

About...

## Jesu, high and holy

### **...how and why it was written**

I set these old hymn words to new music at the suggestion of a friend, who was doing this quite a lot over the summer. We had been talking about the richness of theology and range of emotional expression to be found in older hymn lyrics, and he had been using them as a fuel for daily devotion.

(You can read more about these ideas and related issues in the article *Putting the baby back in the bath – towards wider and deeper devotion*, available at [www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-articles](http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-articles))

I really enjoyed the process of soaking up these words and then setting them to a fresh tune which brought together the journeys of two disciples – one from the past and one in the present – and fused them together into something which speaks of God's simultaneous contemporary relevance and timeless faithfulness.

### **...how, where and when it could be used**

Although this tune has been written in a freeform Celtic style with quite a number of vocal trills, the basic melody is simple and suitable for congregational use.

The older language provides continuity with saints of the past without creating a barrier to contemporary connection as most of the words and concepts expressed in the lyric are still understood in modern English usage.

### **...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet**

This is another song crucial to the heart and journey behind a lifestyle of upward and outward worship – a daily decision to count all things lost and to follow Christ, together with an awareness that such a radical walk is only possible through his constant presence and strength.