



A Service of Thanksgiving
for the life of
John R. W. Stott



Friday 13th January 2012
11.30 am

ORDER OF SERVICE

*The congregation is asked to join in all texts printed in **bold**.*

At 11.30 am stand to sing

Processional Hymn

during which the College of Minor Canons, participating clergy, the College of Canons, the Preacher, the Archbishop of York, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chapter and the Bishop of London take their places under the Dome.

**Jesus! The name high over all
In hell or earth or sky;
Angels and men before it fall
And devils fear and fly.**

**Jesus! The name to sinners dear,
The name to sinners given;
It scatters all their guilty fear,
It turns their hell to heaven.**

**O that the world might taste and see
The riches of his grace!
The arms of love that welcome me
Would all mankind embrace.**

**His righteousness alone I show,
His saving grace proclaim;
This is my work on earth below
To cry 'Behold the Lamb!'**

**Happy if with my final breath
I may but gasp his name,
Preach him to all, and cry in death,
'Christ Jesus is the Lamb!'**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)
© *Jubilate Hymns*

Tune: *Lydia*
Thomas Phillips (1735-1807)

Bidding

given by

The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley,
Treasurer, Canon in Residence

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

We come to this cathedral church today to give thanks for the life of a humble and faithful servant of Jesus Christ. We remember with joy and thanksgiving John Robert Walmsley Stott, a minister of the gospel, beloved pastor, Bible scholar, mentor and friend. His simple life of study and prayer, preaching, writing and discipling, helped shape the face of a 20th century evangelical faith in Britain and around the world. He was valiant for truth, even when that was unfashionable, and single-minded as he laboured to fulfil the Lord's call upon his life. John eschewed public accolades and ecclesiastical preferment and would be embarrassed by any service that dwelt on him or his achievements rather than pointing to his Saviour, crucified, risen and ascended.

We rejoice that he now shares in that life eternal which Jesus promised and which John proclaimed. We come as those who mourn his loss, praying that his example of faith and self-sacrifice for the sake of the gospel will inspire and comfort us as we continue his mission to make Christ known. We come to give thanks for God's gift to us of John Stott for whom to God alone be the glory.

All our prayers and thanksgivings we now gather together in the words Jesus himself taught us:

**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.**

Sit

Tributes

introduced by

The Right Reverend Michael Baughen,
former Bishop of Chester and former Rector of All Souls Church,
Langham Place

given by

Frances Whitehead,
John Stott's Secretary for 55 years

The Most Reverend John Chew,
Archbishop of South East Asia, and Langham Scholar

Anthem

Since by man came death,
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die,
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Words: 1 Corinthians 15. 21-22

Music: from *Messiah*
George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Tributes

given by

The Reverend Robert Aboagye-Mensah,
Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church of Ghana, and Langham Scholar

Ruth Padilla DeBorst,
General Secretary, Latin American Theological Fellowship,
and Langham Scholar

Stand

Litany of Thanksgiving

led by

The Right Reverend Michael Baughen

‘Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever.’

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the life of your servant and our brother, John, praising you for all the ways in which your gifts in him brought blessing to your people around the world.

We give you thanks, we pray for grace, O Lord.

We give you thanks for his life of humility, in which you enabled him to grow daily into the likeness of Christ, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, and walking in the obedience of faith.

We give you thanks, we pray for grace, O Lord.

We give you thanks for his life of simplicity, in which he obeyed your teaching to reject the temptations of wealth and status, and to live as a simple follower of Jesus.

We give you thanks, we pray for grace, O Lord.

We give you thanks for your gift of words, both preached and written, through which he led many to saving faith in Jesus Christ, and taught your Word with faithfulness, clarity and relevance.

We give you thanks, we pray for grace, O Lord.

We give you thanks for your gift of love, expressed in his care and prayer for friends worldwide, in his passion to foster unity among believers, and in the grace he showed to all people.

We give you thanks, we pray for grace, O Lord.

Grant, O Lord, that as we remember these marks of your grace so clearly seen in the life of John Stott, so we may be imitators of him as he was of Christ. Give us grace to live lives that are worthy of the Lord, pleasing him in every way and bearing fruit in every good work, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymn

**Sing to God new songs of worship,
All his deeds are marvellous;
He has brought salvation to us
With his hand and holy arm:
He has shown to all the nations
Righteousness and saving power;
He recalled his truth and mercy
To his people Israel.**

**Sing to God new songs of worship,
Earth has seen his victory;
Let the lands of earth be joyful
Praising him with thankfulness:
Sound upon the harp his praises,
Play to him with melody;
Let the trumpets sound his triumph,
Show your joy to God the king!**

**Sing to God new songs of worship,
Let the sea now make a noise;
All on earth and in the waters
Sound your praises to the Lord:
Let the hills rejoice together,
Let the rivers clap their hands,
For with righteousness and justice
He will come to judge the earth.**

Words: Michael Baughen (b.1930)
from Psalm 96
© Jubilate Hymns

Music: *Ode to Joy*
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
arr. Christopher Tambling (b.1964)

Sit

Bible Readings

read by

The Reverend Prebendary Richard Bewes,
former Rector, All Souls Church

The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' ' Jeremiah 1. 4-8

read by

The Reverend Mark Labberton,
former Study Assistant to John Stott;
Professor of Homiletics, Fuller Seminary, USA

