

Cathedra

Friends
of the
Cathedral



In Memoriam

A Year in the life of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

Issue 16, Spring 2023

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The Friends of Armagh Cathedral

Cathedra is the annual magazine of The Friends of Armagh Cathedral. It is intended both to keep in touch with the members of the Friends and to be a window through which others can see something of the life of the Cathedral and its people, past and present. It is free to members, and can be purchased from the Cathedral shop.

The Friends of Armagh Cathedral was established in 1938. It is a registered charity, whose aims are to bring together in a fellowship of loyalty and devotion all who care for the ancient foundation of the Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Armagh and its continuing witness to the glory of God, and to assist in the maintenance and preservation of the Cathedral for posterity.

Membership of the Friends gives you the opportunity to help the Cathedral. You

can take part in events organised by the Friends, without necessarily being involved in regular worship in the Cathedral. Anyone who wishes to support the aims of the Friends may join.

Membership is a way to support one of the most ancient institutions in Ireland: a cathedral standing on one of the earliest Christian sites, tracing its foundation to St Patrick in AD 445.

Applications to join the Friends or other enquiries should go to:

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c/o Armagh Robinson Library,
43 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7DY

or:
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There is a pull-out application form in the centre of the magazine.

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Cover picture: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
Image credit: PRESS ASSOCIATION / Danny Lawson.

Foreword by Dean Shane Forster

Dear Friends,

The year 2022 will undoubtedly be recorded in the history books as the year that the United Kingdom had four different Chancellors of the Exchequer, three Prime Ministers and two Monarchs. It was most definitely a year of transition and change on so many different levels. Thankfully, life at the Cathedral remained fairly stable, with signs of new growth after the dark and difficult years of the pandemic.



As society started to slowly re-emerge after the enforced periods of lockdown, restrictions and various forms of mitigation, we experienced throughout the year a slow but gradual return to some level of normality. There wasn't, admittedly, a stampede of individuals rushing to gather together in large numbers, but a more gentle and careful return to life as it had been before 2020. We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in a service filled with pomp and ceremony at the beginning of June, which was followed by the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon in the Cathedral grounds. Later that month, the Cathedral was once again filled to capacity by members of the Orange Institution, marking the Centenary of Northern Ireland along with the Queen's Jubilee. I am so glad those events took place and were not hindered by the pandemic, especially in light of the Queen's death just after the summer.

As Sovereign, Her Late Majesty was part of the life of the nation for seventy years and was the longest reigning monarch in British history. As Queen, she was remembered in the prayers in the

Cathedral at virtually every service held during her reign and we were honoured that Her Majesty visited the Hill of Armagh for the Maundy Service in 2008. All who were present for that visit remember it with affection and so in a special Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, we celebrated the late Queen's long and well-lived life of duty and service which was underpinned by her

H M Queen Elizabeth II visiting the Cathedral in 2008



strong and committed Christian faith. As we look back with thanksgiving we also look forward in hope. The year 2023 will see the Coronation of King Charles III and we will host another special service in the Cathedral in early May to celebrate that significant moment and the beginning of a whole new chapter in the history of the United Kingdom.

Cathedrals play a unique role in society because at times of joy and in times of sorrow they are the location for the wider church and broader community to gather and express the sentiments of the time, through scripture readings, prayer and music. Armagh Cathedral has been doing that for centuries – a place founded by a

saint and where a High King is buried – and will no doubt continue to provide that sacred space for such important occasions for many years to come.

I am pleased to commend this edition of *Cathedra* to you and in doing so thank Drs John and Gillian Faulkner, our editors, for yet another excellent magazine. I trust that you will enjoy reading it and reflecting back over what was a momentous twelve months. I also hope that you will have the opportunity to join us in the Cathedral at some point in the year ahead – a place where history is honoured, celebrated and made.

*Every blessing,
Shane*

Highlights from 2022

January

It was a quiet start to the year, with many Covid restrictions still in place and as yet no inkling of events that would put their stamp on the coming year.

The Epiphany carol service was sung by the Armagh Diocesan Singers.

February

Tourism started to improve and there were a couple of 'Afternoons on the Hill', including one with a difference which demonstrated the skill behind the creation of stained-glass windows. 'Afternoon' or 'Morning on the Hill' events include visits to Armagh Robinson Library at the old Registry building, No. 5 Vicars' Hill, as well as the Cathedral. The Mothers' Union All-Ireland commissioning Service took place on the last Sunday of the month.

Learning about stained glass in the Cathedral





A candle for Ukraine

Upon the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, a candle with the Ukrainian flag was placed at the entrance to the Military Chapel in the Cathedral. It is a reminder of the terrible conflict that has raged in Ukraine ever since, and which has brought about so much injury and loss of life. The candle will remain lit at services until the war ends and is regularly visited by Ukrainian families who are now living in Armagh.

March

During the month, the Cathedral hosted the Diocesan Healing Service, the Charles Wood Festival Song Competition, and a special St Patrick's Festival Concert compered by John Anderson and featuring choirs from across Northern Ireland.

On the eve of St Patrick's Day, the Cathedral Choir sang Choral Evensong and this was followed by the Vigil walk. With a procession of lights, the walk began at the Church of Ireland Cathedral, passed the other main churches in the city, and finished at the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

On St Patrick's Day itself, Holy Communion was celebrated in Irish by Canon David Hilliard and then the Archbishop preached at the Sung Eucharist.

April

We hosted two events primarily for school children: The Royal School held their very popular Spring Concert in the Cathedral, and then on a Saturday afternoon, the building was filled with primary school children for a Messy Easter event.

With a sense of relief, we were able to return to the normal pattern of worship for the Holy Week and the Easter services. All mitigations and restrictions due to the pandemic were lifted on Easter Day, which meant the return of the common cup and full congregational singing.

St Patrick's Day in the Cathedral





Messy Easter

We were delighted that Eric Marshall (Cathedral Treasurer) was awarded the Maundy Money in recognition of his service to a number of Diocesan Boards and Parishes as Treasurer and Committee member. The service took place in St George's Chapel, Windsor with the Prince of Wales presenting the money on behalf of The Queen.

Eric Marshall is awarded the Maundy money



Also in this month, pop up displays of some of the print collection from Armagh Robinson Library were put on show in the Cathedral.

