

ALL SAINTS NEWS

22nd May 2022
Easter 6

Sermon preached at All Saints Clifton Bristol Early Music Festival Mass May 8th 2022
The Revd Canon Bruce Saunders

Reading: Revelation 7.9-end

All Saints is again generously hosting this year's Bristol Early Music Festival. Those of us involved in planning the Festival are hugely grateful to Father Charles, the PCC and Wardens; and also for allowing this Mass to be described as a Festival Eucharist with this splendid special music. For all that, thank you.

I love listening to and performing all kinds of music. From childhood, music and my Christian faith have grown up together. I firmly believe that music is one of the languages of heaven and I fully endorse the idea attributed to St Augustine that 'those who sing pray twice'. But I've been trying to work out what it is about early music, from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, that particularly attracts and fascinates me.

And I think it's something to do with the composers themselves. We don't know much about any of them but it's clear from their music that there was more to them than their compositional skills. Josquin, Dufay, Ockeghem were mathematicians, fascinated by rhythms and shapes and the theory of proportions of Aristotle and the Greeks. So their music is full of clever imitation, weaving four, eight, twelve, forty voices together, often including numerical jokes, devising a theme and then feeding it into a piece backwards or upside down, at a slower or faster speed than the rest.. Often the number of bars in a piece is significant. They knew their musical history when it came to the particular sound and feel of the ancient modes. Many, like the great Spanish composer Victpria. were also ordained as priests And we're discovering more and more women composers of the time, many of whom were nuns in religious orders. Their music reveals a deep personal insight and commitment to the values of liturgy. They knew what a well-ordered Eucharist needed in terms of musical support for each of the multitude of religious festivals in the Church's year. When they composed motets pleading for the Virgin Mary to intercede for us in heaven for our sins, they meant it. And like painters and sculptors in the 15th and 16th centuries, musicians were emerging as artists in their own right, signing their work and aware of themselves as part of an evolving artistic tradition.

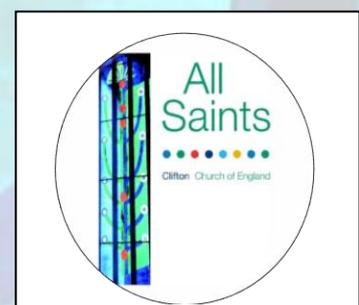
What I find so attractive about these people from 500 or 600 years ago is their wholeness. The marriage of what we would call art and science, music and maths, religious vocation and professional pride, make me think of these people as living in it wonderfully integrated world where disciplines of art and science had not yet separated as they did in the 1700s. Nor was there such a thing as a secular world. Everything happened under the auspices have an all-seeing and all-controlling God.

I love the thought of that inter-disciplinary integration – what we today might call holistic, that every part of our awareness of the world around us is part of everything else. And I realise that I feel that nostalgia because we live in a world that is so different, with disciplines divided, with an thick line between the sacred and the secular, and with science and religion driving one another to extremes.

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I know perfectly well that my nostalgia for that golden age is historical nonsense. With the Black Death and frequently returning plagues, international wars that lasted for decades, Europe in uproar, and in this country alone the terrible atrocities committed in the name of religion during the Reformation. In reality their world was at least as fragmented, violent and uncertain as ours.

Thinking about my false nostalgia when it comes to old music makes me realise that as Christians we often do something very similar. Just as I look back to the 15th and 16th centuries as a haven of wholeness, Christianity often looks back to a world where everything was as God intended it to be. We have the story of the Garden of Eden, 'Paradise'. But realism soon breaks in with stories about human selfishness and pride. Those stories have very important theological things to tell us about God and God's relationship with creation, but they warn us against nostalgia. Denied the idea of a golden age, our deep longing for a perfect world of peace and justice and harmony turns itself into a hope for a future which can deliver what the past has failed to provide. So we go on praying and hoping; but the news reminds us of the unlikelihood of things ever getting better, and as we get older our appetite for radical change reduces. So we push our hopes into some unimaginable future, at the end of time, when God will sort out what can't be sorted out now.

