

allthesaints@allsaints

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

March 15th 2020: The Third Sunday of Lent

The last issue of the Newsletter appeared on July 7th 2019 and no-one has taken over as editor since I retired. These are special times, however, and with the closure of churches for services a newsletter is one of several ways to keep our community informed and united. Until the emergency is over a newsletter will appear every Sunday for those on our mailing list. Please feel free to send it on to other friends who you feel might be interested. If you wish to contribute towards the newsletter please send news, articles and photos to me for consideration at a.cochlin@libero.it, by the day before the Sunday service. Thank you! Andrew Cochlin

From Father Rob Warren

To all our parishioners (present and former) and our friends around the world: please be assured that we are all very much alive and kicking here in Rome in spite of the present necessity. We are pretty well confined to barracks with exception of trips to the pharmacy, to purchase food and (importantly) to take care of the veterinary and physiological needs of our domestic animals – including the Canonica wolves Maisie and Bramble.

There is a service piped online and available today!

<https://bobsprospect.blogspot.com/2020/03/mass-in-tin-from-all-saints-anglican.html> via our website and our Facebook page so do please plan to stop by and spend some with us on Sunday (but not in person – at least for the time being). See also the front page of our website for an online Sunday School Lesson

<https://www.allsaintsrome.org/>

Our standing committee has met by Skype. We are in touch with our older parishioners by telephone. There's quite a lot for us to do in these circumstances. All will be well. Keep us in your prayers and keep in touch. Fr Rob.

News from All Saints'

- In light of the recently increased health and safety measures, the Church has sought to organise its activities in a responsible manner towards staff and its duty of spiritual and pastoral care, administrative functioning and maintenance to the fabric of the Church building. The following measures will be in force as of today until Friday 28th March 2020.

Spiritual and pastoral

The church is currently open for private prayer. Fr Robert is on-site at all times.

Expressions of need may be directed to (i) The Vicar, Fr Robert on the church office number +39 06 3600 1881- or- mobile phone: +39 389 6530200 ; (ii) The Administrator, Ambra Garofalo on the following mobile number +39 333 4786 953.

- At what ended up as being our last Holy Communion service on March 8th we were pleased



to welcome the Rev'd Canon David Waller as President and Preacher. David is the new Archdeacon for Italy and Malta, and the day before he met with the Church Council and other interested parishioners to discuss the life of our parish. As you see from the photo he very much reflected our determination to overcome these difficult times!

- On February 27th we celebrated what was became our last service of Choral Evensong. It was on a day when the Anglican Church celebrates the life and works of George Herbert, and we did so by singing two of his hymns and a setting

of his poem The Call as an anthem by White. The preces and responses were by Thomas Tallis and the canticles by Charles Wood.

- Both the Anglican Centre and the Non-Catholic cemetery are regularly visited by members of our congregation. Both have announced that in the light of the current emergency they will be closed until further notice.
- As we approach a "virtual" Annual General Meeting you might like to read what has been going on in the rest of the Diocese of Europe. Their annual report for 2019 can be found here: <https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1528-diocese-in-europe-annual-review-2019>
- When eventually you return to church or if you are passing by you will find on the alms chest something you may not have noticed before, a short History of All Saints', prepared by Edoardo Fanfani and available for a suggested donation of €1.
- At the time of writing virtually the whole of Italy is confined to their homes, so we are all catching up on reading, films on TV, listening to music and other activities that we never seem to have time to get round to. Have you ever watched the complete video of Pope Francis's visit to All Saints'? Here it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onsDrxZ8wMc>.
- All concert activities at All Saints' have had to be cancelled, and that includes rehearsals and concerts that concern our resident choir, the New Chamber Singers. They had been due to perform Widor's Mass on March 22nd, but that has been postponed sine die, and indeed as the concert was to include guest singers from the Pontifical North American College, who have all gone back to the US, there is currently no certainty that the concert will take place at all.
- Churches Together for their Lenten Rice bowl project are supporting a refugee camp in Malta run by the Church of Scotland. More details next week but meanwhile you can find information on <http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church/world-church-news/out-of-africainto-malta>

From one of our interns, Edoardo Fanfani

Many friends from abroad have been asking me how I was doing during these troubled times. This week, the entirety of the country has been effectively quarantined. We're not allowed out, almost every business

is closed, the city is effectively dead. My grandmother said she has never seen anything like this during her lifetime. As we all know, churches in Italy have been closed down for church services and activities, through a joint statement by the Italian government and conference of bishops. The last time All Saints' closed down was 80 years ago, on 3rd June 1940, for the beginning of the Second World War. Little did we know that last Sunday we received our last communion. This troubles me deeply.

