

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

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Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music Newsletter No. 8

Apologies for the incorrect numbering of the last Newsletter!

Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers Association

Newsletter No. 17

February, 2004

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Canon David Galilee's Retirement. See pp 16-17

AWARD FOR RONALD FROST



RONALD FROST, who was sub organist of Blackburn Cathedral when the new organ was installed way back in 1969, was honoured in November with the award of an honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians.

This Award was presented to Ronald by His Eminence, **Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor** at a special service in Westminster Cathedral.

Your staff photographer was there to capture the moment.

The citation read:

Ronald Frost was educated at Bury Grammar School and the Royal Manchester College of Music where he remained for 50 years, becoming a tutor, Director of Studies and finally Principal Lecturer of what had now become the Royal Northern College of Music.

Whilst a student he held the Meadowcroft Organ Scholarship, passed his diploma with distinction, won many prizes and medals, also gaining the ARCO and FRCO in 1953 and 1955 respectively, and being awarded the Limpus prizes in each examination. He took the degree of Bachelor of Music from Durham University in 1966.

Ronald Frost was the Accompanist to the Hallé Choir from 1956 to 1972 and Choral Master from 1972 to 1992. He was Principal Organist to the Hallé Orchestra from 1974 to 1996.



From 1958 to 1969 he was organist and choirmaster of Stretford Parish Church [before coming to Blackburn as Sub Organist – where he founded the Young Men's Choir – the forerunner of the YPC].

JB with RF at the temporary 2-manual Walker, 1969

In 1978 he was invited to be the Organist and Choirmaster of St. Ann's Church, Manchester, where he is still in post.

He has given over 750 organ recitals there and is also well known as a recitalist throughout the country. He has made many recordings and done much radio and television work.

It would be accurate to say that in recent years no-one has done more for the cause of church music in the Parishes of the North West of England than Ronald Frost.

After the service your staff photographer (who, with **RICHARD TANNER**, is a member of the Council of the Guild of Church Musicians) snapped the four new honorary Fellows, with the Cardinal. L-R **Dr. Christopher Robinson**, (Worcester, Windsor and St. John's Cambridge), **Maurice Bevan** (composer), **Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor**, **Ronald Frost** and **Dr. John Sanders** (Chester and Gloucester Cathedrals).

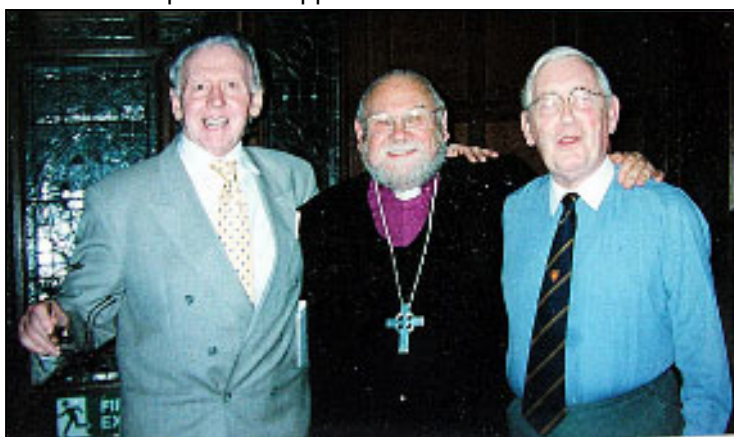


Well done, Ronald. We're proud of you! Ed.

In late December **the sudden death of Dr. John Sanders was announced.** (See photograph above.) This came as a great shock to us all – and especially to JB who was an exact contemporary of his as a student at the Royal College of Music, and also at Cambridge. When John S. was organist of Chester we formed a Three Choirs' Festival along with Manchester which lasted for several years. He was a faithful friend and greatly honoured. He will be sorely missed.

Former **SOC ERNIE GORNER** reported that Whalley Abbey Fellowship hosted an evening in October called *With a Smile and a Song* which was a great success, especially as it was followed by a hot-pot supper.

The chairman, the Revd. **Alan Reid**, was raconteur (who always has a funny story to tell, even when he's giving out the notices). He paid a glowing tribute to the work done by Blackburn Cathedral in helping to raise money for the Abbey. The guest of honour was the **Bishop of Burnley** who said, 'I wonder if this photo will appear in the BCOCA Newsletter!'



Wonder no more, Bishop! (L-R Ernie, Bishop and Alan Reid). Also present were BCOCA stalwarts, **Ann Williams**, **Sarah Chew** and **OC the Revd PHILIP CHEW**.

RSCM COURSES OF YESTERYEAR

From **DEREK BELL**, faithful attender at our Wednesday lunchtime recitals.

We do enjoy reading your Cathedral Newsletter. My wife **Margaret** is a former member of the Cathedral Young People, started by the Reverend **BRIAN SELVEY** (1960s). I am a former chorister of St Gabriel's Choir, Blackburn. We were lead brilliantly by Organist-Choirmaster **FRED DEWHURST** who was also the Assistant Organist to **TLD** at the Cathedral. We considered ourselves to be worthy rivals of the cathedral choir and were given some wonderful opportunities to join RSCM Cathedral courses and Celebrations along with Choristers from Blackburn Cathedral.

In 1956 on my second RSCM Instructional Course for choirboys at St Peter's School York, under the leadership of Hubert Crook, my House Captain was **GARY WIGNALL** from the Cathedral, who is now a Churchwarden.

This was followed in October 1957 with an invitation to sing at the RSCM Choirboys' Festival to celebrate the re-dedication of the rebuilt and restored East end of St Paul's Cathedral, London. My enclosed photograph shows three boys from the Cathedral:

See the following photo:

Front L to R **JIM HULME** (whose father was a Mayor of Blackburn), **JOHN WILKINSON** and **STEPHEN MONK**.

Rear L to R **Donald Bailey**, **John Malone** and **Derek Bell** from St Gabriel's.



[Notice how the cathedral choristers clasped their hands – this was instilled into all the cathedral boys by **TLD!** Ed]

I remember that we had several practices in the Cathedral Song School before departing for London!

In 1958 we attended the Cathedral Course at Southwell Minster in Nottingham, under the direction of **Dr Gerald Knight**. Two of the Cathedral choristers were there: **PETER CROWTHER** and **JOHN WILKINSON**.

In December 1959 John Wilkinson and I were invited to Canterbury by the Vicar who had given us lodgings when we sang at St Paul's two years earlier. A dinner was held to mark the anniversary of Thomas a Becket. Guests included the Archbishop of Canterbury **Geoffrey Fisher** and his wife.

John and I, of course, had to sing for our supper, singing solos, and leading some community carol singing. We were accompanied by **Dr Sidney Campbell** organist of Canterbury Cathedral.

I thought that these happy memories might be of interest to your readers!

Yours sincerely Derek W Bell

From **OC ADAM CREWE** in **Carlisle**, where he sings a fine alto in the Cathedral Choir and is also a student at the University (forwarding a letter he read on the web).

This is not a joke

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke, it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the USA TV Early Show and was asked, "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding the attacks on Sept. 11).

Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives.

"And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

"In light of recent events ... terrorists attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started when

CHOIRS' NEWS

Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, and her body was recently found) complained she didn't want prayer in American schools, and we said OK.

"Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school the Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

"Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't discipline our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). "We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

"Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'"

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing.

Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the American schools and workplaces.

Are you laughing?

Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it. Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

Pass it on if you think it has merit. If not then just discard it... no one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in!

LETTERS FROM OLD CHORISTERS

From **OC CHARLIE HOPWOOD**, who was one of JB's first new boys way back in 1964.

Dear JB,

So sorry that this wasn't sent months ago. I intended to write after the O.C. Reunion Evensong last September which I did attend. I sat at the back and listened to the service with enjoyment.. I intended to write when I received the subsequent newsletter, but at that time I was in the middle of getting ready for a trip to Canada to see an old school friend. I should have written when I returned, but time marches on and things get left behind.

Anyway, as I say I enjoyed the evensong, especially the music which showed that you have lost none of your enthusiasm, and you must have been proud of the performance of the choir.

I was back once again recently in the cathedral grounds with a working visit to St. Mary's House (where you and your Mum used to live) which once more brought back memories, although it is now obviously completely changed both in structure and usage. I will be back again on 3rd December for the Fire Services Christmas carol service.

Best wishes for the upcoming festive season, I'm sure you will be extremely busy. Cheers for now, Charlie

The **Cathedral Choir** are planning another foreign mini tour – this time to our twinned diocese of Braunschweig, and also to Berlin! See page 13 for full details.

Two of our valuable altos will, alas, have left our Men's choir from the New Year:

ANTHONY TATTERSALL has felt the call to return as organist & choirmaster at St. Cuthbert's Church, Darwen, where he did a fantastic job. 'Tatt' was a JB chorister way back last century, and is a great hearted fellow. We shall miss him terribly, but know that he will be welcomed back to St. C's, with great joy.

ANDREW ORR, who has only recently joined us and is librarian of the children's library in Blackburn, has just taken up his appointment as organist and choirmaster of Feniscowles Parish Church – but happily, will continue to sing with the Cathedral Choir for Sunday Evensongs. **OC GODFREY MCGOWAN's** father was Vicar at that church some 40 years ago. Andrew wrote to the Editor:

I know Godfrey very well. He was very quick to introduce himself to me when I first arrived as his dad originally came from Northern Ireland, as do I, and he still has many relatives over there.

We wish our two alto organists well as they begin to make music within the diocese. Organists and Choirmasters seem to be a dying breed – we're delighted that the Cathedral has gone a little way to rectify this situation, even though it costs us dearly.

From **OC BERNARD HARGREAVES** in California

Bernard was one of JB's first new boys in 1964 – his two brothers joined the choir, too. He has just surfaced, after 35 years' silence – great to hear from him!

Hi John, I hope this e-mail finds you in good health and spirits.

Well, you never know where, or even when, your Blackburn Cathedral "old choristers" will turn up. I just stumbled across your website, it's a little dated, but hopefully you are still around Blackburn and enjoying your retirement. It's been a long time since we last met, so this e-mail may jog your memory a little. The last time we saw each other was back in the 1960's choirboy era of: **PHILIP WILSON, COLIN YOUNG, NEIL FELLOWS, CHARLES HOPWOOD, and DEREK CROMPTON** (just to name a few). Sadly, (or maybe intentionally) I have lost touch with them over the years.

I too have been living in the U.S.A., in sunny southern California, for some 23 years now. The good news is that I was fortunate enough to marry a nice 'Blackburn lass,' and now have three teenage boys ("Yankee doodle dandies"). Anyway, last year when I was back in Blackburn briefly, I heard via Elaine Fox (Michael's older sister, *[Michael was an*

OC, too] and alas, the very sad news about Michael's death a couple of years earlier) that you had returned from Princeton N.J. and were now back in Blackburn. So, I just wanted to say hello and wish you the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Best Regards, Bernard J. Hargreaves

PS - It doesn't seem that long ago since **Dr. Gerald Knight** was stopping by the Cathedral at Easter to listen to the Blackburn Cathedral Choir.

(Dr. K - who was the director of the RSCM stayed for many years on Easter Eve with JB and his Mum when they lived in St. Mary's House. For Easter Sunday morning service he was often joined by **Dr. Harold Darke** - especially if we sang Darke in F or A. Ed)

Congratulations to FAMILY BANKS

E mail from **OC PETER BANKS** in Surrey

The world's population was increased by the addition of **Evie Isabella Banks** at 00.53am on the morning of Thursday 13th November 2003 !! She weighed in at 6lb 11oz, and we are all now together at home. Val and Evie were in Frimley Park Hospital, showing that if it is good enough for royalty (The Countess of Wessex) it's good enough for us!

All went well, and we are now starting on the amended sleeping patterns that this life changing event brings - needless to say, we are all thrilled, and happy to share this news with you.



With all best wishes, Peter, Val and Evie
Heartiest congratulations to parents, **Peter & Val**, and to Grandparents, **Churchwarden Canon Keith and Joan**. Ed..

MORE MEMORIES from OC BRYAN LAMB

A follow-up to **Bryan's fascinating reminiscences of his years as a chorister and server at Blackburn, 50 years ago, and also a follow-up to OC DAVID CLAYDON's more recent memories (equally fascinating) in our last edition.**

My goodness, Old Chorister, Officer Cadet **DAVID CLAYDON's** article about Sandhurst in the last Newsletter evoked some memories. And mixed ones at that. I spent the whole of 1966 as a student at the Army Staff College, Camberley, which then shared the magnificent park-like grounds of the Royal Military Academy (RMA) Sandhurst. However it shares them no longer.



Prior to being commissioned: 2nd Lt. David Claydon

Fairly recently and after around 150 years at Camberley, staff training became Joint Service and was moved to Shrivenham, I think.

I wonder what the gloriously ugly Victorian pile of the old Staff College building is used for now? David will probably know.



In my day, 180 officer students were posted in for the twelve month course at Camberley. They came from every conceivable regiment and corps, from Commonwealth countries and the USA, and included three officers from the Royal Navy and three from the RAF. I was one of the latter. All very cosmopolitan.

It was supposed to be a bit special to be sent to represent one's own Service at somebody else's Staff College but unfortunately, I didn't impress. I should have been more diligent. If you don't take the British Army seriously, you never get away with it. But at the time I was still suffering from aircraft withdrawal symptoms and I found TEWTs (Tactical Exercises Without Troops) extremely tame, compared with combating turbulent cumulonimbus clouds with their thunderstorms and lightning strikes. (We couldn't fly over them like the big jets do now.)

It was a good year for talent spotting though. Several of my contemporaries eventually reached general rank, one of them is Chief of Defence Staff. Two are now Field Marshals and Knights of the Garter! One dashing young Canadian captain is now a retired General and in charge of de-commissioning weapons in Northern Ireland.

Soon after we moved into our married quarter, my wife **Patricia** and I became members of the congregation at the Royal Memorial Chapel, situated in the grounds behind the RMA college buildings.

I'm sure David will agree that the Chapel is very impressive. Inside, all the walls are covered with marble panels bearing the names of former Sandhurst cadets killed in action, mostly during World War I. Thousands of names are inscribed there. It is awesome and humbling just to walk around.



Two C of E Army padres ministered to both the RMA and the Staff College. The senior was a lieutenant colonel, Padre Groebecke, a priest very similar in appearance and manner to our own **PROVOST WILLIAM KAY** at Blackburn. The other was a major whose name I can't remember, but who was probably the most effective preacher I ever heard. A truly gifted fellow.

Sunday morning matins was quite an experience. In term time, the church would be crammed wall-to-wall with khaki-suited rosy-cheeked officer cadets. They were paraded and marched thither, of course. The Staff College families sat in raised galleries either side and behind the choir, which was of the parish church type, comprising local boys and men. Besides the organ, there was invariably a sizeable orchestra with strings, brass and percussion. A long drum roll would lead us into the last verse of every hymn. After the choir and clergy had entered, the two Commandants, (ours and the RMA's, both major-generals) took their seats in their special stalls in the chancel.



Two senior cadets would then march down the aisle and halt in front of the Book of Remembrance, a large embellished book containing all the names of the fallen. One cadet lifted the lid of the glass case and the other turned over just one page. Total silence reigned whilst this was being done, but when the cadets turned and marched away, the service would begin.

At the end, after the blessing, the entire congregation remained kneeling to sing the first and last verses of *Eternal Father Strong To Save*. Very moving. Then everyone stood for a rousing National Anthem. Powerful stuff! After all this, one could easily feel emotionally drained and in dire need of a restorative gin and tonic!

One day we had a visitation from the full Monty – Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, KG, etc. He came every year at that time to talk to the latest crop of budding staff officers. He was in his mid seventies then, I think, a dapper little man dressed in his blues with more medal ribbons that I ever saw on a human being. Sewing them on and in the right order must have given somebody a headache!

Came December 1966 and I was posted, much to my disgust, to a job at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. No more aeroplanes for Lamb! Pat and I bought our first house at

Frimley, just over a mile away from Camberley and I commuted from there. Until we were packed off to Germany in 1970, we continued to attend church at Sandhurst, so when our daughter **Kathryn** was born in early 1968, it was natural that she should be christened there. Padre Groebecke came to our home to inspect our beautiful new progeny, to give us an operational briefing and explain the strategic implications of baptism. During this visitation, he initiated the following conversation:

You are saying her prayers aren't you?
Er, well no, actually.
How old is she?
Three months.
Well you are three months too late!
Oh!
Better start at bedtime tonight.
Sir-yes-Sir!

We did!



Brian and Kate Lamb three years later

In those far off days, security wasn't the problem it is now and most of the Sandhurst grounds were open to the public.

We often enjoyed the park, walking with Kate in her pram and when she became a toddler, she used to love to feed the ducks on the lakes there. Nowadays I am privileged to have grandchildren to take on similar expeditions to the River Great Ouse which flows through our village. The procedure is much the same, but the ducks are civilians.

Although we have never met, I wish **DAVID** the best of luck in his up-coming military career. If he has as much fun as I did in the Air Force, he will lead a fascinating existence. And the pension lasts a lifetime!

Incidentally, John, OC also stands for Officer Commanding!

