

SOLEMN EVENSONG

**Celebrating the Life and Ministry of
the Very Revd Michael Moxon, LVO**



Truro
Cathedral

Sunday
26th September 2021
at 4.00pm

Welcome to Truro Cathedral and to Evensong, the service we have at the end of the day as we give thanks to God in words and music.

When Michael Moxon died in July 2019 he left a large hole in the lives of many, chiefly, of course, Nicola and his family, but also the wider family of the Church, especially here in Truro, where he served as Dean between 1998 and 2004.

Michael was educated at Merchant Taylors' School in north London, and trained for the priesthood at Salisbury Theological College in the 1960's. After his curacy in Lowestoft, he followed in his father's footsteps in becoming a minor canon of St Paul's Cathedral, where, as Sacrist, he played a leading part in the organisation of services, from the daily evensong to state occasions such as the Queen's Silver Jubilee service in 1977 and the 1981 royal wedding. He moved from there to Tewkesbury Abbey and St George's Chapel, Windsor, before coming to Truro. In all of these positions, he organised and led worship with enormous skill and grace, enabling congregations to know something of the mystery and majesty of God's glory.

He understood the importance of our large churches and cathedrals as places where many can gather on special occasions to find inspiration for their work, and he was a gifted preacher, especially when he was able to relate the great teachings of the Christian faith to particular groups within the community, or to those experiencing some particular joy or sorrow in their lives.

Yet he was equally at home in more intimate worshipping contexts: at the Royal Chapel in Windsor Great Park, where the Queen and the Queen Mother were regular Sunday worshippers; and at numerous parishes of the Truro diocese, where he went to provide cover or preach, as he continued to do after retiring in 2004. He loved nothing more than, for example, providing holiday cover on the Isles of Scilly.

He was blessed with an outstanding voice, which he used to great effect in leading choral evensong and in his eucharistic presidency; and he loved the English choral tradition, overseeing the development of Truro Cathedral Choir into one of the finest choirs in the country.

Michael was also a highly gifted organist. Whilst at Salisbury, he played the harpsicord for concerts and acted as choirmaster and organist for the college. The choir provided service cover for Westminster Abbey one August and Michael acted as the organist. During an occasion at the college Michael played a very complicated fugue in the style of Bach, however it was in fact Michael's brilliance in transcribing what was actually the Beatles song "Hey Jude"!

Michael had many interests outside church life: sport, especially cricket, which was a lifelong passion, as was his support for Northampton Town Football Club; pre-war motor cars, including his three successive Morris Eights, all named Emily; and foreign travel, especially to France.

All of us in some way or another are indebted to Michael, and we give thanks for the ways in which he impacted upon our lives. This service provides a chance to offer that thanksgiving as we inter his ashes outside the East End of the Cathedral at the end of this service, and, after the sermon, we will be dedicating a boss to commemorate his life and ministry.

We hope that this service will convey something of the prayerfulness, and the playfulness of someone who held fast to the view that the grace of God was never more abundantly seen than in the lives of the people around him. It was his pleasure and his privilege to serve them, and it is our pleasure and privilege to be grateful that he did so.

There is one final thing to say at this point: because of the restrictions we have all been living under over the last eighteen months, it has not been possible to hold this service until now. Today is the 50th anniversary of Michael's ordination to the priesthood, so the delay in holding this service until now has meant that this occasion now has an added poignancy, underlining, as it does, Michael's sacrificial servanthood in God's Church.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please stand for the entry of the servers, the Choir and the Clergy as the following hymn is sung.

Hymn

**Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels,
Thou who hast made us, thou who o'er us rulest,
Grant of thy mercy unto us thy servants
Steps up to Heaven.**

**Send thy archangel, Michael, to our succour;
Peacemaker blessèd, may he banish from us
Striving and hatred, so that for the peaceful
All things may prosper.**

**Send thy archangel, Gabriel, the mighty;
Herald of heaven, may he from us mortals
Spurn the old serpent, watching o'er the temples
Where thou art worshipped.**

**Send thy archangel, Raphael, the restorer
Of the misguided ways of men who wander,
Who at thy bidding strengthens soul and body
With thine anointing.**

**May the blest Mother of our God and Saviour,
May the assembly of the saints in glory,
May the celestial companies of angels
Ever assist us.**

**Father almighty, Son and Holy Spirit,
God ever blessèd, be thou our preserver;
Thine is the glory which the angels worship,
Veiling their faces.**

Amen.

The Opening responses
sung by the Dean and the Choir
to a setting by Humphrey Clucas

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

The Dean welcomes the congregation.

Please sit for the singing of the psalm, standing again when we reach the Gloria.

Psalm 121
sung by the Choir

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills : from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord : who hath made heaven and
earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : and he that keepeth thee will
not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel : shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper : the Lord is thy defence upon thy right
hand;
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day : neither the moon by
night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil : yea, it is even he that shall
keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in : from this
time forth for evermore.

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.

Please sit

The First Lesson

Daniel 10. 4-end, read by Canon Peter Walker

Here begins the fourth verse of the tenth chapter of the book of Daniel.

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris), I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the roar of a multitude. I, Daniel, alone saw the vision; the people who were with me did not see the vision, though a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone to see this great vision. My strength left me, and my complexion grew deathly pale, and I retained no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a trance, face to the ground.

But then a hand touched me and roused me to my hands and knees. He said to me, "Daniel, greatly beloved, pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you." So while he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. He said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me twenty-one days. So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia, and have come to help you understand what is to happen to your people at the end of days. For there is a further vision for those days."

