

Church Newsletter

No 6 November 2020



No sooner than we were getting back into the rhythm of holding services in Church with choral accompaniment than the Government announced another, month-long national lockdown.

As a result churches have been closed for public worship, with some limited exceptions, from 5 November until 2 December. Places of worship may open for private prayer, to broadcast acts of worship and to provide formal childcare and other essential services such as blood donation or foodbanks. Funerals can continue in places of worship, limited to a maximum of 30 people. Weddings, however, will not be allowed to take place except in exceptional circumstances.

Before the Government's lockdown announcement was made we held a special service of Choral Evensong for Black History Month which included an inspirational address from the Shadow Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the Rt Hon David Lammy MP. The service was well attended by a socially-distanced and masked congregation. It was very

heartening to see a number of younger members of the Bar present on this occasion.

Our last service before the lockdown began was Choral Evensong for National Pro Bono Week. The service was part of a programme of activities arranged by the Bar Council, Law Society and CILEX, to recognise and support the voluntary contribution made by lawyers across the UK in giving free legal help to those in need. In this year of unprecedented challenge, for both the voluntary sectors and the legal profession, pro bono legal help has never been more important. We were delighted that Michael Napier CBE QC, formerly the Attorney General's Pro Bono Envoy, gave a very good address.

Since the onset of lockdown we continue to learn how to live with the pandemic and its devastating consequences. These are deeply challenging and difficult times for all of us who have lost loved ones or who are separated from them, those who have lost their jobs, the lonely and the vulnerable. When we are surrounded by fear and suffering, it can be hard to feel hopeful. This coming winter feels like it will be longer and darker than usual.

We shall soon begin Advent, a season of preparation for Christmas when we celebrate Christ among us. Although this year Christmas will look very different, in Jesus, God is with us, sharing our darkness and our struggles, bringing comfort and joy. It is the source of our hope: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) So let us shine in the darkness of this winter.

In conformity with the current guidelines of the Government and Bishops of the Church of England, we are currently unable to hold public services at least until 2 December. During this period our regular worship will follow the traditional pattern of the Temple Church, that is to say: Choral Evensong on Wednesday at 17.45, said Holy Communion on Thursdays at 13.15 and on Sundays



The Rt Hon David Lammy MP giving the address at Evensong

(at 08.30 for said Holy Communion), and for services of Mattins and Choral Communion on Sundays (at 11.15). Services will be conducted by the clergy in Church. They will be live-streamed and accessible on-line via the Church website: www.templechurch.com



The Master and The Reader during the live-stream of the Two minutes silence on Remembrance Sunday

We are enormously grateful to the Temple Music Foundation and to the two Inns for their generous support which has enabled us to upgrade the camera and sound equipment in the Church to provide high quality broadcast output.

Further details about the arrangements for Advent and the great Carol Services and Christmas will be released shortly taking account of any changes in lockdown restrictions.

The Church remains open for private prayer for those who live or work within the precincts of the Temple on weekdays between 12 and 2pm. Unfortunately it is not possible for tourists to visit the Church at this time. In the meantime do please keep calm and carry on. We shall continue to hold you in our prayers and ask you to do the same for us.

Music Department Update

Roger Sayer writes:

October was a wonderful month for the choir with the opportunity to sing together again. Everyone seemed rejuvenated and the boys put in some outstanding singing in the service where they sang the world premiere of a new mass setting written for them by Gareth Treseder.

As I write the tables have turned and the boys are no longer able to meet during the current lockdown. We have a plan to motivate and encourage them and we shall see how we come out of this one.

The sterling work of my colleagues here who put in hours of extra time ensures that the adult singers can continue serving our worship and that we can return in good spirits for any opportunities before Christmas.



The Choristers singing the new mass setting by Gareth Treseder

During the last lockdown we asked each chorister to listen to four contrasting performances of Tallis' *Salvator Mundi* by choirs similar to our own. Each chorister wrote a report analysing the performance, using their musical skills and knowledge, in order to justify which was their favourite. Elliot Ogden, one of our youngest choristers, wrote an outstanding report and was chosen by Charles Andrews, the Church's liturgical organist, to have his review published for the newsletter and it is reproduced below:

Salvator Mundi was composed in Tudor times by Thomas Tallis, one of the greatest English composers. It was first published in 1575 by Tallis and his student William Byrd. It starts off with a traditional sound of his time, but it starts to move freely as it progresses, with a more imaginative musical style as it goes on.

'Salvator Mundi' translates as Saviour of the World, and often appears in paintings of Jesus Christ raising his right hand in a blessing and holding an orb in his left hand. When I am looking at this image, I try to think of the deeper meaning behind it. It looks mysterious and I can sense the sadness in Jesus' eyes which reminds me of his crucifixion. So, when I was listening to the different choirs singing *Salvator Mundi*, I was hoping to find some mystery in the piece. This is why I prefer the quieter versions with a slower pace instead of a loud, hurried version.

The first recording I listened to was performed by **Westminster Cathedral Choir**, conducted by Martin Baker. I thought it had a nice sound, but a bit too loud and slightly hurried, and the soprano was overpowering other parts. The tonal quality was good, and I could clearly hear the words, and the vowels were not neglected. Overall, it was a good performance, but it was not my favourite out of the four choices I was given.

The second recording comes from **Westminster Abbey**, conducted by James O'Donnell. It was sung at a fast pace. It sounded energetic, maybe a bit too much. The contrast was well-defined in some parts and the choir was expressive. Their vowels were sung clearly, but on the first note I could not hear the clear pitch as some of the boys wavered. Despite the first note, it was a pleasant performance.

The third recording I listened to was **King's College Choir**, conducted by Sir David Willcocks. I thought it was a very polished performance and created a nice feeling. In some parts of the first phrase it seemed a bit robotic, maybe because the beat in their singing was too strong. It was an enjoyable performance but did not feel special.

'It is very touching; the sound is smooth, and the dynamics were expressed perfectly!'

Finally, my favourite version of *Salvator Mundi* was sung by **Guildford Cathedral Choir**, conducted by Barry Rose. It is very touching; the sound is smooth, and the dynamics were expressed perfectly. I could feel the mystery behind the piece, it really reminded me of Jesus. In the end when the men were finishing the piece, you could hear their voices ringing beautifully. The pace was the best out of the four versions and exactly how I would sing it. Personally, I would say that Guildford Cathedral Choir were the best.

Written by Elliot Ogden, Temple Church Chorister

The Inns of Court Gainsford Trust: Links with the Temple Church

Last year the Gainsford Trust completed a century. A charity which is supported by the four Inns of Court, it evolved from the ladies' section of the Inns of Court Mission in 1919. The Reader of the Temple is a Trustee and each year we organise a Christmas and Easter Service for the trust supported by one of our organists, as well as involve ourselves in the trust's activities.



Sir Gainsford Bruce

The Mission was originally founded by Sir Gainsford Bruce, a Queen's Bench Judge. It was formally opened by the Prince of Wales (a Royal Bencher and Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn) in 1904, as a club for men and boys based in Drury Lane. It closed in the 1980s but the Ladies' section, which is run by a group of wives of barristers and judges, continues to flourish. The club provides friendship and support to over twenty elderly ladies, many of whom are widows with varying degrees of need, who live in the vicinity of the Inns of Court.

The Master of the Temple well remembers the Drury Lane club, on the corner of Broad Court. His mother was, when Robin was a child, one of the "judges' wives" who ran the Club; and he would be taken there on Tuesday afternoons after school. When Robin arrived at the Temple in 1999, one of the club members, by then very elderly, said she remembered his mother perfectly; and to judge from her description, she did!

The trust's activities have been badly affected by the Coronavirus which has hit the elderly and vulnerable, often living on their own, in particular. In normal times the charity arranges regular social gatherings at a community hall in Leather Lane, Holborn where it provides tea and entertainment. Trips to the theatre are arranged in the winter and a visit to the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace was organised last year. Outings to the country are arranged in the summer. There is a regular summer lunch party at the country house of the Trust's President, Lady Parker and a traditional Christmas lunch which last year was held at Middle Temple, with carols and songs sung by the Metropolitan Police Choir.

Central to the charity's work is home and hospital visiting and organising transport, as well as the provision of advice and assistance for members.

