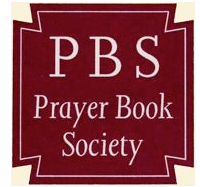


Music & More online Supplement No. 48



PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY FESTIVAL

A congregation of thoughtful folk who love the **1662 Book of Common Prayer** came to Blackburn Cathedral in May for the Blackburn Diocese Branch's 29th Annual Festival.

Heading the congregation (R) were the President, His Honour Judge **Edward Slinger** (R) talking with **Lord and Lady Clitheroe** from Downham; Lord Clitheroe is one of our Vice Presidents.



We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Blackburn as our preacher, the **Rt. Revd. Julian Henderson**, seen here processing with the Dean, the **Very Revd. Christopher Armstrong**, and the Celebrant, the **Revd. Canon Dr. Ian Stockton**.



It has been our delight to welcome OCTAVIUS, a choir of 8 (and more!) singers who have led the music for our 1662 Choral Eucharists and 1662 Choral Evensongs for a number of years. They were founded by former cathedral chorister **Anthony Tattersall**, who recently emigrated to New Zealand with his family.

His successor is **David Scott-Thomas** – an equally dynamic young man, who is carrying on the singers' worthy traditions.

Our Secretary/Treasurer, **Neil Inkley**, is a former chorister of Peterborough Cathedral – so he knows a lot about cathedral music. He therefore chooses all the music and hymns for our Festival.

This year the Introit was *Before the Lord* by Dr Carl Schalk, an American composer. The service was sung to Basil Harwood's ebullient setting in A flat, and the communion anthem was *God so loved the world*, by the contemporary English composer, **Bob Chilcott**.

The sermon was given by our Bishop, who began by saying that his invitation to be here today, given by the Blackburn PBS, was the first invitation he had received after his Consecration, and the first invitation that he had accepted. That set the mood for a riveting sermon which had us sitting on the edge of our seats, for **he rang so many bells** in the minds of the congregation, most of whom had been brought up with the 1662 Book of Common Prayer!



His text was taken from the Gospel we had just heard: John 16: **Your joy no man taketh from you.** 'We are strangers and pilgrims in this life, but no one can take our joy in Christ from us. This annual Festival of the PBS is a reminder of our heritage. 'The 39 articles play a key role in the life of our church. They help us to know where we stand today, and they are affirmed at every Ordination and Licensing, for we are not a church where "anything goes."'



The full text of Bishop Julian's riveting sermon may be read on [Music & More online Supplement No 48a](#).

The Celebrant, Canon Stockton, led the service beautifully, and the congregation sang the well-known hymns enthusiastically, led from the organ by **Samuel Hudson**, our Director of Music.



The hymns were: *O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;*
In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer;
Christ is our corner-stone
and
Christ, whose glory fills the skies.

The service was followed by a Reception in the crypt; how good it was to see **Jack Longstaff** there, former Director of Music of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, who had come all the way from Yorkshire to be with us.

The luncheon, prepared by our chef-manager **David Riley**, was delicious and conversation sparkled around each table.



There were two presentations made by our President, Judge Edward Slinger.



The first was to the bishop. 'Despite its appearance,' said the Judge as he handed a narrow gold paper bag to the bishop, 'this is not a bottle, but a PBS umbrella!'

*L-R:
Mrs Carolyn Duckworth,
widow of our former President,
HH Judge Brian Duckworth,
the Bishop and Mrs Henderson,
and Vice Chairman James Hilton.*

And to Canon Stockton, our Celebrant, he gave a tightly-wrapped parcel, which turned out to be two mugs from Selwyn College, Cambridge, (for Canon Stockton had been an undergraduate there). Both gifts were greatly appreciated.



L-R: Mrs Janet Stockton, Canon Stockton, Mrs Carolyn Duckworth and our President.

Our Annual General Meetings (immediately following our luncheons) are always enlivened by the ready wit of our Chairman, the **Revd. Alan Reid**. And they are also enlivened by the meticulous record-keeping of our Secretary/Treasurer, **Neil Inkley**.



The message of today's meeting was that, although the average age of members is increasing, there are at least two bright spots in which we may rejoice:

1. Our financial situation is very healthy, and
2. We have a new young and vigorous member on our Committee, Mrs Rachel Fielding, who will inject new life into our meetings!

L-R: Chris Norton, Minutes Secretary, Chairman, Alan Reid, Secretary/Treasurer, Neil Inkley and our President, HH Judge Edward Slinger – who had to leave early for he and his wife were involved in the Royal Windsor Horse show that day!



Our guest speaker was the **Revd. James Lee Potter**, Chairman of the Chelmsford Branch of the PBS, who caught a train at 5.18 that morning to be with us for the whole day!

His talk was on *'The relevance of the 39 Articles in the 21st Century'*.

He gave a powerful exposition of the power of the Gospel and said that every denomination had its own declaration of faith: the faith of the Church of England is defined by the 39 Articles.

This is not necessarily popular with today's *laissez faire* and multi-faith society which states (in words from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*) *Everybody has won and all must have prizes*. Jesus is thought of as one of many saviours, and God is thought of as an indulgent Cosmic Uncle.

But we need to stand up for what we know and believe what is right.



The Festival ended with a glorious Choral Evensong sung by OCTAVIUS, as the afternoon sun shone through our Lantern glass.

Introit: *We wait for thy loving kindness, O God.* Sir William McKie
Canticles: Morley *Fauxbourdon*
Anthem: *Glorious and powerful God.* Sir Charles Stanford.
Hymns: *O Trinity, most blessed Light,*
and
Sometimes a light surprises.

It was a most inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable day.

Thank you, all.