

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST ANNE

DIGEST



JUNE / JULY 2019

Schoolboy
pilots are
honoured
Pages 10-11



Dean Stephen Forde escorts HRH The Duke of York from the Cathedral following a Thanksgiving Service for Sacha, Duchess of Abercorn, on Thursday May 30, attended by more than 800 guests. Full report on pages 8-9.

A time of change

- Dean Stephen reflects...

For many, June marks the end of a busy academic year. For teachers, there is the flurry of school reports or end of year concerts. For pupils, the end of exams and the expectation of a long summer holiday. For students, exams are completed and results awaited.

For everyone, the month of long evenings is often a time of change.

June will be such a month for us. On Sunday evening June 16, we shall welcome the Belfast Community Gospel Choir to fill the Cathedral with their harmonious enthusiasm.

And on Saturday June 22, we welcome the King's Singers for their only Irish performance this year. We expect lovers of choral music to travel from every corner of our province to hear them sing in a major fund raising event for our Cathedral finances. Do make sure that you also have purchased your ticket.

But the musical changes of June will also impact us at St Anne's. Some of our longstanding choristers have reached the end of their school careers in Belfast, and hope to study 'across the water.'

Evensong on Sunday June 23 will be a celebration of all that our choirs have achieved under the Direction of David Stevens over the past seven years, because at the end of this summer, David will also be leaving us to take up a new position at the prestigious Wells Cathedral.

Also leaving for new musical challenges will be Jack Wilson, as he takes up the

position of Organ Scholar at Sidney Sussex

College in Cambridge, and Catherine Harper, who has been vocal coach to our choristers.

In a summer of musical changes we thank each one for their commitment, wish them well for the future, and look forward to new faces and new talent joining us in September.



Sunday flowers

We would like to acknowledge the kind donations of flowers as follows:

June 2 - Margaret Wilkinson in memory of Noel Wilkinson.

June 9 - Jean Fox, thanksgiving gift.

June 16 - Dr Alan McCormack in deep & loving memory of William Thomas McCormack; husband, father & inspiration.

Stanley and Noreen McIlroy in memory of parents.

June 23 & 30 - Canon Noble Hamilton in memory of Pat Hamilton.

July 28 & August 4 - Michael & Barbara Callender.

August 11 - Ronnie Lawrenson in memory of Berta McMillen.

August 18 - Ronnie Lawrenson in memory of Dean Sammy Crooks.

To make a donation towards the provision of Sunday flowers, please email admin@belfastcathedral or speak to Chris Weir in reception.

‘We are named, so we are known... for all eternity’

Names matter, Dean Stephen Forde told families who gathered on Sunday June 2 for the annual Saying Goodbye service.

They matter, the Dean said, ‘because when we are named, so we are known, for all of time and all of eternity.’

The Saying Goodbye service is for anyone who has lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in early years, or who has been affected by a family member or friend’s loss.

This year, the Mariposa Trust, which runs these services across the UK, extended the services to welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven’t had children.

Baby loss affects around one in four pregnancies each year in the UK, with nearly 700 babies lost each day.

Addressing the congregation, Dean Forde said the Church of Ireland, at its General Synod in May, had agreed to introduce two new services.

“The first service is a form of words and prayers for the Naming of a Child who has died in the womb before birth, or who has died within hours of birth, but not been baptised. The second service is a funeral service where a tiny life has been lost due to miscarriage or still

birth,” Dean Forde explained.

“In creating these services, to give comfort, help and hope to bereaved parents, such as yourselves, at the most painful and difficult time in your lives, every word and every phrase was carefully and powerfully considered.”

He said many of those who contributed to the formation of these services spoke from their own experience.

The Dean shared some of the prayers the Church has written for these services.

“Let me offer these prayers to you today, as you each remember a tiny life conceived and created, longed for and loved, yet a person who found God’s eternity before they found all the challenges, and conflicts of the life that you and I live every day.”

The Dean spoke of the Cathedral’s ‘Remember our Child’ books, which hold the names of many children who died before, or soon after, their birth.

“They too are offered and remembered this afternoon, because when we are named, then we are known: We are known to those who have loved us deeply, even through grief and loss, and we are known to God, who has written our name on the palm of his hand,” the Dean said.



