



the Church
of St Peter and
St Simon-the-Apostle

JUBILATE!

Deacon Michael

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... what I have learned in these first days of these *most unusual* times of social distancing. Page 3.

Robin Davis

Robin reflects on how distance makes the heart grow fonder, and offers some music listening suggestions to help us pass the hours at home. Pages 2 & 12.

Alison Jane

Alison writes about how she has sought comfort in poetry and music, and in particular, about the stained glass window commissioned to commemorate Gerald Finzi in Gloucester cathedral. Pages 7-9.

From the Editor

Peggy asks us to write in with what we love about SPSS.

Incumbent: [Geoffrey Sangwine](#)
Honorary Assistant: [Jennifer Matthews](#)
Assistant Curate: [Michael Perry](#)
Rector's Warden: [Ted Robinson](#)
People's Warden: [Vanessa Scott](#)
Treasurer: [Johan Van't Hof](#)
Musical Director: [Robin Davis](#)
Jubilate! Editor: [Peggy Needham](#)
Jubilate! Production: [Michael Perry](#)



The Parish Dinner Dance, January 26th

A Lenten reflection

Fr Geoffrey Sangwine

Since we heard the sad and unthinkable news from the Bishop that services would be suspended until further notice, I have been receiving many emails and phone calls as surely has been the case for you. One from the diocese began this way: "May you live in interesting times is an old expression and usually used ironically. But here we are". Indeed, here we are -- in a situation we've read in books, seen in the movies and watched on TV. As I said in the welcome at the recorded service of Matins for the fourth Sunday in Lent:



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



The Anglican Church of Canada



The choir preparing for worship.
Submitted by Deacon Michael

From the Organ Bench

Robin Davis

One of the things brought home to me over the past few days is just how much our community means to each of us.

It is unfortunate that rehearsals and services are cancelled for the time being, but there is a possibility that a group of us will gather to record/stream some services if it is deemed possible, in a safe social distancing environment. But this is a big TBD..... if and when, we'll figure out the details. A number of us feel that it is important to our community to retain as much of a sense of normalcy as possible during these trying times.

I took part (via computer screen) in the service live streamed from the cathedral on the morning of Sunday March 15th. If you haven't seen it, I commend it to you. *Continued on page 12.*

"It is an understatement to say that we are in anxious and troubling times, that fear and uncertainty abound. Like no other time in the living memory of most and perhaps all of us, we must pull together, we must seek the good in each other, and seek the comfort and care of each other. Above all, this is the time to know that we are always in the presence of our loving and merciful God who walks with us at all times, and holds us in the palm of his hand".

We are so grateful to the many in our parish who are making an effort to keep in touch, to pray, to encourage and to support. Please be assured our clergy and lay leadership are in constant contact - together we are keeping things going and yes, we long for the day when this long Lent will pass, when we will come from the darkness of the tomb into the light of a new day.

Walking in the darkness now, we must, like never before, turn to the one who is the eternal light. The readings appointed for today all speak of people in some way moving from darkness to light. Samuel, trying to discern the will of God when looking for a new king over Israel, is suddenly brought to a new awareness, a new light, when he is shown young David as the one he should choose - he is the one thought at first most unlikely.



Light filtered through Doreen Balabanoff's *Omnia Opera* window of 1990 in the south transept. The window is inspired by the canticle *Benedicite*, *Omnia Opera* found on page 26 of our Book of Common Prayer.

The epistle reading (Ephesians 5.8-14 - which we did not use at Matins but you can read at home) has Paul suggesting that the Christians of Ephesus have in Christ a light to show them a new way to live.

And in the long passage from St John's Gospel, Jesus' healing of a young man allows the evangelist to reflect on the mental and spiritual blindness of the authorities, and the light which is Christ himself - healing and wholeness come from the most unexpected places.

