



towards its golden easel.

At just two sentences, the magisterial missive said everything it needed to: "Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge was safely delivered of a son at 4.24pm today. Her Royal Highness and her child are both doing well."

Within seconds the cry went up: "It's a boy!" Cue spontaneous applause, cheers and even a rendition of *Happy Birthday*.

The notice was signed by surgeon-gynaecologist Marcus Setchell and obstetrician Mr Guy Thorpe-Beeston. Both these distinguished medics were presumably now enjoying a well-earned rest. But our work was just beginning, and a long night lay ahead as we beamed the happy news around the world.

For reporters, it was a partial release – at last there was something to report. But for the

photographers, the wait went on.

And we still hadn't seen the baby. Salvation finally came in a taxi. At 3pm the next afternoon, Kate's parents Michael and Carole pulled up in a navy-blue cab. They're so down-to-earth, these Middletons!

After their 70-minute visit, it was Carole, 58, dressed elegantly in a cornflower-blue, £165 Orla Kiely dress, who spoke, reporting that the baby was "absolutely beautiful" and that his parents were doing "fabulously".

How was that first cuddle? "Amazing," said Carole. "It's all coming back."

No sooner had the Middletons departed than a sudden massing of uniforms told us that more visitors were on their way – and these would not be arriving by cab.

In fact, so keen was Prince Charles to see his new grandson that he and Camilla, who had been carrying out engagements in Yorkshire, had flown the 200 miles from Leeds to London before being rushed to Paddington in a police convoy.

On a day of many historic moments, this would be the first time that three direct male heirs to the throne have come together in more than 100 years.

Asked afterwards how his first



**Left, from top: Patriotic onlookers enjoy a historic day; the massed ranks of the world's press outside St Mary's Hospital. Below, from left: The Duchess of Cambridge's parents Michael and Carole Middleton visit the new baby; Prince Charles and Camilla wave to crowds at the Lindo Wing**