

The 250th anniversary of the translation of the Book of Common Prayer into Manx Gaelic has been marked by a set of specially commissioned gold-inked Christmas stamps by the island's Post Office.

churchnewsireland@gmail.com



The Isle of Man Post Office is producing a sparkling set of five stamps to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the first prayer book published in Manx. Local artist Julia Ashby Smyth has focussed on a selection of Manx words and religious emblems most closely associated with the spiritual aspects of Christmas and winter festival.

The island maintains close ties with the United Kingdom but has never been a part of it. Instead, it remains a self-governing Crown dependency. Its parliament, the Tynwald, is of Norse origin and over 1,000 years old, making it the oldest parliament in the world with an unbroken existence.

The island's official language is English. Usage of the Manx Gaelic – or the Manks Language, as it was referred – fell out of use between 1874, when it was spoken by 30 per cent of the

population; to 1974, when the last known native speaker died. Today, historians and academics are attempting to revive the language and around two per cent of the population are said to be able to speak it.

In 1610, the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Rt Revd John Phillips, interpreted the 1604 Book of Common Prayer for use on the island. But it wasn't until 1765 that the Society of Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) published the first Manx Gaelic edition of the BCP, using the 1662 BCP as its source.

The 250th anniversary of the publication of the first Manx Gaelic BCP has now been marked by the publication of five special Christmas stamps by the Isle of Man Post Office. Designed by local artist Julia Ashby-Smyth, the stamps feature a Manx word and a religious emblem closely associated with the spiritual aspects of Christmas.

Ashby-Smith used the Manx BCP and the prayers and collects for use from Advent to Epiphany for her inspiration; along with illuminated manuscripts, ecclesiastical texts and a 'Book of Hours' from the same 18th Century period.

“The result is a reproduction of the colours and design elements used 250 years ago to create an authentic feel for the collection,” a spokesman for the Isle of Man Post Office said. “Julia captures a certain Manxness throughout the collection by linking traditional Manx Gaelic terminology which is perhaps familiar with well-known Manx graphic motifs including, for example, the word ‘Shee’ meaning ‘Peace’ accompanied by an image of a white dove of peace; while ‘Graith’ meaning ‘Love’ is represented by an angel.

“‘Grayse’ meaning ‘Grace’ is represented in motherhood with Mary and Jesus. ‘Credjue’ meaning ‘Faith’ is shown with a cross, and finally, ‘Strength’ – ‘Niart’ in Manx – is depicted as a Wiseman.”

“It's been a pleasure working with Julia on this project and to have produced such a fantastic and authentic set of Christmas stamps celebrating this important cultural anniversary,” Maxine Cannon, the general manager of Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, said.

“I’m delighted with the Manx Prayer Book Christmas stamps,” the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Rt Revd Robert Paterson, told ACNS. “As a Welshman I am very keen to encourage the use of ‘Manks’ in public worship and in Tynwald, our ancient parliament.”

The BCP stamps have been printed with metallic gold ink and are designed to be small enough to be used on any Christmas card, the Isle of Man Post Office says.

It has produced a number of [collectables](#) to accompany the special stamps, including a booklet, sets and sheets, first day covers, and presentation packs.

Donegal Presbyterian Church to lead RTE Service of Remembrance

Monreagh Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in the Republic of Ireland, is to conduct a service of Remembrance from RTE’s TV studio on Sunday November 8, at 11.10am.

Londonderry Sentinel - Around 50 people from Monreagh will travel to Dublin for this quite

unique opportunity, which will let people across Ireland recall the pain and sacrifice of Irish people during a dark period in history that claimed the lives of millions worldwide.

A central component of the service will be An Act Of Remembrance, involving the laying of a poppy wreath during which Monreagh piper David Middleton will play laments.

The service will be conducted by Rev Dr David Latimer, assisted by members of Monreagh church, while organist Winnie McCracken will be the accompanist.

Dr Latimer, who witnessed first-hand the ugliness and inhumanity of war, as a Hospital Chaplain in Camp Bastion, will preach on the subject 'Remembering and Learning'.

Moderator to attend Omagh's Remembrance Day Service

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The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, will take part in the Royal British Legion's annual Service of Remembrance at Omagh Academy this Sunday. On Friday (6th November) he visited Gibson Primary School, where the children showed him their special project on remembrance.

Dr. McNie has been visiting the area this week as part of his Omagh Presbytery Tour, which covers most of West Tyrone and all of County Fermanagh. Speaking a head of the inter-denominational service, Dr. McNie said, "Tomorrow will be a humbling experience as we remember with Thanksgiving those who gave their lives in two World Wars and conflicts since.

"This is a significant Remembrance Sunday as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the ending

of the Second World War. My father landed in Normandy on D-Day in 1944 and I am very thankful that he survived. Many, however, will be remembering their loved ones who were not as fortunate.

“We will also remember those who lost their lives here in Northern Ireland in the darkest days of our Troubles. Taking part in the service will be a great privilege for me as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, especially as the people of Omagh remember their loved ones, especially those so cruelly taken in August 1998.”

Each year the Moderator makes a week-long tour of three of the Church's 19 Presbyteries, preaching in local churches, encouraging congregations and seeing the work that they are doing in the communities where God has placed them.

While the Moderator's visit is primarily pastoral, Dr. McNie also met local businesspeople, farmers and police officers in Enniskillen. He visited a number of schools, including Arvalee Special Needs School and Harold McCauley House in Omagh, a nursing home run by the Presbyterian Church for elderly people.

At Gibson Primary School in Omagh, the children showed him their own project on remembrance.

C of I's major Centenary event to focus on ordinary people in Dublin 1916

The Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group will mark the centenary of the Easter Rising with an evening of engaging presentations by leading Irish historians, with an opportunity for discussion, in the atmospheric surroundings of the Music Room at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 7.30 pm.

The theme will be 'A state of chassis' – Ordinary People in Extraordinary Circumstances in Dublin in 1916. The Keynote speakers are Professor Keith Jeffery and Dr Fearghal McGarry. The Chair will be John Bowman, historian and broadcaster

The organisers state - This event will provide an opportunity to consider the lives of the 'ordinary' people of Dublin at the time of the Easter Rising,

living at a time when, as Sean O'Casey put it, many felt they were living through a confusing 'state of chassiss'.

The keynote speakers are both highly engaging and respected speakers in this field, based in the School of History at Queen's University, Belfast. There will also be a special contribution from Dr Jason McElligott describing the impact of the Easter Rising on the famous Marsh's Library, Dublin.

Admission will be free and refreshments provided. Further information will follow closer to the time of the event. See:

www.ireland.anglican.org

After 50 years RTE gives up on traditional Angelus

RTÉ television is to replace the Angelus after 53 years, replacing it with videos which it says will "reflect people of all faiths and none".

The Angelus is broadcast daily on RTÉ television at 12pm and at 6pm. It traditionally offers a silent

image of the Virgin Mary to allow viewers the time to pray, followed by tolling bells.

The new broadcast by Ireland's national TV station will now showcase aspiring Irish filmmakers and artists.

The Angelus has been broadcast on RTÉ television since 1962, but many now see it as out of date in a country where religion is no longer as important as it once was. A new set of short films will aim to be “conducive to prayer or reflection for people of all faiths and none”, according to the broadcaster.

RTÉ will also designate one slot a week, on Fridays at 6pm, as “the People’s Angelus”, when it will showcase aspiring filmmakers and artists across Ireland.

RTÉ said the revamp was needed as Ireland had “changed enormously” over the decades.

Roger Childs, RTÉ head of religious programmes, said the new broadcasts would allow people of “all faiths and none some quiet space in a hectic day-to-day world”.

Exiles welcoming exiles - Belfast conversation

Contemporary Christianity is hosting a discussion in the International Meeting Point at 133, Lisburn Rd, Belfast on Thursday, November 12 at 7.30.

The UK Government's response to the Europe wide migrant and refugee crisis has been one of the main news items in recent months. Councils in Northern Ireland have been told to prepare to accept refugees. This evening will help participants to understand what can be done and appropriate responses that Christians and churches can make.

Richard Kerr, past Chairman of EMBRACE , and now Convenor of the PCI Global Concerns Committee, will open up the discussion. [EMBRACE](#) is a group of Christians from different denominations working together to promote a positive response to people who are seeking asylum, refugees, migrant workers and people from

minority-ethnic backgrounds living in Northern Ireland.

Glenn Jordan and **Ursula O'Hare** from the Law Centre will bring insights and advice on good practice. [The Law Centre \(NI\)](#) provides specialist legal support to organisations and disadvantaged individuals, including in the areas of immigration and trafficking.

Sharon Herron from will give a brief introduction to the work of [The International Meeting Point](#), a project of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. It provides a hub for people from all nations to drop in and meet new friends. It is a place to relax and spend some time practising English; mixing with different cultures and for people to help each other by sharing their experience of Belfast and discussing the meaning of life.

Singing clergy doubled at Belfast Cathedral

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, has doubled its number of minor canons with the appointment of



Revd. Simon Genoe, Vicar of Glencraig Parish, is one of three new Minor Canons at St Anne's

the Revd Simon Richardson, Revd Julie Bell, and Revd Roderick Smyth. Simon, Vicar of Glencraig Parish, Julie, curate at Christ Church, Lisburn, and Roderick, curate at St John's, Malone, will join the three existing minor canons, the Revd Stephen Fielding (Agherton), the Revd Adrian Dorrian (Dundela) and the Revd Nigel Kirkpatrick (Gilnahirk).

Minor canons are appointed by the Cathedral primarily to undertake the role of cantor at Evensong. St Anne's is delighted to now have six

minor canons who are all exceptionally good singers and will be a great asset, with Choral Evensong taking place six days a week during term time.

“Choral Evensong is a dying office in many parishes and extinct in some, and so it is all the more important that, as one of the core gifts of Anglicanism to the devotional life of Christianity, the cathedrals do maintain its place in their daily life,” said the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann. “I am extremely grateful to those who are willing to give of their time, generally once, sometimes twice, a month, to contribute so valuably to the Cathedral’s cycle of worship, and in the case of the curate—assistants Julie and Rod, to their rectors for being willing to part with them for this service.”

Master of the Choristers David Stevens said: “I’m very glad to welcome the new minor canons to St Anne’s. The sung dialogue between clergy and choir is such an integral part of Choral Evensong, it’s essential that we have strong-voiced clergy to take part, and I’m looking forward to working with them on a regular basis.”

Choral Evensong is at 3.30 pm on Sundays and 5.30 pm Monday to Friday in St Anne's Cathedral. The Girls' Choir sings on Mondays and Wednesdays, the Boys' Choir on Tuesdays and with the adult sopranos on Thursdays. The lower parts are added on Wednesday and Thursday and sing alone on Fridays. On Sundays the girls and sopranos alternate, with the lower parts singing every week.

New Chaplain for Dublin City University

Philip McKinley has been appointed Chaplain in the Church of Ireland tradition by Dublin City University (DCU). While Philip will be primarily based in the University's Inter-Faith Centre in Glasnevin, the appointment comes against the backdrop of a major incorporation of St Patrick's College Drumcondra, Mater Dei Institute of Education and the Church of Ireland College of Education into DCU.

Philip comes to the post having previously worked for the Hard Gospel Project, the Irish Council of Churches and Blanchardstown Methodist Church. He is also founder of the

inter-cultural Discovery Gospel Choir, based in St George and St Thomas' Church in Cathal Brugha Street.

Commenting on the appointment, President of DCU, Professor Brian MacCraith said, 'Philip comes to this important role with a wide variety of experiences and skills which will enrich the inter-cultural and inter-faith dynamic of DCU. His appointment is also an important development within the context of DCU's linkage with the Church of Ireland College of Education'.

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson added, 'I welcome this appointment and congratulate Philip on a position where I have every confidence he will flourish.

'Philip is best known to us for his commitment to social inclusion, the addressing of human deprivation, international racial harmony and inter-faith dialogue. He is also a person of faith, prayer and service. I wish Philip and DCU all that is best in their new partnership.'

A Service to commission Philip as Chaplain, will take place on Monday 30th November, at 7.30pm in the Inter-Faith Centre, Glasnevin Campus, Dublin City University.

Bishop of Chester leads debate on impact of pornography on society

Children and adults are being harmed by the widespread availability and use of pornography in society, the Bishop of Chester has warned.