We always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 1. 11-12; 2. 13-17

Sermon

given by

The Right Reverend Timothy Dudley-Smith,
former Bishop of Thetford, and John Stott's biographer

Stand

Hymn

**Church of God, elect and glorious
Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling,
Show to all his mighty deeds;
Tell of love which knows no limits,
Grace which meets all human needs.**

**God has called you out of darkness
Into his most marvellous light;
Brought his truth to life within you,
Turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
That God's name is glorified;
And all find fresh hope and purpose
In Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were an alien people,
Strangers to God's heart of love;
But he brought you home in mercy,
Citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
Let them feel a Father's care;
That they too may know his welcome
And his countless blessings share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people he intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command your master sends:
Royal priests, fulfil your calling
Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service –
Sing his praise, his love declare.**

Words: James Seddon (1915-83)

Tune: *Lux Eoi*
Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Sit

Ongoing vision

given by

Mark Greene,
Executive Director, The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity

The Reverend Chris Wright,
International Director, Langham Partnership International

Solo

sung by

Elisabeth Crocker,
accompanied by John Wyatt, piano, and All Souls Orchestra, strings

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred let me bring your love,
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we gain eternal life.

Words: Sebastian Temple (1928-97)
from a prayer attrib. to St Francis (1182-1226)
arr. Sebastian Temple

Music: Sebastian Temple (1928-97)

Stand

Litany of Commitment

led by

His Honour Judge David Turner QC,
former Churchwarden of All Souls;
Member of Langham Partnership International Council

We remember with gratitude, O Lord, all that you accomplished through the life-time ministry of your servant and our brother, John. And as you inspired and enabled him to serve God's mission, God's people, and God's world, so we commit ourselves by your grace to follow him in serving you in all humility, zeal and faithfulness.

We commit ourselves afresh to your service, O Lord.

We remember his passion for evangelism, convinced that the gospel is the power of God for salvation to every person who believes.

We commit ourselves afresh to your service, O Lord.

We remember his passion that Christians should be salt and light in society in all the variety of our callings and ministries, convinced that the gospel proclaims that Jesus is Lord over every dimension of human life.

We commit ourselves afresh to your service, O Lord.

We remember his passion for responsible use and care of the earth, convinced that the gospel proclaims Christ's Lordship over heaven and earth and his redemption of all creation.

We commit ourselves afresh to your service, O Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever,
pour your love into our hearts
that we may preach, share and live the gospel in the world.
Make our vision bright, our minds receptive,
our service strong, our lives Christ-like,
that we, loving you above all things,
may give up ourselves, our time, our talents, and our resources
for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn

during which a collection will be taken for the John Stott Memorial Fund.

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts, and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Music: *Lord of the Years*
Michael Baughen (b.1930) and David Wilson (b.1940)
arr. David Iliff (b.1939)

Final Prayers

led by

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable John Sentamu,
Archbishop of York

and

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Richard Chartres,
Bishop of London

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
as we have rejoiced in your gifts
through the life and work of our brother John,
so now, as we remember him,
we dedicate our own gifts to you.
Yours is the service to which he dedicated his life.
Yours is the glory that he sought above all things.
Yours too is the worldwide church which he enriched
through his teaching and the ministries he founded.
May your gracious favour rest upon all who serve and share in them,
for the blessing of all your people
and the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, you have assured us
that everyone who looks to your Son
and believes in him shall have eternal life.
Trusting in your faithfulness
we rejoice together with our brother John
and all who have died in Christ,
as we await that great day
when you raise us with him to life in triumph
and we shall stand before you,
with all your whole creation made new in him,
in the glory of your heavenly kingdom.

Amen.

Blessing

given by

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Recessional Music

during which the College of Minor Canons, the participating clergy, the College of Canons, the Preacher, the Archbishop of York, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chapter and the Bishop of London return to the Dean's Aisle.

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Members of the Congregation are asked to remain in their places until invited to leave by a Wandsman.

The tributes included in this booklet are a tiny representative selection, indicative of John Stott's worldwide influence. The memorial website Remembrance Book (www.johnstottmemorial.org) contains over 1,100 tributes from more than 90 countries.

After the service, please visit the shop in the Cathedral Crypt where a wide selection of John Stott's books will be on display and available for purchase.

John R.W. Stott

Born in 1921 in London, John Stott was a member of All Souls Church, Langham Place, from childhood to his death. He came to personal faith in Christ at Rugby School in 1938, and after his studies in Cambridge was first appointed curate at All Souls in 1945, and then Rector in 1950. In 1975 he was given the title 'Rector Emeritus' and his ministry at the church continued until he moved to the College of St. Barnabas, Lingfield, in 2007.

His international connections began in the 1950s, with his support of Billy Graham's evangelistic campaigns in London, and his own leadership of university missions in the UK, USA, Australia and Africa. His writings began in the same decade with *Basic Christianity* among the earliest of some fifty more in his lifetime. In the 1960s his stature grew among evangelicals in the UK and internationally through his speaking at Keswick and Urbana conventions, his leadership of evangelical Anglicans, and his continued writing and editing work – particularly *The Bible Speaks Today* series of expository commentaries, to which he contributed eight from his own pen.

