

The Parish Church of Saint George



PARISH MAGAZINE

An open door in the heart of the City



St Brigid of Kildare



FEBRUARY 2024

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Editorial Team: William Odling-Smee, Selby Nesbitt, Tony Merrick.

From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent begins quite early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on the 14th February. Ash Wednesday services with the imposition of ashes will be held at 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 1:00 PM and at 7:30 PM with choir and address. In your prayers please continue to remember those who are preparing for Holy Baptism and Confirmation at Easter. I am very grateful to Fr Graham for all that he does for the candidates in his preparation classes with them.

I am also very grateful to those who volunteered after my appeal in last month's magazine. There was a good response and we have already made good progress in the hall, the kitchen and other rooms. There is a good deal left to do, especially in the Sunday Club room and the Library, but I have no doubt the various tasks will be completed by Easter.

The churchyard will be closed to all vehicles without exception on Friday 9th of February. This is the cause of the essential maintenance and cleaning of the whole churchyard. It will also be necessary to close the churchyard on at least two future dates for cleaning of the drains and for re-marking the parking spaces. As much notice as possible of these closures will be given.

Some of you may have already noticed that our updated and refurbished main notice board is now back in place. I am very grateful to Mr Gerard O'Prey for his excellent work on the woodwork and to Powdertech Ltd for re-powdercoating the gold cross above the board, free of charge.

It is that time of year again when many of us review our financial contributions to the parish. I have just instructed my bank to increase my own Standing Order each month. Whether you give by monthly Standing Order or through the envelope scheme, please think seriously if you are in a position to do so, with regard to increasing your financial contribution to the parish. We are extremely grateful for every contribution, regardless of the amount. However, the costs of keeping St George's running smoothly have risen considerably in recent years due to things such as increased gas and electricity charges amongst many others. Some standing orders have not been reviewed for a number of years. There may be very good reasons why that is so, and no one should be under any obligation to increase their contributions if they are unable to do so. However, if you are in a position to increase your standing order or Free Will Offering to parish funds, then even an extra £1 or £2 per week would be a very welcome and gratefully received increase.

I am very pleased to report that the Organ Restoration Appeal Fund continues to grow and now stands at over £80,000 with contributions continuing to come in. This is a magnificent response and represents over 80% of our target figure. Well done and sincere thanks to all of you who have contributed and are continuing to contribute to this appeal.

I will be visiting and celebrating Holy Communion with our housebound parishioners during Lent. If you know of anyone, whether a parishioner or not, who would like a pastoral visit and Holy Communion, and who can no longer attend church then please let me know on 079-0279-2084, so that I can make arrangements to see them.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Brian Stewart

PARISH NOTICES

Register of Vestry Members: 2024

The annual review of the Register of Vestry Members will take place during the month of February. This is a reminder of the registration process. First, if you are already registered, then there is nothing more you need to do; you can check for your name on the 2023 list of Vestry Members, which is in the narthex. However, if you are not registered and would like to be 'signed up', Forms of Declaration will be available from our Churchwardens during the month of February. Membership of the Vestry entitles you to participate and vote in the elections, which are held at the Easter General Vestry meeting.

The 'terms' for those who can be included on the Register of Vestry Members are that they must be a resident or accustomed member and subscribe to the funds of the parish by a receiptable collection. The Free Will Offering (FWO) scheme is an ideal way to subscribe to parish funds and satisfy this requirement; for further information on the scheme please consult Selby Nesbitt, FWO co-ordinator or Douglas McIlldoon, our Treasurer. If you have any general queries about the Register of Vestry Members, please speak with the Rector or Peter Hunter, Hon. Secretary.

Please note, the **Easter Vestry will be held on Sunday, 14th April at 1:00pm** after the morning service. There will be a sandwich lunch before the meeting.

