

Blackburn Cathedral Music & More online Supplement No. 7

3 February 2013

Patronal Festival Eucharist

Our stalwart Virgers were kept very busy that weekend for not only had they had constructed a tiered platform at the West end of the Nave for our choirs that Sunday morning, and turned all the Nave chairs from facing East to facing North and South, in Collegiate formation, but they had to dismantle the platform and restore all the chairs to their usual East facing position in time for the 6.30 pm **Sequence of Words and Music** that evening. (See M&M Supplement No 8.)



The music was Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D*. And during the Administration the choirs sang Buxtehude's exquisite *Magnificat* – which was highly appropriate, of course, as our Cathedral is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



An especially moving moment in the service occurred at the reading of the Gospel, for everyone was given a candle to light whilst singing the Gradual hymn, *In his temple now behold him*, which was sung to the tune *Regent Square* by former Blackburn organist **Henry Smart**, whose bicentenary we celebrate this year.



In his sermon, Canon Stockton made a telling parallel between then and now...



The morning service was sung by the Boys and Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Young People's Choir conducted by **Samuel Hudson**.

Shaun Turnbull, our Assistant Director of Music, kept himself healthy by accompanying the choirs on our Tickell chamber organ at the West end of the Nave and playing hymns on our 4 manual Walker/Wood organ at the East end. He had to make more than several rapid round journeys between consoles!

Four members of the Northern Chamber Orchestra added much to the musical ensemble. We are so grateful to them for playing in our cathedral so frequently and so effectively.



Soloists from the choir abounded – including, of course, **Louisa Stirland**, a member of our Girls' Choir who was the BBC's Young Chorister of the Year for 2012. This solo quartet included alto **James Twigg**, tenor **Derek Crompton** and bass choral scholar (and clarinettist virtuoso) **James Giddings**.



...between Simeon (who greeted the Holy Family in the Temple) who in his prophetic declaration of the *Nunc Dimittis*, looked forward to the changes that the Christ would bring to the world both in the pain of the Crucifixion and in the joy of the Resurrection, and the changes which are about to take place this autumn in our Cathedral Close (the construction of a Deanery, Canons' houses, musicians' apartments, a hotel, and more) which will be both a pain in unbelievable disruption (where will cars park?) and joy in a transformed Cathedral Close at the heart of our Borough and Diocese. **Hallelujah!**