



BELFAST CATHEDRAL



Services and Music List

September-October 2026

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 our 4-manual Harrison & Harrison organ. The Cathedral Choir sings for Sunday Services and Choral Evensong each Friday, as well as large diocesan and civic occasions. Over the years the Cathedral choir 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 is a service unique to the Anglican Church. It can be traced back to 1549 when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, combined the ancient monastic offices of Vespers and Compline into one service, to be used at the end of the working day. Cranmer's vision was to make daily prayer together, and daily exposure to the Scriptures, accessible to all people.

For nearly 500 years, Anglican cathedrals have set this service to music, which is sung by our choir and priests. Although the congregation is mostly silent throughout this service, that does not mean you cannot take part in the worship. We offer you the gift of rest and quiet reflection, and invite you to step out of the busyness of life, allowing the music and the Scriptures to transport you into a version of reality soaked in God's presence.

The service itself 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 are 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.

We are very pleased that you are able to join us. 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. Whether you belong to our congregation, or are visiting for the first time, you are welcomed to be a part of a long tradition of Christian worship, which has lived in this building for more than 120 years.

It is our hope that you will feel a warm welcome here at Belfast Cathedral, and leave feeling refreshed and inspired.

INFORMATION

MID-WEEK SAID SERVICES AT 1.00 P.M.

- Holy Communion is celebrated in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit Monday-Wednesday.
- Holy Communion is celebrated in the Chapel of Unity each Thursday.
- The Churches Ministry of Healing meet for their service in the Cathedral Hall each Friday.

CHOIR

Unless otherwise specified, all choral services are sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir. Our choir sings services each Sunday, Thursday (choristers), and Friday in academic term-time, with our adult sopranos and choristers (boys and girls aged 7-14) rotating each Sunday on a weekly basis.

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 (Fifth Edition) the Revised New English Hymnal (marked 'RNEH', where applicable), or Thanks & Praise (marked 'TP', where applicable).

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

It is asked that no photography or recording of any kind may take place during services, concerts, or rehearsals without the express permission of the Dean.

September

03 THURSDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Maryln Harper *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 18, vv. 1-6 (Plainsong)
Dyson *Evening Service in C minor*
John Rutter *The Lord bless you and keep you*

04 FRIDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Bertalot *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 23 (Plainsong)
Sumsion *Evening Service in G*
John Rutter *A Gaelic Blessing*

September

06 SUNDAY: THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Haydn *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo*
Jack Wilson *Do not be afraid*
Preacher: The Rev'd Cameron Mack, *Curate*
Psalm 148 (Plainsong)
Hymns 318, 10 (i), 195
J.S. Bach *Fugue in C minor BWV 537*

3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Jack Wilson *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 126 (Turle)
Howells *Collegium Regale*
Brahms *Geistliches Lied*
Hymn 73
Howells *Master Tallis's Testament*

10 THURSDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Maryln Harper *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 53 (Plainsong)
Malcolm Archer *The Berkshire Service*
John Rutter *Look at the world*

11 FRIDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Plainsong *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 61 (Plainsong)
Jack Wilson *Fauxbourdon Service*
Tallis *If ye love me*

September

13 SUNDAY: THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Christopher Robinson *Communion Service*
Parry *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*
Preacher: The Very Rev'd Stephen Forde, *Dean*
Hymns 365, 555 (618), 444, 659
Whitlock *I. Allegro risoluto (Plymouth Suite)*
- 3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Ayleward *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 69, vv. 1-12 (Spedding)
Stanford *Evening Service in B flat*
Wood *Never weather-beaten sail*
Hymn 350 (ii)
Mendelssohn *I. Allegro con brio (Sonata IV)*
-

17 THURSDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Maryln Harper *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 89, vv. 1-8 (Plainsong)
Malcolm Archer *The Berkshire Service*
Sarah MacDonald *Michaelmas*
-

18 FRIDAY

City of Belfast Culture Night

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Radcliffe *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 94, vv. 1-12 (Turle)
Dyson *Evening Service in F*
David Briggs *God be in my head*

September

20 SUNDAY: THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Joanna Forbes L'Estrange *Missa Brevis*
Sarah MacDonald *Michaelmas*
Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Raymond Fox
Hymns 108 (iii), 614, 104 (ii), 708
Cecelia McDowall *Church bells beyond the stars*
- 3.30 p.m. SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF PETS
Rutter *Look at the world*
Hymns 25 (ii), 21 (i)
Edward Marsh *Toccata sur 'Pat le Facteur'*
-