May

On the first Sunday in May, the Revd Canon Dr Tony Davidson preached for the last time in the Cathedral as an Ecumenical Canon, before his retirement in the summer. Dr Davidson had been Minister of First Armagh Presbyterian Church for 28 years. We thank him for his service to the community in Armagh, and for his involvement with the Cathedral in particular, and give him every good wish for his retirement.

Three new choristers were installed at Choral Evensong on 15th May, another chapter in the re-invigoration of the choir after the Covid pandemic. Also in May, a display of artwork by Year 10 students at the Royal School was mounted in the Cathedral and judged by the Countess of Caledon for a school award.

The Friends' AGM was held in the Cathedral with a pre-meeting drinks reception in the Cathedral gardens and then dinner in the Music Hall after the business part of the meeting.

June

It will be a very long time before the Cathedral has another opportunity to mark the Platinum Jubilee of a monarch. The Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated with a special Choral Evensong at which the Rt Revd the Lord Eames OM delivered the sermon. The service was supported by the ABC Council, with Councillors present in their robes and a large congregation. The Cathedral was filled to capacity for a Sunday afternoon special service attended by members of the County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge to celebrate the Centenary of Northern Ireland and the Platinum Jubilee.

June would have been a busy month even without the Platinum Jubilee. Other services included the Diocesan Mothers' Union Festival Service, the Rite of Confirmation and the Commissioning of Diocesan and Parish Readers, and there was a concert given by the South Ulster Sinfonia.



Lighting the Platinum Jubilee beacon

July

We were delighted to welcome many overseas visitors to the Cathedral during the month as they had been greatly missed during the pandemic. The choir of St Mark's Portadown sang the services on the first Sunday of July, and in the following weeks there were a concert given by the choir of New College Oxford, and an organ recital by Weston Jennings. We also hosted part of the John Hewitt Summer School in the Music Hall.

Members of the Diocesan Mothers' Union with their banners



August

The annual Charles Wood Festival and Summer School returned to a full in-person programme and there was a very good turnout at all services and events. Choral Evensong was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and a sung Eucharist was recorded for BBC Radio Ulster.

September

Just three months after her Platinum Jubilee, we returned to the Cathedral on 15th September to mourn the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. A very solemn Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of the late Queen was attended by representatives from across the whole community. The lessons were read by the Chief Executive of the Council, Mr Roger Wilson, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop and Primate, of All Ireland, the Most Reverend Eamon Martin. The address was given by the Revd Dr Heather Morris, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland. A candle was lit by His Majesty King Charles III's Lord Lieutenant for County Armagh, the Earl of Caledon, to introduce a period of silent thanksgiving, and the Blessing was pronounced by the Church of Ireland Archbishop and Primate, the Most Reverend John McDowell.

During September the Cathedral also hosted the annual Festival Service for the Friends of the Cathedral and a Service of Thanksgiving for 90 years of the Federation of Women's Institutes in Northern Ireland. The Revd David Murphy was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral by the Bishop of Clogher as the Primate was in London for the funeral of The Queen.



Revd Dr Heather Morris preaching at the Memorial Service

October

The Dean was interviewed in the Cathedral for BBC Songs of Praise for a special edition about *Armagh – City of Faith*. Harvest Thanksgiving was well supported with gifts received for the Food Bank. The Diocesan Synod Service took place in-person in the Cathedral after having been online in recent years. The Friends of Armagh Cathedral Autumn

Claire McCollum, BBC *Songs of Praise* presenter



event took place in the Crozier Hall, Armagh, and the speaker was Mrs Eva Baxter on the theme of The Life and Times of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander.

The Cathedral was the setting on 25th October for the funeral of former Board member, Stephen Hartley. The Armagh City Choir sang at the service and there was a large congregation made up family and friends and those associated with the various organisations of which Stephen had been a member over many years.

November

Remembrance Sunday services were well attended and the sun was shining on the parade in the Mall. On the next day, the Dean welcomed Minister of State, Steve Baker MP, to the Cathedral and conducted him on a guided tour following a meeting with local church representatives. For Georgian Day in Armagh on the last weekend of the month, the Cathedral Choir sang Choral Evensong and four new choristers were admitted to the choir.

Georgian Day



December

The month began with a new Carolfest event with choirs from local primary schools and with both Archbishops present. We then had the installation of Dr Kenneth Milne as a Lay Canon and the Revd Dr Heather Morris as an Ecumenical Canon.

The Diocesan Youth and Children's Ministry team hosted a 'Messy Christmas' event in the Cathedral, the Royal School held their annual Carol Service and the Armagh City Choir sang at their Christmas Concert. The nave of the Cathedral was once again filled for the annual Nine Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Day services were a high point of the festive season.

During the year the Succentor, the Revd Alan Cross, retired. We are grateful to Alan for his contribution, in particular to the music in the Cathedral, and wish him a long and healthy retirement.

Shane Forster
Dean

From the Secretary of the Friends

EVENTS DURING 2022

Our post-Covid programme began in the Cathedral Gardens on Tuesday 24th May with a drinks reception, held as a precursor to the Annual General Meeting. Some of the Friends had not visited the gardens before, and were pleasantly surprised both by the views across the Primatial City and by their beauty and well-kept condition. (The gardens are maintained by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council.) Dean Forster as Chairperson welcomed Friends and their guests and reflected on how last year's AGM had to be held via Zoom video conferencing. He then invited Archbishop John McDowell to address the Friends.

The Archbishop expressed his pleasure at being able to meet the Friends in person. He spoke warmly about living in the City spread before us, and gave an account of some of its history.

He reflected back to the year 1610 when Thomas Blennerhasset, an active proponent of the Plantation policy put into effect at that time, described Armagh as being in a state of decay despite its antiquity, ecclesiastical dignity, and potential. It had suffered a half century of military action, and had only recently been de-garrisoned. Furthermore, peculiar historical circumstances had for long made it, although the ecclesiastical capital, unattractive for residence to Archbishops whose cultural affiliations cut

them off from the northern portion of their diocese. As a monastic centre it had had a distinguished record, but in the altered circumstances of 1610 it could no longer derive prominence or prospects from its monastic tradition.

