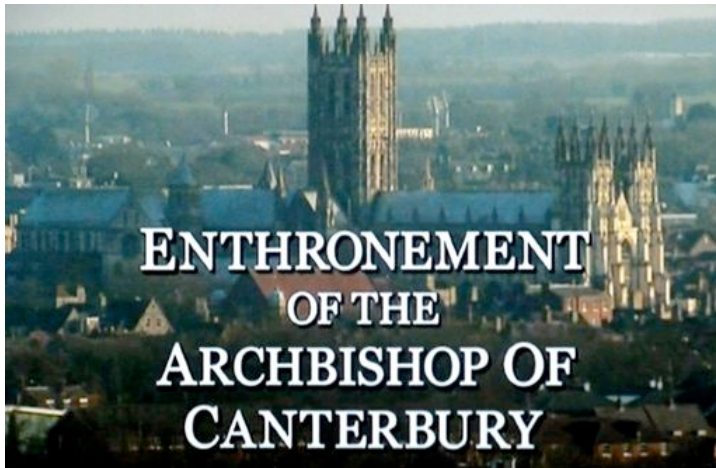


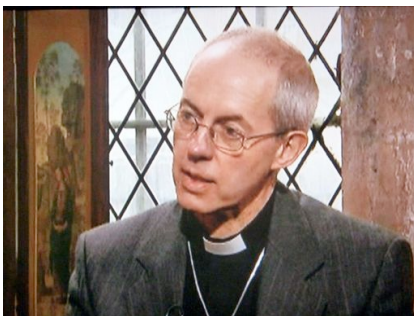
Blackburn Cathedral Music & More online Supplement No. 12

21st March 2013



Dean Christopher Armstrong represented Blackburn Cathedral at this superb service. [See the printed Music & More No. 2, 2013.](#)

When **Archbishop Justin Welby** was interviewed before the service (he'd been out jogging before that!), he said, 'I am an orthodox Christian: I say the Creed without crossing my fingers at any point.'



When he entered his Cathedral he proclaimed, 'I am a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God to travel with you in his service ... I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified, and in weakness and fear and much trembling.'

After the Dean of Canterbury, the **Very Reverend Robert Willis**, had installed the Archbishop in the Chair of St. Augustine, the Archbishop preached a sermon, based on the Gospel which he had just read – of Jesus walking upon the water and inviting Peter to come to him in the storm – which was both riveting and wide ranging.

'We are an international community. To each one of us, whoever and wherever we are, Jesus calls us through the darkness and storms of life and says: **Take heart,**



it is I; do not be afraid.

Our response to those words sets the pattern for our lives.

'Fear imprisons us and stops us being fully human.'

'Jesus is stronger than failure, because even when we fail [as Peter did upon the water] we find peace and hope and become more fully human than we can imagine.

'Failure forgiven; courage liberated; hope persevering; love abounding.'



'In humility and simplicity **Pope Francis** called us, two days ago, to be protectors of each other; protectors of the natural world, and of the poor and the vulnerable.



'Courage is released in a society which is under the authority of God so that we may become the fully human community of which we all dream. Jesus calls us: **Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.**

'There is every possible reason for optimism about the future of Christian faith in our

world and in this country, because Jesus said, **Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'**

The music for this service was superb: superbly chosen and superbly sung and played.

The cathedral choir, under the direction of **Dr David Flood**, was not only inspiring to listen to but also inspiring to watch.

The two treble soloists in Britten's *Te Deum in C*, showed that they were wholly committed and wholly professional in what they did, as were all their colleagues.



Before the service, as the processions entered the cathedral, the choir sang *Salvator Mundi* (Tallis), *Iustorum animae* (Stanford), *Ave Jesu Christe* (Peter Philips), *Deep River* (Tippett), *Set me as a seal* (Walton), *Vox Dei* (Philip Wilby, b.1949), and *Os Justi* (Bruckner).

The commissioned anthem by Michael Berkeley (b.1948) was immediately appreciated – for it had melodies!

The whole spirit of that service reinforced the Archbishop's words:

'There is every possible reason for optimism about the future of Christian faith in our world and in this country.'

If you would like our [printed M&M](#) magazine to be mailed to you, please e mail the Secretary of Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association with your name and mailing address and a form will be mailed to you. Annual subscription £20. Thank you! snapeamanda@yahoo.co.uk