

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Love and respect

Image of the day

Love and respect at lying in state

News reports

Northern Ireland musician pens hymn of praise inspired by Queen Elizabeth II

The hymn, “Tears and Celebration”, written by Andy Flannagan and Sam Hargraves, is set to the tune Dim Ond Iesu/Cymraeg, best known for “Here is love vast as the ocean”.

The hymn was used in a special episode of BBC’s Song of Praise on Sunday evening.

Its debut performance was by Katherine Jenkins, who has also recorded the single. The music video was released on YouTube and other streaming platforms on Wednesday by the Christian charities the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and the Bible Society.

Andy Flannagan, who is Youth For Christ’s national songwriter/worship leader, wrote ‘Tears and Celebration’ along with Sam Hargreaves to mark the Queen’s passing.

Andy, who is originally from Portadown but now lives in Luton, England revealed the song by saying: “By a series of miracles this is done. Praying it is useful for our nation at this time.”



Boys Brigade representatives greeted King Charles after a service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

He said that it was “not just a song about the Queen but absolutely a hymn to God in praise and worship of Him and in thanks to Him and in grieving and lament to Him, but set in the context of this moment in time”.

Andy is the son of former Portadown College headmaster Tom Flannagan, who Hon Secretary of the Church of

Ireland's Armagh Diocesan Board of Religious Education.

In an interview with Premier Christian Radio, Andy, who graduated as a physician and worked for a time in Craigavon Hospital, said the Queen and the monarchy in the UK reminded people they are serving a higher purpose.

He said: "The biggest thing that stands out for me is the fact she existed, that a monarch exists in our country.

"With Liz Truss just so recently we saw a perfect example, that she was invited by the Queen to form a government – that's very different to many other countries.

"In terms of her impact on politics that's the impact that I think is greatest. It's that impact of bringing that slight shred of humility, people realise they are serving a higher purpose, in that way she is reminding us that we are ultimately serving a higher purpose."

Andy, who gave his life to God while he was at school, wrote 'Tears and Celebration' with Sam Hargreaves to the well-known tune of 'Dim Ond Iesu', best known as the melody to 'Here is Love Vast as the Ocean'.

Released by LICC and Bible Society, it features world-renowned mezzo-soprano Katherine Jenkins, recorded at Wiston House in Sussex.

Some of the words include:

We see tears and celebration,
For this life so dignified,
Bearing thanks and hearts of sadness,

TO MARK THE U.N.
International
Day of Peace
WED 21 SEPTEMBER 2022



‘FAITHS TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD’

A morning to reflect – in the company of others –
on how we, as people of faith, can work together
to make this place the best place it can be –
for everyone!



174TRUST
BUILDING PEACE
PROMOTING RECONCILIATION

Duncairn Arts Centre
Wednesday 21 Sept
9am - 1pm

September 16, 2022

To the God of death and life.
As he takes her to his promise,
Of an audience with the King,
We remember all she gave us,
Wreaths of gratitude we bring.

Songs from Andy's two albums 'Advertising the Invisible' and 'Son' have been critically acclaimed by reviewers, and have been featured at various events and outlets such as Spring Harvest, New Wine, Greenbelt, Soul Survivor, and on BBC radio and television.

Just hours after the news of the Queen's death broke on Thursday evening of last week, another hymn was penned by the Revd Dominic Grant, a United Reformed Church minister in Barnet, north London, to the tune Thaxted — best known for the words "I Vow to Thee My Country".



Gracious God,
We give thanks for the life of
your servant Queen
Elizabeth, for her faith and
her dedication to duty and
her patronage of the Royal
British Legion.
Bless our nation as we mourn
her death and may her
example continue to inspire
us;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.

September 16, 2022

Two days later, it was already being sung in many Anglican churches, including Christchurch Priory, in Dorset, where the Vicar, Canon Charles Stewart, said that the words had moved the congregation.

Chaplains comfort people queuing to see the Queen lying in state

Chaplains from different faiths and denominations have been offering a comforting word to the thousands of people queuing to see the Queen lying in state.

The chaplains have been chatting with people waiting in line and offering prayer where requested.

The queue stretches three to five miles along the Thames, from beyond London Bridge to Westminster Hall where the Queen will lie in state until 6:30am on Monday.

Some people waited several days to file past the Queen, spending a soggy Tuesday night camping out to ensure their spot.

The chaplains will accompany the crowd during daylight hours over the next few days.

They will be recognisable by their hi-vis vests with 'Faith Team' printed on them.

The Church of England has been involved in organising the chaplaincy service in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Priests from across the Diocese of London and Southwark volunteered for the service and were given an induction by the Spiritual Care Team at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

Southwark Cathedral, which sits next to London Bridge, said it was "delighted" to be one of the chaplaincy hubs for the queue.

The Salvation Army is also providing refreshments and first aid hubs along the route.

"We're doing our bit," the Church and charity said.

On Tuesday evening, Lambeth Palace confirmed that volunteer chaplains across the denominations and faiths would be making themselves known to people queueing. Chaplains, identifiable by Hi-Vis vests printed with "Faith Team", will "move along with the crowd and will introduce themselves, have conversations, and, only if requested, pray with people", a spokesman for Lambeth Palace said. All volunteer chaplains have received an induction led by the Spiritual Care Team at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

Radio service from Magherafelt

Radio Ulster will broadcast Morning Service from St Swithin's Magherafelt on Sunday 25th September at 10:15am.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/schedules/bbc_radio_ulster/

C of I church plant in East Belfast



A new season of church planting in the Diocese of Down and Dromore began just over nine years ago under Bishop Harold Miller and continues under Bishop David McClay. There are now eight worshipping congregations and one outreach to children and youth across the diocese.

Matthew Gault, leader of one of the newest church plants, Tullycarnet Church in East Belfast writes -

Our Church Plant launched at the end of January, and we have been keen to embed mission firmly in our DNA as a Church. We desire to form people who have a contagious desire to share Jesus and bring his Kingdom impact to wherever God may lead them.

In terms of missional engagement, we have been carrying out the slow and steady work of door-to-door evangelism, offering prayer in the community and joining local



community groups such as the gym community forums and other activities that build authentic friendships and relationships. It has been amazing to see God at work in these new friendships and to begin to see individuals attending some of our events and Church itself.

We have now established a close relationship with the Ardcarne Local Residents Group and regularly help at and attend community meetings and events. Our most recent engagement was over the Jubilee celebrations.

In terms of set programmes, running the Alpha course in a neutral venue in the community has worked well for us. This has provided people with a safe space to ask questions about Jesus in an environment they are comfortable in.

September 16, 2022

Over the summer we ran summer schemes for primary school aged children, litter picks and a community fun day. We hope that this will encourage children and young families to engage with our Church community.

On the whole, progress has been remarkable, and we can really see God at work. We have seen our little community grow from 2 people (me and my wife) to around 20 people. This is especially encouraging as we have been able to attract a strong base of local people who are in turn passing on the Good News to their friends and family. We also have some relatively new Christians along with people who aren't yet followers of Jesus coming to our Church.

We are expectant that in the future we will be able to develop youth and children's ministries, outreach to parents, as well as compassion ministries, evangelistic projects and pathways that contribute to the long-term discipleship of others.

Three Priests ordained in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork

On Wednesday, 14th September 2022, Holy Cross Day, the Rev. Jean Carney, the Rev. Richard Dring and the Rev. Carole Pound were ordained Priests in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.

Jean Carney holds a Master in Theology and has served as curate-assistant in Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield since August 2022. Richard served as a Deacon in Ordained Local Ministry in Carrigaline Union since

September 16, 2022

September 2021, after having been a Diocesan Reader since 2001. Carole served as Deacon in Ordained Local Ministry in Abbeystrewry Union since September 2021, after having been Diocesan Reader.



From left to right: The Ven. Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, The Very Rev. Nigel Dunne, Dean of Cork, The Rev. Carole Pound, the Rev. Richard Drink, Eoghan Healy, Crucifer, The Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, The Rev. Jean Carney, John Jermyn, Diocesan Registrar, The Rev. Anne Skuse, Bishop's Chaplain. Photo: Eoin Murphy

The Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton presided at the liturgy, and priests from around the Diocese joined him in the

September 16, 2022

laying-on-of hands. The Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, and Bishop Elect of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Ven. Adrian Wilkinson preached at the Service. The Lay Vicars Choral of St Fin Barre's Cathedral Choir sung under their Director of Music, Peter Stobart, and the Assistant Director of Music, Robbie Carroll played the organ.



Ordination of Deacons in Dublin

A Service of Ordination of Deacons will take place in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday September 18 at 3.30pm.