It did, however, have potential as a traditional marketing centre and, with the introduction of a Protestant colony and with the rebuilding of the Cathedral church (see article on pages 17-21), as a revived and re-orientated ecclesiastical centre as well. Its most important new function would be as a county capital and centre of legal sittings.

The town, which was restored and expanded in the thirty years after the plantation (also in large part due to the efforts and generosity of Archbishop Hampton), had a closer continuity with its past than, say, Londonderry, which was walled and garrisoned and received a larger immigrant population.

The Archbishop concluded that his account was based almost exclusively on See records, and was therefore bound to be patchy, but his audience found it fascinating and thought-provoking.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Cathedral itself and supper was served in the Music Hall, bringing an enjoyable evening to a close.

The Friends' annual Autumn Event was held in the Crozier Hall at St Mark's Church on Thursday 20th October. Friends and their guests enjoyed Mrs Eva Baxter's



Friends assembled for their AGM in the Cathedral

Mary Caldwell as Mrs C F Alexander



monologue on *The Life and Times of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander*. Afterwards, and to the accompaniment of Mathew Greenaway on the keyboard, everyone was invited to sing along to some of Mrs Alexander's most well-known hymns including *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *There is a Green Hill Far Away*. Mary Caldwell, our Honorary Secretary, was dressed as Mrs Alexander. A sumptuous supper provided by Joanne Loughran rounded off a very enjoyable and entertaining evening.

The Management Committee of the Friends would like to thank all those who have financially supported the Flower Fund and those who act as the team of flower arrangers, ensuring that we have inspiring floral creations week by week and for special services through the year. The sale of *The Friends' Christmas card* for 2022 was very well supported and the Management Committee was appreciative of this.

I would also like to thank Dr John and Dr Gilly Faulkner who have been joint editors of *Cathedra* for the past 6 years and are retiring following the publication of this issue. John and Gilly have a special place in their hearts for St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh as they were married there in 2010 by the then Dean, Patrick Rooke.

Editing *Cathedra*, they tell me, has been very good for them as it was equally new to both of them, rather than a development from one of their individual interests or occupations (botany and languages). They have enjoyed putting the magazine together and have appreciated the articles from all contributors and making contact with the other people associated with the Cathedral. On your behalf I wish to say a sincere 'Thank you' to John and Gilly for producing such interesting magazines. Their dedication and commitment has been much appreciated. They were always friendly, courteous and obliging. It was a privilege to know and work along with them as they sought to promote the Friends of Armagh Cathedral through our magazine *Cathedra*.

We will miss you, and I take this opportunity to wish you good health and happiness in the years to come.

A REQUEST

If you are reading this, you will already be aware of the significance of the Cathedral to the people of Armagh and of Ireland, and to Irish people the world over.

Nowhere else could events like those detailed in the Dean's highlights from 2022 have taken place. Nowhere else can trace back through more than 1500 years of history and a continuous line of bishops and archbishops to the time when Patrick established his Irish mother church on the Hill of Armagh. Our Cathedral is truly unique.

On behalf of the members of the Management Committee of the Friends, I wish to thank you for your interest and involvement in the Cathedral. We deeply appreciate your investment in our Cathedral family in terms of your time, talents and treasure. The Cathedral and all that it means are an incomparable asset, but one that is sometimes taken for granted or even forgotten.

There's one thing more that we would like to ask of you. It would not be burdensome. We would like to ask you to help in bringing the Cathedral to the notice of many, whatever their religious position, who are less conscious of it than you are. We are seeking to increase the membership of the Friends, raise the profile of the Cathedral, and bring together in a fellowship of loyalty and devotion all who care for the legacy of St Patrick in Armagh.

Mary Caldwell
Hon. Secretary to The Friends

Music in the Cathedral 2022

THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The constraints of the Covid pandemic continued through the early months of 2022, in that the whole choir was not permitted to sing together, as the virus was still widespread in the general population. Cathedral services were sung alternately by the men and boys, and by the young men.

In January five new members joined the choir: choristers Nathan Murray, Jacob Oriencia and Thomas Smart; and gentlemen Mr David Darling and Mr David Wilson. Because of the pandemic, recruitment of boys had not been possible since early 2020 and the addition of three new choristers at this time was particularly welcome.



January - three new choristers

At last, on 19th March, authorisation was given for the whole choir to sing together at cathedral services for the first time since March 2020.

On Sunday 3rd April, the choir sang a memorial Evensong for the late Mr David McElderry, whose organ building company,

Wells-Kennedy, had undertaken the substantial rebuild of the Cathedral organ in 1996, as well as its subsequent maintenance. David was an outstanding organ builder who had a great love of Armagh Cathedral, and we are most grateful for a bequest from his estate which the Cathedral Board has determined will go towards the continuing maintenance of our wonderful organ.

For Holy Week and Easter, we returned to the full range of choral services for the first time since 2019, with a slight change to normal routine in that the young men alone sang at the 10am service on Good Friday.

In June the Cathedral hosted the ABC Council's service of Thanksgiving for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. On this occasion the men and boys were joined by Mrs Clare Speers and Mrs Shona White, both of whom have long associations with the Cathedral. The choir sang the wonderful Parry anthem *I was Glad*. It was the first occasion in the last two years when the full choir sang to a packed cathedral. It was a most memorable service and the Cathedral is perfect for hosting such events.

Also in June the annual barbeque for choir members and families was held in the grounds of the Royal School. We are thankful to Dr Paul Reaney for organising this event. The boys had an outing to North Down and the young men travelled to the North Coast to sing at the morning service in St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry, followed by an afternoon in



Choir for the Platinum Jubilee Thanksgiving Service

Portrush. I wish to thank all members of the choir supervision team who accompanied the boys and young men on these outings, and indeed to all members of the team, led by Mrs Elaine Heatrick, for all their assistance at practices and services throughout the choir year. It was very much appreciated.

In July, the Cathedral hosted two concerts which were well supported. The American organist, Weston Jennings, was finally able to give a recital in the Cathedral, having originally planned to do so 2020. The choir of New College, Oxford, accompanied by Donal McCann, gave a recital of sacred music on 23rd July. This choir is one of the world's most famous men and boys choirs, and we were privileged that Armagh was one of only two Northern Ireland venues on their tour. It is interesting to note that Donal McCann, presently assistant organist in New College and originally from Belfast, had performed before in Armagh, in the Cathedral's recital series. Weston, Donal and the choristers of New College all enjoyed the organ and warm resonant acoustic of the Cathedral.

