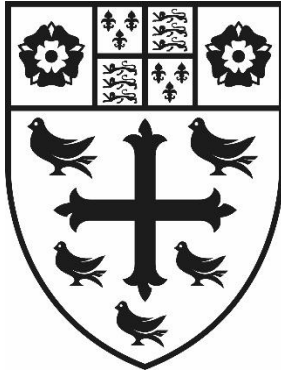


# Westminster Abbey



A Service to celebrate  
the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the National Health Service



Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
11.00 am



In 2022, Her Late Majesty The Queen presented the George Cross to the National Health Services of the UK in recognition of their service to the country since being launched in 1948, including the exceptional efforts of NHS staff and volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic.



WINDSOR CASTLE

It is with great pleasure, on behalf  
of a grateful nation, that I award the George Cross  
to the National Health Services of the United Kingdom.

This award recognises all NHS staff, past  
and present, across all disciplines and all four nations.  
Over more than seven decades, and especially in  
recent times, you have supported the people of our  
country with courage, compassion and dedication,  
demonstrating the highest standards of public service.

You have our enduring thanks and  
heartfelt appreciation.

*Elizabeth II*

## FOREWORD

Today we come together to celebrate 75 years of our National Health Service, and all those past and present who have contributed to it. Since the day it was founded, the NHS has continually innovated and adapted to meet the changing needs of our patients and communities. It has operated at the leading edge of science, delivering advances – from heart and lung transplants and IVF, to bionic eyes and whole genome sequencing tests – which have benefited, and will continue to benefit, millions of people here and worldwide. Recent years have brought a once-in-a-century global health emergency and unprecedented challenges. But throughout, our staff, volunteers and partners up and down the country have continued to do what they do best; looking after patients and their loved ones. In doing so they provided a beacon of hope for a nation during dark and uncertain times. It is therefore little wonder that the NHS remains the institution that makes our nation most proud to be British – a cornerstone of national life and our shared identity.

Thank you for joining us in this opportunity to celebrate and thank our incredible people, reflect on our past, and look ahead to our shared future.

*Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer, NHS England*

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

The NHS has been there for all of us for 75 years, taking care of us through the toughest times but also through moments of joy and hope – like the arrival of a new baby or ringing that bell to say you've finished your cancer treatment. It is woven through the story of our lives, and the story of our nation. For me it means family. My father was a GP and my mother ran a local pharmacy. As a child I saw their dedication to caring for their patients and I realised that the NHS was a powerful statement of how much we all care for one another. The purpose of the NHS, to provide healthcare free at the point of use, will never change – it is the right of every citizen. And with that right comes the responsibility to nurture it, ready to pass it on to the next generation. So, this anniversary is a moment to give thanks to the millions of men and women, from the UK, the Commonwealth, and around the world, who for 75 years have made the NHS what it is. But it is also a moment to look forward – to pledge that we will support the NHS to keep delivering and keep making us proud for another 75 years and beyond. I am determined that is what we will do.

*The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP*

*Members of the congregation are requested kindly to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones 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 David Hoyle MBE, Dean of Westminster.*

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

*The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.*

*Before the service Dewi Rees, Organ Scholar, plays:*

*Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 541 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

*Sonata no 1 in F minor Felix Mendelssohn (1808–47)*

*A song of sunshine Alfred Hollins (1865–1942)*

*Chorale Prelude on ‘Slane’ Healey Willan (1880–1968)*

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

*The Right Honourable Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, is received. Presentations are made and he is conducted to his seat.*

*The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP, Leader of His Majesty’s Most Loyal Opposition, is received. Presentations are made and he is conducted to his seat.*

*The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, is received. 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 stand as she is conducted to her seat and then sit.*

*Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh are received by the Dean and Chapter at the Great West Door. All stand. Presentations are made.*

# 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)*

*Collect for the third Sunday after Epiphany*

*Organist of Westminster Abbey 1623–25*

*All sing the Hymn during which the procession, with Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, moves to places in Quire, the Lantern, and the Sacrarium.*



**P**RAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
come ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen, all that is needful hath been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
ponder anew all the Almighty can do,  
he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen sound from his people again:  
gladly for ay we adore him.

*Lobe den Herren 440 NEH  
Praxis pietatis melica 1668*

*Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren  
Joachim Neander (1650–80)  
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)*

*The George Cross, presented to the NHS by Her Majesty The Queen in 2022, is processed to the High Altar by nurse May Parsons, who administered the world's first COVID vaccine. May is joined by Kyle Dean-Curtis, St John Ambulance cadet of the year, and Enid Richmond, who worked for the NHS at the time it was launched*

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

**W**E gather in thanksgiving for both the grace of God and the grace and glory that is the NHS. We celebrate seventy-five years of public witness to the common good. Born of the radical conviction that we must care for one another, the National Health Service sets before us all the better angels of our nature. Here is high principle translated into best practice. Here is the steady dedication of those who, for us, face pain and fear, know life and death, tragedy and near miracle, and return another day to do that again. Here is a courage tested to its limits. Here is a virtuoso capacity for innovation; a dedicated and lively expertise. Here is love made manifest.

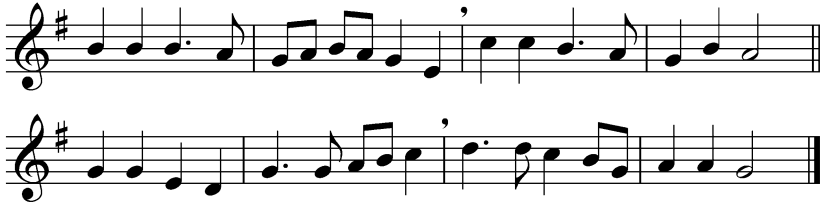
We give thanks for the dedication, loyalty, and resilience of NHS staff, volunteers and all their partners in social care. We rejoice in a community fashioned from across the world in which over 200 nationalities show us what we can do and what we can be.