24 THURSDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Maryln Harper *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 119, vv. 1-8 (Plainsong)
Thiman *Evening Service in G*
How *Fairest Lord Jesus*
-

25 FRIDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Bertalot *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 119, vv 97-104 (Plainsong)
Philip Moore *The First Service*
Philip Moore *Through the day thy love has spared us*

September/October

27 SUNDAY: THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Byrd *Mass for four voices*
Byrd *Ave verum*
Preacher: The Rev'd Janice Elsdon
Hymns 94 (ii), 86, 451, 635
J.S. Bach *Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 544*
- 3.30 p.m. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST NI SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
Psalm 126 (Gauntlett)
Sumson *They that go down to the sea in ships*
Hymns 336, 517, 361
Dubois *Toccata in G*
-

01 THURSDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Maryln Harper *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 8 (Plainsong)
Thiman *Evening Service in G*
Rimmer *Autumn Evensong*
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02 FRIDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Reading *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 14 (Plainsong)
Deane *Short Evening Service*
Batten *O sing joyfully*

October

04 SUNDAY: THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Neil Cox *Missa Brevis*
Wood *Expectans Expectavi*
Preacher: The Rev'd Julie Bell, *Minor Canon*
Hymns 327, 385, 431 (i), 566 (i)
Tournemire *Improvisation sue le "Te Deum"*

3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Sarah MacDonald *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 23 (Grindle)
Sumsion *Evening Service in A*
Wesley *Blessed be the God and Father*
Hymn RNEH 501 (i)
Eben *III. Moto Ostinato (Sunday Music)*

08 THURSDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Campbell Stewart *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 43 (Plainsong)
Malcolm Archer *The Berkshire Service*
Mendelssohn *O rest in the Lord*

09 FRIDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Plainsong *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 47 (Plainsong)
David Stevens *Alternatim Service*
Harris *Holy is the true light*

October

11 SUNDAY: HARVEST SUNDAY

Saint Philip the Deacon

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST

Stanford *Communion Service in C and F*

Wood *Summer Ended*

Preacher: The Very Rev'd Stephen Forde, Dean

Hymns 37, 47, 39, 36

Mushell *Toccata*

3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG *with the Installation of Choral and Organ Scholars*

Rose *Preces and Responses*

Psalm 61 (Havergal)

Howells *Evening Service in G*

Howells *Like as the hart*

Hymns 34, RNEH 451

Howells *Rhapsody No. 3 in C Sharp minor*

15 THURSDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG

Campbell Stewart *Preces and Responses*

Psalm 78, vv. 1-8 (Plainsong)

Dyson *Evening Service in C minor*

Dyson *Praise*

16 FRIDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG

Plainsong *Preces and Responses*

Psalm 84 (Plainsong)

Simon Johnson *Service on Plainsong Tones*

Lloyd *Open my heart, illumine me*

October

18 SUNDAY: THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Saint Luke

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Shephard *The Wiltshire Service*
Hurford *Litany to the Holy Spirit*
Preacher: Mrs Gillian McGaughey, *Diocesan Reader*
Hymns 459, 460 (522 i), 464, 468
Ridout *IV. God the Spirit (Canticle of the Rose)*
- 3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Jack Wilson *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 93 (MacFarren)
Stanford *Evening Service in C*
Harris *Strengthen ye the weak hands*
Hymns 346
Elgar *Imperial March*

22 THURSDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Campbell Stewart *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 108 (Plainsong)
Plainsong *Evening Canticles*
Robson *Holy God, Who madest me*

23 FRIDAY

Saint James, the Brother of our Lord

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Ayleward *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 114 (Tonus peregrinus)
Watson *Evening Service in E*
John Rutter *God be in my head*

**The Cathedral Choir break for Half-Term until
Sunday 1st November**

October

25 SUNDAY: THE FIFTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

11.00 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST

James MacMillan *The Galloway Mass*

Preacher: The Rev'd Janice Elsdon

Hymns 321, 535, 250 (i), 597 (ii)

Ridout *IV. God the Spirit (Canticle of the Rose)*

3.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Hymns 509, 691



DEAN

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CURATE

(until October 2026)

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