His commitment to world mission led him to join Billy Graham in the First Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in 1974, at which he was the principal architect of The Lausanne Covenant. After that he continued to shape the theological and missiological direction of that movement through his gifted chairmanship of consultations in the 1980s, culminating in the Second Lausanne Congress in Manila in 1989.

He continued travelling, speaking and writing through his seventies and eighties. His last international trip was to China and Hong Kong in January 2006, aged 85. After breaking his hip in a fall in August 2006 he became increasingly immobilized and dependent, but still managed to complete his final book, *The Radical Disciple*, when he could scarcely control his own handwriting. His last public preaching was at the Keswick Convention in July 2007, when, characteristically, he spoke on God's desire that we should be like Christ. He died in July 2011, aged 90.

John Stott served as one of Her Majesty The Queen's Chaplains and in 2005 he was named in the Queen's New Years Honours list as Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE). In the same year, he was included by *Time* magazine in their list of the 100 most influential people in the world. He was awarded six honorary doctorates in the UK, USA and Canada. And yet, as a model of Christlike humility, simplicity and generosity, he was known to most of his friends simply as 'Uncle John'.

John Stott's remarkable life story can be read in the following biographies:

Timothy Dudley-Smith, *John Stott: The Making of a Leader* (IVP, 1999);
John Stott: A Global Ministry (IVP, 2001)

Roger Steer, *Inside Story: The Life of John Stott* (IVP, 2009)

Alister Chapman, *Godly Ambition: John Stott and the Evangelical Movement*
(OUP, 2012)

More personal portraits can be found in:

Christopher J.H.Wright (ed.), *John Stott: A Portrait by His Friends* (IVP, 2011)

Julia Cameron (ed), *John Stott: Pastor, Leader and Friend: A man who embodied 'the spirit of Lausanne'*, (Didasko Files, 2012)

And for younger readers:

Julia Cameron, *John Stott: The humble leader* (Christian Focus Trailblazer, 2012).

A memorial website, now containing over 1,100 tributes from all around the world can be visited at www.johnstottmemorial.org

Tributes

Many tributes from all over the world have been paid to John Stott since he died last July, expressing gratitude to God from countless people whose lives have been enriched through his worldwide ministry. So I too want to express my own great gratitude for John himself, for his godly example, and for his faithful preaching through which the light of Christ first dawned on me.

Having worked alongside him as his secretary now for 55 years I, perhaps more than anybody, can testify to the fact that in his case familiarity, far from breeding contempt, bred the very opposite – a deep respect, and one which inspired ongoing faith. The more I observed his life and shared it with him, the more I appreciated the genuineness of his faith in Christ, so evident in his consuming passion for the glory of God and desire to conform his own life to the will of God. It was an authentic faith that fashioned his whole life, giving him a servant heart and a deep compassion for all those in need, always ready to encourage, support and share his own resources with others – he took endless trouble, never sparing himself.

The Scriptures lay at the heart of all John's teaching and preaching, but his ability to interpret the Bible was not simply a matter of the intellect, but of a heart full of love for Christ, and a longing to serve him faithfully, no matter what the cost in human terms. For he believed and submitted himself to the sovereignty of God and the Lordship of Christ, and he accepted the authority of the Bible as the Word of God – in his hands a living book, wonderfully enriching and deeply relevant for life today.

Indeed, John both taught and practised what he believed, and I thank God for the way he pointed me constantly to Jesus by his words – 'Don't look at me,' he would say, 'look at Jesus and listen to him' – and he demonstrated the truth of what he was saying by his own example of obedience to the Lord whom he loved and followed. This was the powerful magnet that drew people to put their faith in Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world. He believed that Christ lived on earth, died on the cross for our salvation, and will come again one day in glory. He believed that death is not the end, and that there will be a new creation in which we may all share through repentance and faith in Jesus.

I thank God that John deeply believed all these truths, lived in the light of them, and maintained them, right to the very end – his was a life just full of grace and truth.

Frances Whitehead
John Stott's Secretary, 1956-2011

Few people have influenced my life and ministry more than my good friend, John Stott. His dedication to Jesus Christ, his commitment to the authority of the Bible, and his passion for world evangelization were a great encouragement to me. His commitment to social justice and his profound compassion for the poor and oppressed of the world challenged us to think more deeply about these important dimensions of our faith.

John Stott's impact on the worldwide Church during the second half of the 20th Century was tremendous, not only through his preaching and writing but through his involvement in some of the most significant evangelical movements of our time. Most of all, however, he was committed to individuals, and only eternity will reveal the thousands whose lives were changed by his willingness to listen to their burdens and doubts, and gently but clearly point them to Jesus Christ.

I have the warmest memories of the times we were able to be together over the years – sometimes during large events such as the 1974 Lausanne Conference on World Evangelization, but often in informal visits whenever our paths crossed. My wife Ruth especially looked forward to his visits to our home, enjoying not only the opportunity to put our best tea service to good use, but to absorb the intellectual and spiritual stimulation that were an inevitable part of every conversation with him.

It is my prayer that his life will continue to influence not only those of us who were privileged to know him, but succeeding generations who will be touched by his work. He was a living example of what it means to follow Jesus Christ, and I thank God both for the gift of his life and for his warm friendship.