Last week our Young Adults group was halved when all of our American students had been sent home in vision of the regulations that were reinforced this week - this caused moments of sadness and resignation between all of us. It was only the beginning of the crisis.

We're asking ourselves many questions - when will this be over? Will it happen again? Will it get worse? Am I at risk? Many are concerned - nobody has an answer and this is cause for concern. Naturally.

The Coronavirus outbreak is worse than we all thought, it's growing without control. We were not told enough when we could have done something more. I have friends who work for the government and they have been issued with a private statement that says that by the end of this week, Coronavirus cases in Italy will increase by 300%, reaching over 15,000 people, from the almost 10,000 we have now. Three weeks ago we had no more than 100 cases throughout the country, comparing these numbers is a cause of concern - this virus spreads quickly. Experts say we are not even close to the peak, the virus may end up infecting over 100,000 Italians. Rome itself has many more official cases than reported by the media. The mortality rate for +80 years old people is almost 40%.

I am not at all worried about me, or other healthy young people - my concern is about my grandmother or other elderly or vulnerable people. My appeal is to be cautious. We have a responsibility as citizens and as Christians - please, do not be selfish.

I know it is hard to not being able to come to church, do remember however that God is always with us. For those sharing in this struggle, remember that the first example of Church is our family. We can still pray with our families at home, especially on Sunday. The Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England has a set of Morning and Evening Prayer services that can be led by lay people, they can also be found on the mobile-phone app "Daily Prayer". If you miss church, don't forget that this is a great way of worshipping too. Be a leader and welcome God in your homes. Anglicans have been worshipping like this for many years. Do not forget that God is always with us, welcome Him.



The great English poet, William Shakespeare, once wrote in his *Julius Caesar*: Friends, Romans, countrymen... and I will add - this city has given birth to Caesar and Augustus, we have been home to Raphael and Michelangelo. The history of our wider Western society was moulded in between the seven hills that make up this city. All the historical characters who matter passed through the marble gates of Rome. We have survived endless Barbarian invasions, plagues, fires and flooding. We have recovered from the Sack of Rome, the Napoleonic invasions, the rule of Mussolini and the joke of the Nazis. We even survived terrorism, but also bad governments and terrible financial crises. Yet, my friends. We are still here, and we will always be. Much like the Lady Hester Random and her friends in Tea with Mussolini we will get over this too. Rome will never fall, and neither will the Romans; old and new, young and old, cradle or adopted, white or black, male or female. Do your duty as citizens and fight by observing the rules. Among the marbles of antiquity, the Renaissance order, and the Baroque drama, we shall continue to fight the good fight by being safe and not by being selfish.

Do not panic, protect the vulnerable, be wise - follow the government advice on what to do and what not to do. Please pray for us, as we pray for you. Protect your neighbor, especially your vulnerable neighbor. We are a strong congregation, we have survived, heat, plague, wars and financial crises in our long history here as Anglicans in Rome, and we always came to the light. Our duty now is to be safe and to protect each

other. Let us follow advice and it will be over soon. For our friends abroad, do not take this slightly, follow the regulations - three weeks ago we had only a few cases and were making fun of it - now it is serious. Don't let it spread or Italy will repeat itself. My message to all is that while our church is closed, let us try to enact Jesus' message in our homes. He will always be with us. Jesus once said: *I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

From Andrew Cochlin, choir coordinator

Although we can't be physically present at today's service you can still feel the Anglican presence in the music chosen for us to sing, and by offering youtube versions of the hymns and anthems we would have sung I hope you will feel the musical spirit to accompany the service available on Facebook and our website.