Walsingham Pilgrimage - 2024



Having come through the Christmas festivities, followed by the Epiphany season, my thoughts turn once again to Walsingham and our pilgrimage there later in the year. The dates I have booked for our visit this year to "England's Nazareth" are from Thursday 12th September to Tuesday 17th September which is earlier than last year. From recent experience, since the Pandemic there have been only 8 to 10 people travelling so I have provisionally booked only twelve places. I will be opening a list at the beginning of February and if anyone is interested in making the pilgrimage this year please sign up as soon as possible. Unfortunately, I will not be able to give you the exact costings just yet. But once I have some idea of the number who would wish to make the pilgrimage we can decide which method of transport to use to get there. If you would like to know more why not come along to one of our meetings on the last Thursday of each month for a celebration of the Eucharist at 1:00pm followed by a light lunch. You will be made most welcome. If you wish to commit to this year's pilgrimage, a deposit of £30.00 will be required by the end of May. Contact Fr. Graeme Pollock, **Tel: 028-9065-4868**

PARISH NOTICES

LENTEN LUNCH

Welcome Organisation, Belfast

This organisation provides:

- ◆ Homeless support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. People affected by homelessness have free access to hot meals, tea and coffee, showers, toilets, internet, laundry facilities, advice and health support.
- ◆ Crisis accommodation for women who find themselves in a vulnerable situation.
- ◆ Floating support for homeless people who have now accessed accommodation.
- ◆ Mobile health unit provision.
- ◆ Street outreach teams support not only for those sleeping rough but also for the Saint Georges Parish Church team who are also often on the front line trying their best to deal with difficult situations.

In order to help with their work and as an expression of our gratitude for the support they give our parish, this years **Lenten Lunch Fund Raising** event will be in aid of the **WELCOME ORGANISATION** and will be held after the **11:00 Eucharist on Sunday 3rd March.**

Please do your best to come along and give your support.

Further information **about** The Welcome Centre can be found online.

Janet Sandikli

A WONDERFUL REPLY

The Belfast Group of Alcoholics Anonymous use our Sunday School room on a Wednesday and Friday at lunch time. Recently, they made a very generous donation to St George's which was suitably acknowledged. We received the following reply from the AA.

*It is we who should be thanking you for allowing us to use the room.
Pass onto those interested that many men and women have gotten
sober and remain so.
Families have been reconciled and children have seen estranged
parents returned.
This is all due to the kindness of St George's and it's congregation.*

PARISH NOTICES

You are invited to a Coffee Morning
On Wednesday 7th February at 11:00am in the Parish Hall
Proceeds to the Alzheimer's Society NI

The **Alzheimer's Society** is a charity organisation that provides help and support to people with dementia and their caregivers in the United Kingdom. It has invested £94 million in dementia research and funded a variety of projects and initiatives across the UK to help improve care, understand causes and work towards a cure, including research in Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster.

Alzheimer's Disease is the most common cause of dementia affecting millions of people around the world – we will all probably know someone who is suffering from this currently incurable disease. The 10:30am Wednesday morning congregation of St George's has supported the Alzheimer's Society NI over recent years and we are keen to continue our fundraising efforts.

Do support the Coffee Morning, bring friends and if you can help in any way, please speak to Betty, Dot or Judith. Thank you.



Provide homes for wildlife this winter

One of the best thing we can do for wildlife in the winter is provide shelter. Here are a few tips for creating natural homes for wildlife:

- **Let ivy grow**, as this climbing plant is an important source of food and shelter for birds and insects.
- **Leave log and leaf piles around your pond** where frogs can spend the winter.
- **Resist the urge to cut back!** Leave dry plant stems standing in the garden, as insects will crawl inside to spend the winter.
- **Avoid cutting hedges until the end of winter**, as they provide food and shelter for birds.

A Broad Church

Anyone familiar with the history of the Church of England should not be surprised that Paula Vennells almost became Bishop of London in 2017. In 1724, Lancelot Blackburne was appointed Archbishop of York despite having been a pirate in the Caribbean. From 1732 until his death in office in 1743, no ordinations took place. Performing a rare confirmation at St Mary's, Nottingham, he was ejected by the vicar, who took exception to the bored archbishop attempting to light a pipe and down a pint during the service.

Definitely one for the ladies, Blackburne dug a tunnel from his deanery in Exeter to a nearby canon's house so that he could sport with his wife. As the satirist William Donaldson quipped: "His behavior was seldom of the standard expected of a cleric; in fact it was seldom of the standard expected of a pirate."

