Dear all

Following on from my comment about being able to say the Daily Office in church again, the Church Times reports that the government has included churches amongst the Stage 3 premises, to remain closed until at least 4 July. Their document states "The ambition at this step is to open at least some of the remaining businesses and premises that have been required to close, including personal care (such as hairdressers and beauty salons) hospitality (such as food service providers, pubs and accommodation), public places (such as places of worship) and leisure facilities (like cinemas)." This is, of course, assuming that infection rates are under control. "They should also meet the Covid-19 secure guidelines. Some venues which are, by design, crowded and where it may prove difficult to enact distancing may still not be able to re-open safely at this point."

There is other speculation, such as whether we will be encouraged to wear masks etc., but no details are known yet. In the meantime, there are no plans to relax the current rules for funerals, which allow a few family members and friends to attend services in crematoria or at outdoor burials.

Here at DSJ, we will continue to explore ways to bring a wider range of liturgy to you via the internet.

I would like to encourage anyone who is able to make a sound or video recording of themselves to take part as well, by sending me files. Please let me know. I can send details of readings, and it would be lovely to have others involved in intercessions – as 'usual'. Again, I can provide intercessions if anyone would like to read them.

A big thanks to the Fisk family for their musical contributions. Please note that, now we have a streaming licence, we are able to play recordings of our folk singing a wide range of copyright music. What we are not able to do is play copyrighted recordings (hence I had to remove the Last Post). That is why I provide links for YouTube videos, rather than play the music.

Latest pupdate: we are still awaiting the results of the biopsy on the lump on Nugget's leg. Meanwhile, as she won't stop licking the wound, we have put on her 'the cone of shame'. She is currently lying on my study floor, looking like a rather depressed angle-poise lamp!

For those with a historic bent, yesterday, 12th May, was the anniversary (1543) when the English Parliament, under Henry VIII, prohibited any "women or artificer's prentices, journeymen, servingmen of the degree of yeoman, or under, husbandmen or labourers to read the New Testament in English." Thank God we have come a long way from that, and we think with gratitude of those who laboured (and suffered) on that journey of bringing scripture to all.

Chris Brown has posted another organ piece on the internet. You might be interested in the superbly played 'Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue' by Healey Willan, played on a sampled Peterborough Cathedral organ. Chris writes about the piece: *Healey Willan composed his Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue after hearing Reger's monumental E minor work of the same name, and being challenged to prove that one didn't have to be German to compose such a piece.*

In that he was certainly successful and in the process created arguably a more attractive piece. It might be said that if at the end of the Healey Willan version the organist heaves a sigh of relief, then at the end of the Reger original everybody present heaves a sigh of relief! Willan's contribution has a more concise and

less austere quality which makes it a great recital piece for a varied audience.

This has to be amongst the most noteworthy large scale organ works, so it's surprising it's last outing in the concert hall seems to be 8 years ago! It's a favourite of mine and really gets round the Peterborough organ.

https://www.contrebombarde.com/concerthall/music/39181

A reflection from our Archdeacon, the Ven Justine Allain Chapman

Promise.

Rainbows are everywhere as signs of gratitude for our heroes in the NHS for what they are doing to save lives and care for people in the Covid 19 pandemic. To see a rainbow there has to be sunshine and showers and you have to be looking up into the sky to notice it. Heroes emerge in times of challenge and danger to save us, and we notice them because we realise now we need them, even though they have been there all the time. Sun and rain are common, but when we see them combined in a rainbow we look on in wonder and gratitude, sensing some significance. The rainbow was a sign to Noah after the flood of the promise of God to protect not destroy. It is a sign of hope, the promise that danger will pass and we will come out the other side.

We see rainbows because of the reflection, refraction and dispersion of sunlight in the water droplets of the rain. The colours are all part of the clear pure light that we see by and brings us day. What we glimpse when we see a rainbow is that for pure light, all colours are present, needed, included. Spread out in a rainbow they are a beautiful arc across the earth, like humanity made in the image of God, diverse yet one. None of us can possess a rainbow. It is for all to see and you cannot get closer or further away from it. The promise it holds that danger will pass and there are good things ahead is there for us all equally. We are always the same distance from that promise whenever we can see the rainbow, never closer or further away whichever direction we travel.

So as we see rainbows let us remember God's promise that the Holy Spirit will be present in the sunshine and the showers, within the diversity of human life, which only when we notice and are grateful will bring about the fullness of light and love.

Finally, a few days ago, I posted a link to *The Blessing*, performed by a range of churches in the UK. Here is a version of the same song sung by Christians from Zimbabwe. My previous diocese, Southwark, was linked to 4 of the 5 Zimbabwe dioceses (Rochester is linked to Harare Diocese).

https://www.facebook.com/Stormi.Whitaker/videos/10160011072152228/

Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark