

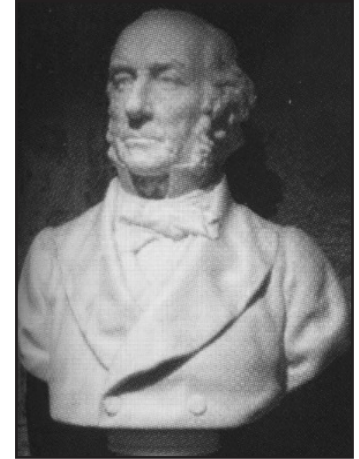
WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE

born 29 December 1809, Liverpool – died 19 May 1898, Hawarden

Sculptor: David Watson Stevenson (1842-1904)

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*“ Liberalism is trust of the people
tempered by prudence.
Conservatism is distrust of the
people tempered by fear. ”*



Four times Liberal prime minister of Great Britain, Gladstone was one of the leading political figures of the Victorian era as well as a strong campaigner on a large number of issues including home rule for Ireland.

He was elected to parliament in 1832 as a Tory, and quickly progressed to hold junior offices in Peel's government of 1834 – 1835. In 1843 Gladstone entered Peel's Conservative cabinet, and then as the Conservative Party split in 1846, he became a Liberal – Conservative.

In 1868 Gladstone became prime minister for the first time, and his government created a national elementary programme, and made reforms in the justice system and civil service.

Benjamin Disraeli defeated Gladstone in the general elections of 1874, becoming Conservative prime minister, and Gladstone retired as liberal leader. There was a very strong political and personal rivalry between the two men, as was shown by Disraeli's changing his take on Gladstone's nickname GOM (Grand Old Man) to "God's Only Mistake".

Gladstone's third and fourth terms as prime minister were hugely devoted to his crusade for home rule in Ireland, as were his years out of office dedicated to this issue.

