

the Better Hour

A Bicentenary Service in Commemoration
of William Wilberforce

and the 200th Anniversary of the
passing of the Slave Trade Abolition Bill

Sun 25 Feb, 2007

2.00pm

York Minster

with

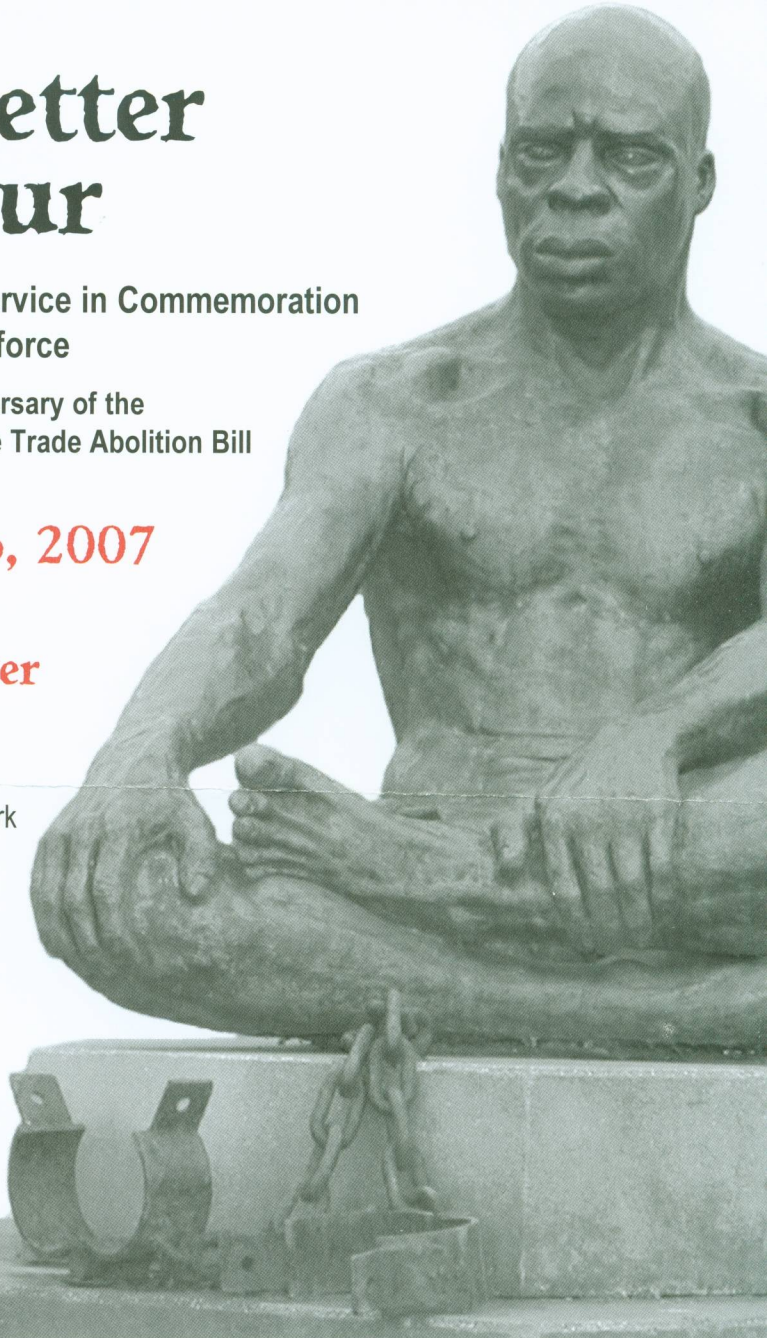
The Archbishop of York

The Rt Hon
William Hague MP

Riding Lights
Theatre Company

Trans-Global
Drummers

Pocklington School
Choir



set all free

ACT TO END SLAVERY

ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT
BICENTENARY 2007

Thy country, Wilberforce, with just disdain,
Hears thee, by cruel men and impious, call'd
Fanatic, for thy zeal to loose th' enthral'd
From exile, public sale, and slav'ry's chain.
Friend of the poor, the wrong'd, the fetter-gall'd,
Fear not lest labour such as thine be vain!
Thou hast achiev'd a part; hast gain'd the ear
Of Britain's senate to thy glorious cause;
Hope smiles, joy springs, and tho' cold caution pause
And weave delay, **the better hour** is near,
That shall remunerate thy toils severe
By peace for Afric, fenc'd with British laws.
Enjoy what thou hast won, esteem and love
From all the just on earth, and all the blest above!

Sonnet to William Wilberforce, Esq.
by William Cowper (1731-1800)



William Wilberforce