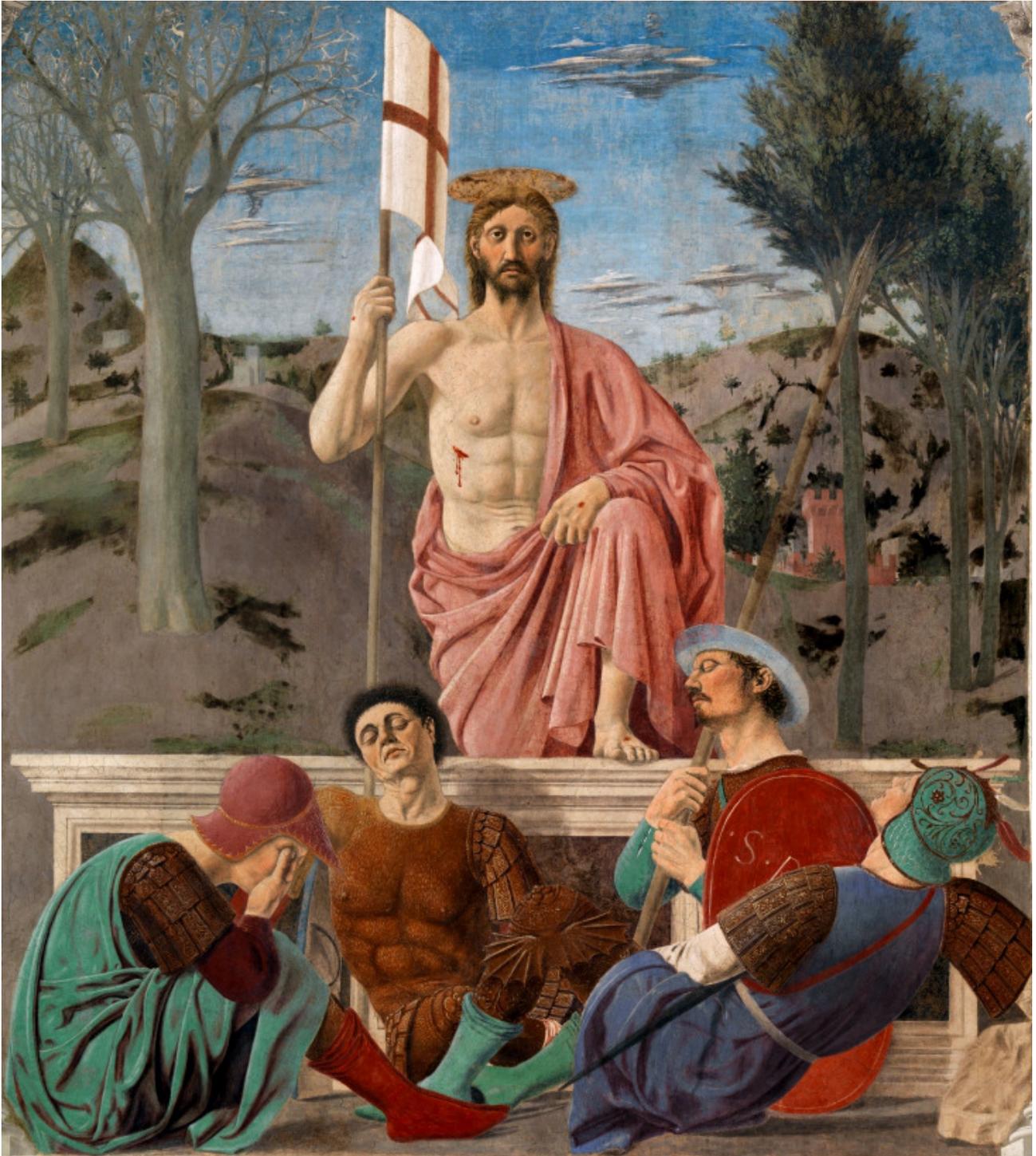


allthesaints@allsaints

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

April 12th 2020

Easter Sunday



Piero della Francesca: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (1463)

An Easter message from the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Dr John Sentamu, who retires on June 7th 2020.

Every night at Bishopthorpe Palace since the start of our national lockdown our gatehouse has been lit up in NHS blue.