Sadly, in September, such a short time after the Platinum Jubilee service, a large congregation gathered in the Cathedral again for the ABC Council's Memorial Service for Queen Elizabeth II. The choir opened the service with Croft's Burial Sentences, sung from the Military Chapel. It was a most impressive, if sombre, service.

New choristers Samuel Ferguson, Daniel Johnston, Oscar Kernaghan, and Nicholas Viva-Palmer were welcomed to the choir in October, and I hope that the boys and their families will enjoy being part of the choir and the Cathedral family.



October – four new choristers



Entire Cathedral Choir

Following Evensong on Georgian Day at the end of November, choir members and their families enjoyed refreshments, provided by the new Cathedral verger, Mr Nigel Frazer, – our first indoor social event in over two years.

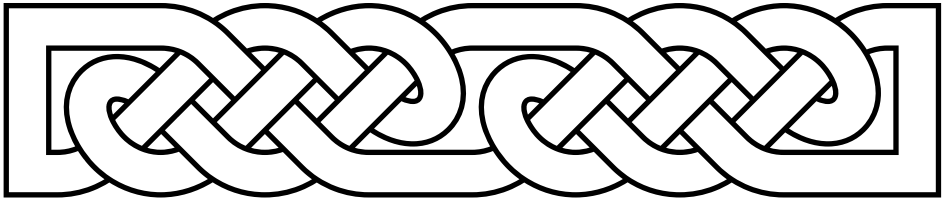
After the two-year hiatus of the Covid pandemic, 2022 represented a very welcome return to normality. It is good to have the full choir back, singing at Sunday services and at diocesan and other occasions.

*Stephen Timpany
Organist and Director of the Choristers*

THE DIOCESAN SINGERS AND CHARLES WOOD FESTIVAL

After all of the disruptions caused by Covid-19 over the previous two years, 2022 was a busy, enjoyable and fruitful year for the Diocesan Singers. The choir continues to sing for one Sunday afternoon service each month, as well as a few special occasions each year when the Cathedral Choir is not available.

The choir's year began with an Epiphany Carol Service in January, a sequence of music and readings tracing the story from the birth of Christ to his presentation in the temple. In March the choir sang for a special Healing Service, marking the re-launch of the Diocesan Healing Ministry following its disruption during the pandemic. Also in March the choir sang at the Patronal Festival Eucharist on St Patrick's Day, the setting being the wonderfully exuberant and joyful *Little Organ Mass* by Franz Joseph Haydn.

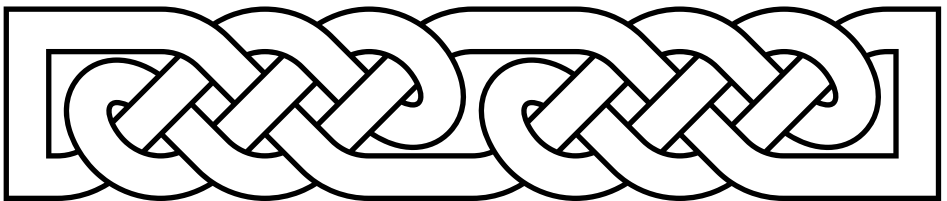


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Diocesan Singers

In April the choir led the worship at the Chrism Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, and then at the monthly Evensong sang the famous Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*, starting what might well become a new Easter tradition! In May the Short Service by one of the greatest Tudor composers, Orlando Gibbons, was heard in the Cathedral for the first time in many years. Then in June the choir sang for the annual Mothers' Union Festival Service and commissioning, as well as the regular monthly Evensong.

After a break during the summer months, the autumn term was equally busy and rewarding, including normal Evensongs in September and October, a liturgical performance of Fauré's Requiem on Remembrance Day, and a sequence of carols, readings, poetry and music for Christmas in December.

The choir's repertoire expanded greatly during this period, introducing seven new

anthems, from the famous composers Tallis, Handel, Elgar and Wood, through to living composers Malcolm Archer, John Rutter, and the Irish première of a work by the Gloucestershire-based musician Ian Higginson. In addition the evening service by Gibbons, the Haydn Mass and the Fauré Requiem were all new to the repertoire in 2022, marking a huge advance not only in the range (and difficulty level) of music sung, but also in the skill, confidence and performance of the Singers. It is a real credit to them to be able to sing all of this music with no rehearsal apart from the day of each service.

As always we have been blessed to have Stephen Furphy as the regular organist for the Singers, playing so faithfully and so well every month, accompanying the choir and providing wonderful voluntaries before and after services (not to mention his legendary last verse reharmonisations in the hymns).

THE CHARLES WOOD FESTIVAL

Like all other musical activities, there has been a slow but sustained re-building of the traditional Charles Wood Festival of Music and Summer School. The Girls' Choir did not come back in-person in 2022, but will return in 2023. The Charles Wood Singers were back, though with greatly reduced numbers, giving a much more intimate sound to the round of services and events in the Cathedral. These included the opening concert with Matthew Owens directing the Ulster Consort and Insieme Brass on Sunday night, Choral Evensongs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday, and the Gala Concert on Friday evening, as well as a recorded service for BBC Radio Ulster. Traditionally the BBC Radio 3 Evensong was pre-recorded, which allowed for any editing that might be required, but this year it was completely live, which added an extra level of pressure – and excitement – for all the performers.

Outside the Cathedral many of the other traditional events took place including sung masses in St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral and St Malachy's Church, Bach at Twilight (also in St Malachy's), a "Come and Sing" with Bob Chilcott in St Mark's, lunchtime recitals in First Armagh Presbyterian, open rehearsals with the Singers and vocal lessons and masterclasses with Paul Farrington. In addition to the now traditional programme, there were some innovative and exciting new ventures, including a day focused on enabling primary school teachers to be more effective in delivering music education, visits to local nursing homes to support those who can no longer attend live events, and some outdoor performances on the Mall.

