



Services and Music List

December 2019

Front cover illustration: Icon of the Tree of Jesse.

Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas tradition dating from mediaeval times. They are used to tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Birth of Christ. Depictions of the Tree of Jesse are based upon the prophecy of Isaiah 11:1-2:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

WELCOME TO BELFAST CATHEDRAL

A chorister singing the pure notes of "Once in Royal David's city", the soaring tones of a cathedral choir, carols new and familiar, candlelight, and congregations gathering to share in this year's carol services. For so many, this is the essence of Christmas. For many these are the defining characteristics of the choir of Belfast Cathedral. It is all these which make the month of December one of my favourite times of the year. And this year will be the first for our choir under the direction of Mr Matthew Owens.

The month will begin with the powerful and atmospheric Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st December, Advent Sunday. With the season of Advent the church calls a halt to the onward rush of Christmas come too soon. The music of Advent is more sober, more reflective, calling us to watch and wait. Through the first week of December, on Advent Sunday and in the weekday Evensongs the advent music of our choir will call us to be properly prepared for the coming of a king, born surprisingly as a baby in the backwater town of Bethlehem.

But soon, with Carol Services, Christmas concerts, and many other Christmas events at our cathedral, our choir and cathedral community will embrace the celebration and the mystery of "Immanuel", "God with us". The birth of Jesus long ago was heralded by choirs of angels and time was changed from BC to AD. Through the weeks of December our Christmas Music leads us toward the great cathedral Carol Services of the Sunday afternoon before Christmas, this year at 3.30pm on Sunday 22nd December, and then to the ever-popular Christmas Eve Carol Service at 8.00pm.

Each carol service and each retelling of the Christmas story leads us to the greatest moment of birth and surprise which the world has ever known. With our "First Communion of Christmas", starting at 11.00pm on Christmas Eve, and ending in the early hours of Christmas morning we mark the birth of the Son of God, born to turn our world upside down. And this year, this most special of services will be shared with Bishop Alan Abernethy and his wider

family as in Belfast Cathedral we mark his retirement as Bishop of Connor. He will both preach and celebrate, a conclusion to his ministry among us folded into the magnificence of our Christmas music.

And on Christmas morning we do it all again! With a Festival Eucharist at 11.00am, we welcome visitors and lifelong cathedral members to share in a joy which calls our world to be different.

Of course December at Belfast Cathedral also means "Black Santa". The Dean and Canons installed on the cathedral steps for the ten days before Christmas are a Belfast institution that the city has taken to its heart over 43 years. This year, the Dean will feature in a special nationwide broadcast of the BBC's Songs of Praise shown on the Sunday before Christmas. But you'll have to watch it on "iPlayer", because in real time you will be carolling in our Cathedral.

As I wish you all the joy, peace, and presence of Christ this Christmas Season, let me express my thanks to all our cathedral musicians: organists, sopranos, lay clerks, and the young choristers who will make their first appearance this Christmas, because in a special way Belfast Cathedral is the "Home of Christmas." May we also become your musical home not just for Christmas, but throughout the year ahead.

The Very Reverend Stephen Forde, *Dean of Belfast*

The Very Reverend Stephen Forde, BSc, Dip. Theol, *Dean of Belfast*

The Reverend Canon Mark Niblock, MA (Cantab), MA, *Dean's Vicar*

The Reverend Janice Elsdon, BA, *Non-Stipendiary Assistant Priest*

The Reverend Dr Maithrie White, *Non-Stipendiary Part Time Curate*

Matthew Owens, MA (Oxon), MusM, FRCO, PPRNCM, HonFGCM, *Director of Music*

Ian Barber, FRCO (ChM), GRSM, ARCM, LST, ARSCM, *Organist Emeritus*

William Forrest, BMus, *Organ Scholar*

ABOUT BELFAST CATHEDRAL

Belfast Cathedral, (the Cathedral Church of St Anne) is a Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion (Episcopalian). It is unusual in serving two separate dioceses, The Diocese of Connor, and The Diocese of Down and Dromore; it therefore has not one but two Bishops' Seats.

The Cathedral has stood for 120 years as a place of Christian worship in the heart of the City of Belfast. Featuring the 56-metre stainless steel *Spire of Hope* (added in 2007), detailed mosaics by the sisters Gertrude and Margaret Martin, elaborately carved stonework by sculptors Rosamond Praeger, Morris Harding, and Esmond Burton, and beautiful stained glass windows, this Hiberno-Romanesque building is one of the ecclesiastical and architectural highlights of Northern Ireland.