It's a daily reminder to us of the incredible work our health professionals are doing and the sacrifices they're making in the fight against coronavirus.

The blue light also inspires me to keep all our doctors, nurses, auxiliary staff and the patients they're treating firmly in my prayers – plus all social care carers.

It's absolutely crucial we continue to take responsibility for complying with the Government's vital message to 'Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives'.

Despite the very necessary social distancing measures in place, I've seldom known a time when our communities have been closer.

In the face of the awful daily death toll, worrying economic forecasts and family hardships, it's been humbling and inspiring to see the creative and helpful ways in which people are offering love and support to strangers and neighbours in need.

Across York, I'm hearing so many stories of letters and cards of encouragement and good cheer being sent to older people and anyone who is isolated, shopping being done for those who can't get out and joyful Zoom video calls being organised to keep spirits up.

We've been witnessing the transforming message of the Easter story coming alive.

People being examples of Jesus Christ by serving and loving others, offering hope and compassion. And in the case of many NHS staff, being willing to sacrifice their own health for the sake of others.

I've been encouraged, too, by the numbers of people feeding themselves spiritually by tuning in to the many livestreamed services and prayers being offered by churches across the city.

This is certainly the strangest, most disorienting Lent and Easter seasons I've experienced in my lifetime.

And yet my firm hope brought about by the glorious death and resurrection of Jesus Christ remains the same.

Whilst it is a distressing time for anyone mourning the loss of a loved one or worried about the health of friends and relatives, I pray you take comfort that Christ's sacrifice on the cross means that death is not the end of the story. We all have the promise of eternal life.

So let's all take our example from Jesus of Nazareth and continue to learn the importance of community, kindness and perseverance - and hope these lessons stay with us long after the lockdown has come to an end.

In the meantime our blue light will continue to shine. After all, "it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness".

God bless you all.

I am sure you have all been following our Mass offered online, and I have usually supplemented that with links to the hymns that would have been chosen for this morning, and next week I will be going back to that. But due to the very special nature of today my links are to complete services. This Easter morning here is a link to a complete service, as broadcast live on BBC television in 2017 from Hereford Cathedral:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P84xUn5bk-Y>

If instead you would like Solemn Evensong for Easter Day from Wakefield Cathedral.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtEd5UakPL4>

