

LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Plwyf
Parish Magazine



30p

August 2008

Services

Holy Trinity Church, Mostyn Street

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays)
- Matins followed by shortened Eucharist (2nd Sunday)
- Combined Matins and Eucharist (5th Sunday)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer
- 6.00 pm Exploring Worship - in Church Hall (2nd Sunday unless notified otherwise)

Weekdays

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer (Tue, Wed & Thurs)
- Holy Eucharist with Morning Prayer (Fri)
- 9.00 am Holy Eucharist (Wed)
- 11.00 am Holy Eucharist (Thurs & Major Saints' Days)
- Holy Eucharist in Welsh (Sat)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer (Tue, Wed, Thurs & Fri)

St Tudno's Church Great Orme

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer (Sat)
- 11.00 am Open Air Service (Sun from end of May to end of September)
- On the first Sunday of each month, the service is followed by a shortened Eucharist in the church.

The pattern of Sunday and Weekday services sometimes changes. Please check the calendar in each month's magazine and the weekly bulletin.

The Rector is in Holy Trinity church on most Saturday mornings from 11.30 - 12.00 to see parishioners on any matter – for confessions, spiritual guidance, the booking of baptisms or weddings etc.

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Llandudno

www.llandudno-parish.org.uk

The deadline for copy for any edition is the 7th of the previous month. Please leave copy in box near pulpit in Holy Trinity Church or e-mail:

editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk

Copy may be on disk, printed or handwritten.

From the Rectory

It has been my privilege for several years now to be one of the chaplains at St David's Hospice. I say 'privilege' because I'm sure that I get as much or more from the experience of visiting the Hospice than any of those I minister to can possibly get from speaking to me! Week by week I witness the most amazing loving care given by staff and volunteers alike. I also experience the way in which so many of the patients deal with their illness, often in very down to earth ways with cheerfulness and humour. Yes, they have their moments of tearfulness anxiety and



stress, but often the most awful symptoms and distressing treatments are met with courage and resolution.

If your idea of a hospice is a sad bleak place, think again! There's a great deal of laughter and fun at St David's and I

almost always come away from a visit feeling happier than when I went in. I am inspired, humbled and enriched by the experience of friendship with people who are coping with so much in their lives.

In a similar way our Bishop, Anthony, has been a source of so much inspiration to us in the way he has coped with his illness whilst continuing to care for his diocese as a true father-in-God. Suffering sometimes makes us turn in on ourselves, we simply want to curl up and keep the outside world away. But Bishop Anthony simply refused to do this. Despite the fact that he was coping with pain and often very tired he continued to be concerned with the people of his diocese and the life of the church, to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and that 'God is good all the time'. Even at the end he was determined to send a last message of encouragement to his people.

I suppose that this determination to look to God and to others even in the midst of personal suffering helped



The Rt Revd P Anthony Crockett (1945 - 2008), Bishop of Bangor (2004 - 2008).

Bishop Anthony to cope and, at least for a time, to forget his pain. But this way of doing things is surely also the way of the Christ who in the midst of his passion had time to forgive those who were crucifying him, to assure the penitent thief that he would be in paradise that very day, and to care for his mother and St John standing at the foot of the cross.

Bishop Anthony was a gifted pastor and teacher and it is sad to think that we have all been deprived of so much by his untimely death. But I think that he has given us much to ponder on by the way in which he died. The old spiritual teachers used to talk about the importance of making a 'good death'. Bishop Anthony has indeed made a 'good death' in which we glimpse in the midst of vulnerability and weakness true hope in God and a continuing pastoral care until the very end.

It's good to know that in his last days he had the joy of knowing that the Diocesan Pilgrimage was such a success and that so many people responded to his invitation by braving the weather and turning up on that day.

Bishop Anthony's Requiem Mass and his Funeral were dignified and inspiring services. One of the most moving elements in both was the reading of extracts from the journal he kept on his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella. I do hope that this journal will be published so that we can continue to be inspired by the faith and teachings of this servant of God.

We send our prayers and love to Caroline and all Bishop Anthony's family and pray that he may rest in peace and be raised with Christ in glory!

Fr John

News

Parish magazine

This has been a bumper month for the magazine and I have had to add space for photographs of the Pet Blessing Service, the Hymnody and Harmony Flower Festival and the Diocesan Pilgrimage. I would like to thank those who contributed and encourage other to do likewise.

The Publicity Sub-committee of the PCC met recently and it discussed this

magazine. It was pointed out that some items were repetitive or perhaps not read. However, it was decided not to drop any features because, amongst other things, the magazine is an instrument of record and this is of importance to future generations.

The magazine is viewed very much as a service to parishioners and others and it is not intended to be a means of raising funds. However, it should not con-

sume the Parish's valuable resources and should ideally be self-supporting.

The cover price of the magazine has not increased for some years. I could either trim the magazine back to the very barest of essentials or maintain the status quo but at a realistic cover price. Trimming the magazine would make my life easier but I have a philosophy that if a thing is worth doing, it should be done properly.

Consequently, the cover price of the magazine will rise to 50p with effect from the edition of January 2009. The Publicity Committee regrets this increase but it believes that given a choice, the parishioners would prefer to keep the existing format.

Parish Fellowship

Please could I say 'thank you' to members, friends and members who came and supported our Coffee Morning in aid of the Wales Air Ambulance.

Thank you for the wonderful collection of cakes you supplied and the gifts for the raffle, the sales table and, most important, your time.

The Coffee Morning extended into Afternoon Tea and it was well worth it for it helped us raise over £360.

Adele

In June, the Fellowship visited Pensychnant, the nature reserve and conservation area on the Sychnant Pass between Conwy and Penmaenmawr. We had a lovely afternoon sitting in the garden or wandering in the reserve. We thank Julian for his hospitality and the talk about the beautiful Victorian house and its history, and the wonderful wildlife paintings and tapestries that are on show. It is so peaceful there.

Bellringing

On Monday evening 7th July a half muffled quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob



The Fellowship Group at Pensychnant.

Doubles was rung by members of the North Wales Association of Bellringers (including three of our own ringers), in memory of the Rt Revd P Anthony Crockett (23 August 1945 - 30 June 2008), Bishop of Bangor 16 July 2004 - 30 June 2008, whose Requiem Mass and Funeral took place at Bangor Cathedral earlier in the day. *Requiescat in Pace.*

The ringers were: 1 Lynne Ferriday, 2 Elizabeth Curtis, 3 Ron Miers, 4 Martin J Brown (C), 5 Tony Diserens, 6 Stan Whittaker.

Stan Whittaker

St. Tudno's in August

The open air services continue at 11.00 am each Sunday, with the taxi provided by the parish departing from Holy Trinity at 10.30 am. On 3 August the open air service will be followed by a shortened Eucharist in the church. Compline by candlelight will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 19 August and the annual open air Songs of Praise will be on Sunday 24 August at 4.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you at St. Tudno's.

Mark Collins, Christine Jones

Open Church Day

St. Tudno's will be taking part in the 2008 Open Church Day on Saturday 6 September. The day is organised by Church Tourism Network Wales (CTNW) as part of the European

Heritage weekends and the aim is to open as many places of worship as possible and to encourage a wide range of visitors.

St. Tudno's is open every day from April to October but it is hoped that we will benefit from the regional and national advertising provided by CTNW. I will be at St. Tudno's all day and if anyone else can spare an hour or two, between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm, to help welcome visitors and serve refreshments, I should be very pleased to hear from you.

Christine Jones

Parish Web site

If you use the Internet, don't forget to look at the parish Web site for photos of recent events. There are some there which don't appear in the Parish Magazine or on the notice board. The Special Events and St. Tudno's pages currently include the Hymnody and Harmony flower festival, the Diocesan Pilgrimage, Pet Blessing service, visit to St. Tudno's Well and Friends of St. Tudno's, while the Bells' page shows what the bellringers have been doing lately. The website is used by people outside the congregation and parish to find out what goes on here, so if you've got any photos or news which might be of interest, please let me know.

Christine Jones

From the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

1st June: Michael James Owen
of Maelgwyn Road, Llandudno

8th June: Alexa Jane Louise Rimmington
of St. Andrew's Place, Llandudno

22nd June: Daisy Lili-Rose Mellors
of Maes-y-Wenol, Penrhyn Bay

Holy Matrimony

21st June: Matthew Philip Smith of Llandudno
to
Jemma Jayne Corcoran of Stalybridge

The Departed

24th June: Laurence Evans (70)
of Clarence Road, Craig-y-Don
(Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

25th June: Barbara Percival (80)
of The Oval, Llandudno
(Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

25th June: Elaine Mary Galpin (81)
of Roumania Crescent, Craig-y-Don
(Service at Holy Trinity followed by burial at The Lawns, Llanhros)

30th June: Rose Susman (92)
of Whitehall Road, Rhos-on-Sea
(Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

Calendar for August

Sun 3rd

Trinity 11 (Pentecost 12)

Services at the usual times

Tues 5th

10.00 am 'Julian' Meditation Group at Stella Maris

Wed 6th

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

9.00 am Holy Eucharist

11.00 am Holy Eucharist

Thurs 7th

11.00 am Holy Eucharist with ministry of healing

Sun 10th

Trinity 12 (Pentecost 13)

Services at the usual times (No Exploring Worship this month)

Fri 15th

The Feast of Mary, Mother of Our Lord

11.00 am Holy Eucharist

Sun 17th

Trinity 13 (Pentecost 14)

Services at the usual times

Tues 19th

7.30 pm Compline by candlelight at St. Tudno's

Wed 20th

4.00 pm Renewal of Wedding Vows Service for John and Janet Bell at St. Tudno's

Sun 24th

Trinity 14 (Pentecost 15)

Morning Services at the usual times

4.00 pm Songs of Praise at St. Tudno's

(No Evening Prayer at Holy Trinity)

Sun 31st

Trinity 15 (Pentecost 16)

Services at the usual times



The Sunday School trip to the Zoo at Colwyn Bay.

Pet Blessing at St. Tudno's

The Biennial Pet Blessing service was held on a bright and breezy afternoon on Sunday 29 June. The open air service was attended by 60 people, 20 dogs and five cats, all of whom were very

well behaved. The readings, hymns and songs all had animal themes and Jane blessed each pet individually, by name, while we sang 'If I were a butterfly' (three times).



The Parish Share or Quota for 2008 is **£68412**

The Quota is the sum of money that we have to give the diocese each year to forward to the Church in Wales to pay the stipends of our clergy. We were able to pay this sum last year by using our reserves. This year the Quota is 4.51% more than 2007 and it seems certain that we will not have the reserves to pay it.

Please consider revising your regular giving so the Parish can pay its dues.

If you are a payer of income tax or capital gains tax, please declare your regular giving and donations as 'Gift Aid'. This is a scheme where HM Revenue and Customs refunds the tax you paid on earning your gift.

So if you make a donation of £10, the Parish receives an extra £2.50 at no cost to you.

Please contact Stan Whittaker, the Gift Aid Secretary. (Tel: 596796)



Sidespersons

August 3rd	Kath Lloyd Mary Rees Judith Williams Joyce Crosby
August 4th	Annabel Jones Roy Rees Jones Eira Jones Eileen Roberts
August 17th	Pat Ridler Margot Hughes Stan Whittaker Ray Millington
August 24th	Dorothy Trent Adele Arrowsmith Barbara Yates Joyce Crosby
August 31st	Kath Lloyd Mary Rees Sandra Davies Doug Pritchard

Attendance Figures for June

Holy Trinity

Sunday 1st	8.00 pm	Holy Eucharist	15
Trinity 2	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	98
	5.00 pm	Evensong	12
Thursday 5th	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist (St. Tudno's Day)	5
		Total of Other Weekday Eucharists	12
Sunday 8th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	19
Trinity 3	10.30 am	Choral Matins	86

