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

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The Lambeth Conference 2020 postponed due to Covid-19

News from All Saints' The Lambeth Conference, the once-a-decade gathering of the bishops of the Anglican Communion, has been postponed for 2020 and will take place in 2021 instead.

The event takes years of planning and fundraising to bring as many Anglican church leaders from across the globe to the UK for the conference and this year's was on schedule with around 1,200 bishops and spouses due to attend from 165 countries.

But as the coronavirus spread around the world and took hold in the UK, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, announced that the conference would have to be rescheduled. Archbishop Welby took his decision after consultation with the Lambeth Conference Design Group, primates of the Anglican Communion and trustees of the Lambeth Conference Company and after taking advice from public health experts.

The conference organizers say that they plan to replicate what was planned for 2020 to be held in 2021 and the same venues will be used – the University of Kent at Canterbury campus and Canterbury Cathedral.

As well as concerns about health risks to those attending the conference and the difficulty of travel during the Covid-19 crisis, organizers also realised that many of those due to come to Lambeth in 2020 would have been heavily involved in their countries' response to Covid-19 – another reason for the delay.

The Lambeth Conference of 2021 will be the fifteenth such gathering. Its theme will be God's Church for God's World – Walking, Listening and Witnessing Together. It will not be the first time that a Lambeth Conference has been delayed by global events. Instead of a Lambeth Conference in 1918, 10 years after the fifth one and just as the First World War was drawing to a close, the sixth was delayed until 1920. After the seventh was held in 1930, the eighth was not held until 1948, three years after the end of the Second World War.

The Anglican Centre in Rome was planning to be represented at the 2020 event and like everyone else involved, will reschedule its plans for 2021.

News from All Saints'

- Last Sunday we had our first live service of Morning Prayer and Hymns, broadcast on Zoom and attended by some 20 worshippers, not only in Rome, but also in the UK, Australia, Ghana and Poland! There were a few teething troubles with sound and picture, and reception varied according to local



broadband width, but it was a promising start and this morning the experiment will continue. Once the service was over we met for online socialising and I think everyone felt it was worthwhile. One thing we did discover was that two Sundays ago it was Aiden and Ruth's wedding anniversary and that last Sunday it was Rob and Caireen's. Congratulations to all of them!

- A few weeks ago there was an article in the Church Times to which I referred in a previous newsletter, regarding the approach to the coronavirus taken by the various Anglican communities in Italy. Things have moved on a little but I am attaching a copy of the appropriate page to this week's issue.
- The online question and answer session on Facebook organized by UKinItaly did take place, although in the end it was not live. There was much useful information imparted that concerned mostly the position of UK citizens in Italy, though questions did range further than the virus, and some useful links were provided concerning other topics.
- As many of you know, Fr Jonathan Boardman's mother died in the early hours of Maundy Thursday. In the current issue of the newsletter of his church, St. Paul's, Clapham, his message is: "Please pray for the repose of my mother,

Yvonne Osborne Boardman's soul who died at home peacefully and surrounded by loving supportshe had been ill for nearly five years and seemed simply ready now to go on her way. May she Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory". Yvonne Osborne Boardman. 17th April 1931 - 9th April 2020". The funeral takes place on Friday at 14.00.

- The Church of England has produced a very handy booklet called "Prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak" The introduction states: "You will find here a small collection of prayers for personal and group use at this challenging time in our lives, when we are struggling to find words to express what we feel." It can be downloaded from www.CofE.io/ChurchOnline
- The meeting of the Associazione Chiesa d'Inghilterra due to take place tomorrow has been postponed until September 25th: it will take place as part of the Diocesan Synod in Palermo.

Our Mass settings

This week, instead of writing about the hymns that would have been chosen for this Sunday if we had had a service in church, I would like to introduce you to the two mass settings that we use on Sunday mornings. Today it's the Addington Service by Richard Shephard, and next week's article will centre around the setting by John Merbecke, which we sing when the service is in traditional language.