In this time the theme of light is one we need to surely hold before us at all times. But it is also the psalm passage appointed for today that is a huge source of strength. Psalm 23 is probably the best known and most loved psalm, prayed so often at the bedside of the sick and dying, heard at funerals and recited during times of trial. We are reminded today that Jesus is our Shepherd.

Anyone who has visited Israel will know that the pasture land is of an uneven quality. Much of it consists of dry hillsides. Here and there are springs and streams where water is available. The good shepherd knows where these streams are and that that is also the place where there is green grass.

The land is also a dangerous place, with narrow steep valleys and many clefts so narrow the sun is shut out of them much of the time. In those places are dangerous animals and thieves waiting for ambush. The shepherd must travel through these places and so the shepherd carries a staff to assist with walking and for the protection of the flock. The staff has a crook to bring the wayward sheep back.

In the second part of Psalm 23 we have the image of a kind host welcoming a guest, perhaps that guest is a tired worn shepherd who needs rest,

healing and refreshment. The host's tent is a place of refuge, a place of hospitality, where a meal is set out, where oil is offered to heal wounds, and where the cup of overflows abundantly – all of this a sign of the loving-kindness and generosity of God.

In St John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, the one who in fact lays down his life for the sheep. Jesus is our welcoming host. Jesus tends our wounds and satisfies our hunger and thirst with an abundance of grace.

At this time as always, Jesus Christ is shepherding us. We are seeing his love work through so many people in so many ways, in some ways that we have until now taken for granted much of the time. In these days let us put our faith and trust in the Good Shepherd and let us ask his grace to strengthen all who are working hard to get us through often in situations that puts them in harms way, and let us rest in him, trusting that he lead us through the valley of the shadow of death and into the green pastures of abundant new life.

Fr. Geoffrey+



The Healing of the Man Born Blind, by Gerald E. Tooke, located in the north wall of the Narthex, just past the entranceway. Digital Readers, learn more about our Stain glass by [reading the report](#) on our website.



Parish Dinner Dance, Sunday January 24th | Left to Right: Mary Anderson & Ann Nelis; Noam Lior & Vanessa Scott; a full parish hall; Fr Geoff, Laurie Sanderson & Colin Bird; the wonderful Jazz trio, featuring our own Jamie Bird; decorations by Mary Anderson and her team; Grooving out on the dance floor; Robin & Linda dancing; Rogers, Diana; Ashrey, & Ariana

Church in the age of social distancing: technologies old & new

Deacon Michael

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair [...].

The first lines of *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens seem to capture the strangeness of our times. I have picked up the habit of reading Dickens' novels. When I do, I shut the world out, curl up in a comfy chair, and disappear into self-isolation until the novel is completed; no doubt much to the annoyance of Yvonne. I am simply gone ... off into another world.

In these past days so many of us have had to self-isolate. And if we think back one month to February, it feels as though it is we who have entered into another world. Instead of reading novels, it feels like we are in one! In these extraordinary days, each unprecedented precaution is followed by yet another more serious one. But as I have reflected on what sort of times we are living in, I am confronted by the reality that, as followers of Christ, in both the best and worst of times, we are invited to live in God's time. We believe that no time in this life, nor even in our death, is beyond God's mercy, care, and love. So the question becomes, how do we show God's mercy, care, and love today? How do we adapt our daily routines, but remain faithful to our essential calling to follow Christ

and proclaim the season of Light, when it feels more like the winter of despair?

I have been heartened by the response within our parish. In the past weeks, I have spoken with some of you on the phone. The phone is a technology that is rather old, but it is serving us so well these days to keep us connected. During my calls, I have also learned whom you have been phoning; and wow, so many of you have been phoning each other. For me, each call is a sign of God's care, a sign that we remain in communion, even if we remain physically apart. Not only are we checking in on each other, many of you have offered to help each other out. I am hearing all the time, "if anyone needs ..." or "I'd be willing to go ..." Truly a manifestation of God's love in our socially distanced midst.