Peter Thompson
Assistant Organist

Charles Wood Singers, 2022



Christopher Hampton *builder, benefactor, Archbishop*

The year 2022 marked 400 years since a royal Commission of Inquiry was sent to Ireland by James I and VI to report on the political, religious and administrative circumstances in the country. Among other things, the report sheds light on the contribution made by Primate Christopher Hampton to the fortunes of both the Diocese and the people of Armagh. He used both church and personal funds to repair and renew, and can be considered the founder of the Palace Demesne as we now know it.



Archbishop Christopher Hampton

When Archbishop Christopher Hampton first set foot in Armagh, the cradle of Irish Christianity, the sight which greeted him was dismal. There, on the famous hill of Patrick, stood the gaunt shell of the ancient Cathedral, burnt by Shane O'Neill more than half a century earlier. Beneath it lay the wreckage of the looted city, and all around were the obvious signs of warfare and poverty. So why did Hampton, coming from a very different background, one of opulence, simply not do what his predecessors did, be content to live within the security of Drogheda and of the Pale? It was because he was a person of hope, commitment and Christian forbearance, even in the face of adversity.

Christopher Hampton was born in 1552 in Calais, where his father, the Rev. John Hampton, was serving as chaplain to the English settlers. He was educated at

Trinity College, Cambridge (MA 1575, BD 1582). Then, from 1589-1612, he served as Vicar of Calbourne on the Isle of Wight, where he also became a chaplain to the Earl of Southampton. In this capacity he came to the notice of James I, who recognised his academic ability when he preached before the King. On December 21st, 1611, he was nominated to the vacant see of Derry, just as the London Plantation of Ulster was at a formative stage there.

On reaching Derry, he was immediately confronted with the urgent task of revitalising the life of the Diocese. Many parish churches there had fallen into disrepair, and church lands had lapsed into the patronage of lay persons. He therefore deferred travelling to Dublin to be consecrated bishop of the See of Derry. Other circumstances then intervened and

that consecration never took place. The Archbishop of Armagh, Henry Ussher, died on April 2nd 1613, whereupon on April 16th Hampton was appointed Archbishop of Armagh and was hurriedly consecrated to the Primacy on May 8th. In this capacity he presided over the First Reformation Convocation of the Church of Ireland held in Dublin, on May 18th 1613.

When the newly consecrated Archbishop came to Armagh, it was a pivotal time in the life of the Church of Ireland. He had to contend with problems which he inherited, such as the claims of Dublin to the Primacy of All Ireland (which he resisted) and also the poverty of the Diocese of Armagh. An example of a matter he had to deal with almost straight away was a puritan protest in Dublin on May 18th 1613, when the Lord Deputy rode in state from the Castle to attend a service in St Patrick's Cathedral where his Grace was the preacher. The procession contained Lords of the Realm, but those who were puritans remained outside the Cathedral, and they took their places in the procession only on its way back to the Castle.

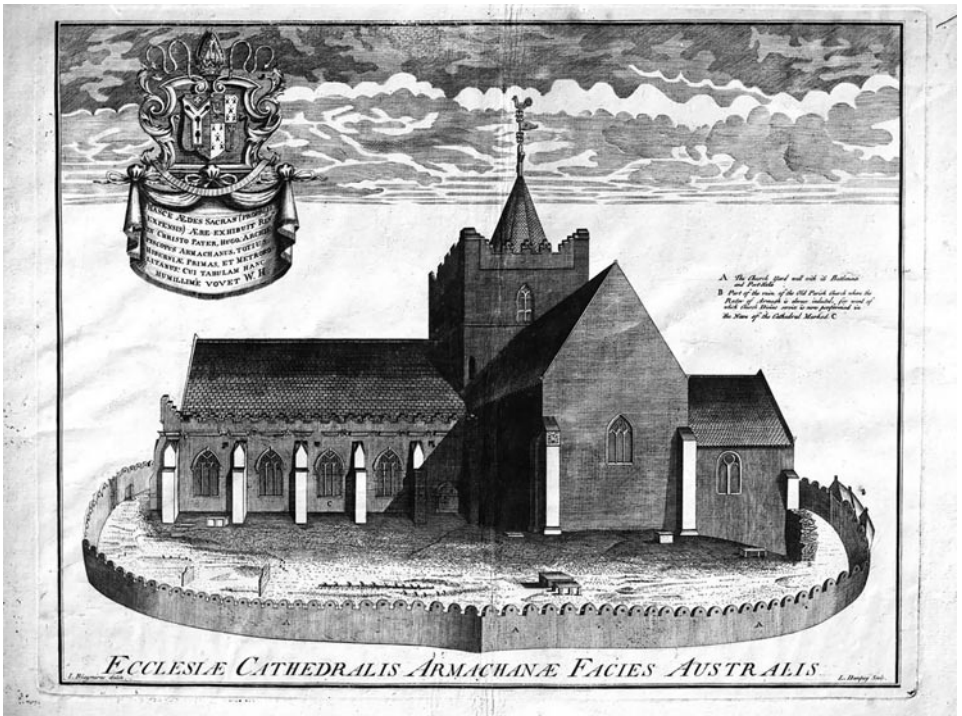
The new Primate needed to be in a position to govern both parts of his See (*inter Anglicos and inter Hibernicos*). He had responsibilities which tied him to Dublin, including his role as the King's Almoner and his membership of the Irish Privy Council, so it was convenient for him to have a residence closer to Dublin in Drogheda. When Sir William Brereton visited Drogheda in 1634, he was impressed by the episcopal residence built there by Hampton some twenty years earlier: "The building is foursquare of wood, rough-cast and not high, an

handsome, plain, though long and narrow hall, two dining-rooms; one little neat gallery which stands into the Chapel ... out of the gallery there is a little pair of organs herein, ... and in one of the dining-rooms is a conceit (epigram) the Arms of this See and bishopric, and Bishop Hampton's own Arms ... with the motto "*Fac tu similiter*" (Go and do likewise).

However, for his wider oversight of the Province, Archbishop Hampton agreed to reside three or four months each year at Armagh, to which end he repaired and enlarged the See House which stood close to the main entrance to the Cathedral, a cost of 160 pounds.