The Lent Prose. The plainsong responsory *Hear us, O Lord (Attende Domine)* is traditionally sung during Lent and known in the English liturgy as the 'Lent Prose'. It is to be found in the *Liber usualis* (in its Latin version) as one of the *cantus varii*, and appears in an English translation in the *English Hymnal* (1906), having been first adapted by W J Birkbeck, professor of ecclesiastical history at Trinity College, Cambridge.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpZb_hrAU-4

Hymn: Awake our souls Awake our souls, away our fears. Isaac Watts* (1674-1748). This appeared in *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* (1709), Book I, 'Collected from the Holy Scriptures', with the title, 'The Christian Race, Isa. 40. 28, 29, 30, 31.' It is a free paraphrase of the Old Testament passage, and, unusually for Watts, does not make any direct reference to Christ as the source of strength, apart from its title. John Wesley was one of the first to include this text in a hymnbook, in *A Collection of Psalms and Hymns* (Charlestown, 1737), altering stanza 3, line 1 from 'Thee, mighty God...' to 'O mighty God, thy matchless power'. Methodist books retained this change until HP restored the original.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VmIq_GNiJY

Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say. The music for this text, was written in 1868 by John B. Dykes, noted English musician of the nineteenth century. The hymn tune's name, "Vox Dilecti," is Latin for "Voice of the Beloved." As is true of all of Dykes' tunes, this music is characterized by the expressive quality of the typical Romanticism of that era. He also wrote the music for hymns such as "Holy, Holy, Holy" (No. 6), "Jesus the Very thought of Thee" (No. 209) and "Father to Thee A Joyful Song We Raise" (No. 52). Horatius Bonar is by many considered to be one of Scotland's most gifted evangelical ministers and hymn writers. He was born on December 19, 1908 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 1843, He became active in promoting the Free Church Movement because a split had occurred in the established Church of Scotland. Bonar was a man who had great energy and ability. He was a zealous soul-winner, scholar of the Scriptures, and eloquent Presbyterian preacher. One of his tracts, "Believe and Live," had more than a million copies published. Bonar wrote approximately 600 hymns, 100 of which are still used today. "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" is considered his finest hymn. It first appeared in his collection "Hymns, Original and Selected" in 1846 and later in his "Hymns of the Faith and Hope" in 1862 with the title "The Voice from Galilee."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rr_4M5LQLo

Hymn: Guide me O thou great Redeemer. John Hughes wrote the first version of the tune, which he called "Rhondda", for the Cymanfa Ganu (hymn festival) in Pontypridd in 1905, when the enthusiasm of the 1904-1905 Welsh Revival still remained. The present form was developed for the inauguration of the organ at Capel Rhondda, in the Rhondda Valley, in 1907. Hughes himself

played the organ at this performance, using the English translation of William Williams' words perhaps because of the large number of English-speaking industrial workers who had migrated to the area. The name was changed from "Rhondda" to "Cwm Rhondda" by Harry Evans, of Dowlais, to avoid confusion with another tune. William Williams Pantycelyn (named, in the Welsh style, "Pantycelyn" after the farm which his wife inherited) is generally acknowledged as the greatest Welsh hymnwriter. The Welsh original of this hymn was first published as Hymn 10 in *Mor o Wydr* (Sea of Glass) in 1762. It comprised six verses. was originally titled *Gweddi am Nerth i fyned trwy anialwch y Byd* (Prayer for strength for the journey through the world's wilderness).

Peter Williams (1722–1796, no relation of the author but well known for his popular edition of the Welsh Bible, with notes) translated part of the hymn into the English version given above, with the title *Prayer for Strength*. It was published in *Hymns on various subjects*, 1771. This translation is the only Welsh hymn to have gained widespread circulation in the English-speaking world. The present-day Welsh version, is essentially a redaction of the original to parallel Peter Williams's English version. A result of the translation process is that the defining phrase "Bread of heaven" does not actually occur in the original; it is a paraphrase of the references to manna.

The Welsh word *Arglwydd* corresponds more-or-less to the English *Lord*, in all its senses. It appears in the Old Testament to translate Hebrew words which are a paraphrase of the Divine Name (the tetragrammaton), and in the New Testament to translate κύριος (kyrios), the standard honorific for Jesus Christ. Accordingly, Peter Williams translated it as Jehovah in accord with the practice of his time. Many English-language hymnals today translate it as "Redeemer".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwvpTI88jwI>

Choir: You come to church regularly and you sing the hymns lustily: why don't you join the choir?

Congregation: But I can't read music.

Choir: You don't need to read music. If you sing in tune you can join the choir.

Congregation: I don't come to church every week. That wouldn't be fair on the others.

Choir: Very few of the choir can come EVERY week.

Congregation: I don't have time during the week to come to rehearsals.

Choir: We don't rehearse during the week. We just meet on Sundays at 9.30.

Congregation: I get nervous if I have to sing on my own, and I know you sometimes have solos.

Choir: No-one is forced to sing solos.

Congregation: Anthems are too complicated for me.

Choir: Anthems are chosen at the level the choir can cope with: you don't have to sing in parts.

Congregation: I don't know anyone in the choir.

Choir: We are a friendly, welcoming little choir, and we even have a Whatsapp chat group.

COME AND JOIN US!



Where are they now?

Mary Styles was a curate ordained in All Saints', and she is now Rector of the church of Kingston St Mary in the Benefice of South Quantock. Here is how she introduces herself on their web-site:

"I'm Mary. I came here in August 2016, after working in Rome for 16 years, and have fallen in love with Somerset and its people.

I have been discovering this beautiful area and beyond on my day-off rambles in the countryside and on the coastal path.

My aim is continue to learn more about Jesus and to live out and tell His story in my life and ministry – inside the church building and out in the community. I know that Jesus continues to work miracles today and would love to see our parishes increasingly used as places where people find healing, wholeness and peace. I'm also passionate about the environment, trying to change the way I live to protect and enhance this beautiful planet."

Dana English was ordained at the same time as Mary, and she is currently a priest in the team at the Holland Park Benefice in London. Her sermons can be found on their website, which also describes the Benefice: "We are two London churches a mile apart: one just to the east of Holland Park and one to the west.

People come to St John the Baptist Holland Road and St George's Campden Hill because both churches offer an antidote to the frenetic pace of central London. The hundreds who use them each week find a measure of peace that eludes them at work, around the city, sometimes even at home.

In 2006 St George's and St John's came together to form the United Benefice of Holland Park. Each church has its own unique identity, but combine forces for many initiatives during the year".

News from the "Church Times"

- Ninety-two solar panels are to be installed on the roof of the south cloister of Salisbury Cathedral, after planning permission was given this week. The panels are expected to generate more than 30,00 kWh per year of electricity – the average consumption of eight UK houses. The project has received support from Historic England.
- The Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, Dr Desmond Tutu, has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Outreach Africa. "The Archbishop

doesn't just abhor prejudice philosophically: he dedicated his life to practically supporting those who are discriminated against and/or marginalized. He has the courage to say things in ways that others might not."

- A 291-year-old bell has been stolen from "the smallest church in England" (seen left). The 3ft bell was taken



overnight last week from Bremilham Church in Wiltshire. The Grade II listed building, which has one small pew and can hold a congregation of up to ten people, is a Guinness World Record holder. For many years it

was used to keep turkeys, but the current farmers cleaned it out and it was reconstituted as a church.

- Farmers in Zimbabwe face a serious food shortage due to insufficient rainfall, Tearfund has warned. The charity's country director, Earnest Maswera, warned that 6.7 million people were going hungry every day. Part of the charity's strategy has been to teach farmers a method of conservation agriculture known as "Farming God's Way", which seeks to teach low-tech skills to obtain the highest yield from the land, including making their own compost and fertilizer.
- Bristol Cathedral provided a base for Swedish activist Greta Thunberg before her speech at a rally in the city calling for greater action to tackle the climate crisis. The Bishop's Chaplain the Rev'd Professor Martin Gainsborough said. "It was moving and powerful to see her and her young supporters sat around the Chapter House, discussing the day ahead.. It's exciting for the city that she came."

*The next issue of the All Saints' Newsletter will appear on
March 22nd, Mothering Sunday.*

