

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL



MARCONI COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Saturday, 19 July 1997 at 11.00am

CHELMSFORD



COMMUNICATIONS

CELEBRATES

GUGLIELMO MARCONI

25 April 1874 – 20 July 1937

Radio waves were known as 'Hertzian Waves' when Marconi began experimenting in 1894. A few years earlier Heinrich Hertz had produced and detected the waves across his laboratory. Marconi's achievement was to produce and detect the waves over long distances, laying the foundations for what today we know as radio.

The family home was his Italian father's villa near Bologna. His Irish mother often took Guglielmo to visit relatives in England and his formal education suffered. But in Bologna their neighbour, the distinguished physicist Professor Righi, interested the young Guglielmo in electricity generally and the work of Hertz in particular.

Marconi repeated Hertz's experiments in the villa attics. Hertzian waves were produced by sparks in one circuit and detected in another circuit a few metres away. Marconi could soon detect signals over several kilometres and this led him to try and interest the Italian Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

He was unsuccessful, but in 1896 his cousin, Henry Jameson-Davis, arranged an introduction to William Preece, Engineer-in-Chief of the British Post Office. Encouraging demonstrations in London and on Salisbury Plain followed and in 1897 Marconi obtained a patent and established the Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company Limited, which opened the world's first radio factory at Chelmsford in 1898.

Experiments and demonstrations continued. Queen Victoria at Osborne House received bulletins by radio about the health of the Prince of Wales, convalescent on the Royal Yacht off Cowes. In 1901 signals were received across the Atlantic. Broadcasting as we know it was still in the future – the BBC was established in 1922 – but Marconi had achieved his aim of turning Hertz's laboratory demonstration into a practical means of communication and established in Chelmsford the Company which still bears his name.

Sir Neil Cossons, O.B.E.
Director, Science Museum

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Congregation stands as the Procession enters the Cathedral

INTROIT

The Choir sings:

Let us now praise famous men,
and our fathers that begat us.
Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms,
men renowned for their power,
Leaders of the people by their counsels,
and by their knowledge.
Such as found out musical tunes,
and recited verses in writing:
All these were honoured in their generations,
and were the glory of their times.
And some there be, which have no memorial;
who are perished, as though they had never been.
Their bodies are buried in peace;
but their name liveth for evermore.

R Vaughan Williams [1872-1958]

WELCOME & BIDDING

HYMN

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

German, Martin Rinkart [1586-1649]

Tr Catherine Winkworth [1827-78]

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

Princess Elettra Giovanelli-Marconi, youngest daughter of Marconi.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, the bringer of good news, announcing deliverance, proclaiming to Zion, 'Your God has become king.' Your watchmen raise their voices and shout together in joy; for with their own eyes they see the Lord return to Zion. Break forth together into shouts of joy, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all nations, and the whole world from end to end shall see the deliverance wrought by our God.

AN ARCHIVAL READING

from 'The History of Wireless at Sea' by Marconi
[1932]

Peter Gershon

Managing Director, GEC-Marconi

Though wireless has become an important means of communication on land as well as at sea, keeping one country in touch with another, isolated towns with larger towns, mobile military stations and aeroplanes with their headquarters, and everyone in the land informed and amused through programmes transmitted from Broadcasting House, the greatest value of wireless, in my belief, is still demonstrated by its utility at sea, which was its first application.

It is difficult to realise that only 30 years ago a ship was cut off from the rest of the world once it was in the open sea.

I came to England in 1896, took out the first patent for wireless telegraphy, and brought my apparatus to the notice of Sir William Preece, then Engineer-in-Chief to the General Post Office, who was keenly interested in the subject. In June 1897, I carried out experiments on warships of the Italian Navy at Spezia, where a range of 12 miles was successfully attained.

At the beginning the Marconi Company simply manufactured wireless apparatus and sold it outright to shipowners and others who wanted to use it. It soon became clear, however, that no satisfactory or extensive business could be conducted along these lines. The Company therefore decided to adopt the bold policy of organising on its own account a public service for the transmission of messages by wireless telegraphy, and for many years, even though other countries were using wireless telegraphy on a considerable scale, it was the only company in the world to organise such a service.

