

# Blackburn Cathedral Music & More online Supplement No. 18

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013



The Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire had sent invitations to the Great and Good in Lancashire, especially to those who had been honoured by Her Majesty for their devoted work for the people of Lancashire (Including our own **Betty Parkinson MBE** - former choir mother and faithful member of our congregation). The guests arrived early to find their seats – all of which had been allocated carefully by the cathedral staff.



Amongst the earliest arrivals was **Rodney Swarbrick CBE DL**,



...seen here in the centre-right of the photo, alongside a fellow Deputy Lieutenant. The atmosphere in our cathedral was one of high expectation and outgoing friendliness amongst everyone.



Our own **Lord Lieutenant and Lady Shuttleworth** were welcomed officially by the Dean...

... as the choirmen were being rehearsed in their temporary choir-room by our Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson**. (The boys were away on their well-earned half term holiday.)



The choir music ranged from Charles Wood's 6-part setting of the *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*, to Byrd's *O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen*, and Sir William Harris's *Behold now, praise the Lord*. (Harris had been Director of Music of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and had taught the piano to the very young Princess Elizabeth!)

The cathedral was packed not only with Royal officers and MBEs, OBEs, CBEs and more, but also by many mayors. So full was it that even Lord and Lady Clitheroe had to sit near the back!

Press photographers were there – taking photos of the many Mayors in their gold chains of office, who graced the front rows of the distinguished congregation.



*The Procession of the Dean and Canons with the Bishop of Burnley*



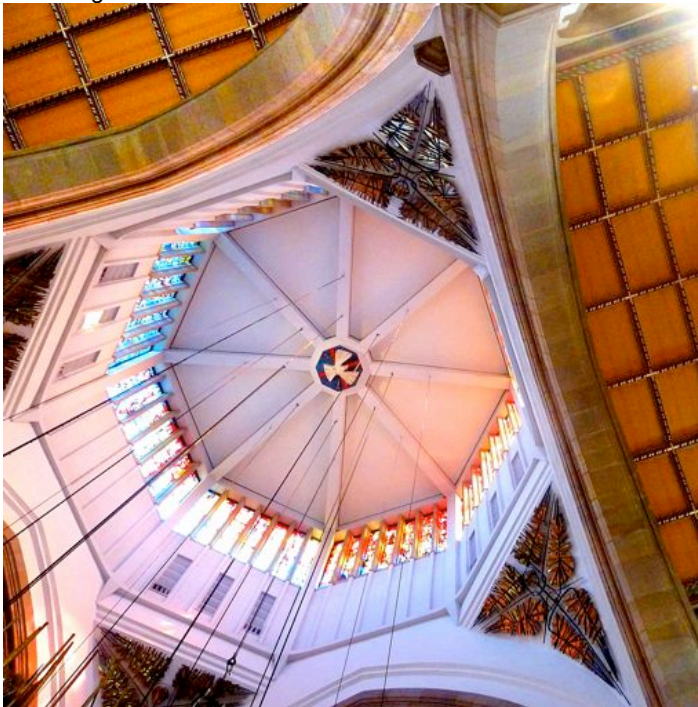
There were magnificent hymns for us all to sing, including Vaughan Williams' *All people that on earth do dwell* (arranged for the 1953 Coronation), *I vow to thee, my country*, and *Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided*.

The first lesson, from the book of Proverbs, was read most clearly by **Brigadier Mike Griffiths CBE**.



**Lord Shuttleworth's** reading of the second lesson was also outstanding, for not only did he deliver his reading with firm authority, as was to be expected, but he also maintained eye contact with the congregation. Thus the message was received by everyone: 'Present ourselves as a living sacrifice to God' (as Her Majesty has done to her people and to her God for over 60 years).

Unlike Coronation Day in 1953 (when there was torrential rain in London) the sun shone warmly throughout our own day – illuminating our cathedral with brilliant colours through our Lantern glass.



When it came to the singing of two verses of the National Anthem it seems that the roof could have blown off, so enthusiastically did we sing (and so excitingly did **Shaun Turnbull** play – including the coronation trumpet fanfares).

But as most of us sang 'God save our gracious Queen,' from memory, standing to attention, few noticed the printed alteration in the second line: 'Long live our noble Duke,' for Her Majesty is, of course, Duke of Lancaster.



**The Dean's sermon** was, as ever, both memorable and relevant. He reminded us that, for the Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey, there had been a hand-picked choir of 400 voices. 'That's enough to make the mouth water of any Director of Music!'

(One of our own Blackburn choristers was amongst those chosen – **Stanley Roocroft** – seen here wearing his coronation medal.)



The Dean reminded us that, when we sing the National Anthem, that 'Grace' (*q.v.* 'our Gracious Queen') can be learned from one another. 'Her Majesty's life has been motivated by grace, and by her strong Christian faith. We have sung 'God save our Gracious Queen' many times, and our prayers have been fully answered.'

Not only was there joy within our cathedral, but joy also rang out from our Cathedral bell tower from the skilful hands (and arms) of our Cathedral Ringers. (Photo: Gary Wignall)



L-R: Bob Moody, Nigel Spooner, Brenda Wilson, Bruce Kitchin, Ray Hutchings (Ringing Master), Ian Fowler, Jean Barnes, Vanessa Humphreys, Frank Anderton, Charlotte Ferguson, Beate von Bremen and Graham Barnes.

**That was a memorable and most joyful day for us all.**