We pray God's blessing on our National Health Service, on those who sustain it, and on those who govern and direct it. In the midst of so many challenges and aware of current disagreement may this anniversary remind us of our ability to navigate difficulty and find new solutions. May the hope and ambition out of which the NHS was born be ever renewed.

*All sit for the First Testimony, given by Dame Elizabeth Anionwu OM, academic, author, and the UK's first sickle cell nurse*

*The Second Testimony is given by Ellie Orton OBE, Chief Executive, NHS Charities Together*

*All stand to sing the Hymn*



**F**ATHER, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

*Sussex 357 NEH*  
*traditional English melody*

*Aspiration after Psalm 23*  
*Love Maria Willis (1824–1908)*

*All sit. The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP, Leader of His Majesty's Most Loyal Opposition, reads the First Lesson*

**T**HEN I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

*Revelations 21: 1–4; 22: 1–2*

Thanks be to God.

*The choir sings the Psalm*

**T**HE Lord is my shepherd :  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture :  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.  
He shall convert my soul :  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
will fear no evil :  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.  
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me :  
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life :  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*George Martin (1844–1916)*

*Psalm 23*



*The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, reads 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.'

*Matthew 25: 31–40*

Thanks be to God.

*Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive of NHS England, gives the Address*

*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      *Ecclesiasticus 38: 4, 6, 9a, 10; Isaiah 35: 3–6, 1–2*  
*William Harris (1883–1973)*      *2<sup>nd</sup> acclamation at the Liturgy of Good Friday*

*The Dean gives the Sermon*

*The Reverend Mark Birch MVO, Precentor, says:*

Let us pray.

*All kneel or remain seated. The Right Honourable Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, says*

**L**ET us give thanks to God for 75 years of the National Health Service; for those whose vision and compassion brought it into existence, for all who have supported and contributed to its work, and for the countless number who have benefitted.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Dame Ruth May DBE, Chief Nursing Officer for England, says:*

**L**ET us give thanks to God for the staff and volunteers serving in the NHS today; for those in training and those who teach; for all who served during the pandemic, and who are working to restore services.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Professor Sir Stephen Powis, National Medical Director, NHS England, says:*

**L**ET us give thanks to God for every advance in healthcare; for the work and inspiration of researchers and practitioners; and for every effort made to improve the lives of patients.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Professor Suzanne Rastrick OBE, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer for England, says:*

**L**ET us pray for those with responsibility for the NHS 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; that they may be guided by God's wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

*Richard Webb-Stevens, holder of the Queen's Ambulance Service Medal for Distinguished Service, says:*

**L**ET us pray for all medical professionals, and those who work alongside them; for the skill, empathy and endurance they need. Let us pray for those whose work is especially stressful and pressured, and for those who live with chronic illness and fatigue in the wake of the pandemic; that they may know God's strength, and be channels of his grace.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

*The Right Reverend Anthony Ball, 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; that all may know the healing of God's love.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

*The Precentor concludes:*

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, given by Dr Martin English, consultant paediatric oncologist (retired), Birmingham Women and Children's NHS Foundation Trust, and Dr Michael Griksaitis, consultant in paediatric intensive care, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust who jointly led a team of NHS staff who extracted Ukrainian children with cancer to the UK from Poland*

*All stand to sing the Hymn*



**L**ORD of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Slane 239 NEH*

*in Patrick Joyce's Old Irish Folk Music and Songs 1909*

All-Day Hymn

*Jan Struther (1901–53)*

*All remain standing. Words of blessing are said by Faith Representatives Dr Amina Al-Yassin, representing the Muslim community, Mr Kirit Mistry, representing the Hindu community, and Dr Manvir Kaur, representing the Sikh community*

*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 sing*

**G**OD 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.

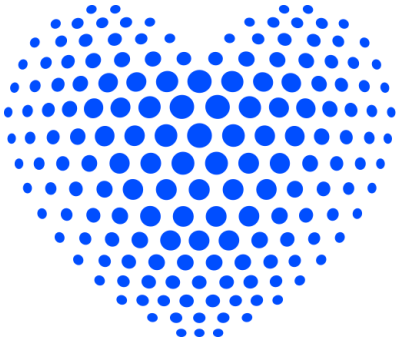
*All remain standing as the procession, with Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, moves to the west end of the Abbey Church.*

*Music after the service:*

Finale *Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)*  
*from Symphony no 6 Op 42*

*The bells of the Abbey are rung*

**Members of the congregation are kindly requested to remain in their seats until directed to move by the Honorary Stewards**



# NHS CHARITIES TOGETHER

NHS England is delighted to be working in partnership with NHS Charities Together to deliver this celebration of 75 years of the NHS and its workforce.

NHS Charities Together is the national charity caring for the NHS, supporting a network of over 230 NHS charities based in every hospital, health board, ambulance, community, and mental health trust across the UK and helping the NHS go further for everyone.

Together NHS charities give over one million pounds a day to benefit NHS staff, patients and volunteers.

During 2020, NHS Charities Together's Covid Appeal raised £160 million and has reached every NHS Trust and Health Board, funding thousands of projects supporting patients, healthcare staff, community first responder volunteers, and preventing ill health in communities.



To find out more and donate, visit [www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk](http://www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk) or scan the QR code above.