Dr Richard Shephard (b 1949) was a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral, where the organist was then the composer Herbert Sumsion before taking a degree at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He started his musical career as a lay clerk in Salisbury Cathedral Choir, and it was at this time when he was greatly influenced by Richard Seal and Lionel Dakers, the former director of the Royal School of Church Music. Years later, in 2000, Shephard and Dakers would both contribute to *The IAO Millennium Book, Thirteen essays About the Organ*, a publication which comprises contemporary writings related to the organ and written by distinguished composers of the day. Shephard's article was entitled *Composing for the Church today*, in which he discussed current demands on church music composers in the 20th century.



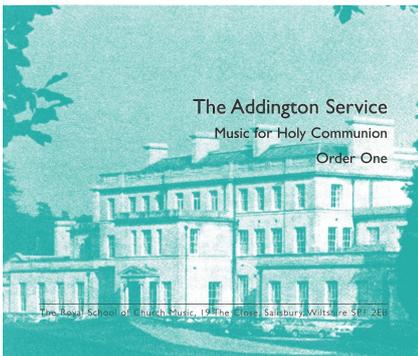
Shephard has received commissions from numerous associations, including the Three Choirs' Festival. As well as Shephard's prolific musical career, he has also had a career in education. For a number of years Shephard worked as a member of staff at Godolphin School and Salisbury Cathedral School. In 1985, he moved to York,

becoming headmaster of York Minster School – one of his predecessors in that post was the late Rev'd Bevan Wardrobe, former Chaplain at All Saints' - and Chamberlain of York Minster. He remained headmaster of the school until 2004

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RICHARD SHEPHARD



when he stepped down, and is now Director of Development at York Minster, co-ordinating fundraising. He is still Chamberlain, in this role he serves as cantor at evensong and mattins, leading the responses.

He was appointed MBE in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to music and education.

The Addington Service is named after the former home of the Royal School of Church Music, seen here on the left on the cover of the sheet music. It was composed in the early 70s, and has remained the setting of choice of many parish churches in England. Rather than give you a link to the service – it is after all to be sung together and not listened to - here is Shephard's

stirring Magnificat sung by the Wakefield Cathedral Choir.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFTVOg8csTg>

The “Mystery Worshipper”

The website Shipoffools has a large number of reporters who attend church services all over the world anonymously and produce an honest evaluation of their experience. All Saints' was visited on Sunday September 8th 2013, and this was the report produced. Here it is, for its curiosity value, but it is also fascinating and rewarding: I might add that looking through the many reviews the mystery worshippers don't pull their punches, so we can be very pleased with this one!

What was the name of the service?

Choral Eucharist

How full was the building?

It was about a third full, with about 50 people present. Many regulars were still on holiday, but there were plenty of visitors.

Did anyone welcome you personally?

Two ladies handed me the hymnal with the service leaflets and said "Good morning. Welcome."

Was your pew comfortable?

It was a chair, like in many English country parish churches – the ones with the upholstered cushions. It was quite comfortable.

How would you describe the pre-service atmosphere?

Very quiet. There was some chatting in the back, which neither distracted the ushers from their jobs nor those who were praying. As the organist began the Bach prelude, the church fell silent.

What were the exact opening words of the service?

"In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. "

What books did the congregation use during the service?

Extracts from *Common Worship* and the *New English Hymnal*.



What musical instruments were played?

A great English organ of the firm Conacher & Company of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England.

Did anything distract you?

A couple of children were quite lively and the Italian lady in front of me arrived quite late – during the sermon! But these kinds of things happen in every church.

Was the worship stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what?

High church at its best. Not to be confused with Anglo-Catholicism, this was proper English high church. The vestments and the frontal were really stunning, and I would guess (given the place and the familiar patterns) were by the London firm Watts & Co.

The music was superb as well; it couldn't have been more Anglican than it was, from the Anglican chant to the hymns, from the prelude to the postlude. The style was formal and I was happy to notice that nobody applauded after the postlude. Bravo! Very Anglican.

Exactly how long was the sermon?

12 minutes.

On a scale of 1-10, how good was the preacher?

8 – A very interesting and loving style, both serious and ironic, simultaneously theologically elevated and down to earth. I am not a big fan of long sermons. If I liked them I would have been a Baptist!

