

MUSICAL NOTES

MARCH 2020

I'd like to extend a huge thank-you to all those who came out to Kelloe on Ash Wednesday. It was a very significant event in lots of ways; not only were we marking the start of Lent and our journey towards the cross, but also a new chapter in our church's fellowship. As well as St Mary's Shincliffe and St Mary's College Chapel, we are now associated with St Mary's Coxhoe and St Helen's Kelloe, and it was marvellous to have all five worshipping communities represented at such an occasion.

Having never visited the church before last Thursday, when the choir went out for a rehearsal, I was struck by the beauty of the church and its setting. In some ways I regret that the occasion did not fall later in the year, so we would have had more daylight to appreciate the view! What was particularly heartening, though, was the obvious care and love with which the building has been treated, inside and out, over the centuries. It speaks of tremendous commitment and dedication to preserving the faith and heritage of the church, in the conviction that it must always be fit to be called a place of worship. This naturally involves challenges, changes, and adaptations - but our faith provides constancy. "Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us," we sang as our last hymn, "o'er the world's tempestuous sea." This Lent, let us be willing to be so lead!

As ever, details of our service music for this month are within. I'd like to particularly draw your attention to the two evening services listed - the first, another Come & Sing Evensong (**15th March**) where we'll be forming a scratch choir and rehearsing the music during the afternoon. There is also a Congregational Evensong (**29th March**), with music accessible for the congregation to join in with. Please do come along!

David Harris, Director of Music

THIS MONTH

Sunday 1st March - Eucharist (11.00 a.m.)

Anthem: *Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*

Music: Richard Farrant (c. 1525 - 1570)

Text: from Lidley's Prayers

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk with a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore. Amen.*

Voluntary: *Chorale Prelude on 'Aus der Tiefe', BWV 745*

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714 - 1788)

Sunday 8th March - Eucharist (11.00 a.m.)

Anthem: *God so loved the world from The Crucifixion*

Music: John Stainer (1840 - 1901)

Text: John 3:16-17

Voluntary: *Petit piece, W313*

Joseph Jongen (1873 - 1953)

Sunday 15th March - Eucharist (11.00 a.m.)

Anthem: *God is a spirit from The Woman of Samaria*

Music: William Sterndale Bennett (1816 - 1875)

Text: John 4:23-24

Voluntary: *Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV 555*

Anon., formerly attrib. J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

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Sunday 15th March - Come & Sing Choral

Evensong (6.00 p.m.)

Preces and Responses

William Byrd (c.1540 - 1623)

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in D minor

Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814 - 1856)

Anthem: *Geistliches Lied, op.30*

Music: Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Text: Paul Flemming (1609 - 1640) - *see overleaf*

Sunday 22nd March - Eucharist (11.00 a.m.)

Anthem: *Brother, sister, let me serve you (The Servant Song)*

Music: Richard Gillard (b. 1953), arr. John Barnard (b. 1948)

Text: Richard Gillard (b. 1953) - *see Common Praise #393*

Voluntary: *Toccata in D minor*

Albert Renaud (1855 - 1924)

Sunday 29th March - Eucharist (11.00 a.m.)

Anthem: *Verily, verily I say unto you*

Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505 - 1585)

Text: John 6:53-56

Voluntary: *Chorale Prelude on 'O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß', BWV 622*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Sunday 29th March - Congregational Evensong (6.00 p.m.)

'Tell out, my soul' and 'Faithful vigil ended'

Music: Walter Greatorex (1877 - 1949) and Friedrich Silcher (1789 - 1860)

Text: Luke 1:46-55, 2:29-32, adapted Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Psalm 30 (responsorial)

Music: David Harris (b. 1994)

Voluntary: *Chorale Prelude on 'Herzlich thut mich verlangen'*

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684 - 1748)

FEATURED PIECE

Geistliches Lied, op. 30

Music: Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Text: Paul Flemming (1609 - 1640)

*Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren
mit Trauren,
sei stille, wie Gott es fügt,
so sei vergnügt mein Wille!*

*Do not be sorrowful
or regretful;
Be calm, as God has ordained,
and thus my will shall be content.*

*Was willst du heute sorgen
auf morgen?
Der Eine steht allem für,
der gibt auch dir das Deine.*

*What do you want to worry about from day to
day?
There is One who stands above all
who gives you, too, what is yours.*

*Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel,
steh feste, was Gott beschleußt,
das ist und heißt das Beste.
Amen.*

*Only be steadfast in all you do,
stand firm; what God has decided,
that is and must be the best.
Amen*

Despite its publication in 1864, this is in fact one of Brahms' earliest choral works, dating from 1856 and composed originally as an exercise in counterpoint. It is remarkable in its compositional complexity - it is a *double canon at the ninth*. The tenor part exactly imitates the soprano part a bar later (in canon), except an octave plus one step (a ninth) below. The same relationship exists between the bass and alto parts, though their melodies are wholly different - hence it is a *double canon*. This texture persists through all the choral sections of the piece, and the organ interludes between verses also employ canonic imitation.

Given this level of technicality, one wouldn't necessarily expect to find a such a beautiful example of Romantic-era choral writing, with colourful harmonies, superb melodic arcs, and poignant suspensions throughout. But that's exactly what we get in this gem of Brahms early writing - as well as a foreshadowing of the masterwork that is his *Requiem, op. 45*.