The Right Rev. David Wilbourne, Honorary Assistant Bishop of York

Inishkeel Parish Church

Standing at the gate before the service started,
In their Sunday suits, the Barrets talked together,
Smiled shyly at the visitors who packed the church
In summer. A passing congregation
Who mostly knew each other, were sometimes fashionable,
Their sons at prep school, the daughters boarding
Inside it was as neat and tight as a boat.
Stone flags and whitewashed, a little brass.
Old Mrs Fewitt played the organ and Mr Alwell
Read the lessons in an accent as sharp as salt.

O Absalom, Absalom, my son,
An hour is too long, there are too many people,
Too many heads and eyes and thoughts that clutter.
Only one moment counted with the lessons
And that was when, the pressure just too much,
You walked slowly out of that packed church
Into bright cold air.
Then, before the recognitions and the talk,
There was an enormous sight of the sea,
A silent water beyond society.

By Tom Paulin (1949 -)

Submitted by Geoffrey May

HOW TO BE A TEACHER - A TRUE STORY.

Dave was a car mechanic in a small town in county Down. He was competent at his job and well respected. One evening he was surprised to receive a call from the principal of the technical college. Dave, he said, I'd like you to teach a class in Car Mechanics starting in September?

Dave was delighted and readily agreed. However, the next day he had second thoughts. What did he know about being a teacher? What time had he ever spent on a teacher training course? He needed advice and a name readily came to mind.

Mr McIlhinny was a teacher that he'd always admired. He called him up, told him his problem and asked could they have a chat? Certainly, was the reply. What about lunchtime on Thursday?

So he came to the college as agreed and received a very warm welcome. They were not talking long before Dave found that his former teacher was more interested in exchanging stories about how his former classmates had got on in life. He was so keen that Dave could not get a word in edgeways.

Then a bell rang and his former teacher said "Sorry, Dave, I must go. I've got a class now." "Just a minute," said Dave, "you haven't told me how to be a teacher."

Mr McIlhinney paused for a moment, then he said, "Just remember, Dave, when you teach a class, it's a performance. You're an actor every day."

Dave never forgot that.

He was a popular teacher in the college for many years.

Jeffrey Johnston

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

During the season of Advent in 2023, the choir moved from traditional paper scores, to iPads. The former charity, Friends of Cathedral Music awarded us a grant of £20,000 in 2017. With his usual canny processes, Douglas McIlldoon managed to invest this sum so that we were able to reap the fruits of it this year. We have bought a Yamaha baby grand piano for the church, with a view to creating recital series by the choral scholars and visiting soloists, as well as negating the need for hire for every choral society who wishes to perform concerts in the church.

The digitising of the music library is a further step, so far not taken by any other Cathedral or Parish choir to our knowledge. The Ulster Orchestra moved to iPads in 2021 and it facilitates much more efficient use of rehearsal time. The iPads host an App called Forscore. Forscore allows us to create a service or concert programme for each week, with every piece in the right order. It allows us to mark up copies quickly and, in rehearsal, the director's iPad can be displayed on the screen behind him, allowing him to point out phrases, notes and points of music.

Each choir member has an iPad, takes responsibility for it and retains it for personal use between rehearsals and services. When a chorister leaves the choir, the iPad is returned to the Parish. David sends the marked-up repertoire for each Thursday, by airdrop (instant file transfer) and can also use it to teach music theory and notation.

So far, it's been a huge help, choristers are reporting it easier to follow the music, there is definitely less rustle in the choir stalls.

The music library must continue to be kept up to date, we must still have purchased the requisite number of copies in order to fulfil our copyright obligations. Many of the composers are now free from copyright, digital formats of their scores can be downloaded and used freely. The choir says a big thank you to Peter and Rosemary Hunter who continue to keep the music lists up to date.

This term, our focus moves to repertoire for our Berlin tour, to concert programming and fund raising. Look out for choir lunches, recitals (including Odd Socks) and a silent auction, perhaps even a fund-raising ball! We look forward to seeing you at these events.

