

Blackburn Cathedral Newsletter

Music & More

£3

November 2007

John Hayward, 1929-2007



Howard Waddell JP, Head Verger, Chichester Cathedral

Former Dean's Virger, Blackburn Cathedral



Howard was your editor's most generous host when he (JB) was invited to lead a Master-Class for the choristers of Chichester and Winchester Cathedrals at the Southern Cathedrals' Festival in Chichester last summer.

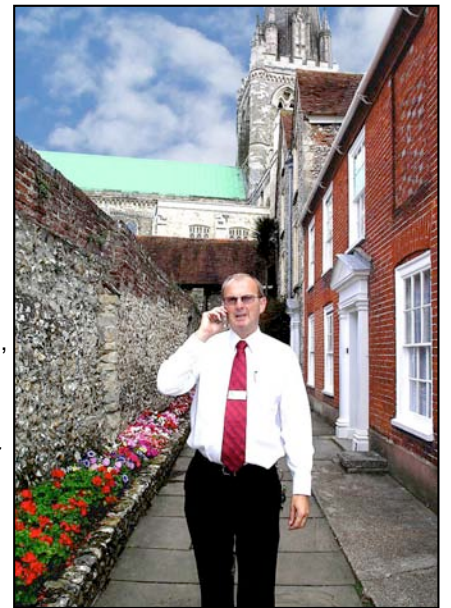
Howard lives in the Close, right next door to the Deanery, in a most delightful 'Tardis' house which is considerably bigger inside than out. From one of his three guest bedrooms there's an unparalleled view of the cathedral. His garden, too, is exquisite.



Even though he was rushed off his feet during the four very busy days of the Festival – for not only were there two visiting cathedral choirs, Winchester and Salisbury, but also their Girls' choirs, and clergy of those two cathedrals plus a visiting orchestra,

and Lords Lieutenant, High Sheriffs and Mayors round every corner – yet Howard looked after his own guest superbly. In other words, he is not only supremely efficient (as we in Blackburn know) but also a most gracious and generous friend. It was a most happy visit.

Although Howard has three assistant vergers, yet he is always on call through his mobile phone. He dealt with at least one crisis most calmly and efficiently: the loudspeaker system had a glitch, which had to be rectified before a major service. Within half an hour all was well, and no one, apart from Howard and his assistant, knew what he had done.



It was such privilege for your editor to lead a 75-minute Master Class with the choristers of Chichester and Winchester, for they were so talented, so professional and so co-operative. And it was the greatest fun.

A capacity audience of 250 in a nearby church joined in some of the singing (as well as practising the discipline of standing and sitting in unison!). We ended with the audience singing the Tallis Canon in four parts, with the boys singing a high canonic descant in two parts over them. Six-part unrehearsed polyphony on a Thursday afternoon isn't bad going!



That evening there was a concert by the three cathedral choirs in the Nave which, like every other musical offering during those sun-filled days and idyllic evenings, was thrilling.



After that concert your editor met a very gracious lady who is a strong and generous supporter of Chichester Cathedral's music. Through her many TV appearances she is instantly recognizable. She likes bright ties too.



Dr. Alan Thurlow, Director of Music of Chichester Cathedral and principal conductor of this Festival, was a supremely gracious musical host.



As well as conducting a thrilling performance of the Vierne 2-organ Mass with the three cathedral choirs for a magnificent Communion Service – with coped Bishops, Deans and Canons as far as the eye could see...

...he had also chosen, for three Festival services, JB's Responses which had been composed for the choir of Blackburn Cathedral many years ago. Alan also chose them for a live broadcast in October! How courteous can one get?

As well as rubbing shoulders with the Directors of Music of the other two cathedrals – **Andy Lumsden** and **David Halls** – it was also very good to meet two former cathedral organists:



Dr. Richard Seal, from Salisbury, who is now organist of a parish church. → 'I play Bach and Messiaen after services, but the congregation talks through them,' he said, 'although there are a few who do stay to listen.'...

... and **Dr. Harry Bramma** – former Director of the RSCM who was staying with the Dean – with **Canon Jeremy Davies**, the legendary Precentor of Salisbury Cathedral.



Chichester Cathedral's Old Choristers' Annual Reunion happily coincided with the last Sunday of the Festival.

After morning service there was a reception for the OCs in Alan and Tina Thurlows' exquisite garden.

Former Chichester Director of Music, **Dr. John Birch (L)** → who now lives in the Cathedral Close, was there.

A double coincidence: Chichester's Dr JB was a fellow student at the Royal College of Music last Millennium with Blackburn's Dr JB!



But that wasn't the end of Old Choristers' coincidences, for one of the resident ushers at Chichester was married to Blackburn Old Chorister **Barry Hughes**.

Barry was an outstandingly jolly tenor in the cathedral choir in the 1970s. Here he is pictured during our concert tour of Holland and North Germany in 1975.

After Barry & Maureen moved from Blackburn, Barry died very suddenly after singing a high note when he was rehearsing in Oxford for a concert. (**Tenors – take note!**)



Maureen has since remarried and is very happy in Chichester. Their delightful granddaughter is a chorister in Salisbury Cathedral Girls' Choir, and their grandson was head chorister of Chichester Cathedral up to last year. He has just completed his first year at Eton, and your editor was introduced to them both. Barry would have been so proud of them.

Thank you Alan and Howard for making those four superb days in your glorious cathedral city so very special. JB



At the FoBCM dinner it was good to see former organ scholar **Jonathan Turner** with his sister Sarah, clinking glasses with Associate Director of Music **James Davy** and Assistant Organist **David Scott-Thomas**.



It was especially good to see BCOCA Vice Chairman **Eric Bancroft** back with us after his recent illness, enjoying the company of the irrepressible **Sheila Shaw**.

What Cathedral?



When **Betty Parkinson** took a taxi from her home in Blackburn to our cathedral for the *Last Night of the Proms*, her driver sped her on a circuitous route and stopped outside Blackburn's *Gala Bingo*.

'Here you are,' he said. 'This isn't Blackburn Cathedral,' responded Betty, 'I want to go to Blackburn Cathedral!' The driver looked at her blankly and asked, 'Where's that?'

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music

The first annual FoBCM dinner took place on Saturday 7th July, bringing this year's successful programme to a happy conclusion.



Gordon Shaw with Alizon Elliott

and (below)

Canon Hindley with Anitra Haythornwhite

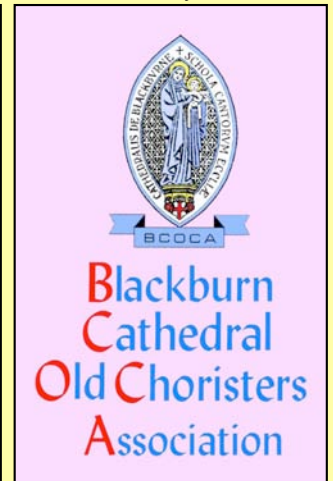
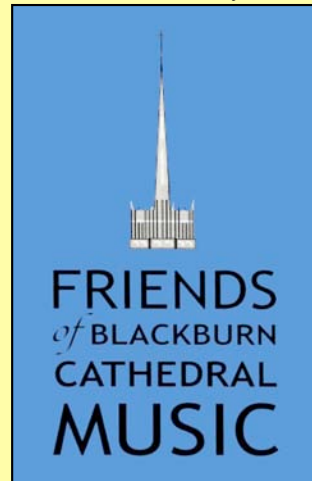
This was an opportunity for choir parents, members of various choirs, music staff and supporters of our music-making to get together to enjoy a social occasion and to celebrate the achievements of the season.



The food, prepared by **Chris Dobson** and his team, was magnificent as ever and we raised about £350 for FoBCM funds. We aim to hold this event each year, and predict that it will quickly grow in popularity.

Blackburn Cathedral Newsletter

is supported financially not only by the generosity of many individuals, but also by



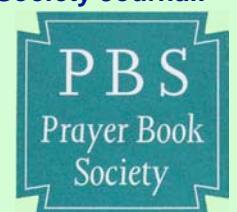
Designed and edited by Dr. John Bertalot:
Please send **your** news to john@bertalot.org

LETTER from Mr. TIM NIXON, Editor of the Prayer Book Society Journal:

Thank you for sending me the FoBCM magazine [with the article about the PBS day at Blackburn Cathedral].

I would like to use some of your photos for the [national] PBS Journal, if that's all right with you.

Your magazine is one of the best I've ever seen – so much to read. A lot of work obviously goes into it!



Thank you – yes, several hours a day! Ed

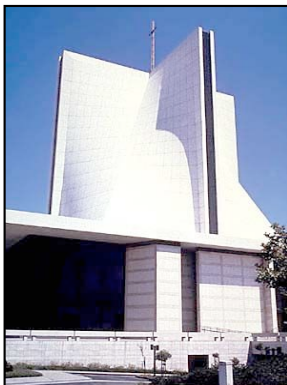
**Letter from former Assistant Organist
DAVID GOODENOUGH in Edinburgh**

Hi John,

Life's been busy. Just back from a nice holiday with **OC Anthony Tattersall** and his family (we go away together most years) and now I'm practising furiously for some stuff coming up. I'm recitaling in Wells Cathedral on August 16th and then I'm playing for an adults' RSCM Course in Salisbury from August 19th-26th. Busy, busy.

I'm also just planning some dates in the US for 2008.

This year I played Widor VI in St. Mary's RC Cathedral San Francisco on Palm Sunday.



St. Mary's RC Cathedral dates from 1971 and is a 'square' version of Liverpool's RC 'circular' Cathedral. Technically it's defined as the union of hyperbolic parabolooids! Ed

Next year on April 11th I'm playing Vierge I in St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis and then Widor VI again in St. Thomas's, 5th Avenue NYC on April 13th.

I'm not sure whether Vierge 1 and Widor VI on unfamiliar organs two days and a thousand miles apart is madness or not. We'll soon find out, though! It's all good fun and it certainly helps me to keep my hand in!

Cheers,

David

Phew – Good luck, David; you're so talented! Ed

Lunch with the Bonds

By Peter Heald

What a way to celebrate one's 70th – in the cottage called 'Cozy Nook', built by **Britten** and **Pears** for their housekeeper, in the shadow of their Red House, Aldeburgh. It is used these days by musicians the world over who come for 'The Festival' and other performances, and by composers like **Malcolm Archer**, in the inspirational peace and quiet of the fabulous gardens. There is a note on the Yamaha keyboard: 'Please use the earphones'.



'Festival' over, **Constance** had managed to find a lucky gap for a few days between events at the Snape Maltings concert hall, and we were able to invite **Keith** and **Ruth Bond** for lunch.

[Keith was Cathedral Sub organist during JB's time and introduced young ladies into the then all-male YPC. Ed]



L-R
Keith Bond,
Constance
Heald,
Ruth Bond
and
Peter Heald
celebrating
Peter's 70th.

*Many
Happy
Returns!*

Keith, as you know, was until recently much involved in the music of Aldeburgh and Blythburgh churches, and he and Ruth

live in their delightful cottage at Kelsale, not far away, with Ruth's own 'arboreal cathedral' in the back garden.

It was such a pleasant reunion in a wonderful setting of the 'Red House' grounds - not to be missed by anyone happening to be in the area.

Peter Heald

PS: Incidentally, although I completed the 'Maraswim' three months ago, income and promises are still coming in - and at the last count totalled £2,292.63 - with almost 15% of that from the Old Choristers' Association and individual OCs - for which I am immensely grateful - to them and especially to you for your support.

Many, many thanks.

Ever, **Peter**.

**Another Birthday Celebration
and BCOCA mini Reunion, in Cheshire**

Pauline Keen, wife of former SOC **Bob Keen**, recently celebrated a significant birthday with a surprise party in their lovely home in Wilmslow, Cheshire. (But aren't all birthdays significant?) Their Old Chorister children **John & Jill** were there, and many joyful guests from far and wide.

It was such a surprise party that Pauline didn't know anything about it until she came downstairs at lunchtime to discover some 40 guests awaiting her! It was a triumph of Keen organisation, and the sun shone upon us all.



L-R: Jill, Derek Crompton, Bob, Pauline & John, Iain Thompson and your staff photographer

In addition to the Old Chorister Keen family, there were OCs **Derek Crompton** and **Iain Thompson** and their wives at the party – so an OC photograph was called for with the lovely and effervescent birthday lady.

Check this Website to discover what's on!

The Cathedral's Website:

www.blackburncathedral.com

To read past editions of our Newsletter click onto www.bertalot.org

FREE!

Don't miss the Christmas Concert

given by the Cathedral Young People's Choir with **James Davy** and **David Scott-Thomas**

In Fence Parish Church, Saturday 1st Dec, 7.30pm

Directions: M65, Exit 8 onto the A6068

5 miles – left onto the slip road

immediately before the 2nd 50 mph speed Camera!

Get there early, for it will be full!

Tickets only £5.00 Phone 01282-614-009

The Very Revd. William Kay, Provost of Blackburn, 1936-61

A letter to the Dean from OC 'Stan' Stancliffe in Hampshire

Dear Dean Christopher,

At the BCOCA Annual Reunion Weekend last October you asked me if I could get someone in Brockenhurst to write a note on what Provost Kay did in his retirement in Brockenhurst.

At long last, after much bombarding, I have managed to get one from a friend, **Tony Foulger**, which I enclose [below]. The contents are typical of Provost Kay and awakened many memories of him. I particularly remember the day that war broke out [Sept. 3rd, 1939] – it was a Sunday and I was in the Cathedral choir.



From Prefects' Board No. 1 in the Song School

The Provost had a battery-operated radio through which [Prime Minister] Chamberlain's speech to the nation at 11am was relayed to the congregation. War was declared.



Captain William Kay's medals

I look forward to the BCOCA weekend in October 2007, and will be bringing my daughter and her husband. Hope the note on Provost Kay is acceptable and I look forward to seeing you in October.

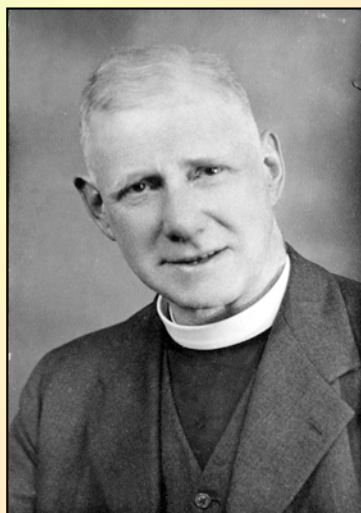
Yours aye, **Stan**

(See page 27)

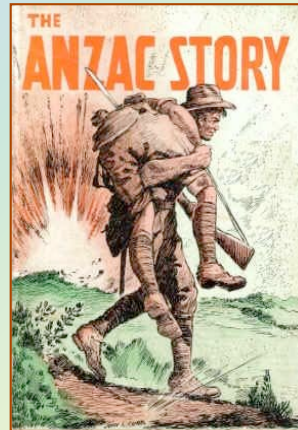
Memories of Provost William Kay from Tony Foulger, MBE, Brockenhurst, Hants.

When I came to Brockenhurst in 1965 I found that there was an extraordinary retired Priest assisting our Vicar who was always known as 'The Provost'.

He was a big man, military in bearing, tall and topped by a crown of white hair. He was able to engage with everyone, but had a particular affinity with the very young and the very old. Children, although sometimes over-awed by his presence, adored him. The young married couples were able to relate to him without difficulty, and would frequently confide their insecurities to his sympathetic ear. To his own generation he became their refuge from the trendy parsons of 40 years ago!



Within the Parish he did far more than simply conduct Services; he maintained a pastoral ministry that augmented that of the Vicar – particularly among the elderly – without ever impinging on the Vicar's *Cure*.



He was known to have been a soldier and it had become a tradition in the Parish that 'The Provost' officiated at the **Annual ANZAC Service**, held in memory of 94 New Zealand and Australian soldiers of the First World War whose bodies lie in our Churchyard here.

In those days this Service took place in the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday and I have fond memories of cold November twilights, and seeing his proud, upright figure in its clerical cloak, his white mane

ruffled by the wind as he addressed the large open-air congregation.

On one occasion, as he was about to officiate at Matins in our 10th Century Parish Church, a largish contingent of youngsters from the nearby County Council camp-site took their places in the gallery, almost swamping the mostly elderly congregation.

The Provost knelt at the front of the Church where those in the gallery would easily see him and, when he stood up again, he addressed the congregation thus: 'How lovely to see you all; I didn't know you were coming so I just asked our dear Lord what he wanted me to tell you, and this is what he said...' Needless to say, the result was an attentive and quiet congregation hanging upon his every word!

When the Provost died I was serving overseas, but I often pass his gravestone in the Brockenhurst Churchyard. There is no mention upon it of his clerical title, nor of his awards for great gallantry; simply this inscription:

Helen Norah
Kay
1892-1974

And
her husband

William Kay
1894-1980

Thank you so much, 'Stan' and Mr. Foulger, for these fascinating memories of a very great man who, almost single-handedly, was responsible for the building of the Transepts and East end of Blackburn Cathedral immediately after the Second World War.

He blessed those who worked with him so closely here (including T. L. Duerden, Master of the Music of Blackburn Cathedral from 1939-64). Your memories also bless those of us who did not have the privilege of knowing him. Ed

From the Web: CIVIC MEDALS

In April 1953, Blackburn County Borough Council decided to present Civic Medals to persons who had rendered outstanding service to the town. The following have been awarded Medals since that time ...

May, 1955 **The Provost of Blackburn (The Very Reverend William Kay)** – Provost for 19 years at that time, during which several significant projects had been achieved. (PTO)

For more memories of **PROVOST KAY** look up recent editions of the **Cathedral Newsletter** on www.Bertalot.org

- September 2003 page 11
- **May 2004 pages 8-9** – significant article '**Warrior Priest**' by **Peter Heald**
- June 2004 page 3
- **October 2004 pages 2-4** – another significant article



Young William Kay

MORE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAMME

by **Richard Tanner**



Music Outreach Project (MOP)



I am delighted to announce that we have been accepted by the Department for Children, Schools & Families/Choir Schools' Association Outreach Initiative, which is part of the national campaign for the rejuvenation of primary school singing.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the musicians of the Cathedral to do much good for many of the younger members of our wider community and their families. It also means that the government will contribute a significant amount to the Chapter's annual music costs, thus strengthening the work that we already do.

Bristol Cathedral Newsletter?



Your editor received a phone call from Bristol Cathedral: 'We're so impressed by the Blackburn Cathedral Newsletter that we'd like to start one ourselves. How do you do it?'

Answer: Build up a sure financial base, and find someone who has a digital camera who will also spend 2 or 3 hours most days on the computer writing and compiling articles.

Its' also helpful to know where to put apostrophe's!



Richard Tanner

We have an excellent committee working hard to make a success of this project, comprising the **full time Cathedral music staff** plus **Canons Hindley and Roff**,



James Davy



Canon Roff

the head of Blackburn with Darwen's Music Service – **Jayne Perrott, Jeff Borradaile & Joy Fielding** (vocal animateurs) with Chapter member **Peter Jelley** as Managing Co-ordinator of the project.



Canon Hindley

The project has three parts:

1 Outreach visits to Primary Schools. This will involve a group of choristers going into primary schools for one day each term. It will also involve the boys and girls taking part in a Saturday morning concert in the Cathedral with primary schools each term.



2 The founding of a choir for boys and girls in years 3-8 (i.e. 6-11 years old) to sing mostly secular music. This choir will be called '**LANTERN VOICES**' and will meet on Saturday mornings 1030 am to 12 noon. It will give three or four concerts a year.

See photos page 15

GORDON STEWART



... who was (and still is)

Richard Tanner's predecessor at Blackburn Cathedral ... has very many friends and admirers here. They may know that, last year, he moved to the United States to take up an important post.

If you'd like to know what happened when he got there, look at Gordon's impressive website:

www.gordonstewart.org

Gordon, who now back in this country, wrote: ***I have been busy with concerts, and have three coming up next month, and I am conducting Songs of Praise in Rochester, Leeds and Hexham in the next few weeks. Then I have four programmes for BBC 1 in December.***

He's also had many overseas engagements, including Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg and Durban in South Africa, Geneva, Switzerland. Also at Bath Abbey, Durham Cathedral and York Minster.

It was very good to see him in Blackburn Cathedral last summer when he attended one of our own concerts.

Gordon is one of the finest choir trainers in this (or any other) country, as well as being a brilliant organist. He's also a most lively and faithful friend. **Welcome back!**

LANTERN VOICES will be directed by **Jeff Borradaile** (Blackburn People's Choir) and **Joy Fielding** (The Cathedral Children's Choir). **Their first concert in the Cathedral – with the Cathedral Choristers too – is on Saturday morning, 24th November at 10.30 for 11.30 am**

Our own Cathedral Children's Choir will continue to flourish under the inspirational direction of Joy Fielding.

3 Organising a series of workshops by vocal specialists (*animateurs*) in local primary schools, leading up to the outreach visits in local schools.

We are in awe at the continued expansion of our cathedral's exciting music programme. What other cathedral can match it? Ed.

E mail from TOM BELL

a brilliant young organist from Manchester

who played Messiaen's *Pentecost Mass* here (at Pentecost !)

See page 18 in our last edition

John,



Many thanks for the Cathedral Newsletter, which arrived this morning complete with kind remarks about my playing...which no doubt will find their way onto my website, if that is OK with you? *[Yes!]*

I never cease to be amazed by the dynamism of the entire establishment. If the front cover is to be believed, there are 20+ boys in the Cathedral Choir; there must be a 'secret' to recruitment...

[Yes, Richard Tanner works very hard at this. Ed]

Hope all is well - looking forward to my next encounters with the Walker – for a CD in October, and then the Messiaen *Livre d'orgue* about twelve months later (it'll take that long to learn it!!).

Best,
Tom

COUNCIL OF THE FRIENDS of BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL MUSIC

As announced in our last Newsletter, Mr. **RODNEY SWARBRICK**, former High Sheriff of Lancashire, and a deputy Lieutenant, is the new Chairman of the Council of the FoBCM.

To our meeting in August he introduced Mrs. **JOAN McLARNON** who has generously agreed to assist with a fund-raising strategy.



Mrs. McLarnon has had wide experience of fund-raising as former Development Officer for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Orchestra. She was elected Woman of the Year in Liverpool for her outstanding work.

Mrs. McLarnon said that the facilities at Blackburn Cathedral were 'brilliant' and many were the ideas she suggested for Council members to get their proverbial teeth into. With our new chairman and with Mrs. McLarnon we are in for a lively time!

CHORISTER VALEDICTIONS

On Sunday, 8th July, the Dean bade farewell and said thank you to three choristers who have given outstanding service to the music of Blackburn Cathedral.



L-R: Callum Shaw, Alexander Lund and Jonathan Brookes

Making much of saying a public thank you to cathedral choristers is not limited to Blackburn Cathedral – many other cathedrals have similar ceremonies.

When your editor was at Chichester Cathedral last summer his visit coincided with the last service of their year. The Dean of Chichester also paid gracious and generous tribute to the two choristers who were leaving. It, too, was a most moving ceremony, and their proud parents were there to see it all...

... as were the parents of Callum, Alex and Jonathan (these photos were taken by Alex's Dad).



As ever, at the end of the service Dean Christopher blessed the choristers and they recessed with him down the Nave as the organist played a glorious Postlude.

Well done, talented trio, and thank you! **More on p. 17**

MY STORY

Anjum Anwar MBE

Walking through the majestic eighteenth century-looking doors of the Cathedral on the 7th of April to take up my post as a Dialogue Development Officer seemed the most natural phenomenon and yet, I am still stopped in the streets by people of faith and non-faith, asking, "What is it like to work for a church?" Or "How can you, as a Muslim, work at a church?"

I stop to think and wonder how to respond? What am I doing which is so different from where I worked before, at the Lancashire Council of Mosques (LCM), a Muslim umbrella organization in Blackburn. At LCM I did not think of who I was, whilst at the Cathedral I often find myself thinking about my identity. Am I living up to high expectations that my faith imposes on me and do my actions contradict my faith? These constant self-evaluating and self-probing questions keep me on my toes. But at the same time I believe that I am living my faith to the best of my ability. Therefore, my usual response to the above questions is, "Working at the Cathedral is great, thank you."



For me this is my 'jihad,' my 'struggle,' to demystify faith from the many myths that have circulated about Islam. What a better way than to work with people of another faith, or have honest dialogue and spend time with people of different views. This is exactly what I now do all the time. But, undoubtedly, the highlight so far is the very focussed week I spent doing this in June when I travelled to Jerusalem with people from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, to find out what we can learn from each other and about each other and still survive!

BBC Radio 4 (daily service) took me and my colleague **Canon Chris Chivers** on this life time journey to Jerusalem. A "three faith pilgrimage". I am still mesmerized by the hustle and bustle of tiny alley ways leading to some of the holiest of the holy shrines, the Dome of the Rock, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Western Wall.



Dome of the Rock

These bricks and mortars have been fought over for many centuries, and there is no end to the bloodshed in sight. Sitting opposite the shimmering golden Dome of the Rock where Abraham would have sacrificed his son Isaac (from the Jewish

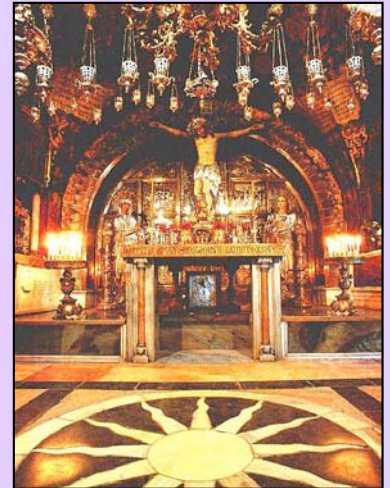
perspective), or where Muhammad (from the Muslim perspective), took his night journey to meet God Almighty or where Jesus (from the Christian perspective) walked through the tiny alleyway – the Via Dolorosa (*the Way of Sorrow*). This holy space, where many messengers and prophets have left their mark, sends shudders down my spine, as I think of all the hurt that is being perpetuated by people of faith, on people of faith!

