

Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life and Work of
SIR TERRY WOGAN KBE DL
1938–2016



Tuesday 27th September 2016
Noon



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sir Terry Wogan was nothing less than a broadcasting institution. In a career that spanned several decades, across both radio and television, he captured the hearts of the nation with his seemingly effortless charm, wit, and exuberance.

Born in Limerick on 3rd August 1938, Terry was the son of Michael and Rose. The family had neither a car nor a telephone, but they did possess a radio set, and young Terry grew up listening to the classic programmes of the 1950s on the BBC's Light Programme. Following a Jesuit schooling, during which—as he himself admitted—‘I only ever did enough to pass exams...I never had any capacity for preparing for anything. That's why I'm so lucky to be in a job where I make it up as I go along,’ he worked briefly for the Bank of Ireland.

However, radio quickly lured him away, and he worked as a newsreader, announcer, and then DJ for the Irish broadcaster RTÉ, before crossing the water to make his debut on the Light Programme, now Radio 2, in 1967. Two years later, he was asked to stand in for Jimmy Young on the mid-morning show, and in 1972 he became presenter of the Radio 2 breakfast show where he became an immediate hit.

By this time, he had already started covering the Eurovision Song Contest on radio, but it was his characteristically amused and acerbic TV coverage, beginning in 1973, which made him the nation's favourite. ‘All I've gained by watching the Eurovision Song Contest over the years,’ he once said, ‘is a numbing of the prefrontal lobes.’ In spite of—or because of—this, he covered the contest for twenty eight continuous years. In 2008, his last Eurovision show, the contest organisers paid him the honour of welcoming him personally to the show by name.

Eurovision helped raise his TV profile, and between 1982 and 1992, Terry was ubiquitous on BBC Television, eventually hosting his chat show, *Wogan*, three evenings of the week. The show all too often made the headlines—with its panoply of starry guests—from the charismatic to the recalcitrant, the garrulous to the humourless. At the same time, Terry was hosting the hugely popular quiz show *Blankety Blank*, attracting audiences of some twenty million viewers, as well as anchoring *Children in Need*, the BBC's charity appeal. From 1980 onwards, Terry helped raise millions of pounds for this, and stated it was the thing of which he felt most proud.

When, in 1992, his TV chat show came to an end, Terry returned to his first love: radio. Radio 2 listeners (all eight million of them) welcomed him back with open arms to the breakfast slot. His dedicated listenership even christened themselves the TOGs—Terry’s Old Geezers or Terry’s Old Gals, with Her Majesty The Queen and Margaret Thatcher said to be among his fans. In 2009 he announced his retirement from the breakfast show, though he still continued with a Sunday morning show, *Weekend Wogan*, and with his work for Children in Need.

Terry was knighted in 2005 and, over his career, was the recipient of numerous broadcasting awards, including the Television and Radio Industries Club Lifetime Achievement Award, and Radio 2’s Ultimate Icon. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Limerick, was appointed a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, and was given Freedoms of both Limerick and the City of London. In *Who’s Who*, he modestly listed his occupation as ‘jobbing broadcaster’.

Terry married his wife Helen, ‘the present Lady Wogan’, in 1965, and they have three children: Alan, Mark, and Katherine.



The whole of 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 phones, pagers, 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 Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service:

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays:

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

Folk Tune *from* Five Short Pieces *Percy Whitlock (1903–46)*

Nimrod *from* Variations on an original theme 'Enigma' *Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*

Tema con variazioni *from* Organ Sonata no 4 'Celtica' Op 153 *Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*

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

The BBC Concert Orchestra plays:

- March *from* Soirées Musicales Op 9 *Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)*
- Alla Hornpipe *from* Water Music *George Frideric Handel*
(1685–1759)
- Fantasia on Greensleeves *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
- Overture *from* The Pirates of Penzance *Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)*
- By The Sleepy Lagoon *Eric Coates (1886–1957)*
- The Fair Day *from* An Irish Symphony *Hamilton Harty (1879–1941)*
- Chanson de Matin *Edward Elgar*
- Prelude *from* Te Deum *Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643–1704)*

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and is conducted to his seat.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland to the Court of St James is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and is conducted to his seat.

Members of the Wogan family are received by the Dean and Chapter at the Great West Door, and are conducted to their seats.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and he is conducted to his seat. All stand and then sit.

The Representative of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, the Lady Fellowes of West Stafford LVO, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made.

The Representative of His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, Nicolas Adamson CVO OBE, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made.

The Representative of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, The Honourable Dame Shân Legge-Bourke DCVO, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made.

The Representative of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made.

The Representative of Her Majesty The Queen, the Lady Susan Hussey GCVO, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made.

All stand.

The Dean conducts the representatives of the Royal Family to their seats in Quire.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain standing as the choir and clergy move to their places in Quire and the Sacrarium. The choir sings

THE INTROIT

CHRIST be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ above me, Christ beneath me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

A Prayer of Saint Patrick
John Rutter (b 1945)

*from St Patrick's Breastplate
attributed to St Patrick (fl 5th century)
translated by Cecil Alexander (1818–95)*

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

TERRY Wogan was a legend in his own lifetime. After his death, one paper said of him, 'Principled but self-deprecating, opinionated but generous, and never inclined to take himself seriously, he dominated the airwaves for decades. There'll never be another Wogan, and those of us who grew up with him feel his loss very keenly.'

