

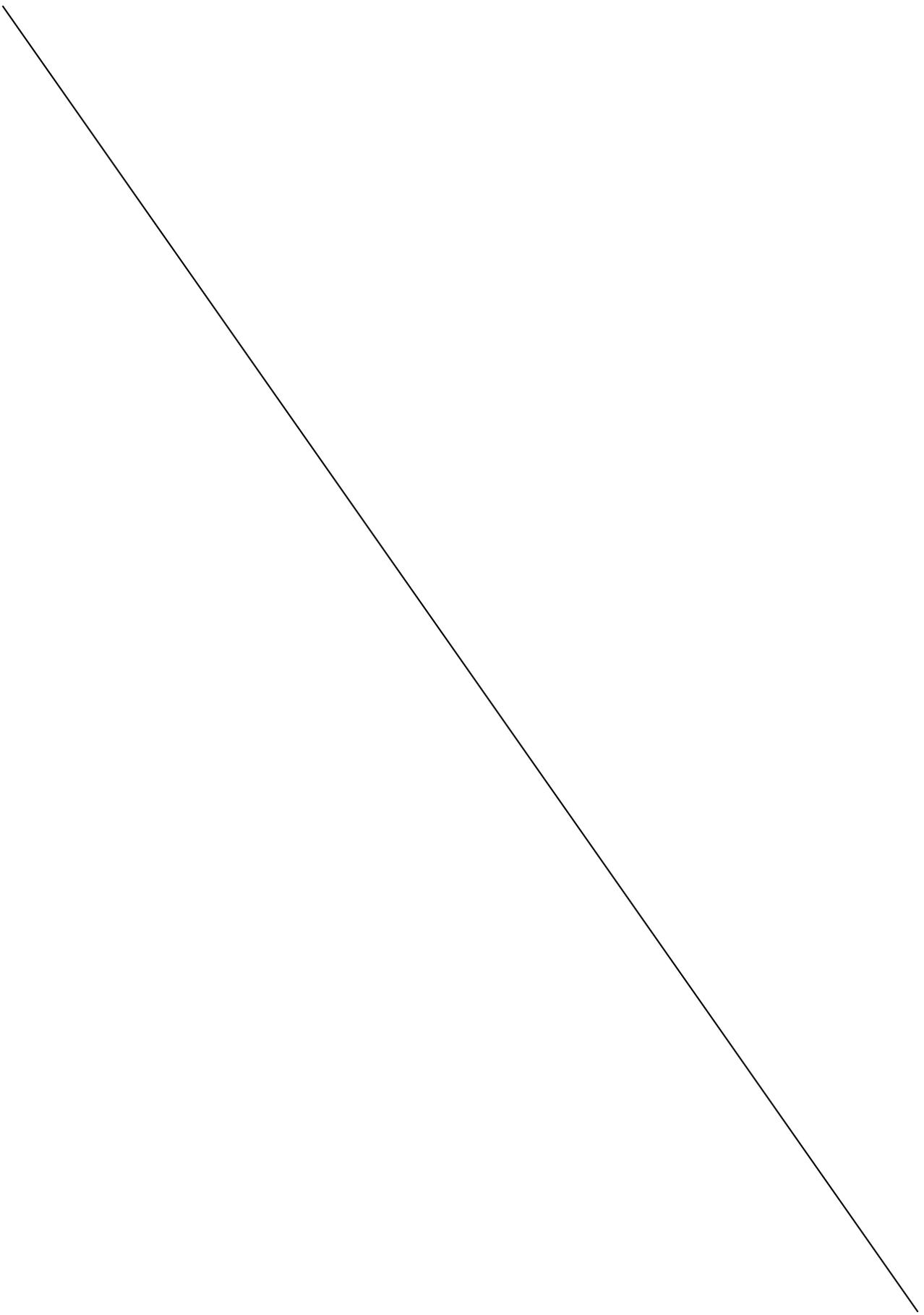
Blackburn Cathedral

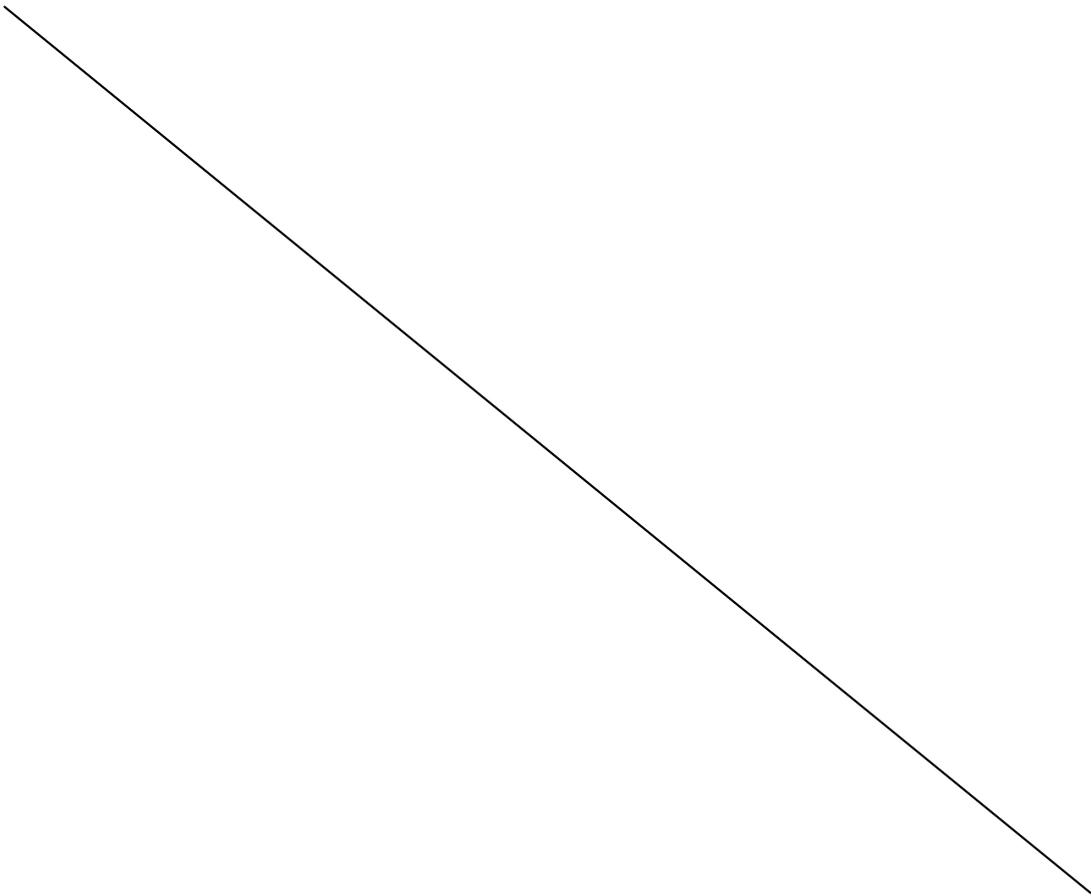
Music & More £3

August 2008



Richard Tanner at Canterbury. See p. 12
David Cooper, 1949-2008. See p. 27





BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL ALUMS' NEWS

JONATHAN TURNER'S 21st



Our former organ scholar, who is now senior organ scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, celebrated his 21st birthday in great style in April with a party for over 100 guests in the cathedral crypt!



Music for dancing was provided by former Choirparents **Peter and Gin Crewe** whose super Ceilidh Quintet included OC **Chris Hunwick** – who also studied at Lincoln College.



L-R, Peter & Gin Crewe, Chris Hunwick, The Revd. John Hallows (Vicar of Newchurch in Pendle) and Alex Nearney.

Peter also acted as Caller for the dancing – which was as energetic as it was fun.



Assistant Director of Music James Davy dancing with Jonathan's Mum – Gillian.

The Turner family rallied round to make everyone welcome.



Jonathan, John, Sarah and Gillian Turner preparing drinks

It was a truly Lincoln College evening, for not only was OC **Emily Crewe** there (who's just graduated from Oxford Brookes University and was a member of Jonathan's fine choir of Lincoln College), and also your staff photographer (who was organ scholar at Lincoln College 55 years ago!), but also Lincoln's new junior organ scholar, **William Thomas**, who hails from Wales, as well as our enthusiastic YPC member, **Tom Daggett**, who will be going up to Lincoln College this autumn.

AND, to add icing to the cake (literally), **Val Edge** had created a delicious 21st birthday cake for Jonathan.



William Thomas, Richard Tanner, Val Edge & Jonathan

Many Happy Returns, Jonathan!

Songs of Praise from Leeds (RC) Cathedral

How very good it was to see the Beeb's TV *Songs of Praise* coming from Leeds RC Cathedral at the beginning of April – for not only was it conducted by our own former Director of Music, **Gordon Stewart**, and, of course, the Director of Music of Leeds Cathedral is our own former Assistant DoM, **Ben Saunders**.



Ben has the most marvellous choirs at Leeds – they sing an unaccompanied motet during the programme; their dedication and enthusiasm could be seen on every face.



Ben directs one of the most ambitious music programmes in any cathedral in this, or any other, country – for not only does he direct several choirs at the cathedral – boys – girls

– 18 choral scholars – men – and adults, who sing four daily services every week and two on Sundays, plus a full programme of weekly recitals and other concerts, but he also directs music for the RC diocese of Leeds, which includes Bradford and Huddersfield.



The Diocese of Leeds has developed the fastest growing and largest programme of choral music for young people in the United Kingdom. In total it maintains 45 choirs comprising of some 1300 children meeting on a weekly basis.



And what about recruitment? That's no problem at Leeds under Ben's dynamic and inspired leadership. 300 boys came forward for audition for 20 places in Leeds Cathedral Boys' Choir. This is phenomenal.

St. Anne's Cathedral has recently been restored and is a haven of peace in the middle of that very busy city. It is the third largest RC Cathedral in the UK – after Westminster and Liverpool.

Of course, Ben does not achieve all this amazing music-making on his own – he has a large music staff: an assistant director, two assistant choral directors, plus organist, organ scholar and conducting scholar. And, of course, a music secretary to look after the paperwork.

See www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/cathedral/

Ben told your editor that he's about to make another choral CD and a Beeb recording soon afterwards for Sunday Half Hour in July.

This leaves us breathless, Ben. Well done!

Gordon Stewart said of the broadcast:

I was very pleased with the sound from Leeds, and the faces looked good too!

Life is busy. I have just got back from three weeks in South Africa.

(As well as conducting for the BBC and leading workshops all over the world, Gordon is Organist of Huddersfield Town Hall where he arranges and gives weekly recitals.)



OC MATTHEW OGLESBY

One of Ben Saunders' choral scholars is our own OC **Matt Oglesby**. Ben told your editor that it made him feel old to realize that he had taught him when Matt was a probationer at Blackburn. *(You gotta get used to seeing these talented young folk growing up, Ben. They do it increasingly fast!)*



Heartiest congratulations to OC EDWARD 'WOODY' SEYMOUR who wrote to your editor

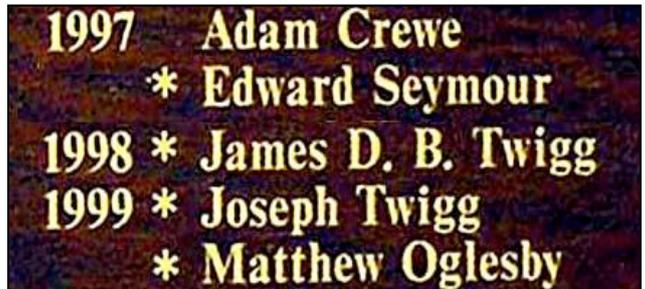
Dear John,

I hope this email finds you well and that the Blackburn scene continues to thrive. I just thought I would share some good news with you. **I have just been notified that I have been appointed Principal Bass Lay Clerk at Worcester Cathedral from this September.** I am very excited about this post and can't wait to continue my singing!

Please pass on my best wishes to all at the cathedral.

best wishes from Mum, Dad and me,

Woody



(From the Prefects' Board No. 3 in the Song School)

*Woody - this is EXCELLENT news - we are thrilled for you - not only because of winning such a prestigious position but also because **Adrian Lucas** is a fine, fine choirmaster who is held in the very highest regard.*

*Your musical experiences there will be among the most exciting in the land. For as well as being the home of one of the prestigious Three Choirs Festivals, Worcester Cathedral will shortly installing **TWO new organs!***

Well done, indeed! JB



From Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Keatinge Secretary of the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral

Dear John,

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of your wonderful magazine. I have read it from cover to cover and am filled with amazement at the vivacity of your Association. It is a truly wonderful production.

I am so glad that we met [at Salisbury Cathedral's 750th Anniversary celebrations]. The three-day Conference was certainly a most inspirational and worthwhile event. As a non-graduate, I do not believe that I have ever been in the presence of so many professors all at once....

I am glad that you are taken with our Friends' Badge. It certainly attracts attention and helps with the increasingly difficult task of recruiting members to the Association.

With every good wish,

Hugh



Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association

ANNUAL REUNION

Saturday-Sunday, 27-28 September.

*Book this date now and return your OCs' invitations (enclosed with this Newsletter) **TODAY!***

OC CHRIS HUNWICK sings in Cologne Cathedral

Chris writes: At the end of March, I was in Cologne with "The Singers" to sing Sunday morning Mass at the Dom, (Cathedral).



"The Singers" are a chamber choir based in Newcastle upon Tyne, conducted by Donald Halliday. I joined the choir a year ago, when I moved to the North East, at the invitation of **Rachel Elliott**, (daughter of Renaissance Singer, Alison Elliott) who lives just north of Newcastle and had been a member of the choir for the past few years.

The choir meets once a month for rehearsals on a Friday night and Saturday morning, and has members coming from as far away as Chester! The choir then sings services and puts on concerts around the North East and further afield. Places for recent concerts/services have included St Giles' Edinburgh, Durham Cathedral, Windsor Castle Chapel, Beverley Minster, and Hexham Abbey. But one of the choir members originally came from Cologne, and so a little tour was arranged.



The choir assembled on the Saturday at the soaring west entrance of the Dom, which is the largest Gothic Cathedral on earth. We rehearsed that afternoon in the Song School, which is up in the eaves of the Nave somewhere amongst the gargoyles.

Later that evening we were allowed to rehearse in the Cathedral after the building had been closed.

This was an amazing experience, when the acoustic could be appreciated to its full effect (I reckon about 8-9 seconds, even longer than Blackburn!).



Sunday mass was a splendid affair, with a packed cathedral and full ceremony.

We sang Palestrina's *'Missa Sanctificata'* and Byrd's *'Haec Dies'*, alongside German hymns and plainsong chants. The celebrant congratulated us at the end of the service on having 'embellished the ceremony with our singing', or at least that is what the German speakers in the group told us, and the congregation applauded.



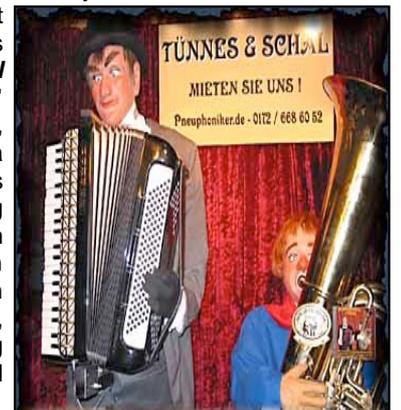
That afternoon we sang a concert in the Basilika St Aposteln (a great Romanesque church at the other end of the city) which was equally well appreciated. The programme was an eclectic mix of English Choral works from the 16th to the 21st century, passing from Parsons by way of Elgar and Wesley

to Tarik O'Regan and Whitacre. We performed *"When David heard"* by Whitacre, which is an exhausting sing but a very moving piece.



A report of the tour would not be complete without mention of **'Papa Jo's Jazz Club'**, which was a favourite haunt for the choir when off duty.

This excellent establishment features a pair of **musical automata**, one 'man' playing the accordion, the other 'man' with a tuba. These operate as a Juke Box, playing anything from Traditional German Folk tunes to Tom Jones' *'Sex Bomb'*, complete with wiggling eyebrows and puffed out cheeks. Amazing.



Heartiest congratulations to...

1...Head Chorister SARAH CHEW

who is not only a member of the Clitheroe Operatic Society (and receiving rave reviews) but she's also a member of the Award-winning ARDEN YOUTH CHOIR (founder-conductor, Susan Eames) which gave a stunning concert in St. Anne's Church, Fence, in April – with items ranging from an extract from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, to *The Chattanooga Choo Choo*.