The eventual winners, Harding Memorial Primary School.

Schools' Choir of the Year

The Cathedral was packed on May 15 for the third annual St Anne Trust Belfast Primary School Choir of the Year Competition.

Eight primary schools put on amazing performances, singing two songs each, giving this year's adjudicator, BBC Art and Music Producer Richard Yarr, a very difficult task.

It was an close competition, with Harding Memorial Primary School taking first place, followed by Victoria College Preparatory School. In third place was Glenwood Primary School.

Pupils, teachers and parents were welcomed by the Chairman of the St Anne Trust, Mr Joseph Watson.

Adding his welcome, Dean Stephen Forde, said: "I know that you have been practising for this for many weeks, and today your hard work will pay off. I want this to be a day you will remember long after you leave here."

The competition was once again supported by Belfast City Council, and this year also enjoyed sponsorship from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

The Lord Mayor said: "This is an excellent competition that brings together schools from diverse backgrounds in all four corners of our city."

After all the choirs had performed, the 400 children, along with teachers and parents, were led in communal singing by Laura McFall of Opera NI.

The Awards were presented by Lord Mayor Hargey and Ms McDonough, who said the event had been inspiring and uplifting. "There is no finer event than this to hear children's voices rise up as they did. You are all a credit to your schools. I hope you look back on this day with great fondness and a sense of joyful achievement," Ms McDonough said.

Every school received a Certificate of Performance.



Energetic singing from St Patrick's Primary School



The choir of Cranmore Integrated PS.

Announcing the winners, Mr Yarr said: "It has been an absolute joy to be here. It was a real celebration of music. The skills you learn in a choir are skills for life. I was once a chorister in this Cathedral, and in the choir I learned about team work, commitment, attention to detail, and confidence."

Among the guests were Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Mrs Fion-

nuala Jay-O'Boyle and Mr Richard Jay.

The competition ended with the singing of a blessing by Cathedral Board Member Mr Nick Pierpoint.

The St Anne Trust was established in 2016 to advance education and promote arts, culture and heritage by promoting good relations with and between young people and their families.



Pupils from Harberton Special School and Jordanstown School who took part in the Come & Sing Day on May 16.

Smiles say it all on Come & Sing Day

The smiles and laughter said it all on day two of The St Anne Trust Belfast Primary Schools' Choir of the Year competition when pupils from two Special Schools took centre stage!

The Come & Sing Day featured the choirs of Jordanstown School and Harberton Special School. Led by the talented ladies from Opera NI, the boys and girls took part in a series of music and dance workshops, before

performing their two chosen songs. Some of the children relayed the song lyrics through sign language.

Jordanstown Choir sang the very popular 'A Million Dreams' and 'You've got a friend,' while Harberton delighted the audience with 'Flying Machine' and 'She'll be coming round the mountain.'

Congratulations to all the young people involved – it was a truly uplifting morning.

Funeral of murdered journalist

The eyes of the world were on St Anne's on April 24 when the Cathedral hosted a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lyra McKee.

The 29-year-old journalist was shot dead by a dissident republican group during unrest in Londonderry on April 18.

The service was jointly led by Dean Stephen Forde and parish priest Fr Martin Magill, whose impassioned plea to politicians was reported by the global media. Commending political leaders for standing together at a vigil in Creggan on Good Friday, Fr Magill said: "I am, however, left with a question. Why in God's name does it take the death of a 29-year-old woman, with her whole life in front of her, to get to this point?"

Mourners were led by Lyra's partner, Sara Canning, her mother and her brothers and sisters and the service was attended by political leaders. They included Prime Minister Theresa May, Northern Ireland Secretary Karen Bradley, British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, Irish President Michael D Higgins, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, and Tánaiste Simon Coveney.

During the service, Dean Forde said: "Lyra was a person who broke down barriers and reached across boundaries ... This was her hallmark in life, this is her legacy in death."

Lyra's sister Nichola Corner told the



packed congregation: "In the words of Lyra herself, 'We must change our own world, one piece at a time'."

Writing in the Belfast Telegraph, journalist Alf McCreary said the service in St Anne's had been 'a model of simplicity.'

