

# Westminster Abbey



A Service to celebrate  
the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the National Health Service

**NHS70**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Noon

## FOREWORD

As the NHS turns 70, we celebrate seven decades of service and success: we're living longer and healthier lives; we've all but vanquished many illnesses that afflicted our grandparents' generation; and we've witnessed seemingly miraculous medical advances, from organ transplantation to modern vaccinations and precision genomic medicine. The NHS has succeeded partly because it has always been evolving.

None of this would be possible without the skill, dedication, and compassion of NHS staff, as well as the many volunteers, carers, charities, and communities who support our patients and our work: the midwives who bring us into the world; the GPs and pharmacists who advise and treat us; the nurses, doctors, therapists, and countless others who come to our aid; the support staff we rely on; and the scientists and researchers discovering new cures.

Looking out over the next decade we've got both new opportunities and new challenges, but we face them knowing that the nation's health is in good hands. So, on behalf of the whole country, we say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made the NHS what it is today: our most-loved and trusted institution, there when we need it, at some of the happiest and most difficult times of our lives.

*Simon Stevens  
Chief Executive Officer  
NHS England*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Today is a chance for us to say a big 'thank you' to one of our nation's most precious institutions, and to the doctors, nurses, and many others who have looked after the nation's health for 70 years.

We will all have our own particular thanks to give; whether it is to those who helped bring us into the world, treated us through sickness or injury, or cared for a relative. My own personal thanks go to all those who support me in managing my diabetes.

Our National Health Service today continues to reflect the British values on which it was first founded: fairness, compassion, and the fundamental belief that no one should be denied medical treatment because they cannot afford it.

These will be the values that carry it forward for many generations to come. Recently I asked the NHS to produce a long-term plan for the future based on stable funding from Government, which will ensure everyone receives the right care, in the right setting, at the right time.

I want to wish everyone working in the NHS, now and in the past, the very best— and on behalf of the entire country, thank you for everything you do.

*The Right Honourable Theresa May MP*



THE  
NATIONAL  
HEALTH  
SERVICE



**Your new National Health Service begins on 5th July. What is it? How do you get it?**

It will provide you with all medical, dental, and nursing care. Everyone—rich or poor, man, woman or child—can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a "charity". You are all paying for it, mainly as taxpayers, and it will relieve your money worries in time of illness.

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

*The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, 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.*

*Before the service, Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays:*

Prelude & Fugue in A BWV 536                      *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

Choral No 3 in E    *César Franck (1822–90)*

Rhapsody Op 17 No 1 in D flat                      *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654                      *Johann Sebastian Bach*

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

*The High Sheriff of Greater London, Charles Spicer, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made, and he is conducted to his seat.*

*The Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Colonel Jane Davis OBE QVRM TD DL RGN, representing the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door. Presentations are made, and she is conducted to her seat.*

*The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Deputy High Steward, Councillor Lindsey Hall, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made. All stand as she is conducted to her seat, and then sit.*

*All stand. Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the West Gate. Presentations are made.*

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# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The choir sings*

## THE INTROIT

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)  
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1623–25*

*Collect for the third Sunday after Epiphany*

*All sing*

## THE HYMN

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



**P**RAISE, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
widely as his mercy flows.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
glorious in his faithfulness.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him;  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Praise, my soul 436 NEH  
John Goss (1800–80)*

*Henry Lyte (1793–1847)  
after Psalm 103*

*A copy of the original NHS manifest is processed to the High Altar by Nurse Aileen Coomber, escorted by Liam Islam and Chris Pointon.*

*From the High Altar, The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives*

### THE WELCOME *and* THE BIDDING

**I**N a public address about the National Health Service, which he more than anyone had brought into being, Aneurin Bevan said in 1959 not long before he died, 'I'm proud about the NHS. It's a piece of real socialism; it's a piece of real Christianity too.'

How we describe the NHS matters less than how we value the NHS for the healthcare and practical support it offers to all: care free on the point of delivery on the basis of need. And the value we recognise in the NHS understands the immense pressure on a vast organisation with ever expanding opportunities for innovative care and healing and ever changing patterns of need and priorities for care.

So, we gather now in this holy place to celebrate and give thanks for 70 years of the National Health Service and to pray for all those involved in the planning and delivery of this remarkable, this unique, service to the people of our land.

*All sit for*

#### THE FIRST TESTIMONY

*from the Nave Pulpit*

*by*

Olive Belfield,

Former Nurse and NHS Retirement Fellowship

#### THE SECOND TESTIMONY

*from the Great Lectern*

*by*

Freya Lewis,

patient

*and*

Jenny Grant,

Paediatric Critical Care Nurse,

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

*All stand to sing*

THE HYMN



**T**HE King of love my Shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction, grace bestoweth:  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never;  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

*All sit. The Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, reads from the Nave Pulpit*

### THE FIRST LESSON

**T**HE wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10*

*The choir sings*

### THE ANTHEM

**I**N the hour of my distress,  
When temptations me oppress,  
And when I my sins confess,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,  
Sick in heart and sick in head,  
And with doubts discomfited,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,  
And the world is drowned with sleep,  
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

Litany to the Holy Spirit  
*Peter Hurford (b 1930)*

*Robert Herrick (c 1591–1674)*

*Selina Litt, athlete and patient, reads from the Great Lectern*

## THE SECOND LESSON

JESUS said to his disciples, ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

*St Matthew 25: 31–40*

THE ADDRESS  
*from the Great Pulpit*

*by*

Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England

*The choir sings*

## THE ANTHEM

THE Lord hath created medicines out of the earth;  
and he that is wise will not abhor them.  
And he hath given men skill,  
that he might be honoured in his marvellous works.  
My son, in thy sickness leave off from sin, and order thy hands aright,  
and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.