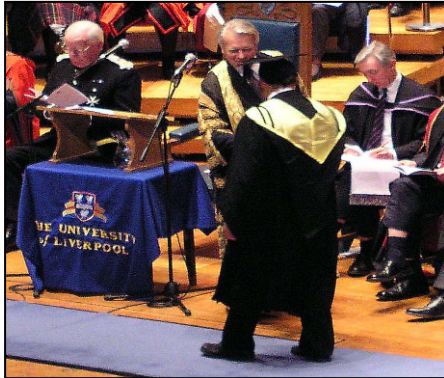
(q.v. OC OC David Claydon's article – *Old Chorister, Officer Cadet. May he, one day, add the third OC to his name!* Ed)

**HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS to
OC CHRIS HUNWICK**

. . . who has just gained his Master of Archives and Records Management (MARM) from Liverpool University. His proud Dad (**PHIL**) told your editor

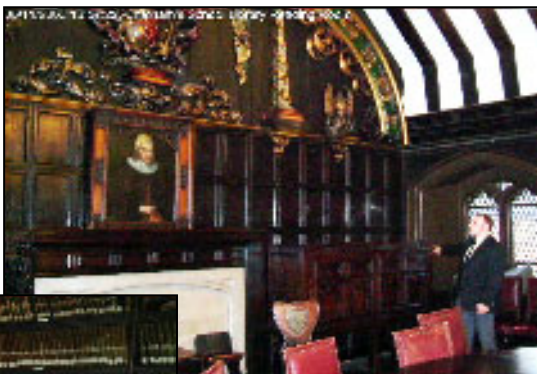
that Chris gained a distinction for his dissertation. "What's it about?" I asked Chris, as we ate a delicious supper in the Cathedral Crypt prior to the first performance of the Cathedral's Drama Group play, in which his Mum, **Joan**, and **OC PHIL WILSON** played leading roles. "It was about an edition of an excerpt from MS F.4.1" he replied. "Oh yes!" I said, trying to look intelligent. "It's a 14th century manuscript in Liverpool University Archive and Special Collection on a formulary of Writs, giving mediaeval clerkes a pro-forma to copy out when issuing writs in King Edward III's name." "Oh!"

Anyway, having already earned an honours BA from Oxford, his Liverpool Master's is **A Laudable Additional Degree of Excellence!** (**MARM-ALADE**)



Chris receiving his degree at the hands of the Chancellor of Liverpool University, Lord Owen.

Chris now spends his time paleo-graphising in the libraries of Chet's School



and Manchester Cathedral.

Can't be bad!

From OC STEPHEN WARD LOST OLD CHORISTERS

John --
 Sorry not to have been in touch for a while. Had a bit of a rough period, late summer/early autumn, but am now 'out of the woods', as they say!
 Saw your list of Lost Old Choristers in the latest Newsletter. Can't help much, I'm afraid, although there were names on there that I would love to know the whereabouts and wherefores of e.g. **STEPHEN BARNARD** (who my dad taught...), the **CHAPELHOWS**, **STEPHEN HOLMES**, **DAVID MELLODY**, **HAROLD RANSON**.

One I can help with is **NICOLA BARBER**, now **NICKY FORSDIKE**. For a while I acted as her accompanist (she was a great singer and oboist); and I remember visiting her when she was at Robinson College, Cambridge, many moons ago! Her husband, Dave, used to be an engineer for Radio 3, I think; and she has two sons: Tom and Jack.

BARBARA EDMUNDSON is **OC BRIAN'S** sister, and was a good friend of my sister, Christine (see below). Similarly, **DEBRA FARQUHAR** (can't remember her married name...) is **OC KARL'S** sister; and was my good mate (and QEGS contemporary), Dr. Ann Chippindale's closest childhood friend... -- but I would guess that Karl would be the better avenue.

RACHEL HEAP I guess you know the "whereabouts and wherefores of" **LUCY** and **RACHEL JACKSON** are obviously **Lawrence and Faith's**; **MARGARET MARR** is **JOHN'S** sister...! (I was always good at pointing out the blatantly obvious!?)

Talking of sisters: my sister, Chris, has lived in London for a long time now, and works in marketing at Tate Modern. She can be contacted at chris@kennoldes.demon.co.uk
 Hope you're keeping well! Steve. *Yes, thanks! JB*

OCs' REUNION, September 25-26, 2004, Organ-ised?

From **OC DAVID GOODENOUGH** in Edinbrrrr
 Hi John,

Just to let you know, as far as I'm aware, next year's BCOCA Reunion coincides (with it being slightly later) with one of my exeats at school. I'll just need to wait until next term to double check but, all being well, I should be able to be there this time. I'm very glad about that, because it's been a while.....

Now, **how about a lunch time Organ Recital (Town Hall-ish) on the Saturday to kick things off** before the AGM? I could finish up with an Improvised Suite on OCs' favourite hymns or something. Something to ponder. Take care, DG. *Whatta good idea! JB*

Our Southern Affairs' Correspondent, Dean **DAVID FRAYNE**, phoned your editor one Sunday in December -- he'd been to church that morning, playing his 'cello!. He and **Liz** are keeping very busy. "We've joined a small choir in Gillingham which will sing carols to the Mayor and townsfolk -- it's not a madrigal choir," he added modestly, "but it will do. Tomorrow," he continued in his Santa Claus guise, "I'm delivering church cheques to clergy widows in my care."

Then in his Jesus guise he added, "I'm something of a carpenter now; I built 30 yards of fence in the back garden [*they still measure in yards in the South of England!*] and I took off two bedroom doors -- which were suburban doors, and made two cottage doors instead. The suburban doors are now on the wood pile."

Dean David remembers **OC MICHAEL WILKINSON** very well. (See our last Newsletter, pp 7-8.) "He visited us half a dozen times at the cathedral during my time there – it was so good to see him and **Anne**." David continues to enjoy the computer and camera which the cathedral gave him as a parting present: "I attended computer graphics evening classes recently and am learning a lot!"

OC IAN HARRISON, who is director of music at St. Stephen's Church Bournemouth, has invited David to preach at their Music Festival in May (which is a major event) – he'll see **JB** there, too, for Ian commissioned him to write an anthem for their excellent choir, and to give a lecture. And **GORDON STEWART** will give an organ recital: 'Twill be good to enjoy a Blackburn Mini Reunion so far south.

REFLECTED GLORY

From **OC PETER HEALD** in Ely (follow up to **ALEC STUTTARD'S** article about the Coronation and Buckingham Palace Garden Party) *See pages 9-10*



1953 Prefects: Peter & Eric Heald, Roocroft, Sutcliffe & Stuttard

Sadly, I was unable to witness the dedication of JB's splendid wizardry of the 1953 prefects' photograph in the Song School, but the privilege is very much recognised – and it gives me an opportunity to respond to **Alec Stuttard's** article.

TLD had a transparently paternal approach to breaking bad news. He took me aside when I was due to be made a prefect to tell me, "strictly between ourselves, old chap", that a younger chorister would be appointed before me because his voice was about to break, he had only a few months left in the choir and his parents had requested, etc. - assuring me that I would quite understand. I must admit that it made me feel quite chivalrous.

He did it again at coronation time, although I was clearly out of the running by then - as he did to you, **ALEC**, and I suppose he did to **JOHN SUTCLIFFE**. Brother **ERIC** was not yet a prefect.

I well remember **STANLEY ROOCROFT** showing us his medal, and saying that he was privileged to wear it on behalf of the Blackburn Cathedral Choir – a nice gesture.

However, as an excuse for being seen with my wife, Alec, it takes the cake – in a queue at Buckingham Palace? (Incidentally, Constance was there for 21 years' service to Ely Cathedral, rather than the Red Cross). But, like you, Alec, she had a memorable visit and it was good to read your account of it.

Peter Heald.

From **OC DAVID ROBINSON** in Cornwall.

Dear JB:

OCs who were in the boys' choir towards the end of **TLD's** reign will remember **PETER SHARPLES**. Peter is the personal finance editor at the *Manchester Evening News* and has been

named the 2003 Bradford & Bingley Regional Finance Journalist of the Year.

Another **SHARPLES, DAVID**, joined the servers after his voice broke. He and wife **Liz** live in West Yorks.

Those who migrated to the belltower might like to know that my father, Frank, now lives in Oswaldtwistle with second wife Ruby (my mother died in 1984). A couple of years ago he bought a PC to surf the web and at the age of 81 he is teaching himself to touch type!

Further to Where Are They Now?, I wonder what became of the **LUND brothers** and **PETER JUMP**.

Living in Cornwall has its benefits - superb coastline (from March to October I regularly have my lunch on the beach), mild winters (frost is very rare and snow even rarer), relatively light traffic, starry nights, clean air, few buildings taller than three storeys - but also drawbacks - storms, strong winds, dampness (having the sea on three sides) and remoteness (because Gill can't sit in the car for more than a couple of hours at a stretch it takes us two days to get up north to visit relatives.

