

The Motet “**Anna mater matris Christi**” by John Plummer, is a 15th century piece on the worthiness of St Anne to be the grandmother of Jesus. The rhymed poem is in similar metre to the Stabat mater – a form popular in the later Middle Ages.

Anna mater matris Christi,
Nos pie considera,
Quae Mariae meruisti
Propinare ubera.

Anna, mother of Christ's mother,
Look with pity on our requests.
You were worthy for bless'd Mary
There to suckle at your breasts.

O quam digne veneraris
Ab humano germine,
Quae Mariam mundo paris,
Magno Dei munere.

O how right this veneration
From a fallen human race.
You who gave the world pure Mary,
Greatest gift of God's good grace.

Nam tu confers spem medelae
Sacro puerperio;
Esto memor clientelae
Huius in exilio.

For you grant the hope of healing
By that holy childbirth;
So be mindful of this people
Still in exile here on earth.

Anna felix ascendisti
Supra cuncta sidera;
Tu in hora mortis tristi
Nos ab hoste libera.

Happy Anna, you ascended
Far above the starry sky;
You, in the sad hour of dying,
Free us from the enemy.

Sic matrona singularis
Digneris succurrere;
Extans mater salutaris,
Fac nos Christo vivere. Amen.

So, unique and holy matron,
You are worthy help to give;
Stand out, mother of salvation,
Make us each with Christ to live. Amen.

Translation: Amy Down, Oliver Nicholson, Richard Barnes. Dec 2016.

On Advent IV, Sunday 18th December, the Choir of St Michael's Church, Mount Dinham, Exeter, will be singing this as the Motet at Mass, in the edition prepared by Bob Parrish for the Hillwood Singers/St Michael's residency at Winchester Cathedral, and sung on Tuesday 26th July, the Feast Day of Saints Joachim & Anna, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

