

St Margaret's Church
Westminster Abbey



Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life and Work of
**THE HONOURABLE
MRS PATRICK HOWARD**
1945–2008



Tuesday 24 March 2009
Noon

WE seem to give them back to thee, O God who gavest them to us.
Yet as thou didst not lose them in giving,
so do we not lose them by their return.
Not as the world giveth, givest thou O lover of souls.
What thou givest thou takest not away,
For what is thine is ours also if we are thine.
And life is eternal and love is immortal,
And death is only an horizon,
And an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.
Lift us up, strong Son of God that we may see further;
cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly;
draw us closer to thyself
that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with
thee.
And while thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that
happy place,
That where thou art we may be also for evermore.

Charles Brent (1862-1929)



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

Please ensure that mobile phones, cellular phones, and pagers are switched off.

The service is conducted by The Reverend Robert Wright, Rector of St Margaret's Church, and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The service is sung by the Choir of St Margaret's Church, conducted by Aidan Oliver, Director of Music.

The organ is played by Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist, Westminster Abbey.

Music before the service:

The Organist plays:

Jesus bleibet meine Freude
from Herz und Mund und Tat
und Leben BWV 147

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)*

When you taught me how to dance

*Roger Westlake (b 1958)
and Mike Batt (b 1949)*

Nimrod from Variations on an
Original Theme for orchestra Op 36 'Enigma'

Edward Elgar

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the East Door.

All stand as The Lord Mayor of Westminster is conducted to her place, and then sit.

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent is received at the East Door by the Rector.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall is received at the East Door by the Rector.

All stand as Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall and His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent are conducted to their places by the Rector, and then sit.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the Choir and Clergy enter:

All remain standing. Sophie Hennessy, niece, and The Choir sing

THE INTROIT

THE Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of blessedness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I pass thro' shadowed vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me,
and thy rod and staff me comfort still

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head with oil thou dost anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days
will surely follow me;
and in my Father's heart always
my dwelling place shall be

Brother James' Air (Marosa)
Arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895-1984)

after Psalm 23

All remain standing. Canon Wright says

THE BIDDING

WE are gathered together today to give thanks for the life and work of a remarkable lady. During her life Mary Howard raised millions of pounds for the many charities she supported. A beautiful lady, with an attractive and charismatic personality, Mary lived life to the full and had the enviable ability to make everyone she met feel they were special.

During this service we shall give thanks for Mary's life and for the inspiration she has given to so many people; we shall remember the many charities that benefited from Mary's tireless work; and we shall pray for her many friends, godchildren, and family, especially Patrick, Jason, Rory, Timothy, and Charles.

And so we sum up our thoughts and prayers together with our thanksgiving for Mary's life by saying together:

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and for all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we shew forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives;
by giving up ourselves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our
days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy
Ghost
be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer 1662

All sing

THE HYMN

PRAISE, 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.

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.

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.

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 Francis Lyte (1793-1847)
after Psalm 103

All sit. Rory Howard reads:

YOUR mother is always with you.
She is the whisper of leaves
As you walk down the street.
She is the smell of bleach
In your freshly-laundered socks.
She is the cool hand on your brow
When you are not well.
Your mother lives inside your laughter.
She is crystallised in every teardrop.
She is the place you came from,
Your first home.
She in the map that you follow
With every step that you take.
She is your first love
And your first heartbreak,
And nothing on earth can separate you.

anonymous

All remain seated. The Choir sings

PSALM 112

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. The ungodly shall see it, and it shall grieve him: he shall gnash with his teeth, and consume away; the desire of the ungodly shall perish.

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)

All remain seated. Charles Howard reads

ROMANS 12: 9-18

LET love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

LOVE divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Blaenwern 408i NEH
William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

Jason Howard

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

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

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)
from Ein Deutsches Requiem 1868

Psalm 84: 1, 3

All remain seated. Timothy Howard reads

MEMORIES OF THE HEART

FEEL no guilt in laughter, she'd know how much you care,
feel no sorrow in a smile, that she is not there to share
you cannot grieve forever; she would not want you to.
She'd hope that you would carry on the way you always do.
So talk about the good times, and the ways you showed you cared,
the days you spent together, all the happiness you shared.
Let memories surround you, a word someone may say,
will suddenly recapture a time, an hour, a day
that bring her back as clearly, as though she were still here.
And fill you with a feeling that she is always near.
For if you keep those moments, you will never be apart
and she will live forever locked safe within your heart.

anonymous

All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Michael Macey, Minor Canon of Westminster, leads

THE PRAYERS

We give thanks to God for the gift of knowing Mary: for the love she shared among us; for all that was good in her life, for the memories we treasure today, and in a moment of silence let us offer these memories to God.