Whilst in Jerusalem, I often found myself reflecting and asking difficult questions.

What would happen if I did not have Dome of the Rock as a Muslim site? Would I be any less of a Muslim?

If there were no Western Wall, would Judaism disappear?

Would Christians fall apart if there was no Church of Holy Sepulchre? →



These questions deserve an answer but I do not have one! I asked a Palestinian taxi driver, would he give up the Al-Aqsa Mosque? "I would rather give my wife and two daughters." The Jewish woman who vehemently retracted her hand, a painful learned action - when I tried to give a comforting touch during a painful conversation, how does one create dialogue between people where hatred for each other has crossed all boundaries of humanity?

Yet, where there is hate, I also found compassion in the form of a young priest on the staff of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, who set aside all his experience of persecution in a way that was truly self-emptying and transforming. Listening to this young priest made me realize that he was not saying anything that I did not believe in. He was feeling the pain of the "other," and unless we feel each other's pain, we cannot find solution to our problems, whether the problems are religious or otherwise.



Walking away from this young man I realized that all we need is a flicker of light to drown the darkness, and I pray that he continues the good work that he has set himself to do for, as the saying goes, **it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.**

Our visit to Jerusalem was all about lighting a candle of hope – hope through dialogue. Whilst sipping tea, in what was once the Moroccan Quarter in Jerusalem – now a row of modern shops and restaurants – we all agreed that without engaging in dialogue, there can be nothing but darkness and fear.

Fear drives people to create barriers and boundaries.

For me the most poignant moment came when we drove to Bethlehem and had to stop at the checkpoint, "the wall" – a man-made division causing hardship on both sides.

Someone had written on this gigantic wall the words that made tears swell up in my eyes for the man who had said these words is one of the most humble men that I have had the honour to meet, **Archbishop Desmond Tutu.**

The writing on the wall said, "God is not only Christian." No! God is the All-mighty who created us from "...a single soul and from it created its mate.... An-Nisa 1) – One big family whose life has been complicated by man-

made laws. The saga of Cain and Abel continues! Where will it end?

Our journey to Jerusalem came to an end and we boarded our flight back home, all lost in our own thoughts and how these few days had made such an impact on our lives – where do we go from here, what is the message that both Canon Chris Chivers and I could bring back to the Cathedral? The message is crystal clear – unless we are confident in our own belief or worldview, whatever that may be, we cannot indulge in dialogue and if there is no dialogue there is no understanding, and if there is no understanding, there is only chaos.



This brings me back to why I started to tell the readers my story about working in the Cathedral. Both Canon Chris Chivers and I believe that by speaking with each other and creating an environment where we can let our guard down, and be ourselves - will help us to be honest with each other.

The problems that we in our society face today can be eradicated, somewhat, through dialogue, through understanding each other's concerns and pain, for unless we learn to feel each other's pain, we are hardly likely to understand each other. We both feel so committed to our individual faith that it is so natural for us to feel empathy for each other's pain, because we passionately believe in justice and as my Holy Book, the Qur'an says, **"let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice.(5:8)**

Our Acting Director of Music!

Whilst Richard Tanner is enjoying his well-deserved Sabbatical from September to the end of the year, **JAMES DAVY** will be our Acting Director of Music, ably assisted by **DAVID SCOTT-THOMAS**, and our new organ scholar, **EDWARD RUGMAN**. We know that we are in safe and talented hands (and feet!)



Welcome our new Organ Scholar EDWARD RUGMAN from Preston



Edward writes: My earliest memory is being fascinated by my parents' University Choral group which practised around our piano. Music appeared in my life when I started piano lessons at the age of five, but I much preferred to tinkle my own music on the keys rather than practise. My elderly lady teacher would tick me off for not concentrating, swinging my legs and kicking the piano.

When we moved near Lytham, I was placed with another lady-teacher who was a slave-driver and insisted like the girls, I did my grades. I never practised and she eventually washed her hands of me. As a regular Church-attender, it was only a matter of time before the elderly organist fell ill and I was drafted in because I could read music and just about manage two hands.



This was a great thrill and I became known overnight with announcements from the pulpit! Thus emboldened and used to swinging my legs, I told my mother I was going to try the pedals! I could only just reach, but what a gorgeous sound they made. Something happened within me and I was hooked.

Following success at the eleven plus stage, with a good choice of schools I chose King Edward's in Lytham on a Bursary because the school had an organ, and a York Minster ex-organ scholar in charge. It all looked very enticing and I was overjoyed to receive an electronic keyboard from my mother and grandfather as a reward.



This was wonderful! I quickly taught myself chord progressions in detail and my interest took off. School music was inspiring and I was in everything that was going on – shows, concerts and recitals, as pianist and organist.

It was arranged for me to have organ lessons from a talented church organist who was also at home on the Giant Wurlitzer in Blackpool Tower Ballroom. He taught me the tricks of that trade and I was suddenly and surprisingly called upon to play in other types of Churches and Chapels across the Fylde.

I could not resist the urge to pep-up the services with a swing, a practice frowned-on elsewhere, but apparently much encouraged and enjoyed by these clergy, choirs and their congregations.

My life took on a serious turn when I studied with **Kevin Thraves**, the well-known repetiteur and classical concert pianist who gave me a hard time as an embryo-pianist, but inspired me and laid the foundations by taking me through all the grades and playing at public concerts. By the age of 16 years I was doing well and became a frequent prize-winner.

From Sixth-Form College, equipped with four top grades, I was auditioned at the **Royal Northern College of Music** where I exuberantly played my party-pieces, Wurlitzer-style and all. They told me my playing showed musicality, was spirited and had potential. They offered me a place on the spot.



With a College Organ Scholar appointment at St. Ann's City Church, Manchester, [where **Ronald Frost**, former *Blackburn Cathedral Assistant Organist* is DoM. Ed] I enjoyed four years of musical bliss under the organ tutelage of **Kevin Bowyer** amongst others. I also studied classical Pianoforte and Harpsichord. I was soon allowed to give public performances on their 'External List' and was awarded an honours Degree in Music.

This training has given me a wide range of musical experiences, both in and out of the organ loft, with recitals at many English Cathedrals, and also Notre Dame in Paris, Prague, Dublin and the Isle of Man. I have been awarded many prizes on the way from the Royal College of Organists, Chetham's Music School, the RNCM and even an award from EMI Recording Industries.

I was invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire to meet **The Queen** when Preston became a City. I have been interviewed and broadcast on BBC radio and briefly appeared, practising on the Cathedral Organ, on the ITV news during **Condoleezza Rice's** visit to Blackburn. I have just completed my Master's Degree at the RNCM in Organ Performance, Pianoforte Accompaniment and Composition.



I have a younger brother who wants to be an actor; he has already made his debut in films. I love French music along with English Sacred Choral music, but also am keenly interested in jazz-piano in which I received tuition. I belong to performing groups of serious Graduate Musicians, in popular demand. My other interest is the computerisation and recording of music.

I have my own professional recording equipment to engineer and produce my own CDs and other commissions.



I have come to Blackburn to become part of the Fellowship of good people, to do my best for the Cathedral and to discover my true vocation. I feel sure I am going to be happy here after the warm reception from all and look forward to working in a high quality music environment with outstandingly dedicated musicians and choristers.

I think a massive WOW is called for. What a great team of musicians we have! Ed.



From OC IVOR BOLTON Director of the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra

Dear John,

I hope you are well and had a good summer. I am back from Salzburg after a busy Festival there.

I am now at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden rehearsing 'Iphigenie en Tauride' which opens on Monday. We have the excellent *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment* playing.

My assistant is someone who remembers you well having attended the RSCM choir courses you led in Westminster Abbey and Coventry Cathedral. His name is **Paul Griffiths** and he is an excellent musician. He also played for my *Don Giovanni* rehearsals at ROH back in June.

He has been on the conducting staff of the Royal Opera for many years and was a baritone on your courses.

I have taken the liberty of giving him your phone and E-Mail details. He remembers fondly your work.

Let's speak soon.

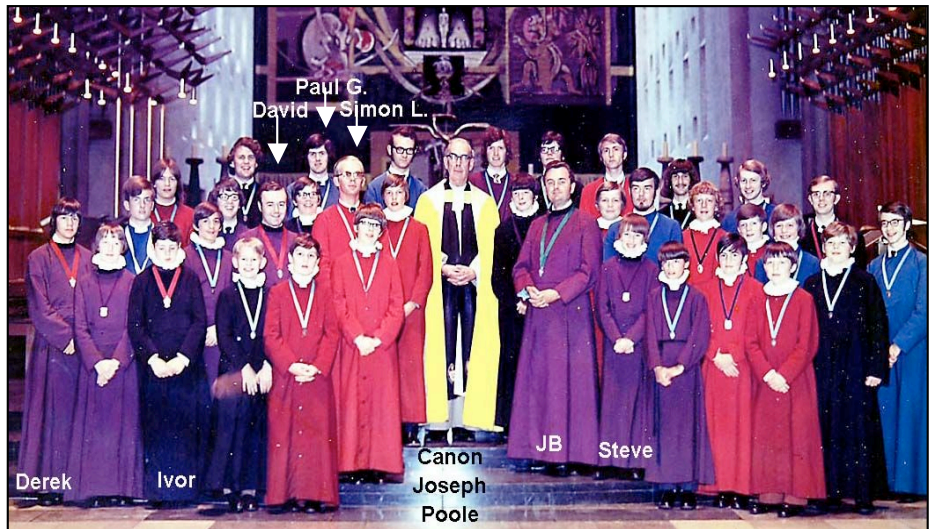
All best

Ivor

Ivor: Thanks so much. Yes, I remember Paul Griffiths very well. He was a student of mine at the RNCM, and you were both choristers on those two courses which I had the privilege of directing all those years ago with hand-picked singers from all over the UK.

Also singing with us from Blackburn were OCs Derek Crompton, David Rothwell and Steve Holmes. Our organist was the brilliant Simon Lindley. See p. 20 for more!

Here's a photo of the 1971 Coventry course!



See more about Paul and Ivor on page 26

Inspiring Quotes:

I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it. **Pablo Picasso**

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now.

Mahatma Gandhi

John Hayward

It was with the deepest sadness that we learnt of the death in May of John Hayward. John was responsible for most of the modern art which enriched our newly redecorated and restored cathedral in the late 1960s.



Your editor remembers visiting John's Studio in the south of England with OC Peter Heald who was the cathedral's publicity officer. (Peter is a founder-member of BCOCA.)

We saw the Corona being constructed, which now encircles our central altar.



Also **the four Seraphim** which now look down upon the altar, and also the beginnings of **the stunningly radiant glass** which would adorn the new Lantern Tower.

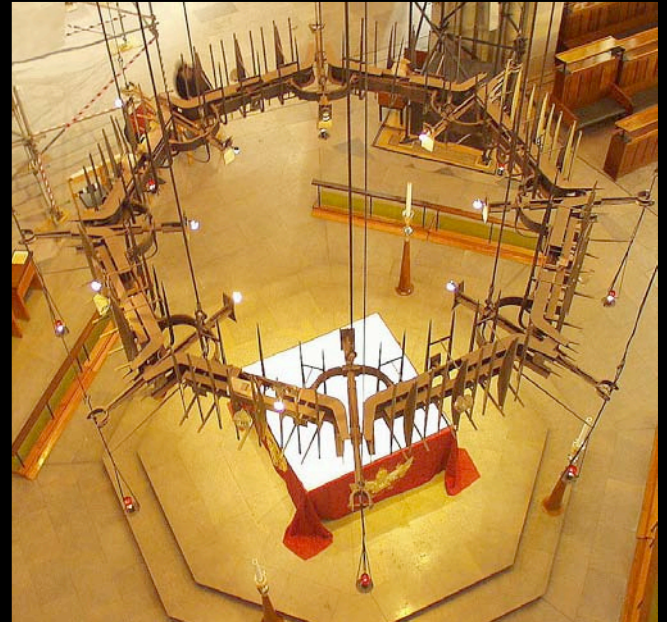


Alas, that glass – which bathed the cathedral in an amazing kaleidoscope of ever-changing colours throughout the day – was not to last, for it and also the Lantern Tower itself, were constructed with new materials which were supposed to last for ever. They didn't. (Parts of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, which was built at the same time, also suffered the same fate; we were not alone.) Ours were replaced at great cost in 2000.

Nevertheless all of John's other work for us remains: **Christ the Worker** filling the West wall; the wonderful **South Transept window** (see our front cover) which was made from the Victorian glass taken from the Nave windows in 1965 (to be replaced by clear, hand-blown glass); the large **Jesus Icon** in our Jesus Chapel; the design of **our four unique organ cases**, and so much more.

How good it was to welcome John back to our cathedral three years ago so that we could tell him how much his unique and

so-creative gifts have meant to all who enter our cathedral. His Memorial Service was held in Sherborne Abbey on September 14th. May he rest in peace.



The Corona. Photo taken in 2002 when our organ was being rebuilt. John explained to your editor that the Corona was not only a Crown of Thorns, but also a Crown of Glory – the jewels being high quality detritus taken from the bottom of a glass furnace.

The cables from which the Corona hangs are rather thick on purpose – so that they are noticed, and therefore enable the eye to travel up to our Lantern Tower. In other words they are a modern equivalent of Perpendicular architecture.



I saw the Lord sitting upon a Throne, high and lifted up. And his train filled the Temple. Above it stood the Seraphim. Each one had six wings: with twain he covered his feet; with twain he covered his face and with twain he did fly.
Isaiah 6:





Christ portrayed as a worker with a scapula, set within the framework of a loom's warp-and-weft – depicting the weaving industry of Blackburn in past Centuries.

This was designed to be seen as worshippers went out into the world after services.

Below:
The South Transept organ case.

John Hayward said that the organ should go 'in and out' of the building. Most organ cases hide their inner workings but John wanted to show them – especially the swell boxes, which are white with aluminium facings.



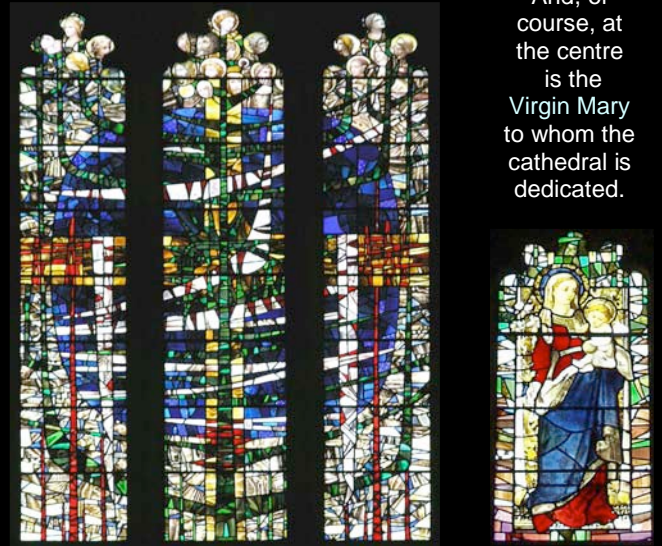
The famous pedal 32ft Serpent pipes may be seen on the left of the South Transept case – doubly mitred to imitate the shape of a Serpent instrument, which is distant relation of the tuba, invented in France in 1590.

The South Transept window (see front cover and next column) depicts the stages of Christ's life:

Blue for Baptism, (the egg-cup shaped Font is directly below the window);

The Cross, with blood dripping from Christ's hands and feet;

The grave clothes, representing Resurrection, and the green Jesse tree, representing Christ's ancestry, with the angel heads from the old Nave windows as the fruit.



And, of course, at the centre is the Virgin Mary to whom the cathedral is dedicated.

The JESUS ICON in the Jesus Chapel sheds a wonderful light not only in the chapel itself, but also through the screen behind the Bishop's *Cathedra*.

The letters, **IC**, are an abbreviation in Greek, for JESUS; **XC** is an abbreviation for CHRIST; and **NIKA** means CONQUERS. *JESUS CHRIST CONQUERS*.

The seven flames represent the seven Gifts of the Spirit.

John Hayward painted Jesus' robe as a cross between a worker's scapula-apron (echoing Jesus' scapula on the West wall) and the grave clothes of the Risen Christ (echoed in the South Transept window).



Thank you, John.

E mail from OC TONY MURPHY

Vice President of Human Resources, US Confectionery,
New Jersey, USA

Hi John, Greetings from a very sticky New Jersey.

Just received the August edition of the Newsletter - WOW, 32 pages! I spent the best part of 2 hours reading from cover to cover, Blackburn life is such a hot-bed of great musical activity - I feel like I'm missing out and I live only 10 miles from New York!

Alas, I won't be able to make my annual pilgrimage to the Old Choristers this year. Liz and I will be in London the previous weekend and try as I might, I couldn't make things work out to let me to stay on for the Reunion.



Tony & Liz Murphy with their sons Oliver & Jack in the USA

It's been a very busy summer for the Murphys. We have just returned from a 2-week vacation in Cape Cod - the highlight was definitely the whale-watching off Provincetown.



Within a week of returning we were forced to move house as our previous landlord wanted to sell the house that we were renting. It's only 1 mile down the road, but it's a lot of work nonetheless.

In our 14 years of marriage we have now lived in 10 different homes! I think we are either 'change-junkies' or we need to think about settling down soon!

Finally, I now haven't had my hair cut for 18 months! As slow as it grows at the back, the quicker it seems to be disappearing on top!!!

I now have a growing collection of hats which will soon be rivaling your tie collection! I probably have another 2 months to go before I finally give it to 'Locks for love' - I just hope there's enough left to make some contribution to a wig.



Have a great Reunion, please send everyone my best wishes and look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Regards

Tony

OCs who attended last year's Reunion will remember that Tony was growing his hair so that he could supply a wig with real hair for someone who had lost their own through treatment for cancer. We applaud Tony's amazing Christian spirit of self-giving. Tony - thanks so very much. JB

E mail from Dr. Charles Magee Princeton, NJ, USA



Dr and Mrs. Magee, seen here with the Dean last year, generously sponsored the first performance in Blackburn of David Briggs' Organ Concerto in 2006.

John,

Thank you your August Newsletter. There were a number of things of particular interest, first and foremost of which was your GREAT news about **Andrew Hindley**! I hope he is (or eventually gets back to) his incredibly personable self. I can understand why the congregation applauded for four minutes.

I was also interested in the little bit on **Jonathan Clinch**... I will be visiting Perth in November and have a free day. I think I'll see if I can find the cathedral!

Blackburn cathedral choir's trip to Paris seems to have been a great success. Any CDs coming from that???

And last but not least, **Tom Whittemore's** choirs from Trinity, Princeton, seem to have enjoyed a wonderful time at Blackburn. It must have been a thrill for everyone, but especially for the kids.

Got to go now. Thanks again for the Newsletter. I hope this email finds you in good health. And a final thanks for being such an important force in the Magee family for over 20 years now. May God shine his light upon you...

Charles

Dr. & Mrs. Magee's son, Shelton, was a member of Trinity Church Choir, Princeton, during JB's time in the USA - and he appeared in JB's second book on choir training.

From Canon Godfrey Hirst

John, greetings!



Many thanks for yet another brilliant issue of the Newsletter.

We have just had a super "horsy" evening raising funds for the Cathedral music. ●

Sarah Turner organised and I am sure has some good photographs of the occasion - especially of the Dean! Gordon Shaw and others I think will also have memorable pictures. Perhaps some might fill a few column inches in the next edition.

Sorry will not be able to attend the Old Choristers Reunion - it is my daughter's Ladies Evening on the Saturday and Horseman's Sunday the following day.

Hope all is well at Fence.

Cheers, **Godfrey**

● See page 18

SUCCESS - 1

Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.

Robert Collier

Heartiest Congratulations to ROBERT COSTIN

our Assistant DoM 1995-96, who has just been appointed Director of Music of Ardingly College in Sussex. Previously he was DoM of Bedford School.

A most prestigious post & a lovely part of England. Well done! Ed



Hi John,
Many thanks for your congrats. Yes, it's a beautiful area and I'm looking forward to exploring it once I'm more settled.

Had the first full school hymn rehearsal last week which was the usual baptism of fire. Seemed to go well and my new Head was pleased.

I'm keen to keep my playing going even though I'll be faced with more admin in this post.

I made another CD in April which is due out in October.

Do have a look at my new website for info www.robertcostin.com. Also had another good review of my Howells CD on the organ in Dunedin Town Hall, which I've just added. I attach a photo of me playing the Dunedin organ.

All best wishes,
Robert



And Heartiest Congratulations to our 2002-03 organ scholar **JONATHAN CLINCH** who has just been appointed Organist of Bradfield College, near Reading.

From OC DAVID ROBINSON in Northwich

Please tender my apologies for the Reunion. While Evensong is under way I should be 30,000 feet on my way to Gran Canaria for a week's holiday.

My voice should be in better shape for the 2008 Reunion - I've joined a choir in Northwich called The Rivendell Singers (rehearsal tonight) who perform in various parts of Cheshire.



I take a walk with The Ramblers most weekends and I've officially taken over Crossword Shop (I've got two jobs now) - so I'm kept fairly well occupied.

Peter Heald might like to know I've found a newspaper clipping with a picture from years ago when we completed the Canterbury to Blackburn relay run in aid of the cathedral.

Regards to one and all and thanks to everyone who sent me a sympathy card.

Hope to be with you next year.

David

David: Great to hear from you – enjoy the Palm Trees in the Gran Canaria. See you for next year's BCOCA Reunion. JB

SUCCESS - 2

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will.
Vince Lombardi

LANTERN VOICES, see p. 7

... our new Borough Choir for children from 7-11, based at the Cathedral, got off to a good start on Saturday morning, 15th September.

Their conductor, **Jeff Borradaile**, was there bright and fresh, along with **Joy Fielding**, who conducts our own Children's Choir.



Jeff said, 'We aim to attract 40 children to this choir and we shall be singing songs from around the world. This'll add to the diverse richness of the musical experience at Blackburn Cathedral.'

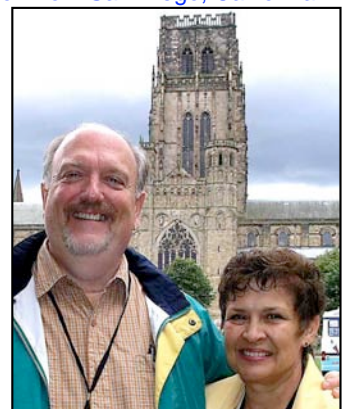
The very first young singers who arrived that morning were Megan Riding (L) and Celine Woodburn. That was an historic moment! **Welcome!**



Dr. Bill & Pat Eichorn - USA

Many members of our choir and congregation will remember the weekend singing visit to our cathedral a couple of years ago by the choir from San Diego, California.

Your editor met their conductor, Bill Eichorn and his charming wife, Pat, when we were all taking part in a week-long conference for American Church Musicians in Durham in the summer.



Bill asked JB to pass on the thanks of his choir for the hospitable welcome they received from us all. They really enjoyed being with us. And we enjoyed them, too!

Dean DAVID & LIZ FRAYNE

... are in great spirits. When your editor visited them in their lovely home in Dorset in August their garden was ablaze with flowers; the white flowers, (Jasmine Nightshade) were a retirement gift from **Lindsey Cooper** who now lives in Devon.

David and Liz are both very busy:

David told your editor that he is Dorset Archdeaconry Clergy Widows' Officer, visiting more than 60 clergy widows and drinking endless cups of tea.

He continued: 'I'm a local church primary school governor, and filling-in for local clergy "as and when" required (more as than when!) in addition to being a regular (cello) member of the Sturminster Newton Orchestral Workshop, other small music groups and a singer (ha ha!) with the Gillingham Arts Workshop. At home I'm currently doing a bit of furniture restoring!



'Liz is Flower Co-ordinator at the parish church. She's a member of Gillingham Flower Club and Local History Society and pianist for Gillingham Arts Workshop. She has designed and developed our colourful garden - now maturing wonderfully well.

'We're seeing quite a bit of our family which now numbers four grandchildren.'

David added: 'We recently spent a delightful ten days in Cornwall with our daughter and son-in-law who have the twins (who were 6 months old when they came to the Cathedral on our "Retirement Sunday" six years ago!) We are off to France for ten days in October having been to Bruges earlier in the year.

Life is therefore happily very full!'

Congratulations to OC KIT DAWSON

... who was our most efficient choir librarian for the last year as well as singing in two of our choirs. He has now begun his studies at Edinburrrr University for his Master of Chemistry degree.

As well as academic work he aims to sing in a number of choirs in that lovely city. When he auditioned (successfully) for the choir of St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral he said that the trebles were awesome! He's also just passed his grade 8 singing exam and grade 6 violin.

He's a young man of many talents, as we all know. *Well done!*



1939 Herbert Brown

It was with the deepest sorrow the we learnt of the death of former SOC BERT BROWN in September after a long illness. Bert was a TLD chorister – and was made Prefect in the year that the Second World War broke out.

He and Marjorie lived in Handforth, Wilmslow, and he was a most diligent member of BCOCA when it was refounded over 40 years ago. He used to attend our Reunions with great faithfulness, and many of us will remember his gentle sense of humour and lovely smile.

We send our heart-felt sympathy to Marjorie.