The splendid acoustic of the Cathedral is the setting for the 4-manual Harrison & Harrison organ, a Wells-Kennedy chamber organ, and a 2 manual organ by the renowned Dutch firm, Klop. The Cathedral Choir sings for Sunday Services and weekday Choral Evensongs, as well as large diocesan and civic occasions. Over the years the Cathedral choirs have sung on national and local radio and television, and have undertaken concerts and tours.

Belfast Cathedral sits at the heart of The Cathedral Quarter, which is known for its unique and artisan shops, wide variety of restaurants, and buzzing nightlife, close to the Titanic Quarter, and the city centre itself.

The clergy, staff, congregation, and volunteers of Belfast Cathedral look forward to offering you a warm welcome.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHORAL EVENSONG

Choral Evensong takes place in the Quire (or choir section) of the Cathedral. If you are able to stay for the whole service, which lasts 30 to 40 minutes, you are most welcome to sit in the Canons' Stalls in the back rows of the Quire. That is where you will be able to see and hear the Service to best advantage. Otherwise, you are welcome to sit in the Nave (the main body of the cathedral).

Evensong is taken from the centuries-old *Book of Common Prayer*. Prepared primarily by Thomas Cranmer, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533, it was viewed as a compromise between old and new ideas. The book's service of Evensong uses elements of the ancient monastic evening services of Vespers and Compline. It is centred on two canticles, or songs: the Magnificat (the Song of Mary, from the Gospel of Luke), and the Nunc dimittis (the Song of Simeon, also from the Gospel of Luke). In addition there sung prayers (the Preces and Responses), a sung Psalm, or Psalms (from the Old Testament); and an anthem, which may reflect a particular season or Saint's Day. These choral offerings are interspersed with bible readings and spoken prayers.

Sacred music within the liturgy is one of the church's greatest cultural and religious heritages, and is enjoyed by those of all faiths and those of no faith. The choir and minister offer an evening thanksgiving to Almighty God on behalf of the congregation gathered in this iconic building. It is our hope that you will feel a very warm welcome and leave Belfast Cathedral feeling refreshed and uplifted.

INFORMATION

ANTHEM AND CANTICLES TRANSLATIONS

Selected translations of anthems which are not sung in English (at services when there is not a printed order) are available towards the back of this booklet. In addition, there are translations of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* for when they are not sung in English.

BIBLE TRANSLATION

Belfast Cathedral uses the New Revised Standard Version translation of the bible for all services. Reading selections are taken from the Church of Ireland Lectionary.

CHOIR

Unless otherwise specified, all choral services are sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir. On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays Choral Evensong is normally sung by the Lay Clerks. Sunday services are sung by the Lay Clerks with guest sopranos. Recruitment for choristers (boys and girls aged between 7 and 14) to sing in the Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir is taking place this term. The Cathedral's Director of Music, Mr Matthew Owens, is always pleased to hear from parents of prospective choristers. Please email him via music@belfastcathedral.org

COMMUNION

If it is your custom to receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive here, whatever denomination you are.

HYMNS

Hymn numbers in this publication and in orders of service refer to the Irish Church Hymnal or the New English Hymnal (marked 'NEH', where applicable).

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

No photography or recording of any kind may take place during services, concerts, or rehearsals without the express permission of the Dean.

DECEMBER

1 SUNDAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)
- 11.00 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST
J.S. Bach *Präludium c-moll, BWV 546 i*
Introit Proper: Ad te levavi animam meam
Hymns 487 (t. ii), 119 (t. i), 97 (t. i)
Byrd *Mass for four voices*
Gradual Psalm: 122
Preacher: The Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean
J.S. Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* à 2 claviers
et pédale, BWV 659
Ravenscroft *Remember, O thou man*
J.S. Bach *Fuge c-moll, BWV 546 ii*
- 3.30 p.m. CAROL SERVICE: Northern Ireland Hospice
- 6.30 p.m. ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
A service of readings, traditional congregational Advent
carols, and music for Advent by Gibbons, Guerrero, Joubert,
Richard Lloyd, Ord, Palestrina, and Stainer
-

2 MONDAY

- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

3 TUESDAY

- 9.00 a.m. MORNING PRAYERS
- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER with plainsong
- 7.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE: NSPCC

DECEMBER

4 WEDNESDAY

- 1.00 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION
- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Plainsong *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 23 (Tone VIII)
Tone III *Magnificat*
Victoria *Nunc dimittis tertii toni*
Tallis *Audivi vocem de caelo*
-

5 THURSDAY

- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Tallis *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 27 (Tone VI)
Morley *Short Service*
Byrd *Domine praestolamur adventum tuum (pars una)*
-