Strengthen ye the weak hands,  
and confirm the feeble knees.  
Say to them that are of a fearful heart,  
Be strong, fear not:  
behold, your God will come;  
he will come and save you.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.  
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,  
and the tongue of the dumb shall sing:  
for in the wilderness shall waters break out,  
and streams in the desert.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them;  
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.  
It shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing:  
the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it,  
the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,  
they shall see the glory of the Lord  
and the excellency of our God.

Strengthen ye the weak hands,  
and confirm the feeble knees.  
Say to them that are of a fearful heart,  
Be strong, fear not:  
behold, your God will come;  
he will come and save you.

O Saviour of the world,  
who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us,  
Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Strengthen Ye the Weak Hands  
*William Harris (1883–1973)*

*Ecclesiasticus 38: 4, 6, 9a, 10; Isaiah 35: 3–6, 1–2*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> acclamation at the Liturgy of Good Friday*

## THE PRAYERS

*The Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Sacrist, says:*

Let us pray.

*All kneel or remain seated.*

**L**ET us give thanks to God for the National Health Service; for those whose vision and compassion brought it into existence, and those who have served within it these seventy years.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gabrielle Mathews, NHS Youth Forum, says:*

**L**ET us give thanks for the developments and innovations in healthcare during that time; for those whose research and practice has improved the lives of patients.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**L**ET us give thanks for all the staff and volunteers who make the Health Service a blessing to the people of this nation.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Martin McGonigle, Spiritual Care Lead, Douglas Macmillan Hospice, says:*

**T**HE Buddha said: “Whoever attends on the sick attends on me”. We say ‘thank you’ to all who undertake the noble task; of easing pain; curing ills; relieving suffering; making life possible to live. May a mark of our thanks be the way we care for our NHS staff and volunteers and support them in their work.

*Yunus Dudhwala, Head Chaplain, Barts Health NHS Trust, says:*

**M**AY God bless all those who strive to help others, for indeed it is He who says “Do good; indeed God loves those who do good.” (Quran 2: 195). Blessed then is that institute—our institute—whose sole purpose is to serve and care. May God protect the NHS and the health, both physical and spiritual of all who care and are cared for. Amen.

*Rabbi Baroness Neuberger DBE says:*

**M**AY all those who are sick find comfort and relief through the wisdom and expertise of their doctors, nurses, and all who care for them. May God bless all those who work for the health and well-being of others, and let us celebrate them and the NHS with the traditional Hebrew words: Baruch attah adonai, eloheinu melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu ve'kiy'manu ve'higianu laz'man ha-zeh: We thank you, God, for keeping us alive and allowing us to reach this time. Amen.

*Lobke Marsden, Play Specialist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, says:*

**L**ET us pray for those with responsibility for the Health Service today; for those who make policy, allocate resources, and develop plans for its future; for vision, resolve, and compassion in addressing the demands and opportunities of our day.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Right Honourable John Ashworth MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, says:*

**L**ET us pray for all medical professionals, and those who work alongside them; for those in practice and those in training; for the skill, endurance, and empathy they need for their work.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

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

**L**ET us pray for all who are unwell; for those living with chronic illness and those nearing death; for their families, carers and all who give emotional support; for the work of Chaplains and all who offer pastoral care to staff and patients alike.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Sacrist says:*

All these, our prayers and praises, let us offer to the Father in 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 sit for*

THE THIRD TESTIMONY  
*from the Great Lectern*

*by*

Martin Griffiths,  
Consultant Vascular/Trauma Surgeon,  
Barts Health NHS Trust

*All stand to sing*

THE HYMN



LIGHT'S abode, celestial Salem,  
vision dear whence peace doth spring,  
brighter than the heart can fancy,  
mansion of the highest King;  
O, how glorious are the praises  
which of thee the prophets sing!

There for ever and for ever  
Alleluia is outpoured;  
for unending, for unbroken  
is the feast-day of the Lord;  
all is pure and all is holy  
that within thy walls is stored.

O how glorious and resplendent,  
fragile body, shalt thou be,  
when endued with so much beauty,  
full of health, and strong, and free,  
full of vigour, full of pleasure  
that shall last eternally!

Now with gladness, now with courage,  
bear the burden on thee laid,  
that hereafter these thy labours  
may with endless gifts be paid,  
and in everlasting glory  
thou with joy may'st be arrayed.

Laud and honour to the Father,  
laud and honour to the Son,  
laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One,  
consubstantial, co-eternal  
while unending ages run. Amen.

*Regent Square 401 NEH  
Henry Smart (1818–79)*

*Jerusalem luminosa 15<sup>th</sup> century  
translated by John Mason Neale (1818–66)*

*All remain standing. The Dean pronounces*

### THE BLESSING

**G**O forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*All remain standing as the procession moves to the west end of the Abbey Church.*

*Music after the service:*

Sonata in A major Op 65 No 3

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)*

*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**

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