

Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE TO CELEBRATE
THE LIFE AND WORK
OF
SIR DAVID FROST OBE
7th April 1939–31st August 2013

Thursday 13th March 2014
Noon

‘My father often used to talk about that old proverb, “Even a stopped clock is right twice a day”. In other words, everybody you meet has something to teach you—if you take the trouble to find it. The most unlikely person can enlighten your life. That’s tremendously important for the self-worth of the people you meet, as well as your own.

There are all sorts of ways in which we’re not equal, but we are all equal in what we can strive for. When I interviewed Senator Robert Kennedy back in 1968—the last interview he gave before his assassination—I asked him how he would like to be remembered. He replied, “Well, there is a line of Albert Camus that says, ‘This is a world in which children suffer’. I’d like to have made a contribution to lessening that suffering”. Kennedy spoke a lot about making a contribution. He used to say, “For if we do not do this, then who will do this?” It’s so simple—if you have a talent, you have a duty to use it to the full.

Making a contribution and making a difference—they should be linked—is not only something that famous people can do, or that dead politicians can be quoted on. It is something that everyone can do in their own lives...’

Sir David Frost OBE

‘Sir David Frost was everything the BBC aspires to be.

He had wit and he used it to devastating effect. He was bold, fronting programmes that no-one had even thought of before he did them. He had the popular touch and was never too grand to appeal to his audiences. He was courteous and polite, never thinking himself more important than his guest. He was a journalist and broadcaster known throughout the world for his truth-telling, for his imagination and his ability to entertain.

That was the BBC that was and that is the BBC that will be.’

*The Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE
Tribute to Sir David Frost OBE*



SIR DAVID PARADINE FROST OBE

Sir David Paradine Frost was born in Tenterden, Kent on 7th April 1939, the son of Methodist minister Wilfred Paradine Frost and his wife, Mona. He attended Gillingham and Wellingborough Grammar Schools, and from 1958 read English at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. While there, he edited *Granta* and became secretary of the Footlights.

After graduating from Cambridge, he became a trainee at Associated-Rediffusion Television, whilst also appearing in cabaret at the Blue Angel nightclub in London. His stage performances led BBC producer Ned Sherrin to offer him the job of presenting the new satirical programme *That Was The Week That Was*. The programme was a runaway success until the BBC brought it to a close in 1963. However, Sir David revived the sketch show format to great acclaim in *The Frost Report* in 1966, launching the careers of John Cleese, Ronnie Corbett, and Ronnie Barker, and winning the Golden Rose of Montreux in 1967. At the same time, he began to conduct interviews for *The Frost Programme* on Associated-Rediffusion, including the classic encounter with Emil Savundra.

Sir David was a businessman as well as a performer. He founded his own company, David Paradine Productions, in 1966, and in 1967 he spearheaded the consortium which won the ITV franchise for London and began broadcasting as LWT in 1968. Whilst broadcasting from Friday to Sunday on LWT, he also signed to present an American interview show three nights a week from New York. From then on, he would work on both sides of the Atlantic. He interviewed every British prime minister from Harold Wilson to David Cameron, and seven US presidents, of which the most famous encounter was with Richard Nixon. In 1977, *The Nixon Interviews* achieved the highest ever audience for a news interview. Later, his American interview show, *Talking with David Frost*, aired coast to coast for twelve years.

Amid this hectic schedule, he was also well known for his diverse and spectacular social life. The undoubted peak of this was when he married Lady Carina Fitzalan Howard in 1983. They had three sons: Miles, Wilfred, and George.

In 1982, he led the winning bid for the ITV breakfast franchise, and his Sunday morning show on TV-am became a byword for breaking political news. After TV-am lost the franchise, he continued broadcasting on the BBC in *Breakfast with Frost*, which ran for 500 editions until 2005, before launching his international news programme, *Frost Over the World*, with Al Jazeera.

His range—from comedy to politics, television drama, and film—was unique and extraordinary, and is unlikely to be equalled.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.

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 Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.

The Honorary Stewards of Westminster Abbey are today assisted by His Grace The Duke of Norfolk, Lord Gerald Fitzalan Howard, The Lord Chadlington, Zac Goldsmith MP, Ben Goldsmith, and Bertie Way.