As well as playing the organ for hours on end and doing the unavoidable thousands of miles flying between venues, I also managed to squeeze in a VERY rare round of golf in San Jose with my brother, John, who lives in San Francisco.

It's always great to see him and his family whenever I get a chance to visit. The weather there was amazing and certainly a lot better for golf than it is here in Edinburgh at this time of the year!



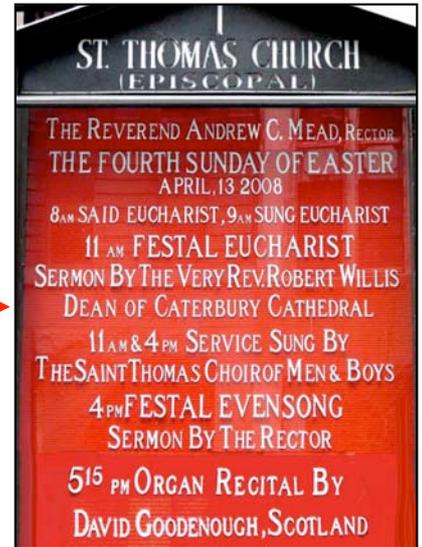
All members of the choir are trained singers (taught by Ms. Eames – who looked at her singers all the time, and they all looked at her!) and **our Sarah was one of the major soloists**. She was great – and so were they all! (See also p. 17)

You'll see from this photo of the notice board at St. Thomas's that I was in pretty good company* in New York on April 13th!

All best wishes,
David

(* i.e. *The Dean of Canterbury, who had preached at Blackburn last November. Can you spot the typo?*)

David's recital was given a glowing write-up in the New York Times! Wow!



2...Fuzzy Cathedral Choir bass PHIL WILSON

who has just become a Dad again – his fiancée is Markéta, who was the Tanners' *au pair* for James. **Karel Eric** was born on 12th March. Welcome! (See p. 7)



3...our former Associate DoM

DAVID GOODENOUGH (Housemaster at Fettes College, Edinburrr)

Hi John,

I just thought I'd drop you a line as I sit here trying to recover from my jet-lag. I'm just back (yesterday) from a whirlwind ten-day tour of the United States where I gave concerts in **San Francisco** (St. Mary's Cathedral), **Minneapolis** (St. Mark's Cathedral) and **New York** (St. Thomas's Church, Fifth Avenue). It's been a lot of fun.



In the three recitals, the central work was Louis Vierne's 1st *Symphonie*, which I've been learning since last October. To finally have it all together and fit to perform was really exciting and that happened really only a couple of weeks before I set off on April 4th. It went down very well in all three venues, where I padded it out with various other things in each recital.

I almost bumped into **Robert Costin**, my successor in Blackburn, as he was performing at St Thomas the week before I was.

4...Canon Chivers & Ms. Anjum Anwar

who were visited, in April, by three leaders from the **Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs** in **Denmark**. They were brought to see Canon Chris and Ms Anjum by the staff of the British Government Office for the North West because their work at Blackburn is regarded as a model! *Well done!*



With Ms. Anjum Anwar MBE and Canon Chris Chivers are (L-R) Hanne Stig Andersen, Julie Christine Cold, Mark Bang Kjeldgaard

5...OC DAVID ROBINSON

...who has found a new lady to cheer him after the sudden death of his wife in 2007.

We are delighted for you, David.

How very good it was...



... to welcome back to Blackburn Cathedral, earlier this year, **RONALD FROST** who gave a dazzling recital to members and friends of the Preston and District Organists' Association.

Ronald was appointed Sub Organist of Blackburn Cathedral shortly before the new organ was opened in 1969. It's worth putting on record how this came about.

When JB was appointed Cathedral Organist way back in 1964 he was, essentially, on his own – with just the one cathedral choir of men and boys. But when, five years later, the brand new organ was nearly ready and the cathedral music programme was rapidly expanding, JB asked the Provost and Canons if he could have a 'regular' assistant organist. 'Yes,' they said; 'whom would you suggest?'

As JB was also teaching at the then Royal Manchester College of Music, he said, 'Perhaps we could find a graduating student from the RMCM who could also find a full time teaching post at a Blackburn school?' They agreed.

So the next day JB asked the **senior organ tutor** at the RMCM if he had such a student who would like to become Sub organist of Blackburn Cathedral. Ronald answered, '**What about me? Hallelujahs all round!**'

During the next two years Ronald formed the YPC - made up of the ex trebles who were swamping the men's choir – for there were so many of them – they all wanted to stay in the Cathedral's music programme after their voices changed. We also inaugurated weekly Saturday lunchtime organ recitals, which happily continue today (on Wednesdays).

But unfortunately, after two years, Ronald began to have heart problems and so he had to relinquish his cathedral work. When JB was announcing this sad news to the choirmen after their Friday choir practice, the Song School door opened and in walked **KEITH BOND!** (Keith was giving the midday recital the next day.)

And it was Keith who, of course, succeeded Ronald and stayed until 1983 after JB moved to the USA. Keith and his wife, **Ruth**, moved from their Manchester home to Pleasington; they had two daughters who wanted to sing, and so Keith introduced young ladies into the YPC – which has successfully continued ever since!

Happily Ronald's heart problems were resolved and he was appointed Director of Music of St. Ann's Church in the centre of Manchester, where he has given over 900 weekday organ recitals!

So brilliant is he that on one occasion he made four organ CDs on four consecutive evenings at St. Ann's. Who can match that?

Also at Ronald's Blackburn recital was cathedral chorister, **WILLIAM FIELDING**.



His Mum told your editor that William had just passed grade 1 piano with distinction. 'I earned a top mark for my sight-reading,' added William.

'I'm also learning the cello,' he said. '*Who's teaching you?*' 'A former member of the Hallé orchestra!' he replied modestly.

The Fielding family doesn't do things by halves! Well done, William.

BOY CHORISTERS UP THE WALL!

On Wednesday, April 17th the Cathedral boys had a concentrated singing day – rehearsals in the morning and afternoon, ending with Choral Evensong.



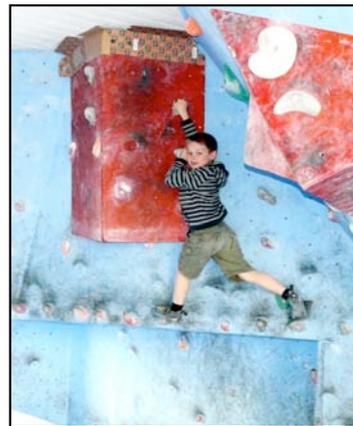
James Davy leading the morning rehearsals

But halfway through their day, after a picnic lunch in the Song School, they climbed walls for an hour at **Boulder UK** Heaton Street, watched by James and some alert parents.



First they were briefed by proprietor 'Nick' – who knew how to keep order, for a lot of falling onto a bouncy floor would be involved. There were rules which had to be followed. They were!

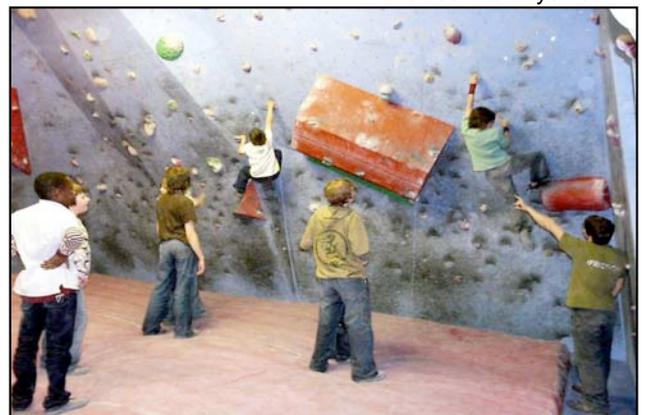
BEWARE OF FALLING CLIMBERS



One of the first up a wall was probationer **Aidan Halsall**, whose father is Vicar of St. Saviour, Bamber Bridge. Well done, Aidan.

He was quickly followed by the other boys, some of whom scaled great heights before gravity took over.

Your photographer, who left early, missed seeing **James Davy** and several parents who followed the boys' lead.



That was certainly an afternoon with a difference!

From OC BERNARD HARGREAVES in California

JB

Greetings from sunny California!

It was nice to see you at the lunchtime concert at the Cathedral during my recent trip back to Blackburn in March. I thoroughly enjoyed the concert – the music programme, as well as the performances – they were excellent.

Also, thank you for the photo and kind note you sent to my mother shortly afterwards. (See our May edition p. 20)

I was moved after reading your letter [to the Old Choristers asking for financial help for our current choristers' singing trip to Princeton NJ], and wholeheartedly agree with the sentiments expressed by BCOCA Chairman Stewart Hopkinson. **



I too had some wonderful experiences of choir tours that I will never forget and am more appreciative of them as the years go by.

As a cathedral chorister, I remember visiting and singing in Coventry Cathedral, York Minister, Westminster Abbey, and my favorite was the RSCM summer school course that I attended at Christ Church in Oxford. I don't think that would have been possible without the support of the Cathedral Choir and the generosity of kind people unknown to me at that time.



So, on that note, I would like to add to the fund raising and donate [XXX] pounds to the choirboys fund (Gift Aid). I will mail to Blackburn Cathedral c/o Derek Crompton later today.

Take, care JB, and keep up the good work

Best Regards, **Bernard**

Bernard, this is so wonderfully generous of you and greatly appreciated by us all at the cathedral. This breathes the very spirit for which the Old Choristers' Association was founded. JB

***Stewart Hopkinson said, 'I did have such an experience when I was a boy, when the cathedral choir made a concert tour of Holland and North Germany - I've never forgotten it!*

Heartiest congratulations to JAMIE BETT & BRADLEY ROBINSON

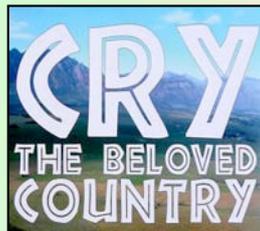
who were presented with their Livesey Awards by the Dean at Choral Evensong (Howells St. Paul's) on Sunday, 27th April.



The Livesey Awards are for Cathedral Choristers who live in the Old Borough of Blackburn. (And who, of course, sing so very well in our cathedral choirs!)

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

Our hospitable North Transept was filled with appreciative audiences on two evenings in April when Blackburn College, and many other talented folk, presented CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY – a play about reconciliation in South Africa.



The classic South African novel by Alan Paton and adapted for the stage by Roy Sargeant, tells the moving story of a father's search for his son, and the terrible discovery of the young man's crime and consequent punishment, and the fate of their village in rural Natal.

The play explored the themes of family relationships, human suffering and racial reconciliation in a uniquely South African way.

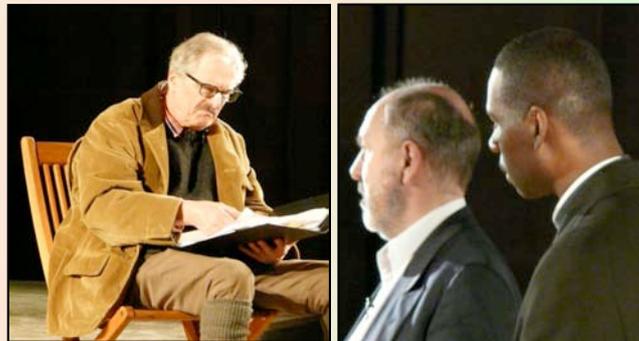
But before the play was presented (so very well) the first half of the programme was filled by the Liverpool Philharmonic Gospel Choir, led by Tyndale Thomas.



Their presence in itself made the evening worthwhile, for they sang in such an uninhibited way, so rhythmically and with such commitment, that they got the audience on their feet clapping along with them.

After our customary refreshments break, the play began.

As well as powerful acting by members of Blackburn College and others – superbly directed by Michael Greenhalgh – it was very good to see at least three of our cathedral members taking significant parts therein – chairman PHIL WILSON who played the part of a Young (sic) White Man, Cathedral Receptionist DEBBIE JOHNSON who played the wife of our Canon MICHAEL TAYLOR, who was outstanding as a man who owned a great estate in South Africa but who had great regard and sensitivity for the local people.



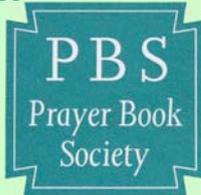
The audience listened with concentrated attention throughout. The evening made a great impression upon us all.

More than 50% of our Old Choristers
pay their Annual Sub (only £15) by
Standing Order.

Some pay more – or even much more!
Thank you !

THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY Blackburn Branch

...held its Annual Festival in the cathedral at the end of April, which was attended, as ever, by a dedicated and distinguished congregation, headed by **Lord and Lady Clitheroe**.



Lord Clitheroe, who is Vice President of the Blackburn Diocese Branch, was deputizing for the President, His Honour **Brian Duckworth**, who was recovering (happily) from a major operation.

The day began with a glorious Eucharist, celebrated by the Revd. **Steven Harvey**, Headmaster of Bury Grammar School. How good it was to hear the timeless words of the 1662 Prayer Book being declared so delightfully!

The music was led by **Octavius**, a gifted group of hand-picked singers conducted by **OC Anthony Tattersall**. What a delight it was to hear *Ireland in C* sung in its entirety – Creed an' all!



Our guest preacher was the Revd. **Dr. Mark Hart** from Chester Diocese who, needless to say, preached about the 1662 Prayer Book.

He made the interesting point that, given the history of the Prayer Book, it would be absurd to object to change. 'We should be for change, for it is God's will that He should change us.'

However, our Prayer Book is based upon a God 'with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning'.

There followed a lavish buffet lunch created by our own *Café-in-the-Crypt* staff. There must have been at least two dozen delicious dishes to choose from. Your editor saw one member of our congregation help himself to a second overflowing plateful of main course, and a distinguished guest had not one, but two enormous slices of cake for his dessert. Body and soul were well satisfied that day!

For those who could stay awake (which was not easy after such a bountiful banquet), there followed the AGM led by the



irrepressible Chairman, the Revd. **Alan Reid**, with our hard-

working Secretary & Treasurer, **Neil Inkley** (below right), holding it all together through his incomparable efficiency.

(Neil is an Old Chorister of Peterborough Cathedral; it was he who chose the music for both services, including the demanding setting of the Evening Canticles in D by Sir George Dyson. *Octavius*, with your editor at the organ, had to work hard to bring it off. They did!)

The guest speaker after the AGM, and before a much-needed cup of tea, was historian **John Milner** from Manchester University.

He, again, spoke about the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) – making the point that Christ's Passion appears again and again throughout Cranmer's original Prayer Book of 1549, and much of this was retained in the 1662 version.

The Passion is even referred to in the General Thanksgiving: *We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ...*

He cited Cranmer's exquisite turns of phrase which illuminate the BCP: '*... thy tender love towards mankind...*'



But he also enlivened his talk with quotations from the diary of Samuel Pepys: '*I do not think fasting suits me; it disorders one!*'

'To church – for the first time for 12 weeks. A young fellow preached. My wife and I slept soundly throughout!'

But nobody slept through the glorious Evensong which followed. **Octavius** and Anthony Tattersall were in top form, as was Canon Hindley, our Precentor.



Anthony Tattersall relaxes with the Dean and Canon Hindley before Evensong.

It was a rewarding, enjoyable and most memorable day.

Next Year's Festival will be on Saturday 9th May.

A WHAT?



A retired member of the Preston & District Organists' Association (the Association covers our entire Diocese and beyond) told your editor that he'd bought a present for him. "It's a book", he added, "but I've forgotten to bring it for you."

"What's it called?"

"*Senior Moments!*"

Discover what's on at the Cathedral!

www.blackburncathedral.com

From Mr. Jim Hulme 'New' Old Chorister, from Manchester

Dear Mr Tanner

This is a brief note to thank you for so kindly interrupting the serious business of choir practice to allow my brief introduction on Good Friday as a chorister from 50 years ago.

I have lived for some time in Greater Manchester and have been away from Blackburn for a good 37 years. Yet I still have clear memories of my time as a chorister under the late **Thomas L Duerden** in the mid to late fifties.

Of all the wonderful music that I was privileged to sing, Bairstow's *Lamentations* was my favourite, and is now my most cherished musical memory.

On my 64th birthday it was a wonderful spiritual and musical experience to hear it performed once again in Blackburn Cathedral. I am, grateful to you, your Assistant Director James Davy and to the choristers. **It is only in later years that one begins to appreciate what you were once part of.**

Whilst time and circumstances did not permit the opportunity to say more than a brief hello to my contemporaries, I should be delighted to hear from any of them should they wish to get in touch.

