

# Vicar's Blog

July 2018

We come to the time in the church season known as ordinary time, a time that is not marked by those big events such as Christmas and Easter.

Our worship and praise to God, may have a different seasonal feel, but in Christian life there is no time that is just ordinary. This season of ordinary time is a time when we have opportunity to recognise the extraordinary presence of God in the ordinariness of our lives. The congregation gathers at our parish church in all seasons, to worship through words and music in traditional and more informal ways through our Celebrate together service and other occasional services. It is a church where everyone is welcome.

Psalm 150 says 'praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.'

Whatever the season, the gift of music plays a large part in church life and worship. The Royal College of Music set aside a day of celebration of music and musicianship in June, giving recognition that words and music stem from creativity, discipline, effort, and dedication. We see this dedication at Holy Trinity and particularly with our faithful choir and organist, in our surrounding churches, as well as in our beautiful Cathedral.

The talents of both young and old can inspire us and deepen our Christian worship. Holy Trinity church has seen many excellent musicians and choirs over the years, whether in worship services or through concerts in different forms. Holy Trinity is blessed with an excellent organist and music director John Knowles, and as we look over past years, we celebrate that our church has been a place of nurture in the development of many musical gifts. It was a great joy that Professional musician and organist Luke Bond, who was a chorister and later organist at Holy Trinity, was the organist at the Royal wedding in May.

It is a joy that a choir, a group of 30 musicians from the diocese of Västerås in Sweden joined with Holy Trinity Choir and sang Swedish songs at evensong on 3rd June. It was a

great time of not only celebrating music but of celebrating the partnership between Gloucester Diocese and the Diocese of Västerås.

Music is a gift from God, a gift, to be nurtured and celebrated. Wherever we are we can sing praises to God. It is a gift that brings us together, brings joy and celebration. In this season of ordinary time, our praise is never ordinary, what-ever our skill and ability, music is extraordinary in God's ears.

Caroline