

# St. Faith's Church Choir

## NEWSLETTER

GOOD FRIDAY 2020

**Happy Holy Week!** I thought I'd go with a newsletter format again. I hope you like it. As last week, comments, improvements, suggestions welcome!

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### Music for Holy Week and Easter

Last week I shared with you the setting of the Lamentations by Edward Bairstow who was for many years, organist at York Minster. This week, I thought you might like to hear my Holy Week choices, some of which I had intended for us to try this year.

For Maundy Thursday, I would like to offer you a very simple but effective piece of the Latin text "Ubi caritas et amor, deus ibi est", roughly translated as "where there is love and charity, God himself is there". This is a text often used on Maundy Thursday. The music is by a local composer Geoffrey Nobes who you can read about here:

<http://www.geoffreynobes.com/biography.html>

The music is here:

<https://www.kevinmayhew.com/chants-mp3.html>

You can hear the piece by clicking on "samples and resources".

For Good Friday, I'd like to offer two pieces. Firstly, the famous (in church music) setting of the Reproaches by the English composer John Sanders (born in 1933 and died in 2003) who was organist at Gloucester Cathedral from 1967 to 1994. What a record! Here it is sung by the choir of Ely Cathedral (filmed in 2018):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cc7Lq7RE-o>

Also for Good Friday, here is a version of the words "when I survey the wondrous cross" by the English composer Philip Wilby (who wrote the version of God be in my head that we sometimes sing). I'll be interested to

hear your views on this. I used to hate it, but it has really grown on me!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOXJYt9r-1E>

For the church organ enthusiasts, here are videos of the voluntaries that I would have played during Holy Week, which are saved up for 2021!

For Maundy Thursday, a chorale prelude (a piece based around a Lutheran church melody) by the 19<sup>th</sup> century German composer Johannes Brahms. The chorale melody here is normally associated with a text suitable for Holy communion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW1NvEFmXfQ>

For Good Friday, a hymn prelude based on the tune "Glory be to Jesus" by Peter Hurford who was Organist at St. Alban's Cathedral from 1957 to 1978 and sadly died in March 2019. The hymn tune is played on the pedals using an organ stop that makes the tune sound higher than the accompaniment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOD5DWRKTWA>

I thought that members of Wessex cantorum will appreciate this video, filmed from the "flight deck" of the organ at Llandaff Cathedral.

Finally, what I'm told is an old favourite at St. Faith's, the Easter Song of Praise by the composer and

educator Richard Shephard. Please do sing along!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feMyqiDVGnc>

I hope that you find my musical journey through Holy Week to Easter Day useful!

## Online singing opportunities

I hope that some of you have been able to take part in some of the excellent opportunities that are available online to keep you singing! This week I'd like to "flag up" a few online singing opportunities that I think you'll enjoy!

A quick reminder that organist William Saunders is running a virtual come and sing of Stainer's Crucifixion at 5pm on Good Friday (today!):

<http://william-saunders.info/2020/04/01/virtual-come-and-sing-stainers-crucifixion/>

Probably your last chance in 2020 to "fling wide the GAAATES"!

Also, a reminder of the hymn flash mob, organised by St. Paul's Cathedral:

<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/worship-music/worship/choir-of-the-nation-join-our-hymn-flash-mob>

In a similar vein, I wonder if anyone would be up for this challenge:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/sing-resurrection/>

Finally, I would like to point you in the direction of the Royal Schools of Church Music where there is a huge amount of excellent online materials. For the "evensongers" in particular, may I encourage you to consider participating in "The Big Easter Evensong" on Easter Day!

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/online-resources/>

Mentioning the RSCM reminds me that I was considering after Easter to give you the opportunity of doing the Voice for Life training; either the next level from where you are at the moment, or for the first time. This is absolutely optional and please don't feel as if you have to take part, but if you are interested, drop me an email.

I hope you find these links helpful and do let me / us know if you take part in any of them and what you thought of them!

## **Live streamed services**

## **And finally!**

I'm sure like me, you're missing being able to be in St. Faith's church. I am also sure that St. Faith's church is missing us! My last visit to church was on Mothering Sunday when I played for the live broadcast which took place in the church. I made a point of taking a photo of a very empty choir vestry...

Don't forget to "drop in" on Canon Tom at the vicarage on Easter Sunday for the online service for Easter Day. Maybe like me, you're secretly enjoying dipping in and out of live streamed services from across the country at the moment!

Recent discoveries for me have been to be able to watch my girlfriend's dad take a service (he is rector of St. Mary's Shenfield, Essex) and it has been lovely to get back in touch with Rev. Hugh Thomas (associate vicar of St. Cuthbert's, West Hampstead) who ably assisted during the interregnum (which lasted well over three years!) at another church where I am an occasional worshipper. More about that church on another day perhaps.

Maybe it's my sense of humour, but perhaps when the Association of English Cathedrals stated their intention for the year 2020 to be the year of pilgrimage, they didn't think it was going to be an armchair pilgrimage... but I guess it's a cheaper way to see every Cathedral in England!

