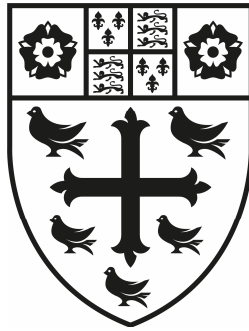


Westminster Abbey Poets' Corner



A Wreath-laying
by
The Dickens Fellowship



Charles Dickens
7th February 1812–9th June 1870

*He was a sympathiser to the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed;
and by his death, one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world.*

Friday 7th June 2024
3 pm

The Reverend Ralph Godsall, Canon in Residence, gives the Welcome

Good afternoon, and on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, I offer a very warm welcome to the members and friends of the Dickens Fellowship and to pupils and staff from Gad's Hill School. We are here to remember and honour Charles Dickens upon the anniversary of his death in 1870 and to lay a wreath upon his grave.

The Collect

Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping of your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Marion Dickens gives the Address

A wreath is laid on behalf of Gad's Hill School by Lily Taylor and Anton Agbejobi

A wreath is laid on behalf of the Dickens Fellowship by Marion Dickens

The Canon in Residence leads the Prayers

O God our Father, who through the ages has caused poets and writers to perceive the world afresh, to enthral and provoke us to thought, reflection, and wonder; to explore the richness and diversity of our common human nature; and to challenge us in our perceptions: we thank you for your servant Charles Dickens, remembering him with joy, gratitude, and affection, giving thanks for the perception, the insight, and the keen observation of his work; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who by your Spirit in our hearts, leads men and women to desire your perfection, to seek for truth, and to rejoice in beauty; illuminate and inspire, we beseech you, all writers and poets, artists and craftsmen, that in whatsoever is true and lovely and good, your name may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All say the Lord's Prayer

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.

The Canon in Residence gives the Blessing

God 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.**