Music before the service:

Martin Ford, Assistant Organist, and Peter Holder, Organ Scholar, play:

Prelude and Fugue in E flat BWV 552 *Johann Sebastian Bach*
(1685–1750)

Benedictus *Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*
from Sonata Britannica Op 152

Chanson de Matin Op 15 no 1 *Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*

Chanson de Nuit Op 15 no 2 *Edward Elgar*

Psalm Prelude Set 1 no 2 *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*
'But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth: and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.' (Psalm 37: 11)

Prelude and Fugue in G major Op 37 no 2 *Felix Mendelssohn*
(1809–47)

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The Prime Minister is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and is conducted to his place in Quire. All remain seated.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and is conducted to her place in Quire. All stand, and then sit.

The Representatives of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, The Honourable Lady Ogilvy, of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent, and of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Michael of Kent are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and are conducted to their places in the Lantern. All remain seated.

Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and is conducted to her place in the Lantern. All remain seated.

His Royal Highness The Duke of York, and Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice of York are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door, and are conducted to their places in the Lantern. All remain seated.

A fanfare is sounded. All stand.

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall are received at the West Gate by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

All remain standing as the Dean conducts Their Royal Highnesses to their places.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain standing. The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

To thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul: my God, I trust in thee.

*Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)
from the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*

Psalm 25: 1

All sing

THE HYMN

*during which the Collegiate Procession
moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium*



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 remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

WHAT elements in David Frost’s personality made him such a great broadcaster, so celebrated in television for more than fifty years? No doubt he had confidence in his gifts and skills, a rare degree of courage, clear determination, and a steely nerve. But those characteristics alone would not have given him the success he had.

Surely it was the warmth of his humanity, his interest in people, and what made them tick, that made his ‘hello, good evening and welcome’ welcome in the world’s living rooms. And it was his passion for justice, for decency, for respect that gave all he did real worth, that led to extraordinarily memorable moments of television, moments that changed things.

Today we remember and give thanks to God for him. And in this holy place, where so many great men and women are for ever recognised, we shall memorialise him amongst our greatest communicators.

All sit. A montage of broadcasts featuring Sir David Frost OBE, prepared by the British Broadcasting Corporation, is played.

All remain seated. Wilfred Frost reads from the Great Pulpit

REMEMBER ME

YOU can shed tears that he is gone,
Or you can smile because he has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him,
Or you can be full of the love that you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember him and only that he is gone,
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes,
love, and go on.

David Harkins (b 1959)

The Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE reads from the Great Lectern

ISAIAH 25: 6–10a

ON this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

All remain seated. Anna O'Byrne, soprano, and a Chorister of Westminster Abbey, together with the Choir, sing

PIE JESU

PIE Jesu, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Holy Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.

Andrew Lloyd-Webber (b 1948)

from Requiem 1985

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE reads from the Nave Pulpit

ST JOHN 15: 12–17

THIS is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

All remain seated. As the Procession moves to the Memorial Stone, the Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

THE Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

John Rutter (b 1945)

Numbers 6: 24–26

All stand for

THE DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL STONE

Lady Carina Frost says:

I ASK you, Mr Dean, to receive into the safe custody of the Dean and Chapter this memorial in honour and memory of Sir David Frost.

The Dean replies:

TO the greater glory of God, and in thankful memory of Sir David Frost, and of all that he achieved and contributed through broadcasting across the world, I dedicate this memorial: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Flowers are laid by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and Lady Carina Frost.

Standing beside the memorial stone, George Frost reads

POEM

I'VE had my life and enjoyed every second,
But as it is, another life beckoned.
It's important to know that I have not gone,
And I hope that, on you all, my light has shone.
Stay in the sunshine, rest never in the shade,
Don't curse my absence, as this light you'll evade.
I live in the smiles, the moon, stars and sky,
and I feel eternal pride as I watch you all fly.
And for my darling children who wonder what to do,
Just have a wonderful time, as I will, living through you.

George Frost (b 1987)

All sing

THE HYMN



HE who would valiant be,
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound,
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
though he with giants fight,
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
us with thy spirit;
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

*Monk's Gate 372 NEH
adapted from a traditional English melody
by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

John Bunyan (1628–88)

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

Greg Dyke

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE MOTET

BEATI quorum via integra est: qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are they whose way is blameless: who walk in the law of the Lord.

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

Psalm 119: 1

All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Dr James Hawkey, Minor Canon and Precentor of Westminster, leads

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray to the Lord and giver of life.

Ronnie Corbett CBE says:

PRAISING God for David's many talents, we give thanks for his insight, wit and style; for his sense of humour and aptitude for satire; and for his infectious enthusiasm.

Let us bless the Lord:

thanks be to God.