Billy Graham

Evangelist and life-long friend

I had read his books of course and heard him speak from time to time but John Stott was in his 80s when I became his next door neighbour at 12 Weymouth Street, where he lived in his little flat at the rear of the Rectory. The pace of his work may have slackened a little but the self-discipline was still evident; books still kept coming; travel still kept happening; sermons were still being preached (and you wondered how he said so much so clearly in so short a space of time).

But my lasting memory will be the man himself; the warmth of his smile; the generous neighbour to our entire family; the concern not just for the work at All Souls but for our children; the mischievous twinkle in the eye and sense of humour; the encourager of a Rector who realized what a magnificent legacy he had inherited but how large were the shoes in which his feet were meant to stand. And then to remember that all the time this care and concern and prayerfulness were being shown to countless others. His godliness was not just theoretical. When John fell and broke his hip on a Sunday morning he was due to preach for us, he realised I would have to step in at very little notice. In spite of his pain, as he was being taken into the ambulance, with typical thoughtfulness he insisted on telling my wife Clare, "Tell Hugh my notes are on the table!"

Hugh Palmer

Rector, All Souls Church, Langham Place

My abiding memories of John Stott include his razor sharp mind, his ability to expound scripture clearly when over half the congregation would be taking notes and then following the service a talk-back session, where he would summarise the most waffley question and give a clear, succinct, biblical answer. Many will speak of John's concern that Christians should be double listeners, listening to the world and listening to God speaking through his Word. He emphasised that our study of the bible should lead to changed lives and minds that are equipped to speak into contemporary issues. John was a dedicated pastor and committed to the discipling and training of individuals. A young would-be preacher recalls John's feedback ("a bit ambitious to try to cover 8 points in 7 minutes"), followed by constructive ways as to how he could have expounded the passage for this 8am communion service.

Despite his international reputation, All Souls always remained his church family. He wanted to be known as Uncle John, a family name, that stuck for the last 30 years of his life and spread all over the world. John was amazingly gracious and modelled humility, he loved people and lived a life of dedicated service to his Lord and Saviour. He has left a legacy of books, talks and institutions but for those of us who had the privilege of being part of All Souls during his ministry, John was a servant leader, radical disciple and friend.

Mary Currie

Churchwarden, All Souls Church 1989-2008

John Stott – by wide consent one of the two outstanding Anglican churchmen of the twentieth century – can be included with Titus and other New Testament leaders among those who were hailed by Paul as ‘messengers of the churches and the glory of Christ.’

His ministry has been a continuation of the legacy left by outstanding Anglicans of earlier generations. Among them was Charles Simeon, whose rich ministry of fifty-four years in Cambridge stamped itself indelibly upon the entire Church of England. One of Simeon’s curates was the brilliantly endowed Henry Martyn, later a remarkable missionary in India. Henry Venn and his son John Venn (of the ‘Clapham Sect’), touched the world, along with their vigorous associates, William Wilberforce, Hannah Moore, and Ashley Cooper, the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. The redoubtable Anglican bishop of Liverpool, John Charles Ryle, was another natural forerunner to John Stott.

It was whole continents that John had in mind. From The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) that he founded in 1960, was developed the worldwide body of the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion (EFAC). Through a bursary scheme, many pastors came to the UK for parish experience and doctoral research – a strategic investment in producing the 70-80% of the leadership of the Anglican Communion that is now evangelical. Along with these he revived The Eclectic Society for younger clergy, and founded The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, and the Langham Partnership International. His organisational ability and worldwide reach were simply phenomenal.

John Stott was given to us by God, as ‘a messenger of the churches and the glory of Christ.’

Richard Bewes

Former Rector of All Souls Church, Langham Place.

From 1960, John Stott played a key role in founding and chairing the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC). Even in those days he was a leading Evangelical, and had already made a most significant impact for the gospel in his central London ministry at All Souls, Langham Place. Our personal connection goes back to 1981 when I arrived at All Souls as a curate that Autumn. He became not only a senior friend and colleague to me, but also a fine mentor and hugely wise and insightful sermon coach.

In all these ways, John was always encouraging, and constructive and genuinely kind. I say this because some people think that John Stott was aloof or austere, and so dazzlingly capable that he wasn't interested in ordinary mortals. Not a bit of it! He was certainly one of the most brilliantly capable leaders of the Church of England and beyond, yet he had a great sense of humour, and was a man capable of enormous warmth and kindness. He was just extremely well focussed on the tasks in hand, and did not let himself get easily distracted.

John was energetically passionate about knowing Jesus and making him known, and saw unity and partnership among evangelicals as a vital requirement to reach the nation with the gospel. With all its flaws, he believed in the critical role of evangelicals in the Church of England to deliver effective mission. Millions were influenced by his ministry, and by his teaching, influence and example he helped many younger ministers and others to stay in their denomination and, with deep biblical roots, become truly effective and fruitful for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Michael Lawson

Chairman, Church of England Evangelical Council

In God's providence, The Lausanne Covenant (1974) became the evangelical standard for world evangelization. John Stott led its shaping process, articulating convictions of global leaders with a clear grasp of evangelical truth, and a deep passion to see the gospel penetrate society. He chaired the Lausanne Theology Working Group from its beginnings, and worked to publish The Lausanne Movement's major papers (*Making Christ Known*, 1994). Through his labours, working alongside his friend Billy Graham, the Movement gained significant theological weight and mission strength.