Once again thank you for your kindness and may I wish you and the choir continuing success.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

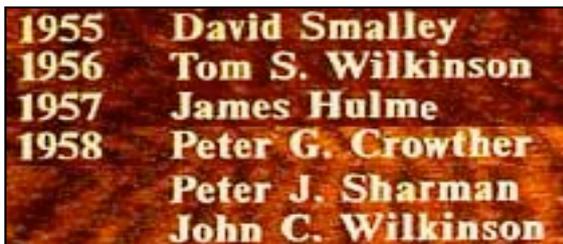
Jim (James) Hulme

How very good to hear from you, Jim. Your name, as you will see, is emblazoned in gold on one of our Prefects' Boards, in company with so many of your, and our, good friends. Welcome back! JB

In reply to JB's e mail (above), Jim wrote:

Dear John

Thank you for getting in touch with me so quickly. It was very kind of you to send me a picture of the Prefects Board from the song school.



I remember your succeeding TLD. I was at the time working at Blackburn Corporation Transport and Ray Edwards, who was Traffic Superintendent and therefore my boss, was singing with the men at that time.

I came across the attached picture which will be of interest to other old choristers.



The front row from left to right comprises **myself, John Wilkinson and Steve Monk**. I am wearing the Head Chorister's badge which was made specifically for the Cathedral Choir and was not an RSCM issue.

[Notice how TLD's boys held their hands to sing! JB]

I am pretty sure that John and Steve are wearing RSCM badges. The back row consisted of choristers from St Gabriel's Church, Blackburn, and I do know that Derek Bell is the one on the right. I can't recall the other two.

The photograph was published in the Evening Telegraph and the six of us were to sing at an RSCM Festival in St Paul's Cathedral. We travelled by coach to London (which seemed to take an eternity) and we were billeted at a church near Old Street.

My wife, Valerie, and I intend to come along to morning service shortly, and I am hoping that we can become regular if infrequent worshippers.

Thank you for inviting me to the Old Choristers Reunion in September which is firmly in my diary (I will even sacrifice my beloved Blackburn Rovers to be there!). I hope that it's not too late for me to put something back into the Cathedral's music and I would be interested to know what kind of support might be appropriate.



It is such a joy to have an association once again with the Cathedral and its choir.

Kind regards

Jim

This is such good news – and all because Richard Tanner welcomed you on Good Friday! We look forward to welcoming you to our Reunion in September. And your offer to 'put something back' is so generous. Thank you. JB

From OC BRYAN LAMB near Ely

Hi John,

Thanks for the mag. Usual good stuff! I took a particular interest in Howard Seymour's article about TLD. I have a copy of "TLD with the Hyacinths." He sent it to me with a letter towards the end of 1963 when I was commanding RAF Salalah on the southern coast of Oman.



However, the main point of this note is to link Howard's article with another one about TLD which appears in a new book called "The School on the Hill," which was published by QEGS just last week. It is a new history of the School, to kick off the 500th anniversary celebrations due next year. TLD gets half of page 41.

The book is really amazing, superbly produced. Any OC who went to school there, (and there are quite a lot of us) should be made aware of its existence. I believe they would certainly want copies. Of course QEGS has always been closely associated with the Cathedral. The original school, 1509 vintage, was attached to the old parish church. But you probably know all this

Yours ever,

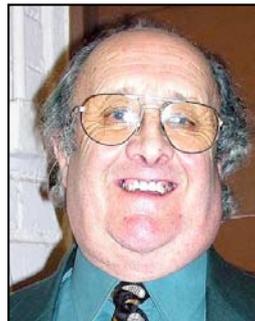
Bryan

From OC Geoffrey Taylor in Blackburn

Dear John,

"The eagle has just landed" on my doormat (i.e. the May Newsletter). Couldn't help chuckling at the article by Howard Seymour on T.L.D. and Dr. Herman Brearley. Thought you may like to know that as a pupil at QEGS from 1943-48 I sang the two school songs "Forty Years On" and "CANTILENA" with great gusto.

Since Howard points out that the tune to Cantilena was composed by Dr. Brearley I wonder if I might lay claim to a



record (world or maybe not) in that I have carried in my wallet since leaving QEGS a now very dog-eared copy of Cantilena which has travelled round the world a time or two in these past 60 years.

I also had harmony lessons from Arthur Bury [whom Howard mentioned] when his wife always provided tea and biscuits.

I had organ lessons at St. John's from Alfred Leeming and eventually succeeded Arthur Dewhurst (former sub-organist Fred's brother) as organist there 1963-69 before moving to St. Silas 69-90. at which time I was "pensioned off" following a stroke, but awarded the 'Emeritus' title.



During my time at St John's T.L.D. gave me 2 heavy books wrapped in newspaper – both extremely old and rare and literally 'falling to bits'. The smaller one "The Highland Reel" (A musical romance) by William Shield 1748-1829 who is credited with composing the tune for *Auld Lang Syne*, and who later was appointed Master of the King's Music.

The larger and very heavy tome contains the Operas by Henry Purcell 1659-95: "King Arthur" "Bonduca" and "Dido & Aneas"

Both of these books I have had professionally rebound at a total cost of £160 - Sadly the bookbinder misspelt King Arthur as King Arther in gold blocking on the cover, thus probably reducing its value since it cannot be altered.

Incidentally, in a glass case near the organ in St. John's was a wonderful banner specially woven in silks and gold thread to celebrate the triple winning of the Welsh National Eisteddfod in successive years in the 1930's by T.L.D. and his boys "prize" choir.



After closure of the church in the 1970's -vandals broke in and set fire to the organ. Whether the banner was lost in the blaze or later when the building was converted for its present usage. I do not know but its rightful place should have been in the Cathedral Song School.

Sincerely **Geoffrey**

Thanks for your additional memories of TLD and Dr. Brearley, Geoffrey. And, yes, the large banner commemorating the triple international triumphs of TLD's choirs at the Welsh National Eisteddfods was hung in the Song School during my time here (1964-82). In fact there were two of them. Where they are now I know not! Can the Cathedral Archivist investigate, please? JB

Heartiest congratulations to OC DAVID SMALLEY from Mellor Brook

who tells us that he has just been appointed **Principal of the North and Midlands School of Music** – which entitles him to be called 'Professor'! If the glory of his robes is anything to go by, David is in the Big Time now! (See www.nmsm.co.uk/)



David is a former Director of Music at Preston Polytechnic (now University) and later was DoM at St. Mary's Hall, Stoneyhurst College.

David is also in sole charge of raising £300,000 for the restoration of the organ in Lancaster Town Hall – and he also composes. Wow!

David Smalley adds a fascinating PS to his long letter:

I was interested to see in the May Newsletter OC **Charlie Hopwood's** letter about his apartment in Altinkum, Turkey. Alison and I first visited the place in 1976 on our way round the classical sites of the Aegean, and we are now the proud owners of two apartments in Altinkum which we intend to make available to members of the family, friends and colleagues, clergy and your magazine readers.

Up to 12 people can be accommodated, so if anyone wants to plan a trip to Troy, Pergamum or Ephesus etc., just get in touch.

David, thank you so much for your generosity.

David's e mail is david.altinkum@live.com

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

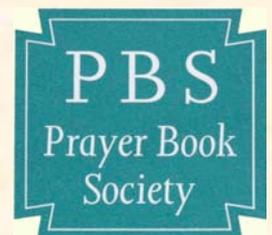
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OC Bob McVean

We were so very sorry to learn of the sudden death of Bob McVean. Bob was an Old Chorister of Edinburgh and joined BCOCA only very recently. In his retirement he conducted the Darwen Ladies Choir which he brought to a very high standard indeed.

Even though many Blackburn OCs did not have the opportunity to meet him due to his very recent membership, yet we send our deepest condolences to Mrs. McVean, and to the members of his Darwen Ladies Choir to whom he was such an inspiration.

**Note from Lindsey Cooper
in Devon**

enclosing her BCOCA annual sub of £15

She's doing well & keeping busy & 'out of mischief' in Devon. Her Mum's not so well, but coming up to 90 soon. Lindsey keeps up to date with B'burn through the Newsletters. They make her feel not so far away.

'WELCOME to our new RESIDENTIARY CANON'
 writes Dean Christopher Armstrong

THE REV'D DR. SUSAN PENFOLD has been appointed Director of Ministry and Residentiary Canon by The Bishop of Blackburn. Susan will be installed at Choral Evensong on Sunday 7 September at 4 pm. This is a significant date for us all for a variety of reasons.

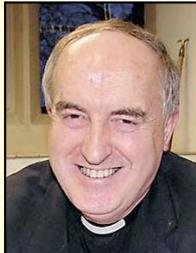
Firstly, Sue will be the first female Residentiary Canon at the Cathedral. It is a sensitive appointment for this very reason. I have been thinking for some time now that the Cathedral clergy staff would be greatly enhanced by female member. The bishop has now supplied one!



Geraldine Armstrong and the Dean welcome Colin and Susan Penfold

Some folk will find this change something of a challenge. However, we do serve a Church which accepts the Ordination of Women and has done so for some time. It is therefore right that we welcome Sue to the Cathedral - not just as the best person for the job but also for the distinctive ministry she will offer and the access she will encourage to those who felt that women's ministry was not welcome at the Cathedral.

Secondly, Sue's appointment will fill an over-long vacancy on the staff. Canon Clitherow left us at the beginning of last year. He is sorely missed for many reasons.



This vacancy, and that left by Canon Ballard, have been filled by generous amounts of time given by our Honorary and Emeriti Canons and by Canon Roff, but the draught has been felt in the Governance of the Cathedral with the Chapter underrepresented.

Currently the Chapter is having to address significant issues both in terms of staffing and development and their job is made all the more difficult by these continued vacancies.

Susan Penfold's doctorate is in biochemistry from Bristol, and she comes to us from the Diocese of Wakefield, where she was Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Susan will be coming to take on a huge job in the diocese: overseeing the selection and training of clergy and authorized lay ministers; clergy appraisal as well as the usual round of responsibilities in the cathedral.

Sue is married to **Colin** - also a priest - and currently Vicar of Shipley. They have **two children**. Colin is a member of the Meissen Commission which oversees the relations between the Church of England and the Evangelical Church of Germany.
WELCOME, Canon Sue!



**Heartiest Congratulations to
 OC STEPHEN HOLMES
 and to his bride, MANDY HARPER**

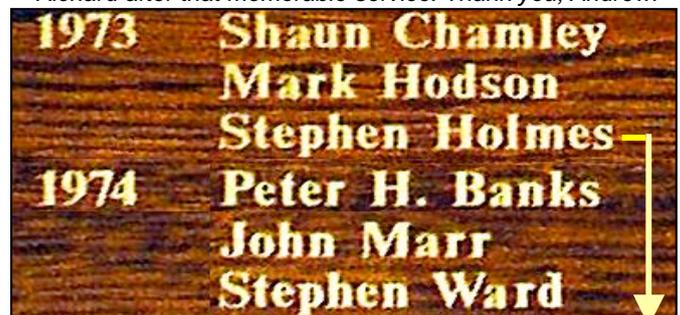
who were married in Grasmere Parish Church on Saturday, 10th May (where former DoM of Carlisle Cathedral, **Andrew Seivewright**, is organist).

The music for the service was sung, appropriately, by some **boy choristers** of Blackburn Cathedral, led by **Richard Tanner**. (They sang *Jesu Joy* - what else does one need?)



Stephen was a Cathedral Choir Prefect 35 years ago (!) and now he is a most enthusiastic and generous member of BCOCA. **Very best wishes to you, Steve & Mandy.**

Andrew Seivewright wrote a lovely letter of thanks to Richard after that memorable service. Thank you, Andrew!



**Heartiest congratulations to MARK FIELDING,
 son of OC PETER FIELDING,**

whose piano pupil, Erdem Misirloğlu, reached the grand final of the 2008 BBC Young Musician of the Year competition which was televised during the month of May. His performance of the Rachmaninov *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* with orchestra was staggeringly brilliant.



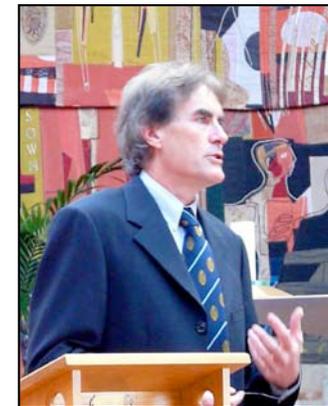
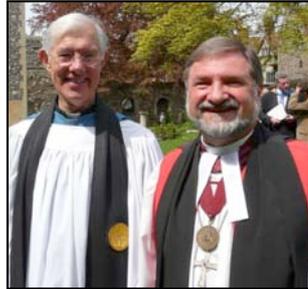
Mark teaching Erdem at the Guildhall School of Music.

Richard Tanner at Canterbury

The sun shone for the two days at Canterbury Cathedral when the GUILD OF CHURCH MUSICIANS celebrated their 120th anniversary by awarding honorary Fellowships to five eminent musicians. Rarely can there have been such a gathering of distinguished church musicians at one time in such an historic place. There were cathedral organists, college professors and musical clergy, not only from this country but also as far away as the USA and Australia.

The special thrill for those of us from Blackburn was to see RICHARD TANNER receive an honorary Fellowship of the Guild from the hands of the Guild's President, Dr. Mary Archer. (See front cover.)

Our genial host was the Dean of Canterbury, the **Very Revd. Robert Willis**, seen here with the **Right Revd. Richard Hurford**, Bishop of Bathurst, Australia. Dean Willis had preached here last November for the 30th anniversary of the final Consecration of Blackburn Cathedral. He made everyone feel so welcome to his cathedral



Also from Australia was Dr. **Philip Matthias**, Director of Music of Newcastle Cathedral, Professor at Newcastle University. He gave a fascinating lecture on Australian Church Music – about which most of us knew nothing at all – and he illustrated his talk with recordings of a superb choir.

When your editor was asked to give the vote of thanks to Dr. Matthias he asked him which choir it was. 'My own', he replied modestly! Church music is alive and very well down under.

It was also a thrill for your editor to meet again Professor **Hugh McLean** from the USA. Hugh and JB had been organ scholars at Cambridge in the 1950s – Hugh at King's and JB at Corpus, and both had studied with the legendary Director of Music of King's College Choir, Dr. **Boris Ord**.

Hugh and JB hadn't seen each other for over 50 years!



Some of us were privileged to stay at the Cathedral Lodge – a modern group of buildings in the Close, with en suite bathrooms, vast halls and excellent sitting rooms. From our en-suite rooms we enjoyed spectacular views of the cathedral.



On the first evening we attended Choral Evensong in the Cathedral which was sung by the boys only. **This was one of the finest boys' choirs we had ever heard.** It was so perfect and so musical and sung with such glorious lively tone, and sung so well with the organ, that it sounded as though they had rehearsed the music for months.

'Not at all,' said Dr **David Flood**, the inspired Director of Music, 'the music was in our repertoire!'

Your editor remembers especially the delightful Preces and Responses by **Malcolm Archer** – former DoM of St. Paul's Cathedral and now Director of Chapel music at Winchester College.



David Flood and Malcolm Archer about to go into the Celebration Dinner.

Not only was the music of the Responses difficult but also so engaging, and they were accompanied by tone clusters on the organ – a magical sound. AND the Cantor for the Preces was one Dr. Flood's young choristers!

After the dinner, served in the Cathedral Lodge's spacious dining room, who should entertain us with delightful songs but our own **Philippa Hyde** accompanied by **Richard Tanner**! And how good it was to see Richard's distinguished parents there – **Dame Mary and John**.

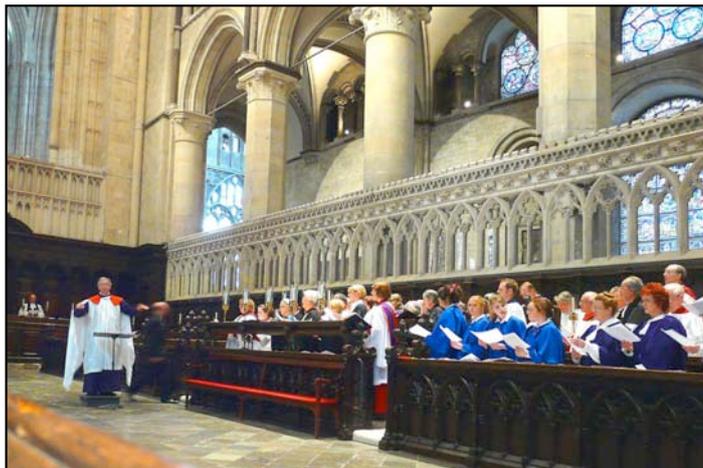


The Guild of Church Musicians is a fellowship of those who desire to offer the best in music to the service of the church, both amateur and professional musicians, being unified in a common ideal.