Jane Burns and Scott Evans will be ordained to the diaconate. Jane Burns will serve as Deacon in Taney Parish. Scott Evans will serve as a Deacon in Kiltarnan Parish.

Archbishop Michael Jackson will preside and the preacher will be the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Ven David Pierpoint.

Perspective

Queen's letter to former senior clergyman about Strictly Come Dancing star son

A former senior clergyman has recalled receiving a handwritten letter from the Queen after she watched his son dancing “fantastically” on Strictly Come Dancing.

The Queen wrote to the Very Reverend Dr John Chalmers after watching his son JJ Chalmers – a former Royal Marine who has gone on to become a TV presenter – on the popular BBC show.

The Rev Chalmers, a former moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, also recalled meetings with Elizabeth II at Balmoral, the Aberdeenshire castle where she died on Thursday.

When she realised that JJ was none other than the star that she had been watching on Strictly Come Dancing, she penned a handwritten letter reflecting on how 'fantastically' he had danced

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers

He remembered one occasion when he said the monarch had “delighted” in feeding her dogs under the table at the end of a meal.

He said: “Towards the end of a meal in the small dining room she delighted in feeding the corgis and the dorgis

under the table, and you knew you had arrived when you were allowed to join in.”

The Rev Chalmers added that meetings with the late Queen “always led to pleasant and easy conversations”.

He also told how in conversations with her you felt like “you were being treated as an equal”.

He stated: “In my own case, she followed the journey of our son when he was recovering from the injuries he sustained in Afghanistan.

“When she realised that JJ was none other than the star that she had been watching on Strictly Come Dancing, she penned a handwritten letter reflecting on how ‘fantastically’ he had danced and how glad she was that ‘his life had changed so much’.”

Speaking about meetings with the Queen, the Rev Chalmers recalled: “In her company at a reception or at a garden party, she skilfully worked the room, spending time with as many people as she could.

“There was always a smile and most often a laugh, she was genuine in her admiration of people who had achieved remarkable things and it gave her enormous pride when she was able to recognise and celebrate those achievements.”

I spent many hours over several visits with Her Majesty and I never had as much as a moment when I did not feel relaxed in her company

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers

He continued: “At Balmoral, the royal family were at their most relaxed and most informal.

“The Queen probably had her softest spot for the Scottish Highlands and for the Balmoral estate. There, she had the freedom to enjoy the great outdoors and to share her love of everything that was unspoilt about the landscape and the wildlife.

“Nothing was more relaxed and enjoyed than a Saturday evening barbecue at one of the lodges on the estate.

“The Queen would drive and one of her passengers would always be the minister who would be preaching the next morning at Crathie Kirk.

“The ‘in car’ conversations would be wide ranging, pastoral and insightful – no-one who ever enjoyed this privilege could forget that in the presence of the Monarch you were being treated as an equal.”

He continued: “I spent many hours over several visits with Her Majesty and I never had as much as a moment when I did not feel relaxed in her company.

“We talked about the state of the Church, we talked about blood stock and horse racing, and we talked about our children and family life.

“She was always well-briefed, she knew her guests and she enjoyed entertaining them, and she always asked about their interests and the challenges they were facing in life.”

Poem for today

Thank God It's Friday

Monday, such a blah day, we're all in a mood.
Tuesday, things are better, but really, not that good.
Wednesday, so called hump day, we are getting there.
Thursday, "little Friday", there's a party in the air!

Thank God it's Friday! What took so long?
Time to get crazy! A little wine and song.
It's time to party! The weekend is here.
Fire up the charcoal, ice down the beer!
Dancing until the dawn's early light.
Thank God it's Friday! Bring on the night!

Saturday, sleeping in, doing all the chores.
Mow the lawn, rake the leaves, head out to the stores.
Sunday's here, time to rest. It never seems to last.
Weekend's gone, where did it go? Time goes so fast!

Thank God it's Friday! What took so long?
Time to get crazy! A little wine and song.
It's time to party! The weekend is here.
Fire up the charcoal, ice down the beer!
Dancing until the dawn's early light.
Thank God it's Friday! Bring on the night!

Day by day we go through life, never to pretend.
We are living everyday to get to the weekend!

Thank God it's Friday! What took so long?

September 16, 2022

Time to get crazy! A little wine and song.
It's time to party! The weekend is here.
Fire up the charcoal, ice down the beer!
Dancing until the dawn's early light.
Thank God it's Friday! Bring on the night!

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