Miles Frost says:

PRAISING God for David's love of home, we give thanks for his devoted love and care for his family; for his limitless kindness; and for his extraordinary capacity for friendship.

Let us bless the Lord:

thanks be to God.

The Right Honourable The Lord Owen CH says:

PRAISING God for David's skill as a broadcaster, we give thanks for his intellectual agility and enquiring mind; for his fascination with people and history; and for his entrepreneurial talent.

Let us bless the Lord:

thanks be to God.

Herb Siegel says:

PRAISING God for David's humanity, we give thanks for his generosity of time and talent; for his humility and ability to see the best in every situation; and for his commitment to charity.

Let us bless the Lord:

thanks be to God.

The Venerable Dr Jane Hedges, Canon in Residence, says:

LORD God, when you call your servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yields the true glory; through him who, for the finishing of your work, laid down his life for us, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sir Francis Drake (1540–96)

His Eminence Cormac, Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor says:

BRING us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end. **Amen.**

The Precentor concludes:

As our Saviour has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

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 sit. Joanna Lumley OBE reads from the Sacrarium Steps

A SONNET OF SORTS FOR A STAR

SHALL I compare thee to Sir Robin Day?
Thou wert more lovely and more temperate.
Earth has not anything to show more fair,
Hello, good evening, welcome, Frosty's there.

When you considered how our weeks were spent—
Those were the weeks that were; they came, and went.
The quips, the japes, the hasty hymn to Kennedy
And now your turn, as we compose your threnody.

For many a glorious morning I have seen
David, bright-eyed, be-sofa'd on the screen,
Or *Through the Keyhole*, or on Concorde's wing,
Bob Hope, a Pope, a President—and Bing.

You've known them all, nor lost the common touch,
Clerics and Thatchers, Screaming like Lord Sutch.
Prince of all broadcasters and the friend of princes,
Loved by the young, adored by the Blue Rinses.

The world's your stage, from Norfolk Broad to tundra,
You skewered Doctor Petro and Savundra.
Colossus in your field, ahead of trends,
Most generous of hosts and best of friends.

I met a traveller from an antique land
Said Richard Nixon; then, as David planned,
Disarmed and charmed by his insistent guest
Nixon let his guard down, and confessed.

No more TV-am, no Al Jazeera—
We end not a career, but end an era;
For now he's gone, ascended into orbit,
And 'I look up to him' (quoth Ronnie Corbett).

In Heaven, and awaiting David's call,
Is the greatest interviewee of them all:
'With Frost tonight, on Paradise TV
'Hello, God—Evening! Welcome!'. We shall see...

Much have you travelled, with your Rose of Gold,
And left too soon, thus never growing old,
For you were young and sweet in heart and mind,
When Frost has gone, can spring be far behind?

Joanna Lumley (b 1946)
Richard Stilgoe (b 1943)

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

AND did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

Jerusalem 488 NEH

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

William Blake (1757–1827)

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GOD grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church,
The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, 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

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy, and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour,
long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice:
God save The Queen!

All remain standing as the Procession moves to the west end of the Abbey.

Music after the service:

Toccata *from* Symphonie V Op 42 no 1

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844–1937)

**Members of the congregation are requested to remain in their places
until invited to move by the Stewards.**

A retiring collection is taken in aid of ChildLine.

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung.

‘One thing you always knew about David was that his lifeblood was appearing on television...There’d never been anything like him before.’

The Lord Grade of Yarmouth CBE

‘David was really the person who defined the interview where the interviewer doesn’t try and become the story, he tries to extract the story.’

The Right Honourable Tony Blair

‘I think David was motivated by insatiable curiosity. Everything he saw interested him.’

The Right Honourable Sir John Major KG CH

‘He did it all with the minimum of ego.’

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE

‘He was involved in so many different revolutions. The revolution of British satire, the revolution of the commercialisation of television in the UK, the revolution of Breakfast TV, and then also revolutionising what political interviews really meant.’

The Right Honourable David Cameron MP

‘David’s career left the rest of us gasping. It was so consistent, so persistent, so dogged, and of such quality.’

The Baroness Bakewell DBE

‘When you look at the people whom David interviewed, there never has been, never will be, I suspect, anybody who will have his span...Anybody who wants to understand the second half of the twentieth century is going to have to look at David’s interviews.’

The Lord Birt

‘One of the most extraordinary things about David was his mastery of all genres of TV.’

Loyd Grossman OBE

Quotations from close friends and colleagues, as featured in the BBC documentary Sir David Frost: That Was the Life That Was, October 2013



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