If you would like to know more about the Gainsford Trust, do please contact Mark: reader@templechurch.com

TEMPLE CHURCH

**VIERNE
150**

**Six Online Performances
on Sunday Evenings at 7pm**

- 18 OCT
- 25 OCT
- 1 NOV
- 8 NOV
- 15 NOV
- 22 NOV

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Louis Vierne!

Roger Sayer performs each of Vierne's six symphonies complemented by vibrant and varied British music showcasing the colours of the famous 1924 Harrison and Harrison organ.

For more information visit: templechurch.com/concerts

Temple Music News



The Sixteen performing in the Temple Church in October

Although the second lockdown has caused the postponement of Temple Music's John Ashton Thomas concert on 12th November there is still plenty of world-class music available for you to enjoy from the comfort of your own home at www.templemusic.org

Alongside more than 30 Temple Music at Home performances released over the spring and summer, you can also view a number of full length concerts, recorded live in the Temple Church. Julius Drake and Friends perform works by Schubert and Beethoven and Imogen Cooper gives a concert

featuring music by Schubert and Ravel. The Sixteen's magnificent Temple Music concert last month is also available to view until the middle of November. A further concert by Julius Drake, with soprano Ruby Hughes and cellist Natalie Clein is - at time of writing - in the editing suite ready for release any day now.

All of these concerts and short performances are free to view (although donations are always very welcomed) and we hope they will provide you with some enjoyment during the coming weeks when live music has to take another pause.

With fingers crossed that the lockdown will be eased as planned at the start of December, Temple Music is finalising plans for its annual Messiah concert, it will be different this year, but in a special way.

Please join the Temple Music e-list at www.templemusic.org or follow them on Facebook or Twitter @TempleMusicFdn to be kept informed about all future live and streamed concerts.



Supporting Barristers

May we draw your attention again to the appeal, made jointly by the Inns of Court and the Barristers' Benevolent Association (BBA), to help members of the Bar who have contracted the coronavirus and are unable to support themselves and their families. If you would like to find out about the BBA's support or how to make a contribution to their appeal, please go to the donations page on their [website](http://www.bba.org.uk).



Temple Music

Monday 14 December 7.00pm

Handel's Messiah

Collegium Musicum of London

Greg Morris Director

For more information and to book:

www.templemusic.org

Personal Profile:

Matthew Power, Verger of the Temple Church

Mark Hatcher interviews Matthew Power in the first of a series of personal profiles

Before churches had pews it was the responsibility of the Verger to clear a way for the clergy, bearing the 'verge'. The ceremonial side of Matt Power's role is just part of his job as Verger of the Temple Church. He describes being the Verger as a mixture of 'caretaker, operations manager, self-taught IT/ communications expert and general problem solver.'

After leaving university with a degree in fine art Matt went to Christ Church Oxford as a junior verger. He admits it was a bit of a gamble because he didn't know what he wanted to do after studying. But his various jobs in the Cathedral (which also serves as College chapel) brought together his interests in art, music and history.

After 23 years amid the dreaming spires, including a spell as Sacristan and 10 years as The Dean's Verger, Matt arrived at the Temple Church in October 2018, following the retirement of John Shearer. At Christ Church there were five vergers and a huge team of 600 supporting volunteers, embroiderers, stewards and shop assistants. The Temple operation is much smaller but Matt is much busier and he likes to be involved in many of the different jobs himself.

No day in the Temple Church is the same but there is a similar pattern (pre-Covid and currently). Matt's day usually start at 8 am when he faces a 'barrage of emails' and then greets the cleaners who come in every morning. He meets the volunteers in time for opening up the Church and the shop to the public (when this is permitted). Matt spends much of the day, behind the scenes, dealing with administration: handling church bookings, diary management with Catherine de Satge (Church Administrator) in the Church Office, doing the Choir payroll, managing Gift Aid payments, designing posters for services, as well as managing and regularly updating the website. He also sets up for the different services and masterminds the technology to broadcast services, as well as running 'Matt and Cath's Bar' in the Round after Choral Evensong on Wednesdays (when permitted). In many ways Matt is the public face of the Church on the floor of the Church at all times. He says he feels a bit like a swan, often appearing serene on the surface in his verger's gown, whilst paddling fast underneath.