It's older than the RSCM and, as well as encouraging the best in church music around the world, it has recently become affiliated with Canterbury Christ Church University for the awarding of degrees by examination.

Its Patrons are the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. Both Richard Tanner and your editor are privileged to be on the Guild's Council.

The 120th Anniversary Celebration Service was held in the Cathedral the next morning. A special choir of 100 singers from all over the UK, and beyond, had been formed, which was conducted by Dr. Flood; and Malcolm Archer had composed a special anthem for the occasion. Of course, we all sang the hymns vigorously – as was to be expected from such a gathering!



The climax of the service, after the RC Bishop of Brentwood had given us special greetings from **Pope Benedict XVI**, was the Presentation of Awards to distinguished cathedral musicians, including, of course, our very own Richard Tanner.



Each honoree stood whilst **John Ewington**, OBE, (right) the Guild's Secretary, read out his, or her achievements, and then, to enthusiastic applause, certificates were presented, via the hand of the Guild's Warden, the Very Revd. Dr. **Richard Fenwick**, by Dr. **Mary Archer**. **Philippa Hyde** (centre back) had a very good view!

(Two more of Blackburn Cathedral's musicians have also recently been honoured with Fellowships – **Ronald Frost** and your editor. See the Feb 2004 & Feb 2008 editions of this Newsletter respectively.)

And after that glorious service the galaxy of musicians gathered for a final photo before we all went home, having enjoyed an ever-to-be remembered very special two days at the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion.



Anne Frank [+ you}

Two days after Richard Tanner had received his honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians in Canterbury Cathedral, he conducted the very finest concert we have ever heard in Blackburn Cathedral.

One of the Renaissance Singers enthused to your editor afterwards, 'That was the best concert we've ever sung!' Another said, 'What a privilege is to sing *ANNELIES* tonight!' And another singer told JB, 'There were at least two people in the audience who were so moved by the concert that they had to leave!'

And what was that concert?

It was a setting of extracts from the moving *Diary of Anne Frank*, called *ANNELIES* (for that was Anne's full name).

It was composed by **JAMES WHITBOURN** – former BBC producer and now a fulltime composer. The libretto had been chosen from Anne's diary by **Melanie Challenger** – a prize-winning poet from the University of London, and it was performed, under Richard's superb direction, by our own Renaissance Singers and the Manchester Chamber Choir, with the Northern Chamber Orchestra and soprano soloist **Nicola Howard**.

ANNELIES

Before the concert, **Canon Chris Chivers** led a discussion on the work with composer and librettist, and also a lady who had written a similar diary at a similar time – but had it published only recently. Her name was **Thea Gersten**. As a German Jew she, too, had suffered persecution as a child during WWII.



ANNELIES

The concert which followed was wholly amazing. As well as being sung by choir and soloist, the large orchestra included some unusual instruments: Chinese shells played by Mike Harper, and a xylophone, which was bowed.



An important part was written for the piano: the pianist, Bernard Robertson, introduced himself to JB – 'I was a student of yours at the Royal Northern College of Music!' How wonderful it was to see him again after so many years.



The Soprano soloist, NICOLA HOWARD, was outstanding. She sang most of her solos from memory, and portrayed, exquisitely, the sufferings that Anne Frank had endured.



Not only was the sound of the music overwhelming (for James Whitbourn had written it in a wholly accessible style – though it was demanding on both choir and orchestra, and so very colourful – from almost inaudible to terrifying), but it was the photo of ANNE FRANK herself, projected onto a large screen behind the choir, which dominated the performance.



Anne, a German Jew, and her family, who had fled the Nazis to Holland hid themselves in a tiny room in Amsterdam for over two years in WWII, for they knew that the Germans were seeking to exterminate all Jews. She kept a diary during those years in which she recorded her thoughts about life as one who was being

hunted. And yet she found a measure of joy from being able to see a lone tree from her window.

As the work was being sung (we could follow all the words which were written in the most helpful programme) the picture changed to illustrate what was being sung.



A picture of the Franks' house was shown as the choir sang Anne's words, written as she was about to go into hiding: *My last night in my own bed ... the four of us wrapped in layers of clothing... walk up the wooden staircase... the door was shut behind us, leaving us alone.*

Having to sit still all day and not say a word – you can imagine how hard that is for me

We see crying children marched to their death.



The streets are in ruins.

One day this terrible war will be over, and we'll be people again, and not just Jews.

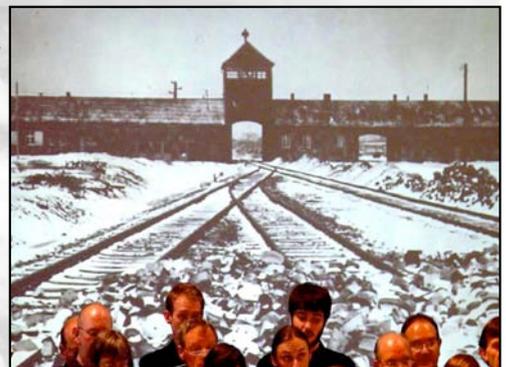
Help us, rescue us from this hell.



But she and her family were betrayed and the Germans sent them all to a concentration camp where most were exterminated. The sight of that camp was sickening. as the choir sang some words from Psalm 19 and Lamentations:

Their blood they have shed like water; and there was none who could bury them.

The young and the old lie on the ground: the maids and the young men are fallen.



After the last chord died away the audience sat in total silence for at least half a minute. This expressed our response to the music, to the words and to the performance, more profoundly than the tumultuous applause which broke that silence.



And afterwards, of course, there were lavish refreshments in the crypt for us all – delicious food and a wide choice of drinks!



We are enormously indebted, not only to James Whitbourn for composing the music, and to Richard Tanner for leading his musicians so inspiringly, but also to Canon Chivers and Anjum Anwar MBE, who have been working for two years to bring this music, and the Anne Frank [+ you] exhibition, to our cathedral. Thank you!



Anne Frank [+ you]

Over 10,000 visitors with an additional 3,000 at associated events ... 350 Muslims hearing Canon Chivers give a talk on Pentecost ... 500 people hearing only the second performance of James Whitbourn's Oratorio

Annelies ... 101 schools from across Lancashire ... over 6000 children and young people ...

Visitors from Skipton, Liverpool, Cumbria, Bradford, Oldham, Manchester, Burnley, Nelson, Accrington, Preston, Blackpool, Morecambe, Chorley... even Penzance.

Over 50 volunteers giving in excess of 1500 volunteer hours to the cathedral ...

Young Muslims engaging in animated conversation with a rabbi from Blackpool ...



Students from the Muslim College in Blackburn (all trainee imams) on Pentecost Sunday after the 'Discovering the Cathedral' event we held (350 Muslims came).

Young Christians and Muslims engaging with each other and a story of horror for the Jewish community and the whole world ...

Resources created and delivered by the staff of the Diocesan Board of Education ...

Blackburn Rovers working alongside the Co-operative Movement, the Lancashire Council of Mosques, The Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Council, the Lancashire Forum of Faiths, Blackburn Library, the Jarman Centre and our own musicians and long-suffering but ever-cheerful and helpful crypt café staff and virgers ...

... to produce one of the most stunning months the cathedral has known for a long time.



All this was made possible through the brilliance of the exhibition designed by the Anne Frank Trust UK, the financial generosity of Blackburn College, Booths, the Co-operative Movement, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund, Elevate East Lancashire and the North West Regional Development Agency.

But none of it would have happened without the tireless vision and energy of Anjum Anwar MBE, our dialogue development officer,





and the wonderful coordinating work of Val Edge in relation to her superb volunteers.

These are just a few short snapshots of [Anne Frank \[+ you\]](#) and the people at the heart of it, as this multi-media, interactive award-winning exhibition was experienced at the cathedral from 1-28 May.

Few who were there will forget the stunning preview event at which Thea Hurst (née Gersten see p. 13) – herself a diarist as she escaped the Nazi terror in Leipzig, first to Poland and then to England – was guest of honour alongside Matt Derbyshire, local-born Blackburn Rovers star, and the Mayor of Blackburn in her last week in office.

Thea spoke so beautifully and movingly of her father's death in a concentration camp – he had stayed behind in Poland when she and her mother came to England and was stuck there when war was declared.

Young performers under the guidance of Jenny Hodkinson, one of our own Renaissance Singers, produced a stunning short play, *Dreams of Anne Frank*, to complement Beardwood Humanities College student, Maria Hussain, who read a beautiful poem by Andrew Motion, *Anne Frank Huis*.

This set the scene for *Annelies* which Dr Bertalot describes on p. 13 as the “finest concert we have ever heard in Blackburn Cathedral.”

But equally it set the scene for the youth and diversity accents of the whole month.

Whether it was students from St Bede's performing a



short play for primary schools in the crypt, almost 600 school learners coming to the exhibition in a single day, a searching dialogue in the Library around the issues that gave rise to Jewish persecution and now seem to see people turning against Muslims, hijab- and niqab-wearing young women from local Muslim schools, at-risk young

people enjoying the peace of the building late in the afternoon, governors and teachers stretched by the Diocesan Education team, the Blackburn Museum team having their staff meeting at the exhibition, [Moulana Nazrullah Anwar](#)



leading workshops for learners on the Albanian Muslims

who rescued Jews in the Holocaust ... the buzz was palpable. And it brought people into the cathedral in their thousands.

Young people brought back their parents. Local citizens, many of whom had not been near the cathedral for many a year reconnected themselves with the town's heartbeat. Many of all faiths, and none, did so for the very first time. There was coverage on BBC Radio 4 and many slots on BBC Radio Lancashire and in the Lancashire Telegraph.

It reached the ears of politicians in Westminster who sent civil servants to have a look. It was the talk of an out-going mayor when she gave her valedictory speech and an incoming mayor when he took up office.

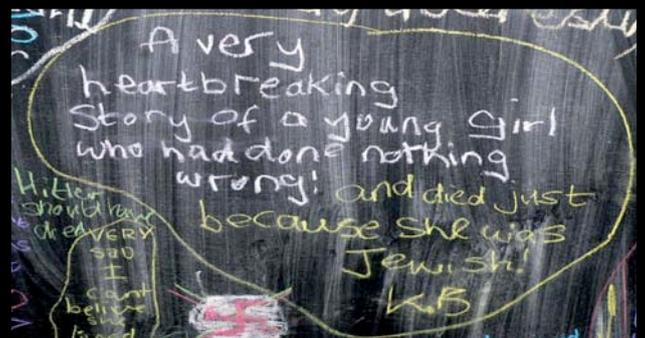
It's no exaggeration to say that it was the talk of the town for the whole of May and beyond. It elicited things to display from the creative work that young people did – a wonderful series of panels from QEGS students, and some beautiful calligraphy from a Muslim youth group in Accrington, were but two examples.

Jessica Emmett, a freelance artist from Manchester, created diaries with groups of school children. A young women's group from Accrington Road Community Centre performed in public for the first time. Senior citizens brought photographs and one brought a letter from a Dutch girl in 1945 who had been liberated by his father.

So it helped not only different communities to be closer to one another but the generations to engage in a story in which everyone found a common sense of crisis, identity and hope.

But for many it was the unexpected unearthing of a narrative in which 63 Albanian Muslims rescued Jews in the Holocaust that made the month so special.

Norman Gershman, a Jewish photographer who had documented the story very generously allowed us to use some of his material, and it produced the following comments in the book we placed nearby: “Why can't all the Muslims be like these Albanians and not extremists?” That was, if you like the kind of ‘myth-busting’ challenge we faced the whole time.



But it received a wonderful response a few pages on: “61 years old and still learning... I never knew the Muslims had rescued Jews...” Which is why – if we can secure the funding – the next phase of our work will bring this exhibition in all its fullness to Lancashire and use it to do more myth-busting as it brings communities closer together in a way that only a cathedral can. (See more photos on following pages.)

Why Anne Frank [+ you] in Blackburn?

Speech given by **Canon Chris Chivers**, Canon Chancellor and Director of exChange at the launch of **Anne Frank [+ you]** Blackburn Cathedral 30 April 2008



L-R Matt Derbyshire (Blackburn Rovers), Thea Hurst, Cllr Maureen McGarvey, Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen, The Bishop of Blackburn, Canon Chivers

I'll always remember standing with a group of young musicians – all aged 8 to 13 – in the middle of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. They'd been rehearsing for a concert. I'd taken them for a walk – it was not one of the most glorious moments of my career as a teacher, as I'd led them straight through the red light district! – when we came upon the Anne Frank House and went inside. A noisy group of boys, letting off steam, soon became a very quiet, wide-eyed and reflective group of the most thoughtful children you could imagine.

Up the stairs we went, and we found ourselves in Anne Frank's bedroom, the room reconstructed at the heart of the exhibition we're here to open. The boys looked at the newspaper cuttings and pictures on the wall, and gazed out of the window. And then suddenly it happened: we were all helplessly in tears. We didn't need to say why – and we didn't say why – we knew why.



Children and adults about to enter a reconstruction of the Anne Frank Room in Blackburn Cathedral.

I met one of those boys this year, and one of the first things he said to me was 'D'you remember when we went to the Anne Frank House?' And of course I did. 'For me,' he said, 'it was one of the most important moments in my life. Anne Frank wanted to be the best writer she could be. She wanted the best from life, the best for other people. She got the worst in return. She was hated for who she was. But she beat them all and became the best ever... the most successful diarist the world's ever known. I decided I'd do the same.' Several years ago he won one of the most prestigious music competitions around. He's now one of the

world's best musicians.

That's why we're having this amazing exhibition created through the skill and imagination of the Anne Frank Trust UK, and through the generosity of too many people and partners and sponsors to mention now by name.

Because Blackburn deserves the best.

Because we want to build a community here, all the members of which – of whatever colour, faith, nationality or world view – believe the best about one another not the worst, and encourage the best in each other not the worst.

Because, in the end, nothing less than the best will do.



Azar Ali from the Department for Communities and Local Government at the Exhibition. and (below)

Canon Chivers and Anjum Anwar MBE with Ibrahim Master and Faz Patel, who were the organisers for the Discovering the Cathedral event



BBC Radio 4 Sunday Programme producer Jennifer Daniel interviews pupils from Beardwood Humanities College.



Children around the font complete their worksheets



When we did the final tally we discovered that we'd had nearly 12,800 visitors: 2,800 to events associated with the exhibition and 10,000 simply to the exhibition itself.

Now is the Month of Maying

The Renaissance Singers are amazing! Five days after moving us nearly to tears by their singing of **Annelies**, they gave an uproarious May-time concert in the Cathedral crypt to an audience that relished every delicious moment. **A-May-Sing!**



The delightfully varied programme was made up of madrigals, chansons, catches and glees sung by the choir, and solo items by members of the singers. These ranged from an hilarious *Report on the Village Fair*, by bass **Tony Robinson**. ('Our astrologer, Mr. Moon, was unable to be present due to unforeseen circumstances!'), to lovely vocal solos, ensembles and recitations.

The conductor for the evening was our Assistant Director of Music, **James Davy**, who not only drew out the rhythmic best from his singers, but also accompanied solos on the piano, and sang his beautiful arrangement of *Just as the tide was flowing*.



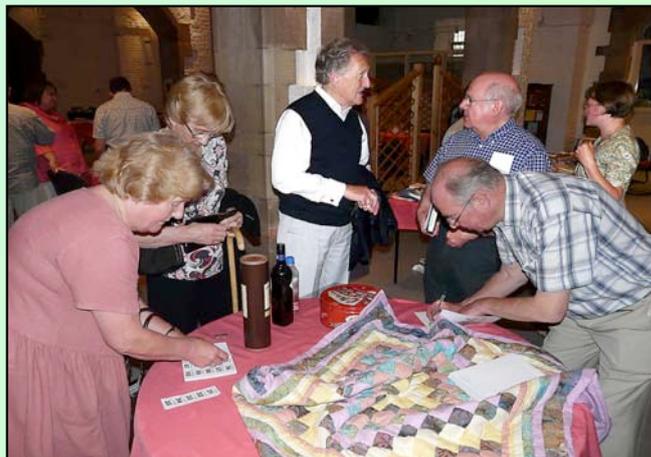
Thus James enabled **Richard Tanner** to have an evening off – so Richard sat in the penultimate back row (of one chair) taking photographs, whilst the **Dean and Mrs. Armstrong** sat in the 'ultimate' seats.

