



31 July, 2022

7th Sunday after Trinity

Said Eucharists – Sunday 8.30am. and Tuesday 10.30am.

Sung Eucharist with the choir– Sunday 10.00am.

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel – Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am.

The 10.00am. service will be live-streamed, and then available on St. Michael’s YouTube Channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-KJtHzLo0w2CM6RQI_50yg

Introit (sung by the choir) Vaughan Williams: O Taste and See

Collect

Alternative Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ecclesiastes 1. 2, 12–14; 2.18–23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me – and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity. For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 49:vv.1-12

Response: God shall ransom my soul from the grasp of death.

Hear this all you peoples; listen, all you that dwell in the world,
You of low or high degree, both rich and poor together.

Response

My mouth shall speak of wisdom and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
I will incline my ear to a parable; I will unfold my riddle with the lyre.

Response

Why should I fear in evil days, when the malice of my foes surrounds me,
Such as trust in their goods and glory in the abundance of their riches?

Response

For no one can indeed ransom another or pay to God the price of deliverance.
To ransom a soul is too costly; there is no price one could pay for it,
So that they might live for ever, and never see the grave.

Response

For we see that the wise die also; with the foolish and ignorant they perish
and leave their riches to others.

Response

Their tomb is their home for ever, their dwelling through all generations,
though they call their lands after their own names.

Those who have honour, but lack understanding, are like the beasts that perish. **Response**

Colossians 3. 1–11

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things – anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but is all and in all!

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 12.13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Peace

Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed? To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael’s

Music notes – July 31st by Stephen Wilcox

Organ alphabet – V is for Vaughan Williams

Organ prelude: Vaughan Williams – *Organ Prelude no. 3 on Hyfrydol*

Introit: Vaughan Williams – *O taste and see*

Processional hymn: Genevan Psalter, arranged Vaughan Williams – *The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune*

Gradual hymn: English Traditional, arranged Vaughan Williams – *Kingsfold*

Peace: Orlando Gibbons – *Song 46*

Offertory hymn: R.H.Prichard, arranged Vaughan Williams – *Hyfrydol*

During communion: Vaughan Williams - *Mantegna*

Choir anthem: Vaughan Williams – *Organ Prelude no. 2 on Rhosymedre*

Post-communion hymn: English Traditional, collected and arranged Vaughan Williams – *Kings Lynn*

Recessional verse: H. Albert, arranged J.S.Bach – *Gott des Himmels*

Organ postlude: Vaughan Williams – *Organ Prelude no. 1 on Bryn Calfaria*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958) wrote two of the most popular pieces of classical music – *The Lark Ascending* (1914) and the *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* (1910) have spent much of the last 15 years

at number 1 and number 3 on Classic FM's *Hall of Fame*. He also wrote 9 symphonies, 5 operas, numerous songs and choral music, both sacred and secular and, late in life, the scores for 11 films.

But it is one of his earliest pieces of work we focus on today. At the turn of the 20th century, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, originally published in 1861, was the main hymnbook authorised for use in the Church of England but it suffered from being dominated by Victorian "slushiness" (not my word, but Martin Shaw's, writing in the early 20th century). When Oxford University Press agreed to publish a new major hymn book in 1904, the General Editor Percy Dearmer came to visit Vaughan Williams and he agreed to edit the music. Dearmer, vicar of St Mary's Primrose Hill, was a Christian Socialist and had published a manual for churches looking to adopt pre-reformation ritual within the liturgy of the Church of England. His choice of the young Vaughan Williams, not conventionally religious and an instinctive political radical, was inspired. Vaughan Williams had already begun to collect English folk-songs and had spent several years as a church organist getting frustrated with the quality of hymns available to him.

The new hymn-book was to be inclusive in the best sense – the words are translated from originals in Greek, Latin, German, Syriac, Russian, Welsh, Irish, Italian, Danish and Swahili, as well as being originally written in English. Dearmer aimed to present "the best hymns in the English language" and believed that if he gave congregations the best possible hymns they would come to love them. Vaughan Williams had the same approach to music – "It ought no longer to be true anywhere", he proclaimed in his Preface, "that the most exalted moments of a church-goer's week are associated with music that would not be tolerated in any place of secular entertainment."

