

Dear all,

One thing I discovered while chatting with Bishop Nicholas after the service on the 12th is that we share a love of the composer Gustav Mahler. Mahler is a bit of a 'marmite' composer, one you love or hate, rather than one you like a bit. (That's rather inviting disagreement, isn't it!). Many people pre-judge his music, assuming they won't like it, and are rather surprised to find that they do when they actually listen. I was introduced to his music in a 6th form General Studies course, and was fascinated from the start.

It is often said that the whole of life is to be found in his music, and Maureen Lipman's character in *Educating Rita* famously says, "wouldn't you just die without Mahler?". He includes (sometimes in parody form) Jewish Klezmer music, military bands, birdsong, cowbells, much more singing than you will ever find in other symphonies... and the child's song *Frere Jacques* in the style of a funeral march! If that sounds a weird mix, try it out. Ken Russell also did a (typically barking mad) movie about his life, but you have to be pretty robust to watch that!

I listen to a lot of music while I am working, but Mahler is not easy, as he sucks me in, and I find myself concentrating far too much. There is also much controversy about what type of conductor is best – one who 'lets the music speak for itself', or one who wears his heart on his sleeve. I must confess to preferring the latter. I like music that reaches deep within, stirring the soul as it were. It doesn't always have to be a nice feeling. It's OK to be challenged, disturbed even.

The jury is out as to how religious or Christian a man Mahler was. His 2nd Symphony is called *Resurrection*, and his 8th includes passages from the old hymn *Veni creator spiritus* (Come creator Spirit). He was a Jewish convert to Christianity, though how much this was motivated by his desire to get a particular job is open to question. Perhaps he was more of a Pantheist, seeing God in everything, and everything a part of God. Did he worship nature itself, or the creator behind it? It's a subtle and difficult line to walk at times.

Whatever the answer to these questions, both the man and his music (can we ever separate the two... discuss!) ask big questions about 'Life, the Universe and Everything'. Tantalisingly, the questions are never really answered – they just lead us further onwards. Perhaps that is a message about life, and about faith itself.

For those who wish to follow up with an introduction to Mahler, try these links:

[Mahler: Symphony No. 5 in C-Sharp Minor - IV. Adagietto. Sehr langsam - YouTube](#) (I like my slow movements slow!).

[Mahler - Symphony No.5 - Abbado - Lucerne Festival Orchestra 2004 - YouTube](#)

[Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 1 \(Lucerne Festival Orchestra, Abbado\) - YouTube](#)

[Mahler - Symphony No 4 - Abbado - YouTube](#)

These are possibly the easiest introductions. Other symphonies are more complex. I once did one of these silly internet surveys *Which Mahler symphony are you?* and came out Symphony 7! Possibly the most enigmatic. Hmmm!

Sunday is the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 21). It will be a Communion service, as usual. The hymns will be [The heavens declare thy glory \(Hymn\) - YouTube](#), [JThere's a Wideness in God's Mercy \(Faber; Corvedale\) - YouTube](#), [Inspired by Love and Anger Iona Community - YouTube](#).

As last week, we will be recording the service, and uploading it later.

The lectionary readings for the service are Numbers 11: 4-6,10-16,24- 29; James 5: 13-20 and Mark 9: 38-50. The Psalm is Psalm 19: 7-15.

Anglican chant: [Psalm 19: The Heaven declare the glory of God - YouTube](#)

A modern version: [SOK Psalm 19 - YouTube](#)

And was this the original tune? [The Original 3000 Year Old Melody of the Psalm 19 - Revealed? - YouTube](#)

Anthems suggested for this Sunday include:

[A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester - YouTube](#) (Malcolm Archer)

[A Prayer from South Africa - YouTube](#) (James Whitbourn)

[VOCES8: Jesus bleibet meine Freude - JS Bach - YouTube](#)

Don't forget our concert we have coming up this Sunday afternoon. I have heard some of the rehearsals, and it will be stunning!



**Fabulous
Flute**

A recital by Deeping-born flautist
Abigail Fletcher
with
Chris Brown
piano and organ.

**Sunday, 26th Sept, 2021 at 3pm,
Priory Church, Deeping St James**

Tickets £8 (children free) incl. light refreshments from J Astle
01778 346879, V Worthington 01778 343860 or at the door.

For everyone's protection, wearing a mask is strongly advised

Abigail would like to thank Deeping St James United Charities for its
invaluable support of her flute studies.

 All proceeds towards the work of Priory Church 

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 3rd October. This year we will be supporting WaterAid. There will be a collection for the charity at the service, and we will auction off fresh produce at the end of the service to raise further funds.

We will also be collecting food for the Foodbank. They are currently overflowing with pasta and baked beans, so anything else would be particularly welcome. Thanks!



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark