

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST ANNE

DIGEST



AUTUMN 2019



The Dean reflects...



Autumn is always a time of change. Leaves turn. School children are kitted out in new uniforms. Students make a new start to their lives registering for Fresher's Weeks.

At Belfast Cathedral, September also marks a time of change. In June, Catherine Harper completed her time as Vocal Coach, having made a significant impact to the girls', junior girls' and boys' choirs, as well as playing a pivotal role in the "Three Schools Choir Project". As Tourism Manager, Helen Graham transformed the visitor experience of our cathedral, before moving to the National Trust in Worcester. David Stevens has also departed for Wells Cathedral, after seven years developing the music at St Anne's. Brian Moore retired as Sexton, and Gemma Connery completed six months on the Welcome Desk Staff. Finally, with her appointment to the Church of Gazette, Karen Bushby tendered her resignation as Digest editor. We thank every one of them for their time with us.

But it has not all been one way traffic. Will Forrest has taken up post as Organ Scholar. And on 8th September, we also welcomed Mat-

thew Owens as the new Director of Music, along with his family. Working closely with the Cathedral Board Review Group, music at Belfast Cathedral will take a new shape. A key development is to establish a single Cathedral Choir with a top line formed equally of 24 boy and girl choristers. It will take time to recruit and train the new choristers, so since September we have welcomed a top line of sopranos to carry the choir forward. There are ambitious, yet carefully budgeted plans for the future of music at Belfast Cathedral. We trust that you will support our choir members through this change.

Also on 8th September, I shared in the Ordination Service of Rev Dr Maithrie (pronounced My3) White-Dundas, as she was ordained part-time, non-stipendiary curate to Belfast Cathedral. Maithrie, originally from Sri Lanka, will be working at the cathedral on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Change can be unsettling, but it can also be exciting. Please pray for the cathedral as we enter this new time in service to the God of new things.



The Dean joins members of the Footsteps NI cast to celebrate the 120th anniversary

Stepping back in time

The cathedral stepped back in time on Saturday, September 7, with a dramatic account of its beginning 120 years ago which saw the foundation stone being laid.

Architect Sir Thomas Drew, Constance Ashley-Cooper (Countess of Shaftesbury) and Henry O'Hara, the dean of Belfast Cathedral on that momentous day on September 6, 1899, were brought vividly to life by Footsteps NI, revealing their stories and reliving memories of the great occasion.

Visitors heard the amazing tale of the cathedral being literally built around the existing parish church, while it was still being attended by worshippers.

The church was used for services until the end of 1903, by which time the tower of little St Anne's had been dismantled, meaning that it was no longer visible from the street as its successor rose in its place.

There were also fun arts and crafts activities for children. See Heritage pg 14.

War Memorial feature and Children's Corner

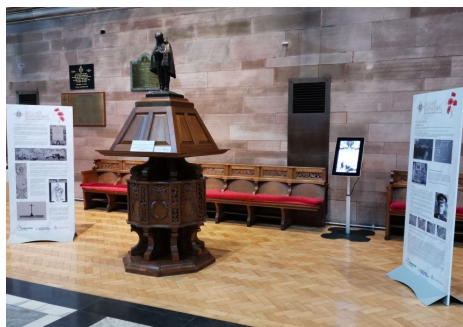


A Children's Corner has been introduced to allow families and schools to learn, read, and show off their art skills in the beautiful and uplifting setting of the Cathedral. This area has been installed in advance of the upcoming Kid's Trails which will arrive later this year. Make sure to stop by!

Another exciting addition is the new permanent War Memorial Exhibition which was created with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund allowed the Cathedral to restore the Memorial Books and Lectern to their former glory, as well as

helping with the installation of new information panels and an interactive touch-screen which showcases a digitised version of the Memorial Books.

This new installation which now allows visitors to search for specific names within the books, is well worth spending time to visit and provides insight into life across the world- and for the people of the Cathedral itself- during World War 1. The Cathedral is grateful to Eneclann and the Irish Family History Centre who generously provided the digitised Memorial books, and to Cathedral Archivist Norman Weatherall and Cathedral staff for collating the information for the project.





Inspire Kids Trail launch

Saturday 31st August saw the *InSpire Kids' Trail* officially launched at Belfast Cathedral.

Belfast Cathedral recently partnered with Sean Greer Design in an effort to open the Cathedral space up more to families and schools. Funded by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund, it has enabled the Cathedral to develop an offering for children which will let them interact with the Cathedral and learn its history.

The 'InSpire' concept draws on our unusual architecture and the desire to have children and adults engage more with the space. This was developed by Sean and Clare Greer who were determined to create an experience for visitors to enjoy and remember.

By creating this fun experience for families, the Cathedral wants to encourage visitors to view this space as their own to explore and be proud of, creating new memories that they'll cherish.

Children (and adults!) will be inspired by their surroundings, discover something new, and will use their imagination to connect with the rich heritage of the Cathedral.

The InSpire Kids Trail is available at Belfast Cathedral at the Welcome Desk, explore the Cathedral with your family and friends and complete the activities! Feel free to leave your artwork with us, or take it away and share on social media, using the hashtag #inspirekidstrail.

Multilingual visitor experience launched

In August, Belfast Cathedral launched a new multilingual audio guide, with representatives from its two main funders from Tourism NI and the Friends of the Cathedral.

The new audio guide will allow this special building to become more open, accessible and engaging to both local people and international visitors. The guide takes visitors on a self-led journey through the Cathedral, revealing the stories behind the stones – and is available in English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Polish, Mandarin and Italian, with a carefully selected Belfast accent to provide authenticity for the English tour.

This project has been achievable through funding from Tourism NI's Immersive Technology programme. The capital funding programme supports projects which have at their core an immersive technology solution that creates compelling reasons for visitors to come to Northern Ireland as well as encourage them to stay long-

er and spend more. Further funding was made available from the Friends of Belfast Cathedral, who were founded in 1894 with the aim of assisting the Dean and Cathedral Board in promoting interest in the Cathedral and knowledge of its history.

The project will allow visitors to discover the stories of this space, and fully immerse themselves in the history of its walls through voice and music, leaving with the feeling they have a real sense of what Belfast Cathedral is and has been over the last 300 years, and the important role it has played for the wider city and its residents.

The company who won the tender were VOX Group, who have previously worked on projects in St Peter's Basilica Rome and Stonehenge, amongst other high profile visitor attractions across the world.

Caroline Bell, Tourism NI Capital Funding Team Manager, said: "The new multilingual audio



From left: Tourism and Events Assistant Lorna Towns, Tourism and Visitor Services Manager Helen Graham, Dean Stephen Forde, Tourism NI representative Judith Henderson and Treasurer of the Friends of the Cathedral, Mike Johnston.

guide at Belfast Cathedral is a fantastic addition to the visitor offering in Belfast, providing a unique way for residents of Northern Ireland and international visitors to fully immerse themselves in the history of its walls and uncover the stories behind them.

“We congratulate the team at Belfast Cathedral for their hard work in delivering a compelling new addition to their tourism product,” she added.

Belfast Cathedral is open to visitors through the year, Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm, and on Sundays 1 – 3pm. There is a small admission fee which includes your audio guide, and this will contribute towards the upkeep of this important building and the ministry of Belfast Cathedral, all with the aim to continue to develop Belfast Cathedral as a shared space at the heart of the city.

Farewells from Cathedral

During the summer the Cathedral bid farewell to a number of staff, who have moved elsewhere to work and study.

David Stevens

David held the post of Cathedral Organist and Master of Choristers for 7 years. He has moved to take up the position of Sub-Assistant Organist at Wells Cathedral. The move brings him closer to family in the South West of England and, although he will be missed, the Cathedral wishes him well for the future.



