

Alan Titchmarsh recommends listening to 'magical language' of traditional Anglican prayer book



TV gardening expert Alan Titchmarsh has opened up about his love of the language used in the traditional Anglican prayer book.

The television presenter and novelist said singing as a chorister at All Saints Parish Church in Ilkley, Yorkshire from the age of eight instilled in him a deep knowledge and appreciation of The Book of Common Prayer.

Speaking to The Prayer Book Society (PBS), he listed some of his favourites words used during a Baptism service.

He quoted: "The Lord bless you, and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you."

He added: "Also lovely are the words of the Nunc Dimittis sung at Evensong, 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace'."

Dismissing criticisms that the key source for the Church of England's doctrine contains old-fashioned language which is hard to understand, Titchmarsh said: "In our day-to- day conversations, words account for only ten per cent of the our communication; the rest is body language.

"Similarly, there is more to the Prayer Book than the words on the page. Much of its effect derives from its atmosphere, euphony, musicality, rhythm and pace.

"In my view it is vital that people are given the opportunity to hear the magical language of The Book of Common Prayer in church.

"It has a musicality not offered by modern liturgies, but it is important that clergy who use it are able to read it effectively, giving its words significant impact."

Changes in C of I parish ministry

The Bishop of **Clogher**, the Right Revd John McDowel has announced a number of changes in parish.

Bishop McDowell has asked the **Revd Charles Eames**, currently a Non-Stipendiary Minister in Magheracross Parish, to provide ministry in the Drumkeeran Group during the vacancy following the retirement of Archdeacon Cecil Pringle.

The rector of Garvary and Derryvullen South, the **Revd Chancellor John Stewart**, has announced his retirement to take effect in February.

Bishop McDowell has asked the **Revd Betty Thompson** to provide pastoral and service ministry of Garvary and Derryvullen South from the first Sunday in March.

The Revd Betty Thompson is currently Non-Stipendiary Minister in the parishes of Donagh, Tyholland and Errigal Truagh in Co. Monaghan.

Bishop McDowell has asked the **Revd Lorraine Capper** to provide part-time stipendiary ministry for the parishes of Donagh, Tyholland and Errigal Truagh for the foreseeable future beginning on the first Sunday in Lent, 4 March 2018.



Connor - The Rev Philip Benson, curate at Larne and Inver with Glyn and Raloo, has been appointed Priest-in-charge of the Parish of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints.

Philip will remain in Larne during the vacancy which will be created with the departure of the Ven Stephen Forde for his new post as Dean of Belfast, and will move to his new parish once the vacancy is filled.

The **Rev Harold Sharp** will continue to look after Parish of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints in the meantime.

Philip was ordained a deacon in September 2014 and served his internship in the Grouped Parishes of Finaghy and Upper Malone. He became curate in Larne and Inver with Glynn and Raloo following his ordination as a priest in September 2015.

Phillip is from Bangor and grew up attending Carnalea Methodist Church, where he was a member of the BB, attended the YF and later became a leader. He went to school at RBAI and studied Theology at Queen's University, Belfast.

After graduating Philip worked for Goldsmiths Jewellers while completing a Theology Master's Degree part-time. In 2009 he began working as a youth worker full time, while also helping to lead the youth group at St Gall's Carnalea. Around this time Philip began to explore his vocation and he was accepted for training in 2012. His

interests include football movies, music and history.

He is currently chair of the Connor Youth Council

Meath and Kildare. - Dean Katharine Poulton of Kilkenny is moving to to the dioceses of Meath and Kildare. She will be instituted as rector of Julianstown

Katharine was born in Belfast. Her father was a clergyperson and she grew up in rectories there and in Hillsborough.

She was ordained in 1987 and has worked in parishes, both north and south of the border. She is currently in Kilkenny where she has been Dean of St. Canice's Cathedral and Rector of the very diverse Kilkenny Union of Parishes for over seven years. Prior to this she worked for a decade in a parish in Dublin city centre.

Katharine's two adult children live and work in Dublin. She likes to keep in contact with friends, visit new places, loves reading, attempts knitting and taking her dog, Millie, on daily walks. She has enjoyed walks by the river Nore in Kilkenny but looks forward to walking on the beach at Laytown and Bettystown.

The retirement of **Canon David Hutton Bury** was announced on Christmas Day 2017. David has been unwell for some time and would be unable to continue to carry out parish duties, as Priest-in-charge, of Geashill and Killeagh.