The medieval cathedral of Armagh had witnessed many vicissitudes over the centuries, not because of what it stood for, but rather because of the ground it stood upon – a strategic height which again and again combatants sought to control as a key position. Such was the case when Sir Henry Sydney was waging a campaign against Shane O'Neill in Ulster in the 1560s. He had a defensive wall built around the Cathedral of battlements and portholes, while the parapets of the aisles and tower of the building itself were embattled. In August 1566, some forces of the Crown were described as "being cooped up in the church of Armagh". O'Neill's response was to burn the Cathedral and also the streets encircling the hill. So the site lay virtually derelict for half a century, while the administration of the Diocese was based in Drogheda, where St Peter's Church served as a Pro-cathedral for the Archbishops.

Hampton's repairs to the Cathedral were extensive. Most notably, he adorned the



Early eighteenth century engraving of Armagh Cathedral

north and south walls with Gothic style windows, which still today testify to his architectural taste and detail. He re-roofed the north and south aisles, rebuilding the steeple which had been thrown down by Shane O'Neill, and had the damaged great bell recast. He also obtained a grant from King James, to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, to fund a choir of singing men, and a Grammar School for boys. One can imagine the impact all these things would have had on the life and witness of the church being rejuvenated.

But he was also aware that the old city, defaced by the scars of warfare, needed to be restored, and to this end he embarked upon a building programme. He made

provision in his leases for the construction within the city of Armagh of houses 40 feet long and 16 feet wide, in stone or brick and covered with slate, and having a garden 50 feet long. Unfortunately, the construction, for which the details appear in the Irish Commission of 1622, fell through because of the Archbishop's death on the 3rd January 1625.

For several centuries prior to the appointment of Archbishop Hampton, the Diocese of Armagh had been hampered by its inability to raise sufficient income from its church lands, due to the unsettled state of the country; however, about the year 1615, his Grace purchased about 300 acres of land close to Armagh city as an endowment for the Diocese. Here, some

150 years later, Archbishop Richard Robinson chose to build an episcopal palace for himself and his successors. When Primate Marcus Gervais Beresford died in 1885, in the wake of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, the diocese purchased about 70 acres with the buildings thereon. This was later sold to the Armagh District Council in c. 1975. The remainder of the Hampton legacy (c. 200 acres), was purchased by the family of the late Archbishop, and in 1916 was generously sold to the Armagh Diocesan Council for a small sum of money. Now known as the Armagh Palace Outside Lands, it has, over the years with rents and leases provided a wonderful income to the Church funds, in excess of £50,000 per annum!



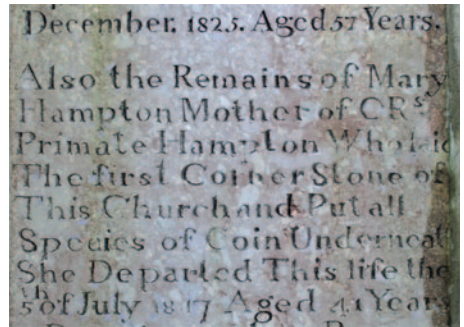
The Archbishop's Palace, Armagh – Robinson built on Hampton's legacy, literally as well as figuratively

The Commission of 1622 shows that Archbishop Hampton divided his episcopal care right across the Diocese and did not focus solely on the Cathedral and its immediate surroundings. It reports that at the time of its inquiry, 35 parish churches were either “in building, new built or repaired”, and the grants pertaining to any of their lands to be revised. Also, glebe houses were to be built, as non-residence of clergy in their parishes was a great

hindrance to the work of the Church, while some clergy even found themselves having to lodge in shebeens.

Archbishop Hampton never married, and had no children to provide for. However, he made provision for family members close to Armagh. He issued leases in 1615 to his brother, Francis, and nephew, Christopher, of lands in the Parish of Kilmore for the term of 60 years. He possibly chose this area as it had close ties with the Cathedral in Armagh and lies about 7 miles distant from it. In early years known as Kilmore-Aedhean, tracing its origin to an early monastery here, it had a long tradition of burials within the church, so that in 1440, Primate Mey gave permission for the building of a charnel-house there as a receptacle for the human bones. Evidence of the continuing presence of the Hampton family can be found in Kilmore churchyard. Outside the medieval tower is the old grave-plot of numerous Hamptons, where the older stones are no longer legible. Also, an old lease of 1735 cites Christopher Hampton, farmer, leasing land to John Hampton of Ballywilly (King's Inns, Dublin).

Detail of an inscription, showing “Primate” being used by the family as a given name



When James Stuart published his *History of Armagh* in 1819, he stated “We have reason to believe that the leases of some of the Hampton farms have been renewed from time to time, without fines, by the Archbishops of Armagh, through respect to the memory of the Primate Christopher. We have been also told that the countenance of the present representative of the eldest branch of the Hamptons bears a strong resemblance to the portrait of his collateral ancestor.”

Archbishop Hampton was a man of vision, commitment and perseverance, to revitalise the Church of Ireland throughout the Diocese of Armagh, and raise its profile in the metropolitan city. In all this, his part needs to be appreciated; because this became the basis upon which in later years, Archbishop Richard Robinson (Lord Rokeby) was able to capitalise.

Christopher Hampton died at Drogheda on February 3rd 1625 in his 73rd year and is buried at St Peter's Church, Drogheda.

Revd W E C Fleming

Hampton family plot at Kilmore



Interview with Revd Joyce Moore

The Revd Joyce Moore retired recently as a canon of the Cathedral and member of the Chapter, but remains an active member of the clergy of the Drogheda parish group. Ordained in 2001, she was formerly a teacher in Dundalk. Joyce believes her appointment as a canon ticked two boxes for Archbishop Clarke, as she represents two important facets of the Diocese – its female clergy and the parishes from south of the border. But she does much more than that ...

Joyce, you have firm roots here in Co. Louth, but were you brought up here?

I'm from the Glen of Aherlow in Tipperary. My grandfather was a farmer, and my father had to be a farmer too, so I grew up on a farm. I have not got it out of my system yet: the milk came in buckets and I still drink buckets of it! I went to a primary school in Tipperary. In the 1950s, you didn't send your children to a Roman Catholic School if you could possibly avoid it, so I did numerous scholarships and then went on to Villiers in Limerick instead. Villiers was co-ed and I absolutely loved it.