Jack Wilson

Jack was Organ Scholar at the Cathedral for 3 years, and acting Assistant Organist for the past year. He moves to Cambridge, where he will be Organ Scholar at Sidney Sussex College. Good luck Jack, and don't forget to come back and visit us!

Helen Graham

Helen Graham, Tourism and Visitor Services Manager, departed the Cathedral to start a new chapter in Worcester, working with the National Trust. Helen was employed at the Cathedral through the Heritage Lottery Fund alongside our Events Manager, Holly Wilson. During her time at the Cathedral Helen worked hard to vastly improve the visitor experience. She departed just as the Cathedral received its 4-star Visitor Attraction grading by Tourism NI.



Cathedral's New Organ Scholar: Will Forrest



Will, welcome to Belfast Cathedral. Tell us a little of how you've found yourself here on these shores!

I've come to Belfast Cathedral as this year's Organ Scholar, succeeding Jack Wilson. I've never been to the island of Ireland before, so I'm really looking forward to getting to know Belfast and as much of the island as I can while I'm here!

Where have you studied to date?

I went to school in Portsmouth, where I was also a chorister and subsequently a bass/verger/admin assistant at the Cathedral. It was also here that I started learning the organ with Oliver Hancock (now at St. Mary's Warwick, but then Sub-Organist) in 2012. In 2016 I started a music degree at Cardiff University and I graduated this July.

Can you tell us about what your duties will be and what you hope to get out of your time in Belfast Cathedral?

I'm really looking forward to having a year focused on my organ playing, both solo repertoire and in a liturgical

environment. During the year I'm going to be working towards the Associateship of the Royal College of Organists. As part of the scholarship I'll be working in the music office, as choir librarian, so making sure the choir have all the right music at the right time as well as playing for parts of services as the year goes on. I'll also be doing some work as a sexton and with the events team.

Have you any particular interests and hobbies that you'd like to pursue whilst here?

Outside music, I have quite a large interest in politics, particularly following British politics at this rather eventful time (I promise not to mention the B word!). I also enjoy photography, and I'm looking forward to getting inside the cathedral with my camera and also into the Northern Irish countryside.

What are your ambitions?

I hope to end up in cathedral music, and I'm hoping a year at St. Anne's will be a useful stepping stone towards it.

Celebrated Parisian organist's workshop



On Saturday 14 September the Cathedral hosted an Organ Workshop given by celebrated Parisian organist Thomas Ospital. Thomas studied first at the Conservatoire Maurice Ravel in Bayonne near his home in south west France. Later at the Paris Conservatoire he won First Prizes in organ, harmony, counterpoint, fugue and improvisation. He has won many national and

international organ competitions and is now regarded as one of the world's leading concert organists.

A few years ago, at the age of just 25, Thomas was appointed Titular Organist of Saint-Eustache in Paris which has the largest organ in France. Recently he became the first Organist in Residence at the concert hall of Radio France.

He is particularly noted for his improvisation skill, a feature of his Organ Workshop in the Cathedral, during which he guided several young organists from throughout Ireland as they improvised on the Cathedral organ and played some of the great works of the French organ repertoire.

The evening also included performances by the Cathedral's new Organ Scholar, William Forrest, the previous Organ Scholar and acting Assistant Organist, Jack Wilson, and Bartosz Thiede, who is the newly appointed Director of Music at St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny.

Baby Basics

Belfast Cathedral has recently collaborated with Connor's Centre of Mission to house a sorting base for Baby Basics.

Baby Basics is a volunteer-led project which aims to support new mothers and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical difficulties of looking after a baby.

Baby Basics Belfast began in January 2017 and is run by Church Army and the Diocese of Connor. It is situated in the Connect Base on the Shankill Road.

Across the UK there is a growing community of Baby Basics centres, staffed by a dedicated and vital team of volunteers.

Baby Basics Belfast works alongside local health professionals who refer families in need. Baby Basics then supports these families by providing essential equipment, clothing and toiletries.

Under the guidance of Karen Webb and Jill Hamilton, the cathedral hopes to grow our contribution to the Baby Basics initiative. If you would like to be involved, please let us know.



Baskets ready for collection by Health professionals.

40 years and counting!

** WELCOME **

This month we can at last extend a warm welcome to the Rev. Ronnie Lawrenson, our new Vicar Choral. We have been looking forward to having him on the staff since his appointment following Mr. Nolan's departure.

From meeting Mr. Lawrenson we feel sure he will fill the void left by John Nolan very capably - a daunting prospect to take over from one who has held this position for so many years, so we take this opportunity to wish him well.

Dean Crooks welcoming Ronnie in the October 1979 Magazine

October marks an auspicious anniversary for Belfast Cathedral. In the October 1979 issue of the Magazine of Belfast Cathedral (*priced at a very reasonable 7p for a single issue and £1.60 per annum by post!*) Dean Sammy Crooks issued a welcome to a new member of staff. The Reverend Ronnie Lawrenson arrived as Vicar Choral, succeeding John Nolan who had held the post for 25 years. Ronnie has maintained his association with the Cathedral for 40 years, acting as Verger, Steward and Tour Guide, and can be found week by week in the Verger's Office counting the collection money from Sunday services. Congratulations Ronnie, thank you, and here's to a good many more years to come!



Ronnie with four-legged friend Poppy

Cathedral welcomes Maithrie White to staff

The Rev Maithrie White is joining our clergy staff this month. Below, she tells us a bit about her life and her ministry.



As a teenager I dreamed of being a Vet. Instead God led me to a degree in English, then lecturing at University, and a doctorate in Nottingham. While in Nottingham I met Paul and made the Anglican Communion my home.

I returned to Sri Lanka to lecture and then head the English Department in my University there, but Paul persisted – so I married him and moved to Northern Ireland.

If someone back then had said that I would marry a Northern Irish man, live in Belfast, and be ordained in the Church of Ireland, I would have laughed. I have definitely been “surprised by God”.

In Sri Lanka, as a teenager and young adult I was involved with Youth for Christ and the Methodist Church. I was also on the associate staff and Council of the national

IFES-affiliated student movement, and the Graduate Christian Fellowship.

During my doctoral studies in Nottingham I set up Transforming the Mind, the annual National Christian Postgraduate Conference, to encourage and inspire postgrad students to engage their faith with their academic life – I’m still chairing the conference to date. I’m also on the Board of Contemporary Christianity, here in Northern Ireland, where we aim to open up conversations within the Church, and help Christians engage with the issues facing society and the church today.

I am passionate about Christ and his Kingdom, love exploring the imagination and the arts, and enjoy theology and philosophy. I also love the magic of words and dream of being a writer.

Lady Shaftesbury lays St Anne's foundation stone

'Successful Ceremony': 6th September 1899 (report from Whig newspaper)

'Under the rays of a bright, burning sun the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of Belfast Cathedral took place yesterday under the most auspicious circumstances.'

The Whig set the scene: A platform had been erected in front of (the old church), hanging from a crane was the stone about to be laid. Around the grounds balconies and terraces had been constructed for the convenience of those present, who soon occupied every available inch of space, and away over towards the church were the great array of clergymen, the choir, etc.'

Four thousand tickets were issued but there were fully five thousand people present. The

Great Northern Railway issued returns to Belfast on the 5th and 6th September at a single fare and a quarter as did the Northern Counties Railway on the 6th, 'to those persons presenting at the booking office cards of admission to the ceremony.'

It was an oecumenical occasion. Sir James Henderson, a Presbyterian, had contributed £1,000 to the building fund.

After the hymn 'O God our help', in words redolent of the Communion service held earlier, Bishop Welland addressed the assembly: '... we are here as brethren in Christ to lay the Foundation Stone of a House to be consecrated to the service of Almighty God...And unworthy though we be, through our manifold sins, to offer unto Him any sacrifice, let us beseech Him to accept this our bounden duty and service, for Christ's sake.'



Prayers followed: 'Vouchsafe O Lord, to grant that these walls, now to be begun, may be kept from all common and profane use ...Direct, O Lord, those who design and those who superintend this building...Enlarge the hearts of Thy faithful people that they may with perfect hearts offer willingly, each according to his ability.'

After a lesson from I Peter 2, the Apostles' Creed and the hymn 'The Church's One Foundation', the Stone was laid by the Countess of Shaftesbury to whom

Canon O'Hara presented a silver trowel.

Touching the mortar with the trowel, the Countess said, 'It is my will that this stone be well and truly laid.' The builder, Henry Laverty, lowered the stone and he and the architect, Thomas Drew, checked it with a plummet.

Lady Shaftesbury then tapped the Stone three times with a gold and silver mallet and said 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost I declare this stone of the cathedral church of Belfast well and truly laid.'

The Registers

Holy Baptism:

16 June

21 July

18 August

Cara Catherine McCourt

Isla Jane McMaster-Stewart

Darragh Ian John McLaughlin

James Raymond Alexander

Zac William Jamison

Sol Robert Swindell

Holy Matrimony:

11 July

Desmond McGuicken & Pamela Todd

Sunday Flowers

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

08/09/19 Mrs R Kinkead *in memory of husband*

15/09/19 Esther Millar *in memory of husband*

22/09/19 Esther Millar

29/09/19 Alan & Dorothy Martin *in memory of parents*

06/10/19 Mrs R Kinkead *in memory of husband*

13/10/19 Mrs R Kinkead

20/10/19 Dr Marion Gibson *in memory of Canon Tom Gibson*

27/10/19 Dr Marion Gibson

Visiting Choirs

During the summer recess the Cathedral hosted several visiting choirs who led a number of Sunday services:

7th July The Choir of St Stephen's, Knoxville, Tennessee-11am & 3.30pm

21st July The Priory Singers- Choral Evensong

8th August Quorum- Choral Evensong

11th August Hymnus Angelicus from America- 11am & 3.30pm

18th August Lux Aeterna from America- 11am & 3.30pm

25th August The San Diego Presbyterian Chorale- 11am & 3.30pm

1st September Melisma- Choral Eucharist

Culture by Candlelight!

If you're looking for a romantic candlelit experience - or simply want to enjoy some classical music greats in a gorgeous setting - then this is the concert for you.

On Saturday 5th October, at 7.30pm, join us at Belfast Cathedral for this candlelit concert, and the ensemble will transport you between seasons, countries, and eras.

The ensemble will present Mozart's phenomenal four-movement '*Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*', the virtuosic '*Concerto for 2 Violins*' by Bach, and Vivaldi's captivating '*Concerto for Two Violins*' and iconic '*Four Seasons*', marked by his playful and effervescent style, and his energetic and exciting writing.

A night full of glistening melodies, enthralling instrumental interplay and staggering musicianship, this is one

concert you do not want to miss!

If you don't consider yourself 'in the know' about Mozart, Beethoven, or Bach, fear not, this is the orchestra for you. The ensemble boasts an audience record in which an impressive 50% of spectators are first-time classical concert goers! The London Concertante has its audience laughing at jokes, gasping at virtuosity, moved by gorgeous playing, and leaving with a smile on their faces.

UK based chamber ensemble London Concertante regularly performs around one hundred concerts per year, making it the busiest ensemble of its kind in the country. With its numerous recordings reaching great critical acclaim, the ensemble has continually been regarded as one of the finest groups in Europe since its founding in 1991.

Program:

Vivaldi – *Concerto for Two Violins in A minor* Mozart – *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* Bach – *Concerto for 2 Violins* Vivaldi – *The Four Seasons*



Who's Who in St Anne's

The Dean

The Very Rev Stephen Forde
9032 8332
dean@belfastcathedral.org

Assistant Clergy

The Rev Tim Close
The Rev Janice Elsdon
The Rev Maithre White
9032 8332

Other Clergy

The Rt Rev Alan Harper
The Rev Clyde Irvine
The Rev Paul Twomey

Acting General Manager

Trevor Douglas
9032 8332
trevor@belfastcathedral.org

Commercial Business Manager

Holly Wilson
9032 8332
Holly@belfastcathedral.org

Commercial Development Officer

Lorna Towns
9032 8332
Lorna@belfastcathedral.org

Receptionist/administrator

Chris Weir
9032 8332 ext 222
admin@belfastcathedral.org

Director of Music

Matthew Owens
9032 8332
Mathew.owens@belfastcathedral.org

Assistant Director of Music

position vacant

Organ Scholar

Will Forrest

Organist Emeritus

Mr Ian Barber

Welcome Desk

Agnes Moore
Margaret McCourt

Diocesan Reader

Gillian McGaughey

Parish Reader

Denise Murray

Vergers

Ronnie Lawrenson
Philip Prosser
Cameron McGaughey

Verger Emeritus

David Alexander

Cathedral Sextons

Sam Porter
Mark Geddis
Gerald Kennedy

Stewards' Coordinator

Mike Johnston

Mothers' Union

Alberta Miskimmin (Hon Sec)
9079 8033

Flower List & Coffee Rota

admin@belfastcathedral.org

Friends of the Cathedral

Joan Thompson OBE,
Hon Treasurer/Members Sec
9332 9102

Who's Who in St Anne's

Past Choristers' Association

Co-ordinator: Ian Monro

07799 608959

ianmonro@btinternet.com

Archivists

Norman Weatherall

Dr Stanley Hawkins

Principal Cathedral Guide

Norman Weatherall

The Cathedral Chapter

The Dean

Treasurer & Chapter Clerk: The Rev
Mark Niblock (2016)

Chancellor: The Venerable David
McClay (2013)

Precentor: The Venerable George
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 Ronnie Nesbitt (2003)

The Rev Stephen Lowry (2013)

The Rev Gareth Harron (2016)

The Rev Gill Withers (2017)

Chapter Canons

The Rev Michael Parker (2015)

The Rev Kevin Graham (2019)

Minor Canons

The Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick (2014)

The Rev Julie Bell (2015)

Ecumenical Canons

The Rev Dr Ruth Patterson (2012)

The Rev Ruth 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 (*Chair*)

The Bishop of Connor

The Bishop of Down and Dromore

The Dean's Vicar

The Archdeacon of Belfast

The Archdeacon of Down

The Rev J Elsdon

The Rev Canon M Taylor

Mrs G McGaughey (*Hon Sec*)

Dr V McKinley

Mr J Watson

Mr R Kay MBE

Dr M Callender

Mr R Totten MBE

Mr R Moore

Dr R Cromey

Mr N Pierpoint

Mr P Good

Mr T Pateman

Sunday Services

10am Holy Communion
(*said*) Chapel of Unity
11am Choral Eucharist
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Weekday Services

Tuesday
9.00am Morning Prayer

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
1.00pm Cathedral Prayers
5.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday
1.00pm Holy Communion

Wednesday and Friday
5.30pm Choral Evensong

Upcoming services and events

September

Culture Night and Day

Friday & Saturday September 20 & 21

Down and Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Service

Sunday, September 29 @ 3.30pm.

Preacher: Canon John Auchmuty

October

Pet Service

Sunday, October 6 @ 3.30pm.

Come to celebrate all creatures great and small.
Held close to St Francis of Assisi Day (4 October),
there will be a blessing for all pets in attendance.
All are welcome!

Cathedral Harvest Celebration

Sunday, October 13 @ 11am.