David Falconer

THE SNOW SONG

by Paul McLaughlin



I can understand from my own experience that the senses are powerful triggers for memories. The sight, the sound and even the smell of the unexpected can spark unanticipated echoes from somewhere in the head or more likely the heart. But the first snowflake of winter has just touched off such a moment for me.

Our kitchen window looks out onto a wall-mounted, evergreen shrub that has been a frequent hiding place for a pair of mistle thrushes. No doubt, they are drawn to our little corner of the suburbs by the scraps of food, often ham and beef, left by my wife. They are cautious birds, beautiful of plumage, and by far the biggest visitors to our garden, apart from a platoon of pigeons that mobilises from nowhere when pickings are to be had.

Mister and Missus Thrush are a wonder to watch. So graceful in their movements, so genteel in their table manners. Courteous with each other and chivalrous with even our resident robin whose tune is often a war song of warning to others. And so we watch. Oblivious of time and always careful to remain unseen, just thankful for the view and the snatch of the fluted whistles of its melodious song.

The snowflake that settled on the window sill punctuated the moment on my watch of sentry duty. It was crystal clear against the glass, as individual as any of us and far from the herald of grief and melancholy that the poet Longfellow had suggested. For me it was the clarity of my mother's voice and the simplicity of her singing. And the silver key to a golden memory.

Snow had come in abundance immediately after Christmas 1962, like a late and unwelcome present for adults on St Stephen's Day. We children recognised it for what it was.....a gift from God. Arctic winds whipped up drifts like giant dunes along our terraced streets and, although not even the weathermen knew it at the time, we would have 'a couple of months in the fridge' as my Dad had forecast only half-jokingly.

School was inaccessible in those first few days of January. Roads and pavements invisible under this white blanket, our breath freezing in the air, the nearly-new heating system boasted of by our head Christian Brother a victim of a dropping thermometer and a little too much hubris.

Days that were normally organised into sums, spellings and sentences became a mad whirl of chaos from early morning until the street lamps yellowed the huge swathes of snow that became our playground. Sledges were cobbled together from milk crates and

planks of wood, water was poured onto the hill to make a sliver of ice in a 'slide' that frightened even some of the bigger boys that raced headlong down it. Snow was used for fight and fun as if there could be any difference.

My mother sang to us that first evening. A special 'snow song' she called it. I liked her singing not solely because it was sweet and gentle, but also because she would tell my brother and I how her late mother and father had taught her these songs and bring to life grandparents who remained locked in sepia photographs.

That song has stayed with me for more than sixty years. 'Two little orphans' told the heartbreaking tale of little waifs lost to life on a snow-covered church doorstep and how their mother returned from heaven to take them home. Certainly, it is tender, nostalgic and even sentimental, but I still cannot defy the tears that threaten to fall when I think of it.

It's not just the song. Eileen Donaghy's version graced the turntable of a new radiogram not long after the great thaw. She had the same name as our father's mother and sang like the beauty of birdsong on a Co Tyrone evening. It was and remains the singing. Our mother taking time from a busy day, everyday was busy back then and she seemed to spend most of her waking hours in our small scullery, to share a memory with us that had been shared with her. A memory that continues to this day.

The return to school took only a few days, the boiler fixed and once more the pride of the Brother McDermott. The big freeze continued for nearly two months as my Dad had predicted before spring could make a well received appearance. But the song remains the same, despite the years. A memory that can melt a heart.

DISGUISE
(after FURRY BEAR)

If I had some hair where my hair once grew,
I wouldn't much care if a Force Six blew.
Or I dived in the Med in the South of France,
Or a pretty girl said; 'D'you want to dance?'
But I wear a rug. It's a kind of a wig,
A touch Liberace, though not so big.
It's meant to look just like a natural thatch.
And fit like a glove in a wonderful match.
But, try as I might, I'm a man with a toup,
And one of these days it'll fall in the soup.