When the BBC
Antiques
Roadshow
was televised
from
Alnwick Castle
in September



our own OC CHRIS HUNWICK was featured therein, for he's Archivist in that most historic place to the Duke of Northumberland.



Presenter Michael Aspel can just be seen with some of the priceless books in the Castle Library for which Chris is responsible.

Chris wrote: There were people queuing down the steep hill outside the Castle Barbican with their prized items from 5 o'clock in the morning when the show was recorded in July.

The filming was all done outside in the Castle's Outer Bailey, [where the Harry Potter flying lesson was filmed. Ed].

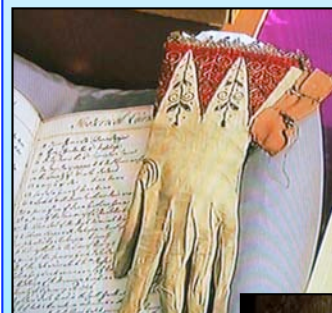
I was put on call ready for my filming slot with **Clive Farahar**, the Book Expert. I was going to be displaying some of the more quirky items from the Duke's collections.

We were lucky with the weather in that it did not rain, but as I carried three boxes of priceless Ducal possessions over to Clive's table, a passing bird did its business with RAF precision. Some would call this good luck. I suppose it was good luck that the lid was still on the box!

First I was given a quick make-over to hide blemishes and dim the gleam from my forehead. Then there was time for a quick run through with Clive over what we would discuss, before we were summoned before the cameras.



The treasures in question were a collection of very fine embroidered items alleged to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth I, including these richly embroidered kid gloves.



Alongside was, Oliver Cromwell's alleged sleeping cap!





Chris presenting Cromwell's cap to a surprised Clive Farahar

Chris continues: All these items had been purchased by the first Duchess of Northumberland in 1765 at an auction known as the 'Mussel sale', and are catalogued in the Duchess's own handwriting in her 'Catalogue of Curiosities' [sic].

The 'Mussel sale' was a grand sale of the antiquities accumulated by a certain Ebenezer Mussel, who was a great collector of peculiar antiquarian pieces.

Amongst the items bought at that sale by the first Duchess of Northumberland were Queen Elizabeth's gloves, knife and fork, workbag, pin-cushion, and toothpick; Mary Queen of Scots hair-cap; Oliver Cromwell's night cap, camp pillow, silk sash and tobacco stopper; and King Charles II's night cap. The Duchess paid £2, 12s for all these items.

Whether or not these items actually are what they are claimed to be, they are, nonetheless, of the right age and of a very high quality, full of gold thread and silks and satins.

When valuing these items, Clive Farahar described Chris as a scholar, and said that the items shown could be worth £30,000, but if they were authenticated (which, at this date is not possible) they could be worth 100 times as much! Well done, Chris! Ed

More Chorister Congratulations

On Sunday evening, 16th September, the Dean bade farewell and thank-you to choir Prefect **CHARLES FORSHAW**, who had served for five glorious years in our fine boys' choir.

He was formally introduced to the Dean by our acting Director of Music, **James Davy**.



L-R: SOC John Marr, James Davy, Charles and the Dean.

The Dean remarked, as he shook Charles' hand, that he was one of the first choristers to join the cathedral choir after he (the Dean) had been installed. Then Senior Old Chorister **John Marr** presented Charles with his OC's tie.

Charles' family watched the ceremony with justified pride, for they, too, have given so much to the cathedral and to its music during these 5 eventful years. Charles' Mum, **Dawn Forshaw**, was one of the stalwart parent-leaders during our recent singing visit to Paris.



L-R, Pamela Hayhurst (Gran), Dawn Forshaw (Mum), David & Anita Hayhurst, (Uncle & Aunt), and Stuart Forshaw (Dad).

Then it was the turn of chorister **MATTHEW ADELEKAN** who was presented with the **Dean David Frayne Award** for excellence. *Well done, Matthew.*



At the end of the service the Dean blessed OC Charles Forshaw, and invited him to walk with him as he recessed down the nave.



Happily Charles will be joining the YPC, so we shall be seeing much more of him and his dedicated family for quite some time to come!

It's easy

...to read past editions of our Newsletter going back 6 years! Just click

www.Bertalot.org/

A-RIDING WE WILL GO!

by Dean Christopher Armstrong

It was the winning of a riding lesson from a raffle that sparked off this ingenious fundraising evening for the **Renaissance Singers**. The lucky winner, **Karen Brooke**, invited the Assistant organist **David Scott-Thomas** (who is a keen rider) and **the Dean** (who isn't!) to join her at the stables for a very generous lesson and a display of exquisite horse-riding given by **Sarah Turner**, an expert dressage rider.



Our three students were invited to the stables at Chipping for an introductory session two nights before the public lesson for which a vast crowd of eager onlookers had bought tickets.

Our compère for the evening was **Canon Godfrey Hirst** - himself an accomplished rider.



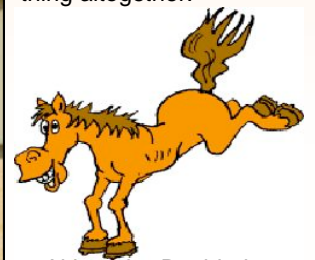
Karen Brooke (below) and the Dean were each put through their paces expertly by Sarah Turner who held the lunge rein (i.e. a long guiding rope) with great confidence.



The Dean clearly enjoyed every moment

The horses behaved well and both riders complimented Sarah on her ability to teach and give confidence to novices high up on an equine animal at the far end of a lunge rein!

David Scott-Thomas's mount was a very different thing altogether.



Although David is an experienced rider, his horse was very truculent and great care was taken by Sarah, and by David and by the hushed audience, so as not to scare the nervous beast.



Finally **Sarah** gave us a demonstration, to music, of her riding skills on her attractive and obedient horse, 'Custard'.

The evening ended with refreshments provided by the Renaissance Singers and grateful thanks were expressed to Sarah, to our three riders and to the stable management.



OC DAVID SMALLEY

... has recently undergone an operation for cataracts on both his eyes. We send our very best wishes to him for a complete and happy recovery.

He has recently issued a CD of some of his compositions played on the historic organ of Lancaster Town Hall. That man has talent! *David: get well soon!*

**YET ANOTHER STUNNING CD
on Blackburn Cathedral organ
with an equally stunning review from the
98-page magazine of the
American Guild of Organists, USA...**
...which is worth quoting in full:

SOUNDS THRILLING

Stephen Farr, organist...
available from www.lammas.com.uk

Lammas apparently intends to make an impressive series based on this instrument, and it is appropriate so to do. It is a unique organ, lovable by any devotee of Gallic ['French'] music.

The instrument has been spoken of favorably here before and there is no need to adjust that view. It is situated in an extremely reflective space that makes it sound even larger than it is, and it is no small installation to begin with.

The room [*i.e. the cathedral*] is part of the organ: the organ is part of the room.

It is perfectly fitting, then, to use it to produce this 63-plus minutes of French-inspired sounds.

There are only two pieces on the disc:

**Durufié's classic Suite Op 5,
and
David Briggs's Symphony
'Missa pro defunctis',**

'...a work commissioned by the performer as an *hommage* to Durufié.'

Like the *Suite*, the *Symphony* defies verbal description and simply has to be heard.

Farr performs the seven movements of this creative music with assurance, grace, and grandeur. The instrument is quite easily capable of the 'Frenchness' of it.

If there is such a thing as a perfect match of music and instrument, this may be it....



David Briggs and Stephen Farr at the organ of Guildford Cathedral where Stephen was, until recently, Director of Music



Our daily prayers are requested for **OC GODFREY MCGOWAN**

who is very unwell



OUR MOST GRATEFUL THANKS
to yet more readers
who have sent generous gifts
to support the printing of this Magazine:

Mrs. Dorothy Green
OC Tony Murphy (from the USA)
Mrs. Ann Williams
Mrs. Sarah Chew
Blackburn Gramophone Society



Canon PHILIP GRAY

We were so sad to say farewell to Canon Gray in October. He has been our Bishop's Chaplain for so many fruitful and happy years, and we have so appreciated his special ministry to us at the cathedral during the last 18 months.

To Philip, his whole family, and especially to his son, Anthony, who has been such a fine member of our boys' choir, we say Fare-well, and God-be-wi-ye.



We wish them all much happiness in their new home in Ilkley. Philip will be Licensed to St. Margaret's Church, Ilkley, in November.



Rebecca and Anthony Gray, with Aled Jones after our Royal spectacular cathedral concert last year

*Why isn't my news included
in The Newsletter?*



Because you haven't sent it to the editor!



News of Old Choristers and Choir Families is always welcome – free!

We're happy to include other news – if there's room, but we do ask for financial support.

This Newsletter is generously sponsored by the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, and by our Cathedral Old Choristers' Association.

john@bertalot.org

CHORAL EVENSONG

...was broadcast live from Southwark Cathedral on 16th September, and the Director of Music had generously chosen one of your editor's chants for psalm 124.

JB wrote to **Peter Wright** (who is also currently the **President of the Royal College of Organists**) and to his brilliant assistant DoM **Stephen Disley** (who conducted the choir – Peter was playing) who sent this delightful e mail which revealed yet more Blackburn connections:

Dear John

Thank you so much for taking the trouble to write. I am so pleased you enjoyed the broadcast and thank you for your kind words. I thought the girls sang wonderfully and I think Stephen was pleased with them. (I have forwarded your e-mail to him and he was delighted to get it.)

Thank you too for your kind words about the Bach Toccata in F [which I played as the Postlude]. It was the first time I have played the organ on a live broadcast of Evensong since I left Guildford nearly 20 years ago and so it was a bit unnerving – not least imagining all the members of the RCO listening and wondering whether their President could still play! ●



I'm sorry, it was rather cheeky using your chant without asking you first. You asked where I found it. I still have the extract of your Blackburn Cathedral chant book, which you provided for the RSCM Cathedral Course you directed in Canterbury in 1973 (and where I was a green, callow bass). [*Ivor Bolton, Derek Crompton and David Rothwell were also choristers on that course.*]

I remember being very taken with your choices of chant on that Canterbury fortnight, especially those by your good self, and I think you allowed me to keep it (either that or I pinched it!). Anyway I'm pleased you felt we did it justice.

I do hope all is well with you and that we shall have a chance to meet again soon.

Meanwhile, renewed thanks and all good wishes

Yours ever, **Peter**

● *The Toccata in F is one of Bach's most difficult compositions – having two separate one-page pedal-only solos to be played at breakneck pace, plus three separate pages of triple invertible counterpoint. i.e. the left hand plays what the right hand played the first time, whilst the feet played what the left hand played – and so on!*

It's a high-risk piece, and Peter played it very well indeed. JB



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AND HEAR THE CONCERT AND SERVICE FROM OUR ANGLO-AMERICAN WEEKEND IN JUNE

when the choir of Trinity Church, Princeton, joined with our choirs in a truly spectacular musical Extravaganza?



If so, download from www.bertalot.org/princeton

Video

Concert.avi - the concert in Blackburn Cathedral
Service.avi - the service in Blackburn Cathedral
these are BIG – perhaps 30 minutes to download

Audio

Give unto the Lord (op 74).mp3
Great is the Lord (op 67).mp3
Jerusalem.mp3
Pomp & Circumstance March No.1 (op 39) - 1st.mp3
Pomp & Circumstance March No.1 (op 39) - encore.mp3
The Spirit of the Lord (from op 49).mp3

Service.mp3 - Sound recording of the service

But you'll need Broadband, or else patience to wait whilst each item downloads
Our most grateful thanks to Andrew Stringer, from Fence, who made this possible.

Broadband?

From OC MARK HODSON in Mellor

John,

Looking forward to the OCs' Reunion ... but it's been a while since I sight-read music. Reading the words will be fine, however can you remind me again about those spaces between the lines, is it all cows eat grass? [Yes!] In contrast, my 13 year-old is taking the grade 8 piano exam next year.



We finished our "roof lift" project putting a 100sqm of additional flooring into the house to make a playroom, chill out room, store room and a bathroom for **Thomas** and **Christopher**.

Similar to music, all those years playing table tennis in the crypt were no help as my 10-year-old son now wins every game!

See you at the Reunion on Saturday, **Mark**

Whatta family, Mark! Ed

BLACKBURN MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT

November 10, 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral.

Debut of their new and brilliant conductor:

JAMES DAVY

An all-ELGAR programme

From the Bavarian Highlands

The Music Makers

Organ Sonata in G 1st movement.

Nicola Semple *Contra*to,

David Scott-Thomas *Organ*,

Northern Chamber Orchestra, conducted by our very own **JAMES DAVY**



CATHEDRAL COURT

is now being built at the top of King Street.
Here's what it looked like at the end of September:



and this is what it will look like when it's complete, with attractive apartments and shops.



This is the sort of work which will begin next year in our Cathedral Close, when the new Deanery, Canons' apartments and so much more will be built. We live in times of exciting change!