In a nutshell, what was the sermon about?

It was a difficult topic, but Father Jonathan dealt beautifully and in occasionally a funny way with the war in Syria, alternating this with various other subjects and events. He also added several other anecdotes both secular and theological.

Which part of the service was like being in heaven?

I always say that when a service is well done, there is no "best part", and this was indeed the case! If I must choose, then the music (especially the traditional hymns and Anglican chant for Psalm 139) and the liturgy were both very uplifting.

And which part was like being in... er... the other place?

As every in church I have been to in this country during summertime, the terribly hot temperature.

What happened when you hung around after the service looking lost?

During the service, the Revd Dana English told us that there were refreshments in the church garden. As we moved out of the church, both members of the clergy greeted us.

How would you describe the after-service coffee?

People were very warm and welcoming. I talked to many people, including the vicar and the assistant curate. Cold drinks and wine (yes, it's Italy) were served, as well as English cakes and biscuits. Hot drinks, given the 90°F (29°C) temperature, could wait.

How would you feel about making another visit (where 10 = ecstatic, 0 = terminal)?

10 – Wonderful service, glorious music and liturgy. Great people and clergy... who wouldn't join a church like this?

Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?

Yes, of course, but more than that, this church made me feel glad to be an Anglican!

What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days' time ?

The wonderful music and liturgy. And the lovely people and clergy.

The illustration is a painting by the late Margaret Hammond, made in 1985.

The Mystery Worshipper, which produced this report, is run by shipoffools.com. Mystery Worshippers are volunteers who visit churches of all denominations worldwide, leaving a calling card in the collection plate and posting a first-timer's impression of services on Ship of Fools. For further reports, visit the Mystery Worshipper at: shipoffools.com.

Christina Rossetti

Tomorrow, Monday April 27th, is designated in the Church of England lectionary as devoted to Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). We all know her carol "In the bleak midwinter", but her output was enormous, and over half of her poetry was devotional.

Christina was the youngest child of Gabriele Rossetti and was the sister of the painter-poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti. In 1847 her grandfather, Gaetano Polidori, printed on his private press a volume of her *Verses*, in which signs of poetic talent are already visible. In 1850, under the pseudonym Ellen Alleyne, she contributed seven poems to the Pre-Raphaelite journal *The Germ*. In 1853, when the Rossetti family was in financial difficulties, Christina helped her mother keep a school at Frome, Somerset, but it was not a success, and in 1854 the pair returned to London, where Christina's father died. In straitened circumstances, Christina entered on her life work of



companionship to her mother, devotion to her religion, and the writing of her poetry. She was a firm High Church Anglican, and in 1850 she broke her engagement to the artist James Collinson, an original member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, because he had become a Roman Catholic. For similar reasons she rejected Charles Bagot Cayley in 1864, though a warm friendship remained between them.

In 1862 Christina published *Goblin Market and Other Poems* and in 1866 *The Prince's Progress and Other Poems*, both with frontispiece and decorations by her brother Dante Gabriel. These two collections, which contain most of her finest work, established her among the poets of her day. *Sing-Song: a Nursery Rhyme Book* (1872; enlarged 1893), with illustrations by Arthur Hughes, takes a high place among children's books of the 19th century.

In 1871 Christina was stricken by Graves' disease, a thyroid disorder that marred her appearance and left her life in danger. She accepted her affliction with courage and resignation, sustained by religious faith, and she continued to publish, but after the onset of her illness she mostly concentrated on devotional prose writings.

Though she was haunted by an ideal of spiritual purity that demanded self-denial, Christina resembled her brother Dante Gabriel in certain ways, for beneath her humility, her devotion, and her quiet, saint-like life lay a passionate and sensuous temperament, a keen critical perception, and a lively sense of humour. The transience of material things is a theme that recurs throughout her poetry, and the resigned but passionate sadness of unhappy love is often a dominant note. (from Encyclopaedia Britannica)

Here are two short poems of Rossetti's, one devotional and one that reminds us of her Italian origins.

The Lowest Place

Give me the lowest place:
not that I dare Ask for that lowest place,
but Thou hast died That I might live and share Thy glory by Thy side.
Give me the lowest place: or if for me
That lowest place too high,
make one more low
Where I may sit and see
My God and love Thee so.