		Shortened Eucharist	25
	5.00 pm	Evensong	6
	6.00 pm	Exploring Worship	30
Wednesday 11th Barnabas, Apostle	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist	4
	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist	6
	11.30 am	Carers' Service	28
	Total of Other Weekday Eucharists		46
Sunday 15th Trinity 4	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	20
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	95
	5.00 pm	Evensong	9
	Total of Other Weekday Eucharists		20
Sunday 22nd Trinity 5	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	105
	5.00 pm	Evensong	10
Tuesday 24th Nativity of St. John the Baptist	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist	31
	Total of Other Weekday Eucharists		13
Sunday 29th Trinity 6	8.00 pm	Holy Eucharist	17
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	110
	5.00 pm	Evensong	7
St. Tudnos'			
Sunday 1st	11.00 am	Morning Service	30
Thursday 5th St. Tudno's Day	2.30 pm	Holy Eucharist	28
	followed by walk to well		10
Saturday 7th	2.30 pm	Holy Eucharist (Friends of St. Tudno's)	27
Sunday 8th	11.00 am	Morning Service	33
Tuesday 10th	7.30 pm	Compline	17
Sunday 18th	11.00 am	Morning Service	24
Sunday 22nd	11.00 am	Morning Service	21
Sunday 29th	11.00 am	Morning Service	22
	4.00 pm	Pet Blessing Service	60
	+ 25 assorted pets		

Hymnody and Harmony



It looks as though we will have raised just over £1800 for Church Funds from our Festival, which is a splendid result. We had only planned to hold the Festival on the Friday and Saturday, but decided to continue on for the following Monday to Wednesday



and this, together with many generous donations, contributed to the excellent result. Well over 700 people came to enjoy the beautiful displays and listen to their favourite hymns.

I very sincerely thank everyone who took part. First of all, thanks to the ladies whose flower arrangements were breathtaking and depicted the hymns





so beautifully and thoughtfully. Gwen Robinson – who herself did several of the displays – assembled the following talented team (listed, by the way, in alphabetical order!):

- Adele Arrowsmith
- Betty Dodd
- Jennifer Fossi
- Marion Heald
- Margot Hughes
- Eira Jones
- Maggie Leitch
- Gwenda MacDonald
- Angela Pritchard
- Pat Ridler
- Betty Raggett
- Anne Rimmer
- Barbara Scott
- Judith Williams





had taken away lots of good ideas for their own flower festivals. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

Then I would like to thank our three organists – Norman Rimmer, Ray Stythe-Jones and Dennis Cartwright – who did such sterling service with the hymn requests. The opportunity to have your favourite hymn played for a small donation really seemed to delight our visitors, and certainly contributed to the final total raised. Our organists played practically nonstop, although we did try and keep them supplied with tea and coffee to keep them going!



Speaking of tea and coffee, the people who worked so hard in the Church Hall with refreshments made a very significant contribution to the fund raising. May I thank the three teams led by Dorothy Trent, Joyce Smith and Angela Pritchard who not only catered for our visitors so efficiently but also looked after our own helpers in Church. All who baked, prepared, served, washed up, or helped in other ways in the Hall worked really hard, and again comments from visitors were most complimentary.

Thanks also to Margot and Judith for a lovely stall in the Choir Vestry which visitors really enjoyed, and to the Mustard Seed – Joyce Crosby made a special display of flower-related cards,

etc., which attracted many customers. Thanks must also go to Andy Leitch for providing beautiful posters for us, and to Barbara Yates and family who made a banner – publicity is so important for these occasions. Finally, most grateful thanks to those who manned the Reception Desk and the Hymn Request Desk, who stewarded and generally made visitors feel welcome – their efforts were much appreciated and added greatly to the happy atmosphere of the Festival.

It is so good for us as a parish not only to raise funds but also to work together as a church family and to have fun whilst doing so. There was such a good feeling, starting on the Thursday afternoon when the flower arrangements were being put in place, right through to taking down posters and banner on Wednesday afternoon. Please forgive me if I have omitted to thank someone because I really do appreciate the support the Parish gives to make these special events such a success.