From there, I went on to Trinity and did General Studies with Maths as my main interest. But I spent most of my time in the music department and did my piano diploma in the Royal Irish Academy. That was not a good idea: you either focus on



Revd Joyce Moore, preaching as a canon in the Cathedral

the maths or you focus on the music, but it's difficult to get both right. It was at Trinity, in a Maths lecture, that I met my future husband, Richard.

What happened when you left Trinity?

We graduated in the same year, 1971, and Richard got a job in Drogheda Grammar School. I wrote around to 30 schools in Co. Louth. Twenty-nine did not reply, but the headmaster of Dundalk Grammar more or less replied with "come in September". It was different in those days! At first we were each resident in our own schools, but in 1972 we were married and lived in a rented house in Drogheda. Eventually we moved into this house, part way between Drogheda and Dundalk.

When our son Ian was born, there was no maternity leave. Ian was born on 16th August and I was back to work 20 days later for the start of term. The Vice-principal's wife minded Ian, and I worked for the rest of that year. By that time, I

Dundalk Grammar School



had decided I was not making a good job of it, so I resigned and did not teach for the next seven years. During that period, our other two children were born. When I returned to teaching, part-time at first and then full- time, I remember thinking “this is so easy compared to having three of your own”.

Having been a teacher for many years, what was your pathway into the Anglican Ministry?

A friend of mine from Tipperary had been the organist at Cashel Cathedral. When she went and got herself ordained, I said to Mum “Imagine doing that! Over my dead body, Mum, would I do a thing like that.” Forward nearly 30 years ...

When Richard was a parish reader, the Rector here asked me to take a couple of services. It felt the right thing to do, so I asked him later if he would let me train as a Diocesan Reader. His answer was “No ... but I'm coming to dinner with you on Tuesday; we'll talk about it then”. When he came, he suggested we both go in for the full-time Ministry. I laughed at him, I really did. “George , you must be joking!”. Over the next few weeks, we thought about it, and eventually decided that if you're chosen, then it's the right thing to do. So Richard and I both trained for the Ministry, and in 2001 we were ordained. At the Rector's suggestion, I trained as a non-stipendiary minister, as this would allow me to continue working as a teacher, both while training and after ordination.

How closely did ministry meet with your expectations?

I expected to be doing a bit of holiday duty for the Rector of Drogheda or the

Rector of Dundalk, or filling in when someone was sick. I certainly didn't expect what happened – being sent to Bessbrook as part-time curate! I even wrote to the Archbishop and said I didn't want to go, but in the wise way of Archbishops he just ignored me, and I had 6 wonderful years there. More than half of the congregation was affiliated to the Orange Order. They were very faithful parishioners, so upstanding. All I had seen of Orangeism from Tipperary was Ian Paisley shouting “No”.

During this time, I was teaching Monday to Friday and then working at Bessbrook on Sunday morning and at Daisy Hill Hospital on Wednesday afternoon. So I used to say that Saturday was ‘sacred to the socks’; if you didn't get it done on Saturday, it wasn't done at all.

After I was ordained, I was interviewed by a reporter for one of the local papers. We had finished the interview when he asked what the kids thought of me as a woman and a priest. I just came out with “a cross between Father Ted and the Vicar of Dibley” ... and that, of course, became the headline in the next week's local paper. (I have actually once been introduced at an event as ‘The Reverend Geraldine’).

St Peter's Church, Drogheda



After Bessbrook, I joined the Drogheda group of parishes, which is wholly within Co. Louth, stretching from the River Boyne to the River Fane. There are three vestries: one for St Peter's, Drogheda; one for Ardee and Collon; and one for Kilsaran, which has four churches.

The Rector of the Drogheda Group is Dr Iain Jamieson and I could be described as a curate-assistant. We now also have an ordained local minister (Revd David Murphy), a diocesan reader (Lord Bellew), a parish reader (Mr Victor Whyte) and a full-time ordinand (Mr Mike Buchanan). We are blessed to have such a wide range of talents.

The Dundalk parish group in the north of the county has five churches, one of them in Co. Armagh at Creggan. At present, the Rector's position is vacant, and my husband Richard has been helping out with services.

Joyce, as your husband is also an ordained Anglican priest, may we ask what it's like being a 2-clergy family?

Richard is a non-stipendiary minister in the Dundalk group of parishes, which has four churches in the north of Co. Louth

Joyce with her husband Richard



and one in Co. Armagh. The Rector's position is vacant at the moment, but it is hoped there will soon be an Ordained Local Minister in Ms Rita Arthur. I just couldn't do what I am doing without Richard. On Tuesday, for example, I was taking a funeral, so he cooked lunch and did everything towards it. If I don't turn up for lunch one day, despite having said I will, it's not a problem - he understands. Some days, he doesn't appear for lunch because something has turned up. There are times when I get a call to the hospital at night, and Richard says to me "I'll drive you in there so that you aren't parking there on your own".

I think it's easier to be a clergy couple where you are both on call all the time, than to be a couple where one is on call and one isn't.

How well attended are your services?

Parishioners are thin on the ground here. St Peter's would have the largest number of parishioners on its books, but Covid has really affected attendance St Peter's, so there would be no more than 20-30 on a Sunday morning. There are parishioners who might turn up, say, once a month rather than weekly, and also occasional visitors. Covid has affected the country churches less as they are more of a stable community.

There used to be far more Church of Ireland churches in Louth. In 1969 we lost eighteen churches closed by the Commission. We had far too many churches then, and we still do! Some, like Drumcar, had been associated with the local Big House. Years ago, only protestants would have been allowed to work in the House; Roman Catholics could



Church noticeboard at Drumcar

work on the land. All the household staff and their families would have been obliged to attend the local Anglican church, and the church would have been full. It's not like that anymore. The Drumcar congregation has dwindled, but we might well get 20-30 at Kilsaran on a Sunday.

Are any of your churches used by other denominations for Services?

It's funny you should ask that as just last Sunday I had a call from one of the churchwardens saying that a group was asking if they could rent one of the churches for regular services. I understand they were Ukrainians belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church, which is quite common in Ukraine. The Vestry will have to decide if they would like to do this, and if so ask permission of the Archbishop. You have to consider issues like the cost of heating and lighting. There are Ukrainians locally living at Drumcar House, which was bought by the St John of God's Brothers years ago.

