

Blackburn Cathedral Music & More online Supplement No. 5

December 2012

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS by candlelight

BBC Radio Lancashire has been recording this service for exactly 40 years – and in charge of all those recordings was, and is, **Gerald Jackson**.



'I remember the broadcasts that you conducted,' Gerald told your editor from his temporary studio in a corner of the assembly area. 'And those conducted by your successors – **David Cooper, Gordon Stewart and Richard Tanner**. In those early years we were called BBC Radio Blackburn.' *When are you going to relay tonight's service? 'On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!'*

The clergy and choir lined up in the rest of the assembly area for prayer led by the Dean – it was a bit of a squeeze, but we managed it.



The first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* was sung, for the third year in succession, by Head Chorister **William Fielding**. He's the best - for not only can he sing superbly, but he also plays the piano (lessons with Joy Fielding – no relation – and **Martin Roscoe!**), trumpet and cello, and he also plays the organ for his school assemblies and has begun to compose anthems in 9 vocal parts! Watch this young man – he will go far.



Even though there were only 12 chorists (our 10 probationers would join the choir later) they made a wonderfully confident sound, backed by 18 choirmen, conducted, as ever so splendidly, by **Samuel Hudson** and accompanied, equally 'as ever so splendidly' by **Shaun Turnbull**.

Deputy Head Chorister **Harvey Finney** set a high standard for reading of the lessons by his confident recounting of the story of Adam and Eve *and* the serpent!

The choir carols and anthems included

On Christmas Night arranged by Sir Philip Ledger

Adam lay y-bounden by John Ireland

Canite tuba (Blow the trumpet in Zion) by Francisco Guerrero

There is a flow'r by Stanley Vann (1910-2010)

A Hymn to the Virgin by Benjamin Britten, with the 'echo' solo quartet sung by (L-R) Oliver Fulwell, Alastair Bolton, Derek Crompton and Peter Eastham.



And there were more choir carols (as well as Christmas hymns for the large congregation to sing):

A child is born by Samuel Scheidt, with superbly registered organ accompaniment which sounded like athletic sackbuts!

Quem pastores by John Rutter

No Small wonder by Paul Edwards, and

Mirabile dictu by Sasha Johnson Manning.

It was a splendid service preceded and followed by glorious organ music played by Shaun Turnbull.

We were indeed well prepared for Christmas!