We are also connecting with each other through newer technologies. Two weeks ago, I had never heard of Zoom. Now we will start to experience a Zoom coffee hour, where people can phone in via a 647 telephone number or connect over the Internet with their devices. A digital coffee hour will no doubt be different, but the technology is enabling us to connect when our normal gatherings are suspended. Bishop Andrew writes about his own experience with Zoom: "*Last night I took my Lenten Study – Signs of Life – online using video conferencing. This was a new experience for me. While we are all learning on the go, and obviously the interactions and conversations were not as ideal as an in-person gathering would have been, it has been important for us to try to continue to be the Church, as best as we are able, during this strange season of physical distancing and self-isolation in care for the world.*" I want to tell our Bishop that at SPSS we continue to be Church, using both old and new ways to stay in touch, to show care, to show love, and to show the family of God alive and with energy in these times.

Br. Roger of Taizé was fond of saying “God does not want us to simply endure events, but, in God, to build with them.” I have been so wonderfully inspired by how the community of SPSS has been building in these last weeks. These are strange times, but when we mark them with God’s mercy, care, and love, we are reminded that ultimately, this too is God’s time.

In communion, Deacon Michael

Our family looks like: Intergenerational singing | Big birthdays | New Canadians | Old friends | The wisdom of youth. Whatever your family looks like, happy Family Day, from ours to yours. Re-post from our Instagram feed on Social Media. [Digital Readers](#), follow us [here](#).



There is a Green Hill

Ann Nelis



Cecil Frances (Fanny) Alexander (1818-1895) was the wife of Rev. William Alexander who became Dean of St. Columb's Cathedral, Derry (Londonderry) and then Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. Four months after her death he was elected to be Archbishop of Armagh, which also has the title of Primate of All Ireland.

The story goes that from her room in the Bishop's palace, she looked out over the valley to a green hill which is actually the city cemetery and that was the inspiration for her to write *"There is a green hill far away without the city wall."* To those of us who remember the hymn book prior to the current one, you will remember that adverb "without" which has now been changed to "outside." There was a reason that she used the word "without" meaning "outside." The city of Derry was, and still is, a walled city, and one can walk around the city on the walls today. The centre of the city is a large square called the Diamond, and from it four streets branch out towards the four main gates. One of those is called Bishop Street and the palace was on that street. It was known as Bishop Street within until one reached the Bishop Gate and then it continued as Bishop Street without.

Every year on Good Friday, after the church service some of the parishioners go to the city cemetery, form a circle round Fanny Alexander's grave and sing the hymn. At least they were still doing that as recently as 2012!

[Digital readers can listen to the hymn here.](#)

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter still" ~ Keats *Ode on a Grecian Urn*

Alison Jane

"Tradition is a cable along which one can speak to infinity. I send my soul through time and space to greet you." ~ Gerald Finzi (1901 - 1956)

While cloistered at home during the current health crisis, I have sought comfort in many of the things I have turned to in the past. In particular, I have immersed myself in favourite poetry, listened to organ and choral music, and tested new recipes for my next dinner party. Perhaps because our choir was scheduled to sing Gerald Finzi's *Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice*, Op. 29 with the Cathedral Choir on March 29th, and knowing Finzi's deep admiration for Thomas Hardy and other English poets, I was drawn once again to examine the relationship between art, music, and poetry.

The works of both Finzi and Hardy contain symbolic richness and a variety of moods that range from joy, to elegiac lyricism, to spiritual reflection. The theme of fragility and transient existence marks most of their work. Finzi's early loss of his father, three brothers, and his organ teacher impacted his creative work. Feelings of abandonment, and the motif of childhood impacted by adult experiences is particularly strong, and the melancholy themes about the transience of love and life in Hardy's poetry were in sympathy with his own. However, the source of their art also examines the relationship between emotion and time, and the important



Gloucester Cathedral Stain Glass Window in memory of Gerald Finzi

hallmark of Finzi's work.