Jane



Lleyn Pilgrimage

A coach full of parishioners joined the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Lleyn Peninsula and Bardsey on Saturday June 21st 2008. The weather precluded the planned beach activities and Communion on the beach but could not dampen the pilgrims' enthusiasm.

Rhoshirwaun Village Hall was full of pilgrims for the short service at the start of the pilgrimage walk and those who could not get in the hall joined in the service in the rain outside. The pilgrims then walked three miles along quiet lanes to Aberdaron, while those who could not take part in the walk travelled to Aberdaron for a service there.



The pilgrims arrived in Aberdaron village and those who could packed into St. Hywyn's Church for a service, while others took part outside the church.

During the day the children took part in various activities, including making a lovely altar frontal for the Communion service, while pilgrims signed a book to send their love, prayers and best wishes to Bishop Anthony in Ysbyty Gwynedd. The Pilgrimage was Bishop Anthony's inspiration and everyone





was saddened that he was unable to be with us on the day.

After the Communion service, a Cairn of Hope was built on the beach between high and low tides, where the sea would wash over it. Pilgrims each chose a pebble from the beach and added it to the cairn.

It had been hoped that a group of pilgrims would travel across to Ynys Enlli, representing all areas of the Diocese. However, the sea was too rough to make the crossing.



Do this in remembrance of me

- a series about the Eucharist by
Father John

Part 4 — ‘My flesh is real food; my blood is real drink’.

In the last article we thought about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine. This month we move on to consider what is actually offered to us as we share in these sacramental gifts.

Before doing this we need to pause for a moment to consider what we mean by a sacrament. The Church in Wales Catechism defines a sacrament as ‘the use of material things as signs and pledges of God’s grace, and as means by which we receive his gifts’. It goes on to say that a sacrament has two parts: the outward and visible sign and the inward spiritual grace. In the Eucharist the outward sign is bread and wine; the inward gift is the Body and Blood of Christ, his life offered to us.

In chapter six of St John’s Gospel the Jewish teachers are scandalised when Jesus proclaims, ‘unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you can have no life in you.’ You can hardly blame them for feeling this way – the whole notion of eating a person’s flesh and drinking his blood is shocking indeed. Of course Christ was not speaking literally – he did not expect his real earthly flesh to be eaten or his

real blood to be drunk. But I think that he still meant the image to be shocking – to jolt people into understanding that they needed to share his life energy in a very intimate way: ‘Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me and I in him.’

When he spoke in this way, the Lord was probably not referring specifically to the Eucharist but to the whole business of sharing his life through faith. Nevertheless from the beginning Christians reading these words could not help associating them with the sacrament because Christ had spoken of the bread as his Body and the wine as his Blood. Brought into unity with Christ through their baptism it was in the sacrament of the Eucharist that they experienced constant renewal of their relationship with the Lord.

So what is given to us in Communion is nothing less than the life of Christ. He becomes the food and drink given to sustain us in our spiritual journey. The Church in Wales Catechism speaks of the Eucharist as one of the two sacraments ‘needed by all for fullness of life’. Perhaps we can interpret this as meaning that here Christ offers us a renewal in our share in his life and food for our journey and that we would be silly indeed to neglect this priceless gift.

Continued on bottom of next page

Letters to the Editor

From: Effie Rowlands

Please convey my very grateful thanks to my friends for all the messages, cards, flowers and gifts which they sent to me during my recent spell in hospital.

I appreciate this so much and hope to see you all very soon.

From: Avril Scott

I thought I would write a letter of appreciation following my visit to the Flower Festival at Holy Trinity church yesterday.

My friend and I were enjoying a day out in Llandudno, when we saw the banner outside the church. We were both delighted and amazed at the displays inside. Each one was stunningly beautiful and depicted the chosen hymn so well. An added bonus for me was that I was able to walk around to the music

Continued from previous page

The Post-Communion Prayer for Trinity 13 sums it all up like this: 'Creator God, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

of 'Be still my soul' – one of my all-time favourites.

