

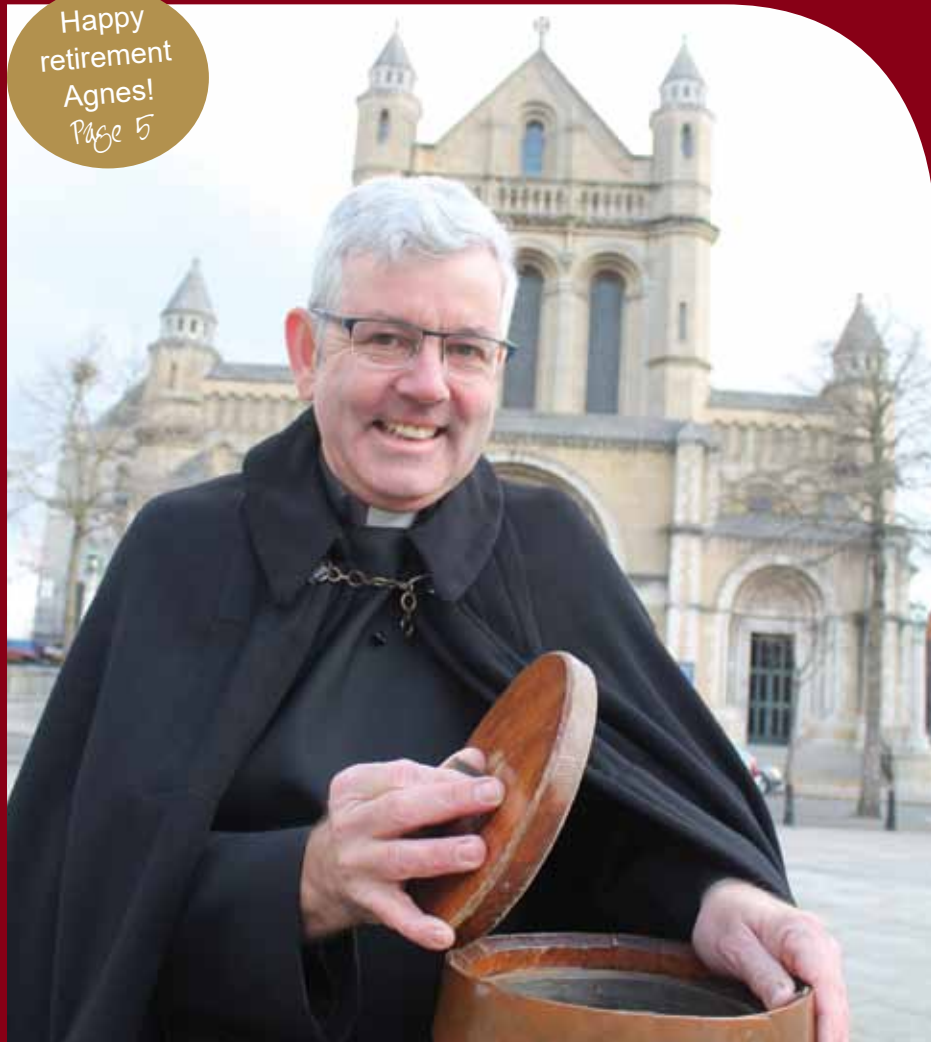
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST ANNE

DIGEST



DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

Happy
retirement
Agnes!
Page 5



The Very Rev Stephen Forde is preparing for his first Black Santa Sit-out since his installation as Dean of Belfast. He is looking forward to meeting people on the Cathedral steps as he aims to raise as much money as possible for local charities. Please call by, and if you cannot make it you can donate online at www.belfastcathedral.org.

Dean Stephen reflects...

For many people, and most Belfast shops, the Christmas festivities began in the middle of November and will end abruptly on December 26 with the start of 'The Sales.'



In front of the City Hall, the lively Christmas market was in full swing long before December 1. But overshadowing all attempts to brighten the darkness, there looms the dark shadow of Brexit, with a vote in Parliament on December 11 and all the confusion about what could happen next. This Christmas our world is an uncertain place for individuals and for our nation.

