

# allthesaints@allsaints

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

July 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

President and Preacher: The Rev'd Rob Warren.

Organist: Frederick Frostwick

Organ prelude: Organ sonata no. 4 in B flat major (Mendelssohn)

Organ Postlude: Pièce d'orgue BWV 572 (J.S.Bach)

Solo at the Offertory: "I will sing of thy great mercies, O Lord" from the oratorio St Paul (Mendelssohn)

Soloist: Helen Raiswell

All this Sunday's music – organ, offertory solo and gradual hymn, is by **Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy** or **Johann Sebastian Bach**. Mendelssohn was in fact a key figure in getting Bach's sacred music known in Britain. Sacred music retained a position of major significance throughout Felix Mendelssohn's career as a composer, beginning with sacred choral songs performed at the Berlin Singakademie in 1821 and concluding with the *Three Motets*, op. 69, completed in the summer of 1847. His accomplishments in this genre are notable: two completed oratorios of lasting popularity, including St Paul, from which today's solo is taken, over two dozen large sacred works, psalm settings and cantatas, and as many shorter pieces including motets and anthems. Notably, this oeuvre shows a remarkable flexibility as he produced settings of Latin texts from the Roman Catholic liturgy, German settings suitable for use in Lutheran Germany, and English canticle settings written specifically for Anglican Evensong. Transparent in his sacred works is a veneration of J.S. Bach, especially of his chorale cantatas and *Passion*.

## News from All Saints'

This week I undertook a survey of the other Anglican churches in Italy, to see what they were currently offering in the way of services, and the results were interesting.

St George in **Venice** are not currently holding any services in church, but are worshipping regularly on Zoom.

St. Mark's **Florence** reopens to worshippers, if all goes well, on September 6<sup>th</sup> and currently have online worship with a link to an appropriate hymn for the day.

Christ Church **Naples** have returned to services, but have not been able to provide them every Sunday: when they know in advance that they have not enough volunteers trained in the appropriate procedures they have to cancel. In normal times they don't have a choir anyway, and only use an organist once a month, but in this period have used online resources for hymns and worship songs, with words projected on a screen. "We have

remained masked throughout and have permitted 'gentle' singing behind the mask and two metre spacing, No church services will take place in August.

The Church of the Holy Ghost in **Genoa** are holding services in church, but they are entirely said. The organist plays, and if the piece she is playing happens to be based on a hymn, to quote Father Tony, "we occasionally find people humming along behind their masks"!

All Saints' in **Milan** are worshipping without music. They have no organists and no choir at the moment, and have chosen not to allow congregational singing. The Rev'd Vickie Sims writes. "We are experiencing a sense of silence in worship which is not always easy but much appreciated by some".

So, what are the rules/guidelines? A decree specific to the Anglican church was issued by the Italian Government in mid-May which set out the rules for Anglican services, and among the long list of requirements is one that we are allowed just one cantor and no choir. We have had a soloist/cantor singing the offertory, and this will continue through August – many thanks to the volunteer singers! A further decree appeared last month which allows choirs to perform from July 15<sup>th</sup>. This refers to public performances and is aimed primarily at allowing concert groups to restart. Even if you consider masses in such terms the bureaucratic hoops that you have to go through are quite demanding. Temperatures have to be taken at the entrance and in addition there must be a detailed contact register of every member of the audience for that event, kept for two weeks, as well as the usual hygiene and distancing measures. I went to a concert at the Auditorium this week and we all had to fill in a form to provide contact and health details. I hope that by **Back to Church Sunday on September 13th** we can return to some kind of normality: our choir is raring to go, and it would be good to have some lusty singing of hymns, but we must see how the situation evolves...

### **The Iona Community**

In the last of my articles on the various kinds of music one might expect in an Anglican church setting I turn to the Iona Community. John Bell is the principal light in the music of this group, especially since the death of his fellow musician Graham Maule, and I have attended workshops of his both in Durham and Rome. Bell studied at the University of Glasgow where in 1974 he was elected President of the Students' Representative Council. In 1977 he was elected Rector of the University of Glasgow,<sup>[1]</sup> while he was still a student. This was part of a trend for student rectors in Scotland at that time (which included Gordon Brown at

the University of Edinburgh) but the rules were later changed to prevent students from standing for this post.