I look forward to the next newsletter. **David**

Thanks for David Sharples' address – I've written to him. JB

From **OC CHRIS RYAN** in Singapore

Update on the 50% increase in his family last summer 😊

Mom and baby made a fantastic team effort, helping each other through the birth with, basically, no anaesthetic – while Dad did a great job of not collapsing in a heap or getting in the way too much. Since then it has been an incredible learning adventure for all 3 of us, and we are just about getting used to our new lives together - and the occasional bouts of sleep deprivation. *Heartiest congrats all round! JB*



Bee Ling, Magnus, and Chris

Is Magnus wearing a Blackburn Rovers' bib?

EXCITING NEWS FROM DAVID BRIGGS!

(David, our distinguished and brilliant organ consultant, has just undergone serious heart surgery in New York – happily it was wholly successful.)

Dear All,

I thought you would like to know that I have now been successful in raising the required £6K to make the project of **composing an organ concerto for Blackburn** a reality, courtesy three very generous donors (who I HOPE will still be my friends!). One in particular has donated £4K.

I'd like to work on the project in February and March 2004. Richard – would you like to think about the orchestration, and what would fit in with your plans? Chamber Orchestra?

As you can imagine, I'm very excited about the prospect of writing specifically for our amazing instrument.

All best from New York, hopefully back in UK before Christmas. **David Briggs**

[David is now back in the UK, mending wonderfully! We eagerly look forward to the world-premiere of his organ concerto. Ed]

OC GEOFFREY TAYLOR
60th Anniversary (see photo p. 10)

Dear John,

Thank you for your note of the event in the Song School prior to 9 Lessons/Carols next Tuesday – will try to be there, subject to teaching commitments.

It will be 60 years ago, 26th Dec. 1943 that I was admitted on St. Stephen's Day to our Cathedral choir by **T.L.D, Provost Kay** and **Rev Wallace Clarke** (Precentor). No one could have predicted what these 60 years would have held for me, as an Organist, from raw beginnings at Brownhill Congregational church (where I refused point-blank to play the tune associated with the ditty 'John Brown's body lies a-moulderin in the grave', and which later became one of my all time favourite tunes as of course Battle Hymn of the Republic).

Choral singing with firstly Blackburn Music Soc., then 3 years with Croydon Philharmonic choir, with the chance of singing in the Royal Albert Hall, *Gerontius*, under Sir Malcolm Sargent at the first Prom concert featuring that work.

Verdi Requiem at the Festival Hall in a memorial concert to Guido Cantelli (due to succeed Toscanini) but killed in an air-crash at ORLY Paris, Nov. 1956.

Almost 20 years organist at St. Silas's, after 6 years at St. John's, not to mention the chance of playing at Sydney's Town Hall and Opera House and Christchurch cathedral NZ. All this plus my private piano teaching practice the last 22 years.

I pray that the youngsters currently joining our Cathedral choir will derive as much joy and satisfaction from the world of music-making that I have been truly blest with, and a life I would not have exchanged 'for a king's ransom'.

Geoffrey Taylor

Geoffrey – heartiest congratulations from us all on celebrating the 60th anniversary of your joining the cathedral choir and upon your so-many musical achievements. We're proud of you. JB

Welcome back to INDRA HUGHES from New Zealand

How very good it was to welcome **INDRA HUGHES** back into our midst in December. He was on a flying visit from New Zealand, and **Gordon and Sheila Shaw** threw a super gathering for him in their lovely Mellor home..



*L-R: Richard Tanner, Gordon Shaw, **INDRA HUGHES**, David Goodenough (who had driven all the way from Edinburgh to see Indra) David Prowse, Judge James Prowse, Anthony Tattersall, and John Bertalot (who had driven all the way from the other side of Mellor to be there!)*



It was a great party, and Indra was in terrific form. Indra is making a lot of very splendid music in New Zealand – watch this space for further news!

From GORDON STEWART

My next *TV Songs of Praise* programmes are a wonderful Palm Sunday from **Gloucester Cathedral** (already recorded), a programme with ladies' choirs about women's ministry (including a piece by Gordon Stewart!),



Easter Day from **Johannesburg Cathedral** and Pentecost from Bracknell Family Church, where we are also recording a **Classic Worship Songs** programme. All great fun.

I did a *Toccatas* programme at **Huddersfield Town Hall** today, with toccatas by Buxtehude, Frescobaldi, Bach, Wood, Whitlock, Mushel, Yon and Duruflé. Some quiet movements there too, to break it up! I was exhausted by the end!

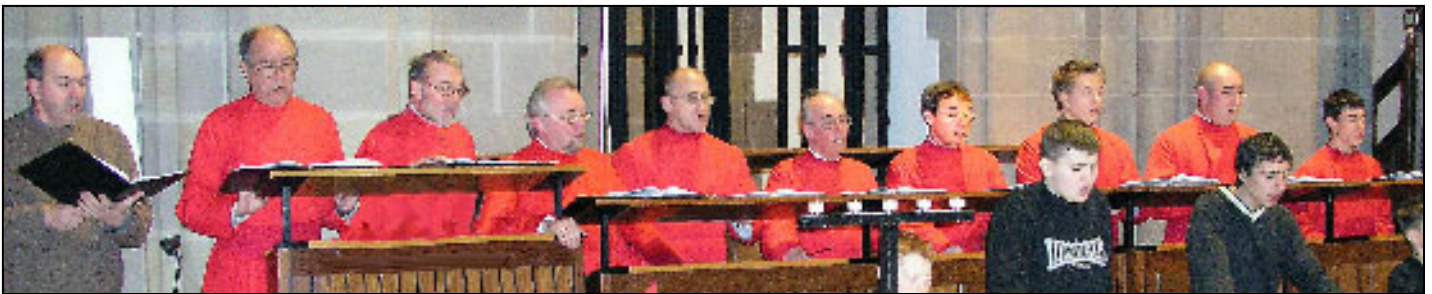
The Duruflé Toccata is fiendish! (The others are only very difficult. JB.)

Tuesday, 23rd Dec, 2003 was a significant moment in the history of Blackburn Cathedral Choir:

1. The annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols was sung by the cathedral choir, directed by **RICHARD TANNER**, with **GREG MORRIS** at the organ. Not only did the boys sing well of course, but there was a record number of choirmen – 19 in all – some of whom had returned from college. **'Woody' Seymour** had travelled all the way from Hereford to be with us, and **Daniel Prowse's** Newcastle University hood was a magnificent affair in scarlet and purple silk, tastefully edged with snow-white bunny! (See **Richard Tanner's account on page 12.**)



L-R: James Twigg, Philip Hunwick, Derek Crompton, Andy Jump, (who has just joined the cathedral choir as a permanent member. Andy joined from St Luke's Lawton - a regular visiting choir at the Cathedral. He's also been in the RSCM's elite Northern Cathedral Singers for some years), **Daniel Prowse, 'Woody' Seymour, Joseph Twigg, Peter Eastham, Andrew Orr**, who is now organist of Emmanuel, Feniscowles, where he is building up the choir, and **Simon Hunt**. Simon was an extra alto as James Twigg was suffering from a nasty throat infection. **Richard T** reported: "Simon really enjoyed singing with us - he teaches at Manchester Grammar School; although he lives a bit far away to sing regularly, I'm sure we shall see him quite a bit in the future."



L-R: Philip Wilson, Alec Stuttard, Judge James Prowse, Simon Gaunt, Stewart Hopkinson Gordon Shaw, Robert Mitchell (permanent member of Renaissance Singers and deputy in the Cathedral Choir), **Noel Hunwick**, (from Oxford), **Edward McCullough, & Francis Hills**. (Anthony Tattersall arrived later.) **Tall boys: Phillip Rowbottom, Alasdair Grishakow**
Most of the boys were less tall – but they were all there!

2. After the choir had finished rehearsing in the cathedral, **GORDON SHAW** (Chairman of BCOCA) presented to the Dean, a handsomely framed photograph of the five choir Prefects, 1953 – most of whom had been invited by TLD to sing in the special choir formed for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, but only one had been well enough! (See our last edition). Distinguished Old Choristers had made a special effort to be there for this Presentation, including **SOC BOB KEEN, OC PETER SHARMAN** and his wife, **Joan**, former Prefect **JOHN SUTCLIFFE** and **Mrs. Margaret Sutcliffe, ERNIE GORNER** and **GEOFFREY TAYLOR**.