This week's music illustrates this variety. The three organ preludes are founded on Welsh hymn tunes; we have two English Folk-Songs adopted for hymns; a Lutheran chorale; an original composition by Vaughan Williams; a sacred song by Orlando Gibbons from the Tudor period, and a tune originally written for Calvin's psalter. Apart from the *Old Hundredth* and *Gott des Himmels* all were first published in a major hymn book by Vaughan Williams.

Of the less well-known tunes, *Rhosymedre* is set to the communion hymn "Author of Life Divine" (Hymn 48), *Bryn Calfaria* was set by Vaughan Williams for "Lord enthroned in Heavenly Splendour" (Hymn 309) and *Kings Lynn* was originally chosen to the hymn "O God of Earth and Altar" by Chesterton (Hymn 365). The tune *Mantegna* was written by Vaughan Williams for the poem "Into the woods my Master went" by Sidney Lanier. Vaughan Williams himself wrote a dozen or so hymn tunes for the *English Hymnal*, its successor *Songs of Praise* and the very influential *Oxford Book of Carols*, the latter two music edited by Vaughan Williams with Martin Shaw. The best known are *Sine Nomine* ("For all the saints – Hymn 134) and *Down Ampney* ("Come down, O Love Divine" – Hymn 90). The standards and approach set by the *English Hymnal* have been followed by all the major hymnbooks since – even the *Baptist Hymn Book* I grew up with. Until the rise of the charismatic movement and the adoption of pop styles for worship songs it was Vaughan Williams who effectively decided what a good hymn sounded like.

Two of our sung items today were written by Vaughan Williams for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The introit *O taste and see* is a setting of Psalm 34:8. It contrasts with the grand setting of *All People that on Earth do Dwell*, originally for "all available trumpets" (including the military brass bands and fanfare trumpeters on hand for the ceremony), full orchestra and organ. Please join in all the verses (there is an additional fanfare before the final verse) and the grand final Amen.

RIP PAT WRIGHT

Sadly, Pat died on 20 July. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this difficult time. Her funeral will take place in church. Further information will be shared once the arrangements have been made.

NAPPY DAYS - North Transept – Wednesday, 03 August– 1.30pm.-3.00pm.

A church-sponsored drop-in group for parents with new babies, offering a cuppa and a chat with other parents.

"POP IN AND PAINT" – Friday, 05 August – 10.30am. – 12.15pm.

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed – only enthusiasm and interest. All materials supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own paints. If you prefer just to come along for a chat and to watch the proceedings, that's fine too!

CRAFTY CUPPA – North Transept – Friday, 12 August – 10.30am. – 11.30am.

A twice monthly drop-in session for everyone, especially those on their own. If you engage in a craft such as knitting or embroidery, bring it with you and enjoy some company while you work. Fancy just a cuppa, or an opportunity to chat? Then come along. You will be very welcome.

By popular demand, Crafty Cuppa is now taking place twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL –Sunday, 14 August, after the 10.00am. service

The monthly Traidcraft stall has returned to its former place in the North Transept. A selection of products is available on the day. Special orders should be given to Sue Eames, or left in the Office, to ensure availability.

SERMONS ON THE WEBSITE

There is now a section of the website, where recent sermons are available to read/download. The link is

<https://www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk/worship/recent-sermons>

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open for private prayer, from 10.00am. to 4.00pm. Mon.-Fri. The Lady Chapel has been set aside as a quiet space. The votive candle stand and the Prayer Tree are in front of the sanctuary.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

LUNCH BREAK – Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 02 August- Midday to 2pm.

Tea, coffee and soup are available throughout. The church is open for quiet reflection and offers a varied programme of music, worship, meditation and speakers between 1.10pm. and 1.30pm. **This week: Bite-sized service**

RESTORE HOPE APPEAL

The charity is looking for people and organisations who can offer support either financially or through volunteering to help them maintain their outreach to local families. Current projects include delivery of fresh fruit and vegetable boxes fortnightly to 160 families in the area and running courses, cafes, lunches, toddler groups, school groups and an outside Fire Kitchen for men on site at Latimer House. If you, or others you know, would like to be involved, please contact Restore Hope for more information.

Email:info@restorehopelatimer.org)