Talking of his retirement Bishop Pat Storey said: "David has been a tower of strength to many in Geashill and throughout the Diocese, and I know that I and all the other clergy, have greatly appreciated his pastoral concern for them and his kind words of encouragement. David has that great gift of encouragement and of leaving people feeling better about themselves, which is a rare ability." She continued: "The people of Geashill and Killeagh will miss David terribly and we all want to thank him, including myself, for his wonderful period of work and ministry in the parish and the great legacy he leaves for someone else to take on later in the year."

Derry & Raphoe - A bizarre mixture of joy and sadness greeted the end of the Christmas morning service in St Mary's Church, Macosquin. The elated parents and family of baby Laura Parke – who had just been baptised – mingled in the porch with tearful parishioners lamenting the retirement of their popular Rector, **Rev Canon Mike Roemmele**, who had led



worship in the Parish of Camus-Juxta-Bann for the past decade.

In his last sermon to his parishioners there, Canon Roemmele said that many of those who featured in the gospel readings – such as the shepherds and the wise men who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, the lepers Christ cured or the blind people whose sight he restored – were never heard of again. There was a good reason for that, he said. The Gospel was about Jesus and not about them.

“This morning, I come to the end of another chapter in the story of my ministry,” the Rector said. “My departure will also mark the end of a very short chapter in the very long story of this

church in Macosquin, which has had numerous rectors before me. They are long gone. Most have been forgotten. In a very short time I will be forgotten and new people will lead the church forward into the future. And that is significant because this church was never my church, nor has it ever belonged to anyone in its congregations. It has always been Christ's church."

During the Service, a prayer of thanksgiving was said for Canon Roemmele's ministry, and prayers were also said for whoever will minister to parishioners in the interregnum – the period between his departure and the appointment of a new Rector.

New Diocesan Chaplain of the Mothers' Union

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell, has announced that the Revd Charles Eames has accepted his offer of becoming the next Diocesan Chaplain of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese. The Bishop has held this position since 2012.

Making the announcement, the Bishop said: "First, I wish to place on record the privilege it



**Revd Charles Eames who has been appointed
Clogher Diocesan Chaplain of the Mothers'
Union**

has been to act as Diocesan Chaplain to the Mothers' Union in Clogher. It has enabled me to get to know three successive Diocesan Presidents and to meet many members in their branches, at Trustee meetings and on innumerable other occasions. On each of these

occasions I have been impressed by the dedication of officers and members and most particularly by the quiet witness to the importance of family life in our parishes and in our society. I have also found much friendship and fun.

“I am delighted to be in a position to announce that the Revd Charles Eames has agreed to take over as the Diocesan Chaplain, a matter which I have discussed with Mrs Irene Boyd, the current Diocesan President of the Mothers’ Union. The new chaplain has a very strong commitment to the work of the MU and a good knowledge of many of the parishes where it is active and I commend him to your prayers for the ministry on which he will now embark.”

Mrs Boyd stated: “As Diocesan President, I convey my sincere thanks to Bishop McDowell for his faithful support for Mothers’ Union in the past five years.

“I am delighted to extend a warm and sincere welcome to the Revd Charles Eames as the new Diocesan Chaplain and look forward to meeting with him to discuss the work and witness of Mothers’ Union in the Clogher Diocese.”

The Revd Charles Eames said he is looking forward to his new role.

“I’m delighted to accept the Bishop’s offer to take on the role of Diocesan Chaplain of the MU, an organisation which does some very worthwhile work within the Diocese and I look forward to working with them,” he said.

New monthly youth services in Dublin & Glendalough

Dublin & Glendalough Youth Council is delighted to announce its new monthly services. The services are open to all young people throughout Dublin & Glendalough.

The first D&G Youth Service – What If? – will take place on Sunday January 21 in Christ Church Taney from 6.30 to 8pm. There will be music, a workshop and pizza.

The workshop will be led by Tom Tate from WhyMind. Tom seeks to work with young people to increase awareness around the importance of their mental health by creating a space to explore the affect decisions they make in life have on it.



All are very welcome to attend but you will need to RSVP to dgyc.office@gmail.com with numbers so they know how much food to order.

The next service will take place on February 18 when the workshop will again be led by Tom Tate.

RTÉ Radio 1 broadcast of C of I Communion Service

RTÉ Radio 1 Extra will broadcast a Service of Holy Communion on Sunday (14th January) from the Church of the Holy Saviour, Narraghmore. The Service will be conducted by the Very Revd Dr Philip Knowles and the broadcast will begin at 11.45am; it will also be available on LW 252.