The evening was not only a musical triumph, but also a social, financial and gastronomic success.

Michele Allen, Mavis Bathe and Janet Goodship had arranged a bookstall which attracted much attention.



And Singers Chairman **Eileen Hemingway** presided over the raffle prizes (next column).



L-R: **Eileen Hemingway, Margaret Robinson** (how good it was to see her again after her illness), **Bill Hemingway** talking to **Tony Robinson**, with **Gordon Shaw** (foreground) and **Rachel Fielding** (background).

By the way, Rachel told JB that she and husband OC Paul, were about to produce four historic CDs of the Cathedral Choir under their former conductors, T. L. Duerden, John Bertalot, David Cooper and Gordon Stewart. Watch this space for further announcements!

In the interval lavish food and drinks were provided by the choir for the enjoyment of everyone. Here's **Gordon Shaw** (L) with **Peter Crewe** lacing the orange juice with some strong liquor!



There was plenty of food to choose from. On the far side (below right) were **Linda and Andy Bruce** deciding what to eat. Linda is, of course, our efficient Music Administrator.

**It was a marvellous evening.
Thank you, Renaissance Singers!**



Messe de la Pentecôte

If you want to experience the remarkable and unusual, come to Blackburn Cathedral. (For example see the *Anne Frank Exhibition and concert*, pages 13-17.)

Many cathedrals and concert halls around the world will be celebrating the centenary of the birth of Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) with performances of his outstandingly unique works (for he invented an entirely new musical language!). Some cathedrals will have sponsored performances of his major organ works – such as his **Pentecost Mass**; but how many will have had it performed within the context of a Pentecost Eucharist service?

We did – two days after Pentecost Sunday.

The service was celebrated by **Canon Andrew Hindley**, with the *Ordinary*, (Gloria, Sanctus, etc) sung to plainsong by some of the cathedral choirmen, conducted by **Richard Tanner**.



Messiaen's Pentecost Suite was played by our former Assistant Director of Music, **GREG MORRIS**, who is now Associate Organist of the Temple Church in London. He was brilliant – he even turned his own pages, playing from two copies.



It was an exceptional experience – for Messiaen's music was interlaced with the action of the Mass. So, for the entry of the Celebrant and Choir, Greg played Messiaen's *Entrée*, which continued whilst Canon Hindley censed the altar – giving the service an aroma of holiness in addition to being a musical offering. It was all done most beautifully.



Greg played the *Offertoire* during the Offertory, of course, but he also played Messiaen's *Consécration* whilst Canon Hindley was actually saying, in a low voice, the Prayer of Consecration. The combination of music and barely audible prayer was awe-inspiring. OC Alex Barnes was the server.



And of course as we received Communion, we heard Messiaen's *Communion* which incorporates birdsong: 'O ye fowls of the air, bless ye the Lord; O ye fountains, bless ye the Lord...'

The Postlude, *Sortie*, blew us all away with the full organ depicting *The Wind of the Spirit*.

And after it was all over we enjoyed chatting with Greg – who is such a gifted as well as such a delightful person.

He congratulated head chorister, **Sarah Chew**, (who was there with her father) on winning four first prizes for singing at the recent Blackburn Festival. Well done, Sarah.



And very well done, Greg, and thank you!

Fusion Awards see Canon Chivers named as Man of the Year

For the second year running, the leading Asian community newspaper, **Asian Image**, has sponsored Fusion awards, designed to recognise community leaders across the North West of England who have sought to enhance community cohesion through their work in the voluntary or public sectors.

At a glittering dinner in Ewood Park on 24 May, **Canon Chris Chivers**, who had been nominated alongside a top Premiership Football Referee and a leading Muslim political and social commentator, received one of the top awards, as he was named **Man of the Year**.



Mary & Chris Chivers with Anjum Anwar MBE

This recognition of his interfaith work by the Asian Community at large, who nominated him for the award is, as Canon Chivers acknowledges, "tremendously humbling."

He continues: *"I was deeply touched to receive this recognition for the Cathedral's pioneering interfaith and community cohesion work from Asian members of our community.*

"Our many Asian friends respect the distinctiveness of our Christian witness and our desire to work with them for the common good. They also tell me that they have admired the way in which I have tried to raise some very difficult questions in a challenging but positive way.

"To receive such an award makes me very aware of the considerable responsibility each of us carries for the promotion of good community relationships.

"It also makes me only too aware of the debt that I owe to my closest colleague and friend in this field, Anjum Anwar MBE, the cathedral's dialogue development officer, to all who have supported me so generously in the cathedral and diocese, and to my wife Mary and our three wonderful children, for the way in which their love makes the work possible."

Heartiest Congratulations, Chris!

Introducing the new Director of the Royal School of Church Music

Mr. Lindsay Gray, the new Director of the RSCM, addressed the Cathedral Organists' Association at their three-day Conference in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral in May.

Mr. Gray was a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge, and is a skilful organist. He comes to the RSCM (whose HQ are in the exquisite Cathedral Close at Salisbury) from being Headmaster of the Cathedral School in Llandaff, where he doubled the number of pupils and regularly directed one of his school choirs for services in the cathedral.

The Chairman of the Council of the RSCM said of Mr. Gray, 'He has a strong track record of working with church musicians and clergy.' So that sounds very promising! **WELCOME!**



Another of the outstanding events during those three eventful days at Liverpool Met was a concert given by 100 choristers from 17 cathedrals throughout the UK. Their sound was thrilling!

Yet another photo from the Anne Frank Exhibition "9,999 & 10,000"

The 9,999th and 10,000th visitors to **Anne Frank + you** receive copies of Anne's diary, exhibition catalogues and books about the Albanian Muslims who rescued Jews in the Holocaust.

In all, over 13,000 came to the exhibition and associated events.



(L-R) **Steve Broomhead**, Chief Executive, North West Regional Development Agency [who fund Anjum Anwar's salary] **Inayat Jadoon**, Beardwood Humanities College **Ibrahim Shah**, Whitton Park High School and England Under 12 Boxer **Graham Burgess**, Chief Executive, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council [who helped to fund the exhibition]

Old Chorister Ushers required for the 10.30 Eucharist on the BCOCA Reunion Weekend. (Sunday 28 Sept.)
Contact Heather Starkie: 07745-06-46-96.
So if you aren't singing that morning, be a Welcomer!

The Sixteen

... paid us a return visit in May, for they were so delighted with the enthusiastic reception they received from us 12 months ago.



Eamonn Dougan, the Sixteen's assistant conductor, and **Sally Dunkley (L)** – a founder-member of the Sixteen, who had edited the entire programme for that evening – were welcomed by Blackburn's former Music Scholar, **EMILY CREWE**, who had just graduated from Oxford Brookes University with a 2:1. Emily worked for The Sixteen for two years whilst she was in Oxford. That's why she was with us that day. Clearly The Sixteen value her outstanding gifts of organisation as much as we do.

Eamonn started work early by leading a workshop in vocal production and interpretation for choirmasters and singers.



The singers sat in an open square and they particularly enjoyed Eamonn's adventurous warm-ups which really helped to get them relaxed for a thoroughly good sing during the next 3 hours.

Emily was on duty yet again that evening – selling Singers' CDs. She even persuaded your editor to buy a boxed set of 6 CDs



Before the concert began there was a 30-minute introduction by the Conductor, & Christopher Royall (R) – a member of the Singers who also sang in the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral. He remembered **RICHARD TANNER** very well, for Richard was a young chorister at St. Paul's during Christopher's own early years there as a lay clerk.



Harry Christophers (L), the Sixteen's conductor, also explained the style and intricacies of the music that The Sixteen were about to sing. This was so helpful.



And then, after an official welcome by **Canon Hindley**, during which he mentioned that such concerts could only be presented if even more Friends joined the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music – 'It all costs money!' (Tel: 01254-50-30-82)

... and after **Andy and Linda Bruce** had sold tickets for wine to be relished at half time,



... the Sixteen took centre stage and gave us a stunning concert with music by Robert Parsons, Robert Whyte and Christopher Tye.

Come again next year, O XVI.



REMEMBERING A VICAR OF BLACKBURN WHOSE LEGACY LIVES ON

by Canon Chris Chivers

In social terms, history has not looked kindly on the nineteenth century, despite its obvious technological and scientific advances. Images of children up chimneys, languishing in work-houses and forced to work in mills, somehow stick in the collective gullet of a society whose sensibilities and priorities are rightly so different. Yet get beyond the stereotypes and you pretty-soon discover characters – for all their moral complexity and even ambiguity – as fascinating as those from any age.

John William Whittaker was one such. How he came to be Vicar of Blackburn at all – he was inducted from his post at Lambeth Palace as Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. How he came to stay from 1822 until 1854. How he came in the first place to forsake his fellowship at St John's College, Cambridge, and the opportunity to write so many learned theological tomes. These were all questions occasioned by a unique event in the cathedral on Saturday 7 June.

Over fifty members of the Whittaker family, from across the UK, from Canada, the States and South Africa assembled for the dedication of a memorial which has been long in coming.



Mr. Roy Whittaker with his Great-Great-Grandfather's Memorial Plaque

With beautiful lettering by Richard Kindersley of the famous engravers and letterers, Ray Whittaker invited Canon Hindley to take the memorial into the care of the Dean and Chapter for ever, in a ceremony in the North Transept. This was preceded by lunch in the Crypt and succeeded by a fascinating lecture.



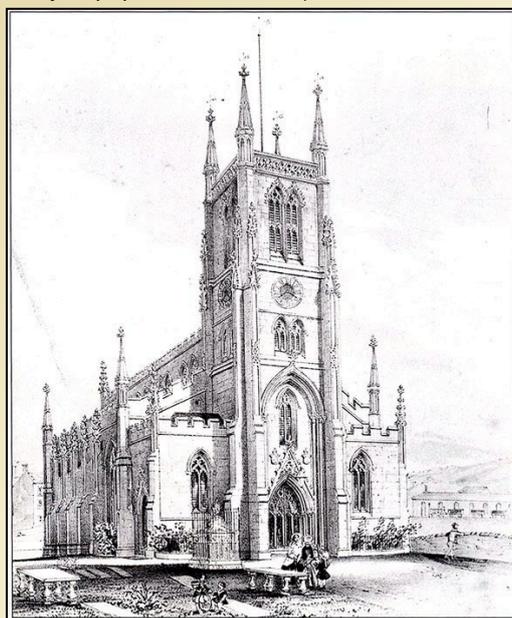
Dr Derek Beattie, author of the recent book, **BLACKBURN: A HISTORY**, sought some answers to the puzzles, achievements and disappointments that mark J. W. Whittaker's long tenure as Vicar of Blackburn.

Brilliantly dividing his lecture into the religious legacy, the educational and political legacy, he showed that – if for all the wrong reasons – Whittaker's determination to see Blackburn remain a thoroughly Anglican (not Non-Conformist or Roman Catholic) town led not only to the building of many churches but also the foundation of so many of the church schools which – especially at primary level – still mark the landscape of the town.

Dr Beattie did not avoid the down-side, Whittaker's famously misguided facing-down of the Chartists' thoroughly reasonable and just demands in a much-publicised sermon, and the resentment that his political conservatism (small and big c) created among the town's many poor citizens.

[Millions signed the three great Chartist petitions of 1839 to 1848. Thousands were active in those years in the campaign to win the vote, secret ballots, anti political corruption measures and other democratic rights that we now take for granted.]

But Dr Beattie ably demonstrated that without Whittaker's energy and commitment the new 1826 parish church – of which we still enjoy the nave and western tower of course – would not have been built (even though it was built through very unpopular local taxes!).



It was a chance to look dispassionately at a figure who was a 'giant' in his time, even if he was a don out of place amidst the rapid changes affecting an ever-expanding industrial town, which would, a century later, be amongst the richest in Britain whilst also containing some of the highest levels of deprivation and infant mortality.



Canons Hindley & Chivers listening to Dr. Beattie

Why did Dr. Whittaker come to Blackburn - plum living that it was? The answer to that lies lost in the mists of time. But that he came and left a legacy, for all the ambiguity of his paternalism or his desire to control 'the lower classes', no-one may be in any doubt. As Dr Beattie conceded, few leave a legacy so large, however mixed it may be.

[PS: It was Dr. Whittaker who refused to appoint the 17-year-old S. S. Wesley as organist of the new parish church for he felt that the young man 'could not exercise great control over grown up singers who had to be cured of many bad habits.' Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.]

OC NOEL HUNWICK's new Restaurant, INAMO, 134-136 Wardour Street, London will be opening its doors to customers on Sept. 1st.



It's at 134-136 Wardour Street on the left, walking from Oxford St. (**Tottenham Court Rd** or **Oxford Circus** Underground.)

Noel and his business colleague have hired one of the finest chefs in London and the whole place is a delight to the eye.



As well as providing mouthwatering cuisine, the whole restaurant has cutting edge technology, with menus projected onto your table – and much, **much** more. It will be an **Experience** to be there let alone to dine there. And there's a Bar!

Call Noel for a booking – for it promises to become one of THE places to eat out in the nation's capital city. **020 7287 7265.**

See their supa website: www.inamo-restaurant.com

From DEAN DAVID & LIZ FRAYNE in Dorset



John

At the beginning of May, **Liz and I** had a holiday in Northumberland (having been first to Edinburgh!) and after having bearded **Chris Hunwick** in his "archivist den" at Alnwick Castle, then welcomed him and **Geraldine** to supper with us in our cottage the following evening.



Needless to say, much conversation revolved around Blackburn and music, together with anticipated excitement at the prospect of receiving the next event-packed edition of **"Music and More"**

Our love and good wishes to you all

DAVID

From OC WILLIAM HEAP in the Isle of Person



Dear John

It is, indeed, a while since we have spoken. So, greetings from the Isle of Man, Isle of Person (or for those following *"I'd Do Anything"* on BBC Saturday evenings) Isle of Sam.

I hope you are keeping well. May I compliment you on the continued high standard of the Newsletter. Though it's now eighteen years since I left the choir, this publication is always a pleasure to read from cover to cover.

Believe it or not, it is now eight years since we moved over to the Island, following ten very happy years in beautiful rural Oxfordshire. Charlotte and Annabel are now 15 and 14 respectively and totally different characters. Charlotte continues to excel with her music, piano and flute being her chosen instruments. During her junior school days she shared a recorder stand with Samantha Barks (again, for those following *I'd Do Anything*). She does seem focused on a musical career but not sure of which direction yet. She is partaking on a tour of Belgium in July with the Manx Youth Orchestra.

Annabel follows the other side of the brain and is more scientific (not from me, I hasten). School is just a minor hindrance to her busy social schedule. She continues to enjoy the RAF cadets, which takes up two evenings a week, and has recently returned from camp in Yorkshire.

Janet and I continue to make an honest...yes honest living working within the Isle of Man financial sector. As you can see from the attachment, we have just completed the Coast to Coast Walk from St Bees on the Cumbrian coast, through the Lakes, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors before staggering into Robin Hoods Bay 192 miles later.

Why?

Well a couple of years ago I undertook the Three Peaks Challenge, which was great and all done within the permitted 24 hours. However, for no apparent reason, I felt a real sense of anticlimax when this was done, and, what could I do next? Well the coast to coast was simply brilliant and I would encourage everyone to give it a go if they are looking to do something different.

Fortunately the weather was fantastic, especially through the Lakes. This was a blessing given the potential visibility problems we could encounter. Though the two of us set out with armed with map and compass, we quickly identified fellow "coast to coasters" and tended to bump into them sometime during the day. More often than not, they would be resting up in the same remote village as ourselves at the end of the day. Some were real characters, each with their own stories but sharing a common goal....no sense of anticlimax on this occasion!

Whilst having fun, it seemed to make sense to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves.

The charity we looked to support was **Childlifeline**.