After a period in the Netherlands and two posts in church youth work, Bell became employed full-time in the areas of music and worship with the Wild Goose Resource Group. He is a past convener of the Church of Scotland's Panel on Worship and also convened the committee to revise the Church Hymnary. In 1999, Bell was honoured by the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Royal School of Church Music which bestowed a Fellowship on him. In 2002, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Glasgow.

Bell has produced (sometimes in collaboration with Graham Maule) many



collections of original hymns and songs and two collections of songs of the World Church. These are published by the Iona Community in Scotland and by G.I.A. Publications (Chicago) in North America.

Several collections of his work have been published in translation in Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Danish, Dutch, Frisian, Japanese and German. He is also a frequent broadcaster. In our hymn book *Ancient and Modern hymns and chants* by Bell feature 36 times, and his main author Graham Maule 23 times.

The Iona Community was founded in Govan and Iona in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace. The original task of rebuilding the monastic ruins of Iona Abbey was to serve as a sign of hopeful rebuilding of community in urban Scotland and beyond. Today, they are about 300 Members, mostly in Britain, with 1450 Associate Members and 1250 Friends worldwide. The Iona Community welcomes people from all walks of life at its centres on the islands of Iona and Mull. It trades through Wild Goose Publications and the Iona Community Shop on Iona, and resources a wide range of church and community organizations through its Wild Goose Resource Group and Youth Resource Team.

Iona itself is a tiny and beautiful Hebridean island off the west coast of Scotland, cradle of Christianity in Scotland, where in 563AD the Irish monk Columba (Columkille) established a monastic settlement that evangelised large parts of Scotland and the north of England and became an important centre of European Christianity. In the Middle Ages it became the site of a Benedictine abbey, and over the centuries it has attracted many thousands of people on their own pilgrim journeys.

Iona remains a centre for pilgrimage and tourism; the daily services of the Iona Community in the Abbey church and worship elsewhere on the island are open to all; many visitors come again and again. There is a year-round population of over 100; long-established island families as well as more recent arrivals, including those who work for the Iona Community in its centres as staff or volunteers. The abbey is now managed by Historic Environment Scotland; the Iona Community remains in residence as a living, worshipping presence. The islanders, the Iona Community and Historic Environment Scotland work together to maintain Iona as a place of welcome.

In 2004 Anne Muir an Oral Historian undertook, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a project recording stories from surviving Members, their families and those associated with the Community through the 40's and 50's. This collection is lodged in the Centre for Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University and extracts have been made into a book (also available in a downloadable form).

### **Online Studies at the Anglican Centre**

Although the Centre has reopened its doors after months of lockdown strict guidelines on social distancing and restrictions on travel mean that it is difficult at the moment to run conventional courses involving course tutors and students coming together in the Centre's rooms within the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj. Instead, the Centre's Director, Archbishop Ian Ernest, has created three courses examining the work of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) which will be available via Zoom.

The third and final course on Monday 27 July will focus on the establishment of IARCCUM, and will be given by Archbishop Donald Bolen, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Regina, Canada, and another former co-secretary of ARCIC, as well as of IARCCUM and Bishop David Hamid, suffragan bishop in Europe and co-chair of IARCCUM.

All the courses will be held at 3pm, Rome time, and will last two hours, with those attending encouraged to participate. Attendance is free, but a donation to the Anglican Centre would be welcome. To register, please contact [administrator@anglicancentre.it](mailto:administrator@anglicancentre.it)

**Celebrations this week:**

Mary Magdalene (Tintoretto): July 22nd



**James the Apostle (Guido Reni): July 25th**

## St Bridget of Sweden

The Anglican lectionary celebrates her on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. St Bridget was born c. 1303, Swede and died in 1373 in Rome. She was the founder of the Bridgittines (Order of the Most Holy Saviour), and was a mystic whose revelations were influential during the Middle Ages. The daughter of Birger Persson, governor of Uppland, she had from an early age remarkable religious visions that influenced her entire life and outlook. As a young teenager in 1316 she married Ulf Gudmarsson, later governor of the province of Nericia. She bore eight children, including St. Catherine of Sweden. She was appointed principal lady-in-waiting at court where she “zealously endeavoured to get Queen Blanche and her husband King Magnus II to take life more seriously”.

