

allthesaints@allsaints

Newsletter of All Saints' Anglican Church, Via del Babuino 153.

April 19th 2020

From the website of the Diocese of Europe.

In these times of Coronavirus, the Bishop of Europe, Bishop Robert Innes, led a virtual Easter Service from home. Introducing a Service of the Word to the 42 countries of the diocese, the Bishop said:

"This is an Easter Sunday like none other. For the first time in centuries, Christians do not have use of our churches for public worship. Like the first century Christians, we are gathering instead in our homes. "

He added that "even in the hardest of times, there is hope", despite the pain of physical separation and exile and that we can "gather virtually and in spirit to celebrate in word and song the good news of Easter."

The service was put together and delivered by Bishop Robert with his wife Helen, and virtually assembled contributions of readings and music delivered and performed by family members in London, Glasgow, Paris and Boston, Mass. Celebratory hymns and music for Easter Sunday included *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*, *Now the Green Blade Rises*, *In Christ Alone*, and *Thine be the Glory*. A postlude was played on piano from Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*.

Easter service readings were from Acts 10 and Psalm 118. The Gospel reading taken from John 20 recounted the discovery of the empty tomb and the appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene.

In his address, Bishop Robert reminded us of the significance of different colours at Easter: Green, white, purple, red, black and gold. He said each of these colours has something to say about Easter: The green of new life; the white of service and care for others; purple with its depth and thoughtfulness; red and its struggle with suffering; black embodying sadness and mourning; or the triumph and joy of gold. Bishop Robert invited us to reflect on which colours represent our feelings best this Easter.

The Bishop added:

"Easter 2020 is an Easter unlike any I have known. All of us miss the togetherness of our natural families, and the togetherness of our church family. But perhaps the sense of isolation has given us a new sense of gratitude for simple things. It may have given us a new attentiveness to what is really important in life, and perhaps a new desire to draw near to God."

The video of the service has been viewed over 800 times since Easter Sunday morning, across the Diocese and beyond, including as far afield as the Grenadines in the Caribbean. You can continue to enjoy and watch A Service for Easter Sunday on our Diocesan YouTube channel.

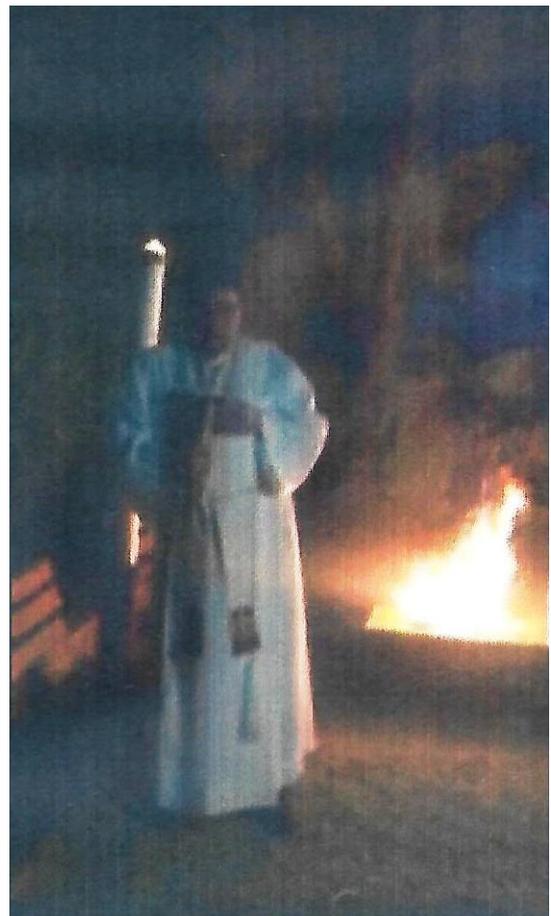
The All Saints' church garden

In the Palm Sunday issue of the newsletter I pointed out that the procession usually starts from the church garden, and I included a couple of illustrations of our idyllic space. Here we have the Easter Fire at 5.30 a.m. on Easter Day, as well as the first geranium appearing as a further hope for the future. Here is the description of the area that appeared in the Walk-round Guide published in 1981 and written by the then Chaplain Revd David Palmer.

