

Extract from Blackburn Cathedral's Music & More Magazine 2011 No. 2

The Blackburn Branch of the Prayer Book Society held its annual Festival in the Cathedral: a fully Choral Eucharist, a lavish Luncheon, an illuminating Lecture and Choral Evensong.

Choral Eucharist

The splendid choir was OCTAVIUS, founded & conducted by former cathedral chorister **Anthony Tattersall**.



What an exquisite sound they made as they sang the Introit, Batten's *O sing Joyfully*, followed, in the service, by a complete performance of *Darke in A minor* (Creed, responses to the 10 Commandments and all), and Bullock's *Give us the wings of faith* as the communion anthem, accompanied by interim acting sub-organist **David Scott-Thomas**.

Canon Andrew Hindley was the gracious Celebrant, and the riveting sermon on the gestation of the Book of Common Prayer was preached by **Canon Michael Taylor**, Canon Sacrist Emeritus.

Many were the memorable one-liners therein:

The Prayer Book was born into a cruel, greedy, nasty, brutish world, and a dangerous world, too. A world of power & weakness, wealth & poverty, intellectual brilliance and, of course (inevitably) death.

This Book starts with God, rather than with man.



Cranmer was a relentless, defiant and indomitable person. At one minute a favourite of King and court, and the next outside, marginalized, even despised and ultimately burnt to death.

The eventual formation of what we so easily call the 1662 Prayer Book was a process of unremitting graft, danger and tragedy.

On Monday January 22nd 1549 King Edward VI's Parliament passed the first acts of uniformity – a very significant move indeed ... Make no mistake, this was an English Parliament assuming control in matters of worship.

Someone made a jibe that a Puritan is he who loves God with all his soul, but hates his neighbour with all his heart...

And there was so much more.

Copies of Canon Taylor's sermon may be obtained through Mr. Neil Inkley. 01772-821-676

Lavish Luncheon

The glorious Eucharist was followed by an equally glorious luncheon in the Café in the Crypt. Wine, chicken with an especially delicious salad, followed by a hot dessert, coffee and mints.

Right: His Honour Brian Duckworth Branch President, Canon Taylor, Mrs Ruth Taylor and The Revd. Alan Reid, Chairman of the Blackburn Diocese Branch.



Below: Mr. Neil Inkley, Branch Secretary and Treasurer, whose meticulous attention to detail ensured that the PBS Day was a not only efficient but also enjoyable and most informative.



Illuminating Lecture



And then came an enthralling lecture on the history of the King James Bible (whose 400th Anniversary we are celebrating this year).

It was given by **Professor Philip Alexander FSA**, from Manchester University.

He, too, gave us many memorable one-liners, including:

The original King James Bible of 1611 included not only a magnificent Preface and (in the margins) helpful alternative translations of obscure Hebrew passages, but also all 14 books of the Apocrypha. Not too many Evangelicals know that!

So if your KJB doesn't have a Preface, or margin notes or the Apocrypha, your edition is a damaged edition!

The LARGE bible in the photograph belongs to Blackburn Cathedral!

Choral Evensong

OCTAVIUS sang the Canticles to Dyson's demanding setting in D and S.S. Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father...*

Harriet Dagnall of Westholme School, Blackburn, who is the National Junior First Prize-winner in the Cranmer Awards, 2011, read the first lesson.



What a remarkable Festival that was!