Tom Denny's 2016 commission to create a stained glass window to commemorate the life and works of Gerald Finzi can be found in a north chantry chapel within the Lady Chapel at Gloucester Cathedral. His vision for the commission is remarkable in his understanding of Finzi's music, language, and craft:

relevance of human action in the universe. In *The Woodlanders*, Hardy describes his characters, Winterbourne and Marty:

"Hardly anything could be more isolated or more self-contained than the lives of these two walking here in the lonely hour before day, when grey shades, material, and mental, are so very grey. And yet their lonely courses formed no detached design at all, but were part of the pattern in the great web of human doings then weaving in both hemispheres from the White Sea to Cape Horn."

Similarly, the song of Wordsworth's "Solitary Reaper" breaks the "silence of the seas / Among the farthest Hebrides," and the listener carries the music in his heart "Long after it was heard no more." The intensity of perception which marks Hardy's and Wordsworth's poetry was also a

"I think that one can experience stained-glass as song, the abstract or musical qualities of colour, light, rhythm, movement, re-iteration being then further developed by narrative, by descriptive details and the depiction of things. Gerald Finzi was extraordinarily generous in his appreciation and support of others. He revered Ivor Gurney, seeing him as Schubert's representative as a song writer. It is lovely to have been able to celebrate the two English composers together in this chapel at Gloucester, a place with layers of meanings for each of them. Finzi was at home in the imaginative world of other artists: driven to compositions by the impact of the words. So much of the lovely silvery, waterline clarity of his music is interwoven with poetry. He enables one to experience Hardy, Shakespeare, Bridges, Traherne differently."



Gloucester Cathedral Stain Glass Window in memory of Gerald Finzi

Op. 29, written at the end of his life, and seeing Denny's representation of that Ode in the Finzi window has brought a new perspective and new hope in an otherwise bleak world. Nature, poetry and music filled a vacancy for both Wordsworth and for Finzi, and has also soothed my

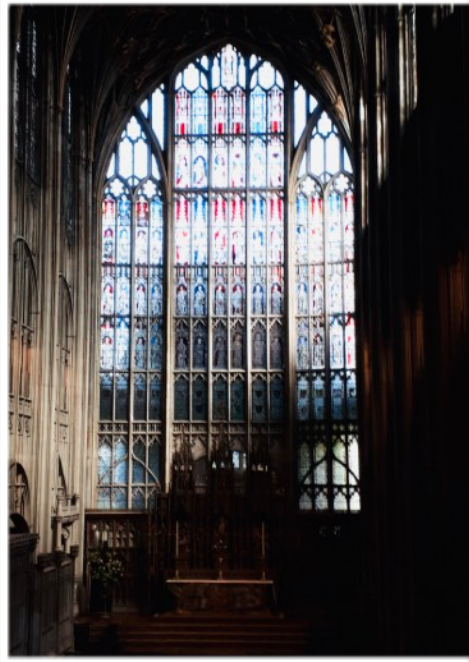
introspective nature:

In the left window (above), Finzi is depicted meeting William Boyce and John Stanley, two early composers he championed. He was also extremely supportive of amateur musicians and sought to bring live music to local villages, schools, and army camps in the Gloucestershire area. It was important to him that people make music. The apple orchard where Finzi shakes hands across the centuries with two old friends honours his accomplishments as an avid gardener, who helped restore and cultivate rare varieties of English apples.

I hope that in the future we will hear Finzi's festival anthem, *Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice*, sung at Evensong. Meanwhile, the time I have taken to reread favourite poets and listen to music feels precious in itself. I have read Wordsworth's *Intimations Ode* many times but listening to Finzi's choral work, *Intimations of Immortality*,

*Thanks to the human heart by which we live,
Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears,
To me the meanest flower that blows can give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.*
Wordsworth - "*Intimations of Immortality*"

Each evening at the close of Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral, I felt privileged to watch the light fade behind the Great East Window and know that for centuries pilgrims and locals had come to worship in the intimate space of the quire. This huge window with its tiers of figures, knights, barons, abbots, apostles, saints, Christ, and the Virgin Mary, would slowly turn from beautiful shades of red and blue to various shades of grey, and is a memory I will always cherish:



Photos submitted by Alison Jane

And I have felt

*A presence that disturbs me with the joy
Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man:
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still
A lover of the meadows and the woods,
And mountains; and of all that we behold
From this green earth; of all the mighty world
Of eye, and ear – both what they half create,
And what perceive; well pleased to recognise
In nature and the language of the sense
The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul
Of all my moral being.*

Wordsworth - "Tintern Abbey"

Blessings to my SPSS Church and Choir family.
I am keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.