“Seen from the windows of the Vestry and the Library, but entered from the side street through a Gothic doorway, there is a long, narrow garden which church volunteers re-created in May 1978 out of a wilderness of nettles and weeds. Here, every Sunday from about mid-May to mid-October, the weekly social gathering after the 10.30 Sunday service moves out of doors. With a little beaker of chilled



The first geranium



Easter Dawn 2020

white wine or a fruit drink in the hand members of our international church family, resident or present only for an hour, enjoy meeting each other under the

shade of mature trees – olive, pomegranate, pear, bay and pittosporum. There is a border of flowering plants and small bushes, climbing roses and various things in huge Roman terracotta pots. People gave gravel, and park benches, and a departing British Ambassador offered, to be fixed to one of Mr Street's plain buttresses, a bas relief copy taken from the façade of Bologna Cathedral. It is an 11th Century figure of "The Sower" representing the month of November."

August 31st 1981

This morning the service was on Zoom as an experiment and some simple hymns were chosen to sing along to the displayed words. If we had been in church the **hymns** for today's service would have been:

Christ the Lord is Risen again. This link gives you the chance, as on Zoom, to sing the hymn to a piano accompaniment with the words on screen. The fine tune is a French mediaeval melody orchestrated by Vaughan Williams.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cF7XdKnMw78>

Now is eternal life. Words by George Briggs, canon of Worcester Cathedral and music by Charles Steggall, Professor of organ at the Royal Academy. Here it is sung by the choir of Gloucester Cathedral

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

Sir Arthur Sullivan always wished to be known to posterity by his serious works, his symphonies and grand opera, rather than by the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, but many of his hymns live on. Today we would have sung the stirring Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven, with words by Christopher Wordsworth, nephew of William. Dr Wordsworth, like the Wesleys, looked upon hymns as a valuable means of stamping permanently upon the memory the great doctrines of the Christian church. He held it to be "the first duty of a hymn-writer to teach sound doctrine, and thus to save souls." He thought that the materials for English Church hymns should be sought (1) in the Holy Scriptures, (2) in the writings of Christian antiquity, and (3) in the poetry of the Ancient Church. Hence he imposed upon himself the strictest limitations in his own compositions. He did not select a subject which seemed to him most adapted for poetical treatment, but felt himself bound to treat impartially every subject, and branch of a subject, that is brought before us in the Church's services, whether of a poetical nature or not.

Here it is sung lustily from St Mary's, Portsea (UK) during a recording of the BBC's "Songs of Praise" : note the brilliant descant!

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

News from All Saints

- Expats would have perhaps been aware that the British Embassy had a question and answer session about their situation in the time of the Covid-19.

The questions and answers are many and varied, and the whole session is available on the Facebook website <https://www.facebook.com/ukinitaly/>.

- Another useful source of information in English on what is going on in Rome is the online version of the familiar magazine Wanted in Rome. You can find them on www.wantedinrome.com, and they can also provide news alerts if you wish to sign up.
- In spite of some bandwidth problems and other technical hitches Light at Lunchtime continued successfully on Wednesday and the next appointment is next Wednesday on Zoom at 12.45. Please contact Cairen if you are interested and she will send you the appropriate ID to get connected.
- Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find an article about the two hymn books we use. If you have got to the end of the article, why not consider joining the church choir? If you can sing in tune and can come now and again to practise at 9.30 on a Sunday morning you will be made very welcome, whether we are using the Green or the Red book that day!