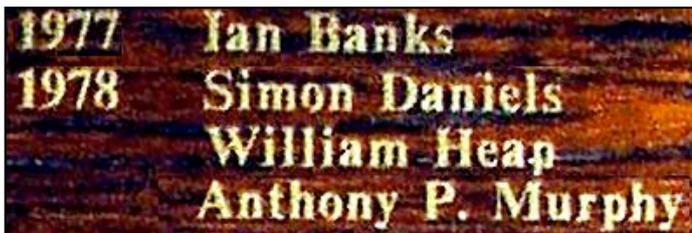


This is a relatively small charity founded by my cousin's late husband, the Rev David Thorpe. This organisation was set up to help orphaned children in Uganda. To provide them with accommodation and an education, thus enabling them to prepare for adulthood with a real purpose and give them the opportunities so often taken for granted by ourselves.

Since David's passing two years ago, my cousin and her son-in-law are now the directors and they have asked me if I would be interested in taking a more hands-on role. What an opportunity, I thought, to really make a difference and put into perspective my day-to-day job, i.e. making money for the rich and famous.

So, in August, I will visit Uganda to see for myself the wonderful work undertaken by Childlifecycle. Whether it's building a wall or a game of footie with the youngsters, I feel so privileged to be able to add my support. Naturally I will feedback following my visit.

My singing days are now consigned to the bathroom with the occasional cameo chorus at Ewood. However, as all Old Choristers know, the memories of life in the choir remain forever. Wonderful memories with friendships built in those early years that remain to this day as strong as ever.



In my generation I was with the **Banks' brothers**, the **Anderson brothers** (Andrew being my best man), **Steve Rickerby**, **Stewart Hopkinson**, **Tony Murphy**, **Iain Thompson**, **Walt Daniels**, **John Keen** and many more. I was fortunate to continue my singing in the men's choir, standing alongside **Derek Crompton** for 10 years; now that WAS an education!!



Tony Murphy (L) from California, and Will Heap (also from across the CCCC) at our BCOCA Reunion 2006.

I look forward to our BCOCA Reunion in September and meeting familiar faces again.

One last thing. Should anybody be interested in the work undertaken in Uganda, the website is www.childlifecycle.com
With Best Wishes **Will**

Thank you, Will, for this great letter – not only memories of when you were a valued member of the cathedral choir, and also the super news of your delightful family, but now walking to help those underprivileged children in Uganda. Well done. (One OC has already sent £100 for your fund. Let's have more! JB)

Cheques should be made out to Lifeline Ministries EA and mailed to William Heap, The Orchards, Agneash, Lownan, Isle of Man, IM4 7NS. *Thank you!*

MUSIC & MORE

is supported financially by
The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music
and
Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association
as well as by many generous individual donors.
We are most grateful.

Please send your news and photos to
Dr. JOHN BERTALOT, Editor, Music & More,
john@bertalot.org

We were so very sorry

to learn of the death of John Marr's Mother, Doreen. John and his brother David and sister Margaret were in our cathedral choirs many years ago, and John is immediate past Senior Old Chorister.



Doreen supported all her children with so much love, and her pride and joy in their achievements, especially at the cathedral and also in later years, was so very evident.

She spent her last years in Mellor where her lovely smile came as a ray of sunshine into the lives of all who met her. May she rest in peace.

KEITH BOND (former Sub Organist) died on Sunday 13th July after a long illness. Tributes to him will appear in the next edition of this Newsletter. Please send your own special memories of him, with photos, to JB at john@bertalot.org

NEW PRISTINE CHOIR

A new British solo-voice ensemble, **The Larks Ascending**, gave a lunchtime concert in the cathedral in May which was amazing. They are a very accomplished group of only 8 singers. (Can you spot the ubiquitous NOEL HUNWICK? – one of the two tenors, 2nd from right)

Their sound was confident, vibrant and beautifully blended. They achieved a remarkable dynamic range for an octet. Their audience clearly thoroughly enjoyed it.



Their ambitious programme included four of Parry's demanding *Songs of Farewell*, Howells' *Salve Regina*, Folk and Beatles' Songs and ending with Stanford's *Quick*, *we have but a second*.

Noel wrote: I met one of the sopranos in the choir whilst working with the RSCM's *Millennium Youth Choir* conducted by **Gordon Stewart**. She introduced me to the Larks' conductor **Sam Hayes**. He invited me on a tour to Dublin with his previous choir and then asked me to sing with the Larks when he founded that choir.

Future plans include a CD next year, several workshops at schools, etc, in the near future, a London concert in August, various Christmas gigs - and hopefully another concert (in the evening this time) in Blackburn next year!

See: www.thelarksascending.co.uk/

Sticks 'N' Tones

... a remarkable duo of HELEN DAVIES (Percussion) and MATTHEW DRURY (Piano), gave another scintillating concert in the Cathedral in June – in aid of the Renaissance Singers' funds.

The Singers generously sponsor some of our most ambitious concerts – including our recent St. John Passion. Helen is a member of the Singers and Matthew is a former member.

Singers' Chairman, **Eileen Hemingway** and Singer **Phil Johnson** 'manned' the ticket desk; customers included many of the Singers themselves, their spouses and friends.



Singer **Alizon Elliott** and husband **Dave** paid their £5 very readily! And, my goodness, it was worth it!



The Cathedral was filled with ebullient music as Helen (who has played with many orchestras and is currently head of music at St. Christopher's High School in Accrington) and Matthew (who has toured extensively in the USA and Japan, and is a Company Pianist for the Birmingham Royal Ballet) gave us of their very, very best.

Helen's 'sticks' moved so fast that they were almost a blur before our astonished gaze, and Matthew's fistfuls of notes (especially in Chopin's brilliant Ballad No. 1 in g minor) dazzled us all by their brilliance. Tumultuous applause was the order of the day.

James Davy, our Assistant Director of Music, played two restful organ solos – displaying the antiphonal qualities of our organ – before Helen and Matthew brought the evening to a rousing close with an unlikely duet by Purcell (not Henry!) entitled *Belly Dancer!*

Raising funds for our music programme

Amongst the many money-raising efforts, to increase sponsorship which will enable 16 of our boy- and girl-choristers to enjoy a fabulous visit to the USA in August, was BAGPACKING in M & S, Blackburn.



Here **Laura Slater** and **Celine Woodburn** wrestle with plastic bags. (Photo: Ian Holmes)

Another splendid fund-raising activity was a lavish lunch in the lovely Blackburn home of **Val Edge**.



Here are just a few of the guests with their hostess outside Val's flag-bedecked home. (Val is third from the left)

An array of drinks greeted us as we approached Val's front door, (after buying almost-compulsory raffle tickets). Then, having mingled, we enjoyed a superb specially catered luncheon – with a wide range of savoury dishes and desserts. *What did Val do with all the left-overs?*

Another magnificent fund-raiser was organised by the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, on Friday 11 July under the dynamic chairmanship of **Rodney Swarbrick**.

This was held in the historic home of **Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Penny** – Dutton Hall, Ribchester. More about this in our next issue. **Thank you, most generous music-lovers.**



PREPARING THE WAY FOR OUR CHORISTERS' VISIT TO THE USA

Richard Tanner and members of the music staff visited Princeton, NJ, a few months ago to prepare the way for 16 of our young choristers to attend a fabulous week in August in the University town of Princeton, to participate in a choristers' course on the New Jersey Sea shore, and to visit New York City and Philadelphia. What an unforgettable time that will be!

Your editor also visited Princeton NJ in May, where he was Director of Music for Trinity Episcopal Church (which supports one of the most ambitious choir programs in the USA) and was also Adjunct Associate Professor at Rider University, Princeton.

During his May visit JB was invited to conduct Trinity's 90-voice church choir (Wow!) many of whom had sung in Blackburn Cathedral exactly a year ago when they received wonderful hospitality from our own Blackburn choir parents and Friends.

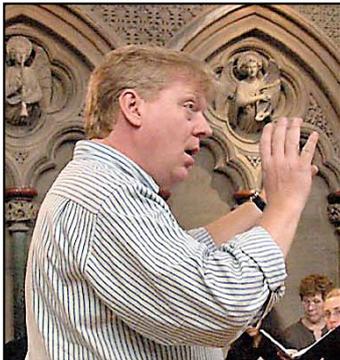


JB stayed with wonderful former Princeton choir parents. **Shawn and Robbie Ellsworth** and their daughter **Alyssa** live in an exquisite home in a spacious part of Princeton, surrounded by tall trees in which birds sing all day long. It's Heaven on earth!



Robbie was also Music Administrator during JB's 16 years in Princeton. She did the job that our own **Linda Bruce** now does so spectacularly in Blackburn. It will be in homes such as this that many of our choristers will have the privilege of staying during their August visit. (*Appreciative presents from Blackburn choristers to their hosts would be much valued!*)

JB was also invited into the homes of many more of his Princeton choir parents for lunches and dinners, and he was even lent a car for his 2-week stay! Americans are outstandingly generous and welcoming,



Tom Whittemore, the present dynamic Director of Music of Trinity Church, eagerly looks forward to welcoming our Blackburn choristers. He'll ensure that they enjoy a life-enriching time.

And what of our choristers' visits to Philadelphia and New York? Will they see the Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty and the Empire State?

JB enjoyed the privilege of hosting a fabulous dinner in a glittering restaurant near Times Square for some of his own **Princeton Old Choristers** who currently live in NYC. They brought their delightful young ladies who added much grace to the joys of that evening. And we finished up with a vast ice cream called TITANIC which served all ten of us!



Two of these Princeton OCs are now working in High Finance in NYC, and a third had just graduated from Columbia University in that city. All of them were in bubbling form!

Dr. John Scott, LVO, formerly of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and now DoM of the foremost Episcopal church in the USA – Saint Thomas Fifth Avenue – was also JB's guest for lunch after a Sunday morning service in Saint Thomas. (John's choir is recognized as the very finest in the USA.) By the way, after their Sunday services there's always a Reception for the congregation in the sumptuously furnished church parlours – Tea, Coffee and **Champagne!**

Then JS & JB were joined by the Headmaster of Saint Thomas Choir School, the Revd. **Charles Wallace**, who had been Succentor at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. JB certainly owed him a lunch after having been his overnight guest at the castle a few years ago!



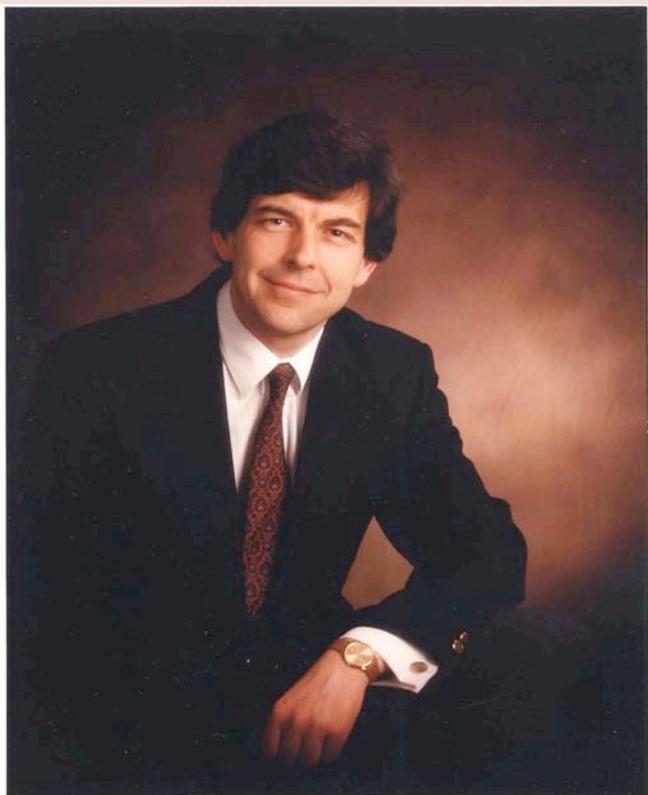
JB also stayed with two organist friends in Connecticut, one whose organ had just been rebuilt for \$800,000, and the other who was about to have a brand new organ, for which a parishioner had given him one million dollars! Americans are so generous!

Those were two amazing weeks. JB was excited even though he had lived there for 16 years, so can you imagine what it will be like for our 16 Blackburn choristers who haven't yet experienced American hospitality? The USA's sights and sounds are breathtaking! Stand by for a full report in our next edition!

DAVID COOPER
Director of Music, Blackburn Cathedral
1983-1995

who died on June 12th after a long illness.

An appreciation by David Goodenough,
Housemaster, Fettes College, Edinburgh



Whenever anyone asks me to tell them whom I would consider to have been the most influential people in my life, two people spring to mind, one of whom is David. I can scarcely believe that I find myself sitting here, writing about him in the days following his death, to give my appreciation of him and of what he did for me.

Like so many other people, I knew him almost exclusively as 'DC'. In return, he called me one of any number of things – 'Squire', 'Git', 'Ass Org' (after the label on my parking space at the Cathedral) and an infinite number of nicknames which cannot possibly be reprinted here.

There are plenty of people who will be reading this who know that working for the Church presents us with a wealth of different experiences. **As successively Organ Scholar and Sub-Organist at Blackburn, I was privileged to work with David for almost eight years** and I can only describe that time as being a rich pageant of opportunities, during which my learning curve was almost vertical. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes in any Cathedral which ninety five percent of its beneficiaries will not see. Being a part of that backstage team with David was educational, emotional, humorous and, above all, enormous fun.

David was an intellectual musician. His was one of the sharpest minds that I have ever encountered, and his expertise in front of a choir was very much driven by that intellect, together with his very real faith in his God. His approach towards much of the music that we performed together (and that he performed on the organ) was similarly intellectual.

I will never forget the detail that he put into the final rehearsals of Leighton's 'Collegium Magdalene Oxoniensis' service for a BBC broadcast which was to take place the following week. He was as demanding of me in that rehearsal as anyone has ever been, because he genuinely understood this music at a level so much deeper than simply playing the notes on the paper. He wanted every nuance in the organ part to be just right, and we worked and worked until everyone understood it similarly well.

Equally, I have always considered that anyone who had been singing for him whenever he rehearsed Palestrina's 'Missa Papae Marcelli' will have benefited from one of the most stimulating educational experiences possible, such was his depth of understanding of it. It was this attention to every detail, together with his obsession for creating a beautiful, blended sound, that placed the Blackburn Choir firmly in what the BBC at the time called 'Division One.'

The 'Blackburn Sound' that David created lent itself perfectly to Psalm singing. I always found the way in which he interpreted the Psalms to be inspirational, and he had a knack of bringing those ancient texts to life in a unique fashion. The letters which arrived on his desk following our BBC broadcasts commended the psalm-singing almost without exception, and of course his own psalm chants remain amongst the very best in the business.

David didn't suffer fools gladly. That said, he was able quickly to recognise a genuine mistake as opposed to plain stupidity or my simply not having done enough practice! He found it especially amusing when little things went wrong. When things went catastrophically wrong, he used to lose control completely.

One Sunday morning in the Cathedral, during the Gospel, I managed to knock my hymn book off the music desk of the organ; it bounced happily down each manual, with each contact getting successively louder, until there was an enormous 'parp' from the Imperial Trumpet which was set ready for the Gospel Fanfare. I was mortally embarrassed; David simply commented dryly that the resultant noises sounded like something written by Petr Eben, before disappearing into the North Transept to collapse in a heap out of sight of the congregation.

As an organist, David was brilliant. At no time did I ever hear him when his playing was not bursting with flair and excitement. His playing was instinctive (as opposed to taught), and the fact that he was always able to play so immaculately having done zero practice is hard to comprehend.

His hymn-playing was phenomenal, and his final verse harmonisations were truly inspirational. At times, he would take the hymn tune in question off into a key which was so far removed from where it should have been that I did begin to question his sanity! Within two or three supremely clever moves, however, he was always able to get things back on track.

Perhaps above all, as an organist David will be remembered for his astonishing ability as an improviser. I have rarely encountered anyone with the ability to get anywhere near David's gift for this. For me, this is where his intellect really shone. His improvisations had everything that one would expect from him: form, structure, melodic development, brilliant harmonic foundations and a genuine sense of emergence, which was beautifully crafted in much the same way as any of the Howells Psalm Preludes, for example.



There was none of the '20th Century French dissonant rubbish' (his words, not mine) about his improvisations; his big focus was on melody and thematic development, and I am quite sure that this was because of his lifelong love of the music of **J. S. Bach**, whom David considered to be the greatest composer of all time.

David was an absolute master at improvisation and he reached a peak on the day he improvised a complete, perfect double fugue on 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' one Christmastide. I can remember sitting listening to this, feeling utterly in awe of his talent. If there is one thing, perhaps more than anything else, that I owe to David, it is the fact that I can do a little more than simply 'get by' when

it comes to improvisation. He taught me everything that I know about that particular discipline, and I will always be profoundly grateful for that.