Submitted by Eleanor Maynard

MUSIC LIST February 2023

Sunday 4th February

Second Sunday before Lent

11am Choral Eucharist

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	All creatures of our God - 263
Setting	Sumsion in F
Psalm	104: 24-36
Gradual Hymn	Thou whose almighty word - 466
Offertory Hymn	At the name of Jesus - 338
Communion Hymn	305
Anthem	A Gaelic blessing - <i>Rutter</i>
Recessional Hymn	O Christ the same - 258

5pm Choral Evensong

Parish Choir

Responses	Ayleward
Psalm	65
Setting	Sumsion in G
Anthem	When to the temple - <i>Eccard</i>
Hymns	54,57

Sunday 11th February

First Sunday before Lent

11am Choral Eucharist

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	Angel Voices - 336
Setting	Stanford in Bb
Psalm	50: 1-6
Gradual Hymn	Bright the vision - 343
Offertory Hymn	Christ whose glory - 234
Hymn communion	312
Motet	O Nata Lux - <i>Tallis</i>
Recessional Hymn	Praise my Soul 436

5pm Choral Evensong

Choral Scholars

Responses	Hunter
Psalm	2
Canticles	Moore 2nd Service
Anthem	View me Lord - <i>Lloyd</i>
Hymn	187, 420

MUSIC LIST February 2023

Ash Wednesday 14th February

St George's SSA

Setting	Messe Basse - <i>Fauré</i>
	Introit to Lent - <i>Gibbons</i>
Anthem	Wash me thoroughly - <i>Handel</i>
Hymns	47, 383, 59

Sunday 18th February

Lent 1

11am Eucharist

Choir Holiday

Processional hymn	Be thou my guardian - 74
Psalm	25: 1-9
Gradual Hymn	Christ is the world's true light - 494
Offertory Hymn	O thou who camest from above - 431
Recessional Hymn	Light's abode celestial salem - 401

5pm Evening Prayer

Choir Holiday

Sunday 25th February

Lent 2

11am Choral Eucharist

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	At the name of Jesus - 338
Setting	Byrd 5 part mass
Psalm	22: 23-31
Gradual Hymn	I danced in the morning - 375
Offertory Hymn	Be thou my vision - 339
Communion Hymn	281
Anthem	Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake - <i>Farrant</i>
Recessional Hymn	God is Love - 364 tune 408

5pm Choral Eucharist

Parish Men

Setting	Merbecke
Hymns	401, 76, 439

CALENDAR February 2024

Feb 3

Russian Orthodox Liturgy: 9:30am - 1:15pm

Feb 4

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9:30 am

Eucharist: Rev'd Robert Henderson

11:00 am

Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; Colossians 1: 15-20;
John 1: 1-14

Reader: *Wardens*

Intercessor: *George Woodman*

Servers: *Laura Brannigan, Joan Calder, Jonny Calder*

Tea and Coffee: *Brenda Claney, Judith Fawcett*

5:00 pm

Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Genesis 2: 4b-25; Luke 8: 22-35 (*Janet Sandikli*)

Feb 7

10:30 am

Eucharist: The Rector

Feb 11

THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9:30 am

Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am

Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: *The Rector*

Readings: *2 Kings 2: 1-12; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6;*
Mark 9: 2-9

Reader: *Geoffrey May*

Intercessor: *Fr William Odling-Smee*

Servers: *Omorewa Akinyele, Mark Claney, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Linda McConnell, Yvonne Doherty*

5:00 pm

Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: 1 Kings 19: 1-16; 2 Peter 1: 16-21
(*Fr Graeme Pollock*)

Feb 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30am

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes: The Rector

10:30am

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

1:00pm

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7:30pm

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

CALENDAR February 2024

Feb 18

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30 am **Eucharist:** The Rector

11:00 am **Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Genesis 9: 8-17; 1 Peter 3: 18-21;
Mark 1: 9-15

Reader: *Pam Tilson*

Intercessor: *Anne McBride*

Servers: *Agape Laoye, Geoff Newell, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Betty Flynn, Dot Lutton*

5:00 pm **Choral Evensong:** The Rector

Lessons: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-19
(*Eleanor Maynard*)

Feb 21

10:30am **Eucharist:** The Rector

Feb 25

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30 am **Eucharist:** The Rector

11:00 am **Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Genes 17: 1-7, 15-16; Romans 4: 13-25;
Mark 8: 31-38