Easter Wings

BY GEORGE HERBERT

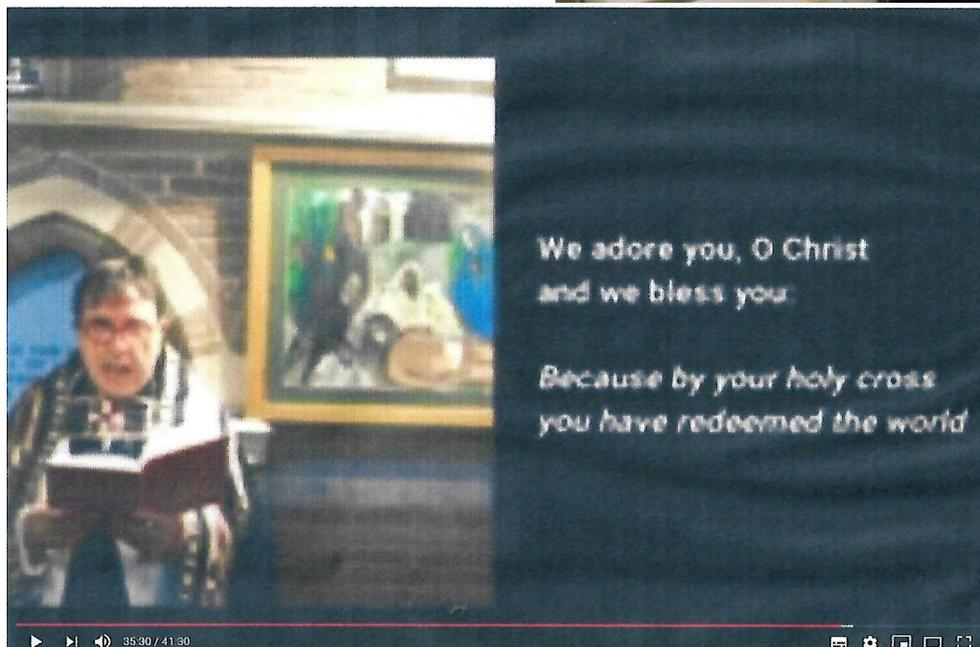
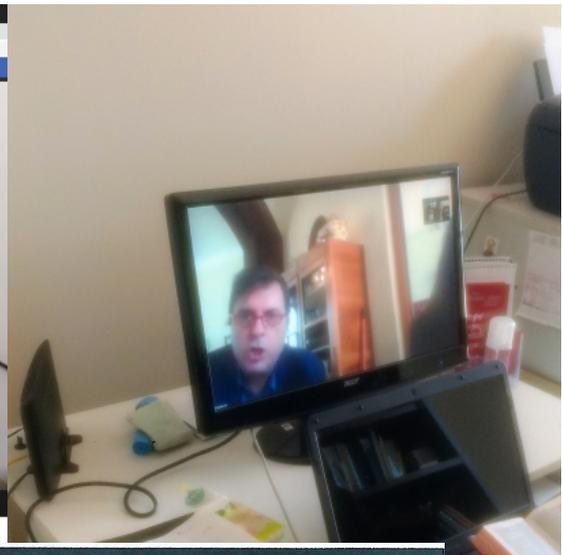
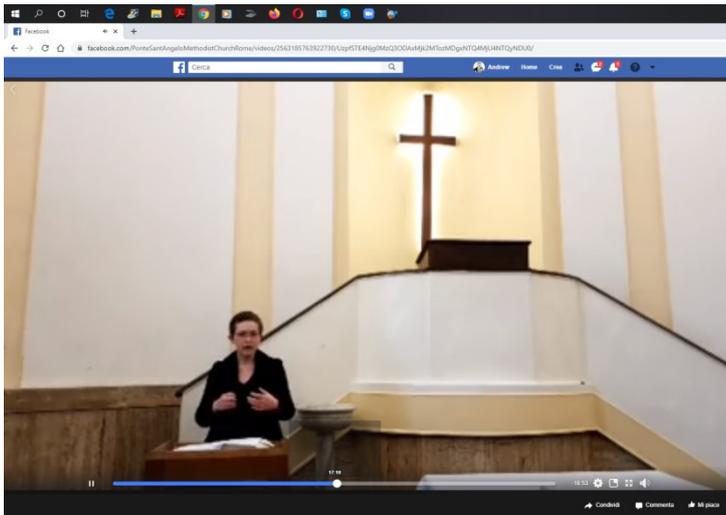
**Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.**

**My tender age in sorrow did beginne
And still with sicknesses and shame.
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.**

George Herbert (1593-1633) included "Easter Wings" in the collection of his poetry "The Temple", published in 1633. Herbert is familiar to churchgoers as a hymn writer: popular texts include "The Go of love my Shepherd is", "King of Glory King of Peace" and "Let all the world in every corner sing!"

News from All Saints'

In these special times Passion Week has continued from our churches online. On Wednesday there was the weekly Light at Lunchtime appointment on Zoom, each week gathering more adepts every Wednesday at 12.45. On Maunday Thursday there was a service broadcast live from the Ponte Sant'Angelo Methodist Church. The preacher was our intern Ksenia. Then on Good Friday the Stations of the Cross, which saw contributions from friends of the church from far and wide. In the background the Stations of the Cross that were presented to the Church.



- On Maunday Thursday there was also a diocesan service on Zoom covering the whole of the Diocese, with a sermon preached by Bishop David. The link can be found here. <https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1559-diocese-holds-virtual-service-for-maundy-thursday>

