

Blackburn Cathedral Music & More online Supplement No. 17

BBCTV Live on Pentecost Sunday 19th May 2013



Canon Andrew Hindley welcomed the congregation in the cathedral and also the millions who were watching on BBCTV.

Canon Hindley's leading of this service, and its detailed preparation with his colleagues and the many meticulous rehearsals cannot be praised too highly. He made the whole experience of that service into a spiritual triumph for us all. We were richly blessed.



Just before the broadcast began, Canon Hindley told JB that he would be on the close-up shot with the trumpeters for the opening hymn. 'So look interested!' No problem! The brilliant trumpeters were Peter Mainwaring and Anthony Thompson from the Northern Chamber Orchestra.



The processional hymn, *Father, Lord of all creation* by former Bishop of Blackburn, Stewart Cross, sung to Cyril Taylor's splendid tune *Abbot's Leigh*, was glorious indeed, for our Director of Music, Samuel Hudson, had arranged all the hymns with soaring descants and trumpet fanfares.



The cathedral choir of men and boys and the girls' choir were already in place. The clergy procession was led by thurifer (choirmum and wife) Rachel Fielding. And there were many familiar faces in the congregation.



Everyone was very good at not looking at the cameras which swooped over us all from every angle.



L-R: Jeremy & Jean Duerden, Russell Steele & Edward Haythornwhite, Professor Chris Carr (Chairman of the Cathedral Council), Geraldine Armstrong, Janet Stockton, Rebecca Hudson and Maurice Maguire (Cathedral Administrator).

Our three senior canons led the service: L-R: **Ian Stockton**, **Andrew Hindley** and **Sue Penfold**.



And there were many close-ups of the choirs, too.



Samuel Hudson conducting the choirs.



Choirmen: Bass **James Giddings**, Tenors **Derek Crompton**, **Phil Hunwick** & Alto **James Twigg**.



Stewart Hopkinson & **Phil Wilson** who are former choristers.



And our organist, **Shaun Turnbull**, had his very own camera – for there were many close-up shots of him playing.



Rebecca Pratt and **Esther Worrall** with crucifer **Michael Carr** on the right. (Michael is a former chorister as is his Dad, Churchwarden Philip.)



The camera work was poetic in its beauty. Delicious shots of our colour-filled cathedral abounded.

The first lesson was read beautifully by **Victoria McCullough** whose husband, **Edward**, is a tenor in the cathedral choir.



Amongst the many familiar faces in the congregation it was good to see **Philip Johnston**, former Headmaster of Blackburn's Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. He and Virginia now live near Skipton.



The music was of the very highest quality – comparable only in its supreme excellence, perhaps, to **Richard Tanner's** final BBC broadcast Choral Evensong two years ago. Utmost praise to **Samuel Hudson**, **Shaun Turnbull**, **James Kealey** and **all the singers** for their wholehearted dedication and superb concentration which enabled such soaring heights to be reached throughout that creative hour.

The prayers were led by members of our congregation each of whom lit a candle after their prayer. This was carried through so well, not least because Virger **Alex Barnes** was on hand with a lighted taper.



Apart from the hymns with glorious descants and fanfares, **Samuel Hudson** had chosen **Dr Francis Jackson's** ebullient setting of the Communion service in G, plus Jackson's specifically composed fanfare following the reading of the Gospel. (Dr. Jackson was the Consultant when our brand new organ was being planned nearly 50 years ago.) **Philip Stopford's** setting of *If ye love me*, sung during the administration, was especially moving, as was **David Goodenough's** lovely setting of *I will sing with the Spirit*.

The Dean delivered his carefully prepared sermon with his customary elegance – making the point that the Holy Spirit can sometimes be perceived as a holy breath – a wind that gives life, as the wind gives life to an organ ...



... or the first breath of a new-born baby which gives it life. This was beautifully presented by the BBC with a shot of a family and their new baby.



All praise and thanks to our **Virgers** (three of whom are seen here receiving communion) and their assistants who had prepared the cathedral so meticulously for this broadcast.



But that night they had to remove all the chairs in the Nave for a piano recital which would be tele-recorded the next morning.

And then they had to put them all back for two **Songs of Praise TV** recordings on the Sunday and Monday nights!

Be sure to watch the two Songs of Praise on BBCTV. **The first is on Sunday 1st September and the second on Sunday 5th January 2014.**