All Saints' Choir rehearsing

The Chaplaincy at Bourneville College

(concluding the article by Thelma Mitchell from last week)

We try to develop and improve our displays each year. Modern technology meant that to mark Remembrance Day we could play the *Last Post and Rouse* using a mobile phone and amplifier. The sound carried around the wonderful, almost Cathedral-like acoustics of the large social area, bringing everyone to a standstill. We were very pleased to be joined by some classes and senior staff for this. We have also marked Holocaust Memorial Day since the beginning, taking advice from my rabbi friend Debbie. Again, using the amplification system and a mobile

and the work so much during lockdown! Oh, yes – and my answer to who is my favourite Beatle? – John Lennon.

The Bible and Creation: an online study led by Clare Amos

Special Zoom Study Meeting announced

Led by Dr Clare Amos, the Diocesan Director of Lay Discipleship

Saturday April 25 2020 10.00am-11.00am and 11.30am-12.30pm CET (BST+1)

Dr Amos writes:

"Drawing on both the Old Testament and the New Testament this study morning will explore what the Bible has to say about the relationship between human beings and the rest of creation, which is increasingly seen as one of the most significant issues for our time. It will suggest that our relationship to creation is absolutely integral to our Christian faith".

This study morning was originally scheduled as a physical meeting for the parish of Holy Trinity Geneva. It will now be held by Zoom due to the lockdown. Given the widespread interest across the diocese in the theology and care of creation, Dr Amos has widened participation in this study to any who are interested.

To meet the needs of 'Zoom' security issues, and in order to ensure that you can be

And God saw that it was good...

The Bible and Creation



sent handouts in advance, please let Holy Trinity Church (admin@holytrinitygeneva.org) know that you are planning to attend (Ideally send your note by lunchtime on Friday 24 April). Guidance can be given to those unfamiliar with the medium of Zoom. Please mention any need for help when you send in your reply.

Hymn books at All Saints'

In the church nearest to my English base in Eastbourne (also called All Saints') there are no hymn books: all the singing is done from words projected onto a screen. No musical notes are available, so if you don't know the melodies you are unable to join in immediately. We at All Saints' in Rome have not one set of hymn books but two to choose from for our worship, and we may well be the



Liljelund: Man singing hymn (1884)

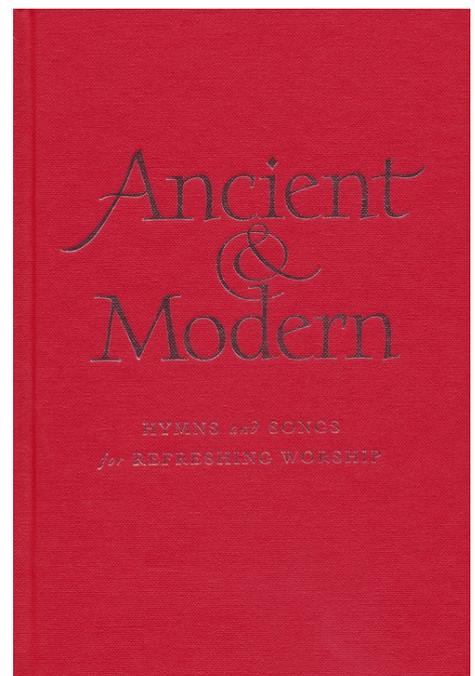
only church in the Diocese to have that luxury! Both are in regular use, so here is some background to them.

By 1830 the regular singing of hymns in the churches outside the Church of England had become widely accepted whereas in the C of E it was only then, with particular impetus from the Oxford Movement, that hymns, as opposed to metrical psalms, became a feature of services. The Movement wanted to recover the lost treasures of breviaries and service books of the ancient Greek and Latin churches and as a result Greek, Latin and even German hymns in translation entered the

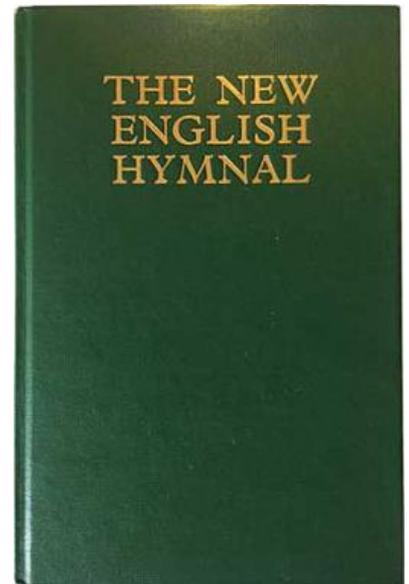
mainstream of English hymnody, also inspiring new hymn-writers such as John

Keble and Christopher Wordsworth (author of today's final hymn).