- Many of you will have met Father Jonathan Boardman's mother Yvonne when she visited Rome. She passed away on the morning of Maunday Thursday. She was living in Jonathan's vicarage, and died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 89.
- From the All Saints' office. DEAR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, OUR ROMAN CATHOLIC SISTER CHURCH HAS OPENED A HELP DESK TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO THOSE RESIDENT IN ROME, WITHOUT INTERNET, WHO NEED TO CLAIM THE GOVERNMENT VOUCHERS (300 PER FAMILY) FOR FOOD PURCHASES. THESE REQUESTS NEED TO BE FORWARDED TO THE RESPECTIVE COUNCIL OF RESIDENCY BY NO LATER THAN 16TH APRIL. IF YOU NEED - OR KNOW OF ANYONE WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM VOUCHERS AND NEEDS HELP, PLEASE CONTACT: SALVATORE (DEACON AT OGNISSANTI) - MOBILE TEL NUMBER : +39 340 795 9905 OGNISSANTI MAIN TEL NUMBER: 06 70006 97
- Please do take time to read a fine, thoughtful Easter message from our intern Edoardo on <https://romananglican.blogspot.com/2020/04/an-easter-reflection.html?spref=fb> On our website you will also find from Edoardo a tribute to the artist Raphael on the 500th anniversary of his death. It is also to be found on the Facebook page of the Roman Anglican.

From Thelma Mitchell

Thelma was the first editor of the All Saints' newsletter in its present format. She is now in England with her husband Neville. I have divided her article into two instalments. The second will appear next week. Ed.

Chaplaincy Matters at Bournville College, south Birmingham, UK

'Who's your favourite Beatle?' the slight young man asked - not quite the topic I was prepared for on my first 'engage and encounter' day as a lay chaplain at Bournville College! I was really happy to talk with him about television, films and music - it wasn't difficult as he preferred to ask the questions!

In October 2012 a number of church folks around south Birmingham were asked if they would consider being part of a team of lay chaplains at the newly opened Bournville College. Built the year before, it rose, phoenix-like, on the ashes of the old Austin Motors factory site at Longbridge, replacing the old college buildings near the Cadbury factory. Its shape reflects the bridge which used to carry materials across the site. It opened in a flood of enthusiasm and high hopes.

Forty of us turned up for two training days, organised by the lay chaplain of the nearby construction site, and the college's Equality and Diversity manager. Six of us were chosen from those who still wanted to do it, and I was appointed team leader. My experience teaching in FE and of chaplaincy has been a great help. I was able to combine living in Italy for half of the year because of college holidays.

We are now a remnant three from those early days, though we have since welcomed another chaplain on to the team. It is a multi-faith chaplaincy but all the chaplains are Christian, despite our efforts to encourage people of other faiths to join us. We may not proselytise – our brief is to walk alongside staff and students, to be non-judgmental friends as needed to everyone of faith and no faith. We are guests in the workplace and silent Christian witnesses unless asked directly. So saying we have



free-rein for the big Christian festivals at Christmas and Easter. We take full advantage with services, cards and goodies to hand out! Last Christmas we handed out Christmas cards after the service. One young man with learning and physical difficulties and who has supported living, told us a number of times how thrilled he was because he had never been given a Christmas card before. A humbling moment.

The amount of time we spend in college is up to us. Some weeks we may be in for half a day, wandering around. The permanent staff and some of the students who have been there for years know us well and welcome us, enjoying a catch-up chat. If we are

holding special events we might be in over two days. During the weeks of St. Valentine's day and Mothering Sunday we put up eye-catching displays, offering sweets and chocolate in exchange for answers to '*Who Loves You?*' and '*Who cares for You?*' to add to the collage.

We cover a stall during Freshers' week in September when we offer sweets in exchange for answers to questions such as '*Describe yourself in three words*'; '*What are your top three priorities in life?*'; '*If God exists what would you ask?*', always a surprisingly popular one. We meet other stall holders and swap goodies – I am always up for a free pen or notepad!

Longbridge is predominantly a white, working class area, created for the Austin works. However, the profile of the college is 45% Muslim, as students travel in from all over. So we ensure that sweets and chocolate offered are acceptably halal, like Haribo and Cadbury, so no-one is excluded. (to be continued)

Thelma Mitchell April 2020

Pope Francis to church organists

In 2013 Pope Francis wrote the following letter to all church organists to express his appreciation for all the work they do. We are lucky to have Gabriele, his assistant Darren, and before them the late Wijnand Van de pol, and indeed many others who have had the privilege of playing our fine pipe organ. One occasional organist at St Paul's was Brendan Walls, who years ago was a member of the New Chamber Singers and now lives in the US. He sent me the text which he dedicates to all those musicians who because of the emergency can't be heard live at the Easter morning service.

