

# WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*All remain standing. The Reverend Chris Chivers, Minor Canon, leads*

## THE PRAYERS

**L**ET 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 Frances Burney; and let us pray for all who are gifted as writers and dramatists, or who chronicle the events of our times:

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.**

Mindful of the many skills and insights God has entrusted to each one of us, let us rededicate our lives in his service, that we may be instruments of his will and grace:

Almighty and Eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly open and dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, but always to thy glory and for the good of thy people; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*William Temple (1881–1944)  
Canon of Westminster, 1919–21*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 remain standing. The Dean says*

## THE BLESSING

**G**O forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The portrait of Frances d'Arblay, by Edward Francis Burney (1760–1848)  
appears on the front cover of this order of service by courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London



## THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL

TO



**FRANCES BURNEY**  
1752 – 1840

NOVELIST,  
PLAYWRIGHT AND DIARIST

THURSDAY 13th JUNE 2002  
6.00 p.m.

## FRANCES BURNEY 1752 – 1840

IN a life that spanned five reigns, Frances Burney d'Arblay fashioned a new genre in the novel, chronicled events ranging from George III's mad crisis to the aftermath of Waterloo, and wrote comedies that rivalled Sheridan's for their wit.

With the publication of *Evelina* in 1778, a new school of English fiction was born, one in which women were portrayed in realistic, contemporary circumstances. Burney went on to write three more novels, two of them best-sellers, as well as a monumental series of diaries and journal letters that is emerging as the most remarkable record of a life ever written in the English language. Her comedies, suppressed during her lifetime, show a talent for dialogue and wit that could have made her as celebrated in the theatre as she was in libraries and drawing rooms. Her work influenced and inspired a generation of writers, including Jane Austen, who borrowed plot elements and the title of *Pride and Prejudice* from Burney's second novel, *Cecilia*. She also influenced Maria Edgeworth, George Eliot, William Thackeray, Charles Dickens and Virginia Woolf, who called her 'The Mother of English Fiction.'

Critical appreciation of Frances Burney's novels, plays and diaries continues to grow in the early 21st century, sparked by new interest in 18th century women writers and enhanced by critical editions of her works. Burney gave women writers a voice, a place at the literary table. Through her acute observations about her family, friends and Georgian society, she reminds us how much, and how little, life and literature have changed in the last 250 years.

*Paula LaBeck Stepankowsky*

'... if to PRIDE and PREJUDICE you owe your miseries, so wonderfully is good and evil balanced, that to PRIDE and PREJUDICE you will also owe their termination ...'

*Cecilia, 1782*

'This year was ushered in by a grand & most important Event, – for, at the latter end of January, the literary World was favoured with the first publication of the ingenious, learned, & most profound Fanny Burney! – I doubt not but this memorable affair will, in future Times, mark the period whence chronologers will date the Zenith of the polite arts in this Island!'

*Early Journals and Letters, 1778, upon the publication of Evelina*

'Wonder, they say, is the attribute of Fools. ('Wonder is the effect of ignorance', Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler*, No. 137) I cannot think it. Is it possible to live without it? Does a Day pass that we meet not with something strange, unexpected, unaccountable? The guilty only, or those who have very severely suffered by Others' guilt, – such alone can Live in the World without Wonder.'

*Early Journals and Letters, 1771*

'I would not have missed such a day for never so much!'

*A Busy Day, 1801*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand as the Collegiate Procession, together with the participants, moves to places in Poets' Corner, and then sit.*

*The Very Reverend Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, says*

### THE WELCOME

*All remain seated for*

### THE INTRODUCTION

*by*

Charles Burney FSA

*All remain seated for*

### THE ADDRESS

*by*

Paula Stepankowsky  
*President, The Burney Society*

*All stand for*

### THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL

*The Dean invites Charles Burney to unveil the Memorial Panel in the East Window of Poets' Corner.*

*Charles Burney says:*

I ASK you, Mr Dean, to receive into the safe custody of the Dean and Chapter, here in Poets' Corner, this memorial in honour of Frances Burney.

*The Dean says:*

TO the greater glory of God and in thankful memory of Frances Burney, we dedicate this memorial: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**