L-R: Richard Tanner, Dean Christopher Armstrong, John Bertalot, OC Peter Sharman (who took great joy in seeing his name on a Prefects' Board), **Alec Stuttard, Chairman Gordon Shaw, John Sutcliffe, SOC Bob Keen, former SOC Ernie Gorner and Geoffrey Taylor (just!)**

Offers of accommodation from OCs in Blackburn to visiting Old Choristers who want to come to our next Reunion, 25-26 Sept, warmly welcome. Please phone Gordon Shaw: 01254-813586

After the Presentation, our two 1953 Prefects posed for a photograph of the photograph, (See p.7)



SOC Bob Keen, Alec Stuttard, John Sutcliffe & Gordon Shaw

David's City solo was sung most confidently by Prefect **Thomas Crosson**, and the first lesson was read equally well by **Joshua Abbott**. **Emily Crewe** also read her lesson splendidly.



L-R: Joshua, Thomas and Emily



3. Geoffrey Taylor celebrated the 60th anniversary of his joining the cathedral choir on 26th December! **Renewed congratulations!**

He also brought a photo of three of his contemporaries in the choir in 1943 who were about to sing at a special Choirs' Festival in Westminster Abbey.



L-R: Walter Duxbury, Eddie Howorth, Geoffrey Taylor and Chris Kingston in 1943.

Geoffrey wrote that his brother, **STANLEY**, was a Prefect in 1937, but died in 1942. Mr. & Mrs. Taylor gave set of Parry's Songs of Farewell to the cathedral choir in his memory.

4 The third speciality that evening was the Carol Service itself – sung superbly by the cathedral choir to a packed congregation. The all-important *Once in Royal*

5. After the service who should come down to the Song School but **OC RUPERT DUCKWORTH** from Australia. (He was staying with his parents in their historic home in Abbey Village for the wedding of one of his brothers.) Rupert had brought his wife, **Chrissie**, to see where he had spent two most happy and fruitful years as a chorister (he was an exact contemporary of the ubiquitous **IAN THOMPSON**, and of **IAN HOLMES**, whose daughter **Alison** now sings in the Girls' choir. Needless to say, a photograph of the 2003 reunion was called for!



This is how we were in 1980 – processing in the shopping precinct, carol singing at Christmas.



L-R: Rupert Duckworth, Ian Holmes, Iain Thompson and JB.

Rupert reminded JB that he hadn't made Prefect, as his parents, **Judge Brian and Carolyn Duckworth**, had whisked him off to Sedbergh School when he was 12!

It was great to see you again, Rupert, with Chrissie and your honored parents. Thanks for your sub! JB

**The Cathedral's
Fabulous
Music Programme.
RICHARD TANNER**

Christmas 2003 was, as usual, a busy, but highly successful season for the musicians at the Cathedral.



Advent

The Advent Carol Service on 30th November is always my favourite, as there is such a wide variety of quality music from around the world to choose from. There were many positive comments about the standard of singing by the Cathedral Choir, as well as the choice of music, which included: *This is the truth* by Vaughan Williams, Byrd's *Rorate Caeli*, Howells' *A Spotless Rose* (**Derek Crompton**, soloist), Gibbons *This is the record of John* (**James Twigg**, soloist), Britten's *Hymn of St Columba*, the first movement of J.S. Bach's Cantata *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, Grieg's *Ave Maris Stella*, Bainton's *And I saw a new heaven*, and *Audivi media nocte* by Tallis (sung ethereally from the Jesus Chapel by the gentlemen of the choir).

A large number of Carol Services for local schools, as well as Blackburn College, the ambulance service and the fire brigade kept the organists very busy and ensured that they played *Hark the Herald* many times during December!

The Renaissance Singers

The Renaissance Singers were also very busy, giving four performances. The first was a concert for the Rotary Club at St Peter's Salesbury on December 11th, followed by two evenings of Christmas carols in the beautiful 16C Dining Hall at Salmesbury Hall on the 16th and 18th.



They also sang Christmas Carols as a surprise from Groom to Bride at a wedding reception at Salmesbury

Hall on 20th. A number of guests were exceedingly merry by the time we started to sing! The Singers sang exceptionally well at all their events in December, but



the highlight was definitely **Gordon Shaw's** rendition of *The Boar's Head Carol* for which he had created a splendid papier mache Boar's Head!



The choirboys enjoyed two special Christmas treats. As we are between Diocesan Bishops at present, the **Dean and Mrs Armstrong** kindly hosted the Christmas Party at the Deanery. This was a wonderful occasion. All the traditional party games

took place, such as the music quiz when boys have to identify excerpts of choral music (just like an RCO exam!) and the game called "Mummies" in which various younger choristers are wrapped up in toilet paper by the older boys!



Thomas Croxson and **Phillip Rowbottom** with an anonymously wrapped new boy!

Alex Wilson looking at a baby photo and wondering who it is!

The Dean introduced some new games this year, including a test in which the boys had to identify photos of various Cathedral adults as babies.

(It's me, RT !)



On the day of the Nine Lessons and Carols, the boys were rewarded with an outing to the Cinema followed by tea in Gibees restaurant.

L.E.T.

The Lancashire Evening

Telegraph Carol Service took place on 17th December. This is a splendid event with the most amazing firework display taking place just before. The Cathedral is always packed for this service and the atmosphere is very much a family event. The Salvation Army joined us and the Dean traditionally has the congregation in stitches with an amusing reading (this year he read with an Afro Caribbean accent!).



For the past five years the choir has comprised all of the boy and girl choristers. This year it was the first big service at which the new "junior" girls' choir sang. Music chosen for this service is of a popular nature and, this year, included: **RT's** arrangement for upper voices of Darke's *In the Bleak mid-winter* (sung exceptionally beautifully by the Senior Girls' Choir around the chamber organ), Malcolm Archer's *In dulci jubilo*, **JB's** arrangement of *King Jesus hath a Garden*, *The Snowman* sung by the boys, **RT's** new arrangement of *Mary's Boy Child* and Malcolm Archer's arrangement of the spiritual *De Virgin Mary had a baby boy*.

Nine Lessons & Carols (See photos, p. 9)

The Cathedral's own service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 23rd December was equally as well attended. However, the music is pitched at a different kind of taste. As usual, the **service was broadcast on BBC Radio Lancashire** on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. The Cathedral Choir were on fine form and sang fourteen carols. Many of the congregation seemed to think that it was the best Nine Lessons and Carols that they could remember and the Reverend **Michael Wedgeworth** wrote to RT saying: "*The choir music was absolutely superb, to my mind reaching heights that went even beyond the brilliant things you have done before*".

The fourteen carols were: *O Little town of Bethlehem* (Walford Davies), *This is the truth* (Vaughan Williams), *Adam lay ybounden* (Boris Ord), *Ding dong* (arr Wood), *I wonder as I wander* (Rutti), *Love came down at Christmas* (by choir-parent **Lyndon Hills**), *The Lamb* (Tavener), *The Holly and the ivy* (arr Christopher Robinson), *Nova!* (Bob Chilcott), *Silent night* (arr Barry Rose), *In the bleak midwinter* (Darke) - with stunning solo from **Derek Crompton**, even though he was suffering from a cold - and *A babe is born* (Mathias). The service opened with the solo verse of *Once in Royal* sung beautifully by **Tom Croxson**. (see photo, p.10)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Crib Service at 4.0 pm on Christmas Eve saw the public debut of the new Children's choir. The boys and girls sang *Silent Night* and *Star Child* to a packed congregation of families. **May Daley**, aged 4, a pupil at Westholme, started the music making off in great style

with a super solo, singing a verse of *Il est ne le divin enfant* in French! Not bad for somebody who was younger than our minimum specified age (5) to join the choir! May's



sister, **Grace**, is also in the children's choir; their mother, **Julie**, is a teacher at Westholme and many members of the Cathedral Girls' Choir are in her class.

Grace & May

Midnight

Midnight Mass is traditionally an occasion when we put together an ad hoc choir. It's amazing that it always seems to work so successfully, as I'm never quite sure who will turn up until 10.30 pm! A selection of wonderful singers from **the YPC, the Renaissance Singers, Cathedral Choirmen and Girls' Choir** turned up, as well as **former members** of those choirs. The choir sang Darke in F and a selection of Christmas carols. Great fun was had rehearsing for an hour and the singers reached a very high standard. It was fantastic to see some former choristers again, such as **Lauren Chapman** (**Ivor Bolton's** niece) and to hear the "newly



found" voices of former choristers **Daniel Adams, James and Simon Holding, William Sanderson and Jonathan Swales**, who had been singing treble in the Cathedral Choir only months previously.

Photo: James Holding and Daniel Adams

Christmas Day

On Christmas morning the Cathedral Choir sang Haydn's St Nicolas Mass and yet more carols! There then followed a well earned rest for a week or so!