Lockdown has pushed the Temple Church forward with technology. 'With the generous support of the Inns and the Temple Music Foundation, we've been able to livestream our services and do webcasts.

It is an oasis of calm here and I have to pinch myself from time to time. It's a bit like living in a village and I get to meet benchers, members of the judiciary, barristers, the Inns staff as well as people from all sorts of walks of life. The Inns' gardens are lovely; I'm in clover here.'

We've all had to get used to Zoom and seeing people in their little boxes on screen.' He firmly believes that live-streaming should not present a picture perfect performance as if from a film set but should offer a window on acts of worship in the Church as they are actually happening.

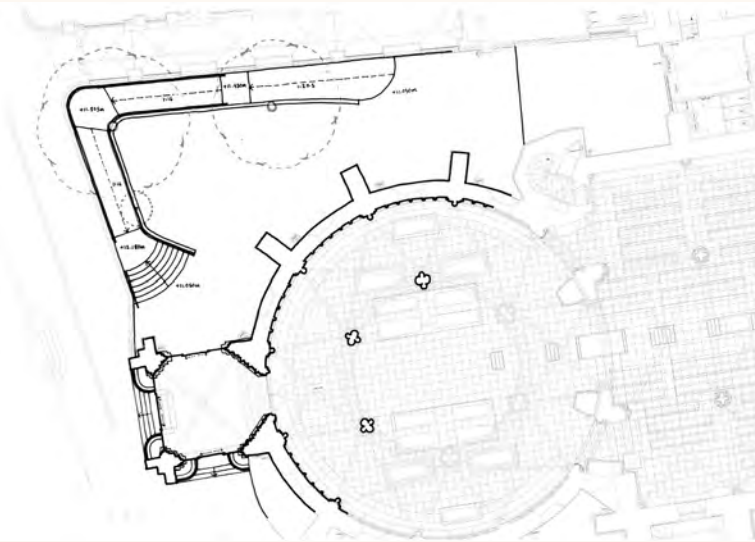
Matt assists with the administration of communion and reads at some of the services. He loves the Book of Common Prayer which he likens to the regular heartbeat of the Church, providing an underlying stability to the rhythm of the day.

Matt lives over the shop. He has a flat in Goldsmith Buildings which overlooks the Church. 'It is an oasis of calm here and I have to pinch myself from time to time. It's a bit like living in a village and I get to meet benchers, members of the judiciary, barristers, the Inns staff as well as people from all sorts of walks of life. The Inns' gardens are lovely; I'm in clover here.' With the current lockdown there is no immediate prospect of a return to Matt and Cath's drinks on Wednesday evenings. In the meantime Matt will be fully occupied with all his other verging responsibilities.

Below: *The Temple Church Verger leading the procession*



Restoration and Renewal project: update



The developmental work on this project is continuing in order to get us to RIBA Stage 3, and, subject to the approvals of Inner and Middle Temple, to the submission of an application for Planning Consent in 2021. The project aims to restore the Norman West Door, improve access to and within the Church, create new rehearsal and office space in the roof, and improve the 'backstage' facilities to make the Church a more attractive venue for concerts and other events.

Through our Architects, Purcell we have shared our Master Plan with the City Corporation, the Diocese of London and Historic England as part of a phased programme of pre-application consultations. Arrangements are in hand to share the objectives of the plan and its strategic issues with the Ancient Monuments Society and the Church Building Council.

Appointment of business consultants

In our last newsletter we referred to the need for an independent review to be undertaken of the robustness of our plans for generating additional revenue for the Church during the current and possible post-Covid environment. We have now appointed Fourth Street consultants to prepare a comprehensive business plan for the Church, at the heart of which will be an operational financial model projecting income and expenditure, informed by baseline research and analysis.

Fourth Street's consultants have worked with many of the national museums and galleries in London supporting their capital development programmes, all four UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College and Historic Royal Palaces as well as other leading visitor attractions.

Following a useful orientation meeting with the consultants work has now started on gathering the necessary data. The business plan will address the typical requirements of external funders including a market analysis (covering supply, demand and competitor analysis).

