

Blackburn Cathedral, 16 April 2014.

# Music & More Online Supplement No. 44

## Pre Royal Maundy:

### BBC Interviews and choir rehearsals

The day before The Queen came to Blackburn there was much activity in the Cathedral – not only with last minute preparations – numbering all the seats, for example and rehearsing the choirs – but also with interviews for BBC Radio Lancashire and BBCTV.

**Canon Hindley**, whose responsibilities include the ordering of our services, was busy talking with Virgers, Royal coordinators and BBC.



The choirs (our own Cathedral choir and Girls' choir, with ten boys and six men from the Chapel Royal) were rehearsed by **Huw Williams**, from the Chapel Royal, and our own **Samuel Hudson**.



The choirs would not only sing anthems and lead hymns during the service, but they would be singing special music during the two Distributions of Maundy Money by Her Majesty. Exact timing was essential!



BBC Radio Lancashire interviewed some of us: here's **Marian Kitchin** being interviewed for radio...

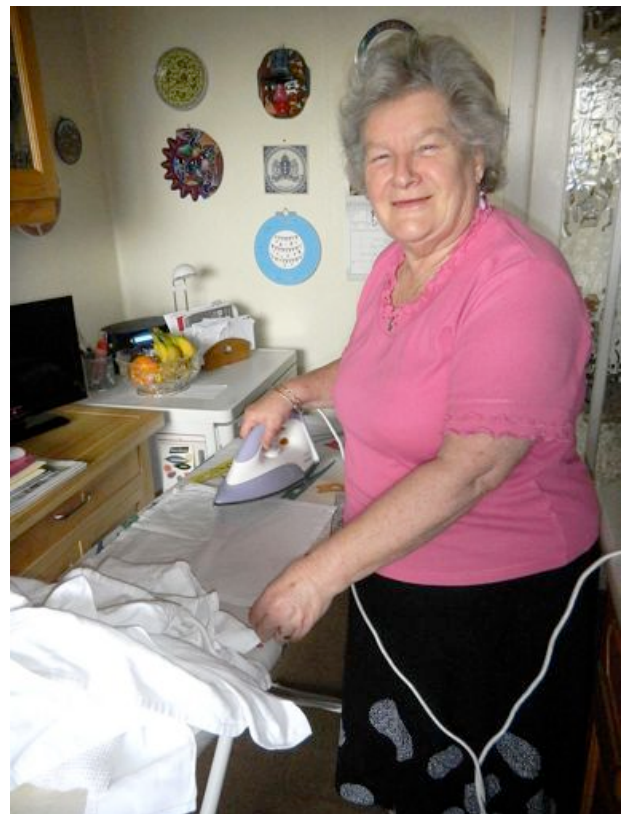


...and again as she appeared on BBCTV that evening.



**Marian** said: I'm so excited, I don't think I'll sleep very much tonight. This morning I woke before the birds' dawn chorus – it was still dark and I kept on thinking about it – it's so very exciting!

Marian had laundered the cathedral's altar linen for 50 years – that's why she would meet The Queen the next day!



**Chorister Oliver Fulwell** said: 'It's going to be amazing to get the chance to sing before Royalty.'

L-R: **Oliver Fulwell, William Fielding & Leo Fulwell with Samuel Hudson.**



Former choirman, **Alec Stuttard**, would have sung – when a Blackburn cathedral chorister – at The Queen's Coronation, but he contracted laryngitis, so he never did! He said:



**ALEC STUTTARD**  
Maundy Money recipient  
BBC NORTH WEST TONIGHT nwt@bbc.co.uk

'I haven't been waiting 61 years for the chance to sing before The Queen, but to receive the Maundy Money from her hands does feel like a consolation – and a great privilege.'

**John Bertalot** (who had been the cathedral's director of music almost 50 years ago and who had conducted the cathedral choir when the Queen's sister, **HRH The Princess Margaret**, came for the Rehallowing of the redecorated Nave in 1965) said,



**JOHN BERTALOT**  
Maundy Money recipient  
BBC NORTH WEST TODAY nwt@bbc.co.uk

'I'm very excited because I first saw her Majesty when I was a student at the Royal College of Music, many years ago, when she was Princess Elizabeth, and she was absolutely stunning!

**The Dean** said:



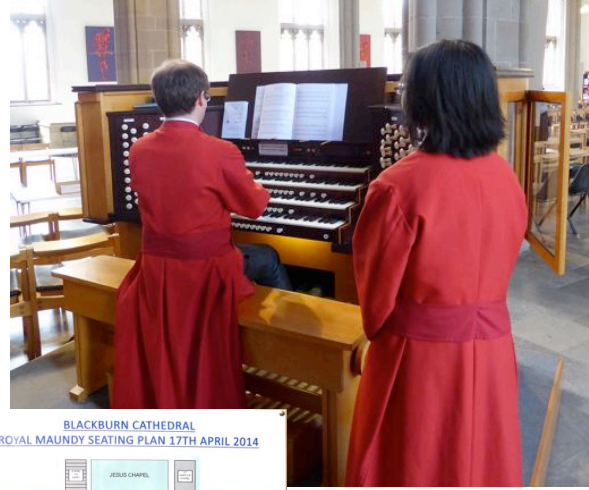
'People are so excited because it's the first time that a Monarch has been to Blackburn Cathedral.'

(He was asked a question: 'Who decides who will receive the Maundy Money?')

'There's a fairly discrete process – we set up this process with some excellent people – a network through the church and an

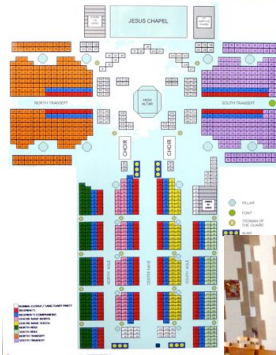
ecumenical network, so that we could find the right people who are over 70 years of age, and who have done wonderful work in their community.'

ecumenical network, so that we could find the right people who are over 70 years of age, and who have done wonderful work in their community.'



Assistant Director of Music **Shaun Turnbull**, played the organ for the rehearsal and the service, assisted by organ scholar **Karen Au.**

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL  
ROYAL MAUNDY SEATING PLAN 17TH APRIL 2014



There was a detailed seating plan for the whole cathedral – every chair was numbered!

The chairs for The Queen and Duke were S33 and S34! (S standing for 'Sanctuary').

*They were very comfortable!*



**Virger Alex Barnes**, watched by our **Royal Crucifer Richard Robb**, replaced dud light bulbs, so that the whole cathedral would be thoroughly ready for the Royal service the next day.

And during all this activity **the Dean** chatted with **the Bishop of Worcester**, who was here in his Royal role as the Lord High Almoner.

**It was all very impressive and we were, indeed, very excited.**