During that time Pippa, James and I spent an enjoyable week touring the south of England - this included an impromptu visit to see Dean **David and Liz Frayne** in their lovely house in Gillingham I was delighted to see that David has his 'cello out and to hear that he plays for an hour each day!



Pippa with Liz and David Frayne

We also visited the home of **Alex Davies's** (our current organ scholar) parents in Lyme Regis. It's a B&B in a beautiful part of the country - highly recommended!



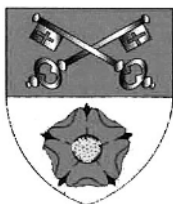
Most Exciting plans for 2004

The term started early in January with the gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir singing music for men's voices on Sunday 4th, followed a week later by the Epiphany Carol Service, with music by Marenzio, Howells, Poulenc, Lassus, Handl, Mendelssohn, and Cornelius's *Three Kings* (ensuring that **Derek Crompton** sung a fabulous solo in each of the three Cathedral Carol Services this season before he went off on a round-the-world tour to celebrate **Marilyn's** important birthday!)

Thank you to every single member of our choirs at the Cathedral for the hard work and considerable skill that you put into the Christmas season. Richard Tanner

The choirs of the Cathedral now turn to new challenges:

**THE ENTHRONEMENT
of
Bishop
NICHOLAS READE
Saturday 27 March**



**Saturday, 8th May 7.30 p.m.
HANDEL'S MESSIAH
Northern Chamber Orchestra
SUPER soloists.
Conducted by RICHARD TANNER**

**Wednesday in Holy Week (April 7th) 7.30 p.m.
Brahms' GERMAN REQUIEM**



with
OC PETER FIELDING

←
and son
MARK FIELDING
(piano duet)

&

**Stainer's CRUCIFIXION
NICOLA MILLS – Soprano
GREG MORRIS – Organ
Renaissance Singers
Conductor, RICHARD TANNER
May 30th – June 4th (see p. 19 for more!)**

CATHEDRAL CHOIR TOUR OF GERMANY

with concerts in **Berlin Cathedral** and
Braunschweig Cathedral.

Braunschweig is Lower Saxony's 2nd largest city with a lovely cathedral set in an exquisite town square.



Berlin Cathedral is the former court cathedral of Prussia's royal family, the Hohenzollern, and was conceived as a Protestant answer to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The emperor William II had the original unpretentious cathedral torn down and replaced by this monumental neo-baroque construction (1894-1905). After an extensive restoration the cathedral was consecrated once more in 1993. The big organ is particularly impressive!

**Some spaces available for choir parents –
call Richard Tanner: 01254-51491**



From the January minutes of the cathedral music staff:
The robbing room
is to be kept free of unnecessary music.
(Perhaps Steal doors might help? Ed)

**Sunday, 4th July
FIVE CATHEDRAL CHOIRS' CONCERT**

in **Liverpool Cathedral**
with the choirs of

**Blackburn,
Liverpool Anglican and
RC Cathedrals,
Chester and
Manchester Cathedrals**



*For full details of all these concerts
contact Debbie at the Cathedral Office:
01254-51491*

From **OC PETER SHARMAN** (see photo p. 9)

Dear John,

Joan and I so enjoyed seeing you again at the Carol service and we thank you for your warm and open hospitality. As always it was a real thrill to be in the Cathedral on such a wonderful occasion and lovely again to be in the song school. As ever, I thought the music and singing was of the highest standard carrying on the great traditions of the past, of which you were such a significant part.

We send you our very best wishes for a healthy, happy and contented 2004.

Peter. *'Twas great to see you both! JB*

From **OC MARTIN MARSH**, a *JB chorister, who was a landlord in Kent, but who is currently moving to La Belle France. (Will he be near OC NIGEL SPEAK?)*

Hi and thank you for the Newsletter this Christmas.

I am afraid I am very behind on all mail and I promise I will send a Cheque, and keep in touch.

Marianne, the kids and myself are currently madly planning a move to France. We go on the 16th February and the kids start school there the week later.

Hence total and utter chaos.

We are living in a small rented property in Ipswich, Trying to complete the sale of our house and arranging to get everything to France, although this is probably easier than moving to and from the States.

I hope to be able to come to the Reunion later this year, currently I only plan to be working on my small plot of France for a year or 2, so should be able to get away. It would be nice to see everyone again.

I hope you are well, and no doubt keeping yourself very busy in your "Retirement".

Wishing you all the best for the New Year.

Martin

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

The cathedral was packed for the Epiphany carol service on Sunday evening, 11th January. The nave was knee-deep in gold and brass chains worn by a harvest of

diocesan Mayors. In the front row was the High Sheriff, and towering over everyone, the majestic figure of the **Lord Lieutenant**, who is such a good friend to the cathedral.

Lord Shuttleworth is seen here talking to Mr. **Chris Trinnick** - Chief executive of Lancashire County Council. And at the very back, **Canon Galilee** is seen enjoying an ENORMOUS joke!



Your roving photographer found, seated modestly near the back of the nave, two old choristers side by side, **NEIL INKLEY**, who was a chorister at Peterborough, and **ADRIAN WILSON**, who was in our choir in 1947, and who has recently signed on as a fully-paid up member of BCOCA. It was good to see them both.



From **OC ADRIAN WILSON** (above Right)

Well I have been caught on the JB digital camera. In 2003 still enjoying my singing, very varied: Mozart's *Requiem* with the Elizabethan Singers – Verdi's *Requiem* with Blackburn Music Society to celebrate Jim Eastham's 25th anniversary as Musical Director. An augmented choir performance with Westholme School of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. June saw the performance of the *Creation* at the Parish Church of St Wilfrid's Grappenhall with members of the NW Federation of Music Societies (it turned out to be a good day both singing and weather).

A successful week was held at St Woolos' Cathedral, Newport, and Llandaff Cathedral with the Rawstone

Singers leading the daily and Sunday services. Trips were organised to the Welsh Valleys including a descent down a coal mine shaft (singing as we went and appreciated by the local retired coal miners).

Chester Cathedral was the setting in September for a performance of Elijah with the NW Fed of Music Societies (excellent audience and good to see old friends)

The highlight for me was attending the Gala Concert with past and present members in September for the clef Club at Accrington Town Hall which celebrated 100 years of music making.

For me this is, and I trust will continue to be, an important part of music making. No doubt 2004 will be as exhilarating. Regards Adrian Wilson

Terrific to hear that you're making so much joyful music around the country. Thanks! Ed.

Former Assistant Organist **IAN PATTINSON** is keeping them hopping up Lancaster way (where he's organist of the Priory). The editor keeps getting notices of concerts in the frozen north of our diocese which feature Ian's talents – the latest being a New Year concert of music by Fauré (*Requiem*) Mozart, Bach, Widor, and finishing with the Sleigh Ride (!) in Kendal UR Church. (that's in Carlisle diocese!) Ian's Mum, **Margaret Pattinson**, who is a superb professional Mezzo Sop, often features in these concerts. *Well done!*

WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME RECITALS

PHILIPPA HYDE & RICHARD TANNER launched this season's series of lunchtime recitals with a most delightful programme – attracting a large and appreciative audience.



OCs and Friends who live close to Blackburn and who like a good lunch and super music are **strongly** urged to come to the cathedral – our café-in-the-crypt does a roaring trade both before and after each recital. Recitals start at 1.00 p.m. and last for about 45 minutes. **Come!**

Forthcoming 1.00 pm Recitals

11th February Ian Hare, organ (Lancaster University) Former organ scholar, King's College, Cambridge.

18th February Matthew Bolson trumpet & Damian Howard, organ Damian is a former organ scholar of Blackburn Cathedral

25th February Paul Stubbings, organ Director of Music, St Lawrence College, Ramsgate

3rd March Hugh Davies organ, Kendal P.C.

10th March Mark Brafield organ, London

17th March ALEX DAVIES organ.
Our own highly talented organ scholar

24th March Andrew Dean & Simon Leach organ duet both teachers at Withington Girls' School, and fine free-lance organists

31st March ROBERT FIELDING, Organ.
Old Chorister of Blackburn Cathedral!

7th April GREG MORRIS, organ
Dupré's Passion Symphony

RICHARD TANNER: Singing the Beeb's Daily Service

A choir comprising members of the Renaissance Singers and the Cathedral Girls' Choir left Blackburn at 6.30am on Monday 19th January to take part in a live broadcast of The Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 from Emmanuel Church, Didsbury in Manchester.

As it was the first service during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a week that has been marked since 1908 by Christians all over the world, the service, led by Andrew Graystone, reflected on the words of Jesus in John's gospel: "My peace I give unto you". The first hymn was "Filled with the Spirit's power".



Eileen Hemingway – a long-time member of the Renaissance Singers (going back to JB's time) read the lesson, from John, chapter 4, with great dignity.

