

# Westminster Abbey



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

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1943—7<sup>th</sup> November 2022



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
11.00 am



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Hairsine 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  
from Sonata in G Op 28

*Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*

*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 CBDC, 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*

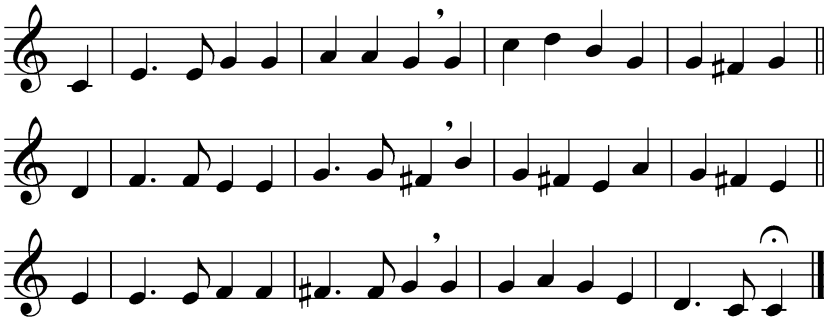
**U**BI caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum  
Christi amor. Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus  
et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

*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 Sacrarium*



**E**TERNAL 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)*

*William Whiting (1825–78)*

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

**W**E 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*

**D**ISTURB 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*

*Jonathan Cooke reads the First Lesson*

**R**EJOICE 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.

*Philippians 4.4-9*

Thanks be to God.

*The choir sings the Psalm*

**T**HEY 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!

*Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)*

*Psalm 107: 23–31*

*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?'

*Mark 4: 35-41*

Thanks be to God.

*All stand to sing the Hymn*



**D**EAR Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive 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*

**M**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.

**P**REVENT 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  
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce GBC OBE ADC

*Pipe Major B Kidd*

*The Precentor concludes*

Full of thanksgiving and hope, let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour 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 stand to sing the Hymn*



**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*  
*Gustav Holst (1874–1934)*

*Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)*

*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*

**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.

*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  
from Lohengrin*

*Richard Wagner (1813–1883)*

*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