine Sea Training.

After promotion to Commander in 1976 he attended the Royal Naval Staff Course from where he joined Flag Officer Submarines’ Staff as a staff warfare officer. He then commanded HM Submarine SUPERB after which he spent just under a year in the Ministry of Defence (Directorate of Naval Plans) where he was promoted to Captain in 1982. This was followed by command of HMS BRILLIANT and then appointment as Captain (SM) Submarine Sea Training.

In 1986 he returned to the Ministry of Defence and the Directorate of Navy Plans and Programmes as Assistant Director (Warfare) and in 1988 he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies. He then served as Senior Naval Officer Middle East and Commander Task Group 321.1 in the rank of Commodore before becoming Director of Naval Staff Duties (DNSD) from August 1989 to 10th June 1991.

From DNSD he was promoted to Rear Admiral and in July took up the duties of Flag Officer Sea Training and Naval Base Commander Portland. In November 1992 he assumed the duties of flag officer surface flotilla which included the NATO appointment of Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Striking Force. He was promoted to Vice Admiral in February 1994 and was knighted in the 1995 New Year Honours List. Promoted to Admiral in May 1995 he simultaneously took up the appointment of Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command.

In September 1997 Admiral Boyce became Commander-in-Chief Fleet with the accompanying NATO position of Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic and Commander Allied Naval Forces North Western Europe. He was then appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, and First and Principal Naval ADC, in October 1998,
serving as the professional head of the Royal Navy until January 2001. He was appointed GCB in June 1999. He became Chief of Defence Staff and professional head of the armed forces in February 2001 and relinquished this appointment in May 2003; and he subsequently retired from the Royal Navy after forty-two years’ service. He was awarded the honorary appointment of Admiral of the Fleet 13th June 2014.

Lord Boyce was elevated to the peerage in June 2003; and was appointed Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle in July 2004; and King of Arms of the Order of the Bath in 2009–18. He was made a Knight Companion of the Order of the Garter in April 2011 and appointed Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom in 2021.

He was also made a Knight (of Justice) of St John in December 2002, and Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in December 2003; and he became the first Colonel Commandant of the Special Boat Service in 2003, and patron of the Special Boat Service Association in 2020. He was a Freeman of the City of London, an Elder Brother of Trinity House, an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Portsmouth), an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law (University of Kent), an Honorary Doctor of Canterbury Christ Church University, an Honorary Doctor of Science Imperial College London, and an Honorary Bencher, Middle Temple. He was also involved in a vast number of pro-bono/charity activities including being: Chairman Royal National Lifeboat Institution; Chairman HMS Victory Preservation Company; Chairman Advisory Board Centre for Blast Injury Studies and President White Ensign Association to name just a few.

The son of Naval Commander Herbert and Madeline Boyce he was born in South Africa and as a young child was on the first escorted flotilla to arrive safely to the UK during the Second World War. He attended Hurstpierpoint College prior to his officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, where he was awarded the Queen’s Sword. He is survived by his two brothers, Graham and Philip, his children from his first marriage to Harriette, Christine and Hugo and his grandchildren, Isabella, Zack, Lauren, and Henry. He lost his second wife, Fleur, after a short, but tragic, battle with cancer.

Royal Navy Sources
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 MBE, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Special Service Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

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

The Band of His Majesty’s Royal Marines, Collingwood, is led by Captain Samuel Hairssine RN.

Music before the service

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 547 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Elegy George Thalben-Ball (1896–1987)

The Band of His Majesty’s Royal Marines, Collingwood, play

The Banks of Green Willow George Butterworth (1885–1916)

Lux Aurumque Eric Whitacre (b 1970)

Meditation ‘The Light of the World’ Dean Goffin (1916–84)

Celtic lullaby Geoffrey Nobes (b 1954)

Band of Brothers Michael Kamen (1948–2003)

The Pacific Hans Zimmer (b 1954)

Heroic Elegy Ernest Farrar (1885–1918)

Prelude on ‘Lavenham’ Geoffrey Nobes

Rest Frank Ticheli (b 1958)
The Assistant Organist plays

Prelude on ‘Cape Town’       Healey Willan (1880–1968)
Andante espressivo           Edward Elgar (1857–1934)
from Sonata in G Op 28

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

The Lady Usher of the Black Rod, Sarah Clarke CVO OBE, is received. Presentations are made and she is conducted to her seat.

The Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, is received. All stand. Presentations are made and he is conducted to his seat.

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Patricia McAllister, is received. Presentations are made. All sit.

Admiral Sir Anthony Radakin KCB ADC, representing His Majesty The King, Commander Robert Dixon, representing His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence KCVO CB DC, representing Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, the Lord Stirrup, representing Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and Mr Nicholas Adamson, representing Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent, are received. Presentations are made.

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, also representing Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, the Honourable Lady Ogilvy, is received. Presentations are made.

All stand as His Royal Highness and the Royal Representatives are conducted to their seats.
Order of Service

All remain standing. The choir sings the Introit from the Great West Door


Wherever charity and love are to be found, God is there. The love of Christ has brought us together as one. Let us rejoice and be glad in him. Let us fear and love the living God; and let us love one another with sincerity in our heart. Amen.

