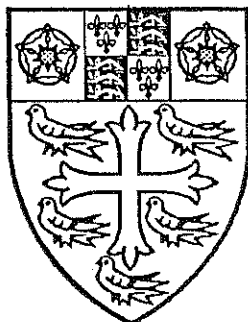


WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Dedication of a Memorial to
Oscar Wilde
1854–1900

Poets' Corner
Tuesday 14 February 1995
6 pm



ORDER OF SERVICE

All sit. The Dean gives

THE WELCOME

All remain seated for

THE READINGS

*Dame Judi Dench DBE and Michael Denison CBE
read part of the 'Handbag Scene' from
The Importance of Being Earnest*

*Sir John Gielgud CH reads from the final part of
De Profundis, the letter written to Lord Alfred Douglas
when Wilde was in Reading Gaol, 1897*

*All stand. The Dean invites Merlin Holland, Oscar
Wilde's grandson, to switch on the lighting to reveal
the Memorial Panel in the east window of Poets' Corner*

Mr Holland says:

*May I ask you, Mr Dean, to receive into the safe
custody of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster,
here in Poets' Corner, this Memorial in honour
of Oscar Wilde.*

The Dean says:

*To the greater glory of God and in thankful
memory of Oscar Wilde, we dedicate this
Memorial: in the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Flowers are placed below the window by Thelma
Holland, Oscar Wilde's daughter-in-law*

ORDER OF SERVICE

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

given by Seamus Heaney

All remain seated

The Boys of the Westminster Abbey Choir sing:

THE ANTHEM

Who can express the noble acts of the Lord: or
shew forth all his praise?

For thou, O Lord, art good and gracious and of
great mercy unto them that call on thee.

All nations whom thou hast made shall come and
worship thee, O Lord: and shall glorify thy name.

For thou art good and doest wondrous things: for
only thou art holy, thou only art the Lord.

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-76

Psalms 106:2 & 86:5, 9-10

OSCAR WILDE

All stand

*The Reverend Paul Ferguson,
Precentor of Westminster Abbey, says:*

THE PRAYERS

Let us give thanks to God for the varied gifts he gives to his people, and for the literary heritage we enjoy, remembering especially the work of Oscar Wilde; and let us pray for all who are involved now in writing, in the theatre, and in scholarship.

O God, who by thy spirit in our hearts dost lead us to desire thy perfection, to seek for truth, and to rejoice in beauty: illuminate and inspire, we beseech thee, all thinkers, writers, and artists; that in whatsoever is true and pure and lovely, thy name may be hallowed and thy kingdom come on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us remember the causes that were close to Oscar Wilde's heart; his sense of social justice; his championing of the equality of women in education and the professions; his passion for integrity and hatred of hypocrisy.

O God the King of righteousness, lead us, we pray thee, in ways of justice and peace; inspire us to break down all tyranny and oppression, to gain for all people their due reward, and from all people their due service; that each may live for all, and all may care for each; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After William Temple

ORDER OF SERVICE

Almighty God, who hast sent the spirit of truth unto us to guide us into all truth; we beseech thee so to rule our lives by thy power that we may be truthful in word and deed and thought. Keep us, most merciful Father, with thy gracious protection, that no fear or hope may ever make us false in act or speech. Cast out from us whatsoever loveth or maketh a lie, and bring us all into the perfect freedom of thy truth; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen. *Brooke Foss Westcott*

As Jesus taught his disciples, so we pray:

All say together:

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.

OSCAR WILDE

All remain standing. The Dean gives

THE BLESSING

All remain standing

The Boys of the Westminster Abbey Choir sing:

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 beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*Traditional Irish melody harmonized by Martin Neary,
words by St Patrick, circa 372-466*

translated by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95

Organ Music:

*First movement from Sonata No. 3 in A
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1809-47*

*The middle section of this movement incorporates the
chorale Aus tiefer Noth (De profundis, or Out of
the deep have I called unto thee)*

OSCAR WILDE

I was a man who stood in symbolic relations
to the art and culture of my age.
The gods had given me almost everything.
I had genius, a distinguished name, high
social position, brilliancy, intellectual daring:
I made art a philosophy, and philosophy an art:
I altered the minds of men and the colours of
things: there was nothing I said or did that
did not make people wonder:
I awoke the imagination of my century so that
it created myth and legend around me:
I summed up all systems in a phrase, and all
existence in an epigram.
Along with these things, I had things that
were different.
I let myself be lured into long spells of senseless
and sensual ease.
I became the spendthrift of my own genius and
to waste an eternal youth gave me a curious joy.

De Profundis

Wickedness is a myth invented by good people
to account for the curious attractiveness of others.

Phrases & Philosophies for the Use of the Young