We were given a wonderful picture of that in our second reading:

After this I looked and there was a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne. And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God singing Blessing and glory and wisdom and Thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever. (Music in heaven!)

It's an enchanting vision of future harmony and completeness. But looking around the young adults I know, that's not the way they look at the world. They neither feel guilty for being born human, nor do they seem very excited about what will happen to them when they die. But they are rather good at living in the present. And they are teaching us, not only in environmental matters, about the importance of now.

In terms of mission and the proclamation of the Christian gospel, I feel the Church needs to learn new ways of talking about God's loving purpose for creation that doesn't place it all in the remote past or an ever-receding future.

In these Sundays in Eastertide, it's worth remembering that what turned a bunch of frightened men and women into the first apostles was not what happened inside the empty tomb. The Gospel writers are wise enough not even attempt to describe it. The transforming factor for those first Christians was meeting the living Christ. Mary 'Thomas, touch me'. 'Peter, do you love me?' Not a credal proposition about a historical fact, but a personal encounter. Not about then, but now.

In this and every Eucharist, we are declaring that God is with us, that we know Christ as a living presence in our lives, that we are members of the body of Christ. That's a commission and a challenge for now, for today. It should be an antidote to hankering after the past, as I may be doing for my music, or for hankering after a future in heaven. In both cases, we can waste the present. There are, God knows, enough vitally important issues for us to be engaging with in today's world, not just a planet teeming with displaced people looking for a home, not just a world in which mediaeval violence is still being practised with modern weaponry; a world whose own future we are doing our very best to destroy.

So forgive me if you were expecting a sermon about how music can blissfully transport us beyond the present into some kind of transcendent otherness. Of course it can do that and does and is often welcome. But our Christian discipleship is about now.

Those early composers were surrounded with death, illness, naked political power. Out of the very unpromising material of their world, they produced music of the most sublime quality that enriched and inspired the people of their time, and amazingly can still lift our hearts to heaven centuries later. But they leave us a challenging example. Whether we are musicians or not, what can we make that is beautiful out of the raw materials of our own time? Lives given over to the purposes of love would be a very good place to start.

Changes in Liturgy – Post-Covid

Following the announcements and recommendations made by the Church of England's Coronavirus Guidance Team during the first week of May, we will be returning to some of the pre-Covid practices during Mass.

The Common Cup

This is the most significant, by far. From Ascension Day and going forward communion will be offered in both kinds. We will continue to make a single line in the central aisle to receive the host and then have the offer and choice to receive the wine from the Common Cup. This will be taking communion standing, as is our weekday practice and in common with many churches (including both Bristol Cathedrals).

It is important to emphasise that the offer of receiving the wine is a personal choice. There are probably a considerable number of us who wish to maintain a Covid-safe-practice and may wish to receive in one kind only. Indeed, there are already those who have always received in one kind only in response to personal decisions of faith or health.

And, it is important to emphasise that receiving in one kind is a full and sufficient sacramental communion.

Other Liturgical Changes

Less noticeable, but still of significance, we will return to having an **Offertory Procession** to bring the gifts forward for the Liturgy of the Sacraments. As you are aware this has a significance that represents the 'response' to God of his love of and gifts to us through creation.

Exchanging **The Peace**. This is a liturgical action, at the commencement of the Liturgy of the Sacrament, that underlines God's command to us to respond to all of humanity – not just the people we like or who are like us. From this point forward people may elect to exchange the Peace through human contact – the clasp of hands. My expectation is that we will continue much as we are now with the various gestures we have employed over the last few years. Remember that this is a deeply ritualised action, widespread historic tradition and is enshrined in scripture.

You may also notice a few other actions, such as the **Lavabo**, which are returning to the way we conduct our liturgy.

Ascension Day

Thursday 26th May we will have Festival Mass for the Ascension at 7.30pm. This is also the point at which we enter the 'Great Nine Days' (Novena) of prayer and preparation. It is a time when we recollect the Disciples gathering in the Upper Room, devoting themselves to prayer, in the time between the Risen Lord's Ascension and the gifting of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Website Up-Date

The Up-Dated Website is now on-line!!!!

