



## THE ROYAL AIR FORCE CENTENARY BELFAST GROUP JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS



***RAF 100th Anniversary Service took place at St Anne's Cathedral,  
Belfast Sunday 29th April 2018***



31 Group Royal Observer Corps Association members were invited to join in the RAF's 100th Celebration Service held in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast.

The **Central Band of the Royal Air Force** played throughout the Service and the magnificent Cathedral was filled to capacity. It was a huge event with many 31Group members attending from across the Province.

Paddy Malone proudly carried 31Group ROCA Standard in company with 9 RAFA Standards, including the Northern Ireland Regional RAFA Standard, many Royal British Legion and Air Training Corps Standards making over 30 in all.

It was a really wonderful sight. The Standards lined the steps of the Cathedral in bright sunshine to await the arrival of the **Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir**

**Stephen Hillier KCB CBE DFC MA RAF.** He was accompanied by the **GOC Irish Air Corps Brigadier General Sean Clancy.**

The Ulster Aviation Society did us proud and displayed their Spitfire outside the Cathedral front.

After the Service the UAS requested some of the Standard Bearers to stand in front of their Spitfire which made an excellent photograph. The brighter blue of 31Group Standard is clear to be seen.

The occasion was unique in that the Irish Air Corps Chief of Staff was also present and spoke highly of the Royal Air Force. Indeed, both the CAS and the Irish Air Corps Chief spoke with the UAS volunteers with their Spitfire. (Photo herewith)





There was a photographic display in the Cathedral for about 14 days showing aspects of the RAF. Former ROC display posters and ROCA leaflets were also presented for display.



The 31Group Standard was again present in Christchurch Limavady Co Londonderry on Sunday 15th April for a similar event where we were made so very welcome indeed.

**PADDY MALONE**