The Rt Revd Peter Forster, leading a debate in the House of Lords on the impact of pornography on society, called for action in the face of evidence showing the damaging impact of pornography on adults as well as children and young people.

Speaking to peers, Bishop Peter highlighted the exposure of children to harmful sexualised content online.

He cited an NSPCC ChildLine survey of 700 children aged 12 or 13 years old published earlier this year showing one in five said they had seen pornographic images that had shocked or upset them. More than 10% said they had taken part in, or had made, a sexually explicit video, Bishop Peter told peers.

Bishop Peter also spoke of the harmful effects of pornography on adults, including a growing body

of evidence that regular inter action with pornography often has an adverse effect upon close family and intimate relationships which are a crucial part of human flourishing.

The Bishop of Bristol, The Rt Revd Mike Hill, who also contributed to the debate, spoke of concern about pornography and its impact not just on children and young adults but also on adult behaviour.

Media digest

Massive change now on cards for religion teaching

Irish Independent

Ben Burns (10), from Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Inchicore, Dublin, is presented with the **Irish** flag and a copy of the Proclamation by Capt.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/massive-change-now-on-cards-for-religion-teaching-34168587.html>

First State curriculum on beliefs is a game-changer

Irish Independent

Any renegotiation of boundaries between **church** and State is contentious. For the devout, trading a system that has served them well is tantamount to ..

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/editorial/first-state-curriculum-on-beliefs-is-a-gamechanger-34168728.html>

Tel/Ind/BBC

Reports on a debate on pornography in the House of Lords ([see news story above](#)). The *Times*' political sketch highlights the contribution of the Bishop of Chester who underlined the damaging influence of pornography, especially with regards to children. The *Telegraph* reports that the Bishop of Bristol warned that pornography is leading to the breakdown of marriages.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/sketch/article4606126.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/predictions/technology/11978699/Children-may-be-too-clever-for-our-internet-porn-filters-minister-admits.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-peer-questions-use-of-pornography-by-consenting-adults-a6722876.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34737823>

BBC

The Defence Secretary, Michael Fallow has said it is "morally indefensible" for Britain to rely on other nations to counter the threat posed by so-called Islamic State in Syria and is asking MPs to reconsider air strikes against the group in the country. On Tuesday, the influential Foreign Affairs Committee, urged Prime Minister David Cameron not to press ahead with a vote on UK air strikes against Islamic State militants in Syria until the government presents a "coherent international strategy" to defeat IS and end the country's civil war.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34742361>

Tel/BBC/Times

The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Harry have paid tribute to Britain's fallen soldiers by opening Westminster Abbey's Field of Remembrance. Both members of the Royal Family laid their crosses of remembrance in front of two wooden crosses from the graves of unknown British soldiers from the First and Second World Wars.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsvideo/royalfamilyvideo/11978312/Prince-Harry-and-Duke-of-Edinburgh-visit-Field-of-Remembrance.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34737451>
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/royalfamily/article4605646.ece>

Guard

A service at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London has heard the personal stories of some of the 194 homeless people who have died on the streets of the capital in the last year. Their names were read out at this annual commemoration attended by hundreds of relatives, friends, charity workers and well wishers.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/nov/05/homeless-memorial-service-st-martin-in-the-fields-london>

Guard/Ind

Reports that the headteacher at St George the Martyr CofE primary school in Central London has received praise and criticism from parents for asking children walk around corridors with their hands clasped behind their backs. "The university walk", as it has been dubbed, was introduced by Angela Abrahams. It inspires children to be the best they can be and to 'go shine in the world' [the school's motto]," Ms Abrahams told a local newspaper.

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/nov/05/parents-defend-schools-hands-behind-back-walking-policy>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/st-george-the-martyr-primary-school-criticised-for-walking-rule-which-makes-primary-pupils-like-a6723111.html>

Times

Children brought up in religious families are more selfish than those from atheist or agnostic houses, a study claims. Scientists studying children from religions around the world, published in the journal Current Biology, found that there was a link between the piety of their household and youngsters being less likely to put that piety into practice, at least when it came to sharing.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/science/article4605912.ece>

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