

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Hitting the right note

Dear Friends,

What do you look for in a good hymn?

I think that most people would suggest a great and well known tune. Perhaps the words and their meaning may not feature quite so much in our choice.

Martin Penny and I recently went on a course on Music at Southwark Cathedral. Advertised as 'Hitting the Right Note' it concentrated mainly on modern hymns. It was reassuring to find that we were doing most of the 'right things'. A common theme was that congregations are slow to complain, but when it comes to singing unknown hymns this seems to raise some murmurs in every church!

The Royal School of Music publish hymn guides to go with the readings and themes, our hymnbook has suggested choices for each Sunday of the year. Martin uses these lists, HymnQuest (a database of some 45,000 hymns indexed by theme, bible reading etc) and our own All Saints lists from previous years to choose our hymns carefully to fit in with the readings, and also that we may all continue to know a large range of hymns. Each month I look through his draft for the forthcoming month and occasionally ask for changes.

It is amazing how difficult and time consuming it is then to find another hymn that fits or that we have not sung very recently.

Hymns are a part of our heritage and tradition, and it is important that we should have a good range of hymns that we can

sing, from beloved older ones to new and possibly more challenging ones. All hymns (including some firm favourites) were new once!

You may well be surprised to learn how very limited people's choices are when it comes to weddings, baptisms or funerals, as so few hymns are known to most people because schools don't often sing hymns anymore.

Even though we may not always particularly rate a hymn's words, they do convey meaning, and sometimes it may be rather questionable in its theology!

The question then is whether we edit them, or do we just understand that they may not always express faith perfectly but are part of our tradition (e.g. The Church's One Foundation).

John Bell, the Iona hymn writer suggests that we sing for these reasons:

- Because we can
- To create identity
- To express emotion
- To express words
- To revisit the past
- To tell stories
- To shape the future
- To help us to work together
- To exercise creativity
- To give of ourselves
- And to follow the command to praise.

During the choir holidays we would like you to choose your favourite hymn(s), and we would love to know your choices by July 16th please.

There will be a list at the back of church.

If the hymns that we choose reflect any of John Bell's criteria, it may help us to realise how difficult it is to always find appropriate hymns, as well as share our personal spiritual preferences - and then we will all be the richer from the shared experience.

Happy Choosing! And Singing!.....and Believing!

Love Jo

The BBC Songs of Praise published a list to the top 100 hymns

1. How Great Thou Art
2. In Christ Alone
3. Be Still, For the Presence Of The Lord
4. Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
5. Here I Am, Lord (I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky)
6. And Can It Be
7. Abide With Me
8. Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer/Jehova
9. Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace
10. The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended
11. Jerusalem
12. Great Is Thy Faithfulness
13. Shine Jesus Shine (Lord, The Light Of Your Love Is Shining)
14. Love Divine, All Love Excelling
15. Be Thou My Vision
16. Amazing Grace
17. I Vow To Thee My Country
18. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
19. What A Friend We have In Jesus
20. Thine Be The Glory
21. To God Be The Glory
22. Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven
23. Be Still, My Soul
24. How Deep The Father's Love For Us
25. Will Your Anchor Hold In The Storms Of Life
26. Psalm 23 (by Stuart Townend)
27. O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
28. Lord, For The Years
29. Lord Of All Hopefulness
30. The Servant King
31. O Jesus, I Have Promised
32. Blessed Assurance
33. All Things Bright And Beautiful
34. The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
35. King Of Kings, Majesty
36. Just As I Am
37. Beauty For Brokenness
38. Lord Of The Dance
39. There Is A Redeemer
40. My Song Is Love Unknown
41. My Jesus, My Saviour
42. Eternal Father, Strong To Save
43. Here I Am To Worship (Light Of The World)
44. Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
45. Angel-Voices Ever Singing
46. How Great Is Our God
47. Before The Throne Of God
48. Here Is Love, Vast As The Ocean
49. Morning Has Broken
50. The King Of Love My Shepherd Is
In Heavenly Love Abiding
52. At The Name Of Jesus
Tell Out My Soul
Nearer My God To Thee
Lord, Jesus Christ (Living Lord)
Give Me Joy In My Heart
Brother, Let Me Be Your Servant
53. I'll Go In The Strength Of The Lord
54. Soul Of My Saviour
55. Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning
56. For All The Saints
All People That On Earth Do Dwell
57. O Happy Day
58. The Church's One Foundation
59. He Who Would Valiant Be
I Cannot Tell
60. O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing
61. How Shall I Sing That Majesty
Crown Him With Many Crowns
62. Take My Life
Lead Kindly Light
63. Mine Eyes have Seen The Glory
64. I Will Sing The Wondrous Story
65. Now Thank We All Our God
66. There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
67. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
68. Come Down, O Love Divine
69. Who Would True Valour See
All Creatures Of Our God And King
70. Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer
71. All My Hope on God Is Founded
72. Lead Us, Heavenly Father
73. Christ Be Our Light
74. For The Beauty Of The Earth
75. Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Hail, Redeemer, King Divine
76. Thy Hand, O God, Has Guided
77. Since Jesus Came Into My Heart
78. We Cannot Measure How You Heal
79. Praise to The Lord, The Almighty
80. Ye Servants of God
81. O God, Our Help in Ages Past
82. Praise to the Holiest In The Height
83. O Worship the King All Glorious Above
84. Like A Mighty River Flowing
Let All the World In Every Corner Sing
85. Lord, Enthroned In Heavenly Splendour
86. Sing of The Lord's Goodness
87. O When The Saints
88. God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him