Funding

As we approach RIBA Stage 3 and then the main works themselves, the search for benefactions goes on. This becomes in effect the search for benefactors – for further trusts, businesses and individuals who might come to value our wonderful building and our project to equip it for the next century of service to the Inns, to London and to the Common Law world. We are very grateful to those who are helping us to make valuable connections, introducing us to those with the resources – and quite possibly the enthusiasm! – to help us significantly on our way. And we are greatly heartened already by the arrival of donations – some of them very generous indeed – from our present, long-standing friends.

If you can help effect any personal introductions to potential supporters, do please get in touch with us. As soon as we can once more fling open our doors, we will be welcoming into the Church a number of such possible allies, who are clearly gripped by the project and its effect on all the Church can offer.

Here meanwhile is just a taster of the work we have been doing over the summer. Take a close look at the West Doorway and its carvings, when you are next here. You will quickly see the areas of degraded stone, the carvings all but eroded away. With the architects, conservators and statutory consultees we have been looking at every stone, one by one, to see which might be replaced, which repaired and which left alone. It turns out that all the good crisp stones are 12th century; all the degraded stones, 19th. What an irony, that the 19th century repairs, so well intended, have so markedly decayed.

On the next page is just an impression of what we might be aiming at, in the rebeautification of the Doorway: the upper photograph shows its present state, mottled and badly "bruised"; the lower, the repairs that we might well hope to effect to the columnar, foliate and animal decoration. Do not ask us quite yet, what we, our specialists and our consultees will decide about the demi-figures and capitals, lovely but forlorn! There are nice questions to be answered here; and our advisors are extraordinarily expert in the field. So rest assured: the result will, thanks to all those who are and will be helping with the planning and the execution - and the funding – of the work, be a triumph. The West Doorway will once again be one of the glories of London, a fitting tribute to all those who are helping to realise our vision for the Church through the whole 21st century and beyond.



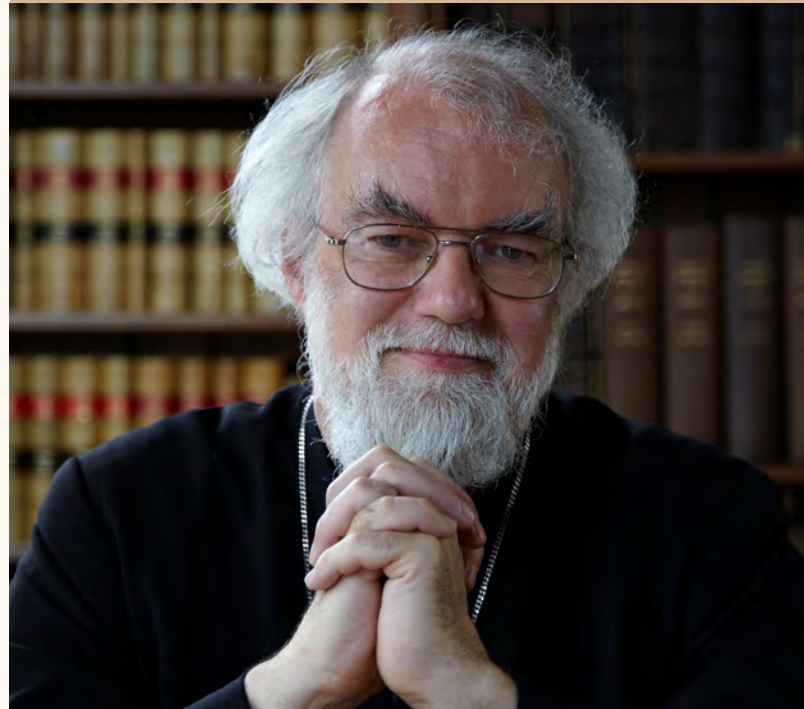
Saving our Order:

Thomas Becket, Henry II

and the Law of Church and State

A public lecture by Rowan Williams

10 December 2020



Friends of the Temple Church

American readers of this newsletter may be interested to know that, in order to facilitate donations to the Temple Church Restoration and Renewal Project from the US, arrangements have been made for tax-efficient giving through CAF America's Donor Advised Gift service which can be used to make credit card donations. It can be accessed [here](#):

To find out more about the Friends of the Temple, please contact Robin Griffith-Jones: master@templechurch.com

The Ecclesiastical Law Society, in association with Villanova University, Notre Dame University, the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and the British Embassy to the Holy See, extend a warm invitation to this special lecture to mark the 850th anniversary of the murder of Saint Thomas of Canterbury.