I have so many good memories of the years that I spent under David's tutelage that it would be invidious for me to try to recall them all.

He and I spent hours and hours (and many more hours), and a great deal of money, sitting drinking coffee in the Coffee Shop opposite the Cathedral on Fleming Square. We would put the world to rights, talk about cars and inevitably, for people in our line of work, sit there sounding off about some of the clergy.

David loved his job and he took great fulfilment from it - I am absolutely convinced of that - and he also loved all of the people he worked with. His call to work for the Church was genuine, and without doubt his Blackburn years were amongst the very happiest of his life.

With his passing, I feel that I have lost not only a superb teacher and mentor, but someone whom I counted as being amongst my very best friends. He seems to have been there with me at the key moments in my life, and I'll never forget the sound that he got from the assembled multitudes singing Parry's 'I was glad' as Claire walked into the Cathedral for our wedding back in 1993.

Whenever I visit Blackburn Cathedral, I can still see David standing on the end of the Cantoris Trebles' row, singing lustily during the hymns and occasionally casting a smirk in my direction whenever I did something outrageous (or wrong!) at the organ. I doubt that there can be many people reading this whose lives have not been touched in some way by David Cooper. A more caring and capable mentor would be hard to imagine, and I for one feel deeply privileged to have had the opportunity to work so closely with him.

May he rest in peace.

From OC Tim Halsall

Director of Music, Worksop College, Notts.

Dear John,

Thanks for letting us know this terrible news of David's death. I can't tell you how upset I am, not least because, on the day of the funeral, I shall be singing with my school choir at Sheffield Cathedral.

Needless to say, even though I can't be at the funeral service I will be thinking of DC, who gave me the introduction to the Cathedral and Church music that has been with me ever since. With all due respect, I am sure you will know what I mean when I say there is always a first loyalty and allegiance to the familiar, so, for me, he was the way things were done! I make myself stand out more than normal here because I'm the only one who loves singing Psalms, and that's definitely down to him!

Do please pass on my condolences to everyone.

I hope all is well with you otherwise.

Tim and family

Memories of DAVID COOPER by James Thomas

Director of Music, St. Edmundsbury Cathedral



I first met David in the Spring of 1988 when short-listed for the post of Assistant Organist at Blackburn Cathedral. I immediately warmed to his quiet, unassuming manner and quickly realised there was a great deal going on upstairs and felt compelled to try to raise my game accordingly. I'm glad I did, since much to my delight he appointed me his assistant from September that year.

Looking back, I realise how lucky I was to be there - I made many friends, most of whom I'm still in touch with; in David I found a patient and inspiring mentor and in Lindsey a kindly, generous and sympathetic person who was always there if and when things were difficult, and even when they weren't!

Godfrey Hirst had it exactly right in his address at David's funeral when he mentioned those who owed where they are now to DC, and I am proud and grateful to number myself among them. There was so much to learn simply watching him take a choir practice or listening to his Gospel Fanfare every Sunday morning. Professionally I absorbed far more than I realised; I quite often think even now, "I got that from DC!"

He and Lindsey were excellent company too. Many times I'd be entertained at 104, Whinney Lane, whether just passing by for a gossip and coffee, a more formal sit-down meal or (most memorably) some of the largest glasses of claret I've seen poured, after an organ recital. I didn't learn how to win at snooker, however; DC very much kept that one to himself. He did have one or two extremely effective diversionary tactics.

I could go on at length about the endless discussions - not necessarily about music - in Mark's coffee shop; rides out to pubs in his Volvo (later Cavalier) to assess the local sticky toffee pudding; optimistic games of darts in the Corporation Arms; the laconic observations, the fabulous limericks..

The funeral was enormously moving, mainly because it seemed all so correct and in keeping with the man. I feel very privileged to have known and worked with DC and feel very guilty for not really ever having thanked him properly, until now.

More Memories of DAVID COOPER

by chairman Phil Hunwick.

Back in the 1970s and 80s JB's musical style could have been described as flamboyant. (Hard to believe, I know, but just take my word for it!) David Cooper's arrival, therefore, came as rather a shock to the Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir. The top of the dynamic range was immediately reduced to *mf* until he considered that we could handle *f* and *ff* musically and the boys' descants were banned for some considerable time for the same reason. As for the famous *Taproom Endings* (a term coined by Canon Williams when the boys - without rehearsal - used to soar up to top Gs at the ends of last verses), they were never to be heard again!

DC was a perfectionist. His attention to detail in the psalms was second to none. His control and concentration when conducting a service were complete. In short, he brought the traditional cathedral style to Blackburn - and with some considerable personal style to boot. (I must add here - before the editor goes mad with his red pen - that one of the great pleasures of singing for so many years in the Cathedral Choir has been to experience the contrasting styles of four different Directors of Music; I make no judgement as to relative merits!)

One thing DC found hard to come to terms with was the fact that the Gentlemen of Blackburn Cathedral Choir are not professional lay clerks. In fact he once called us a bunch of rank amateurs - but that's another story! He expected 100% commitment including regular attendance and punctuality and often had little sympathy for the fact that most of us had other commitments elsewhere. I remember once trying to explain to him that amateur choirs are a strange breed and full of funny people who may take holidays at (to him) inconvenient times or disappear playing

cricket or trains. Most of us had families to consider and it might not always be possible to sing at a service or be there on the dot at the start of a practice. But, as fellow choirman Jack Smethurst was wont to say, "Some fell on stony ground"!

On the other hand, DC was an enormously caring person and he did genuinely care for us as individuals. There were frequent offers of help when there was a need, a sympathetic ear and so on.

When I heard of David's untimely death, I looked through my bureau and found the notes I made for a speech to say farewell to him when he left for Norwich in 1994. In it I highlighted his unpredictability – "from charm to bad temper, from suave politeness to incredible vulgarity, from boyish humour to the deepest depression, from youthful enthusiasm to 'Can't cope, I'm knackered!'"

I came to experience much of this through knowing David as a friend as well as a choirmaster. We were of a similar age and Joan and I greatly enjoyed David and Lindsey's company. He was often enormous fun to be with and this was when the "incredible vulgarity" side of his character often manifested itself. He had an enormous store of rude limericks which he could quote from memory. I think it best not to quote favourite one; this is, after all, a family magazine! At other times he would shun company and disappear. When he visited us, his disappearing act usually involved a long session playing *Space Invaders* on Noel's computer.

To return to limericks and to my farewell speech, however, I took the opportunity to invent a limerick which encapsulated DC's pet musical hatred:

*Said Cooper, you've gone much too far
I'm tempted to feather and tar;
No, I won't count to ten
I'll just tell you again
'Hosanna' has no b****y R!!*

Every now and again since then during a practice "*Hosannarin excelsis*" may be heard (doubtless emanating from the lips of someone who did not experience DC's firm views on the matter) and I'll swear that I can see a shuddering movement from Cooper's picture on the Song School wall!

In one of his many moments of levity, David once said to me that he couldn't understand why funeral processions had to move so slowly. "When I die", he said, I expect my hearse to be done for speeding on the motorway!" I do hope that it was.



DAVID ANTHONY COOPER 14th January 1949 – 12th June 2008

David's funeral service in Ripon Cathedral was attended by very many of his friends and admirers from throughout the UK. Before the service began, music by his favourite composer, J. S. Bach, was played.

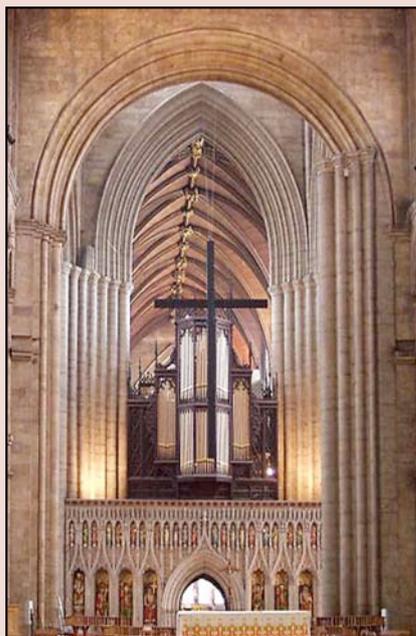
'The hymn singing was glorious,' said long-time Blackburn Cathedral choirman **Gordon Shaw**, 'even though there was no choir.'

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind
O Love divine, how sweet thou art,
O thou who camest from above.*

'The service was 1662, as David wished,' added Gordon, 'and we were moved by the tributes paid to him by the former Dean of Wells (where David had been sub organist before coming to Blackburn) and the former Dean of Norwich (where he was Director of Music after Blackburn). And of course we hung upon every word spoken by our own Canon Godfrey Hirst.'

*Donations in David's memory may be given to
The Gastro-Intestinal Research Fund
Liverpool University Hospital, Aintree.
c/o Ripon Cathedral,
Ripon HG4 1QT*

The Address given by Canon Godfrey Hirst at David Cooper's Funeral in Ripon Cathedral on Monday 23rd June, 2008



DC, as most of us called him, or Tommy as the choir boys affectionately labelled him, would not really approve of this part of the service. He did not want a panegyric or a detailed submission on why he should be sanctified – but in the end he was gently persuaded that it would be ungracious of him not to allow some reflection on his contribution to the musical world as a whole and individuals in particular whose lives have been touched, shaped and influenced by his very being.

For all his qualities there were the times when he did have to be challenged, and a different way offered. Now is such! That being so, I can hear him saying, "Alright then, but keep it short," as he did on a number of occasions when I was down to preach at Blackburn Cathedral!

Here we are in Ripon some 98 miles from where he died in the Sefton suite in the University Hospital Aintree. I wonder whether that distance enabled a wish of his to be fulfilled. He did not approve of slow funeral processions, and said that he would just love the hearse he was in to break the speed limit on the motorway. I wonder. Funeral Director – you had your chance on the M57 and M62!

I once said that DC had given the choirs under his direction "a glimpse of heaven" – to which came the reply from a gentleman of the choir, "Yes, he has, but we have often made the journey via hell." A comment, of course, on DC's attention to detail, his perfectionism, together with his obsession for creating a beautiful, blended sound. He taught his choirs the effectiveness of a vast dynamic range, from the loudest of many *ff*s to a softness where one was able to hear one's own heart beat.

David too has had a hellish journey over the past two years, but hopefully now he is enjoying the delights of heaven, surrounded by heavenly choirs singing the works of Bach, his favourite composer. There were times when he threatened to die in the style and fashion of Orlando Gibbons who had an apoplectic fit in the middle of choir practice. No doubt this comment was due to us driving him to despair, calling us on one occasion a "bunch of rank amateurs".

David had a very sharp mind and a fine intellect, and his complete control when conducting a service, rehearsing the choir or playing the organ was very much driven by that intellect and, of course, his firm belief in God.

DC was a man who cared in such a genuine way for those around him. He would be ready to offer help where there was a need and to be that sympathetic ear: he had that rare quality of knowing when the chips were down for someone.

I wish to thank **Paul Burbridge**, sometime Dean of Norwich, for being David's Father-in-God, offering such wise counsel, spiritual comfort, for being there at those moments that matter and for arranging this service according to David's wishes. [DC was appointed *Director of Music of Norwich Cathedral in 1995 and later moved to Ripon.*]

Many of us will be grateful to him for the personal and musical attention he gave us on those very special occasions in our life. Those who owe their current position to much of his influence and those who worked professionally with him – a good number here today – will testify that they have been deeply privileged to have had DC as their mentor and friend.

It was during a with me conversation that he said "I am on the way out, so if you are coming to visit me, make it soon." I replied, "Hold on 'til I get there!"

We reminisced as much as the drugs allowed him and it is always a privilege for a priest to share the last thoughts and words of someone with whom they have shared much.

DC, having brought heaven to earth through his music-making, is now with the angels – in the words of the hymn "Angel voices ever singing round thy throne of light" – "craftsman's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine". Verse 11 of his chosen psalm "And he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

David, thank you for all you have given to us – my last words to you with the fondest of memories, including Purcell's "Thy word is a lantern unto my feet", have to be those of the angels and archangels and all the heavenly host –

"Hosanna rin the Highest!"

YET MORE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS visited the Anne Frank Exhibition in May



*Former England International Rugby League star and England Rugby Union Captain, **JASON ROBINSON**, brought his wife and children to the Anne Frank exhibition, when Canon Chivers gave them a guided tour.*



Jason made his 50th appearance for England, when they celebrated their semi-final win at the Stade de France

Your hard-working committee of the Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association...



... meets regularly. Here they are after helping SOC **Heather Starkie** to organise her Garden Party at the Bishop's House – and also iron out all the details of our next **ANNUAL REUNION on 27-28 September.**

(Have you, Old Chorister, returned your form to the Treasurer?)

Saturday:
Lunch, AGM, and Choral Evensong at the Cathedral, then a super dinner at Whalley Abbey. (New OCs **free!**)

Sunday: 10.30 Eucharist with the Cathedral Choir.

Back row: **Peter Hurst**, Asst. DoM **James Davy**, Vice Chairman **Eric Bancroft**, **Ernie Gorner**, **John Marr** and your Editor.
Front row: Secretary **Alec Stuttard**, Chairman **Stewart Hopkinson**, Sr. Old Chorister **Heather Starkie** and Treasurer **Gordon Fielding**.

Director of Music **Richard Tanner** sent his apologies – he was leading a choral workshop in Sweden. (Excuses, excuses!)

LISTEN!

to Choral Evensong

broadcast live from Blackburn Cathedral
on BBC Radio 3

on Wednesday 24th September at 4.00 pm.

This will be one of the first BBC Choral Evensongs on the restored day of Wednesday afternoon.

WATCH?

Did you watch TV Songs of Praise

with the choirs of Blackburn Cathedral
on Sunday evening 13th July on BBCTV 1?

There'll be photos of it in our next edition.

See page 32 for a preview.

Last Night of the Proms

by Music Administrator Linda Bruce
Photos by Andy Bruce

The evening of Saturday 21st June saw a large and very appreciative audience gather at the Cathedral for the **Last Night of the Proms**, the final concert of the 2007/08 season.



The Dean with (L-R) Mrs. Susan Hughes JP, DL, Mrs. Diana Swarbrick and Mr. Peter Hughes.

An imaginative programme had been compiled by **Richard Tanner** celebrating anniversaries of Vaughan Williams and Puccini with 'Last Night' favourites accompanied by the traditional flag waving, Richard conducting with his usual gusto!



The choirs of the Cathedral were joined by the Northern Chamber Orchestra and the soloists **Nicola Mills, Philip Pooley** and **Stephen Varcoe**.



Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music welcomed representatives of our generous series and concert sponsors, **Fraser Eagle, Booths Supermarkets, the Thompson Family Trust** and **Margo Grimshaw** to their pre-concert reception.

Other distinguished guests included the Bishop of Lancaster, the Rt Revd **Geoff Pearson** and **Roger Bury**, recently appointed as Cathedral Solicitor.



The audience enjoyed every minute of the concert – and so did the massed cathedral choirs!

And afterwards tasty canapés were supplied by the Café in the Crypt team led by the ever-smiling Hilary Carr and Jill Newsome.

Choral Evensong at Goosnargh Flower Festival

The YPC, conducted by James Davy and accompanied by David Scott-Thomas, sang Choral Evensong on Sun 22nd June at Goosnargh Parish Church, to mark the end of their Flower Festival. It was a most happy visit.