Congratulations

(in advance of the printing of this Newsletter) on the wedding in the Cathedral on October 27th of Dean's Virger **Mark Pickering** to former Canons' Virger **Suzanne Trudgill**. Stand by for photos in our next edition!



from Dr. INDRA HUGHES in New Zealand

Hi John

I wondered if readers of the Newsletter might be interested to know of my new recording of Christmas music with my choir Musica Sacra. (See the cover, below.)

There is full information about it at our site www.musicasacra.org.nz and of course it makes an ideal Christmas present! It can be ordered from overseas through a link on the site.



Indra continues:

I have been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Information on the RSA web site gives a rather intimidating list of past and present Fellows!

They include:

Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Johnson, Michael Faraday, Alexander Graham Bell, Richard Attenborough, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Charles Dickens, Tom Stoppard, Robert Stephenson, Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Nelson Mandela, Marie Curie, Professor Stephen Hawking, Cherie Blair, and Ernest Rutherford.

Cheers and greetings to everyone at the Cathedral, Indra

Heartiest congratulations, Indra, on your well-deserved honour. JB



BIRTHRIGHTS . . .

Roast Beef

The Last Night of the Proms

Mother of Parliaments

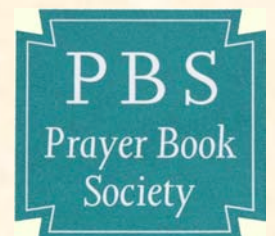
The Book of Common Prayer

**WE KEEP THE LATTER
TO THE FORE!**

Will you join us?

Find out more from

Hon. Secretary,
Neil Inkley,
6 Knot Lane,
Walton-le-Dale,
Preston PR5 4BQ
01772-821-676



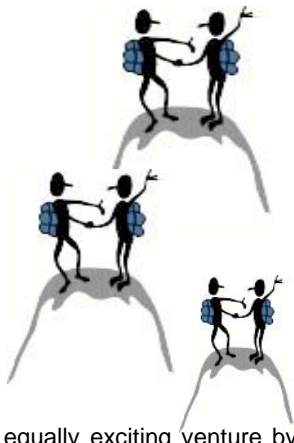
Three Peaks Expedition 2007

by BCOCA Chairman
and Chairman

Stewart Hopkinson

Last year's endeavours certainly appealed to the Dean who proved unswerving in his determination to have the '3 Peak Challenge' on the 2007 agenda for the Cathedral's fit and healthy rambling types.

The challenge was received as an equally exciting venture by the Cathedral's 'mad and sad' and since I excel on both counts I agreed to coordinate this year's expedition. As with last year the challenge was to complete the 24-26 mile hike (there's no consensus on the actual distance) in under 12 hours and to raise funds.



on toward the car park at Ribble Head where we were to rest for 30 minutes for lunch.

This stretch of the journey was a relative pleasure and all members of the group had sufficient energy and the will to mix and bond as a team.

At one point I was thanked for coordinating the walk and for leading it but when Phil Wilson pointed out that I was leading the group away from Whernside, our next peak, and back to the starting point my status as a hill-walking guru plummeted.

Half a mile later we were back on track, passing the now famous farmer's sign 'fasen gate' as we wended our way to Ribble Head and a welcome lunch.

At 12.45 we set off again. The hike toward Whernside was grey, cold and very wet. There were no steam trains to distract us and as we plodded along the equally relentless but more gradual path to the peak the rain set in. The combination of driving winds and rain, as we say in Lancashire 'froze thee chops'.



The Dean, Adam and Steve (2 friends of Nick Hopkinson), Nick Hopkinson, John (lodgee of Phil Wilson), Stewart Hopkinson, Phil Wilson, William Sanderson, Jonathan Swailes, James Holding, Stuart Forshaw, Jonathan Sanderson and Karen Brooke.



At Whernside's peak the group were sodden and cold and we decided to move quickly on down the steep, scree-ridden side to the valley which led us on to Ingleborough. Once in the valley we rested at a barn and took drinks from a converted caravan.

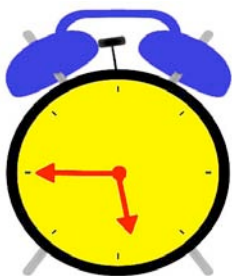
It was here that I struck up conversation with two walkers. One had attempted the 3 Peaks some four weeks earlier when the weather had been warmer. He had failed to complete the challenge that day, having to abort at the 2 Peak stage. When I asked him why he had returned so soon to have another go he replied "I couldn't stand my work-mates calling me 'Two-Peaks'!"

The final Peak was there for the taking – only another 9 miles to go. But this was Ingleborough and you really do have to earn the right to 'take' this peak. The lowland on approach is gentle and aesthetic but the lungs and legs soon start to remind you that the final challenge is a gruelling one.

We came to rest at the foot of Ingleborough and considered the 1 in 3 gradient climb to the top. "Now we're not rushing" I said to my fellow sufferers, "we're taking as long as we need to – ok?" I took little time to persuade them and we rested every 20 yards or so until we reached the top.

Again the peak was enveloped in a freezing mist. Some members of the group had forged ahead and had waited long enough for the 'tail-blazers'; they were cold and headed off down toward the start point, still some 5 miles away. Our contingent made it to the trig point and followed on.

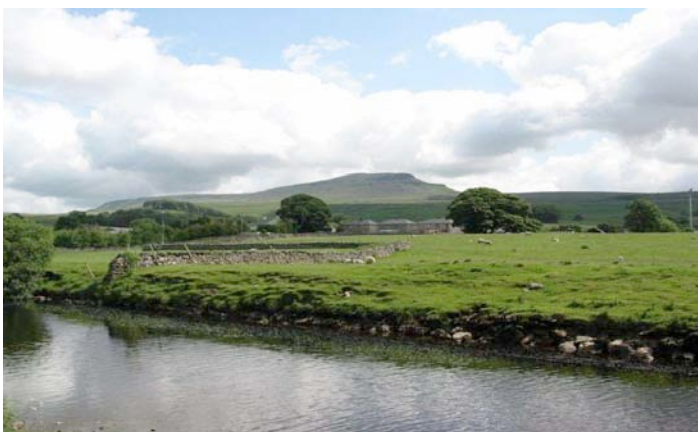
The relief for all of us was evident and yet the desire to complete the challenge in less than 12 hours remained strong. We picked up the pace going downhill and returned to the car park where we had limbered up some 11 hours and 45 minutes earlier.



The '3 Peakers' group this year numbered 14 and was made up of one female stalwart, several young men (ex-choristers, my son and his two friends), members of the congregation, the Dean and two choirmen – myself and the multi-talented Phil Wilson. A small group gathered at the Deanery at **5.45am** before reconnoitering with the rest of the team at Horton-in-Ribblesdale at 6.30am.

After some remarkably unimpressive stretching and limbering up we were off! It was 7am.

The first peak, **Pen-y-Ghent**, is daunting since the ascent (at



least to the moderate Rambler) is immediate, relentless and 'lung-busting'!! She was enshrouded in mist at the peak so we quickly moved on, down the softer side, through the peat bogs and

The whole group had succeeded. The thought of a hot bath and good food surpassed any thoughts concerning alcohol and village pubs. We were cold, wet and very tired so we bade farewell, following a few photos, and made our ways home.

Well done to all 14 friends. I was asked a couple of weeks ago if this was to be an annual event – perhaps it will be for the fit and healthy rambling types but for the mad and sad ... watch this space!!



PS:

Most of the money raised (the Dean estimates that he has about £900 on his head) will go towards Choir funds (to assist the choirs with financing concert tours) and also the Organ Appeal at Silverdale Parish Church. Well done, indeed! Ed

And there was a strong contingent from Fence Parish Church, which runs a more modest concerts' season.



Geoff & Pat Wormwell, Brian Ingham, Margaret Lancaster and Shirley Ingham ... and more friends from Fence came later!

It was a special delight to welcome Renaissance Singers founder-member, David Piercy and his wife, Margaret, who were greeted by head chorister-elect Arthur Geldard, who was to play an important role in the Presentation later that evening.

39 CONCERTS and more!

were launched by Richard Tanner
for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music
on Wednesday, 3rd October...

... at a spectacular evening of wine and music, attended by over 150 enthusiastic supporters of the Cathedral's outstanding music programme.

Guests, who packed the South Transept before the launch, included representatives of our major sponsors, FRASER EAGLE:



Mr. Kevin Dean (Managing Director of Fraser Eagle – centre) with some of his staff. We are so grateful to all our generous sponsors, and especially to FRASER EAGLE who have also sponsored our most impressive concerts' brochure.



(David Piercy was at Junior School with our FoBCM Chairman, Rodney Swarbrick, who was also going to play a pivotal role in the Presentation.)

The purpose of the launch was to attract more Patrons and Friends who would support our ambitious programme of concerts and musical services.



Cathedral Old Choristers Ernie Gomer and Geoffrey Taylor with Renaissance Singer, Janet Goodship (L), and Geraldine Armstrong. Ernie & Geoffrey were also at the BCOCA Reunion 3 days later. (See p. 26.)



Sitting at the receipt of custom were (R-L) Anitra Haythornwhite and Eileen Hemingway. Andy Bruce was showing Sue Slater that Friends receive free copies of our Cathedral Newsletter every quarter.

During the Reception, our organ scholar, **Edward Rugman**,



played light music on our grand piano which was relayed throughout the cathedral – including *The Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square*. This was much appreciated.

After we were all seated in the opposite Transept, our Chairman, **Rodney Swarbrick**, opened the Launch by telling us how much he and **Diana** had been thrilled by the high standard of music-making in the cathedral – from the days of the formation of the Renaissance Singers (then called the Blackburn Bach Choir) over 40 years ago, to the present.



Surely no other cathedral could offer such a wide range of music-making which involved over 170 volunteer singers?

And then our Director of Music **Richard Tanner** (who broke his Sabbatical to be with us) unveiled, bit by bit, what lay in store for us during the coming season.



He reminded us what we had enjoyed last season, and then told us what had been planned for this season: 39 concerts – from organ recitals to Bach's *St. John Passion* and Handel's *Messiah*; a return visit by The SIXTEEN; another Christmas Spectacular and *Last Night of the Proms*; special services with orchestra; outreach to children in the Borough and beyond, and so much more.

It was breathtaking! (See the detailed brochure enclosed with this Newsletter.)



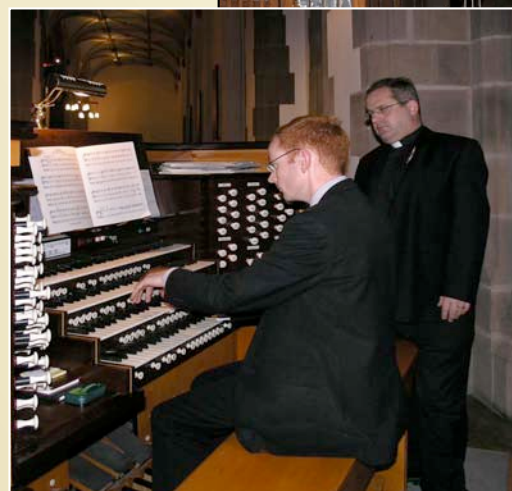
And in between the announcements of these concerts, we were entertained by the superb singing of head chorister-elect **Arthur Geldard**, and Head Girl, **Sarah Chew**, who were then interviewed publicly by **Canon Hindley**.

Their superb singing and what they told us, were greeted by prolonged and well-deserved applause by the packed audience. They said how much they enjoyed the privilege of singing such ambitious music, and also how much the friendships that they formed here enriched their lives.

It was a special delight also to hear **Philippa Hyde** sing an aria from Bach's *St. John Passion*. What a precious gift she is to us all!



After Canon Hindley made his 'pitch' for potential Friends and Sponsors to sign up, Acting Director of Music **James Davy** brought the evening to a triumphant conclusion by a *forte* performance of Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*.



It was a great evening! We left the cathedral excited by all we had seen and heard. How fortunate we are to have such outstanding leaders!



**E-mail from
OC PETER CROWTHER
in Lancaster**

Hello John,
I have just been elected as Chairman of Lancaster Magistrates with effect from January 1st. I regard this as a most significant honour and responsibility and I am conscious of the fact that I follow in the steps of dear old **Fred Green** (Chairman of Ribble Valley Justices).

I am so very sorry to miss BCOCA once again but, as I am no longer driving, I find it difficult to travel anywhere other than with **Jean**, if she is free which, this weekend she is not. Please do pass on my very best wishes to all my old friends and tell them that I am well and thriving on retirement. Tell **Gordon Fielding** that I will send my subs once the postal strike is over.

As always very best wishes to you. **Peter**

**Letter from Canon Tom Bill,
Rector of Burnley
and a member of
the Cathedral Chapter.**

Dear John,

I can't tell you how delighted and thrilled I was to read in the August edition of the Cathedral Newsletter of the doctorates awarded to Cathedral Old Choristers **Michael Payne** and **Indra Hughes**, two young men for whom I have nothing but the highest regard.