We do have Russian Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox and Indian Orthodox sharing

the church at St Peter's. They pay for heat and light, but the problem is that last year the gas bill was €5,000 but this year it is more like €25,000. These are the kind of mundane things you have to think about before you can share. Can they afford it? Can we afford it? Can we remember to turn off the smoke alarms because of the incense? The Indian Orthodox services take four hours, and are on Saturdays. Father George, the Indian Orthodox priest, is responsible for an area from Belfast to somewhere near Waterford, and we think we're thin on the ground in Louth!

Before Covid, Lenten lunches were held in St Peter's, and raised thousands for homeless aid. The background was that St Peter's went on fire about 22 years ago and suffered horrendous smoke damage. It was rebuilt with the help of grants and contributions from the people of the town. We feel we must give back to the town that was so generous to us, so now there's a lot of outreach from there and it is used as a concert venue as a way of expressing our thanks.

Revd Ted Fleming, wrote in the last issue of Cathedra, about the long period when the Archbishops of Armagh lived near Termonfeckin and worshipped at St Peter's. Do you feel any echoes of that time today at St Peter's? And is there now any sense that Armagh is "beyond the pale"?

Every time you walk out of the vestry, the whole of the north wall has Robinson plaques. That would be Archbishop Richard Robinson, known in Armagh for building the Library, Palace and Observatory. Before he moved to Armagh, he lived at Rokeby Hall which he had had built just down the road from Drogheda.

When I celebrate communion in St Peter's, the patten and chalice were gifts from Archbishop Robinson. So, yes, there are certainly echoes of that time.

But go to any Select Vestry meeting, and you are likely to hear dismissive comments to the effect that "Armagh" does not understand us. That said, both Archbishops Harper and Clarke made a huge effort to make sure that Louth felt included. Indeed that is probably the reason I was made a canon. The Archbishop would have known that I liked the style of worship at the Cathedral as I was a vicar choral.

May we ask you to develop that a little further; could you tell us more about being a vicar choral and how you feel about music in Cathedral worship?

I was a vicar choral since 2007. To be a vicar choral you are expected to be able to sing in tune – most of the time. At Evensong, the versicles are sung by a vicar choral, and the choir comes back in with the responses. I don't think you have to be ordained for that because we had a lay vicar choral. Patrick Rooke, the Dean at that time, claimed to have the first female vicar choral. I continued as a vicar choral until Covid.

Singing in tune



As I implied earlier, where there is music, I like to be in the middle of it. My home church in Tipperary had 3 families in it, with 100% attendance. When I was eleven, our rector moved on and the new one asked me to accompany the hymns. I could do that with each hand playing the same note. Then at Villiers, I played the hymn in Assembly. The local Presbyterian Minister would 'kidnap' a couple of us to go and play at Morning Service at, say, Ennis or Shannon Airport. Here in Dunleer, I played the organ for 25 years before I was ordained. Now, if the organist doesn't turn up, I run between the altar and the organ. At St Peter's, though, that is impractical as the organ is upstairs, but there is a wonderful grand piano, so I can play that instead. It is a great help to be musical; otherwise you are dependent on someone else to pick hymns that fit the service, and not choose for example *O come, all ye faithful* in June. I do sometimes get asked to help as an alto with the choir at Dundalk.

Going to the Cathedral and hearing the choir of course is wonderful. I do think Stephen Timpany has done wonders there and so has Peter Thompson. I was at the Queen's memorial service and they were just superb – electric!

As well as your obvious interest in music, do you have any other special interests in aspects of church life?

Yes, I'm very keen that children are involved in services, but I cannot abide patronising children's services. For instance on Palm Sunday we will have the youngest children walking up the aisle during the first hymn waving palms, and then we'll go straight into the communion



Fan vaulting at Collon Church

service. Instead of the Passion reading, which is very long, we will dramatise it. At Kilsaran, the older members of the congregation will take a part each, and at St Peter's we will use the younger members of the school and the congregation to dramatise it. I used to do it with my 6th year children at Dundalk Grammar. When it came to the end and Jesus bowed his head and died, there was absolute silence. I was always felt it really meant something to them. It can take a lot of organisation to make sure that everyone takes part, and no one stands out as the star of the show.

The other thing I'd like to mention is that I like the church to be outward looking, ecumenical, welcoming to everybody. For example, if someone who hasn't darkened the doors of the church in years want to get married in it, I will facilitate them as long as they have some connection to the Anglican church and can show that they

don't have, say, 16 wives already. If they come for baptism, I say 'yes'. I think if you turn them away you are achieving nothing.

As Rural Dean, do you have any responsibilities for the other church properties in your patch?

It's my privilege as Rural Dean to go round them all inspecting their roofs and walls and so on. I love doing it. Richard and I go round together once a year, and then once every five years, we do it with the diocesan architect. As I like technology, I bought a drone and it's great for looking at roofs. The disadvantage is that you can't use the drone when it's wet or in high winds. The churches are in reasonably good nick. At Collon, which is modelled on the chapel of King's College Cambridge, the roof was in a very poor state, but is now under repair – including the beautiful ribbed vaulted ceiling. We're

hoping to re-open it later this year. One of the church halls is out of use, but mainly because it is too far from the church to be used for Sunday School.

Finally one last question: what does the Cathedral mean to you personally – is it remote, or is it home?

It's home, definitely, even though it's 42 miles away. I love the architecture. For worship to be worship, I think you need all three of the visual, the audible and the teaching. The Cathedral gives you all of these, and you can worship very privately within it. The services are conducted well and in order.

We do encourage parishioners to go to the Cathedral. They came in droves when I

was installed as a canon, and when David Murphy was made a parish reader. There may have been more of a feeling of 'them and us' when we first came here, but that has diminished – and not only in relation to Armagh, but also towards other denominations and towards foreigners.

Thank you, Joyce, for being so generous with your time and open with your memories. You have helped us – and we trust our readers too – to appreciate many dimensions to your life in the southern end of our diocese. We would like to wish you and Richard many more years of fulfilment through your work with the church, and lots of opportunities to enjoy the music in the Cathedral.



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Wednesdays, Saints' and Holy Days	Holy Communion	9.30 am
Sundays	Holy Communion	10.00 am
	Sung Eucharist	11.00 am
	Choral Evensong	3.15 pm



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