Silence is kept.

ALL praise be thine Almighty God for the memories thou hast given us of those who have gone before us. Grant that in all our memories we may forever hold fast to that which is true and so honour the memory of thy faithful servant, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who were closest to Mary, for her family and friends, for Patrick, Rory, Charles, Tim, Jason, and the wider family: that they may continue to be inspired by her memory and comforted in their loss.

MERCIFUL God, hear us as we remember Mary with love. We thank thee for the gift of her life and for the privilege of sharing that life. Help us to see beyond our grief, inspire us to live with faith renewed, and strengthen us to deepen our trust in thee, until we see thee face to face in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mary was a devoted mother and grandmother who loved all children and would do all she could to help them. Let us pray for all who support or work with the young people of our society, loving them and encouraging them as they grow up.

O GOD our Father, we pray thee to bless all children, and to give to those who have care of them wisdom, patience, and love; so that the environment in which they grow up may be to them an image of thy kingdom, and the care of their parents a likeness of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Very Reverend Dr Stephen Smalley, former Dean of Chester, continues:

Let us give thanks for Mary's selfless and generous nature: for her flair and energy in fundraising for charity, for her desire to make a difference and help those in need, and for the way she always put others needs before her own.

ALMIGHTY God, from whom all good things do come: grant us grace to use wisely in the service of others all thy gifts to us, and ever to show forth our gratitude by giving ourselves, our souls and bodies, to thee and to thy service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us recall Mary's ability to bring fun and laughter to those whom she met: for her insatiable desire to live life to the full, and for her terrific sense of humour.

O GOD, who hast made heaven and earth and all that is good and lovely therein, and hast shown us that the secret of joy is a heart set free from selfish desires: help us to find delight in the simple things of life, and ever to rejoice in the riches of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The grandchildren offer flowers at the foot of the high altar:

The Choir sings:

GOD be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

from Pynson's Horae 1514

The Minor Canon 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 stand to sing

THE HYMN

IVOW 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 295 AMNS
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918)

All remain standing for

THE BLESSING

GO 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

The Choir sings:

Amen

Gerald Finzi (1901-56)

All remain standing as the Clergy depart.

Music after the service:

Tocatta *from* Symphonie V

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until directed to move by the Stewards.

A retiring collection will be taken for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

The bells of St Margaret's Church are rung at 12.55 pm by the St Margaret's Society of Change Ringers.

Hymns covered by Christian Copyright Licensing (Europe) Ltd are reproduced under CCL no 1040271.

THE A-Z OF THE BEST MOTHER IN THE WORLD

A is for Awesome, no-one can compete,
B is for Beauty, for Dad what a treat,
C is for Children, boys – all four,
D – thank goodness for Daughters –in-law!
Entertainment – nobody does it better I bet,
F for Far Upton, the Mill, Marbichette
G is for Granny, to Annie, Jemima, Ava and Luke,
H is for Hostess – oh boy can she cook!
I is for Idyllic, the atmosphere she creates,
Jeff & Jackie who became great mates,
K for the Knack of doing everything well,
L is for Loving and casting that spell.
Not good at Numbers – unlike Auntie Sal!
O is for Ovie – that makes it a hat-trick,
P could only possibly be for Patrick!
Q is for Quant, Mum was a model too,
R is for Running a nursery school,
S is for Sales – growing like a balloon,
T is for being a business Tycoon.
U is for Unsolicited – that love that she gives,
V for Vivacious – the way that she lives,
W for Wonderful Woman Who Would,
eXcel at everything – yes she’s that good!
Y is for Yearning to give, give, give, give,
Z for Zoo – the animals with whom we live,
so how could I have gone through the whole alphabet,
without making a mention of a single pet?
 Daisy and Ratty, Poppy and Marge
 Flora, Minnie and Maud (still at large)
If they could speak they would undoubtedly tell you
There’s only one Mary and for that God bless you!

Written by Charles Howard for Mary's 60th Birthday

SHE has achieved success who has lived well
laughed often and loved much;
who has gained the respect of intelligent people
and the love of little children;
who has filled her niche and accomplished her task;
who has left the world better than she found it;
who looked for the best in others
and given the best she had;
whose life was an inspiration;
whose memory is a benediction.

after Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94)