You have some very talented people at your church! From the organist, who played sublimely, to the flower-arrangers' artistry, to the very welcoming ladies at the front door, they were all brilliant and it really made my day.

As the churchwarden and lay reader of an inner-city parish in Manchester, I really appreciated the peace, tranquillity and visible proof of the wonder of God's creation.

On my way out, I purchased copies of your parish magazine for June and July. Imagine my delight when I found a wonderful article on the hymn 'Eternal Father, strong to save'. For my next preaching engagement is on 13 July – **Sea Sunday!** Guess what will form the basis of my sermon?

So, I would like to thank everyone involved in your flower festival. You certainly contributed heavily to my efforts to 'de-stress'. Hopefully, you will be able to include this in your magazine, as I would love all who were involved to know how much I appreciate your efforts.

My good wishes to you all.

Thank you for the kind letter. It works both ways! Guess what will be the subject of this month's 'Great Hymn'? [Ed]

August Flowers

During early summer, the flowers on the Great Orme seem to be predominantly yellow but more pinks, purples and blues appear as the summer progresses. These include the delicate harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) with its sky blue, bell shaped flowers held on tall, thin stems.

The harebell's fragile appearance belies a surprising toughness and the flowers can withstand the strong winds which sweep across the Orme.

The common name may derive from the plant's occurrence on heathland favoured by hares, though folklore suggests that the plants warn hares of danger – and when the bells are swing-

A small boy once asked his grandmother, 'Grandma, what is the name of this apple that I am about to eat, for they do say that an apple a day keeps the doctor away.'

Grandma replied, 'I'm sorry, small grandson, but I do not know the name of that apple. As for the saying that an apple a day keeps the doctor away, well, that is just a myth, you know, just a myth.'

'Then that's what I shall call this apple,' said the boy. And, do you know, to this day that apple has been called 'Granny's Myth'.



Harebells.

ing in the wind I can certainly imagine them ringing out a tocsin.

These flowers have a plethora of other names and folk stories associated with them (often relating to dire consequences if they are picked) and they are the bluebells of Scotland, while in Welsh they are *cloch yr eos*, the night-ingle's bell.

As Shakespeare said 'What's in a name?', so never mind what they're called, go out and enjoy them – just don't pick them!

Christine Jones

Great Hymns — Be Still My Soul

'Be still my soul' is one of several hymns, songs and anthems set to *Finlandia* by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius (1865-1957). The source of these particular words is German and the original author was Katharina Amalia Doratheia von Schlegel (1697-1768).

Evangelism has often resulted in congregations rediscovering song, the Wesleyan movement, Sankey and Moody, the Welsh revival and modern expressions of worship being obvious examples. One such movement was the Pietistic revival in Germany and this resulted in a number of hymns, characterised by piety, Christian experience and faithfulness to scripture.

Lutherian Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel was a significant member of this movement but very little is known about her. She lived in Köthen, a small town in central Germany not far from Leipzig. It was then an independent duchy and JS Bach was musical director in the ducal court from 1717 to 1723. Katharina von Schlegel may have been attached to the ducal court, and was apparently the canoness of an evangelical women's seminary.

The original text, 'Stille, mein Wille!' was published in 1752 in *Neue Sammlung Geistlicher Lieder*.

The hymn was translated into English by Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897).

Jane Borthwick belonged to the Free Church of Scotland. In 1855, she produced a book of translations of German hymns titled *Hymns from the Land of Luther*.

In its English version, 'Be still my soul' was initially sung to *Unde et memores* by William Henry Monk (1823-1889), the first musical editor of *Hymns, Ancient and Modern*. This tune is usually associated with William Bright's 'And now, O Father, mindful of the love'.

Johan (Jean) Julius Christian Sibelius' *Finlandia*, Op. 26 is a symphonic poem. The first version was written in 1899, and it was revised in 1900. The piece was composed for a patriotic pageant performed to mobilise popular opposition to the revocation of Finnish independence from the government of the Russian Empire.