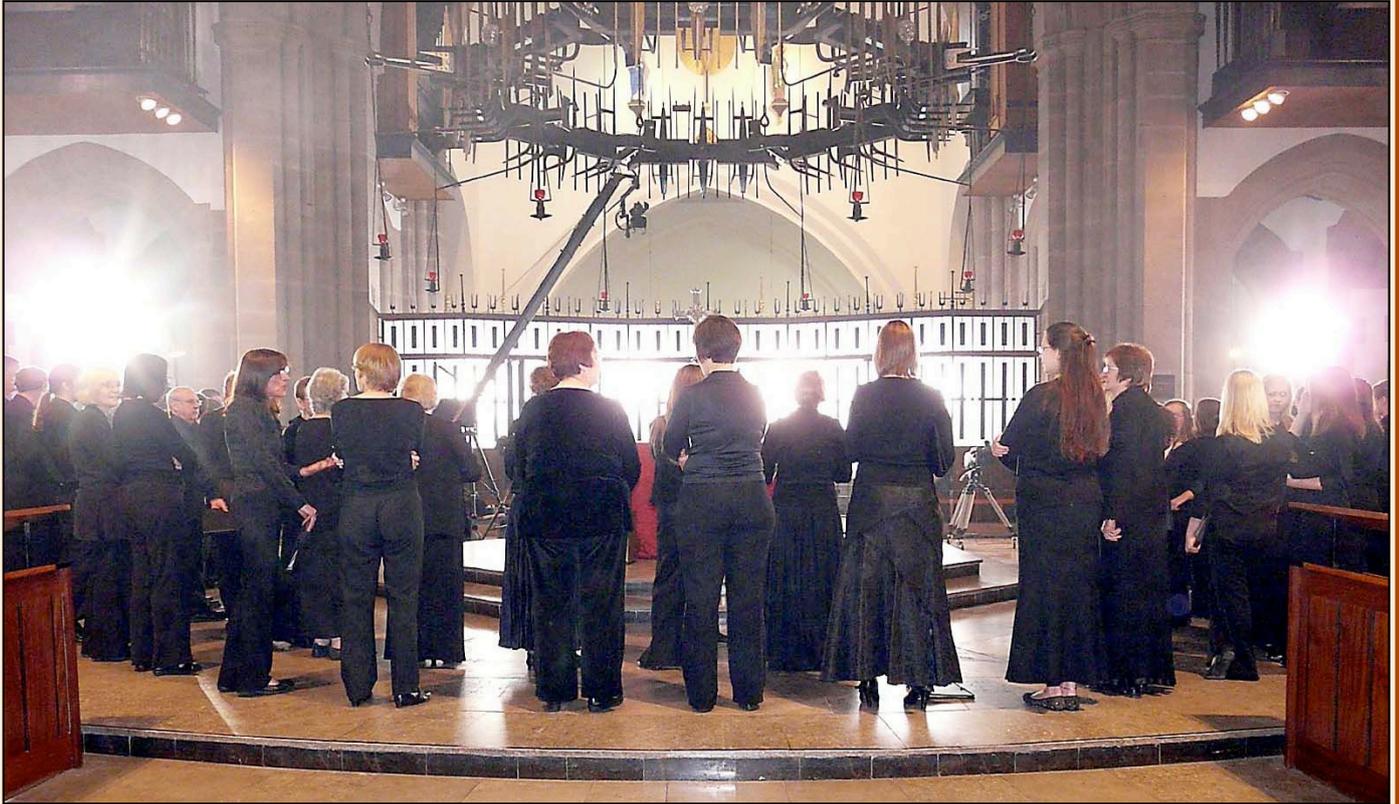
A BIG WELCOME TO Mrs. Marion McClintock who has recently joined the Cathedral Chapter.



Mrs. McClintock, seen here with Dean Christopher Armstrong, has recently retired as Registrar of Lancaster University, where her husband, Peter, is Professor of Chemistry. She is already an active member of the Cathedral Development Committee. The Dean is clearly very happy with Marion's Chapter appointment. So are we!

ANOTHER BBCTV SONGS OF PRAISE

...was recorded in Blackburn Cathedral in June for broadcasting on July 13th. The massed cathedral choirs and Renaissance Singers, conducted by Richard Tanner with James Davy at our magnificent organ, recorded three hymns on the first evening – sound only. But on the second evening the cathedral was transformed by blazing lights, so that the choirs could sing along with their recorded singing as TV cameras shot close-ups of the choristers from every angle.

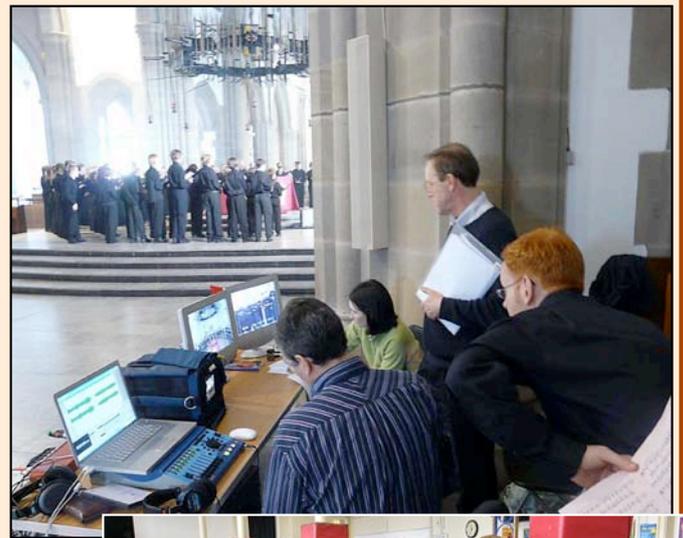


The Ambulatory screen behind the central altar was swathed in translucent polythene, behind which more lights shone, illuminating the singers who were all dressed in black. It was an amazing sight.



Richard Tanner placed his singers around three sides of the altar so that everyone could be seen, whilst cameramen and sound engineers prepared everything for the photo-shoot.

Then the producer, **Garry Boon**, (standing - right) gathered round the TV monitors with his production coordinator, **Susan Keirby** and sound supervisor, **Tony Wass**, watched by **James Davy**, as the music of recorded singing filled the cathedral and the cameras rolled. It was most exciting.



Music Outreach Project

Blackburn Cathedral Music Department continues to play a leading role in the national scheme for encouraging singing in schools.

Nine of our choristers from St. Wilfrid's School, led by James Davy, visited St. Peter's RC School, Mill Hill, recently where they sang to the students.

"We sang *A grateful heart* by Mary Plumstead and *Paris Angelicus* (Cesar Franck, of course)," said James. "The pupils loved it - they were really enthusiastic; a first-rate audience – they sat spell-bound – and asked lots of questions at the end.

"And they sang quite well themselves," added James. *Well done! Ed*



BCOCA Garden Party at the Bishop's House

The Garden Party held at Bishop's House in June organised by Senior Old Chorister HEATHER STARKIE was very successful and everyone who attended enjoyed a most pleasurable afternoon.



The Bishop and Mrs Reade were most attentive hosts. Delicious strawberry cream scones and wine were served.



SOC Heather, with Canon Godfrey Hirst tucking into a strawberry-and-cream scone, with Pat and Alec Stuttard savouring the wine.

Thankfully the weather held and guests were able to enjoy the gardens and the wonderful views across the picturesque Ribble Valley. Splendid "background music" from the very accomplished string quartet added to a most relaxing and sociable atmosphere.



"It was a wonderfully well organised event," commented John Marr. "The string quartet lived up to expectations; the strawberries and cream were sumptuous; and there was a healthy number of guests - many of whom who said how much they had enjoyed the occasion!"



Chairman Antony Snape and newly-married OC Stephen Holmes enjoying their scones.



The Bishop chatting with OC Geoffrey Taylor. *Thank you, Heather!*

"We also had 4 Sea Cadets who did marvellous job of marshalling the car parking; selling raffle tickets; and generally being on hand to assist as and when required. All in all, a splendid affair!"

£300 was raised for BCOCA.

Heather sends her thanks to everyone who supported the event so happily and so generously.

Cathedral Staff Day away

John East, who does much to ease the lot of refugees and asylum seekers in Blackburn through his hard work both at the Cathedral and the Central Methodist Church, felt that the Cathedral Staff needed a breath of fresh air.

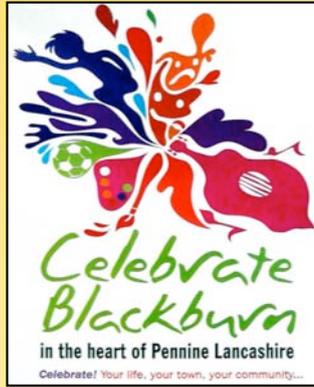
So on June 5th, he took charge of the Dean and his colleagues and led them, Pied Piper-like, over the hills and far away.



The sun shone all day on the righteous (and also the cathedral staff) as they were driven by John to Airton in Malham Dale, from where they walked through idyllic surroundings along the Aire Valley to the Lister Arms at Malham for lunch and other refreshments. For those who still had the energy to walk after this, the footpath led on to the famous Tarn where there were views of nesting birds of prey. They all eventually returned to the cathedral, rosy cheeked and mightily refreshed. **Thank you, John.**



Blackburn Honours Music



A series of short concerts in July to honour music-making in Blackburn, was imaginatively arranged through the Borough Council in collaboration with the Cathedral.

The first recital was given by **Philippa Hyde**, Soprano, with **Richard Tanner** at the piano, and it featured not only some arias which Blackburn's KATHLEEN FERRIER had sung during her meteoric career, but also Schumann's exquisite setting of *A woman's life and love* (in German, of course).



Your editor found this performance so moving and so expressive that he had to listen to it with his eyes shut.

For those who don't know (put your hand up if you don't!) Schumann created the accompaniments to his songs so that the piano could express what the poet leaves out.

For example, when 'the woman' rejoices in her new-born baby, not only does she bounce him on her knee (that is so obvious in the music) but afterwards she lovingly and tenderly puts him back into his cradle. The piano coda tells us this. But neither of these is mentioned by the poet – therein lies the genius of Schumann.

David Scott-Thomas, our former Assistant Organist, gave a lunchtime recital the next day which was brilliant. Rarely have we heard so many rapid notes or seen fingers (and feet) move so fast that they became a blur. His page-turner, **Jonathan Turner**, organ scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford (see p. 2) had a hard job to follow all the notes as they whizzed from page to page.



David, who still plays for the occasional service at the cathedral, keeps himself very busy, not only by conducting the Fleetwood Choral Society, but also by his work at Blackpool and Fylde College.

"We've recently launched a new degree course there," said David during a relaxing lunch in the Café in the Crypt after his recital. 'It's a B.A. honours in Musical Theatre, and we've already attracted 25 students.

"By the way," he added as an afterthought, "I recently recorded a recital in the Isle of Man for BBC Radio 3. It'll be broadcast sometime in August!" *That man has talent!*

The next recital in the Kathleen Ferrier series was given the following evening by our fine **Cathedral Girls' Choir**.



This was especially enjoyable, not only because of the girls' lovely tone, but also because they sang mostly secular music. Happy songs such as *The Keel Row* and *Pretty Ring Time*, were mixed with more serious music, such as *Silent Noon* and *Blow the wind Southerly*. This last song was a favourite of Kathleen Ferrier's – and she pronounced 'Southerly' as 'South-erly', making it into a unique word.

A welcome feature of the Girls' recital was the reading of a précis of Kathleen's dramatic and ultimately tragic life. She was a Lancashire Lass. These were read by three of the girls in turn between each item. They were most moving.

The remaining three recitals were given by **Richard Tanner, James Davy & Jonathan Turner**. How fortunate we are to have such outstanding musicians in our midst.

For Richard's recital he had invited choir parent **Michael Kennedy** to join him. Michael is a tenor *in altissimo*.



He sang several popular Italian Operatic Arias – one of which ended on a high C, and another even higher. (But your editor's sense of pitch may have been unreliable.) It was a remarkable recital.

It was a special pleasure to welcome back **Jonathan Turner** who played a most delightful programme starting (as did the other 3 organ recitals) with a composition by Louis James Alfred Lefébure-Wely, who was a late 19th Century Parisian organist. His music was very popular and he was a great influence on his contemporaries. Jonathan chose the best of the Wely Marches to play!



Jonathan ended his recital with the *Final* from Vierne's 1st Symphony – the piece that ends with all guns blazing. It was a thrilling performance.

It was a special joy to see in Jonathan's audience **Nigel Spooner** who was Jonathan's first organ teacher. Nigel is a most gifted free-lance musician. He directs the fabulous SWING BAND of Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. If you haven't heard them, come to Fence Church on Saturday 25th April next year!

A feature for the cathedral music staff and guests after these recitals, was a relaxed lunch in the Café in the Crypt when repartee hurtled to and fro, narrowly missing plates of appetizing sandwiches and delicious fish and chips (with or without mooshy peas).

'Is it true,' asked James Davy of your editor, 'that you can whistle and hum in harmony?' 'Yes,' replied JB, who promptly 'rendered' a couple of bars of Tallis's Canon in two parts, before breaking down into helpless laughter.



Shortly after we heard strains of the *National Anthem* coming from the Crypt piano.

We found James seated on the floor with his back to the piano and with hands crossed playing, as ever, fistfuls of right notes.

Now that was some party trick!

RICHARD TANNER also gave a recital on the *enormous* Copeman-Hart digital organ in Lytham Parish Church, where he was welcomed by the Vicar, **Canon Andrew Clitheroe** who was, of course, a recent Canon Residentiary of Blackburn Cathedral.



The Lytham organ is not only huge in its own right, but also because every stop can be changed in an instant to make the entire instrument into an equally enormous cinema organ! Tibias, bells, drums and I don't know what else! Digital technology is amazing!



And Richard is not the only member of the cathedral's music staff who gives recitals elsewhere. James Davy recently gave a Sunday evening recital in Westminster Abbey.

He began with *Cathedrals* by Louis Vierne, then, as a contrast, Charles Calahan's *Aria*. And he finished with the ever-popular classic, *Choral No. 3* by *Vous savez qui*.

James writes:

There were about 400 people in the Nave (no seats left - people standing) and although people can come and go as they wish, no-one left for entire half-hour! It was an incredible experience to play in that historic building with so many people present and it will stay with me for a long time...

Our childrens choir and Lantern Voices

...enjoyed a Picnic in the Crypt in July to end their season, together with a few teddy bears. They were led by our own **Joy Fielding** (how does she manage to get absolute attention from these energetic children so very quickly?) and by **Jeff Borradaile**.



Throwing Teddies in the air and singing at the same time was great fun. Although this clearly wore out one Teddy!



Both choirs enjoyed face painting and games as well as singing. A fabulous picnic spread was provided by the Café in the Crypt. And the children's parents presented thank-you gifts to the music staff and Matron, and congratulated them on a very successful year's music making. *Well done, everyone!*

We need to encourage music-making in the Church

... so Richard Tanner felt that it would be a very good idea if Blackburn Cathedral applied for corporate membership of the Guild of Church Musicians. (See p. 12.) He generously invited your editor to sign the sponsorship form.



We think that there's every chance of our application being accepted, for both RT and JB are members of the GCM Council!

Heartiest Congratulations, Richard!

The end-of-season party *chez Tanner* after Choral Evensong on Sunday 6th July turned itself into a special Celebration party – for it marked the tenth anniversary of Richard taking up his appointment as Director of Music of Blackburn Cathedral!

And what a terrific amount he has achieved – doubling the number of choirs from 3 to 6, forming the *Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music* which enables most ambitious concerts to be held regularly in our Cathedral; he has attracted a distinguished line of most talented Assistant Directors of Music – **James Davy** being the current holder of this responsible office – conducted many sound and TV broadcasts, arranged foreign singing tours, presided over the rebuilding and enlargement of our world-class cathedral organ, and so very much more.

He'd already celebrated the end of this season with the cathedral choir that afternoon by arranging a magnificent programme of music – including Howells' *St. Paul's Canticles*, and the whole of Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb!*



Enjoying the party were immediate past Head Chorister **Arthur Geldard** (R) who was wearing his new Old Choristers' tie which

SOC **Heather Starkie** had presented to him at his Farewell-and- Thank-you Ceremony that afternoon, and **Mathieu Woodburn** who had sung, so brilliantly, the treble solo *My cat Jeffrey* in the Britten Cantata.

The 'Tannery' was filled with choristers and their families, choirmen and guests, who tucked into delicious dishes which had been brought to mark the end of yet another successful season.

But in pride of place was an enormous 10th Anniversary cake.



Before it was cut **Canon Hindley** made a speech thanking Richard for all he had done for the Cathedral during these ten eventful years. Richard made an equally gracious reply, which was greeted by whole-hearted applause by everyone who was in that most hospitable house that afternoon.



Then, after two effervescent sparklers had been lit on the cake, it was finally cut and shared amongst us all, as **Sheila Shaw** presented some flowers to Richard as an additional thank-you.

Well done and thank you, Richard and Pippa. You and your family bless us all so very richly.

IN OUR NEXT EDITION:

**16 Blackburn Choristers in the USA.
Our Old Choristers' Association Annual Reunion.
Appreciation of KEITH BOND,
A mini OCs' Reunion in Germany with OC Ivor Bolton,
and much, *much* more!**

This edition of the Newsletter is also supported financially by the community cohesion, education, outreach and development agency of Blackburn Cathedral, which receive funding from :-



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