'Italia, Io Ti Saluto!'

To come back from the sweet South,
to the North Where I was born, bred, look to die;
Come back to do my day's work in its day,
Play out my play – Amen, amen, say I.
To see no more the country half my own,
Nor hear the half-familiar speech, Amen, I say;
I turn to that bleak North Whence I came forth –
The South lies out of reach.
But when our swallows fly back to the South,
To the sweet South, to the sweet South,
The tears may come again into my eyes
On the old wise,
And the sweet name to my mouth.

From Maki Nakamura

Dear members of All Saints in Rome,

*Blessed is the Lord who daily bears us up;
God is our salvation. (Ps.68:19)*

Happy Easter to all my friends at All Saints. I hope you are having a blessed Easter season despite the challenge we are facing at this time. In a way it has been the most painful Easter I have ever experienced. What a sorrow for us that we cannot gather together....I really hope and pray for the world's restoration, and believe that Jesus is always with us.

It is already a year and a half since I left Rome! When I came back to Japan I was received into the Tokyo Diocese and I was a seminarian for a year, studying about



Maki on Graduation Day with her father

anglicanism and liturgy. At the same time I was sent to a parish church on a placement. It was a very busy time, but a fruitful experience and I was able to meet many people in my parish. It has been a bit of a cultural shock and I found it a challenge as I had been away for eight years! It took me some time to get used to Japanese ways again. Even now I don't feel completely at home, but I've managed to settle down again somehow.

I graduated from the seminary in March and started working at a church called St. Andrews in April. It is a big church in the very centre of Tokyo, just below Tokyo Tower, one of the most

famous tourist spots in the city. Unfortunately in this lockdown period it is impossible for me to meet with the people of the parish, nor can we worship together. But I am happy to be living the life of the church, and can talk to the people on the phone. I am happy that my mission has begun!

I am at present pondering within myself if there can be a reason for my mission to have been sent to me at this strange time. Meanwhile I am studying, praying, and hoping to make myself ready for anything God may command me to do.

I always pray for you. Let us be together in Christ in mind and spirit. We are united. And I'm so much looking forward to visiting you again, and worshipping with you.

Maki Nakamura

From the Church Times

- The arts, faith, and justice festival, Greenbelt, will not take place this year, the latest in a range of events to be called off because of the coronavirus pandemic. The festival had been scheduled to take place, as usual, over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Boughton House, in Northamptonshire. The festival's organisers announced on Tuesday, however, that they had taken the "crushing decision" to call it off. It will be the first time in the festival's 46-year history that it has not taken place.
- The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, has joined other faith leaders in the city in a statement released on Wednesday, the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day. It says: "We urge governments and businesses to promote radical yet just change to decrease carbon emissions, restore ecosystems and promote healthy environments on a universal scale. At the same time, we recognise that each and every one of us has the opportunity and the duty to make small but significant adjustments to our daily lives."
- A new app that provides personalised videoed prayers and messages for those who request prayer support is helping people around the world to pray directly and specifically for others. The app, called Thyne, was launched last month after its creator, Jessica Fraser, said that she experienced the power of personalised prayer while she was working on Broadway in the United States. The app requires users to register and then either post a prayer or respond to a prayer, by replying with a video or audio message, or a text message. Most of the 4000 users registered so far have posted a prayer, and then gone on to pray for others.
- A priest in south-east London will be donning his trainers on Sunday to complete a charity marathon on a treadmill in his parish office. The event will be streamed live, and the start will be included at the opening of his online morning service. The Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Sydenham and Forest Hill the Revd Edd Stock, said: "My wife, Katie, thinks I am mad." Although he is a keen runner, he says that his training for the run — on the day originally set for the now-cancelled London Marathon — has not been perfect. His fund-raising target is £26,200 — £100 for every mile of the run — to support disadvantaged families affected by the pandemic. His run is due to start at 10 a.m. "My bishop will call in around 11.30, and I have friends from the US and all over the world dropping in later — if I can still speak at that stage!"

• **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!