The growing popularity of hymns inspired the publication of more than 100 hymnals and the sheer number of these collections prevented any one of them from being successful. Given the lack of unanimity in the church's use of hymns, Henry Williams Baker thought it necessary to compile one book which would command general confidence. After ascertaining by private communications the widespread desire of churchmen for greater uniformity in the use of hymns and of hymnbooks in the services of the Church, Sir Henry Baker early in 1858 convinced about twenty clergymen, including the editors of many existing hymnals, to give up their several books to try to promote the use of one standard hymn book. In October of that year an advertisement in *The Guardian* invited co-operation, and over 200 clergymen responded. In January 1859 the committee set to work under Baker's lead. They founded a board to oversee both the publication of the hymnal and the application of the profits to support appropriate charities, or to subsidise the purchase of the hymn books by poor parishes, producing a hymn-book which would be a companion to the Book of Common Prayer. The first full edition of ***Hymns Ancient and Modern*** with tunes appeared on March 20, 1861 and it experienced immediate and overwhelming success, becoming possibly the most popular English hymnal ever published. Total sales in 150 years were over 170 million copies. In 1916 the "old complete edition" was republished for the last time, and in 1922, the "standard



edition" was published, strongly based on the "old complete edition". In 1950 the "revised edition" was published, and many hymns were weeded out as the editors wished to make space for more recent compositions. The proprietors in 1983 published the "New Standard edition": this comprised 333 of the 636 hymns included in *A and M Revised* (AMR) and the entire 200-hymn contents of *100 Hymns for Today and More Hymns for Today*. Finally in March 2013 Canterbury Press published *Ancient and Modern*, so reverting to the original title without the word "Hymns", but also subtitled *Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*, a brand new edition designed for contemporary patterns of worship. It contains 847 items, including some items from *Common Praise* and *Sing Praise*, ranging from psalm settings to John L. Bell, Bernadette Farrell, Stuart Townend and others. This is the edition we use in All Saints'.



The English Hymnal was published in 1906 for the Church of England by Oxford University Press. It was edited by Percy Dearmer and Ralph Vaughan Williams, and the preface to the hymnal describes itself as "a collection of the best hymns in the English language." The high quality of the music is due largely to the work of Vaughan Williams as musical editor who also made several of the arrangements and settings. The hymnal also includes many original plainsong melodies (in plainsong notation).

After its publication, use of the hymnal was banned for a time by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was considered that the collection "undermined the uniformity of the Church of England and successfully challenged [the] hegemony" of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, which had been published two years previously. The hymnal was however adopted not only in various movements of Anglicanism but also in several other denominations in Britain, such as some Roman Catholic churches. A new edition of *The English Hymnal* was issued in 1933, which principally had better accompaniments by J. H. Arnold to the plainsong melodies, and over 100 new tunes.

The New English Hymnal was published in 1986 as a successor to the 1906 *English Hymnal*. It inherits much music from the earlier book, and although a few hymns are dropped many newer or re-written hymns are added. Although the words of several hymns have been altered slightly, it nonetheless enjoys continuing favour in a considerable number of cathedrals and collegiate chapels worldwide and it is a significant publication in Anglican church music. Its extensive provision of hymns for saints' days and mid-week religious festivals has proved popular with those schools still maintaining hymn-singing in daily acts of worship.