All the data and content has been migrated between the old and the new – and it looks great! For the next couple of weeks you will find glitches where the migration hasn't quite happened as expected.....! We hope these are short lived. During these next couple of weeks each page will be reviewed one by one – after that we'll let you know and you can then let us know about the problems you've encountered.

Thank you to the team who have made this up-grade work so well!!!

Mtr Wendy Bray

As I'm sure you are now aware, Mtr Wendy died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday evening (1 May). She was with Fr Paul and her family.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her*

We hold Fr Paul, Wendy's family and friends, and the extensive networks and communities with which she was connected in our prayers. We give thanks for her life and all that she has done through her way of life, her writing and ministry and care for others. And for the gifts she brought to us here at All Saints.

Notice of Funeral:

There will be a Funeral Requiem at All Saints on Tuesday 7th June at 12 noon. This will be followed by an opportunity to share memories with and meet others for whom Wendy was so important. The Committal, with family members, will follow this.



all saints arts 2022

allsaintsarts concert matinée

All Saints Church,
Pembroke Rd
Clifton

**Saturday
4th June
4pm**

**A piano duet recital
by the
distinguished pianists
Allan Schiller
&
John Humphreys
to celebrate the 50th
anniversary of their musical
partnership.**

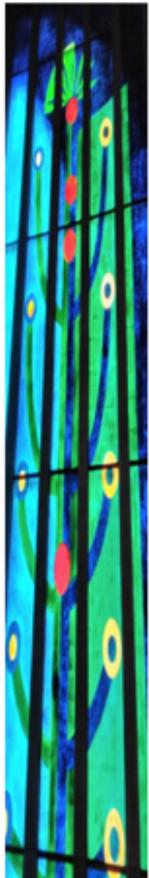
J.C. Bach Sonata in F op.18 no.6
Schubert Andantino Varié D.823
Mozart Fantasie (for mechanical organ) K.V. 608
Ravel Mother Goose Suite
Dvorak Three Slavonic Dances op.46

Admission to concert matinées is free.
There will be a retiring collection (cash or card).
Refreshments available after the concert.



**You are warmly invited to
share cake and a drink to
celebrate the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee.**

**After Mass on
Sunday
5th of June
2022**



All Saints

**Community Cream Tea
Sunday 5th June 2022**

2.30pm to 5.00pm



All Saints Church warmly invite you to a
Community Cream Tea to celebrate the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee

Free Cream Tea –scones, cream and jam.

Tea/Coffee and soft drinks

The All Saints' gardens will be open for all to enjoy – please
feel free to bring your own rug or garden chair

E: office@allsaintsclifton.org; T: 0117 974 1355; office@allsaintsclifton.org

All Saints Community Cream Tea Volunteers needed !

If you would like to help the All Saints
Community Platinum Jubilee celebration
please speak to Annette.

How can you help?

- Make some scones for the tea
- Donate some jam or cream
- Volunteer to serve drinks
- Help with setting up
- Help with clearing up
- Bringing some garden chairs

The All Saints Community Cream Tea is
an opportunity to meet people from the
parish and celebrate together.



All Saints Church Friends Together

A Dementia accessible café – for all
Support, guidance, information & friendship

🎵 Thursday 2nd June, 10am-12pm 🎵


A special **musical** Café to celebrate the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee

Free tea/coffee & delicious home-made cake



Café Dates for the rest of 2022
all at 10.00am to 12.00pm:

- Thursday 7th July
- Thursday 4th August
- Thursday 1st September
- Thursday 6th October
- Thursday 3rd November
- Thursday 1st December