Very early in its history, in January 1901, wireless was used for summoning assistance to a ship in distress. Since then thousands of lives and much valuable property have been saved by means of wireless during times of peace apart from the thousands of lives saved by wireless during the War. It is not possible to give an accurate estimate as to the number of lives and the amount of property which wireless has been instrumental in safeguarding during its history, but in conclusion perhaps I may be allowed to say that this is the aspect of wireless which gives me, personally, the greatest gratification.

AN EARLY RECORDING

A one minute's "radio" silence to remember Marconi follows

ANTHEM

Exsultate Deo, adjutori nostro. Alleluia, alleluia.
Sing aloud with gladness unto God our helper.
Alleluia, alleluia.

A Scarlatti [1660-1725]

REMINISCENCES

Marconi – The Man
Sir Robert Telford, C.B.E.
Life President, The Marconi Company

LITANY OF THANKS

After each bidding:

All:

Lord of all
We give you thanks and praise.

HYMN

Hills of the North, rejoice,
Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice
Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.

continued...

Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending Light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the sons of earth be blest.

C.E. Oakley, [1832 - 1865]

A NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 1:1-14

The Worshipful, the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Bill Horslen

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest - to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish - but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

W. Chalmers-Smith, [1824 - 1908]

ADDRESS

Sit

The Bishop of Chelmsford
The Rt Revd John Perry

THE TE DEUM

C.V. Stanford, [1852 - 1924]

PRAYERS

Kneel or sit

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.

HYMN

Stand

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams [1717 - 1791]

THE BLESSING

THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS

Sung by the choir

Fratelli d'Italia, l'Italia s'èdesta;
Dell'elmo di Scipio s'ècinta la testa.
Dov'è la vittoria? Le porga la chioma,
chè schiava di Roma Idiola creò.

Stringiam-ci in coorte, siamo pronti alla morte,
siamo pronti alla morte, l'Italia chiamò.

Sung by all

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!

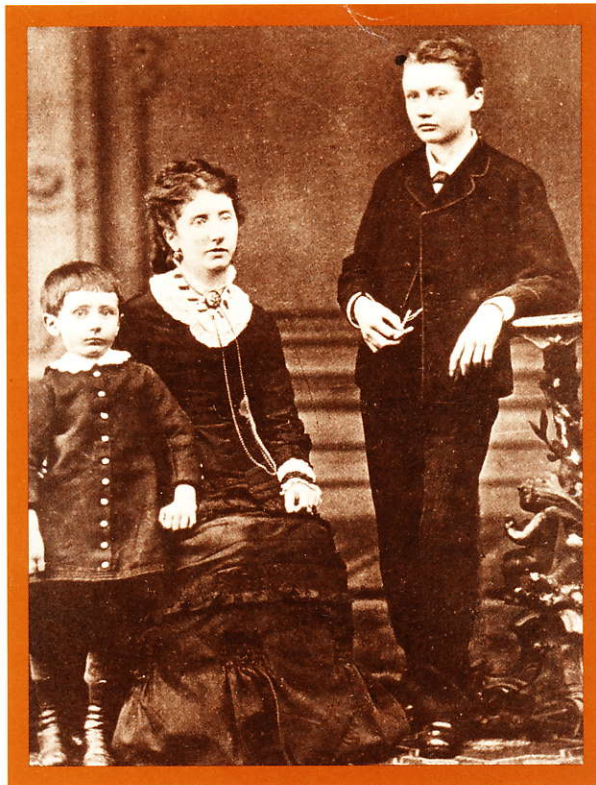
Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign:
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
God save The Queen!

Please remain standing as the Procession leaves.

Grateful thanks to the Lingwood Consort for the choral interludes.

THIS COMMEMORATION SERVICE

This service commemorates 100 years since the foundation of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company Limited, 60 years since the death of Marconi, and also Chelmsford's association with the man and the Company which bears his name.



*Guglielmo Marconi on the left,
with his mother Annie and brother Alfonso*



Guglielmo Marconi at his desk in New Street, Chelmsford

Photographs by kind permission of GEC-Marconi

**CHELMSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL,
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