



SOUNDBOARD

The E-zine of Church Music Dublin

Giving worship a vibrant voice through music

Issue 39 March 2019

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We did not intend to publish another e-zine quite so soon but the need to publicise the Anglican Chant Workshop on 23rd March encouraged us to assemble a few snippets of news, information, etc.

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ANGLICAN CHANT FOR ALL

Saturday 23rd March ▪ Christ Church Cathedral ▪ 10am to 12.30pm

A workshop led by Ian Keatley, the cathedral's director of music

€5 per person, to include refreshments

All welcome ▪ Enter through Chapter House door

Please notify numbers attending to info@churchmusicdublin.org

While this workshop will focus on Anglican Chant, we have to recognise that in many of our parish churches the psalms are no longer used. This is deeply regrettable. Why have so many places turned their backs on a feature of Judaeo-Christian worship that for over two thousand five hundred years has been – and still is - valued world-wide? Not only are they in our worship DNA; the psalms also are an integral part of Anglican Prayer Book worship. Part of their power is that they reflect actual human experience. They may be used in various ways, as is helpfully described in the current edition of the Book of Common Prayer. The psalms are songs and so are much more uplifting when sung and not merely read. Practice in the Church of Ireland since the late-19th century has been to use anglican chant. However, clergy and musicians need to be shown that there are more simple, congregation-friendly ways of doing so, some of which have been demonstrated at our annual Living Worship sessions.

Friday Evening Compline in Ranelagh

In recent years, there has been a revival of interest in the short service of Compline. Based closely on the pre-Reformation night time Office of the same name, Compline re-entered Anglican spirituality in the late 19th century and was added to the Church of Ireland Prayer Book in 1933, albeit semi-disguised as an 'Alternative Form of Evening Prayer'.

Probably Compline's appeal and 'magic' is a combination of its brevity, the very simple chant that is usually used, and the familiar and unchanging words. Compline is a twenty minute prayer: one can meditate deeply, join in the chant, or simply sit and reflect. A welcome respite from the 'busy beat of time'.

Since 2015 Sung Compline on Friday evenings has been a regular feature of worship during the darker months in Sandford Parish Church, a few hundred metres beyond Ranelagh Village. Most of the time there are just three or four singers; occasionally the Sandford and St Philip's Choral Scholars sing. The worship is valued by the Sunday congregation and other local people who occasionally drop in.

During Lent, Compline will be sung in Sandford Church at 7pm every Friday from 8th March to 12th April. Compline is also sung in Christ Church Cathedral during choir term time at 6pm on Tuesdays and 5pm on Saturdays.

On the **Wednesday in Holy Week, 17th April at 8pm**, the Sandford and St Philip's Choral Scholars and Choral Union will join together to sing **Stainer's 'Crucifixion'**, this year in St Philip's Church, Temple Road, near Rathmines, using the recently completed new pipe organ.

Director of Music vacancy

St Paul's Church, Glenageary has advertised for a director of music. St Paul's, about 1 km beyond Dún Laoghaire, has a long tradition of choral worship supported by a robed choir. At present, Gary Dowd is the rector. The full advertisement is on the Church Music Dublin website **About You > Vacancies** and the closing dated is 29th March.



Archbishop's Certificate in Church Music

Full details of the three year course in the skills of the church musician, and a foundation course in organ playing are on the website. Students are sponsored by their parish and the cost of training is shared by the student, the parish and the diocese. The closing date for applications for the 2019-20 academic year will be a date in July.

Deputy Organists

Our deputy organist list is a good deal shorter than it was a year ago as a consequence of complying with diocesan regulations in connection with the protection of children and vulnerable adults. To remain on the list, organists must now be Gárdá vetted and it is clear that many who were on the list overlooked responding to our communication with them about the procedure. The process is quite straightforward and is done on-line. Should you wish your name to be included, contact Philip Good at pcpg55@gmail.com and he will be pleased to advise you about what has to be done. This will involve submitting your personal details and listing the various addresses where you have lived. Information you give is treated with confidentiality.

Sixty years as organist



Congratulations to **Joy Elliott**, who recently celebrated 60 years as organist of St Mary's Church, Crumlin. Joy is the longest serving organist in the dioceses. At one time Joy also was accompanist for the parish musical society. To mark this splendid achievement, the parish made a presentation to Joy after the Christmas carol service.

PIPEWORKS 2019

An invitation to choral singers

Pipeworks Festival 2019 will take place from 19th to 23rd June. Included in the programme will be a concert on 21st June with the RTE Concert Orchestra in the stunning surroundings of St Patrick's Cathedral. Festival Director David Leigh will conduct Fauré's beautiful and much loved *Requiem*. The concert will also feature Irish organ virtuoso Fergal Caulfield in Barber's *Toccata Festiva*. Pipeworks extends a warm invitation to singers to participate in the Festival Chorus for this event. David will lead six chorus rehearsals prior to the performance, starting in the latter half of May.

Contact: David Leigh, Organist and Assistant Master of the Music, St Patrick's Cathedral directorpipeworks@gmail.com 087 223 8449

Cork confirmation candidates learn a hymn

Each year, Bishop Paul Colton runs a confirmation morning for all Church of Ireland candidates in the Cork, Cloyne and Ross dioceses. During the meeting the candidates learn a hymn, which will be sung at all confirmation services. This means that each candidate will know at least one of the hymns at their service.