On the death of her husband in 1344, Bridget retired to a life of penance and prayer near the Cistercian monastery of Alvastra on Lake Vetter. To the prior, Peter Olafsson, she dictated the revelations that came to her, and he translated them into Latin. One was a command to found a new religious order, which she was not able to fulfill until near the end of her life, receiving papal permission from Pope Urban V for her order of cloistered nuns in 1370. Her book exercised wide influence and also provoked some controversy, as some theologians suggested her views were not always orthodox. She went to Rome in 1350 and, except for several pilgrimages, remained there for the rest of her life, constantly accompanied by Catherine. There she lived very austerely, exercising a wide apostolate among rich and poor, sheltering the homeless and sinners, and she worked untiringly for the end of the Avignon papacy and for the pope to return to Rome. She was spurred by a vision to visit the Holy Land in 1372, and she died soon after her return to Rome. Her body was eventually returned to her land, her coffin being carried reverently through Europe to Sweden, and she is buried at the monastery she founded. She is the patron saint of Sweden. In 1999 Pope John Paul II honoured her once more: St Bridget was named co-patron saint of all of Europe along with St Catherine of Siena and St Theresa Benedicta.



**Ksenia Smykova writes:**

Dear members of All Saints',

As you already know, soon I will be leaving Rome - hence this farewell note, that I will try to keep as short as possible, lest it gets boring and trivial. I am allergic to boredom.

Thankfully, All Saints' has never been a cause of the latter. That's for certain!

Quite the contrary is true.

In these years we have spent together everything was constantly changing like patterns inside the rotating kaleidoscope tube.

It is helpful to remember that we are not - each one of you are not - mere glass beads mixed up and reflected in mirrors placed in a way to create an inevitable illusion of harmony. Unaltered even when some beads get broken.

Harmony is not about pretending that everything is fine, but about having courage to see when and where something is not. Without averting your eyes.

Rather, the beginning of harmony is truth.

One part of the truth is that - as we have all memorized from our chaplain's intercessions - everything is not OK with this world. Not even ninety-nine sheep that are well fed and groomed will make up for the one that is lost.

However, the second, and excellent, part is that a bit of kindness as tiny as the mustard's seed has power to repair even the damage that seems irreparable.

Thank you for teaching me to see and accept both.

A chunk of my heart will come missing as I leave you.

Ksenia



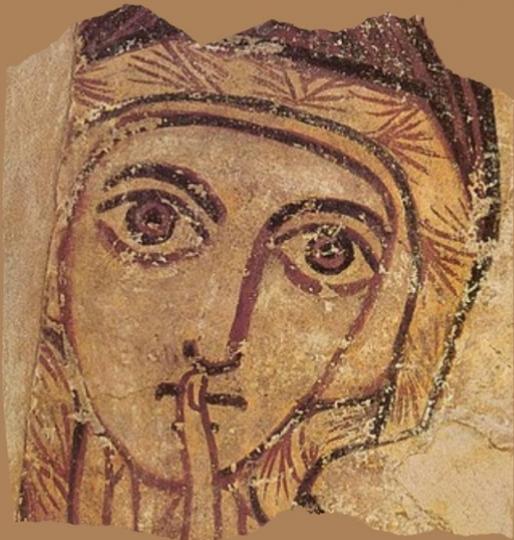
**Next Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, will be Ksenia's last day in church, and she will be preaching. Please come and support her!**