In early 2006 we talked over a meal at a small Greek restaurant near John's London home. I sought his advice on whether it was the right time to draw the global church together again. Yes, he sensed it was the right time. He was animated as we discussed ideas for what would become Cape Town 2010, and mentioned many friends around the world who could help. 'I just hope I live long enough to see this come to reality,' he said.

In April I called John from my Boston home, to share my delight at the publication of The Cape Town Commitment, standing now in the historic line of The Lausanne Covenant. His friend, Phillip Herbert, was at that moment reading it aloud to him. John's voice was weak, but his joy unmistakable. 'You seem to have achieved an astonishing degree of unity,' he said. 'Chris [Wright] and his team did a masterful job.' Here was Lausanne's renewed commitment to world evangelization; and a commitment to engage society, and the world of ideas, with the truth of Christ. These had been his life's work. I trust it brought a sense of completion as he finished his race.

S. Douglas Birdsall

Executive Chairman, The Lausanne Movement

John Stott stressed the importance of student ministry, often referring to it as "the most strategic work imaginable." This priority is evidenced in: his lifelong support for Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (CICCU) and for the International Fellowship of Evangelical students (IFES) in which he served as the vice-president; his 51 books, translated into 60 languages and nourishing students all over the world; his university missions, from 1952-77, both in the UK and world-wide. His bedrock conviction was that a clearly reasoned presentation of the gospel acts as a basis for faith; it is not a replacement for, but the vehicle of, the Holy Spirit, a means to clarify the objective truth of God's work.

John loved the secular university. While he saw some benefit for Christian students in Christian colleges, it saddened him deeply that many Christians were being segregated from the mainstream university. He enjoyed engaging with humanists, existentialists and others in university missions and loved the creativity shown by students in inviting their friends to meetings. He urged Christian students not to withdraw from the world of university life, thinking the only worth-while activity was to attend Christian meetings. "Our calling," he said, "is to be morally distinct without being socially segregated".

At a personal level, he took a deep interest in many students and student workers. Sometimes, when we get close to a Christian leader, we can be disappointed. Many have said of John, however, that the closer they got to him the more impressed they were by his godly lifestyle, his prayerfulness, his walk with Christ and his deep interest in people. He was perhaps the outstanding global evangelical statesman of the last 50 years, but also a servant and mentor to many students and graduates in universities globally. We thank God for him and for the privilege of having known him.

Lindsay Brown

General Secretary

of International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (1991-2007)

International Director

of the Lausanne Movement for World Evangelization (2008-present)

John Stott's legacy is the solid foundation that he laid for evangelical Christians in the twenty-first century to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the scriptures. His life, vision and ministry were truly global. In 1951 when still a young man he was one of the architects of the renewed World Evangelical Fellowship (now the WEA). He worked on the new constitution and drafted its Preamble which has been quoted many thousands of times during the years.

As in all he did, John grounded the purposes of the reconstituted WEF in scripture by quoting from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians. The stated purpose of the WEA is:

The furtherance of the Gospel (Phil. 1. 12)

The defense and confirmation of the Gospel (Phil. 1. 7)

Our fellowship in the Gospel (Phil. 1. 5).

His close support for the WEA never wavered. His contributions to the work of the WEA Theological Commission were immensely valuable and helped establish solid Biblical training and theology in much of the Majority World. The WEA has lost one of its founding fathers. There was something about his boldness in proclaiming the truth that rubbed off on those who wanted to do the same but were somewhat reticent. The whole of the worldwide evangelical movement in the past sixty years has been emboldened by his commitment to truth and proclamation.

Although many of the 600 million evangelical Christians may never have heard of John Stott, almost without exception they will have been unconsciously influenced through what they or their pastors have read from his pen. The whole of the leadership of the WEA acknowledges with great thankfulness to God the legacy that John Stott has left behind to encourage and guide us.

Geoff Tunncliffe

*Chief Executive Officer/Secretary General
World Evangelical Alliance*

For me John Stott is a role model as an impressive master of complementarity. He never sought to emphasize one important thing at the expense of other important things. Let me state some of those complementarities by comparing John Stott to Paul – something he surely would have very much disliked!

Like Paul he was a pastor, a missionary and a theologian at the same time. His academic theology was always for the body of Christ, not his academic colleagues.

Like Paul he was a master thinker and systematic writer, trying to pour the whole faith into even a short book and yet he never wrote in an abstruse way to impress academics, but so that the whole church could benefit.

Like Paul he was willing to strive for the gospel and yet he was a man of peace, a bridgebuilder, someone listening to other opinions very thoroughly and trying to understand them. He was convinced that unity would not come from less good theology, but from more open studying of the Bible together across all lines.

Like Paul he was as local as he was global. He managed to write, speak and travel to the world, while being totally dedicated to personal counselling, to his local congregation and the mentoring of those close to him.

Like Paul he became world famous, and yet stayed the humble servant, that never understood how Jesus could use him in such a way.