This year around 100 young people gathered for a Saturday morning session lasting three hours. They split into four groups. Each group spent some time learning 'We have a gospel to proclaim' to the tune 'Fulda', led by Peter Stobart, director of music at Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral. Peter tells us: "Singing in that age group can be reluctant at best and in groups of around 25 young people it can seem quite exposed. Most of them took up the challenge and by the end of the morning when we all came back together they were making a very good sound. The first confirmation service of the season took place the following Sunday and the feedback from that was positive."



Website – Pray & Play Menu

Do you visit the Church Music Dublin website from time to time? We aim to keep it up-to-date and refresh sections of it regularly. There are five high-level menus across the top of the page (and the headings are repeated at the bottom). The sub-menus under the '**Pray and Play**' heading include material musicians need before they go near an instrument or meet a choir. We are a liturgical church and three of the sub-menus provide basic information about the 'what' and 'how' of worship. Have you noticed that the underlying colour of all the pages changes in line with the liturgical colour? Have you spotted the tiny 'Why this colour?' button in the top left-hand corner? The Pray & Play section also includes links to some of our training videos; and to reading material. We are always open to receive suggestions and constructive comment about the website.

The Agnus Dei

A reflection by Bridget Nichols

Like many modern Anglicans, Church of Ireland worshippers have a choice when it comes to the anthem following the breaking of the bread at Holy Communion. ‘Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world’ (*qui tollis peccata mundi*), may have entered Western usage as early as the seventh century. It was sung as the bread was broken, until changes in the type of bread used, and a reduction in the number of communicants made this a very brief part of the liturgy. After 1552, it vanished from Anglican view, except for a brief reminder in the *Gloria in Excelsis*. The revisions of the later twentieth century restored it to public worship. *The Church of England’s Alternative Service Book 1980* retained the plural ‘sins’, but in 2000, *Common Worship* changed this to ‘the sin of the world’. This was the model adopted in the C of I’s 2004 *Book of Common Prayer*.



The alternative, ‘Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us . . .’, was composed by the liturgical historian, Geoffrey Cuming for the Church of England’s Series Three Holy Communion Rite (1973). It is a limpidly clear expression of dependence on the love and mercy of a God we can address by name. Deceptively simple, it coaxes us into a wider grasp of what that name means. So first, it acknowledges Jesus by the title, Lamb of God (used by John the Baptist and the writer of Revelation). Then it illuminates the sacrificial meaning of that acclamation in calling him ‘Bearer of our sins’. This is not a narrow domestication of the larger scope of sin, for finally, it rejoices that Jesus is the Redeemer of the world. The gift of peace for which we pray encompasses a desire for the salvation of the whole created order.

Dr Bridget Nichols is Lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

The Te Deum in parish worship

David McConnell describes the journey to a fresh way of singing Te Deum

Prior to the liturgical revisions of the 1970s, the canticle *Te Deum Laudamus* was sung regularly in parish churches, using Anglican chant. It is a fine hymn of praise, dating from the 4th century but, regrettably, seems to be seldom used these days. Perhaps its length is a discouragement. It is worth remembering that the third (penitential) section was a later addition and that it is permissible to sing just Parts 1 and 2.

In Zion Church, Rathgar, Matins is sung on Sundays approximately ten times each year, *Te Deum* on perhaps three or four of these occasions. When we moved to modern words for Sunday morning worship many years ago, I kept the traditional version of *Te Deum* because (amongst other considerations) I felt that the rhythm of the new words is not entirely suited to Anglican chant. Then, more recently, the rector made a strong request for the modern words. When a pastor who rarely seeks any involvement with the choice of music, chooses to do so, there really is only one response available to the wise choir director: unquestioning obedience!

I examined the translation on page 106 of the Book of Common Prayer with some trepidation. I quickly saw that Part 1 consists of two groups of three verses. A triple chant was the obvious solution and I looked up an old friend, #319 in the Irish Chant Book – Naylor in F. I then sought an appropriate chant in a related key for Part 2. This took some time. I scoured several chant books, before opting for #711 in the ICB, Boyce in B flat which, to my mind, reflects the sentiments of Part 2 brilliantly.

Using a music publishing program, I set *Te Deum* to these chants on a single A4 page, with the words of Part 1 interlined between the staves. And then introduced the setting to the choir. The new verbal rhythms did not come easily to us. Not least in verse 1, *We praise you, O God, we acclaim you | as the | Lord*, which I insisted must be sung as a single phrase, intelligently and without any pause. The traditional words were so deeply embedded in our collective DNA, it took over two years to buy-in fully to the new approach to singing the canticle. However, the struggle was worthwhile. And the alternate unison-SATB format of the triple chant adds, I believe, an aesthetic 'edge' to the entire piece. On significant occasions, we have sung the new version at the very end of the liturgy, after the Solemn Blessing.

A pdf file of this chant setting of *Te Deum* may be downloaded from the church music website www.churchmusicdublin.org/music-printouts/

For future issues – Should you wish to contribute something brief or possibly write a letter about some topic, please contact the editor at soundboard.churchmusicdublin.org.

If you wish, we can still arrange to post *Soundboard* to you. The annual subscription is €15 or £13. Contact the editor at the address in the previous paragraph or call +353 87 668 3998.



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A province of the Anglican Communion

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