Other broadcasters during this service will speak of his particular gifts. Perhaps they are best encapsulated in the words he addressed to his listeners when he signed off from his daily show. 'If anybody embodies the generous, warm spirit of this country, it is you, my listeners', he said. But as he spoke of them, he spoke too of himself.

Still feeling his loss, we come today to remember. But may we above all celebrate his life, give thanks to God for his gifts, and pray that the generous, warm spirit he demonstrated so powerfully might never fade away in this country, in these islands.

All sit for

THE TRIBUTE

by

Chris Evans

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



COME down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Down Ampney 137 NEH
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Discendi amor santo
Bianco da Siena (c 1350–1434)
translated by Richard Littledale (1833–90)

All sit. His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster, reads

1 CHRONICLES 16: 8–13, 23–24

O GIVE thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he uttered, O offspring of his servant Israel, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples.

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE PSALM

BLESSED is the man that feareth the Lord : he hath great delight in his commandments.
His seed shall be mighty upon earth : the generation of the faithful shall be blessed.
Riches and plenteousness shall be in his house : and his righteousness endureth for ever.
Unto the godly there ariseth up light in the darkness : he is merciful, loving, and righteous.

A good man is merciful, and lendeth : and will guide his words with discretion.

For he shall never be moved : and the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

He will not be afraid of any evil tidings : for his heart standeth fast, and believeth in the Lord.

His heart is established, and will not shrink : until he see his desire upon his enemies.

He hath dispersed abroad, and given to the poor : and his righteousness remaineth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

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.

John Goss (1800–80)

Psalm 112: 1–9

All remain seated. Stevie Spring, Chairman of BBC Children in Need, reads

ST MARK 10: 13–21

PEOPLE were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.”’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



BE thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be thou my inheritance now and always,
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Slane 339 NEH
traditional Irish melody*

*Irish, c 8th century, translated by Mary Byrne (1880–1931)
and versified by Eleanor Hull (1860–1935)*

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE
Director-General of the BBC

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

BEATI quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are they whose way is pure,
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

Charles Villiers Stanford

Psalm 119: 1

*All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot, Minor Canon
and Sacrist, leads*

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray to the Lord, the giver of life.

Alan Wogan says:

PRAISING God for our father's love of our mother, his children, and
grandchildren, we give thanks for his devotion and care, for his
kindness, and for his gift of friendship and love to others.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Mark Wogan says:

AS we praise God, so we give thanks for our father's true understanding of charity, his generosity of spirit and kindness of heart, for his empathy and selfless wisdom.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Katherine Cripps says:

PRAISING God for our father's life's work, we give thanks for his warmth and humour, for his gentleness, and for his love of people.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The Reverend Professor Vernon White, Canon in Residence, says:

OLORD our God, from whom neither life nor death can separate those who trust in your love, and whose love holds in its embrace your children in this world and in the next: So unite us to yourself that in fellowship with you we may always be at one with those we love: 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 concludes:

All these prayers and praises we offer to the Father in the words our Saviour Christ 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.

All sit. Katie Melua sings:

The Closest Thing to Crazy

Mike Batt (b 1949)

All remain seated. Ken Bruce reads

THE SONG OF WANDERING AENGUS

I WENT out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire a-flame,
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name:
It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair
Who called me by my name and ran
And faded through the brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;
And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done,
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.

W B Yeats (1865–1939)

All remain seated. Peter Gabriel sings:

That'll Do

Randy Newman (b 1943)

All remain seated. Joanna Lumley OBE reads

FOR THE FORMER GREATEST LIVING IRISHMAN

HOW shall I praise him? Let me count the ways.
H I think he was the tops, the cat's miaow;
For pity's sake, who else would you allow
To mutter in your ear each dawn of days
Just rambling on, with nothing on his mind?
A brainy burbling, charming us to shreds
When we should long have risen from our beds.
But then he signed off, leaving us behind.
I worked with him, and twice I took his place.
If he was here I'd kiss his handsome face,
And tell him that they simply broke the mould
When he was made. He'll never now be old,
For now he's scripted by the Holy Ghost
And billions of lost souls are feeling cosier
As, with their morning helping of ambrosia,
They listen in to their new heavenly host.
That voice—(an aural newly-ripened peach
That never spoke to all, but spoke to each,
Each one he never met, but made his friend)
Now sounds for evermore, world without end.
Oh, lucky cherubim and seraphim,
With breakfast hymns forever linked by him!

*Joanna 'Barrett Browning' Lumley (b 1946) (with no apologies)
and Richard 'Barratt Homes' Stilgoe (b 1943)*

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.

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

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.

Henry Baker (1821–77)
after Psalm 150

All remain standing. 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.

After the service, the BBC Concert Orchestra plays:

The Floral Dance

Katie Moss (1881–1947)

Recorded by Terry Wogan in 1978

Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist, plays:

Toccata from Symphonie V

Charles-Marie Widor (1842–1937)

**Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in
their seats until invited to move by the Stewards.**

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung.

There will be a retiring collection
in aid of BBC Children in Need.

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