I have followed Michael's career for almost his whole life, ever since the early 1980s when I was Priest-in-Charge of St. John's, Stonefold and had the privilege of baptizing him.



Michael was, I think, the very first baby I baptized at St. John's and Christine, his Mother, has kept us in touch ever since. It has been a great pleasure to bump into Michael from time to time and hear from himself of his progress. Michael is, in every sense, a young man to look up to!

Also – it would be about 1986 or '87 – I was producing one of a series of annual Carol Concerts for Radio Lancashire at Blackburn Cathedral, courtesy of Provost Lawrence Jackson, whose only stipulation was that I should have an organist provided by the Cathedral.

This was absolutely fine by me and the Concert was accompanied by none other than **Indra Hughes**, then aged 15.

He did a marvellous job and entranced us all with his closing voluntary, based on Christmas carols, which he had arranged himself. I remember that he got a very well deserved ovation at the end.

May I, though your pages, give both Michael and Indra my congratulations, and very best wishes for all that lies ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Bill



JOAN HUNWICK

It was with the deepest sorrow that we learned of the death of Joan Hunwick, wife of Cathedral Tenor, Phil, and mother of Old Choristers Chris and Noel.



Joan and Phil, Christmas Day 2004

Joan had been unwell for a long time – and despite expert medical attention did not improve. A few months ago she learnt that she also had leukemia, which meant going to hospital several times a week for blood transfusions.

She was so brave but, despite her pain, she radiated her gentle love to everyone she met – that love and that joy which had been such a feature of her life amongst us all for so many years.

JB writes: I well remember Provost Lawrence Jackson bringing Phil and Joan into my studio in St. Mary's House in the Close in 1973. 'Here are two singers for your Blackburn Bach Choir!' he announced. And sure enough, they became strong members of our talented choir. And Phil also joined the Cathedral choir – and is still a most faithful member.

In due time **Christopher** and **Noel** were born and they, too, became cathedral choristers. I had the joy of celebrating their birth by composing two carols for them: *Little Baby, born at dark midnight* (with 'Christ-over' appearing in the refrains), and *Alleluia, Sing Noel*. I hoped that Noel would join the cathedral choir too – thus the title, with the accent on 'Sing!'

Joan last came to the cathedral for Choral Evensong on Sunday evening 23rd September, and afterwards several of us gathered round her to enjoy her company – for her indomitable spirit cheered us all.

Her whole family, including her brother and her 85 year-old father, were with her when she died on October 4th. She was given a magnificent funeral in the Cathedral on 12th October. The superb choir, made up of chorister friends, was conducted by **Richard Tanner**. **David Goodenough** came from Edinburgh and played before the service, **James Thomas** (former Bbn. Assistant DoM and now DoM at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral) sang in the choir and **Gordon Stewart** and **Lindsey Cooper** were there also, as were many other former & present members of the Renaissance Singers. **Canon Hindley** presided most movingly, and **Canon Taylor** spoke so eloquently about Joan: *'Joan will always be remembered with delight by all who knew her ... She was brave but unafraid ... There was something quietly glorious about her last hours...'*

From Bishop Alan Chesters:

Jennie, David and I were deeply saddened to have your message that Joan had died. Thank you for letting us know.

David and Chris were good friends at school and have remained regularly in touch. Jennie was able to have a word with Noel earlier today and we shall certainly be at the funeral.

They are such a lovely and talented family and although so unwell herself, Joan was such a support to Jennie when she was so ill last year. Our prayers and thoughts are with them.

May Joan rest in the peace of the Lord she served on earth
Blessings and Prayers

+Alan

From Old Chorister John Wilkinson OBE in Winchester.

Dear John,

Greetings from Winchester where I have recently returned from exciting and challenging voluntary work in southwest Uganda where some 80% of the population live below the poverty line.

I took a small party of teachers from the charity "Education Uganda" of which I am a Trustee. We worked with 67 schools, 200 teachers and about 2000 children within the month. It proved to be a great success and the Ugandans could see the possibilities for raising standards in what are very large classes. I taught classes of over 100 six year olds! We have trained and paid for a local co-ordinator to continue the work over the next two years, and established a Ugandan management committee to oversee the work. **Donations would be most gratefully accepted to "Education Uganda" c/o 24 Gillingham Close, Kingsworthy, Winchester SO23 7RL.**

£50 provides training for a group of six schools, £70 provides chalk for a school for one year, £250 provides funding for the Ugandan staff for a month.



John Wilkinson presenting a lap-top computer to the Principal of Bwera Teachers' College.

Whilst there, I was asked to lead the singing at a service in All Saints' Church, Kilembe, where my unaccompanied rendering of "Lord of the Dance" had 200 people dancing, clapping and singing.

I was also asked to give a sermon at Eucharist to a packed congregation, including Bishop Jackson, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Kasese. The Ugandans certainly know how to worship and praise the Lord. We have much to learn from them, not the least their joy for life and warm friendliness when they have so little in material terms.

We hope to return in 2009 to build upon the work and do more training in Universities.

Every blessing to you and all Old Choristers.

John.

Well done, John. What a great ministry you have! Ed.

Two exciting days for your Editor in London & Winchester

On Friday 28th September I enjoyed a super lunch (roast duck) in London with a former student of mine from the Royal Northern College of Music – **Paul Griffiths**. (See page 11)

He has been on the staff of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, for 30 years and conducts performances there '...when international conductors, like **Ivor Bolton** aren't there,' he told me!

As Paul showed me round the recently refurbished Opera House he said that he regularly works with some of the leading opera singers in the world.

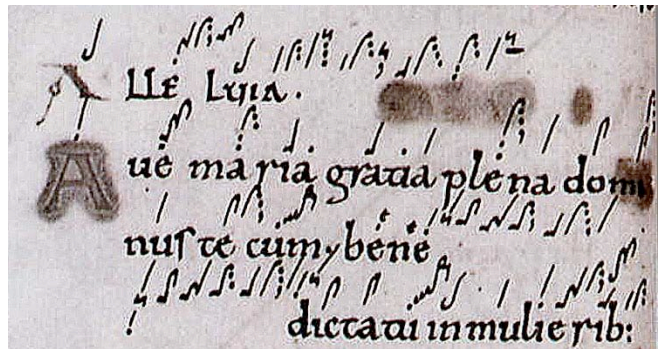


He said, 'For example, when **Pavarotti** was here he asked me to go to his hotel to work with him, for he was experiencing some vocal problems. After half an hour's singing we agreed that he shouldn't sing that night!'

It was so good to see Paul again after some 35 years. He hadn't changed at all – except for his white hair. (He graciously said the same about me!)

The next day I was in Winchester Cathedral for a musically historic event. It was the return to the Cathedral (for just one day) of the **Winchester Troper**, which had been seized from the Cathedral nearly 500 years ago.

This is possibly the oldest book of music in Europe, dating from AD 1000, and it includes some of the earliest harmonised music in the world, written in 'squiggles' before the writing of music had been developed. It included music composed in Winchester Cathedral all those years ago which hadn't been heard there, or anywhere else, since the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII in the 1530s.



When Elizabeth I came to the throne she appointed the Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Matthew Parker, to be Archbishop of Canterbury and told him to go round all the dissolved Monasteries to collect their valuable old books. He did this and eventually gave them to the College! The Winchester Troper was one of those books.

That afternoon the College Librarian gave a riveting lecture on the Troper to a large audience in the Cathedral Nave. This was followed by a most impressive Eucharist in the Quire, during which extracts from the Troper were sung exquisitely and excitingly by the choir.

'That's what this cathedral was built for,' said the Celebrant. **This is the music which King Canute (whose bones are still here in the cathedral) would have heard 1000 years ago!**

It was an amazing day, and it was such a privilege to be invited to join with other former members of my College to be a part of such an historic occasion.

JB



Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association

42nd Annual Reunion



It was a thrill, as ever, on October 6th to welcome Old Choristers of our Cathedral to our Annual Reunion, some of whom had travelled long distances to be with us.

our members was attacked in a pub recently. But he knew exactly how to react and broke the other chap's arm!



'Stan' and Margaret Stancliffe had been driven, by their daughter Miranda and her husband Richard Gray, all the way from Hampshire. Stan said, 'I went to QEGS yesterday for a 70th anniversary reunion of form 2B!'

As Stan joined the cathedral choir in 1938 he'll be celebrating another 70th anniversary with us next year!



It was very good to welcome former SOC Albert Ogden (L) & Mary along with BCOCA Vice Chairman Eric Bancroft, who seems to have made a complete recovery from his recent illness. (Albert joined the cathedral choir in 1936!)



We enjoyed a splendid lunch in the crypt. Former SOC Bob Keen seemed anxious to share his banana with Adrian Wilson, whilst BCOCA treasurer Gordon Fielding (L) and Allan Holden acted as bookends.

Allan told us that his mother had recently celebrated her 100th birthday and was so grateful for the cards that she had received from Old Choristers.

Below L-R: Canon Hindley, Edward Haythornwhite and assistant organist David Scott-Thomas. Sharing bananas seemed to be the in thing at that lunch.



At the other end of the age scale was our newest member – head chorister Adam Whittaker (L), with the Rev Ian Hollin, Peter and Paul Fielding, and Paul's chorister son, William.

These magnificent flowers were the gift of BCOCA



Among the first arrivals was former SOC Nigel Chew. Nigel told your editor that once a week he goes to a Karate Black Belt meeting in Accrington. 'There are usually about 50 of us,' he said.

'This week I was Uke (the dummy) for others to see how attacking techniques work. I was knocked out for ten seconds!'

Nigel also said that training in Karate was very useful. 'One of



Former SOC Bryan Lamb, who had come with Peter & Constance Heald all the way from Ely, said that he had just completed his memoirs, 80 pages written for his grandchildren. 'I showed them to the librarian at QEGS, and he wanted a copy for their archives,' he said with a smile.

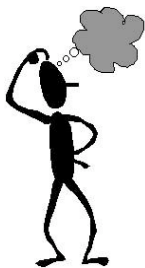


It was especially good to welcome Dr. **Simon Daniels** to the cathedral again, for he fulfilled such a central role in our choir during the years of **Tony Murphy, Stewart Hopkinson, William Heap & Iain Thompson**.

His dedication to us was very evident that Saturday for he had driven all the way from his home in Newcastle upon Tyne and then drove all the way back again that night!

Iain told your editor that **Simon** had run a half-Marathon the week before – *The Great North Run* – from Newcastle to South Shields.

Iain added, 'Most of his days are spent telling people to eat the right things and to keep fit.' **Simon** is most certainly very fit!



On the other hand, your editor was chatting to another Old Chorister – one of our more senior members (can't remember who). We were exchanging experiences of memory loss (*Senior Moments!*) 'I often iron my own shirts on the ironing board downstairs,' he confided, 'and then I take my ironed shirts upstairs.'

He paused for a moment, and confessed, 'Once I found myself halfway up the stairs carrying the ironing board instead of my shirts!'

Peter Heald, who swam his own complete record-breaking-slowest-ever Marathon recently (as reported in these Newsletters – and who thanked us all for our support of his amazing efforts), came prepared to begin to sort out our massive choir archives. 'I've asked OC **Chris Hunwick** for some practical tips on how to do this properly,' he said as we made our way to the Song School where the archives were buried.

John Marr and **Steve Holmes** helped Peter carry to his car half a dozen files and several bulging boxes full of our archives which need sorting, plus a set of all the correspondence concerning our 2002 organ rebuild.



'I don't think there'll be much room left for **Constance** or **Bryan** when we return to Ely tomorrow,' puffed **Peter** as he returned for another load.

It was also very good to welcome two of our most faithful members:

Peter Hurst and past BCOCA Chairman **Fred Dewhurst**



That day was especially unique, for we were about to elect our very first female Senior Old Chorister – **Heather Starkie** – who is outgoing SOC **John Marr's** faithful companion. OC **John Keen** clearly enjoying chatting with them both during lunch.



Two distinguished members were with us for the first time: Acting Director of Music **James Davy**, and **Philip Johnson** who is a **David Cooper** and **Gordon Stewart** OC.

Phil graduated in music from Sussex University and is now pursuing an arboreal degree at Blackburn College.

He's also the talented organist of St. Peter's Church, Darwen.

Welcome!



Two other new Old Choristers were there to lower the cumulative age-range – proudly wearing their OC ties: **James Mitchell** and **Alex Lund**.



It is in the hands of such young members of BCOCA that the future of our Association lies. Welcome!



Another young OC, **Michael Carr**, was there with his Churchwarden Dad, former SOC, **Philip**.

The **Dean** led the AGM with his customary efficiency and panache with BCOCA Chairman **Stewart Hopkinson** by his side.



Pretty well everyone was re-elected to office (*Hooray!*), although **Gordon Shaw** stood down from the Committee (*Shame!*). But outgoing SOC **John Marr** was elected in his place, and our incoming SOC, **Heather Starkie**, made history by being our first female Senior Old Chorister. Watch out, BCOCA – new things are about to happen!