While he was speaking these words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and was speechless. Then one in human form touched my lips, and I opened my mouth to speak, and said to the one who stood before me, "My lord, because of the vision such pains have come upon me that I retain no strength. How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For I am shaking, no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."

Again one in human form touched me and strengthened me. He said, "Do not fear, greatly beloved, you are safe. Be strong and courageous!" When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." Then he said,

“Do you know why I have come to you? Now I must return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I am through with him, the prince of Greece will come. But I am to tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth. There is no one with me who contends against these princes except Michael, your prince.

Here ends the First Lesson.

Please stand

Magnificat

*The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary sung by the Choir
to the Second Service by Orlando Gibbons, during which the altar and
the congregation are censed.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in
the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed, for ever.
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.

Please sit

The Second Lesson

Romans 12, 1-2, 9-end, read by Canon Peter Walker

Here begins the twelfth chapter of Paul's Letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

Please stand

Nunc Dimittis

The Song of Simeon sung by the Choir

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
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.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
**All the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead and buried,
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead,
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Prayers
sung by the Dean and the Choir

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect or special prayer for the day

O Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Collect for help in danger

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please sit

Anthem

And I saw a new heaven, by Edward Bainton, words from the Revelation to John, 21. 1-4, sung by the Choir

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;
and there was no more sea.
And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,
and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away."

Prayers
led by the Dean

The prayers conclude with the Grace.

**All The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost
be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

Please stand

Hymn

**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh, his presence we have;
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**

**Salvation to God, who sits on the throne
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore, and give him his right:
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honour and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

Please sit

Sermon
given by the Rt Revd Richard Fenwick

Please stand

**Angel voices ever singing
Round thy throne of light,
Angel harps, for ever ringing,
Rest not day nor night;
Thousands only live to bless thee
And confess thee
Lord of might.**

**Thou who art beyond the farthest
Mortal eye can scan,
Can it be that thou regardest
Songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us
And wilt hear us?
Yes, we can.**

**For we know that thou rejoicest
O'er each work of thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
For thy praise design;
Craftsman's art and music's measure
For thy pleasure
All combine.**

**In thy house, great God, we offer
Of thine own to thee;
And for thine acceptance proffer,
All unworthily,
Hearts and minds and hands and voices
In our choicest
Psalmody.**

**Honour, glory, might, and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Blessèd Trinity:
Of the best which thou hast given
Earth and heaven
Render thee.**

During the hymn, the Dean and others gather on the podium for the dedication of the Boss.

Please sit

The Dedication of the Boss

Mrs Nicola Moxon comes to the Podium and says to the Dean

Mr. Dean,
I present to you this Boss
and I ask you to dedicate it
to the glory of God and in memory of his servant, Michael Moxon

The Dean leads the congregation in the following responsory

Salvation belongs to our God
All who will guide us to springs of living water.

Behold, a great multitude
All which no one could number.

From every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues
All standing before the throne and the Lamb.

In Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek
All there is no longer slave or free.

There is no longer male or female
All for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Salvation belongs to our God
All who will guide us to springs of living water.

The Dean dedicates the Boss, saying

**We dedicate this Boss
to the glory of God and in memory of his servant Michael Moxon
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

All Amen.

The Boss is sprinkled with Holy Water.

The Dean says

**Glory to God:
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we ask or imagine.**

**All Glory to God
from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please stand

Final Prayer and Blessing

**God keep you in the fellowship of his saints;
Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels;
the Spirit make you holy in God's service;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you, and remain with you, now and always.**

All Amen.

Please sit

*The clergy and family proceed via the Chapter House steps to inter Michael's
ashes outside the East End of the cathedral. The remainder of the congregation
please stay seated whilst the interment is relayed audibly in the cathedral.*

The Interment of ashes The Blessing of the ashes plot

The Dean says

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb: bless, we pray, this grave as the place where the mortal remains of Michael your servant may rest in peace, through your Son, who is the resurrection and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Dean continues

Though we are dust and ashes, God has prepared for those who love him a heavenly dwelling place. At his funeral we commended Michael into the hands of almighty God. As we prepare to commit his remains to the earth, we entrust ourselves and all who love God to his loving care.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust and say: 'Turn back, O children of earth.' For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night.

The Committal

The casket is placed in the plot.

The Dean says

We have entrusted our brother Michael to God's mercy, and we now commit his mortal remains to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our frail bodies that they may be conformed to his glorious body, who died, was buried, and rose again for us. To him be glory forever.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

The Dean says

May the infinite and glorious Trinity,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
direct our life in good works,
and after our journey through this world
grant us eternal rest with all the saints.

All Amen.

Voluntary

Psalms Prelude (Set 1, no. 1) by Herbert Howells

Please stand

The servers and Choir process to the crypt. The family and clergy return to the cathedral where sparkling wine and cake will be served. All are invited to join the family for the reception.

There will be a retiring collection for Truro Cathedral.

Please take this order of service away with you

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Truro
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Feel no guilt in laughter, he'd know how much you care,
Feel no sorrow in a smile that he is not here to share.
You cannot grieve forever; he would not want you to.
He'd hope that you could carry on the way you always do.
So, talk about the good times and the way 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 brings him back as clearly as though he were still here,
And fills you with the feeling that he is always near.
For if you keep those moments, you will never be apart
And he will live forever locked safely within your heart.

Words by Andrea Jackson

