

Dr Chris Batchelor, the Director of Music at St Pancras Church, writes:

For those of you, regular members and visitors, looking for something a little more traditional at this time we hope this is helpful:

For millennia hymns have provided signposts within the liturgy as well opportunities for us all to stand up and take an active role in worship. We all know, of course, how much we might sing hymns in our heads long after we have left a service. And this sense, perhaps, of unseen fellowship, is much where we are at the moment. By no means all hymns stick in your head, thankfully.

Henry Smart was considered one of the foremost organists of his day (1813-1879). In 1864 St Pancras Church, despite having an instrument which was thought to be adequate, installed a much larger replacement, guided by Smart, who then went on to become organist at the church until his death. His contribution to the hymnody repertoire was not on the scale of such as Dykes and Monk, but the quality of his work speaks across the years, with such well-known examples as Light's abode, celestial Salem (Regent Square), Son of God, eternal Saviour (Everton) and See the Conqueror mounts in triumph (Rex Gloriae).

Sadly, Smart did not write any great Holy Week and Easter hymns, so my brief Passiontide journey is accompanied by examples by others. Currently we are talking of virtual communities etc, but before I get on with the music, imagine what it was like in St Pancras Church, with the existing galleries full, and the pauper galleries which extended on each side of the organ right up to the ceiling.

	Text	Tune/Composer
Passiontide We sing the praise of him who died	Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)	Bow Brickhill - Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947)
Drop, drop slow tears	Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)	Song 46 – Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
Palm Sunday Ride on, ride on in majesty	Henry Milman (1791-1868)	Winchester New – Adapted from Musicalisches Hand-Buch (1690)
Maundy Thursday Soul of my Saviour	Anon. Latin (14 th century)	Anima Christi – William Maher (1823-1877)
Good Friday There is a green hill, far away	Mrs C F Alexander (1818-1895)	Horsley – William Horsley (1774 – 1858)
When I survey the wondrous cross	Isaac Watts (1674-1748)	Rockingham – Adapted from Webbe's Collection of Psalm Tunes (1820)
Easter Good Christian men rejoice and sing	Cyril Alington (1872-1955)	Vulpius – Adapted by Henry Ley (1887 - 1962) from Vulpius's Gesangbuch
At the Lamb's High Feast we sing	Latin Breviary (Tr Campbell)	Salzburg – Melody Hintze (1622 – 1702), Harmony J S Bach (1685-1750)
Alleluya, Alleluya, hearts to heaven and voices raise	C Wordsworth (1807-1885)	Lux Eoi – Arthur Sullivan (1842 – 1900)

This brief list of hymns for Holy Week and Easter was put together and performed by Dr Chris Batchelor, Organist & Director at St Pancras Church. The organ, which was restored by others (most recently in 1954) is largely the work of Gray & Davison, and awaits full restoration.

We regret that the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music is postponed until May 2021. Please see www.lfccc.com