"It was an attractive blend of the old and the new, with two ancient but still widely popular hymns interspersed with more modern pieces performed by Gareth Dunlop, Gemma Doherty and Morgan MacIntyre," he wrote.

He said the choir's rendition of Howard Goodall's version of Psalm 23, better known as the theme tune to 'The Vicar of Dibley,' was also fitting for the service.

Mr McCreary added: "The short readings from... St Matthew and St John brought reassurance and hope in the midst of death, while the tribute to Lyra by Dean Stephen Forde, and also the brief prayers, conveyed a great deal in a few words with the maximum effect."

He described John Rutter's 'A Gaelic Blessing,' sung by the choir, as 'gentle and comforting in such an intense and emotional atmosphere,' and said the final organ voluntary, played by Organ Scholar Jack Wilson - an improvisation on the hymn 'Now Thank We All Our God' - provided 'a fitting musical background as Lyra's coffin was carried on its final journey.'



Members of the Friends of Belfast Cathedral pictured during their Spring Pilgrimage to Down Cathedral on May 4.

Friends' visit Downpatrick for annual Spring Pilgrimage

Thirty members of the Friends of Belfast Cathedral enjoyed the Spring Pilgrimage to the Downpatrick area on Saturday May 4.

After a delayed departure from Belfast Cathedral due to congestion caused by the return of the Labour Day marchers to Writers' Square, the coach arrived in good time at Down County Museum where they enjoyed tea, coffee and freshly baked scones in the Cathedral View Tearoom with its panoramic view.

The weather was kind but chilly. The group had a leisurely afternoon studying the various exhibitions, many provoking memories of childhood. They found the prison section with its cells and legends very interesting.

The Friends were then joined by a good 'Friend' Clive Scoular, who lives near Killyleagh. He was a chorister in his youth and still has a passion for music. One of his other passions is for Ireland's

history and he has written many books on the subject – through the lives of people who created history. Clive had brought some with him and these were quickly snapped up.

He led the group to the Cathedral and gave a riveting account of the Cathedral and of St Patrick. He also talked about the recently consecrated replica of the Irish High Cross, the original being secure in the Museum.

After a visit to the Gift Shop, the group moved to Hollymount Church Hall in its lovely country setting, where a magnificent tea awaited. There was a table nearby stocked with raspberry and strawberry jams and marmalade – all homemade. Another vanishing act!

The Friends ended the evening with compline in the church Chapel of Ease conducted by the Rev SJ McDonald who had joined them for tea, and afterwards all members got home safely.

Royal guest attends memorial for Duchess

His Royal Highness the Duke of York joined the family and friends of the late Sacha, Duchess of Abercorn, at a service of Thanksgiving in Belfast Cathedral on May 30.

The Duke, who was representing the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the service, was joined by other representatives of the Royal Family, including the Earl of Caledon, Viscount Brookeborough, Leonora, Countess of Lichfield and Lord O'Neill.

Sacha Hamilton OBE, Duchess of Abercorn, died on December 10 2018 aged 72. Born in Tucson, Arizona, she was related through her mother Georgina to Tsar Nicholas I of Russia, and was also a great-great-great granddaughter of the legendary Russian poet, Alexander Pushkin.

The Duchess came to live in Ireland in 1966 when she married James Hamilton, now Duke of Abercorn. They had three children, James, Sophie and Nicholas. The family has connections to the Queen and Prince Philip and to the late Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Welcoming guests at the Service of Thanksgiving, the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde said: "She was related to royalty, yet at home with all. And through her own experience of loss through the violence of terrorism, she worked tirelessly to find healing from the trauma of 'The Troubles' for children and adults alike."

The Dean added that the Duchess had 'inspired across borders and boundaries.'

Sacha, who trained as a professional counsellor, was very aware of the trauma 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland inflicted on children. To help them to express their thoughts, their feelings and to find a 'voice' of their own, she established the Pushkin Trust in 1987.

One of the children she reached out to was John McDaid, now a member of the hugely successful band Snow Patrol. Paying a moving tribute in front of the 800 guests at the service, Mr McDaid spoke of his close personal friendship with the Duchess, whom he first met when he was 11-years-old.

"She showed me that we all have within us a universal potential," he said. "Her dream was giant but her heart had more than enough space to nurture and grow it. She held up a light and altered the future for generations."

Mr McDaid said Sacha had given him 'the most precious gift of all, not a voice, but the gift to use my own voice, and she listened.' He added: "In every word, story or song that I will ever write there is something of Sacha that is alive in it."

Mark Patrick Hederman OSB, former Abbot of Glenstal Abbey, also paid tribute to the Duchess. He said Sacha had been a catalyst for peace and reconciliation, and an icon of elegance, nobility and a tireless promoter for creativity.



After the Omagh bomb in 1998, the Duchess became a trustee of the then Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation. In 2003, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Ulster. In 2006, the Ireland Fund of Monaco presented her with the Princess Grace Humanitarian Award, and she was also awarded the OBE in 2008 for her services to charity.

Dom Hederman spoke of the trees and flowers that decorated the Cathedral for the service, which came from her home at Baronscourt, the original saplings having been brought from Pushkin's grave.

Music at the service was led by the Belfast Cathedral Choir and Londonderry choir Codetta, directed by Donal Doherty. Organist was David Stevens and Trumpet Players were Pamela Stainer and Patrick McCarthy.

The music included the Rachmaninov 'Bogoroditse Devo' sung by the

Cathedral Choir, and a setting of 'Aedh wishes for The Cloths of Heaven,' sung by Codetta.

Renowned classical pianist, Christian Blackshaw, enthralled the congregation with his Schubert Impromptu.

Jamie Hamilton, eldest son of the Duchess, read 'The Otter' from his mother's book of poems 'Feather from the Firebird,' and Timothy Knatchbull, Lord Mountbatten's surviving grandson from the Sligo assassination, read from the 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. Tatiana and Nicholas Hamilton read an excerpt from André Chénier, in Russian and in English.

Prayers were led by the clergy and ministers of Baronscourt, Rev Sam Livingstone, the Rev Jonathan Cowan, the Rev Ivan Dinsmore and by the Rev Tim Close of the Cathedral staff.

Following the service guests enjoyed refreshments in the Nave.

RAF Volunteer Reserve honoured by plaque

Young lives lost in the service of their country were honoured as a memorial plaque to the RAF Volunteer Reserve was unveiled in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday May 19.

The service was attended by veterans and by senior figures in the Royal Air Force, including Air Vice-Marshal Harvey Smyth, and RAF Chaplain-in-Chief, the Venerable (Air Vice-Marshal) John Ellis QHC, who preached.

The service, on the 100th anniversary of the RAF Benevolent Fund, included the unveiling of the Roll of Honour for the pre-World War II Royal Air Force Volun-

teer Reserve & the Receiving of the new No 502 (Ulster) Squadron Standard.

A unit of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) was formed in Belfast in January 1939, under the command of Wing Commander HG Gauntlett who had been a Colonel in the British Army during World War One.

The RAFVR in Belfast was established to support the rapid expansion of the pilot and navigator establishment necessary for the emergency in 1939.

Aircraft manufacturer Short & Harland was invited by the Ministry of Defence to operate a training school at Belfast Harbour Airport. The school, opened in January 1939, became known as No 24 Elementary & Reserve Flying Training School.

The school was exclusively used for the training of RAFVR. The Reservists had been educated at grammar schools or technical colleges and came from all walks of life and social backgrounds. They all had a desire to fly, and there was no shortage of volunteers.

More than 300 young men joined the RAFVR between January 1 1939 and May 1 1940. On September 3 1939, 140 of them were called to full time service and posted to various RAF stations in England for further training.

Many could not drive a car or ride a motorcycle but within six months of advanced training were flying Lancaster bombers or Spitfire fighters over enemy



Dean Stephen Forde receives the new No 502 (Ulster) Squadron Standard



The No 502 (Ulster) Squadron Standard is carried into the Cathedral at the RAF Reserve centenary service.

held territory. Sadly 92 of them were killed in action, some during the Battle of Britain. Forty eight survived.

The Roll of Honour unveiled on May 19 honours those who joined the RAFVR between January 1 and August 31 1939.

The service in the Cathedral was led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde. After the singing of the first hymn, the No 502 (Ulster) Squadron Standard was received.

The first Lesson, from Samuel 17:40-49 was read by historian Mr John Hewitt, who has researched the names to be included on the Memorial.

Ms Anna MacKenzie, daughter of Wing Commander Kenneth William MacKenzie DFC AFC AE, read the second lesson from Romans Chapter Eight.

During an Act of Remembrance, the RAF Band played a Lament. The Ode of

Remembrance was recited by Lawrence Haynes, Chairman of the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The Act of Remembrance featured The Last Post, Silence and the Reveille, after which Air Vice-Marshal Harvey Smyth laid a wreath.

Dean Forde said it had been a huge honour to host the Service of Commemoration for those men who volunteered from the schools of Northern Ireland to join the RAF Volunteer Reserve.

The commemorative plaque, giving the names of all those in the RAF Volunteer Reserve who lost their lives as airmen, is now permanently located in St Anne's next to the plaque which was installed last year to mark the centenary of the founding of the RAF.

The Dean said the service was 'a day of great pride' for those families who have a direct link with those named on the memorial plaque.



New Connor Mothers' Union President Mrs Sally Cotter with Archdeacon Stephen McBride, Connor MU Chaplain, left, and the Very Rev Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast.

Connor MU Festival

Connor Mothers' Union held its annual Festival Service in St Anne's on Sunday April 7. The service including the commissioning of Mrs Sally Cotter as Diocesan President.

Mrs Cotter was commissioned by the Chaplain of Connor Mothers' Union, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor. The theme of the service was 'Listen, Observe, Act – In Step with God.'

Preacher was the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde. Worship was led by the Cathedral Choir. The readings were by Mrs Lyn Cassidy, Mid Connor Area Secretary, and the Rev Dr Bob Cotter, husband of the new President. The Prayers of Intercession were led by Joyce Bond, Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator, and Irene Gates, Diocesan Secretary.

Banners for all Mothers' Union Branches



MU Banners process in at the start of the service.

in Connor Diocese were carried in procession and presented to the Diocesan Chaplain before the service, and carried out again in procession at the end.

Sally Cotter, a former primary school teacher, has been a member of Mothers' Union since 1989, and has held posts at all levels.

Dangers of childbirth in Sierra Leone in focus

Rosamond Bennett, Chief Executive of Christian Aid Ireland, joined Dean Stephen Forde to launch Christian Aid Week 2019 at Belfast Cathedral on May 10.

This year the charity focused on Sierra Leone where, after a civil war (1991-2002), and the worst Ebola outbreak in history (2014-2016), people are battling to rebuild healthcare. Each day, 10 women die in childbirth.

This is due to long distances to health centres; a lack of trained healthcare workers; poorly equipped health centres; and hunger – pregnant women often don't have the strength to give birth.

Rosamond said: "We are working through our partners in rural communi-

ties to rebuild and refurbish run-down health centres, to install solar lighting, provide delivery beds and above all to ensure trained nursing staff are available so the whole community can benefit from improved healthcare."

Dean Forde spoke of the significance of the 'Remember our Child' Books of Remembrance containing the names of infants who have died in Northern Ireland in and around the time of their birth.

"They also remember the families who forever hold precious a child who was loaned for only a brief period of time," the Dean said. "It is in such a place that we remember the mothers and infants of Sierra Leone, the west African country where mothers are least likely to survive childbirth."



Dean Stephen Forde and Christian Aid Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett launch Christian Aid Week with images from Sierra Leone.

A Cathedral for Belfast



June 2, 1904,
consecration
day.

Thursday, June 2 1904 witnessed the consecration of the nave of Belfast Cathedral. Weather wise, a 'more perfect day could not have been imagined,' and Donegall Street was 'gay with flags and alive with excitement from an early hour.'

Crowds gathered at the new building, though not everyone could be accommodated. Stewards collected tickets and showed those admitted to seats. There was 'an entire absence of any confusion or noise, a circumstance which was befitting to the solemnity of the occasion.'

"It was felt that the occasion was of importance not only to Churchmen alone, but to all who have the dignity of the city at heart, and affected members of every denomination." (Whig)

The 11.30am service, 'solemn, imposing, effective,' was honoured by the attendance of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Dudley (the King had been invited but declined). Present were nearly all the Irish bishops, a full

representation of the clergy of the diocese and a remarkable gathering of the leading laity of Belfast and district headed by the Lord Mayor, Sir Otto Jaffe, and the scarlet-cloaked City Fathers showing a 'desire to mark corporal approval of any institution that tends to increase the dignity, importance, and the physical, moral and spiritual welfare of Belfast.'

At the West Door, Lord Shaftesbury, Dean's Warden, read the Petition for Consecration. The clergy then proceeded to the East End from where the Bishop, Dr Welland, spoke: "Let us not doubt but that (God) will also favourably approve our present purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner for the performance of the several offices of religious worship; and let us faithfully and devoutly pray for His blessing on this our undertaking."

Prayers were offered for those who would minister, worship, be baptised, married, or ordained in the building, before the Chancellor read the Act of Consecration which the Bishop signed.

The service was the first public trial of the new choir and choirmaster, Mr CJ Brennan. Press comment on the music was mixed. 'The old organ... inadequate in the volume of its tone for so large a building (was) augmented by an orchestra' of 40 musicians. Telegraph: 'This innovation... was more than justified by the grand results achieved. The inspiring strains of the Jubilate Deo and the Te Deum Laudamus took a deeper significance and breathed a deeper feeling of religious awe and reverence over the great congregation by the impressive manner in which the orchestra aided in bringing out the full effect.' And 'the Hallelujah Chorus... has perhaps never been heard in the city to finer advantage rendered as it was by a greatly augmented choir' (160 voices).

The Whig noted 'an unevenness' when soprano and contralto voices were mixed with trebles, but conceded 'it did not detract materially.' The paper found the music presented difficulties for the congregation which was 'hopelessly outdistanced by the choral lead,' and when it came to the chanting of the Psalms, 'the tempo of the choir was in most cases too much for any but the most skilled followers of modern church music.' However the paper admitted that 'apart from this the choral parts were excellently sung.'

The singing of the anthem 'I have surely built thee a house' (William Boyce) by a trio from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, 'whose interpretation left nothing to be desired,' was 'nearly marred' by the ciphering of the old organ.

The preacher, the Rt Rev Dr William Boyd-Carpenter, Bishop of Ripon, 'delivered a powerful and strikingly eloquent discourse which occupied 42 minutes,' using as his text Hebrew 11, 39-40.

Next day the News Letter told its readers: "There can be no doubt (the Cathedral) will serve a most useful purpose as a centre for the activities of the Church, and a place for the assembling of crowded congregations on occasions of special interest and importance."

What kind of building was the new St Anne's? News Letter: "Incomplete, but full of suggestiveness of its ultimate beauty and majesty....."

"The front of the building itself, with its superstructure of aristocratic ashlar and its lower face of plebeian brick..... gave by no means a just idea of what the finished pile will be like. Inside it only needs a moderately artistic eye to appreciate the simple majesty of the columns—rough and uncarved though their capitals be—that support the nave, and admire the lofty roof, the simple, severe, yet graceful arches, windows and mouldings and the fine expanse of its interior."

Looking ahead, the Whig said: "When the lower portion of the front is faced with stone, when the transepts and spire and chancel are built, when the sculptor's chisel... the Cathedral will be a noble building worthy of its venerable architect, Sir Thomas Drew, and worthy of the Church of Ireland population of Down Connor and Dromore."

Church of Ireland Gazette: "St Anne's Cathedral is seen to be in harmony with the best spirit of the people among whom it stands. Serviceability to humanity has not been sacrificed to ornament. Beauty comes in as an adjunct to usefulness. Amplitude, strength, and quiet impressiveness are the prevailing characteristics. Everywhere there is the promise of great things yet to be. The Cathedral is prophetic in its uncompleted grandeur."

Reflections on Easter time

We invited people across Northern Ireland to enter into Holy Week when our Palm Sunday service on April 14 was broadcast live on BBC Radio Ulster.

That afternoon, members of the parishes of the Mid Belfast Rural Deanery to Evensong joined us for a Holy Week of shared services.

Special Choral Evensongs were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. At the heart of these, the choir sang an anthem from the powerful 'St John Passion' written by contemporary composer Bob Chilcott. There was a short meditation by clergy on 'People of the Passion.'

The recently retired Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, the Rt Rev Dr R Gillies (pictured), was special preacher at our Maundy Thursday Eucharist and the Good Friday Three-Hour Service.

At the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, we recreated the scene when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, and the service concluded with the Stripping of the Altar. From 12 noon until 3pm on Good Friday, Bishop Gillies guided our thoughts with

seven meditations on the Words of Jesus from the Cross of Calvary. The final service of the day was a Liturgy for Good Friday.



On Holy Saturday, the dramatic Easter Vigil Service began with the lighting of the Easter fire on the Cathedral steps at 8.30pm. From the fire the Pascal Candle was lit, and indoors, at each place of significance within the Cathedral, the congregation retold the salvation story of God's actions through the history of the Bible.

On Easter Morning, April 21, our festival services of resurrection joy began with Holy Communion for Easter Day at 10am in the Chapel of Unity, and continued at 11am with the Easter Festival Choral Eucharist. Our celebrations ended with Choral Evensong for Easter Afternoon.

Our popular family event - Belfast's Biggest Indoor Easter Egg Hunt, returned on Easter Tuesday with more than 200 people taking part.



Jo-Anne Dobson, fourth from right at front, Northern Ireland charity ambassador for the patient support charity Kidney Care UK, was a guest of Belfast Cathedral's Mothers' Union on April 14. The former Assembly Member, who donated a kidney to her son Mark in March 2018, was invited to the branch meeting to talk about kidney donation and raise awareness of all types of organ donation.



The Belfast Community Gospel Choir.



The King's singers

Two concerts not to miss!

Excitement is building as the Cathedral prepares to welcome the renowned King's Singers on June 22 for their only concert in Ireland this year.

Before that, we also have the fantastic Belfast Community Gospel Choir, Northern Ireland's first and only multicultural gospel choir, on June 16.

The King's Singers' concert will expose just how deeply and variously love can affect us – through the eyes of an unusually diverse mix of composers and

songwriters from the past 500 years, bringing together classic audience favourites and some new surprises.

Hailed as 'the soul of Belfast' the Belfast Community Gospel Choir is a relentless ambassador for the city of Belfast, spreading the message of love, joy and peace through music.

Performances are charged with passion, and the energy and joy the choir exudes from the stage is infectious! Tickets for both events are in demand and are available on the Cathedral website.

Children's trails design opportunity

The Cathedral is seeking a designer based in Belfast to assist in the creation of a selection of children's trails and characters.

The trails will be targeted towards KS1,

KS2 and family audiences. A site visit is essential. For further information please contact Lorna Towns on 028 9032 8332.

Deadline for submissions: Wednesday June 19 at 12 noon.

Register



'GOD IS LOVE, AND THOSE WHO LIVE IN LOVE LIVE IN GOD, AND GOD LIVES IN THEM'

- May 3** Aaron Edwards and Kirsty McMillen
- May 31** Garth Hunter and Catherine Dickson
- June 1** Michael Allen and Victoria Cheevers

Who's Who in St Anne's

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Verger Emeritus

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Mark Geddis
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Who's Who in St Anne's

Flower List & Coffee Rota

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Principal Cathedral Guide

Norman Weatherall

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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)
The Rev Kevin Graham (2019)

Minor Canons:

The Rev NDJ Kirkpatrick (2014)
The Rev J Bell (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



Sunday Services

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

Weekday services

Tuesday and Thursday	
1.00pm	Cathedral Prayers

Monday to Friday	
5.30pm	Choral Evensong (until June 23)
5.30pm	Said Service of Evening Prayer (July and August)

Upcoming services and events

June

Saturday June 15 - The Last Supper and Songfest - tickets cost £42 for meal and concert or £30 for concert. Concert only tickets can be purchased on day of performance.

Book online at www.nashvilleinbelfast.com

Sunday June 16 @ 7.30pm - Belfast Community Gospel Choir

Saturday June 22 @ 7.30pm - The King's Singers in concert

Sunday June 23 @ 3.30pm – End of Year Choral Evensong in celebration of the achievements of our Cathedral Choristers and Farewell Evensong for David Stevens after seven years as Director of Music.

July

July 10 - lunchtime concert with the Jacksonville Children's Chorus



For further information on all events visit www.belfastcathedral.org