6 FRIDAY

- 11.00 a.m. CAROL SERVICE: Music Therapy Services
- 1.00 p.m. PRAYERS FOR HEALING (Cathedral Hall)
- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Tallis *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 34 (Tone VII)
Tone VI *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis*
Byrd *Domine praestolamur adventum tuum (pars duorum)*
-

7 SATURDAY

- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

DECEMBER

8 SUNDAY: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)
- 11.00 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST
Naji Hakim *Antienne (Mariales pour orgue)*
Introit Proper: Populus Sion
Hymns 126, 636, 384 (t. i)
Howard Skempton *Missa Brevis (Northern Ireland premiere)*
Gradual Psalm: 72, vv 1-7, 18-19
Preacher: The Reverend Canon Mark Niblock, Dean's Vicar
Barry Ferguson *Schönster Herr Jesu*
Grayston Ives *This is the record of John*
Naji Hakim *Conditor alme siderum ('Canticum pour orgue')*
- 3.30 p.m. CAROL SERVICE: Northern Ireland Prison Service
-

9 MONDAY

- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

10 TUESDAY:

- 9.00 a.m. MORNING PRAYERS
- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 4.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE: St Anne Trust 'Carolfest'

DECEMBER

11 WEDNESDAY

1.00 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION

There is no Evensong tonight due to an event in the cathedral

12 THURSDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Ashfield *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 65 (Tone VIII)
Humphrey Clucas *The Westminster Service*
Gary Davison *Never weather-beaten sail*

13 FRIDAY:

1.00 p.m. PRAYERS FOR HEALING (Cathedral Hall)

5.30 p.m. CAROL SERVICE: Home-Start

14 SATURDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

DECEMBER

15 SUNDAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)
- 11.00 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST
J.S. Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, a due bassi
 e canto fermo BWV 660
Introit Proper: Gaudete in Domino semper
Hymns 146 (t. i), 136, 115 Gradual Psalm: 146, vv 4-10
Byrd *Mass for five voices*
Preacher: The Reverend Janice Elsdon
J.S. Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 599
Tye *The Lord will come and not be slow*
J.S. Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, in organo pleno/
 il canto fermo nel pedale, BWV 661
- 3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Leighton *Scherzo*, Op. 41, ii
Humphrey Clucas *Preces and Responses*
Hymns 104 (t. 349), 86 Psalm 78, vv 1-17 (Oakley)
Sir James MacMillan CBE *Short Service*
Sir James MacMillan CBE *O radiant dawn*
Leighton *Prelude*, Op. 41, i
-

16 MONDAY:

- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
- 7.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE: PwC Belfast
-

17 TUESDAY

- 9.00 a.m. MORNING PRAYERS
- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 7.30 p.m. CAROL SERVICE: Grosvenor Grammar School

DECEMBER

18 WEDNESDAY

1.00 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION

19 THURSDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

20 FRIDAY

1.00 p.m. PRAYERS FOR HEALING (Cathedral Hall)

5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

7.30 p.m. CONCERT: Peter Corry’s Christmas at the Cathedral

21 SATURDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

2.30 p.m. CONCERT: Peter Corry’s Christmas at the Cathedral

7.30 p.m. CONCERT: Peter Corry’s Christmas at the Cathedral

DECEMBER

22 SUNDAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)
- 11.00 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST
Buxtehude *Passacaglia d-moll, BuxWV 161*
Introit Proper: Rorate caeli desuper
Hymns 135 (omit v 8), 133, 132
Byrd *Mass for three voices*
Gradual Psalm: 80, vv 1-8, 18-20
Preacher: The Reverend Canon Mark Niblock, *Dean's Vicar*
Nivers *Hymn: Ave maris stella*
Byrd *Ave maris stella*
J.S. Bach *Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, Fuge über
das Magnificat pro organo pleno, BWV 733*
- 3.30 p.m. A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
A service of traditional readings, traditional congregational
Christmas carols, and music for Christmas by Bach, Andrew
Carter, Joubert, Matthew Owens, John Rutter, Howard
Skempton, and Warlock
-

23 MONDAY

- 1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS
- 5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
-

DECEMBER

24 TUESDAY: **CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 8.00 p.m. A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
A service of traditional readings, traditional congregational Christmas carols, and music for Christmas by Bach, Andrew Carter, Joubert, Matthew Owens, John Rutter, Howard Skempton, and Warlock
- 11.00 p.m. FIRST CHORAL COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS
J.S. Bach *Allegro* (Sonata 1 Es-dur, BWV 525)
Hymns 177, 182, 172, 160
David Briggs *Truro Eucharist*
Preacher: The Bishop of Connor
Ireland *The Holy Boy*
German Traditional, arr. Ledger *Still, still, still*
John Rutter CBE *Christmas Night*
Lanquetuit *Toccata en ré majeur (1926)*
-

25 WEDNESDAY: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 11.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY SUNG EUCHARIST
Andrew Carter *Trumpet Tune*
Hymns 172 (omit vv 3, 4, 5), 159, 198, 160
Mozart *Missa Brevis C-dur 'Spatzenmesse', K. 220*
Preacher: The Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean
Andrew Carter *A Christmas Canon on 'Forest Green'*
English traditional, arr. Ledger *Sussex Carol*
John Rutter CBE *Christmas Lullaby*
Vierne *Finale (Symphonie I)*

The Cathedral Choir is on vacation following the Eucharist, and resumes singing services on Sunday 5 January, 2020

DECEMBER

26 THURSDAY: Saint Stephen

The Cathedral is closed today

27 FRIDAY: Saint John the Evangelist

The Cathedral is closed today

28 SATURDAY: The Holy Innocents

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

29 SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)

11.00 a.m. EUCHARIST
Hymns 202, 184, 185, 81
Preacher: Gillian McGaughey

3.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER
Hymns 146, 162

30 MONDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

31 TUESDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

JANUARY 2020

1 WEDNESDAY: The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

The Cathedral is closed today

2 THURSDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

3 FRIDAY:

1.00 p.m. PRAYERS FOR HEALING (Cathedral Hall)

5.30 p.m. EVENING PRAYER

4 SATURDAY

1.00 p.m. CATHEDRAL PRAYERS

TRANSLATIONS OF ANTHEMS NOT SUNG IN ENGLISH

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER

Audivi vocem de caelo (Tallis)

Audivi vocem de caelo venientem:
venite omnes virgines sapientissime;
oleum recondite in vasis vestris dum sponsus
advenerit.

Media nocte clamor factus est: ecce sponsus
venit.

*I heard a voice coming from heaven:
come all wisest virgins;
fill your vessels with oil, for the bridegroom is
coming.*

*In the middle of the night there was a cry:
behold the bridegroom comes.*

Words: Matins Responsory, All Saints

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER and

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER

Domine, praestolamur adventum tuum (Byrd)

[pars una]

Domine, praestolamur adventum tuum, ut
cito venias, et dissolvas jugum captivitatem
nostrae.

[part one]

*O Lord, we await thy coming, that thou
comest quickly and dissolvest the bonds of
our captivity.*

[pars duorum]

Veni, Domine, noli tardare, relaxa facinora
plebi tuae, et libera populum tuum.
(part 2 based on a Respond for 4th Friday in
Advent, Sarum Rite)

[part one]

*Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the
misdeeds of thy servants, and deliver thy
people.*

*Words: part 1, anonymous; part 2 based on a
Respond for 4th Friday in Advent, Sarum Rite)*

TRANSLATION OF THE EVENING CANTICLES

Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum;
Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;

ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, et
sanctum nomen ejus,
Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
Dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit
humiles.

Esurientes implevit bonis, et divites dimisit
inanes.

Suscepit Israel, puerum suum, recordatus
misericordiae suae,
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et
semini ejus in saecula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Nunc Dimitis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum
verbum tuum in pace:

Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:

Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam
plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

*And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his
handmaiden.*

*For behold, from henceforth all generations shall
call me blessed.*

*For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy
is his Name.*

*And his mercy is on them that fear him,
throughout all generations.*

*He hath shewed strength with his arm,
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.*

*He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and
hath exalted the humble and meek.*

*He hath filled the hungry with good things, and
the rich he hath sent empty away.*

*He remembering his mercy hath holpen his
servant Israel,*

*As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and
his seed for ever.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for
ever. Amen.*

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all
people;*

*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the
glory of thy people Israel.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for
ever. Amen.*



A SUPERB OPPORTUNITY FOR
MUSICALLY TALENTED
BOYS AND GIRLS, AGED 7-14

BELFAST CATHEDRAL IS
RECRUITING CHORISTERS

For full details about auditioning for
Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir,
please contact the Cathedral's Director of Music,
Mr Matthew Owens

Email: music@belfastcathedral.org
Telephone: 028 90 328 332

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. ANNE



belfastcathedral.org

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Cathedral's website and social media channels at



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Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2HB

admin@belfastcathedral.org

+44 (0)28 90 328 332