The practice of changing hymn words has been common for over two centuries, but our two hymn books have not gone in for the wholesale bowdlerising and rewriting that some other publications have indulged in: for example both hymn books have retained "Onward Christian Soldiers" while others have used "Pilgrims"; "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" has not given way to "of us all", as it has elsewhere. All the traditional favourite hymns are in both hymnals with clear print, reliable harmonies and exciting descants. The "Red Book" includes established worship songs that we have illegally photocopied in the past, a comprehensive thematic index and a splendid list of suggested hymns for every Sunday of the year. The "Green Book" has an invaluable liturgical section: it provides service settings, the Lenten and Advent Proses and numerous chants and responsorial psalms, many of which we regularly use.

Where are they now?

The Rev'd Sara MacVane, once Assistant Curate at All Saints': after serving in Pas-de-Calais and as Assistant Chaplain at St Andrew's Zurich, she has retired and has returned to live in France. She still takes services in and around Paris, in Chantilly and at the American Cathedral.

The Rev'd Marcus Walker was for four years Assistant Director of the Anglican Centre and was a regular worshipper at All saints'. He is now Rector at St Bartholomew the Great, London's oldest parish church, known for its Romanesque architecture and the music sung by its professional choir.

From the Church Times

- THE UK has become the first country to publish a modern-slavery statement. It sets out how the Government is tackling the crime in its supply chains, in which it spends about £50 billion a year. The statement, published at the end of last month, coincides with the fifth anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The statement describes the Government's efforts towards eradicating modern slavery from its supply chains, including direct engagement with about 400 suppliers on implementing effective modern-slavery due diligence and delivering training to more than 250 government commercial staff.
- In a special address to the nation, broadcast last Sunday evening, the Queen said that humanity "will succeed" in the fight against the coronavirus. "This year, Easter will be different for many of us, but by keeping apart we keep others safe. But Easter isn't cancelled; indeed, we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be — particularly for those suffering with grief — light and life are greater. May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future." The Queen ended by wishing "everyone of all faiths and denominations a blessed Easter".
- THE charity Christian Solidarity Worldwide has reported that attacks on a church in Khartoum, Sudan, are being investigated by commissioners appointed by the Sudanese government. Assailants tried to burn down the church of the Sudan Church of Christ in a series of incidents last December and January, and church leaders received threats from Muslim extremists. The investigation has been slowed down by the Covid-19 pandemic
- THE number of church and faith-based weddings has fallen to historically low levels. Fewer than one in four couples opts for a religious ceremony. A report published on Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics showed that, in 2017, religious ceremonies accounted for 23 per cent of all weddings between opposite-sex couples. The figure for same-sex couples was 0.6 per

cent. The figures reflect a continuous decline since 1900, when 85 per cent of all weddings were religious ceremonies; by the late 1970s, this figure was 49 per cent. The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, said: "A church wedding is a unique occasion in which a couple exchange time-honoured vows in a special and spiritual atmosphere. We know from research that many couples want this for their wedding day, whether they are regular churchgoers or not." He added: "I would like to reassure couples that they don't have to be christened or confirmed, and we welcome couples who already have children — just ask."

- THE Pope has set up a new commission to study the possibility of ordaining women to the diaconate, after an initial study commissioned in 2016 reported last year inconclusively. At the Synod of Bishops' meeting in October 2019, which focused on the peoples of the Amazon, bishops acknowledged that many of the region's RC communities were already led by women. At the close of the meeting, Pope Francis said that he would take up the challenge that had been put forward, "that women be heard". But advocates for a permanent diaconate for women were dismayed by his announcement in February this year that he did not want to "clericalise women", and that the status quo would remain.

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Sign up to receive the free Church Times email bulletin on Tuesdays and Fridays, plus occasional breaking news and offers by email. www.churchtimes.co.uk

Please Consider Supporting Us During This Challenging Time

The lockdown has been extended to May 4th, and then Phase two is expected to begin. We don't know how this will affect All Saints' and other churches but, as you might imagine, churches such as ours in Italy are highly dependent on revenue from concerts and other rentals of space which are impossible at the present moment. These are uncertain times for us and we would be grateful for your generosity at this moment in our history. If you have the ability and willingness to help sustain us during this time, please use the link on our website to donate. www.allsaintsrome.org

Thank you!