The Anthem, most sensitively accompanied by **Greg Morris**, was Peter Aston's "*I give you a new commandment*". Andrew Graystone explained that the closing hymn, "*Thy hand O God has guided*" (complete

with descant specially composed by RT), looked "backwards and forwards to days when the church will be united and model peace to the world".



Emma Pearson, Naomi Crewe, Elizabeth Mallinson and Emily Crewe singing for the Daily Service

Richard Tanner, who is one of the BBC's regular Musical Directors for the Daily Service said: "I was so pleased that our singers were able to make the journey to Didsbury to sing the Daily Service. I thought that they sang every bit as well as the professional singers that I am used to directing on the programme. I hope that they will wish to return again very soon as, despite the early start, it's a great opportunity to show what's going on musically in Blackburn to a large number of listeners from all over the UK."

CHOIR FOOTBALL – Richard Tanner



Footballer Edward Sanderson

On Saturday 17th January a team comprising mostly cathedral choir-boys (but also one or two YPC members who still claimed to be able to sing a top G, thus qualifying them to play!) played a football match against the choir of St John's, Broughton

at Broughton. (St. John's has one of the largest parish church choirs in this country, with 40 boys and over 20 men!)

John Catterall MBE, choir-master of Broughton Parish Church, among the supporters, with the **Dean & Mrs. Armstrong**. Supporters of the Cathedral team included an army of parents as well as the entire **Family Tanner**, and **Greg Morris**.



Can you 'put up' an Old Chorister for our Special Reunion, 25-26 Sept? We're celebrating the 40th anniversary of JB's appointment to Blackburn. Please phone Gordon Shaw: 01254-813586. Let's make it a bumper Reunion for all!

Swales, who decided to switch positions and became goalkeeper in the second half.

Unfortunately, he managed to let the ball roll between his legs allowing the home team to claim their only goal. Goal-keeping thereafter seemed to lose its appeal, so he swapped positions again, with **Simon Holding** who excelled himself in that position!

Fortunately, **Daniel Grimshaw** (the Cathedral Football Captain) converted a penalty and scored another goal before he was finally sent off for what he seemed to think was a controversial decision on the part of the referee! The match ended 3 – 1 to the Cathedral team. Our thanks to John Catterall for organising the event.



The man of the match was the youngest chorister (Daniel's brother), **Bradley Grimshaw**.

Heartiest congratulations! Ed.

YPC NEWS – GREG MORRIS

Fresh from their exploits in Windsor, the YPC came back to a busy schedule over the Christmas period. On 1st December the choir sang at the World AIDS Day Vigil, something which has become a fixture of the calendar over the last few years. The following Sunday they gave a concert of Advent music at St Peter's Burnley, arranged by the Friends of the Cathedral as part of their outreach programme. The concert was well-attended and very well-received by the audience.

The next day the choir was back on home territory for the Lancashire County Ambulance Service's carol service. The music at this included an arrangement of *Angelus ad virginem* by Andrew Carter, a new piece in the choir's repertoire this year.

The rest of December was (fortunately!) easier going, with no extra services, but there was one particularly memorable musical moment – a wonderful performance of Purcell's *Rejoice in the Lord* featuring a trio of soloists from the choir – **Francis Hills, Daniel Adams** and **David Prowse**.

The new term got off to a flying start, with the choir singing in front of several hundred people at the commissioning service for the new Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union, before we had had a rehearsal! The



service was successfully negotiated, the musical highlight for me being a very polished performance of John Gardner's lively setting of *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*.

YPC's 30th ANNIVERSARY 10-11 July

This year sees the 30th anniversary of girls first singing with the YPC, and we plan a celebration for the final weekend of the summer term: **10th-11th July**.

There will be a **concert on the Saturday evening**, followed by a Festival Eucharist at the YPC's normal time of 9.0 am. The concert will feature not only performances from the current YPC, but also an opportunity for **past members to come and sing**. So please put this very important date in your diary. It really would be great to welcome back as many former members – especially ladies! – as possible. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

CANON DAVID GALILEE



It was with immense sadness that we learned that **DAVID GALILEE**, who has been a Residentiary Canon of our Cathedral for 9 years, announced his retirement on 31st January.

David has been the 'life and soul' of the cathedral – his sense of humour is infectious and he's a favourite guest at parties. His laugh has resounded down many corridors – indeed, at the reception after the recent Epiphany Carol Service, your staff photographer (who was capturing the Lord Lieutenant on film (see p. 14) also happened to capture David unawares in full throttle!



Canon David wrote, briefly, about his life, at the request of your clerical editor:

A MUSICAL 'EDUCATION' – David Galilee

My early musical education was as a schoolboy in Durham where chapel services introduced me to the great settings of the *Te Deum*, *Jubilate*, *Magnificat*, and *Nunc Dimittis*. Once a month, on Abbey Sunday, we went to the Cathedral for Evensong but I am not sure I fully appreciated it at the time.

One of my school contemporaries was an ex-Cathedral chorister and so for the first time I heard the great names of Byrd, Tallis, Arne and Dowland.

As an undergraduate in Oxford I regularly went to High Mass at Pusey House which was always well done.

Later, while training for the Ministry at Wescott House in Cambridge, we were given singing lessons and I remember telling my ancient lady instructress how diligent I was in doing various exercises, and so I was reported to the Principal as her star pupil. On hearing this the Principal fell about laughing. One of my friends was more honest with our instructress and got a right telling off. He later became Dean of Christ Church, Oxford!

I did my curacy in Leicester where the Vicar had a good singing voice and so I struggled to keep up with him.

Isobel and I were married in 1964 and so my musical education continued and I was introduced to the marvellous repertoire of the oboe and of course to the playing of Heinz Holliger.

We've always loved organ music and I treasure those wonderful records of the blind organist Helmut Walcha.

In 1980 *Isobel* and our three children, *Jane*, *Kathryn* and *James*, moved to St. Mildred's, Addiscombe in Croydon [then the parish church of the headquarters of the RSCM] where there was a fine musical tradition. James joined the choir and that gave him not only many friends but also a fine introduction to classical music, and to the cathedrals which the choir visited every summer.

One of the really great occasions was our annual visit to Westminster Cathedral where our choir sang the Evening Mass – 500 communicants and all over in 50 minutes!

Whilst we were at St. Mildred's someone set fire to the organ but mercifully the rest of the building only suffered smoke damage. Anyway, we had the task of raising money for a new organ which certainly put us on our toes. The first recital was given by **Peter Hurford** (St. Albans Abbey) who was a delight to entertain. He had in fact played twenty-five years previously when the destroyed organ was new.



David eulogising at Dean Frayne's Farewell in 2001!

Having a parish with a fine musical tradition was an excellent preparation for our move to Blackburn in 1995. We will never forget **Richard Tanner's** conducting of precision psalm-singing and **Greg Morris'** playing of Bach

which more than makes up for his love of modern French music!

Blackburn Cathedral has a fine musical tradition and it's good to be reminded of that with **John Bertalot** very active amongst us.

David, thank you for your Christian joy. You and Isobel [Scottish spelling!] will be sorely missed.

Happily David and Isobel will still be living in Blackburn, so this is not goodbye! Hallelujah! Ed.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL ORGANISTS EN MASSE

At the recent meeting of the Cathedral Organists' Association (COA) in Birmingham (we meet every six months in a British Cathedral city) Blackburn Cathedral organists were thick upon the ground.



Seen here in the dazzling new Birmingham Symphony Hall (where we were treated to a superb private recital by the brilliant sub organist of Birmingham Cathedral, **Christopher Allsop**) are (L-R) **GORDON STEWART**, who has given a recital on that magnificent organ recently – when **Prince Charles** popped in to hear him – **JAMES THOMAS** (Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral, former Blackburn Sub), **RICHARD TANNER**, **BEN SAUNDERS** (Leeds RC Cathedral, former Blackburn Sub) and **JOHN BERTALOT**.

That was one of the best COA meetings ever – not only were we given a Reception by the Lord Mayor, and Lady Mayoress, who came to speak with us individually, but we also had another recital by Chris Allsop in Birmingham Town Hall – which is currently being renovated – scaffolding everywhere. But the Powers That Be had stopped the workmen from working for 30 minutes, whilst we were transported with delight by the glorious sounds that poured forth from that historic instrument.

Tremendous thanks to **Marcus Huxley**, organist of Birmingham Cathedral, for organising such a super day. What a privilege it was to be there! JB.

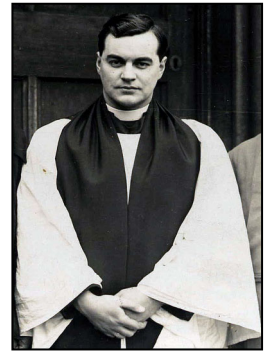
Book Saturday-Sunday, 25-26th September for our special BCOCA Reunion! Accommodation may be available!

