

St. Faith's Church Choir

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2020

Welcome to another edition of ramblings from the organist! As I've had no complaints yet, I'll keep going with the newsletter format. Having said that, comments, improvements, suggestions always welcome!

Online singing opportunities

I hope that some of you are continuing to participate in some of the excellent opportunities that are available online to keep you singing! I know that Sandra enjoyed a virtual flinging wide the gates on Good Friday!

William Saunders continues to lead a hymn singing session on Saturday mornings. If you're not able to join in "live", it is available to watch again:

<https://www.facebook.com/musicianwilliam>

Richard McVeigh from "Beauty in Sound" continues to upload hymns and organ music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vv6KIgnKibI>

For something a bit different, you might like to watch Richard playing some Scott Joplin on the organ (watch out for the cat):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jt8nuK9_POg

St. Paul's Cathedral continue their hymn flash mobs, the most recent being hymns for St. George's Day:

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

Finally, a reminder that the Royal School of Church Music where there is a huge amount of excellent online materials:

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

I feel that I should a disclaimer in at this point and say that I don't personally know any of the people who are running these sessions, this is just a result of doing some research

on your behalf! I hope you find these links helpful and please continue to let me / us know if you have take part in any of them and what you thought of them!

Live streamed services

I'm sure that you're all still enjoying Canon Tom's live broadcasts from the vicarage (or is it a rectory?) on Sundays and Thursdays. Maybe some of you were able to participate in the Zoom session last Sunday teatime. I know that the Cathedral Zoom Sunday coffee sessions seem to be well supported.

I'm still really enjoying being a serial worshipper and dropping in to services across the country!

Online services have provided me with the opportunity to revisit churches that I have been involved with in the past, such as St. James' West End (near Southampton) where I was director of music, who put together some lovely services during Holy Week:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUkio1xFORvmGS3u8cxKZVA>

I also enjoyed The Easter vigil from St. Leonard's, Lexden (Colchester, Essex) which was the church I went to when I was at university:

<https://youtu.be/toi64Tp4pw8>

I'm assured that the stole didn't get burnt at this vigil (I've not been involved with Romsey Abbey, but I do know the vicar!):

<https://youtu.be/JbBAo1yc6xo>

Last Sunday (Sunday after Easter) I thoroughly enjoyed the Eucharist from St. Martin-in-the-fields in London (by Trafalgar Square). Beautiful recorded hymn singing and anthems, be prepared for the Gloria, which I enjoyed as much as the celebrant:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmartininthefields/videos/2809975172448084/>

I very much hope that online services continue when normality resumes, whatever normality means!

Virtual Choral Evensong

I've been massively impressed by the groups that have managed to keep Choral Evensong going during this time of isolation.

The RSCM put together an excellent Easter Day evensong, which was led by the Very Reverend Dr. John Hall who recently retired as Dean of Westminster Abbey and now lives near Chichesrer:

<https://youtu.be/g2Oo1tUSQos>

Here's another choral evensong very cleverly done by St. James the Greater in Leicester...

<https://youtu.be/H7B-kITR+LM>

... and this lovely evensong compilation from Christ Church, Southgate (North London):

<https://youtu.be/AwB7-Px3jX0>

Featured Hymn

Whenever Low Sunday (Sunday after Easter) comes around, I always have a certain hymn stuck in my head, one which I first came across at a Lent course 20 years ago.

The hymn in question is called "We walk by faith and not by sight".

The words were written in 1844 by Henry Alford who was born in 1810 and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1833 he was ordained and held a number of clergy posts until his death in 1871. Today, he is best known for being the author of the harvest hymn "Come ye thankful people come".



The tune that I associate it with is a more recent one called "Shanti" by Marty Haugen (born in 1950),

who is an American liturgical composer, workshop presenter, performing and recording artist & author from Eagan, Minnesota.

You can listen to a performance here. I hope you like it!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbe3bpi_9Pg

CORONATION Music

If we had been joining in worship together in church this Sunday, then

Vaughan Williams in 1954



the anthem would have been "O taste and see" by the famous English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (born in 1872 and died in 1958). *[Disclaimer at this point from Canon Tom: "I was once taught by a student of his, who referred to him as Uncle Ralph"]*. This very short and quietly moving anthem was specially composed for the Coronation of Elizabeth II in 1953 at Vaughan Williams' suggestion, using a single verse from Psalm 34. It was intended to be sung during the distribution of Communion and serves as a foil for the pomp of the royal occasion.

You can have a listen to the anthem here...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKCR5uU7QIs>

... and contrast this with the uplifting arrangement of "All people that on earth do dwell", again by Vaughan Williams for the 1953 coronation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faHrmGakY4E>

We definitely need to find an occasion, hopefully in the not too distant future, to sing both of these!

Finally, to see and hear them in context, you can watch the 1953 Coronation service in full here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52NTjasbmgw>

And finally!

I'm sure like me, you're still missing being able to worship in St. Faith's church.

Well done and thank you to Tom for keeping worship on the road.

I felt for Tom when last Sunday's service decided to freeze halfway through the sermon, although I can think of many an organist (and choristers that I have known over the years) who would have appreciated this.

Apparently, this was Tom's face at the moment the service went and froze...



That's more than enough from me this week.

I hope you enjoy looking at some / all of the links that I've referenced.

Keep smiling and singing!

Have a good week and stay safe.

Graham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG5bonwSRRI> (the Lord's prayer, enjoy!)