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to affirm my esteem for you before everyone, to pay my respects to your achievements, and, if possible, to repair the unjust way society treats you.

Indeed, it is necessary to recognize that you are an ignored group. Even the place where you exercise your art is hidden, invisible to the great masses who, moreover, ignore you or don't pay attention to you. Our modern times, infected as they are with materialism, become delirious with sports heroes, frantically applaud the gods of the cinema, but they don't know how to appreciate your noble art, which unfolds itself in the sphere of the most pure spiritual values. Few clap for you; rarely is there someone who gives you a compliment for a piece which you have so laboriously prepared and played with your entire soul.

You are a badly rewarded group. Let's leave aside the arguments which are always odious; but it is certain that you have chosen (and I say this to your praise) a branch of the musical art which is presently probably the most unselfish.

However, you are a group of great worth. You render a precious service to the Church, you have a role of primary importance in the unfolding of the sacred liturgy, you have a beneficial influence on the soul and spirit of the faithful. Because entire congregations, even against their inclination, are exposed to your actions and many profound and noble impulses from your soul, they are indebted to you who, with your harmonies, touch the most intimate fibers of the heart, and bring to life in them feelings of adoration and aspiration to goodness.

You are a glorious group. When doing your job, you are so close to the Lord! In a way, you also, like the priest, are the delegates and representatives of an entire people and you praise the Lord in their name: you gather together all the voices, all the lamentations, all the sighs of the faithful, and you express them to God through the voice of the organ, sometimes joyous, sometimes sad, sometimes weak, sometimes mighty.

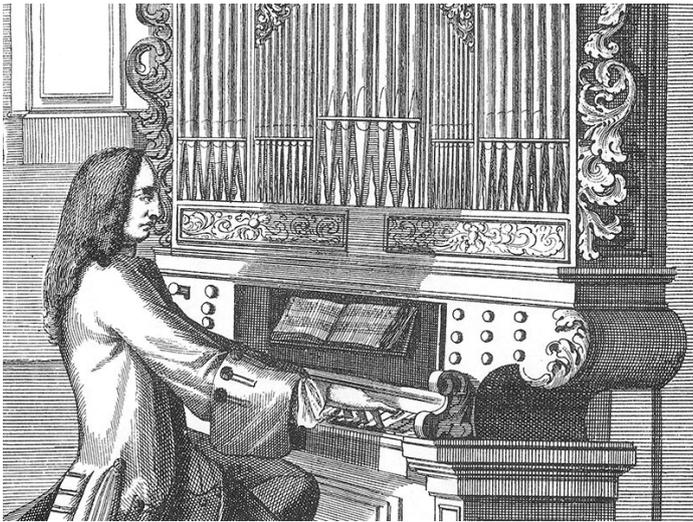
I have addressed this deserved testament of my esteem to you with all my heart. And now, permit me to make some recommendations to you. Truly, as noble as your art is, it also imposes great responsibilities upon you. What are they?

They can be boiled down to two: good technical preparation and an ardent sense of responsibility.

I am quickly going over the first: it is natural that the organist must be versed in his art and consequently have studied enough (there is never enough!), and that he must constantly stay in practice, in order not to decline from one day to the next.

I insist on the second: the sense of responsibility. I just spoke of the power exercised by your music upon the spirit of the faithful: if the organ cries, they experience a feeling of sadness; if it explodes with solemn and triumphant sounds, they feel overcome with a festive

atmosphere. It is an honor, but also a heavy responsibility. The organist must draw from his instrument the most sweet and the most celestial melodies. But what can one say, if he draws instead secular songs and ditties? Or if, giving himself over to inspiration, which he perhaps possesses—or does not possess because of insufficient technical preparation—he tries to improvise, deforming the rhythms, using poor melodies, without skill, strained, empty, monotonous, without life, and at times a dissonant joke? Thus, the organist makes a living by the solemnity of the rite, offending the sensibilities of people by distressing them and troubling them.