Most of the piece is taken up with rousing and turbulent music, evoking the national struggle of the Finnish people. But towards the end, a calm comes over the orchestra, and the serenely melodic *Finlandia* hymn is heard.

Finlandia became a world favourite, and many arrangements were made of it: an arrangement for military band in 1909, a choral and orchestral version in English in 1925, and an arrangement for marimba orchestra in the 1940s. Sibelius heard a version given by a restaurant

trio in Bergen in 1921 and politely asked the musicians not to play it.

The hymn episode, which was well suited for singing, posed a problem of its own. Soon *Finlandia* was being sung round the world with words such as 'At the table', 'Dear friend of mine', 'Land of the pine', 'Christian life' and 'Our farewell song'.

'It is not intended to be sung,' Sibelius complained, 'it is written for an orchestra. But if the world wants to sing it, it can't be helped.'

Quite when the *Finlandia* hymn was first used with 'Be still my soul' seems lost in time but its first printed appearance in English was in the *Revised Church Hymnary* of the Church of Scotland in 1927. This gives some credence to references that 'Be still my soul' was the favourite hymn of Scot, missionary and athlete Eric Liddell who died in Japanese-occupied China in 1945. It is known that Liddell requested that a makeshift Salvation Army band play *Finlandia* shortly before he died.

Meanwhile in Finland, people plucked up courage. The tenor Wäinö Sola sent a text to Sibelius in 1937. After revisions, Sibelius (now aged over 70) prepared from Sola's text a version for male choir, for use by the Freemasons.

However, it was a later lyric by VA Koskenniemi that became more popular. A letter to the composer from September 1940 showed the background to the commission which ended: 'Laulu-

Miehet would like to perform *Finlandia* with these words, if you, Professor Sibelius, give your consent.'

Sibelius agreed. Koskenniemi's poem won the hearts of the Finns as words to the hymn section of *Finlandia*. It remains one of the most important national songs of Finland.

Sibelius did not die until 1957 and copyright restrictions probably prevented the tune from being printed alongside 'Be still my soul' in mainstream hymn books for many years. No doubt editors resisted the temptation of printing the words alongside another tune and it was not until 1977 that the words and tune appeared in *The Australian Hymn Book*. It appeared in *Common Praise*, published by Hymns, Ancient and Modern in 2000 and in *New English Praise*, a supplement to the *New English Hymnal* as recently as 2006. (*The Anglican Hymn Book* of 1965 set the words to *Rejoice, O People* by Eric Thurman.)

The original hymn apparently had six stanzas but only five seem to have been translated and some hymnals print only three or four stanzas. The five stanzas are:

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief and
pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly
friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful
end.*

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future, as He has the past:
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing
shake,*

*All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
know
His voice who ruled them while He
dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: when dearest friends
depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears.
Then shalt thou better know His love,
His heart,
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and
thy fears.*

*Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be for ever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear
are gone,*

*Sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears
are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at
last.*

*Be still, my soul: begin the song of praise
On earth, believing, to thy Lord on high;
Acknowledge Him in all thy works and
ways,*

*So shall He view thee with a well-
pleased eye.*

*Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine
Through passing clouds shall but more
brightly shine.*

Our own hymnal, *Hymns Old and New*, omits the third and fifth stanzas as well as updating instances of 'thy' to 'your'. It also rewrites the last two lines of the second stanza as:

*Be still my soul: the tempests still obey
His voice, who ruled them once on
Galilee. (ouch!)*

As mentioned earlier, many hymns and songs have been set to *Finlandia*. The Welsh hymn 'Rho im yr hedd', normally sung to *Rhys* is associated with the tune but probably not in Wales.

More familiar may be the poem 'Gweddi dros Gymru - A Prayer for Wales' by Lewis Valentine.

There are numerous other examples of its use. Perhaps the most unusual was its adoption by Biafra for its national anthem 'Land of the Rising Sun' during its attempted secession from Nigeria.



Jean Sibelius. No images of Katarina von Schlegel or Jane Borthwick could be found.