## News roundup

- Worshippers and visitors to Church of England cathedrals and churches are likely to be advised to wear face coverings from 24 July, in line with the latest government guidance. The details about who will be requested to wear the masks — for example, the congregation rather than the priest — and how this might be compatible with receiving holy communion were being finalised by the Recovery Group of the Church of England on Wednesday. Since face coverings in places of worship will be only advisory, there is currently no question of any fine for non-compliance.
- THE Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev'd Dr David Hoyle, has voiced his heartfelt regret that Sunday worship can no longer be maintained at St Margaret's, Westminster, the Royal Peculiar under the jurisdiction of the Abbey which is regarded as the parish church of the House of Commons. The church has a professional choir and a strong musical tradition. News of the choir's sudden disbandment preceded news of the cessation of the Sunday-morning eucharist, and fed into the widely expressed fears for the future of choral music in general. "We are now unable to maintain Sunday worship at St Margaret's, separate to the Abbey. The church will retain a role focusing on service to Parliament and public life, both as a place of worship and as a centre of engagement. We will, of course, invite the congregation to participate fully in the worshipping life of the Abbey. Even so, we know this is a devastating blow to the congregation, staff, and musicians. We are currently actively listening to them and will do all that we can to work with them."
- THE government of Sudan announced last week that it would abolish the death sentence for those found guilty of apostasy. Article 126 of Sudan's 1991 Criminal Code had been criticised for its use in targeting the country's religious minorities and restricting freedom of expression and religion. Other recent amendments to the country's criminal code have included the ending of public flogging, the banning of female genital mutilation (FGM), allowing non-Muslims to drink, import, and sell alcohol, and giving women the right to travel abroad with their children without producing proof of permission from their husbands.

## From the Laycentre

TAKE SOME TIME TO DRAW FROM THE...



# WELLSPRINGS OF SILENCE

STARTING JULY 24

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The lockdown brought a flurry of online activity that filled our days. Many others lived the lockdown in isolation. This weekly ecumenical series is designed to help us pause and reflect on the value of silence and how it can lead us to greater meaning in these times.

### OUR CONTRIBUTORS:



#### **FR. JOHN KEATING, O.CARM.**

Fr. John is active in retreat and conference ministry. He recently completed 12 years on the General Council of the Carmelite Order. In the 1990s, he spent a year in silence and solitude on the shores of Lough Derg in Ireland.



#### **REV. DR. KAREN PETERSEN FINCH**

Karen is an ecumenist in the Reformed tradition and associate professor of theology at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. She is also a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church.



#### **GRACE PRATT MORRIS-CHAPMAN**

Grace is a British Methodist Mission Partner, originally from Ghana, but currently serving in Rome, with her husband, Daniel, who is the minister at Ponte Sant'Angelo Methodist Church. They are expecting their fourth child.



#### **REV. OLIVIA MAXFIELD-COOTE & REV. SEBASTIAN HARRIES**

Olivia and Sebastian are married and both priests in the Church of England. She is vicar to a team of churches in Essex, and he is chaplain to St. Gabriel's College in London and assistant priest at a parish in Kennington.



#### **DR. DONNA ORSUTO**

Donna is the co-founder of The Lay Centre and a professor of spirituality at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. She gives lectures and retreats worldwide and has authored two books and numerous journal articles.

Sign up to receive the five weekly reflections: [www.laycentre.org/silence](http://www.laycentre.org/silence)

## Regular services at All Saints'

### In church:

Thursday: 12:45 Holy Communion

Sunday: 08:30 Said Communion  
10.30 Holy Communion (also on Facebook live)

### On facebook live:

You do not need a facebook account to participate, simply click on the following link or copy it into your web-browser: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintschurchrome/>

Thursday: 9pm Compline

Friday: 5pm Evensong

Sunday: 10:30 Holy Communion

*Dear readers,*

*I now go away on holiday until September. I will not have easy access in the UK to a computer or to the internet, so this will probably be the last issue of the All Saints' Newsletter that I edit. I undertook this task on March 8<sup>th</sup> to accompany our community, in its widest sense, through the Lockdown, and although we are now able to worship in church there are still some who cannot or choose not to be present, and who have therefore kept in touch through this newsletter, through our website and through Facebook and online services. It is my hope that in September we will be able to return to some kind of normality and that the main reason for my producing a newsletter will no longer be there: I can then return to devoting my energy to the music in All Saints', to my choir and to my orchestra. We'll see. In the meantime thank you for your support and I wish you all a very happy Summer holiday.*

*Andrew Cochlin*