E: office@allsaintsclifton.org; T: 0117 974 1355; office@allsaintsclifton.org



The Henbury Singers

present

**SS Wesley:
A Celebration
of a
Radical Musician**

**Saturday 28th May
at 7.30p.m.**

**All Saints Church
Pembroke Road,
Clifton BS8 2HY**

**Tickets £10.00
(Students £5)
available from**

EventBrite
(see right
or below)



or from members of the choir

Supporting Parkinson's UK

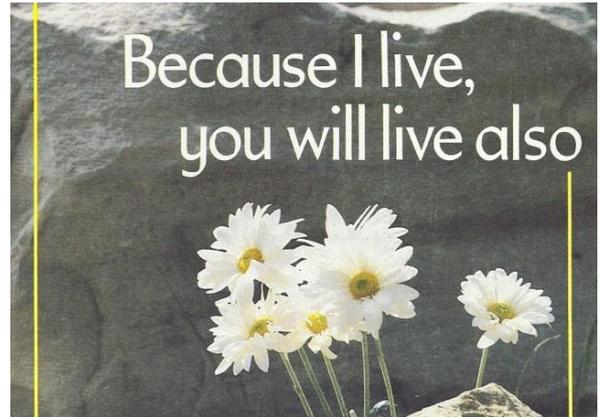


Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer



Those who we remember in our Prayers

Sunday Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Jean Callow, Sarah Bradley, Katrina and Katherine King, Samantha Tucker Veronica Hayfield, Joyce Shepherd Philip Miles Ryan Lindsey, Immie Audrey Jones, Christine Bartlett, Emma Cartwright Sue Hilliar Steve Cooper Alison Tierney

Monday John Bradley, Robert Paul, Nicky Cousins, Peter Maine Peter Martin

Tuesday Chris Callow, Elizabeth, Judy Torrens, Margaret Swindale, Diana Verity,

Wednesday Felicity Firth, Kate Thomas, Adam Holmes, Hugh Farry Linda Cynthia Ashford, Ros Hawkins, Alan Roberts

Thursday Richard Harris, Matt Mumford, Brian Davidge, Caroline Semon,

Friday Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Elisabeth Morgan
+ Peter (Bishop of Bath and Wells)

Saturday Merryn, Roger Durbin (Pr), Nicholas Edwards, Alan & Poppy

This Church

- All those who come into our church to find the comfort of our Sacred Space.
- For those who enter this church as visitors and tourists, for those who come just to look
- For those looking to the coming 'Christian Year' wishing ways to take part in the *missio Dei*
- For those who make use of this space for meetings, rehearsals, concerts, exhibitions, exercise, classes, events and so much more.
- For those who come into this place weighed down through fear – fear of life and life events, the Covid virus, of those around them, and so many other causes

The Departed

James Souter Roy Beckworth Jill Masefield Peter Jones Douglas Henderson
Nina Thorp David Andrews Rita Plance Jean Weeks Barbara Collins Wendy Roberts
Wendy Bray (Pr).

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Geraldine Bell Terence Heller Eric Bird Maurice Tucker (Pr) Elizabeth Davies
Peter Cobb (Pr) Violet Marshall Henry Burrough Kenneth Phelan

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 23	Pray for those who work on the sea – royal Navy, fleet auxiliary, merchant navy, commercial and liners, fishermen, coast guard and all who find a living connected to the sea. Maritime Day. Give thanks for the teeming life of the Oceans, their role in the cycles of our planet that enables all life. For those whose lives are connected to the sea – in shipping, fishing, ports and scientists.
Tue 24	John and Charles Wesley (1791 & 1788) Pray for our brother and sister Methodists who live and worship in this community.
Wed 25	Mass 10.00am Venerable Bede 735 O Christ, our Morning Star, Splendour of Light Eternal, shining with the glory of the rainbow, come and waken us from the greyness of our apathy, and renew in us your gift of hope. Amen (The Venerable Bede)
Thurs 26	Festival Mass 7.30pm Ascension Day O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
Fri 27	Mass 10.00am Pray for the work of Amnesty International - which campaigns to bring an end to human abuse. Look at the Amnesty International Website today and simply remember them and all these issues in your prayers
Sat 28	Lanfranc 1089 Pray for religious communities – Benedictines and Franciscans
Sunday 29	Easter 7 O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below ;

Parochial Church Council of All Saints

Account No. 65256747

sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office

office@allsaintsclifton.org

