

O sing unto the Lord and new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

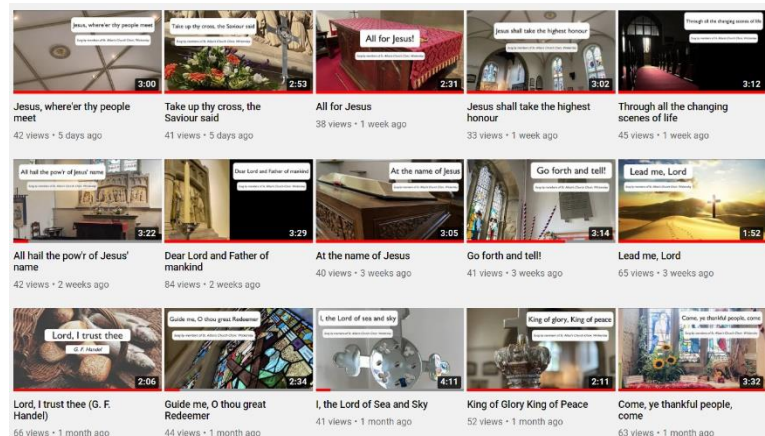
Psalm 96: 1

What a strange time we have all been living in. It seems too long since we were worshipping in our wonderful church space 'normally' and going about our daily lives. I thought it might be nice to share with you what the musicians of our church have been up to...

Throughout this pandemic, the choir have met weekly on Zoom – the replacement for our weekly choir rehearsals. However, instead of rehearsing music, we have enjoyed fellowship together through forms of evening prayer and compline as well as welcoming guest speakers from the Royal School of Church Music to develop our musicianship. We have also enjoyed weekly quizzes and other forms of entertainment. This has kept the choir's faith and fellowship strong throughout this uneasy time. We have learnt more about one another and used this time to learn things about church music we may not have known otherwise.

It has now been six months since we have had live, sung worship in our church. Throughout the strange time of lockdown, the choir and musicians of St. Alban's have worked tirelessly to produce weekly virtual hymns, available on our choir YouTube channel (Choir of St. Alban's Church, Wickersley), for our online worship, both YouTube and Zoom. The virtual hymns have also contributed widely to the community where we have

received several kind comments on social media, informing us of the beauty of the music and that it has helped individuals become closer to God. We have produced 30 videos in total – 28 hymns and 2 anthems. I would like to thank the choir for their hard work and contributions to the virtual hymns.



From this Sunday, 6th September 2020, members of the choir will once again be able to return to the choir stalls. As a result of the latest government guidance and research, the Church of England have permitted choirs to lead singing in worship in a small, socially distanced number. As a result of this positive news, the choir will return on a rota basis of four or six choristers at a time and provide live music at services in the form of a couple of hymns or anthems. Sadly, the congregation are still not permitted to sing at this time, but this is none-the-less an exciting step forward for the church.

The current Sunday pattern of services at present is as follows:

9.30am: Holy Communion (Weekly) – Live-streamed on YouTube.

6.00pm: Choral Evensong (1st Sunday)
Holy Communion (2nd & 4th)
Evening Prayer (3rd Sunday)

If you are unable to attend church for a service, you can now view our 9.30am service LIVE on YouTube at any time from 9.30am. Anyone who visits church will be made very welcome.

I'd like to end with the words of the choristers' prayer which I would like to invite you to pray with me:

***Bless, O Lord, us thy servants,
Who minister in thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips,
We may believe in our hearts,
And what we believe in our hearts
We may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord
Amen***



I wish you all the best. Keep safe and I do hope to see you in church sometime soon.

Cory Lovell

Director of Music.

4th September 2020.



Link to Virtual Hymns:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs2dxUjWwAm-3TbjOjERInw/videos>

Or Google search - 'Choir of St. Alban's Wickersley YouTube'

Link to LIVE 9.30am services:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8ChFp1f4Dhd1fvukTc6ufA/featured>