Like Paul, he was convinced that preaching the gospel is essential and central, but at the same time he showed compassion to the needy worldwide. He saw everything through the lens of the gospel, knowing that only the cross can overcome the sins of pride, racism, mammon, hatred, sexual abuse etc., and inspired many people to get engaged against those social evils.

Thomas Schirrmacher

*Executive Chair of the Theological Commission
of the World Evangelical Alliance*

The Scripture Union family around the world is grateful to God for the life and ministry of John Stott and his impact on us as a movement. Many SU senior leaders benefitted from his mentoring and intercession and his generous friendship. His remarkable ability to recall the names and personal details of people from all over the world when he met them demonstrated his genuine concern for individuals. And the thousands of SU volunteers and staff who never met him personally are indebted to him for the way he shaped their lives through his speaking and writing.

John combined a strong commitment to the development of the next generation with his love for God's Word. His ministry to university students is well known, and children and teenagers were also close to his heart. Much of his early training in Christian ministry was in SU camps and missions and one of his first published writings was an article entitled 'Child Conversion' which appeared in an SU magazine in 1945. Later he was the first Chairman of SU's Frontier Youth Trust, a support network for Christians involved in youth clubs and the state youth service. He said that daily Bible reading is 'a discipline which I consider to be indispensable to Christian growth and freshness'. In the early 1970's he wrote *Understanding the Bible*, published by SU, and it is still in print after almost 40 years.

Scripture Union has gained so much from John Stott's ministry. We thank God for him and pray that people of all ages will follow in his example of commitment to the gospel, faithfulness to Scripture, and service to the next generation in a world in need.

Janet Morgan

International Director, Scripture Union

One of the many great ministries which John Stott enjoyed was giving the daily Bible studies at the student missions convention of Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) at the University of Illinois in Urbana every three years. Known as the "Urbana Conference" it attracted thousands of students to study the Word of God, consider what God says about world missions, hear exciting reports from around the globe and challenge students to get involved. It was my privilege to direct several of those conventions during the 1970's. Working closely with John Stott was one of the special joys of my life. Dr. Stott's gracious style, his quiet yet firm commitment to the Word of God, and his extraordinary clarity of expounding God's Word was without peer.

I shall be eternally thankful that God gave me the privilege of knowing this great saint.

David M Howard

Director of Urbana 1973 and 1976

Preaching at All Souls Church on World Needs Sunday in 1996 John Stott confessed that when, at the age of 42, he first confronted Proverbs 29. 7 and was struck by it, he realised that by the standard of that text he was a wicked person. The text says, 'the righteous person cares about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.' As a man deeply committed to living in obedience to the Bible as God's word he determined from that time to become a 'righteous person'. That was in 1963, so, it's not surprising that he warmly welcomed the founding of Tearfund in 1968 and remained a keen supporter for the rest of his life.

In 1975 he wrote a booklet for Tearfund entitled *Walk in His Shoes*. Commenting on 1 John 3. 16-18 he wrote: 'We know what Jesus did. He saw, he felt, he acted. What about us? If we don't apply what we have to what we see, we are "closing our hearts" against our needy brother. And if we do that, John is provoked to ask the angry question: "How does God's love abide in us?" It doesn't. It cannot, for divine love is service not sentiment.'

From 1983-97 John Stott acted as Tearfund's President. In that role he was always willing to make his contribution when Tearfund wanted some biblical or theological input to feed its supporters and convince others of their Christian responsibility to the poor.

But this active engagement was but the tip of the iceberg of his significance for Tearfund. As one of the great Bible teachers of all time he taught generations of evangelical Christians to care for the poor while Tearfund gladly provided them with the opportunity to do so.

Dewi Hughes

Theological Advisor, Tearfund

We and the A Rocha family around the world are keenly missing our dear friend and mentor, John. Although he was justly known for his love of birdwatching, his passion for ornithology was directed, like everything else that he undertook, by a far more serious concern to understand the Lordship of Christ. We can still hear his voice intoning "My brother, 'Look at the birds of the air' is an imperative!" For John, a love of the creation led him, and should lead us all, towards a deeper knowledge of God. It is not an exaggeration to say that he, as much as anyone else in his generation, gave a theological heart and a solid biblical footing to what he termed "the recovery of the church's ecological conscience".

As we accompanied him on four continents from the first days of A Rocha's work twenty five years ago, we frequently heard him say that if Jesus was Lord of Creation, then his people should be, as he put it "at the vanguard of the movement for environmental responsibility." Of course he also made the case in his famously lucid and powerful preaching and teaching. But what spoke most powerfully to those who knew him was the life that he lived. It was one of intentional simplicity because he had first-hand knowledge of how environmental degradation affects the poor more than anyone. And his life was also one of celebration of God's goodness and creativity as, for example, when he finally managed to see a bird he had been searching for (sometimes over several decades!) on a mountain or in a forest. His legacy now lives on in thousands of lives and hundreds of projects. We were hugely blessed to know him.

Peter and Miranda Harris
Founders of A Rocha International

I praise God for my dear friend and mentor John Stott because in his life and ministry he clearly portrayed the process of transformation, centred on the cross and empowered by the Holy Spirit, that is God's purpose for Christian believers and longing for every human being.

One of the most significant gifts God has given me was my close association with John for many years. Twice we travelled together, each time for a whole month, from Mexico to Argentina, preaching and teaching in several countries. Once, after he had been involved in meetings with pastors in Brazil, he travelled to Argentina expressly to spend a short vacation with us. He and I participated in the International Congress on World Evangelization held in Lausanne, Switzerland (Lausanne I) in 1974, and in four of the consultations that he organised between 1977 and 1982 as chair of the Lausanne Theology and Education Group (later renamed the Lausanne Theology Working Group). Then, for several years, while I was the International President of Tearfund UK & Ireland, I had the privilege to visit him in his home almost every year and to preach several times at All Souls at his invitation. I greatly appreciated his friendship and enjoyed our times together. I admired his memory for people's names, his sense of humour, his enjoyment of birds and books, and his physical strength.

There is no exaggeration, however, in my saying that the aspect of John's legacy that I treasure more than anything else is his Christian character. He was a man who could say with the apostle Paul, without any hesitation, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ". I am not surprised that the very last book John wrote was *The Radical Disciple*. That is what he was: a radical disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, a disciple who in his character and lifestyle embodied God's purpose for human life.

C. René Padilla

Founder, The Kairos Centre, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Contemporary evangelicalism would be very different without the unique leadership of John Stott at the first Lausanne Congress and the decade following. There would be a huge divide between evangelicals who withdrew from society and saw addressing social and cultural problems as of secondary importance and those who saw evangelism and social responsibility as integral parts of Christian mission. At the Lausanne Congress of 1974 evangelical leaders from the non-western world pressed for the inclusion of both in the Lausanne Covenant. This created unease among some western evangelical leaders who feared this would undermine the priority of proclamation and evangelism. John Stott's leadership in being a bridge between the two groups enabled continuing conversation and the building of trust and kept the fast growing global evangelical movement united.

The International Fellowship of Evangelical Mission Theologians (INFEMIT) promoted this 'wholistic' understanding of mission under the leadership of scholars like René Padilla, Samuel Escobar and myself. John Stott provided the understanding, support and space that enabled this global network of mainly non-western leaders to make their contribution and continue as evangelicals. For this we are very grateful.

His contribution as a biblically faithful evangelical Anglican churchman who chose to stay within the church was an inspiring model for people like myself who came into the ministry in the early 1960s. For many of us in the non-western world whose churches were not evangelical, the challenge was whether you could continue to be an evangelical and minister in the church. John Stott showed that it was possible and modelled it. For me and many others, ministry in and through the church was a high calling. We may not have reflected much on ecclesiology but we practised it. The strength of this tradition in the Anglican churches of the South owes a lot to the example and encouragement of John Stott. The leadership that Global South gives in the current Anglican struggles for biblical faithfulness is a legacy of our dear brother John.

Vinay Samuel

*Director, Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life
and Founder-Director (retired), Oxford Centre for Mission Studies*

Partnering with John Stott in his publishing ministry has always been a real joy for all of us at IVP. And invariably the person behind the books mirrored the gracious message of his words.

Scene 1: Eleanor Trotter, IVP's Senior Commissioning Editor, and I were visiting the Weymouth Street flat in order to discuss possible new books. We had climbed the narrow stairs to the top room for our hour strictly allocated by Frances Whitehead, and the singing bird in the clock (a chaffinch?) hadn't yet signalled midday. 'Would this be of interest to IVP?' asked John. Yes, we were interested. In spite of the low-key sales pitch, (a sketchy outline on a simple A4 sheet, offered hesitantly and with real humility), we really did want to know more. That outline subsequently grew into a book which today has influenced countless lives and churches all over the globe. *The Living Church* has sold over 36,000 copies in its UK and US editions and has already been translated into nine languages.

Scene 2: Chris Ward, a long-serving member of the IVP editorial team, was tasked with transporting Uncle John from Leicester train station to a staff evening where he was to share a photographic presentation of his recent Antarctica bird-watching trip.

Confronted by solid, rush-hour traffic queues, John's immediate reaction was, 'We won't panic. Just tell me who will be attending and if there is anything I should know about each one.' In all his busy-ness, he had not only carved out time to come and spend an evening with his publishing team, but even more importantly to understand more about each individual and their lives at work and beyond. Every person counted.

Moments to treasure from an extraordinary life well lived.

Brian Wilson

Chief Executive, Inter-Varsity Press UK

Sometimes a publishing house can become so closely associated with a single author that both come to mind when either is mentioned. Perhaps that is the case with John Stott and both InterVarsity Press in the United States as well as for its sister publishing house in England. While IVP in the U.S. was the originating publisher for only a few books by Stott, because of transatlantic publishing arrangements, IVP-US has published more of his titles in English than any other single publisher. Starting in the 1950s, IVP-US alone published more than sixty Stott titles that have sold in aggregate over six million copies in North America.

Numbers are only one measure of influence, and perhaps not the most accurate. Alongside his books, John Stott gave many great gifts to the American church. In his writing as well as the rest of his ministry he was a model of both Christian civility and conviction that all of us would do well to emulate in this era of extreme viewpoints and harsh rhetoric. Stott did not emphasize the differences Christians had with one another but what we have in common. He never aimed to win so much as to be winsome. In addition, he showed us what it meant to be a world Christian before it was fashionable to be a world Christian. While he was a formidable speaker, he was an even more formidable listener, allowing those he met around the globe to change him and so bring their message to us.

As a publisher we have been privileged to be a conduit for this model of the Christian faith. If IVP in the U.S. is to be associated with one author more than any other, it is hard to imagine anyone better than John Stott.

Andrew T. Le Peau

Associate Publisher, Editorial, InterVarsity Press-USA

The more I think about John's decision to found the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity in 1982, the more ground-breaking it seems – ground-breaking in theological insight and ground-breaking in its focus on personal disciple-making.

Today, it is clear that John was a herald of a bigger Gospel than most of us had grasped back then. He saw that God's mission embraced not only personal salvation and the priority of the poor but a yearning to see workplaces and governments and media fulfil their biblical mandate to be agencies of human flourishing to God's glory. He also saw that it was a job for the laity. Hence John's unusually deep commitment to enabling lay people to apply the Bible to their daily contexts. So he met regularly to pray with a small group of local business people, and with a small group of young people to reflect biblically on cultural trends, and he devised an international whole-life discipleship process at LICC that intentionally brought together men and women from many vocations – lay and clerical – on an equal footing. Yes, John wrote for millions and preached to thousands but, Jesus-like, he invested in individuals.

This unusual emphasis emerged from John's understanding of the Cross. The implications of Jesus' sacrifice for his followers had no limits of geography or context. For John, 'Jesus is Lord' meant far more than that Jesus had ultimate authority. It meant Jesus wants his will done this very day. As in heaven, so on earth. And that's why today 'LICC people' can be found doing amazing things in Christ's name as accountants, mothers, lawyers, nurses, preachers, relief workers, entrepreneurs . . .

And for that liberating vision, which John taught and to which he called us, we are enormously grateful.

Mark Greene

Executive Director,

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity

Ten years ago, having decided at the age of 80 that it might be time to retire a little more, John Stott handed over to me the leadership of the ministries he founded which are now combined within the Langham Partnership International. The Langham Trust had been running since 1969, providing for a growing network of Scholars from the majority world, most of whom (now around 300) are back teaching and training new pastors in seminaries all over the world. And the Evangelical Literature Trust, since 1971, had been providing books for students, pastors and seminary libraries in parts of the world where such resources were unknown or prohibitively expensive. Joined now by Langham Preaching in 2002, these three Langham programmes (Scholars, Literature and Preaching) operate globally in the service of the church.

It has struck me repeatedly in the past decade how the mere mention of the name 'Langham' evokes the 'spirit of John Stott' himself among Christian leaders in the majority world. It stands for an ethos of non-hierarchical friendship, of coming alongside them to foster and resource the missional aims of God's people in their own contexts, not to build the empire of a western organization. It will be our greatest tribute to the memory and character of our founder, not only to carry on his vision, but to do so in his way. For that reason, speaking personally, the idea that as 'John Stott's successor' I might 'fill his shoes' is as absurd as it was absent from his mind or mine. But that the Langham ministries he founded should go on humbly helping God's people to grow in Christlikeness, maturity and mission – that is a passion I gladly share, for Christ's sake and for John's.

Chris Wright

International Director,

Langham Partnership International

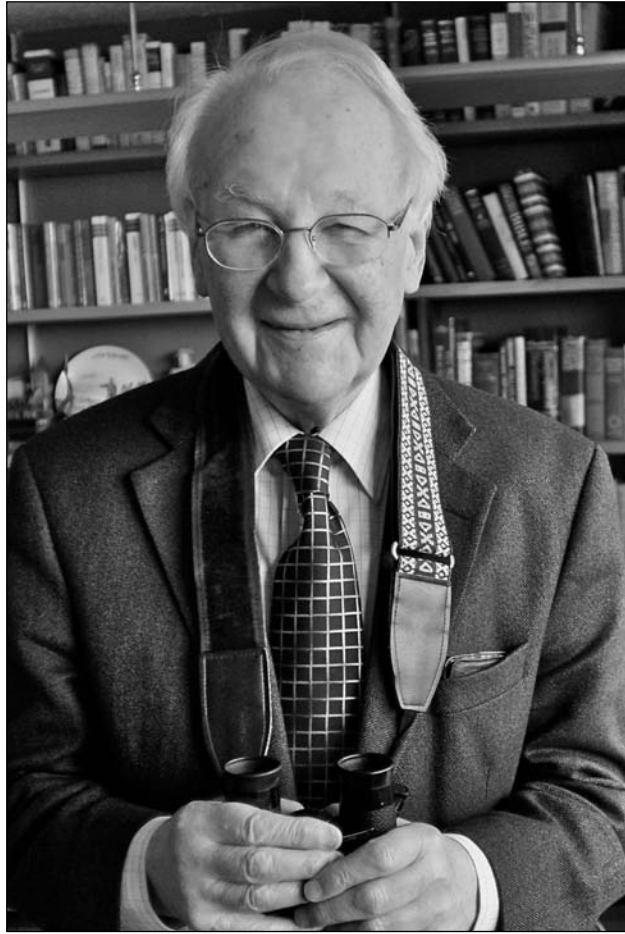


Photo: Kieran Dodds