

1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Dear all,

In my last letter I mentioned the diocesan clergy gathering, and the 2 foci of shared ministry and gathering. I must have been having a lack of focus! It should have said 'shared ministry and DIVERSITY'.

'Diversity' is one of those 'trigger' words. It provokes strong reactions – some of them knee-jerk 'light blue touch paper and retire' reactions. It covers difficult areas and sensitivities, and often deep injustice. We naturally assume that it must mean sexuality or race. And, yes, it does mean both of those. But it means so much more besides. 'Diversity' includes all ways we differ from one another. So, not only sexuality and race (usually meaning colour), but also including age, gender, class, disability, educational achievement, skills and interests, musical taste... the list could go on. Choral music vs Psalm 98?!!

Obviously, the significance of the diversity differs greatly. Whether you like Bach, Britten or Black Sabbath is going to have far less effect on people than racial discrimination. One is a matter of taste, the other a matter of human rights, justice, a legacy of centuries of oppression, and present-day pain.

When we encounter difference, it will provoke reactions. Sometimes it may appear scary, especially if we have prejudged it. It will often be challenging – especially to established order and privilege. But it is also immensely exciting, and enriching. A monochrome church will wither and die.

My church background was in a very 'central', traditional church, with a very strong choral tradition. At school, I was strongly influenced by very evangelical and charismatic spirituality. I later experienced aspects of Catholic and Orthodox devotional practice. All of this has been invaluable. I have shared services with Methodists, Roman Catholics, a black Pentecostal bishop...

Let's hear it for diversity, and encourage those who are a bit different from us. It may feel strange at times, even uncomfortable. But we will come much closer to God by it, because God is a God of diversity, who encourages diversity in all He does. Just look at the bunch Jesus chose to be his disciples!

PS. You may have heard the terms 'happy-clappy' or 'all smells and bells' to describe types of churchmanship. I have just heard of 'choral and floral'. Is that us? If so, I can cope with that!

Sunday is the feast of Thomas, the apostle. He is one of my favourites – a real 'everyman' character. I won't say any more, as I don't want to pre-empt my sermon!

The lectionary readings for Sunday morning are: Habakkuk 2: 1-4; Ephesians 2: 19-end; and John 20: 24-29. The Psalm is Psalm 36: 1-6.

The hymns for the service are [Colours of Day - with lyrics - kids - YouTube](#), [My Jesus, My Saviour \(Shout to the Lord\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#), [Seek Ye First - YouTube](#), [Be still for the presence of the Lord - YouTube](#), [One More Step Along the World I Go \(5vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#).

Anglican Chant [Psalm 36 "My Heart Sheweth Me the Wickedness of the Ungodly" - YouTube](#)

The Psalm Project [Psalm 36 \(Your Love, O Lord\) \(feat. Jaymi Vandewater\) - The Psalms Project - YouTube](#)  
Another contemporary version - [Fountain of Life \(Psalm 36\) - James Block - YouTube](#)

And contemporary Hebrew language version [Praises Of Israel - Ma Yakar Chasdecha\(How Precious Is Your Lovingkindness\)\[Live\] - YouTube](#)

Anthems suggested include:

[Surgens Jesus - YouTube](#) Monteverdi

[Surgens Jesus - Peter Philips, John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers - YouTube](#)

[Give Us the Wings of Faith \(Bullock\) — Choir of Ripon Cathedral - YouTube](#)

[Ibant Apostoli - YouTube](#) Guerrero

[Quia Vidisti Me, Thoma - YouTube](#)

If you haven't already seen the church Facebook page, you will have missed my mini-rant!

*This is getting silly now. Entertainment One is challenging our live broadcast service on Sunday, saying that we were infringing copyright due to the fact that our village church choir and excellent organist Chris Brown were in fact the choir of Westminster Abbey and Martin Neary. Easy mistake to make!*

This is just fishing. We've had Chris' performance of Widor's Toccata challenged as being possibly by half a dozen artists, including Thomas Trotter. Similarly, they have challenged his performance of Albinoni's 'Adagio', and the choir's performance of part of Haydn's 'Little Organ Mass'. How can a small village choir singing round the piano be mistaken for a professionally recorded CD?

I have some apologies to make for the July/August edition of the Priory News.

I printed the magazine from an earlier version, not the final one. My apologies if anyone contributed anything that was missed out. Hopefully we can catch up in September.

Apologies for the missing rota names. The list had been sent, but it got lost.

As with the flier below for Pennyles, I used an earlier version of the flier on the back of the magazine. Please note that the price is only £8 not £10.

Finally, anyone who enjoys doing the crossword, the final clue, an anagram, had different letters in the clue and the answer – a major problem for an anagram! Not our fault!! I think the answer they were looking for was pretty obvious.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED:** Martin Jones, Graham Thompson and I have recently trained as CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money Coaches, in order to provide support for any who are struggling with rising costs. We would like to have a 'dry run' to see how it works in practice, and how it is received. We are looking for a small group of people who would be willing to help with this by being 'guinea pigs'. You may wish to use your own budgets, but we are expecting people to invent the figures. It is the process, and how we cover it that is important. Please let me know if you are interested. We are probably looking at 2-3 hours on a Saturday later in July.

Don't forget:



# Pennyless



Penny Stevens on violin and Les Woods playing guitar form a distinctive and powerful sound as they range through the world of original and roots folk music, high energy and fun!

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**  
**Priory Hall Garden, DSJ**

Bring your own picnic. Garden open from 6pm.  
Music starts 7pm. Event inside if wet.

Tickets £8 (children free) include teas or coffee  
from J Astle 01778 346879 or V Worthington  
01778 343860

 Priory Church

PLEASE NOTE: in my previous letters, I used an earlier version of the flier. Please note that the price is only £8 not £10. Even more of a bargain! Tickets will be available at the service. The Vicar's Arms will be open again at this event.

I have been asked to advertise this event:

We have been given a great opportunity to have an evening of classical music in our church featuring a young Canadian brother and sister duo with piano accompaniment.

Full details are included on the attached poster and tickets are available from - Debbie Howard, East Dean, East End, Langtoft, PE6 9LP: 01778 343576 Claire Naylor, 19East End, Langtoft: 01778 343717  
Or pay on the door.

# St Michael's and All Angels Church Langtoft Presents

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING  
ON SATURDAY JULY 16TH,  
2022 AT 7 PM

## FEATURING:



Karim Khakimov – flute  
Student of the Phil and Eli Taylor  
Performance academy for Young  
Artists in Toronto, Canada

Salma Khakimov – violin  
Student of the Phil and Eli  
Taylor Performance Academy  
for Young Artists in Toronto,  
Canada



# CLASSICAL MUSIC

FROM BACH  
TO PIAZZOLLA

from the True North

Tickets = £7.50

Please bring your own refreshments



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark