

THIS AND THAT 194

I have just listened to one of the most jubilant pieces of music ever written: *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen!* (Rejoice unto God in all lands! A sacred cantata by JS Bach.

Virtuosic brilliance

Three years ago the *Netherlands Bach Society* launched a website called *All of Bach*. Every week a work by Bach is uploaded. The choice for the third birthday of the website was a performance of this most festive of festive cantatas.

It is sung by Maria Keohane, glorious of voice and serene of face. A modest orchestra of strings and continuo, is joined in the opening and final arias by a single, virtuosic valveless trumpet. A soaring voice and trumpet duet. Exultation to begin and end. Expressive beauty in between.

The soprano's high C in the *Alleluia* finale stops the heart. Only God is worthy of such virtuosic jubilation. So glorious an offering demands no less a recipient. I listen in gratitude and am convicted. God simply has to be.

[the website: <http://allofbach.com/en/bwv/bwv-51/>]

Out with wanhope and sluggy slumbring

Joy and jubilation are an indispensable part of faith. The gloom and horror of sin, guilt, betrayal, and crucifixion give way to the bright joy of Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost and redemption.

In Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Miller's Tale*, when it dawned upon Absalom, the parish clerke, that he had kissed his loved one's backside, presented to him derisively at the window in the dark, not her face, he rolled about on the ground in an agony of rage. He rubbed his mouth with dust, sand, straw and chips.

When I first read *The Miller's Tale* as a schoolboy I too rolled about, but in an agony of joy, glee and sheer delight. Years later, as a teacher of English, it delighted me to introduce my pupils to a similar joy and glee in Chaucer's rollicking bawdiness. Joylessness says Chaucer is a *rotten sinne*. In its train follow *slouthe, wanhope and sluggy slumbring*. The sin of joylessness inclines us to *undevotion, through which a man is so blunt that he may neyther rede ne sing in Holy Church*"

"I am not religious but very spiritual"

A lot of tosh is talked about religion. Such as the claim of many unchurched folk: *I am not religious but am very spiritual*. The columnist, Theodore Dalrymple is perceptive on the subject:

The reason (I surmise) that so many people claim to be spiritual rather than religious is that being spiritual imposes no discipline upon them, at least none that they do not choose themselves. Being religious, on the other hand, implies an obligation to observe rules and rituals that may interfere awkwardly with daily life. Being spiritual-but-not-religious gives you that warm, inner feeling, a bit like whisky on a cold day, and reassures you that there is more to life—or, at least, to your life—than meets the eye, without actually having to interrupt the flux of everyday existence. It is the gratification of religion without the inconvenience of religion. Unfortunately, like many highly diluted solutions, it has no taste.

The perfect come back

At the birth of each of his quiver full of children a well to do country squire laid down in his cellar twelve dozen bottles of the best port. Every day his butler, with the aid of a candle and a subtle hand in pulling the cork released the nectar into a Waterford decanter, ensuring that no sediment leaked into the glass. In childhood his children put up with the ceremony. In the mischief of adolescence they decided to call father's bluff. They poured the nectar from his decanter into the rose garden and replaced it with some syrupy rubbish bought from the Coop for a couple of pounds. After dinner they watched as the old man settled again into his port. Nosing it, he said: *Magnificent!* Bursting their sides, the children revealed where they had bought it. Unperturbed the old man pressed the bell for his butler. *"How long have you worked for me, James?" "Thirty one years, sir." "You are sacked. You have been selling my Taylor's 1927 to the Coop."*

All Andrew Neaum's weekly articles are at: <http://www.andrewneaum.com/>

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THIS WEEK: EASTER SEVEN 28 May 2017

St Nicholas' Chapel, Pilley: 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's South Baddesley: 9.30am Matins BCP

St John's Boldre: 10.30am Holy Communion & Children's Club

St John's Boldre: 6.30pm Choral Evensong

For Prayer This Week

For Prayer: World Peace. Sufferers from violence, persecution, poverty and corrupt government. Those offering themselves for election. Prayer Requests: Heather Collings-Wells, Colin Erne, Janet. Rest in Peace: Juliette Venner, Carla Rickman.

Activities This Week

Mon 29 May - 4.30pm Bible Study Ph. 07786194282 for venue

Tue 30 May - 10.30am Vintage Fitness. Seated exercise to music at St Nicholas' Pilley & refreshment

Tue 30 May - 2.00pm St John's. Funeral: Juliette Venner

Wed 31 May - 10.30am St Nicholas' Pilley, Communion + Coffee

Thu 1 Jun - 10.30am Vintage Fitness. As on Tuesdays

NEXT WEEK: PENTECOST 4 June 2017

St Nicholas' Chapel, Pilley: 8.00am Holy Communion

St John's Boldre: 10.30am Matins & Children's Club

St Mary's South Baddesley: 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Dates for the Diary 2017

Sat 10 Jun - 1.00pm St John's - Wedding Hayley & James

Sat 17 Jun - 1.30pm St John's Wedding, Daniel & Helen

Sun 25 Jun - 6.30pm St John's - Patronal Festival Evensong

Sat 1 Jul - 1.00 - 5.00pm Boldre Church and Village Fete

Sat 15 Jul - 12.00pm St John's - Wedding Michael & Emily

Sun 16 Jul - 3.00pm St Saviour's Brock - 'Songs of Praise'

Sat 22 Jul - 3.00pm St John's - Wedding Andrew & Jennifer

Fri 25 July - 8.50am WG School end of term Service

Fri 1 Sep - 2.00pm St John's - Wedding Simon & Ionella

Sat 9 Sep - Ride & Stride - St John's & St Mary's 10 - 6pm

Sat 9 Sep - 1.00pm St John's Wedding James & Camilla

Sat 23 Sep - 7.00pm Boldre Memorial Hall - Harvest Supper

Sun 24 Sep - 10.30am St John's - Harvest Festival

Sat 30 Sep - 2.00pm St John's - Wedding Andrew & Jessica

Sun 1 Oct - 10.30am St John's - Pet Service

Sat 14 Oct - 12.30pm St John's - Wedding James & Sophie

Sat 28 Oct - 1.30pm St John's - Wedding Alexander & Alice

Sun 29 Oct - 10.30am St John's - All Saints/All Souls

WELCOME FRANK AND FRANCIS

Our Celebrant and Preacher today is Frank Willet. Welcome, welcome, welcome! We trust that it is good to be back among us.

SAT 3 JUNE ST MARY'S SOUTH BADDESLEY FETE

From 2.00 - 5.00pm in beautiful Pylewell Park a varied and bountiful Fete. Not to be missed.

SAT 10 JUNE, from 3pm WOLVESEY PALACE

Bishop Tim and Sally Dakin invite you to tea in the garden of Wolvesey Palace, Winchester from 3pm on Saturday. Tickets £10. RSVP, with cheques to 'AMADET' please, to Sally Dakin, Wolvesey, Winchester SO23 9ND (tel: 01962 854050) Proceeds to training Church Army evangelists Carlisle College, Nairobi.

1 JULY BOLDRE CHURCH & VILLAGE FETE

Don't forget to think positively about our Fete and to sell tickets for the Draw. Books, gifts, craft, bric a brac all are welcome. As too are offers of help on the day. Contact Sandy Walford: 01590 672 176

25-27 JULY - NEW FOREST SHOW - CHURCH TENT

Any one who would like to offer 3 hours to the Church Tent at the New Forest Show please contact Gordon and Wendy Hutchison (02380 292608) for help in 'Face Painting and Children's work', or Barry Kent for 'Meet and Greet' work. (01425 611348 / 07999504388) Entry for helpers is free! See the Notice Board for more details.