But this is exactly how it was on the first Christmas morning, 2,000 years ago. And this is why the Church does not celebrate Christmas in isolation, but in a context of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

The church's Sundays of Advent run from Sunday December 2 to Sunday December 23. On each of these Sundays one more red Advent Candle will be lit, preparing the way for Christ's breaking-in to history, for the birth of the Baby of Bethlehem.

But Advent is a season of waiting, of preparing, and of hearing from the prophets that God would not enter a fairy tale world of tinsel and reindeers, but that God promised to act in the real world for people facing real difficulties.

So, Jesus was born at a time of heightened political tension and national uncertainty. He was born of parents forced to make a perilous journey at the dictat of occupying powers. He was born in a cow byre loaned by the kindness of an overworked inn keeper.

On December 25, Christmas is 'Good News' precisely because God took the amazing risk of allowing His Saviour to be born into our world, with all the vulnerability of a tiny baby, laid to sleep in a manger.

And our response to the Christmas miracle, the gift of God's son? Surely it is to welcome Jesus into our real world, with all the enthusiasm of the Wise Men of Epiphany, and with the determination of a Black Santa braving the cold, wind and rain of Belfast in December so that Christ's light will shine brighter for many more people in uncertain times.

This year may you all know the waiting of Advent, the joy of Christmas and the welcome of Epiphany.

New website

Belfast Cathedral's brand new website at the familiar www.belfastcathedral.org is now live.

The cutting edge site, designed by Belfast-based Big Pixel, has an easy-to-navigate menu, some stunning photography, and clear access to information on all the Cathedral's services, music, events, and hire facilities.

The website is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



A warm Christmas welcome

Belfast Cathedral will be buzzing over Advent and Christmas, with our own seasonal services, the Black Santa Sit-out for charities, a Black Santa Bazaar and a range of carol services run by different charities and organisations. A full list of Carol services and other events over the next few weeks is below.

- December 8 - 2.30pm Come and Sing with John Rutter
- December 11 - 4pm St Anne Trust Carolfest
- December 12 - 6pm Chamber of Commerce Carol Service
- December 13 - 7.30pm Mercy Ships Carol Service
- December 14 - 6.30pm Home Start Carol Service
- December 17 - 6.30pm PWC Carol Service
- December 17 – 24 Black Santa Sit-out
- December 18 - 7.30pm Grosvenor Grammar School Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
- December 20 - 5.30pm Black Santa Christmas Bazaar – Music, food, art, gifts
- December 22 - 7.30pm Ravara Productions presents 'Sing we now of Christmas'
- Sunday December 23 - 3.30pm Lessons and Carols for the City with the Cathedral Choirs
- Christmas Eve - 8pm Festival Lessons and Carols with the Cathedral Choirs
- Christmas Eve - 11pm Choral Eucharist for Christmas with the Cathedral Choirs
- Christmas Day - 11am Christmas Festival Choral Eucharist with special preacher the Rt Rev Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore
- January 6 - 11am Choral Eucharist and 3.30pm Choral Evensong to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.

Congratulations Holly!

Holly Wilson, Belfast Cathedral's Events and Marketing Manager, did St Anne's proud at the final of the Women in Business Awards NI Awards in the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday November 8.

Holly was shortlisted as a finalist in the Young Business Woman of the Year Category of these prestigious awards.

She was accompanied to the gala evening by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, Visitor Services Manager Helen Graham and Cathedral Board Member Robert Moore.

Nearly 50 inspirational individuals and companies were included on the shortlist which ranged from the sole-trader operation through to representatives from corporate giants such as BT, Danske Bank and PWC.

Holly and the other finalists were invited on an exclusive one-day retreat in Dublin at the Virgin Media Television Studios where they took part in workshops and networking with special guest Tracey Jane Cassidy, founder and chief executive of Junior Einsteins and winner of Voom 2018.

More than 500 guests attended the awards dinner. Holly said afterwards: "It was lovely to attend the Women in Business Awards.

"The food, entertainment and speakers were fantastic and we were delighted to represent Belfast Cathedral.

"Although there was no award to bring back it was a privilege to be nominated and I would like to say a massive thank



Marketing and Events Manager Holly Wilson with her Women in Business nominee certificate.

you to everyone who sent supportive emails and messages."

Holly added: "I'm also delighted to announce that Women in Business will be bringing their next gala dinner to Belfast Cathedral in February 2019!"

Flower arrangers sought

Volunteers are being sought to undertake flower arranging. Outside of special occasions, flowers will be kept for two Sundays. The cost of providing flowers every other Sunday is estimated to be approximately £50 fortnightly.

Anyone wishing to volunteer as a flower arranger, or who would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers, for example as an 'in memoriam,' should call into the Cathedral office or email admin@belfastcathedral.org.



Dean Stephen Forde presents a gift to Agnes Laffey at her retirement party on November 27.

Happy retirement Agnes!

After almost 50 years Agnes Laffey has retired as a sexton of Belfast Cathedral. Agnes worked at Norwich Union Insurance before taking up the role of sexton around 1970, just as Dean Cuthbert Peacocke was leaving and Dean Sammy Crooks arrived.

Agnes married her late husband James in the Cathedral in October 1952. James served in the Army and for eight years Agnes travelled with him.

They settled in Newtownabbey, and had two daughters, Gail, and the late Allison. Both girls were married in the Cathedral. Agnes is now proud grandmother to seven, and great grandmother to five.

Life in St Anne's was a little more sedate in Agnes's early days as sexton. "There were a lot less people working in the Cathedral then," said Agnes. "We were like a big family."

Agnes said she always enjoyed working for St Anne's. "I love it. I love everything about it. I love the crowds of people,

every Dean that I have met," she said.

Agnes, who now lives in the Fortwilliam area, will return regularly to the Cathedral to attend services as a parishioner.

On November 27, staff said farewell to Agnes at a party in the library. "Agnes has been part of the life of Belfast Cathedral for decades, working with Dean Sammy Crooks, Dean Jack Shearer, Dean Houston McKelvey, Dean John Mann and myself," Dean Stephen Forde said.

"Today we want to thank you for everything that you have done for all the people you have seen through this place, for your friendly smile, your happy welcome, and for making sure the rest of us were in the right place at the right time, for all you have organised and for all the cups of tea!" the Dean added.

Dean Forde presented a gift and a card signed by all the staff before helping Agnes and Gail cut a retirement cake. Have a very happy retirement Agnes!

Fun on Stewards' Day Out

Volunteer stewards joined Welcome Desk staff for a visit to two key visitor sites on Tuesday September 25 – Hillsborough Castle and the Ulster Aviation Society at Maze Long Kesh.

Before departing, representatives from Tourism Northern Ireland presented Dean Stephen Forde with a Certificate showing that Belfast Cathedral is a World Host recognised business, evidence of commitment to training to ensure every visitor has the best experience possible.

The Dean then presented certificates to volunteers and staff who had successfully completed their World Host Training. "You are part of something really important," the Dean said. "We need to make every visit a memorable visit for those who come through the door. We are aiming for excellence in everything. You all have a love for this Cathedral, and that shows."

At Hillsborough Castle, the group enjoyed a tour of the Royal residence, learning the history of the building, those who have occupied its rooms and stories behind the many treasures within.

Afterwards there was an opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens.

The Castle, residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is undergoing considerable transformation under a £16m programme by Historic Royal Palaces. The work is scheduled for completion in April, though many rooms are already open to the visiting public.

After lunch in Hillsborough village, the Cathedral group travelled to the large hanger at the Maze Long Kesh site, now occupied by the Ulster Aviation Society. The Society, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018 has a collection of more than 35 aircraft, ranging from vintage WWII fighters through Cold War-era fast jets, Shorts-designed & built aircraft, civilian aircraft, plus military artefacts.

The group was guided around the hangar, learning more about the individual aircraft and the men and women who flew them. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to climb aboard or try out a cockpit!

Thanks to Visitor Services Manager Helen Graham for organising the day.



Volunteers and staff receive their World Host Certificate before departing for Hillsborough Castle.



WO2 Wilkins and WO1 Monaghan before the Service of Remembrance.

Royal Irish remembers

The Royal Irish Regiment 'family' gathered in the Cathedral for a Service of Remembrance on November 4.