Alison Jane

A Note From the Editor

In the Michaelmas edition of Jubilate!, I wrote about the birthday cards sent out from St. Peter and St. Simon's every year by Marjorie Philip. I entitled my contribution "One of the things I love about St. Peter and St. Simon's!" I invited readers to send in statements about what they loved about our church. I expected hundreds...but none arrived! So I am going to try again!

One of the things I love about our church is that sermons are posted on our website. Since I loved Fr. Geoff's sermon preached on March 8, I can go, when I want to, to our website and listen to it again ([Digital readers, click here](#)). Or if parishioners are ill or out of town, they can go online and find the sermon they missed. I think this is a wonderful gift.

Now I'm going to invite you again to let me know what you love about SPSS. Your answers will be printed in the next newsletter!



Black History Month Service.: Sileen Philips, top left, to the right of Fr. Geoff) preached the homily. You can listen back directly from our website under the [Recent Sermons](#) page. Thanks to Moveta Nanton (middle left) for pulling together the displays.



From the Organ bench, continued from page 2

You can go to <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/2020/03/14/diocese-to-live-stream-from-cathedral/> to watch the video of the service. Bishop Andrew spoke a message of courage and support relating the Samaritan woman at the well to our current situation. The music of the service spoke to me particularly in the text of the *Te Deum*. The final line of text "In thee O Lord have I trusted, let me never be confounded" gave me a sense of inner strength at a time when I felt I needed it. It also brought to mind our choir singing the same text, set by Benjamin Britten in Chichester last summer. Sophie's solo voice with these same words soared high above, down the magnificent arched nave of the thousand-year-old building. I invite you to listen to it yourself posted on our website as the first recording on the Music Recordings tab on our parish website ([Digital readers click here](#)). The piece was composed and premiered in 1944 in England.

Our choir has been working hard preparing music for the planned special evensong with our choir and the choir of St. James Cathedral, Holy Week, Easter, and our spring concert planned for May 24th. These plans are of course on hold, and with that comes a deep sense of disappointment and uncertainty. We ask and pray for God's loving hand of healing and comfort to sustain us, not only for our choir community, but also for Fr. Geoff, Deacon Michael and Rev. Jennifer, as well as the whole parish and those we love. We also look forward in faith to a most joyful celebration when we can meet again together.

Faithfully,

Robin Davis

Staying in Touch during the weeks ahead

Get email updates

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Visit www.stpeterstsimon.ca

Have you visited the website lately? On the homepage you will find three important resources:

- **Digital Services**, where you can watch and listen back to pre-recorded liturgies.
- **Bulletins & Announcements**, where you can download a copy of the bulletin and follow along.
- **Video messages**, where you can find other messages from our Diocesan Bishop.

Zoom Coffee Hour

Join us at 11:45 on Sundays (no internet or computer required). You can either phone into the coffee hour by dialling a 647 telephone number and then entering the meeting ID 9-digit number or by using the App on your device. Coffee Hour details will be telephoned out on Saturdays.

Do we have your most current contact details?

Stay in touch with us during this period when we are unable to gather together as usual. Email office@stpeterstsimon.ca to confirm your telephone number, email, and address.

Next issue of *Jubilate!* **Pentecost**

Submission deadline: Sunday, May 10

Publication deadline: Sunday, May 24

Jubilate! is a newsletter for the parishioners and friends of
the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle
