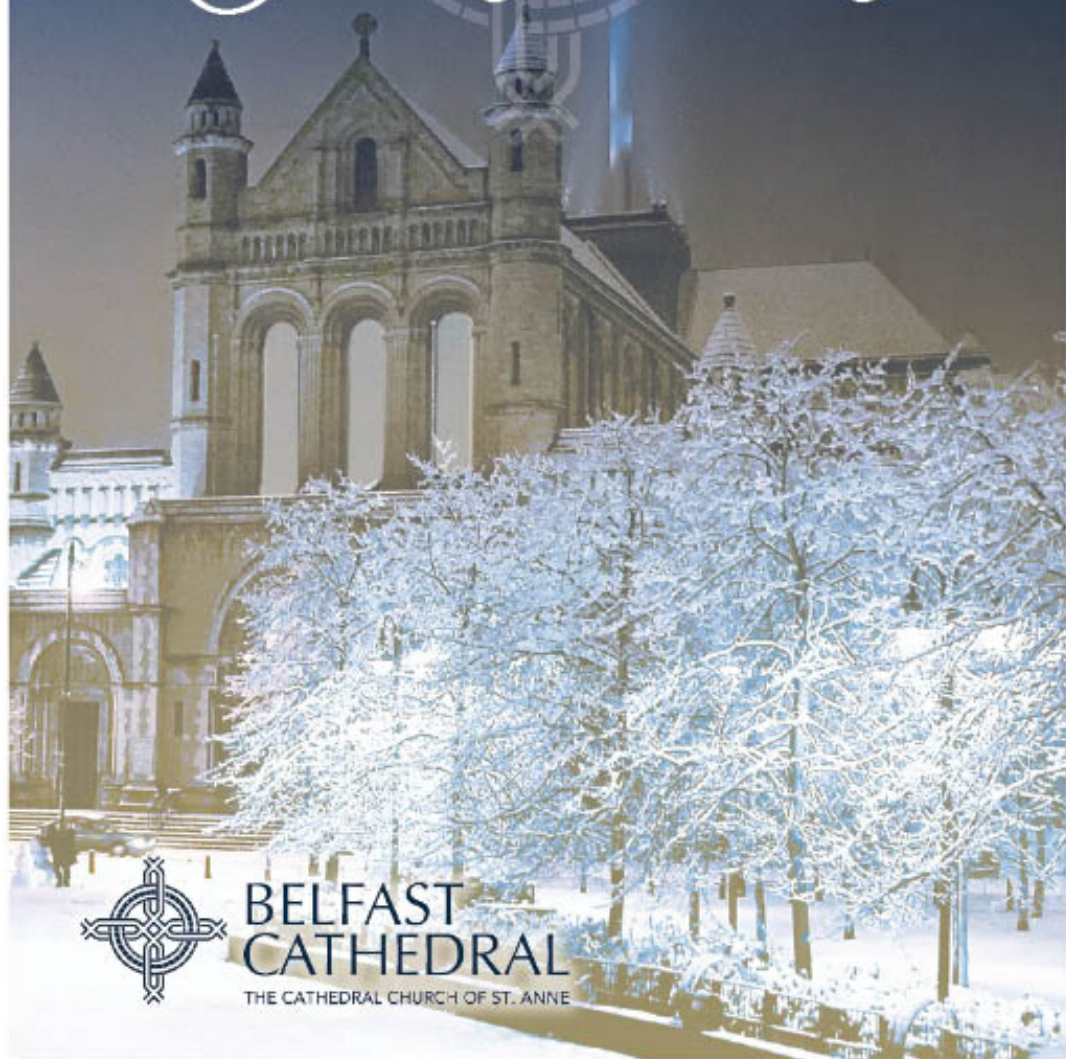


A
CATHEDRAL
Christmas



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE



CAROL SERVICES



Sunday 1st December

Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm

A carol service celebrating the start of the Advent season. Featuring advent carols sung by the Cathedral Choir and readings, this service is a reflective start to Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 22nd December

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 3.30pm

Celebrate the Christmas season with this Service of Lessons and Carols. The service will tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ through a mixture of traditional carols sung by our Cathedral Choir with congregational hymns and readings. The perfect preparation for the coming of Christmas.

Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols at 8.00pm

Celebrate the Christmas season with this Festival of Lessons and Carols. The service will tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ through a mixture of traditional carols sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir, congregational hymns and readings. The perfect preparation for Christmas.

Tuesday 24th December

First Choral Communion of Christmas at 11.00pm

Celebrate the First Eucharist of Christmas with congregational carols, Christmas readings and wonderful music sung by the Cathedral Choir - all welcome. This will also be the Farewell Eucharist for Bishop Alan Abernethy as Bishop of Connor.

Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day Choral Eucharist at 11.00am

Celebrate Christmas Day with a Choral Eucharist featuring music for Christmas, congregational carols and readings - all welcome!



CHRISTMAS
CRAFTS

Join us at Belfast Cathedral on Saturday 7th December from 11.00am-2.00pm, for a day of excitement and fun with Christmas Crafts for children to make.

A variety of Christmas themed arts and crafts are available, alongside our InSpire Kids Trail! Come in out of the cold this winter, for a day with the family. We look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral.

Normal admission fees apply, refreshments provided.

CATHEDRAL

Gift Shop

**SEARCHING FOR UNIQUE
GIFTS FOR YOUR LOVED
ONES THIS CHRISTMAS?**

Pop into the Cathedral Gift Shop!
New exciting products for 2019/2020!



BLACK SANTA'S BAZAAR

On Saturday 14th December from 5.00pm to 10.00pm, come and join us for the Black Santa Bazaar hosted by Little Fox Events.

A feast of smells, sounds and best of all, many night time treats to be announced!

Facebook: @littlefoxeventsni Instagram: @littlefoxbelfastat



THE ULSTER CONSORT

NORTHERN IRELAND'S NEWEST PROFESSIONAL VOCAL ENSEMBLE
MAKES ITS DEBUT WITH HANDEL'S MESSIAH IN BELFAST CATHEDRAL

HANDEL

MESSIAH

Performing with Laudonia – which features some of Europe's finest baroque instrumentalists – the Ulster Consort and its conductor Matthew Owens (newly appointed Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral) will present Handel's magnificent work afresh with an historically-informed, authentically-scaled, and high-spirited performance.

Begin a new journey with the Ulster Consort at

Belfast Cathedral

Friday 6 December, 7.30pm

Susan Hamilton

Soprano

Katie Bray

Alto

Conor Breen

Tenor

Ben McAteer

Bass

Laudonia (on period instruments)

Matthew Owens

Conductor

Tickets **£10 – £25**

Available from
belfastcathedral.org,
Belfast Cathedral Welcome desk
(028 90 328332) and at the door



BELFAST
CATHEDRAL
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST ANDREW



CATHEDRAL
EYE CLINIC

belfastcathedral.org



BLACK SANTA



The 'Black Santa' tradition at Belfast Cathedral was first established in 1976 by Dean Sammy Crooks. Now in its 43rd year, the Black Santa Annual Sit-Out reaches over 500 charities across Northern Ireland each year!



The Sit-Out attracts considerable attention in the local press, radio and television. Black Santa takes place the week before Christmas, and the Dean dresses in the familiar black, Anglican clerical doak. From the first appeal, Dean Crooks was described in the local press as "Belfast's Black Santa". The description struck a lasting chord with the public!

Inspired by Dean Sammy Crooks, the four succeeding Deans of Belfast (Deans Shearer, McKelvey, Mann, and Forde) have continued the Black Santa tradition over more than forty years, so that each year the generosity of the people of Belfast and individuals across the world continues to help hundreds of charities.

The charities involved with Black Santa range from medical research, those caring for children, youth and the elderly, the improvement of employment opportunities, as well as a host of small charities which cannot afford paid fundraisers. A proportion of the funds is also given to Christian Aid.

Each year, Black Santa receives hundreds of applications for funding. After Christmas, the chosen organisations are invited to send representatives to the Good Samaritans Service, usually held in the following February where the donated funds are distributed. It is important to note that all donations raised during the Black Santa Sit-Out, go directly to charities across Northern Ireland.

BLACK
SANTA
Message
FROM THE DEAN



Christmas Carols! Christmas trees! Christmas Lights! Christmas Presents! Each points us to the excitement of Christmas coming. But above all Christmas is about giving. Into the darkest month of the year, the Season of Christmas calls all people to find a peace and a joy which is often missing from too many lives. The gift of giving is what transforms Christmas from "humbug" into a truly special time of the year, as even Ebenezer Scrooge discovered in Charles Dickens' Christmas Tale.

As Dean of Belfast it is the giving of so many people to Black Santa which, for me, makes the days before Christmas very special. Some will give bundles of notes, wrapped up in a rubber band. Others will dig deep into their pocket for their last penny or pound coin. Often there is a story to tell, or the surprise at discovering a barrel to fill, and the chance to give in a Belfast street. And this year you will even be able to give to Black Santa with your contactless card! A simple tap of the plastic, and a person that you do not know, whose needs are different from yours, will find that your giving makes a world of difference to their situation.

Black Santa means so much to me, because so many people find a deeper meaning to their Christmas by giving a little of themselves to support over 500 local charities. And when Christmas Eve arrives, and Belfast Cathedral is filled with people singing carols and hearing again the story of a baby born long ago, who is still God's greatest gift to all, then the giving which each one has made to this year's Black Santa Appeal becomes part of a much greater giving. When we give of ourselves, we discover we are given back so much more. It is this which can be the miracle of Christmas.

May the joy and peace of this Christmas find a place in your heart and life as the Black Santa gift you give brings joy, hope or satisfaction to all those who will be blessed by your giving.

"Thank you all".

Stephen Forde
(Dean of Belfast)



BLACK SANTA



Over the past few years 'Black Santa' has been vital to us, supporting a number of diverse initiatives, [...] In total 1,140 children and young people directly benefitted from [Young at Art's] important work, and all thanks to 'Black Santa'!

- Young at Art



Black Santa enabled young people with complex disabilities to go surfing alongside their families. [...] Thanks to the Black Santa for giving this young people an opportunity that many of us take for granted, the chance to have fun with your family at the beach!

- The Mae Murray Foundation



Originally founded by two parents caring for their son and daughter ill with psychosis, CAUSE has gradually developed into a peer-led charity, run by carers for carers, working across Northern Ireland. [...] We cannot thank Black Santa Sit-Out enough for its support, as it gives CAUSE the opportunity to empower, support and change the lives of those impacted by someone living with a complex and severe mental illness.

- CAUSE





Donation Form

You can donate by cheque, BACs or cash. If donating by cheque, please cross cheques and make payable to Sit-out. Donations by BACs transfer should be made to: Bank of Ireland, sort code **90-21-27**, account number **60907288**.

Please email admin@belfastcathedral.org to let us know about your donation. You can now donate online by visiting our website www.belfastcathedral.org and click on the Donate or Black Santa link.

Title _____ **First Name or initial(s)** _____

Surname _____

Full Home Address _____

Postcode _____

To Gift Aid your donation

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can 'gift aid' your donation by ticking the box below and signing the declaration. Please ensure that you have also completed the 'ALL DONORS' section above, including your full name, address and postcode which are needed to identify you as a taxpayer

Please treat the enclosed gift of £_____ as a Gift Aid donation to St Anne's Cathedral Sit-out (Charity Registered XN46142).

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the 2017/18 tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p on every £1 that I donate.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Postal Address

Please post completed forms to:

**Belfast Cathedral,
Donegall Street,
BELFAST, BT1 2HB**

Please tick if you require a receipt

GPDR

Under new GDPR regulations, we are required to seek your permission to hold your details for future Black Santa Appeal mailings. If you would like us to do so, please tick the box and return this form by post, whether or not you are making a donation.



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

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