The Regiment meets each year to remember all of those who have died, whether in action or of natural causes. All ranks of the Regiment and many veterans and bereaved families attended.

Special guests included Brigadier Colin Weir DSO MBE, the Colonel of the Regiment, and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay O'Boyle.

The service was led by Dean Stephen Forde, and featured the Cathedral Choir conducted by Master of the Choristers David Steven. There was also music from The Royal Irish Regiment Band.

Lessons were read by Brigadier Weir and Lieutenant Colonel PJ Walkley, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment.

The Rev Dr I Thompson, Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment, led an Act of Remembrance. Representatives of each of the antecedent and foundation Regiments which form the Royal Irish Regiment family attended. A wreath was also laid by the Colonel of the Regiment.

In his sermon, Archbishop Clarke spoke of human dignity in the context of remembrance and the reality of hope and peace through following and experiencing the presence of Jesus Christ. Taking his theme from the regimental motto – 'Clear the Way/Fág an Bealach' – the Archbishop highlighted its resonance with swords being beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.

"This was the honest hope of many who volunteered to fight in the First World War, that this was a war that would destroy war for all time," the Archbishop said.

Cathedral a hub for Culture Night

Culture Night Belfast returned on September 21, with the Cathedral a focal point for activities.

A highlight of the celebrations had to be the PowerNI light show, which used the West Front of the Cathedral as a canvas for a colourful, quite spectacular light and music show.

Events in St Anne's began with the Cathedral choir singing Choral Evensong at 5.30pm, followed by Amy McAllister playing the harp. It was standing room only for the Ulster Orchestra's Experience the Magic concert from 7pm-8pm. Next up was singer/songwriter Matty Rea and at 9pm the Cathedral fell silent for Sung Compline, with literally hundreds of people attending.

Belfast singer/songwriter Owen McKavanagh concluded the evening in the Cathedral but outside the Culture Night party continued into the wee small hours!



Cathedral Organ Scholar Jack Wilson and Ulster composer Philip Hammond discuss one of Philip's organ works that Jack plays as a Voluntary during October.

Belfast Cathedral hosted a poignant commemoration on November 11 marking the Centenary of the signing of the Armistice at the end of World War One.

Relatives of those who were killed or maimed in the 1914-1918 conflict gathered with others from all over Ireland with links to that war for a service broadcast live on BBC TV and radio.

His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG was in attendance and read a lesson. Other key figures included Secretary of State Karen Bradley, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, Irish Government Minister Damien English, City Councillors and politicians.

Josh and Will De Wind, descendants of war hero Second Lieutenant Edmund De Wind, travelled from New York for the service. De Wind was awarded a Victoria Cross and his name is carved on a pillar on the West Front of Belfast Cathedral.

The special guests were welcomed by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, and Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Chairman of the Northern Ireland First World War Centenary Committee.

The preacher was the Most Rev Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland. The Blessing was given by the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Primate and Archbishop of Armagh. The two have been on a shared journey since the commemoration of the outbreak of the war in 1914, a journey referred to by Archbishop Martin in his sermon.

The commemorations began early when, at 6am on the 11th day of the 11th month, Pipe Major Margaret Hill from



Poignant Armistice Centenary

Perspex figures in the congregation representing the fallen of WW1: There But Not There. Photo: Darren Kidd, Press Eye.

Cookstown played *The Battle's O'er*. The Cathedral held its own Service of Remembrance at 11am. The afternoon service coincided with services in Dublin, Glasgow and Cardiff, ahead of the national service at Westminster Abbey.

The service of Choral Evensong was led by the Cathedral choir and members of the Ulster Orchestra, under the direction of the Choirmaster David Stevens. Acting Organist was Mark McGrath and Cantor was the Rev Julie Bell, a Minor Canon of Belfast Cathedral.

The emphasis of the service was on remembrance and reconciliation, with poet Michael Longley reading his acclaimed work 'Ceasefire.'

To coincide with the service, a new collection of poetry, 'Wake up Jamesie Lad,' written for the Armistice by local man Paul Gilmore, has been published.

A choral anthem specially commissioned for the service was sung by the Cathedral Choir. The music was by Irish composer Eoghan Desmond and the words were drawn from a poem written in 1915 by Lisburn poet Katharine Tynan.