Maurice Duruflé (1902–86) Antiphon at the foot-washing, Maundy Thursday

All sing the Hymn, during which the procession moves to places in Quire, the Lantern, and the Sacrament

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)

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

We gather before God, and in this house of memory and prayer, to recall the life of Michael, Admiral of the Fleet, the Lord Boyce. We give thanks for his great gifts and for the grace that was in him, ever harnessing his ability in a life of service. Trusted and required to exercise such significant responsibility, he served this Nation with distinction. He rose to each challenge, confident and trusting in the face of every hindrance. A man of discipline, resourcefulness and accustomed to command he was also possessed of great warmth and a deep affection. Loyal himself, he commanded loyalty in others. He, of course, would have us remember the family he held so dear and for whom we pray today. As we commend him to God’s loving kindness, we tell the story of a life well lived. We also recall a sure and quiet faith. He walked in the ways of righteousness. We are confident in the hope we share with him and in the great promises of God.
All remain standing for the Procession of the Standard with Colour, which is received by the Dean, and placed at the High Altar

The Royal Marines Band play
Heart of Oak (Quick March)  William Boyce (1711–1779)
Westering Home  Hugh Stevenson Robertson (1874–1952)

The Dean says

DISTURB us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love. Amen.

Prayer of Sir Francis Drake (c 1540–1596)

All sit

Admiral Sir George Zambellas GCB ADC DL and Oliver Lee give a Tribute
REJOICE in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Thanks be to God.

Philippians 4.4-9

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 wits’ 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!

Graham Boyce gives a Tribute

The Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE reads the Second Lesson

ON that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing the Hymn

DEAR Lord and Father of mankind,  
for give our foolish ways!  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.
Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Repton 353 NEH
from Judith
Hubert Parry (1848–1918)

John Whittier (1807–92)

All sit. The Dean gives the Address

The choir sings the Anthem

ANY waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.

Love is strong as death.

‘Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.’

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Greater Love Hath No Man
Song of Solomon 8: 7a, 6b; John 15: 13a; 1 Peter 2: 24;
John Ireland (1879–1962) 1 Corinthians 6: 11b; 1 Peter 2: 9; Romans 12: 1
The Reverend Mark Birch MVO, Precentor, introduces the Prayers

Let us pray.

All kneel or remain seated

Let us give thanks to God for Michael; for his gifts of character and many great accomplishments. Let us remember especially those who mourn him and miss him most.

O ETERNAL 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 Reverend Chris Shimmen, Chaplain, Royal Navy, says

Let us pray for the numerous charitable causes he supported; for a blessing upon their work and upon 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 Reverend Dr James Hawkey, Canon in Residence, says

Remembering his life of distinguished service, let us pray for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and especially all who serve in the Royal Navy.

O ETERNAL 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 Lord, King Charles, and his 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 Naval Prayer

The Piper, Lance Corporal Frank Rochford, plays

‘Processional March’ in Honour of Pipe Major B Kidd
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce GBC OBE ADC

The Precentor concludes

Full of thanksgiving and hope, 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.
I VOW 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  Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)
Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

All remain standing for the Last Post and Reveille

The Dean pronounces the Blessing

G OD 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.

arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)

All remain standing as the procession departs

Music after the service

The organist plays
Allegro maestoso from Sonata in G Op 28 Edward Elgar

The band plays
Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral Richard Wagner (1813–1883)
from Lohengrin

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 The Special Boat Service Association and The White Ensign Association.

The SBS Association  

The White Ensign Association
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD BOYCE KG GCB OBE

Appointments

Lord Warden and Admiral of Cinque Ports, Constable of Dover Castle
Crossbencher House of Lords
Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London
King of Arms, Order of the Bath
SBS Regimental Colonel Commandant
Non-Executive Director, W S Atkins
Chairman, D Group Advisory Group
Chairman, Olton Solutions Advisory Group
Strategic Advisor, Atos
Advisor, CSC Computer Sciences Limited

Charities

RNLI Chairman/Trustee
HMS Victory Preservation Company Chairman
SM Association Patron
Officers’ Association President 2003–2012
ADVANCE Study Charity Chairman (2019-2022)
St John Ambulance (London District) President 2003-2011
RN Club Chairman (2004-2007)
Alleyn’s School ex-Governor
Atlantic Council Appeal Vice Patron
Sail4Cancer Patron
White Ensign Association Chairman (2005-2010)
Naval & Military Club Director/Vice Chair (2003 - 2009)
Forces Pension Society Vice President
RN Submarine Museum President
Trafalgar Woods Project Patron
National Maritime Museum Trustee
Canterbury Cathedral Perpetual Fund Advisory Council
Trinity House Elder Brother
EU Select Committee 2004–08
UK Defence Forum Patron
Tall Ships Youth Trust Vice Patron
National Memorial Arboretum National Appeal Council
Pilgrims Executive Committee
Forces in Mind Patron
TRBL Centre for Blast Injury Studies Chairman Advisory Group
Institute Security & Resilience Advisory Group
Top Level Group (Nuclear)
Patronships

Cinque Ports Mayors Association
St Mary’s Church Dover
Dover Pageant
Dover College
Walmer and Kingsdown Golf Club
Hastings Winkle Club
Try Angle Awards’ Foundation
Hythe Town Concert Band
Kent Search and Rescue Volunteer Group
White Cliffs Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Advisory Panel
Dover and District Merchant Navy Memorial Fund
Dover Sea Sports Development Trust
St Clement’s Church, Sandwich - Restoration and Repair Appeal
Festival of Dover
Channel Dash Association
Hythe Civic Society
Deal Society – Lady Boyce as Patron
Deal Maritime and Local History Museum – Lady Boyce as Patron
Kent and East Sussex Railway Carriage Appeal
Step-Short
Romney Marsh Academy Skills Festival
Dover War Memorial Project
Old Hastings Preservation Society

Presidencies

Golden Winkle Club (Dover)
Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club (Dover)
Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society
Foundation Governors – Sir Roger Manwood’s School

Honorary Memberships

Hythe and Romney Marsh Lions Club
Dover Royal Naval and Royal Marines Club
Rotary Club of Deal
Sandwich Society
Rotary Club of Hythe
The Band of Brothers
Hastings and St Leonard’s Veterans’ Association