Reader: *Janice Carruthers*

Intercessor: *George Woodman*

Servers: *Banji Akinyele, Laura Brannigan, Mark Claney*

Tea and Coffee: *Valerie Roberts, Howard Fee*

5:00 pm **Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Lessons: 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8; Matthew 15: 21-28
(*Fr Tom Layden*)

Feb 28

10:30am **Eucharist:** The Rector

Feb 29

1:00pm **Eucharist:** The Rector & Fr Graeme Pollock

The Walsingham Group meets at this Eucharist – all welcome

ENDPIECE by Colin Young

'THAT DOUGHTY IRISH PROTESTANT'

Those of us who attend the Choral services in St George's will be familiar with the music of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, who died a hundred years ago in March 1924. Several of his settings of the Eucharist and of the Evening Canticles are part of the repertoire of our own Choir and indeed are widely sung in Cathedrals, College Chapels and parish churches with a strong musical tradition.

Stanford was born in Dublin in September 1852, into a well-known and well to do Anglo Irish family. As a child he showed great musical gifts, and learned violin, piano, organ and composition, though his teaching at school was largely in Latin and Greek, as was the custom in those days. At the age of seven he was able to give a piano recital, playing pieces by Handel, Beethoven, Mozart and Mendelssohn. He also was a pupil of Sir Robert Prescott Stewart, organist of St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin.

Stanford's father John was a senior lawyer in Dublin, and while he accepted his son's desire to be a musician, he insisted that the young man should have a University degree, and so the young CV Stanford went up to Queen's College Cambridge in 1870 to study Classics, though he appears to have spent most of his time in pursuing musical activities. He became organist of Trinity College Cambridge in 1873, and the following year he studied composition Carl under Reinecke at the Leipzig Conservatory.

His reputation increased throughout the 1870s, and in 1883 he was appointed Professor of Composition at the Royal College Music in London and Professor of Music at Cambridge University five years later. As a Professor he had many pupils who were themselves later well known musicians and composers: Coleridge Taylor, Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Ireland, Arthur Bliss, Herbert Howells, Edgar Bainton, and Charles Wood. He appears to have been a rigorous teacher and expected high standards from his students. He also continued conducting and composing, producing a considerable volume of music.

As I mentioned earlier, Stanford is very much remembered as a composer of Church music; his Communion and Evening services in various keys are staples of the Anglican choral tradition; what could be more glorious in Anglican worship than the choir of St John's College Cambridge singing the Stanford in A Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis? (perhaps not all of you would agree). He also wrote a festal

Communion Service in B flat for the 1911 Coronation, and the Gloria was sung again at the Coronations in 1937 and 1953, but not in 2023. Choral Matins has rather gone out of fashion, but some of us are old enough to remember Stanford's settings of the Te Deum, Benedictus and Jubilate regularly being sung, and indeed they are still sometimes sung as anthems at Evensong, and his three Latin Motets are regularly heard.

Some one described Stanford as "That doughty Irish Protestant", and he appears to have displayed what CP Snow described as "the militant conservatism of the Anglo Irish". In his settings of the Communion Service he provided music for the responses to the Commandments, the Creed, the Sanctus, and the Gloria - he wouldn't write music for the Popish Benedictus qui venit and the Agnus Deighton, which were creeping into the Church of England liturgy at the time, though later he relented and provided two settings of the two pieces. He was also forcefully Conservative and Unionist, and would ask potential students about their views on Irish Home Rule - I don't know what happened if a student turned out to be an Irish nationalist!

Many people are now unaware that Stanford also produced a large corpus of non religious works. Ten operas, seven symphonies, thirty three cantatas, three piano concertos, and eight string quartets, yet few of these are familiar even to people who are familiar with his Church music. In the past twenty years or so however his music has been rediscovered and many people have discovered his work, and there is a Stanford Society which helps to promote his music. He uses traditional Irish elements in his music, but this was not always very popular in England, while his staunch Protestantism and Unionism was not popular in Ireland. He has been described as "too Irish for the English, too English for the Irish, and too German for both".

Perhaps the next time we hear a composition by CV Stanford sung in Church we might thank God that a man was able to write such beautiful music, and we even might think of acquainting ourselves with his other works.

Fr Colin Young