The organist who is conscious of his duties will have taken care to diligently prepare his pieces (and not trust himself to a stuttering and deformed way of tearing into them), choosing from the truly artistic and sacred musical repertoire [pieces] worthy of the Church and of the sacred liturgy.

I alluded to improvisation.

I pray you, dear organists, with all my heart, I beg you not to yield too easily to improvising. Be humble; play simple pieces which have a certain logic and,

thus will please the ear. Some improvisations make one's hair stand up.

I will say in conclusion that the organist, if he wants to discharge his role truly well, must be a person of faith and of prayer. Don't open your eyes wide: it is true. If the sacred organist is not a person of faith and piety, he will be like someone who speaks a language without understanding it. His cold and conviction-free discourse will never be able to stir up intimate vibrations and spiritual trembling among listeners. If, on the other hand, he is a person who feels pious and religious faith at the bottom of his heart, he will bring to life a wave of piety in his listeners, he will elevate them in a divine atmosphere, will stimulate them to holy ideas, will inspire them to a holy discipleship which the Divine Judge will repay someday with abundance.

In the meantime, I wish that the talents put to the service of the Church by those among you who have accomplished professional study and earned an academic diploma from a conservatory or from our Pontifical Institutes of Sacred Music, should be fairly recognized from the financial point of view, according to the norms of canon 231 of the Code of Canon Law, for the greater benefit of the embellishment of the sacred liturgy, which is “the summit to which the Church's activities aspire, and at the same time, the source from which all its energy flows.”

And now, with all my heart, I give you the apostolic blessing, and may it accompany you in your ministry and your profession as organists of the Church.

Pope Francis

Where are they now?

Bruce Saylor, composer, teacher, singer, is a close friend of All Saints', and during his many and welcome visits to Rome has worshipped with us and sung in the church choir. His usual base is in New York but he has moved for the moment to the Vermont countryside with his daughter, continuing to teach online.

The Revd Canon **Bruce Ruddock**, who was for several years the Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, has now retired after serving as Canon Precentor at Peterborough Cathedral. He is now in Chichester, serving both as Chaplain to the cathedral and as "Custos", effectively Chaplain, of St Mary's Hospital.

From the "Church Times"

- Only days ago, Canon Phillip Nixon was marvelling at the spectacular Himalayan panorama around Mount Everest. Today, he is limited to the view from his home near Oxford as he self-isolates in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. The 72-year-old retired priest had just completed a fund-raising expedition to the Everest base camp, when Nepal began closing its borders. He said: "We only just got back, the airlines were closing down all around us. If it had been a day later, we might not have got out. We had WiFi connections in most of the places we stayed; so we had an idea of what was happening in the outside world. But we didn't realise just how close we were to not getting back." His 19-day hike to the camp at 17,500 ft raised £1200 for Christian Aid.
- Freelance church musicians are set to lose thousands of pounds in income during Holy Week and Easter, owing to the coronavirus lockdown. While directors of music, organists, and some singers in cathedrals and larger churches are on salaried contracts, most other church musicians are treated as self-employed. Mhairi Ellis, who is a chorister at St Mary's, Bourne Street, in London, a freelance musician, and a church administrator, said: "This is a time of year when church musicians can reasonably expect a bulge in income with Passiontide, Holy Week, and Easter services, and related concerts and Passion performances; so many people will have lost a greater amount of expected income than at some other times of year." "I have also heard of singers' being unable to pay their rent and having to give up their rented accommodation".
- THE Passion play staged annually in Trafalgar Square, in London, has been cancelled, the latest in a range of events called off because of the coronavirus pandemic. About 20,000 people were expected to attend it on Good Friday. The play is organised by the Wintershall organisation.

Another production scheduled for Guildford on Holy Saturday has also been cancelled.

- On a much greater impact, however, in Germany, the Oberammergau Passion play, held only once every ten years, and for which a cast of 2500 has been rehearsing, has been postponed. It was due to begin 103 day-long performances from 16 May
- THE United Nations is to map digitally every religious site in the world as part of its long-term plan to protect places of worship from terrorism and hate crime. The interactive mapping of religious sites, designed to foster respect and greater understanding of religion, regardless of belief, was among the top recommendations listed in the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites. The plan was published in September, six months after terrorist attacks against two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

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!