

Blackburn Cathedral Music & More online Supplement No. 13

Creation: a Celebration Exhibition

Our hospitable North Transept was the site of a delightful exhibition of delicate embroidery, painting and calligraphy. The artist, Sue Symonds, had formed 42 exquisitely decorated panels which illustrate the account of Creation as described in the first chapter of Genesis.



The panels were displayed in two long lines in our North Transept, with leaflets describing each panel. There were butterflies everywhere...



Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden...



and intricate mathematical patterns of great beauty and intricacy.



Canon Stockton and Michael Howard introduced the programme for the evening, which was in two parts. (One fewer than Gaul, which Julius Caesar divided into three parts.)

The first part was an explanation of the artwork, which essentially meant that things that were worth doing needn't be massive, but could be small in their intricate beauty. William Blake summed it up in his *Auguries of Innocence*.



'To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the Palm of your Hand
And Eternity in an Hour'

The second part was a recital of music led by HARK – an ensemble made up of four highly gifted singers from our cathedral community – so named from the initial letters of their first names!



(L-R: Kate Fulwell, Helen Davies, Alizon Elliott and Rachel Fielding) who were accompanied by our Director of Music, Samuel Hudson.

They began their programme with a scintillating performance of *'In the Beginning'* by Imant Ramnish – a Latvian composer who has won national awards for his choral works. They followed this by more 'Creation' music, including, of course, Haydn's *The heavens are telling*.

The whole evening was a joy, gastronomically, visually, artistically and musically. Thank you!

The Exhibition was launched at a Reception in our equally hospitable South Transept when delicious refreshments were served; **The Revd. Stephen Harvey**, Headmaster of Bury Grammar School, and a colleague, **Felicity Ackroyd**, enjoyed the refreshments. (Although by the time you read this Stephen will have been installed as a Canon Residentiary in Newcastle Cathedral.)