1950s Musical Memories

OC MICHAEL THOMPSON sent to the Editor a copy of The **FRIENDS of BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER, February, 1950**. In it is a fascinating article on the Cathedral's music, by **THOMAS L. DUERDEN**

It's interesting to compare this report, made 54 years ago, with Richard Tanner's report, pages 11-13. Photos have been added to illustrate this reprint of the 1950 Newsletter.

The Christmas Festival passed off happily. The choir appreciated the kind hospitality of the **Provost and Mrs. Kay**, and the boys were also treated to an enjoyable cinema programme provided by Mr. & Mrs. Thompson, shown by their son **MICHAEL**, now at Sedbergh School, and arranged by Mr. **Simpson** [the Revd. **Rennie Simpson**, who subsequently moved to Westminster Abbey, Ed]. Large congregations listened to the Christmas Carol recital and the Nine Lessons Service in the Cathedral.



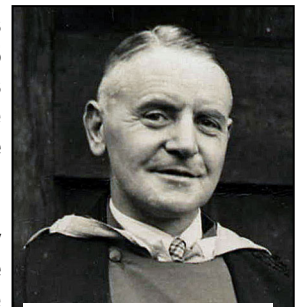
Rennie Simpson

We look forward to another year of activity in the sphere of cathedral music. At the Patronal Festival, on February 5th, we shall sing the setting at Holy Communion – *Darke in F*. This classical setting is well established in the repertoire of English cathedrals.



[Photo of Harold Darke taken by JB, his organ student, in room 90 at the RCM in 1954.]

We shall also sing Schubert's *Song of Miriam* (duration 35 minutes) after Evensong. This work illustrates the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt. The Annual festival of the Blackburn Diocesan Choral Association will be held on Saturday, February 18th, when music from the *Nicholson Memorial Book* will be sung, and a collection will be



T.L.D.

taken for the R.S.C.M. "Nicholson Memorial Fund". [Sir **Sydney Nicholson was the founder of the RSCM. Ed]**

The year 1950 marks the [200th] anniversary of the death of J. S. Bach (1685-1750). No composer of any period has exercised a greater influence on organ music. His choral compositions are often set to Lutheran texts. Some of his Chorales are widely used in English services. We shall hope to mark this important anniversary later on, with the rendering of one of the *Church Cantatas*.

Please let us know now if you're coming, so that your contemporaries may come, too. Phone Gordon Shaw!



Ralph Robinson
in 1946

Harry Turner succeeds **Ralph Robinson** as Head Chorister, along with **George Woodhouse** who succeeds **Gordon Fielding**. **Gordon Cronshaw** has passed the Chorister-grade examination.



Gordon Fielding
in 1946

Fund? And is the clock, which Mr. Hoyle gave, the one that is still in the Song School? It was there when JB came in 1964, so it probably is! Ed.

Farewell, Promotions and Livesey Awards

At an impressive ceremony before a large congregation at Choral Evensong on Sunday, 1st February (our Patronal Festival) the Dean presented Awards to choristers.

Richard Tanner introduced Head Chorister **William Sanderson** to the Dean who thanked him for his years of faithful service in the boys' choir.



[Ralph Robinson and Gordon Fielding today!]



TLD's boys singing at Christmas. Photo from Gordon Fielding.

The lamented passing on Christmas Day of Mr. **Tom Hitchen**, a tenor vocalist of 37 years' service in the choir, has deprived Blackburn and district of a generous personality and a keen musician.

The Choir Endowment Fund has been increased by £30, as a result of the Carol Services, and by £45 from the proceeds of the Annual Concert. We are also grateful for donations to the fund from Mrs. Wallers, Blackburn; Mr. Sykes senr., and Mr. and Mrs. A. Sykes of Rishton, Mr. W. Horrocks, J. P., and Mrs. W. C. Hall



Tom Hitchen in 1946

Mr. Hitchen took a practical interest in the building up of the Choir Endowment Fund. A donor himself, he was the means of obtaining the practical interest of many others. It is fitting that a proposal is afoot to establish a "Tom Hitchen Memorial Bursary" available in perpetuity for boys of the Song School. Either the Cathedral organist, or the Provost, will be grateful to receive donations from interested persons. Mr. **Fred Green**, Blackburn Times Office, has consented to act as Treasurer.

The appeal recently made for a clock has been answered by Mr. Hoyle and family, of East Park Road, to whom we express cordial thanks. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. F. J. Hoskin and Mr. **F. Dewhurst**, B. A., for the assistance they render so faithfully at weekday services. T. L. D.

Our thanks to Michael. Thompson for passing on this 1950 Newsletter to us with its fascinating TLD article. What happened to the Hitchen Memorial



Senior Chorister **BOB KEEN** then welcomed William into membership of Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association, and presented William with his Old Choristers' tie . . .

. . . while rows of proud choir parents watched.



Alasdair Grishakow (who is still singing treble, even though he's as tall as most of the choir) was then promoted to be Head Chorister, while **Canon Hindley** looked on

approvingly, and **Daniel Grimshaw** was promoted to be Deputy Head Chorister

Livesey Awards (hard cash!) were presented to **Daniel Grimshaw, Michael Carr and Tom Crosson,**

And then the Junior Organ Scholarship Award was presented to **Joshua Abbott.** This came as a complete surprise to Joshua, whose face was wreathed in smiles as he clambered out of the choir stalls to receive his award from the Dean.



At the end of the service **OC William Sanderson** was blest by the Dean, and processed out with him through the ranks of choir and congregation. A fitting end to a glorious five years of outstanding service to the cathedral and its music.– and he's already a member of the YPC!

Afterwards the boys' photos were taken in the Song School amidst much rejoicing.



Daniel, Michael, Thomas & Junior Organ Scholar Joshua

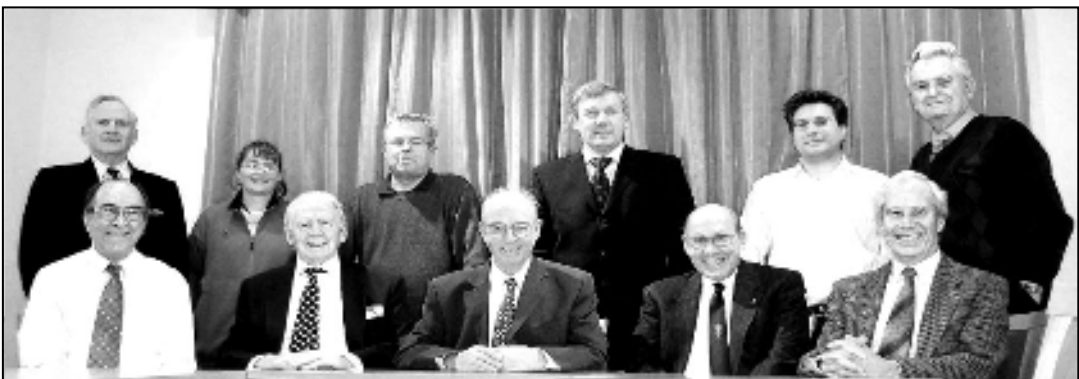
And after that your BCOCA Committee enjoyed a splendid meeting in the **Chesters Room**, in the crypt: a room most beautifully decorated and furnished to honour the memory of **Bishop Alan Chesters.**

The newest member of our children's choir, **William Fielding**, attended the meeting, snug in the arms of his Mother **Rachel** who, with husband **Paul**, are our new Archives' officers.



Your hard-working BCOCA Committee: L-R

Eric Bancroft, Alec Stuttard, Rachel Fielding, Ernie Gorner, Peter Hurst, Chairman Gordon Shaw, Philip Carr, SOC Bob Keen, Richard Tanner, Gordon Fielding and John Bertalot.



TWO VERY SPECIAL CONCERTS in St. Anne's Church, Fence

1: MARTIN ROSCOE International concert pianist



Saturday, 28th February, at 7.30 pm.
Tickets in advance, only £10-00, (children, £5-00)

Phone: 01282-617-159 or 01282-690-006

Music by Brahms, Beethoven, Schubert & Debussy

Saturday, 27th March, at 7.30 pm.

2: NEW LANCASHIRE BACH CHOIR

John Bertalot, Director



Nigel Spooner, organ



**The CREDO from Bach's B minor Mass
with special organ music, too!**

Tickets in advance, only £5-00 (£2-50)

Phone: 01282-617-159 or 01282-690-006

St. Anne's Church, Fence is easy to find!
Exit 8 from the M65 – about 4 miles on the A6068.
Turn LEFT immediately at the 2nd speed camera!