Televised service to celebrate 125 years of Girls' Brigade

On Sunday 4 February 2018 at 11.10am on RTÉ 1, a live service will be broadcast, celebrating 125 years of the Girls' Brigade in Ireland. The service will be led by the Revd Canon Lorraine

Kennedy–Ritchie, who is an ecumenical Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

Pope Francis plans talks with Pinochet dictatorship victims during Chile visit

Pope Francis is to meet with two victims of Chile's military dictatorship during his upcoming trip and is not ruling out a private encounter with victims of clerical sex abuse.

Spokesman Greg Burke made the comments while announcing details of the January 15-21 trip to Chile and Peru, Francis' 22nd foreign trip and the sixth to his home continent of South America.

The encounter with two victims of the 1973-1990 Pinochet regime will take place on January 18 in the northern city of Iquique.

Mr Burke was asked if Francis would meet with abuse victims and while he said no meeting was planned, "that doesn't mean it's impossible". He added that such meetings are best when conducted in private.



He said it was "clearly an important theme" in Chile, where the scandal has seriously hurt the Catholic Church's credibility.

Just this week, online database www.BishopAccountability.org said it had found 78 priests or members of religious orders credibly accused or convicted of abuse against minors.

Francis in the past has met in previously unannounced encounters with victims of abuse in the Vatican and in the US, but his record in fulfilling his stated "zero tolerance" for abuse has been questioned by survivors.

While Francis never had to deal with the abuse crisis in his native Argentina, he is intimately familiar with the region's experience with military dictatorships in the 1970s and 1980s.

History's first Latin American pope was in charge of the Argentine Jesuits during the "Dirty War," when thousands of suspected leftists were killed or "disappeared" at the hands of Argentina's military junta.

In neighbouring Chile, after a bloody coup brought General Augusto Pinochet to power, about 40,000 people were killed, tortured or imprisoned for political reasons.

The government estimates that 3,095 were killed, including about 1,200 who were forcibly disappeared.

Francis studied in Chile in 1960 during his novitiate with the Jesuits and counts some of its churchmen as close friends and advisers.

His aim in visiting Chile and Peru is to highlight the plight of indigenous peoples and the delicate Amazon ecosystem.

In keeping with his ecological concerns, he will be travelling around both countries in used popemobiles, rather than have new ones outfitted, as is the norm.

In Chile, the three popemobiles he will ride in were first used during his 2015 trips to the US

and Bolivia while his Peruvian popemobiles were shipped from Colombia after his trip there last year, Mr Burke said.

Church leaders cancel services in Lusaka in bid to halt cholera outbreak

Church leaders in Zambia have announced that services in parts of the capital should be cancelled to help halt the spread of cholera.

The “epicentres cannot be allowed to hold church programs on Sunday and any other day until further notice,” the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), which includes the Zambian dioceses of the Church of the Province of Central Africa, said. “Church Services can be held in other areas outside these worst hit areas on Sunday as long the highest levels of hygiene are maintained. Every Church must have adequate and very clean toilets as well as enough clean water. Strictly urge all members to avoid handshakes, hugs, and communal foods.”

The instruction was given in a memo sent to churches by the Revd Canon Emmanuel Chikoya, the general secretary of the CCZ. “We



encourage those in less affected areas to conduct very short worship services than the usual after which people are to be encouraged to go to their respective homes without idling and mingling around,” he said.

He asked clergy and lay preachers to conduct contextual bible studies and sermons to help change attitudes and mindsets on personal hygiene.

“We call on the CCZ fraternity to proactively and corporately participate in the general and personal cleanup program currently underway,” he said. “It must be well noted that faith without works is dead. We must stand together with

government, all political stakeholders to effectively contribute towards eliminating the cholera challenge and prevent it from becoming a national catastrophe.

“We have a challenge to not only clean the city but the whole country at large. This prompts us to call on the entire CCZ fraternity to commit to participating in the immediate task of containing the cholera outbreak through personal corporate participation in the ongoing works.”

The government has begun a mass cholera vaccination programme and aim to deliver two million doses in Lusaka, with the support of the World Health Organisation. It has imposed curfews and called in the army to assist bring the outbreak to an end. So far, some 3,000 people have been infected and 67 people have died.

“Zambia is experiencing one of the worst outbreaks of cholera in years,” Dr Nathan Bakyaia, the WHO Representative to Zambia, said. “With this [vaccination] campaign, we can stop cholera in its tracks and prevent an even more devastating epidemic.”

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