In a significant change to traditional commemoration services, this service featured a moment of reflection rather than an act of remembrance. Instead of laying wreaths, several volumes of Ireland's Memorial Records, held in St Anne's, were laid at a field altar. The books were borne by people who have at least one family member who was killed in the war and is named in the memorial records.

As the sun set, a lantern was carried outside the Cathedral as those inside and those watching on television or listening on radio, remembered all the fallen.

In his address, Archbishop Martin focused on peace and reconciliation, and spoke about the pilgrimages he and Archbishop Clarke had made together to Ypres. Just miles from the Menin Gate, on his first visit, he located the grave of his great uncle Edward at Canada Farm cemetery.

The Archbishop told the congregation: "The brave people we are remembering are calling us to recognise their shared suffering by building a better future where difference is accepted and respected."



David Stevens, Master of the Choristers and Clergy who assisted at the Pets' Service. From left: Canon Mark Taylor; David Stevens; Dean Stephen Forde, The Rev Janice Elsdon, the Rev Paul Twomey and the Rev Ron Elsdon.

Pets help raise the woof!

Worshippers really raised the woof at Choral Evensong in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday September 30!

Dozens of doggies and a sprinkling of cats padded into St Anne's for the Cathedral's second annual Pet's Service.

The animals were all very well behaved, some joined in heartily with the hymns and anthems, others listened intently to the prayers and readings as they cuddled in their owners' arms, and some just wanted to strut their stuff down the aisle!

Dean Stephen Forde and Master of the Choristers David Stevens had selected appropriate readings, music and anthems for the service. David's dog Xin help him conduct the choir, while Organ Scholar Jack Wilson's dog Ted sat beside him at the organ during the service!

The sermon was preached by Dean Forde, with reference to that well-known animal linguist Dr Doolittle!

At the end of the service, pets were invited to be individually blessed by members of the clergy, with the Dean, the Rev Janice Elsdon, the Rev Ron Elsdon, the Rev Canon Mark Taylor and the Rev Paul Twomey doing the blessings.



The Rev John Anderson, rector of Billy and Derrykeighan, Diocese of Connor, brought the family to the Pets' Service along with their doggy Rusty.



Agnes Moore, a member of the cathedral Welcome Desk team, brought Roxy along.

It was a friendly, fun-filled service, and many of those who attended expressed thanks to the Cathedral for organising it. Comments included: "It's so nice to see our beloved companions being recognised," and "Thank you for the opportunity to have our four legged friends acknowledged and blessed."

Dean Forde said: "The blessing of pets gives us a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the gift of animals, and for us to ask God's blessing on all that he has made."



How cute is Scooby?!

"For some, our pets are as special to us as any member of our family. To some the animal by their side gives the gift of independent living. Many working animals save lives through search and rescue, while all working animals demand our respect and care."

Dean Forde added: "And, in a global sense, we are all called to a greater care of the ecology and environment of the created world."



Dean Stephen Forde blesses Krystal the Chihuahua.

Brave lads remembered



James Laughlin



Wesley Laughlin



Herbert Laughlin



Arthur Cree

During November, as we remembered the victims of a conflict which ended 100 years ago, many stories emerged about the boys who stepped up to serve during the Great War.

These stories included those belonging to the Belfast Cathedral Company of the Church Lads' Brigade (CLB).

The Belfast Cathedral Company of the CLB was formed in 1898. Lads were trained in ambulance work, gymnastics, drill, mock battles, signalling, and shooting. The Cathedral CLB Company had a particularly good shooting team prior to the war, winning the Cooper Challenge Cup, an all Ireland open competition.

When the Great War began in 1914, hundreds of past and present members of the CLB enlisted in the Armed Forces. The following are lads from the Cathedral CLB Company who joined up in 1914 to fight on the battlefields of the First World War.

A Almerly, J Blogg, H Clarke, R Connar, A Cree (killed), A Curdy, A Hamilton, S Harcourt, D Harrison, E Hill, G Hill, W Howell, J Kenwn, H Laughlin (wounded), J Laughlin (killed), W Laughlin

(wounded), W Lemon, C McCauley, W McWilliam, D Motherwell, J Pittaway, James Reid, John Reid, J Rogers, R Smyth (wounded) and W Willis. (It is probable that other lads joined later in the war.)

Lt James Laughlin, 20th Bn King's Liverpool Regiment, an Officer in the Cathedral Company, was killed on July 1 1916. A brother, Herbert (Bertie), was severely wounded while serving with the 14th RIR. Another brother, Wesley, was seriously wounded at Gallipoli.

Sapper Arthur Cree came from a military family. He was the first boy soloist at the opening of St Anne's Cathedral and remained in the choir for some time. When he was 18, he enlisted in the Royal Engineers, serving for three years, before transferring to the Reserves. At the outbreak of war, he went forward for service and was sent out to France and Flanders with the British Expeditionary Force. He took part in the operation to blow up the bridge at Mons and narrowly escaped with his life. Arthur Cree was killed on May 12 1915.

**by Johnny Conn, CLCGB
Development Officer**

Cantate!



Voices Together perform during the Cantate! Concert.

On November 21 Jubilate! Chamber Choir, Voices Together Community Choir and the Cathedral Girls' Choir presented Cantate! - a concert of hope and celebration on the Eve of St Cecilia's Day

There were also poems and reflections from Dean Stephen Forde and Pádraig Ó Tuama, renowned poet and leader of the Corrymeela Community. The concert was jointly organised by the Cathedral and Corrymeela, Northern Ireland's oldest centre for peace and reconciliation, as a fundraiser for both organisations.

St Cecilia is a famous Roman martyr and Patron Saint of Music.

Both Jubilate! and Voices Together were founded by Dave Stewart, a former student at the School of Music at Queen's University, Belfast. Jubilate! was established in 1987, originally as a youth choir. It became an independent choir in 1994.

Voices Together celebrates 'the music in diversity and the diversity in music', and the programme on November 21 included spirituals, contemporary gospel,

protest songs, and African folk melodies.

The Cathedral Girls' Choir sings Choral Evensong on Mondays and Wednesdays and both the Eucharist and Evensong every other Sunday.

Belfast Cathedral and Corrymeela have a well-established working relationship and both Dean Stephen Forde and Pádraig Ó Tuama are keen to further reconciliation and outreach in Belfast.

In his words of welcome in the concert programme, Pádraig said: "Music lifts us towards God, and moves us towards each other. When people sing, their hearts begin to beat together, we begin to breathe at the same time.

"This community of melody and breathing is a demonstration of what our community can be, when we are joined together in the diversity of our voices."

Welcoming the visiting choirs and the audience in the programme, Dean Forde said: "This is a chance to demonstrate how music can join different voices in a shared harmony."

Angels of St Anne's **By Norman Weatherall**

Hebrews 13: 2 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.'

Angel, from *angelos* (Greek), a messenger or envoy. Angels are common to both Judaism and Christianity. In the Old Testament angels often appear as human beings, as in the story of Lot (Genesis 19); in early Christian art they were depicted as young men in long robes; wings did not appear until mid-4th century.

Colossians 1:16: Paul wrote 'for by him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created through him and for him.'

Following Paul, Dionysius the Pseudo Areopagite in 'The Celestial Hierarchy', 5th century, classified angels in three triads or circles of three, nine orders in all. First Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones; second Dominions, Principalities and Powers; third, Virtues, Archangels and Angels. Mediaeval writers either added to Dionysius' classification or produced their own hierarchies of both angels and demons, for example, 'Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God....' (Revelation 8: 2) led to the belief that there were seven archangels.

What angelic presence can we find in the Cathedral? In the Chapel of the Holy Spirit we meet the Seraphim as described in Isaiah 6: 2-3: 'each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to the other

and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

Of the seven archangels four are represented. Michael: 'Who is like God'. (nave, north-east corner) The soldier archangel, the greatest, he led the heavenly armies against Lucifer/ Satan in the war in heaven (Revelation 12: 7). In art he is represented as a young man, sometimes winged, and dressed either in white or in armour with lance and shield; in the Cathedral he holds a sword and scales with which to weigh the souls of the dead. A splendid representation of Michael adorns the west front of Coventry Cathedral.

Gabriel: 'Strong man of God'. (nave, north-west corner, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Daniel window.) Sometimes regarded as the angel of death and the prince of fire and thunder, but more often as God's messenger. His symbol a white lily. In the Old Testament he appeared to Daniel to make known 'what shall be at the latter end of the indignation; for it pertains to the appointed time of the end' (Daniel 8:19); and again in chapter nine: 'O Daniel, I have now come out to give you wisdom and understanding.' In the New Testament Gabriel foretells the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1: 5-7) and announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to the Christ. (Luke 1: 26f). Archibald Nicholson, the designer, has given his Gabriel all the glorious 'equipment' we might expect of an archangel. Daniel's Gabriel is also winged.

Raphael: (nave, south-east) 'Messenger of God'. The pilgrim archangel, he carries a lantern and a staff. He appears as guide to the young man Tobit in the



apocryphal book of that name. Tobias' father had chosen Raphael for the role, unaware that he was an archangel since he had appeared in the guise of a family member. Tobit catches a huge fish whose innards he removes as instructed by Raphael; the organs enable Tobit to survive as husband of the beautiful Sarah (her previous seven husbands killed in the wedding chamber by a demon) and to restore his father's eyesight.

Uriel: 'Light of God'. (nave, south-west corner) Sun-in-splendour on his shield. He is to be found in the apocrypha, Esdras 4: 1 and Enoch. Stories told about him include his saving of John the Baptist from the Massacre of the Innocents ordered by Herod and carrying him off to join the Holy Family in Egypt. He is also the keeper of beauty and light.

'Plain' angels, the lowest order, are those most involved with humanity as messengers or as guardians: Psalm 91:11 'For he will give his angels charge of

you to guard you in all your ways.' Acts 12:11: 'Peter came to himself, and said, Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod...'

'Plain' angels are to be found in the central west window and as corbels to the chancel arch. 'Hark the herald angels sing' in the mosaic above the west door and on the pillar of music.

Matthew 18:19 'See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my father....' Appropriately four cherubs, the work of Miss Praeger, adorn the Baptistry. (Cherubs are not to be confused with the more impressive Cherubim.)

September 29 is the Feast of St Michael and All Angels. (Michaelmas). In Ireland there is a tradition that sickness and disease follow the 29th and that the day itself is unlucky for fishing.

Story of 'Carol of the Bells'

One of the most recognisable melodies of the Christmas season is 'Carol of the Bells' – it can be heard in various versions piped through shopping centre sound systems, and even in the film 'Home Alone' which graces our screens each year (since 1990!). However, the origins of the piece are not Christmas-related at all.



Mykola Leontovych
(1877 – 1921)

The composer, Ukrainian Mykola Leontovych, was commissioned to create a work based on Ukrainian folk melodies for the Republic Choir Oleksander Koshyts, and the resulting piece, 'Shchedryk', relates a New Year folk story, and describes a swallow flying into a household to proclaim that the family will have a prosperous year.

The Christmas text was given to the piece in the early 1930s, for a broadcast by the NBC Symphony Orchestra and Choir. This, and subsequent broadcasts, introduced the work to a large number of people, and it has remained popular since.

This piece now has two 'performance traditions'. The Christmas version (that you'll hear at the Cathedral's carol services this year) is generally performed fairly fast, but the original Ukrainian version is a much more sedate affair.

For an excellent example of this, you can find a video of the Bel Canto Choir Vilnius performing 'Shchedryk' on YouTube – it has a simplicity and gentleness not found in Christmas performances, and it is interesting to hear the work as intended by the composer.

by David Stevens, Master of the Choristers

Flowers

Flowers have been donated by the following:

July 29: *Jill Steer in memory of Ruth and George Bustard.*

August 5: *In memory of Dean Samuel Crooks.*

August 12: *In Memory of Berta McMillen.*

August 26: *David and Helen Alexander in memory of parents.*

September 2: *Sam Allen in memory of Mary Margaret Allen, a loving person.*

September 16: *Esther Miller in memory of Graham Miller.*

September 23: *Rosemary Kinkead in memory of Bill Kinkead.*

September 30: *Alan Martin in memory of parents.*

October 7: *Rosemary Kinkead in memory of Bill Kinkead.*

November 25: *Marion Gibson in memory of Tom Gibson.*

Freewill offering

Many thanks for Freewill offerings received this year. If any member of the congregation would like to know their contribution to the Freewill Offering for 2018 to date, please contact Brian Moore on 028 9086 5229.

New look Gazette

The Church of Ireland Gazette changes to a monthly magazine format in January. To order your copy please speak to Ronnie Lawrenson.

Food Bank thank you

Esther Miller would like to thank the many faithful and generous supporters who donate to the Cathedral's Foodbank Appeal. Whether you put a couple of items in one of our yellow bags or share the Harvest bounty in the form of tinned fruit and puddings, every donation is vital and much appreciated.

All your donations are delivered weekly to the Foodbank's collection centre on Dargan Road by Esther and Cameron. They are weighed, logged and sorted for distribution. Your donations help to provide three days of emergency food and support to local people in crisis.

Care professionals such as health

visitors, schools and social workers identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher. Your tin of rice pudding or fruit provides a lot more than food. Foodbank volunteers offer a listening ear over a cup of tea or coffee and signpost people to other charities and agencies who can help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis.

Items in particular demand are listed on the label on the yellow bags. The Cathedral's signature bags have so impressed the Foodbank Co-ordinators that they are suggesting to other donors that they adopt a similar approach. Thank you to all those who help make this form of outreach possible.



Our Junior Girls' Choir looking wonderful as they prepared to sing their first Choral Evensong of the new school year in September.

Register



**'AND HE TOOK THEM IN HIS ARMS
AND BLESSED THEM'**

September 30

Chester Graham

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ianmonro@btinternet.com

Archivists

Norman Weatherall
Jean Barber

Principal Cathedral Guide

Norman Weatherall

The Cathedral Chapter

The Dean
Treasurer & Chapter Clerk: The
Rev Mark Niblock (2016)
Chancellor: The Venerable
DA McClay (2013)
Precentor: The Venerable GTW
Davison (2013)

Canons of Connor:

The Rev Nigel Baylor (2012)
The Rev Mark Taylor (2016)
The Rev David Humphries (2016)
The Rev Stephen Fielding (2018)

Canons of Down and Dromore

The Rev R Nesbitt (2003)
The Rev SH Lowry (2013)
The Rev G Harron (2016)
The Rev G Withers (2017)

Chapter Canons:

The Rev Michael Parker (2015)

Minor Canons:

The Rev NDJ Kirkpatrick (2014)
The Rev J Bell (2015)
The Rev S Richardson (2015)

Ecumenical Canons:

The Rev Dr R Patterson (2012)
The Rev Ruth E Patterson (2014)
The Very Rev Edward O'Donnell (2016)

Lay Canons

Mr Robert Kay MBE (2016)
Mrs Myrtle Kerr (2016)

The Cathedral Board

The Dean (Chairman)
The Bishop of Connor
The Bishop of Down & Dromore
The Dean's Vicar
The Archdeacons of Belfast and Down
The Rev J Elsdon
The Rev Canon M Taylor
Mrs G McGaughey (Hon Sec)
Dr V KcKinley
Mr J Watson
Mr R Kay MBE
Dr M Callender
Mr R Totten MBE
Mr R Moore
Mr A Reilly
Dr R Cromey
Mr N Pierpoint
Mr Patrick Good



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

Sunday Services

10.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Weekday services

Tuesday and Thursday
8.15-8.45am Morning Prayer
and Eucharist
1.00pm Cathedral Prayers

Monday to Friday
5.30pm Choral Evensong

Upcoming services and events

December

December 17- 24 Black Santa Sit-out
for charities

Sunday December 23 @ 3.30pm Lessons and Carols
for the City with the Cathedral Choirs

Christmas Eve @ 8pm Festival Lessons and Carols with
the Cathedral Choirs

Christmas Eve @ 11pm Choral Eucharist for Christmas
with the Cathedral Choirs

Christmas Day @ 11am Christmas Festival Choral
Eucharist with special preacher the Rt Rev Harold Miller
Bishop of Down and Dromore

January

January 6 @11am Choral Eucharist and 3.30pm Choral
Evensong to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.