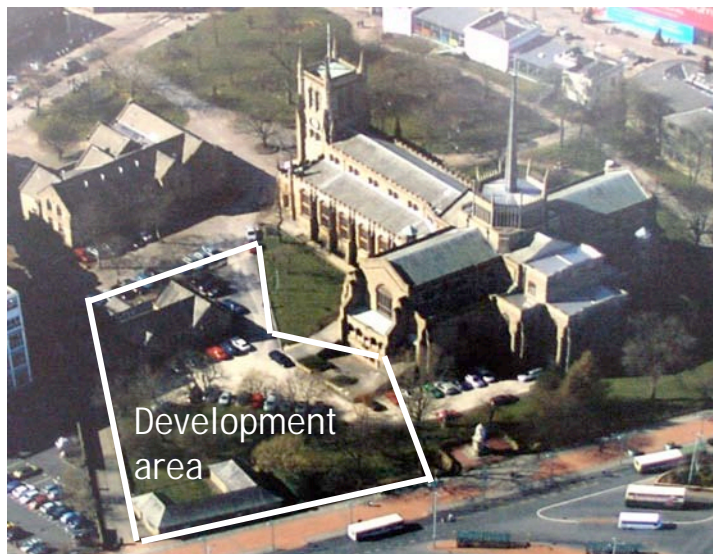
The Dean made seven riveting points about the cathedral, which we needed to know:

1 Staffing.

With the promotion of Peter Ballard to Archdeacon and with Canon Clitheroe now Rector of St. Anne's, we are two Residentiary Canons short. But the prospects for replacements are hopeful – not least for a Diocesan Missioner.

2 Development Plan

The contractors are about to be chosen who will take responsibility for building the new Deanery, Canons' and staff apartments in the Close, plus 95 other apartments. Other cathedrals in this country are taking a Close (*sic*) interest in what we are about to do.



3 Asians make up 20% of the population of Blackburn.

Our educational programme, (*exChange*) headed by **Canon Chivers** and assisted by **Ms. Anjum Anwar** MBE, is doing great work to help break down barriers and build up trust.

4 Music

The government has recently realised that music is generally badly taught in schools. Certain cathedrals have been invited to work in local schools to rectify this, and we are one of which will participate actively in this field. Financial help is available.

5 Asylum seekers

We are working closely with Wesley Hall, through the leadership of Canon Michael Wedgeworth and John East, to help alleviate this growing problem.

6 Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music

The FoBCM has a new chairman – former High Sheriff **Rodney Swarbrick** – who is bringing new life into this important ministry.

7 Ecumenical Canons

The Statutes of Blackburn Cathedral have been amended to allow us to elect three non Anglican Canons to our fellowship: a Methodist, a Roman Catholic and a Lutheran. The Lutheran Canon will be the Bishop of Braunschweig – from our twinned diocese in Germany.

This is an exciting time for all of us who are at Blackburn Cathedral. We were exhilarated by all that the Dean revealed to us.

Then we had choir practice for Choral Evensong, which would be sung by the Old Choristers with our chorister boys and girls.



Our grand old grand, which has been in the Song School for 70 years – since the time of **Mr. Duerden** – has finally collapsed and been replaced by a temporary upright. *Watch this space for news of a grand replacement!*

Then there was a splendid rehearsal in the cathedral led by **James Davy** with **David Scott-Thomas** at the organ...



... after which we enjoyed a welcome cup of tea in the crypt, followed by a full Choral Evensong – which was very impressive.

Introit: *God so loved the world* – Stainer

Responses: Bertalot

Psalm 84 (Chant – Parry)

1st **long** lesson

was read well by SOC **John**. Canticles: *Stanford in B flat*, with Adrian Lucas's thrilling realization, for organ, of the orchestral version.

This transformed this well-known setting into something very special indeed. (David S-T was sweating somewhat with its intricacies – but he did a great job!)

Anthem: *Like as the hart* – Howells.



And there was a Valediction to Head Chorister **Adam Whittaker** who has done a great job for so many years – not only with his many solos and leadership of the boys but also his active participation in the training of the young children.



Also there were special Valedictions to **Claire Marsden** (L) and **Emma Pearson** who had served so faithfully in our Girls' Choir and the YPC. They were about to begin their studies at St. John's College, York.

BCOCA Awards for excellence were also presented by **Chairman Stewart Hopkinson** to **Jamie Bett** and **Barry Hudson-Taylor** for good work.

These were in the form of hard cash: most welcome.



At the end of the service the Dean blessed our new Old Choristers...



...and then we had a group photograph.



Our Annual Dinner at Whalley Abbey was also very special, because of the amazing fellowship of the OCs and their spouses.

A 2nd pair of twins: **Constance Heald** and **Dorothy Wade** (founder members of the Blackburn Bach Choir) were bookends for **David Wade** and **Rachel Fielding** (wife of Paul and mother of chorister William).



Twins **Phil and Allan Carr** acted as bookends to **Steve Holmes** and his fiancée **Mandy Harper** and her daughter, **Donna**. *Wedding, May 10. Book the date now!*



OC **John Highton** with **Sheila Shaw**, **Dean Christopher** and **Geraldine Armstrong** enjoying a refreshing glass.



bottles, no crash helmets for cyclists, no computers...

He remembered Easter Day 1975 when we were televised live for the Eucharist – (we sang *Darke in F* and Dr. **Harold Darke** was in the congregation – sitting with **Dots Bertalot**).



The boys sang three midweek Choral Evensongs in those days – they could come to any two depending on their school schedules.

After school the boys arrived at St. Mary's House, where JB and his Mother lived, and where orange juice and two biscuits were dispensed to every chorister.

Mrs. B cared for all the boys as though they were her own.

When John became a Prefect, JB wrote him a letter telling him that he was now set apart – he was no longer 'one of the lads' but part of the leadership of the cathedral. He's never forgotten that. This has influenced him for the rest of his life.

How grateful he was to **Keith and Ruth Bond** for their kindnesses when he joined the YPC – there were girls there!

How much **Canon Williams'** confirmation classes meant to him. He also remembered staying with JB several times in the USA. *[But he didn't mention that on one occasion he had made a 700-mile journey in a Greyhound bus to get to JB's Princeton home! That was truly amazing. Ed]*



And then came the time to transfer the SOC influence to Heather Starkie. This was truly an historic moment for us all.

Heather said that as the first female Senior Old Chorister she welcomed the opportunities that this gave to all of us and she looked forward to supporting the Cathedral and its music during her year of office. This was greeted by enthusiastic applause.

And so ended a most happy and fruitful day. *Hallelujah!*



BCOCA Chairman **Stewart Hopkinson** started the dinner by highlighting the spirit of the Association – a happy mix of old guard and young folk. He also paid a moving tribute to **Joan Hunwick**, who had died only two days earlier.

The Dean said Grace, and then we all tucked in.

Your editor had the pleasure of sitting with **Bob and John Keen**, **Peter and Constance Heald**, and **David and Dorothy Wade**.

Opposite were **Carrie-Anne and Iain Thompson**. Our conversation ranged from how to train a choir, to Einstein

and Picasso; to composing music and what Michelangelo thought when he saw a new piece of marble. Fascinating stuff.

Dorothy Wade told us that she was Parish Administrator for St George's Church, Preston; her **sister** is Chapter Clerk of Ely Cathedral.



Bryan Lamb proposed the Loyal Toast, and told the younger members of the Association that the friendships they made in the choir will last them a lifetime.

His own friendships go back 50 years and they are **good** friendships.



Then it came time for **John Marr** to hand over his badge of office to Heather Starkie.

But before he did that he reminisced about his time in the choir as a boy – how he was auditioned by JB, and how he had felt at his first service; how membership of the choir had changed his life; how life was so different in those days – no safety caps on



The next morning many of the very faithful Old Choristers attended the 10.30 service which was sung by the cathedral choir, and farewells said until next year.

At Choral Evensong that afternoon – sung before a large congregation of Cathedral Welcomers, the **Dean** promoted **Arthur Geldard** to be Head Chorister, and the Organist Emeritus presented to Arthur, as longest serving chorister, the **Dots Bertalot Memorial Badge**, whilst **Barry Hudson-**



Taylor (far side R-L) was waiting to be promoted to deputy Head Chorister, and **Michael Smith & Connor Buller** were waiting to be promoted to Prefect. It was an impressive ceremony.

That was the end of most wonderful weekend.

Introducing Heather Starkie, our new Senior Old Chorister

She tells us in a brief "potted history" of her life to date!

After being educated at Salesbury CE Primary School and Westholme School, I attended St Martin's College, Lancaster where I spent four years studying for my B. Ed. (Hons.) degree - training to become a primary school teacher. I qualified in 1986 and for the past twenty one years I have taught a range of age groups across the whole primary sector, primarily within Church of England schools in Lancashire.



For the last eight years I have undertaken the role of Headteacher of a primary school, near Chorley, with 230 children on roll. After leading the school through a successful OFSTED inspection during the last academic year, I decided to have a change in direction.

This has led me to undertaking some Advisory work and acting as a School Improvement Partner for Lancashire LEA. I also qualified as an accredited Statutory Inspector of Anglican Schools and currently undertake inspections on behalf of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. This work involves me visiting Church of England primary schools across the Blackburn Diocese, evaluating their Christian character and ethos as well as assessing the standards and quality of Worship and Religious Education within the school.

From a very early age, music, in particular church music, has been an important part of my life. I joined my local church choir (St Peter's, Salesbury) when I was eight years old. I still sing in the choir attending two Sunday services each week, plus additional services and practices as and when required.

Alongside my commitments to St Peter's I sang with the Cathedral Young People's Choir (YPC) for eight years under the direction of Keith Bond. During this time I forged some wonderful friendships and retain many fond and happy memories of my time with them.

I left the YPC to go to St Martin's College and, whilst at college, I sang with the Chapel Choir and College Choir.

Shortly after commencing teaching, I joined The Renaissance Singers, and sang with them for over ten years under the direction of David Cooper, Gordon Stewart and latterly Richard Tanner. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, I had to relinquish my position with them in 1999. But I have recently rejoined the Renaissance Singers and I am now enjoying renewing old friendships as well as making some new ones.

My appointment, as Senior Old Chorister, is a great honour and I feel it is an enormous privilege, for me, to be the very first female Senior Old Chorister in the Association's history. It provides a new chapter in the life of BCOCA and I trust, with your support, we will be able to enjoy a successful year ahead. *Welcome, Heather! Ed.*

CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

Throughout Ramadan Canon Chris Chivers and Anjum Anwar took the opportunity to engage in some high-profile activities which would draw attention to the importance of Christian-Muslim dialogue.



Canon Chivers wrote the *Face to faith* column in *The Guardian* on the first Saturday of Ramadan, encouraging Christians to recover the centrality of fasting in their tradition, inspired by their

Muslim neighbours. Another version of this piece appeared in *Asian Leader*.

Anjum Anwar, our Dialogue Development Officer, also wrote several columns for *Asian Leader*, as well as hosting a daily programme at 4.00 pm on Radio Ramadan. This was sponsored by **exChange**, and listened to by over 30,000 people each day.

During the month Canon Chivers spent ten days in South Africa. The trip included the breaking of the fast with several Muslim families.

Following one of these occasions, at the invitation of Imam A Rashied Omar, Canon Chivers gave the sermon following the nightly prayers at the Claremont Main Road Mosque in Cape Town.



Rashied Omar

In 2001, following 9/11, he gave a sermon after Friday Prayers in this mosque. He was then thought to have been one of the only priests in the world ever to have preached in a mosque. He is almost certainly the only one to do so twice!

On his return he worked with Anjum Anwar to assist in the co-ordination of an *Iftar* (breaking the fast) at Blackburn's Islamic College. This was the initiative of the Discovering Mosques group of which Canon Chivers and Ms Anwar are members.

It was attended by the Rt. Hon. **Jack Straw** MP for Blackburn, and was the first occasion he had been invited to an *iftar*. This saw another important first for the Muslim community in Blackburn: women prayed in the same space as men, on the same floor.

On the same evening, Ms Anwar co-ordinated an *iftar* at Wesley Hall for over 80 asylum seekers and refugees.



This was a partnership between **exChange** and Helping Hands Worldwide, and was hosted by John East, our asylum worker.

Just hours before these *iftars*, Anjum and Chris interviewed Jack Straw for half an hour on Radio Ramadan.

In the last days of the fast, Anjum joined a party from Blackburn Cathedral in visiting **our link cathedral**, the **Dom in Braunschweig**, where she celebrated **Eid** (a Muslim holiday which marks the end of Ramadan) by contacting members of the (mostly) Turkish Muslim population there.



The breadth and depth of the work and witness of Blackburn Cathedral are amazing! These are exciting times to be here.

Printed by the **DELMAR PRESS**,
Nantwich. CW5 5LS. Phone: 01270-62-41-22