Lord Williams of Oystermouth, theologian, poet and Honorary Bencher of Inner Temple, was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, serving from 2002 to 2012. He subsequently sat as a cross-bench peer in the House of Lords, and was Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge until his retirement from both in the summer of 2020.

Thomas Becket, saint and martyr, was the 39th Archbishop of Canterbury, serving from 1162 to 29 December 1170 when he was brutally murdered in his cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II. His death sent shockwaves through medieval Europe which continue to resonate in the present day.

To be delivered via zoom on **Thursday 10 December 2020 at 5.30 pm GMT**. Admission to the lecture is free of charge but registration is required in advance. **Register here** and a code will be emailed to you allowing entry to the lecture.



Forthcoming Services and Events at the Temple Church

Wednesday 18 November 5.45pm

Online only

Choral Evensong to celebrate
USA Thanksgiving

Wednesday 25 November 5.45pm

Online only

Choral Evensong for St Andrew's Day

Wednesday 2 December 6.00pm

Advent Carol Service

We hope the church will be open again. Please note: owing to social distancing requirements a record must be kept of those attending the service. Kindly book in with Catherine in the Church Office. Priority will be given to members of the Inns. Contact: Catherine de Satgé, catherine@templechurch.com

Wednesday 9 December 6.00pm,

Noel! A celebration of Christmas

Sung by the Temple Singers

Please note: owing to social distancing requirements a record must be kept of those attending the service. Kindly book in with Catherine in the Church Office. Priority will be given to members of the Inns. Contact: Catherine de Satgé, catherine@templechurch.com

Sunday 13 December 11.15am

Temple Church Carol Service

Sung by the Temple Church Choir

This service is also sung on 16 December. Please note: owing to social distancing requirements we will be issuing tickets for this service. Priority will be given to members of the Inns. Contact: Catherine de Satgé, catherine@templechurch.com

Sunday 13 December 3.30pm online only

Ceremony of Carols

The Choristers of the Temple Church Choir
Roger Sayer *Director*
Charles Andrews *Organ*
Further details: www.templechurch.com

Monday 14 December 7.00pm

Handel's Messiah

Collegium Musicum of London
Greg Morris *Director*

For more information and to book:
www.templemusic.org

Wednesday 16 December 6.00pm

Temple Church Carol Service

Sung by the Temple Church Choir

This service is also sung on 9 and 13

December. Please note: owing to social distancing requirements we will be issuing tickets for this service. Priority will be given to members of the Inns. Contact: Catherine de Satgé, catherine@templechurch.com

Thursday 24 December 11.15pm

Christmas Eve Choral Communion

Friday 25 December 11.15am

Christmas Day Choral Mattins

Please note: owing to social distancing requirements we will be issuing tickets for this service. Priority will be given to members of the Inns. Contact: Catherine de Satgé, catherine@templechurch.com

All of our services will be live-streamed on the Church's YouTube Channel

Although the Church remains closed to the public for much of the time, our online services continue thanks to the dedication and drive of the Temple Church team including in the Music Department Roger Sayer, Tom Allery, Charlie Andrews and Elisabeth Munns as well as Catherine de Satgé (Church Administrator) and Matt Power (Verger), together with our friends and generous supporters.

Mark Hatcher
Reader of the Temple

Robin Griffith-Jones
Master of the Temple

Closing prayer

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of thy mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from thy love
in Christ Jesu our Lord. Amen.

We want the Temple Church Newsletter to be as useful, interesting and stimulating as possible, and would like to hear your thoughts and suggestions for improvement. We welcome feedback. Please email: reader@templechurch.com

Are you on the distribution list for this newsletter or do you know of someone who might be interested? To find out more, please contact Catherine de Satgé: catherine@templechurch.com or call her on + 44 (0) 207 353 8559.