

Blackburn Cathedral, 10 May 2014.

Music & More online Supplement No. 47 FCOCA Day

It was a great joy...

... to welcome to Blackburn Cathedral delegates from the **Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations [FCOCA]** for their Annual General Meeting. **15 English Cathedrals** were represented and they soaked up some of the riches that Blackburn could offer to them in one short day.

Members from our own Choirs' Association [**BCCA**] were there to welcome them:



L-R: **John Bertalot** (founder of BCOCA), **Stewart Hopkinson** (Chairman), **John Marr** (Treasurer), **Steve Holmes** (Sr Old Chorister Elect), **Philip Wilson** (past SOC), **Eric Bancroft** (Vice Chairman), The Revd. **Ian Hollin** (Chaplain & Archivist), and **Allan Holden** (Past SOC). **Bob Keen** arrived hot foot from Cheshire shortly afterwards.

And in the centre is Phil's son, **Karel**, who clearly will follow in his father's choral footsteps very soon!

The fifteen cathedrals represented were, (in alphabetical order!) Bradford, Chelmsford, Chester, Chichester, Durham, Ely, Exeter, Leicester, Lincoln, Oxford, Rochester, Warwick St Mary, Westminster Abbey, & York Minster.. Many delegates had begun their journeys the day before to reach us by 9.30 am! There's devotion for you!



After a welcoming cuppa coffee, **Canon Andrew Hindley** gave us a fascinating guided tour of the cathedral – when he let slip that, now that building work has begun in the Cathedral Close, he is not only the Senior Canon, and Canon Sacrist, and Canon Precentor,

but he is, effectively the Clerk of Works who will oversee all the building work. **Look after yourself, Canon, there's only so much that one person can do!**

Our Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson**, then gave a brief, but melodious demonstration of the cathedral organ which, of course, our visiting musicians enjoyed enormously.

But the cathedral organ, like human beings, sometimes needs 'medical attention', for not everything was working 100%



After a splendid lunch created by **David Riley** in our Café in the Crypt, our guests enjoy watching the cathedral choir (with girl choristers added – a fine display of volunteer commitment) who rehearsed for a delightful Choral Evensong, when music, mainly by Blackburn composers, had been chosen:



Come, my Way by David Cooper. *Responses* by John Bertalot, and *Canticles in B flat* by Henry Smart, with the lovely anthem, *My Beloved spake*, by Patrick Hadley (who, incidentally, had tutored JB at Cambridge!)

Shaun Turnbull nearly blew us all out of the cathedral with his spirited performance of Gigout's *Grand Choeur Dialogué!* The organ was in very full working order for that postlude!

David Horner, from York Minster, the FCOCA Vice President, said how much they had all appreciated and enjoyed the day. Thank you, all!

The granddaughter of Senior Old Chorister Elect Steve Holmes had enjoyed it, too – she's just nine months old!

