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**Blackburn  
Cathedral  
Old  
Choristers'  
Association**

# BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

F<sub>of</sub>BCM Edition No. 19  
BCOCA Edition No. 28

**August, 2006**

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**Friends of  
Blackburn  
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MUSIC**



# Time for Change!

## Ave (= Hail) No. 1

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC JAMES DAVY

who takes up his position with us in September.



James has a most impressive CV:

He was a chorister at Southwell Minster, under PAUL HALE; Organ Scholar of Portsmouth Cathedral, Durham University and Durham Cathedral, Assistant Organist at Winchester College and currently acting Assistant Master of the Music of St. Alban's Abbey (where RICHARD TANNER was organ scholar!).

At Durham University he earned an honours degree in music and he's also a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

James was auditioned by the Dean, Canon Chivers and Richard Tanner in June, along with four other highly qualified candidates who were not only interviewed individually but also showed their choirtraining skills by conducting the YPC for a short rehearsal. The next day each candidate was given half an hour to familiarise himself with our cathedral organ, and then they played two pieces of their own choice – Bach and Something Else – followed by improvising, and then playing two accompaniments for PHILIPPA HYDE on piano and organ.

Our omnipresent organ scholar, Jonathan Turner turned the pages for the candidates and ran messages for all and sundry!



It was a pretty gruelling experience for all the candidates for, of course, this experience would change one of their lives for ever! *James wrote to your editor:* I'm very pleased to have been offered the job - the copy of the Newsletter sent out with the other information gives an impression of a very exciting place to be, and I look forward to joining the team. **Welcome, James!**

# Time for Change!

## Ave No. 2

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW CANONS' VIRGER SUZANNE TRUDGILL

*Suzanne writes:*

I was born in Burnley in 1983 and grew up in Nelson with my two older brothers and sister. I attended St. Paul's Church, Little Marsden for many years and then went on to study Leisure and Tourism at Nelson and Colne College. I later graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University with a BA in Tourism Management.

After leaving university I worked for Asda Stores, Colne, full time for just over a year, before joining the team at Blackburn Cathedral at the end of April.

My hobbies and interests include socializing with family and friends, and I enjoy playing pool with my local team in tournaments. I am also a keen pianist and enjoy learning classical music in my spare time.



I am delighted to be working at the Cathedral with such a welcoming and supportive church community and team, especially as my mother, LYNNE, is Cathedral Secretary and also a Licensed Diocesan Reader!

In faith, I look forward to my work and service at Blackburn Cathedral with Head Virger, MARK PICKERING.

**Welcome, Suzanne!**

**FRONT COVER** Clockwise: Condoleezza Rice (p. 7), HM The Queen (P.5), Madge & David Briggs (P 19) and HRH Princess Alexandra & the Dean (P 14).

# Time for Change!

## atque ("and")

## Vale (= Farewell) No. 1

**GREG MORRIS**, who has been our stunning Assistant Director of Music for six glorious years, leaves us at the end of August (as announced in the last edition of our Newsletter) to become the ASSOCIATE ORGANIST of the TEMPLE CHURCH, in London.

Our debt to Greg for all that he has done for us can never fully be expressed. His playing has enriched our cathedral through his recitals here and elsewhere, which have helped to make the name of Blackburn Cathedral honoured throughout this country and abroad. We thank him and wish him, Rachel and Anna, (*'Morris Minor'*) every blessing as they begin their new life in that most exciting city.



**Greg's last concert with the Young People's Choir will be on THURSDAY, 24th August at 7.30 pm.**

Please be sure to be there to honour Greg and also to support our splendid young singers who enhance our worship with their music so faithfully and so splendidly week after week.

**Vale No. 2**

**We say Farewell and Thank You to our organ scholar, JONATHAN TURNER** who has been so faithful in his duties this busy and eventful Mozartian year – working in the music office alongside our music administrator, LINDA BRUCE, turning

pages for GREG, helping with the choir library, playing the organ himself, and also singing with the Renaissance Singers.

His ready smile and friendly approach to work and people have endeared him to us all.

In September he takes up his organ scholarship at Lincoln College, Oxford (where both JB and DAVID COOPER were among his predecessors last century!). But he'll be going up early to help audition candidates as his junior organ scholar for 2007-8! Being present throughout the auditions to choose Greg's successor will have given him plenty of ideas!



Jonathan's predecessor-but-one as organ scholar of Blackburn Cathedral, **JONATHAN CLINCH**, who has more recently been organ scholar of Keble College, Oxford, will also be leaving – leaving to go to Western Australia as Assistant Organist of Perth Cathedral!

Jonathan's predecessor at Perth is a former Tanner chorister and organ pupil, Richard Pinel, whose new job is organ scholar of St. Alban's!

'I answered an advert in the *Church Times*,' said Jonathan, 'and thought I'd apply. I've now signed a contract for a year, and it's renewable for a second year. There's a very good choir at Perth Cathedral – Simon Lawford is the Director of Music; he was sub organist of Peterborough and Oxford Cathedrals.



'The salary is much better than salaries in the UK, and there are plenty of opportunities for private teaching.

'The cathedral are providing me with a flat which has a swimming pool! I've already been invited to give the opening recital on a new organ which is being built for St. Andrew's Church in Perth, so I'm really looking forward to a busy and rewarding time in Australia.'

*Jonathan: we remember your brilliant playing when you were organ scholar here. You'll certainly dazzle them in Oz. Ed.*

**Vale No. 4**

To lose three organists, Oscar Wilde might have said, may be regarded as a misfortune, but to lose a fourth looks like carelessness!

But, no – it's due to the outstanding talent of the brilliant musicians we have had the privilege of welcoming to Blackburn Cathedral for so many years and who have gone on to great things elsewhere.

Our former Director of Music, **GORDON STEWART**, will be leaving these shores in August to take up the post of Director of Music of Grace and St. Stephen's Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA!

The church has a very fine musical tradition – there are **seven** choirs and a magnificent organ – and the worship is based on the Book of Common Prayer – i.e. 'trad'.

The church itself, built 80 years ago, was designed by the architects of Washington National Cathedral, and the superb bell tower is a replica of the tower of Magdalen College, Oxford!



'There's a tradition at Pentecost of releasing red and gold balloons from the top of the tower,' said Gordon, 'and I'd like to introduce the Magdalen tradition of singing from the top of the tower very early on May day morning!

'The clergy are wonderful,' he added, 'and they're paying for all my moving expenses, including dismantling the pipe organ in my home in Haslingden and re-erecting it in my new home in Colorado Springs! I'm looking forward to it all immensely, but shall miss all my friends in the UK.'



Gordon is one of the most gifted organists and choir-trainers in this country as his three brilliant years at Blackburn Cathedral so clearly demonstrated.

He regularly conducts for the BBC – especially TV's *Songs of Praise*; he's been organist of Huddersfield Town Hall for 17 years, given recitals all over the UK and abroad, and was the outstanding director for three years of the RSCM's Millennium Youth Choir. In the last couple of years Gordon has been awarded an honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of



Organists, an honorary Fellowship of the RSCM, and an honorary doctorate from Huddersfield University. All thoroughly well deserved.

*We shall miss him so very much and wish him the greatest possible success and happiness in his new and demanding post.*

## Vale No. 5 !

'My appointment here was only temporary,' said Sean, 'for I'm going to Bolton University in September to begin a three-year course on mechanical engineering.'

Sean's ambition, when he has earned his degree, is to gain a place at British Aerospace in Salmesbury.

'But I hope to return to Blackburn Cathedral when I'm needed,' added Sean with a smile, 'for I've enjoyed myself so much here.'

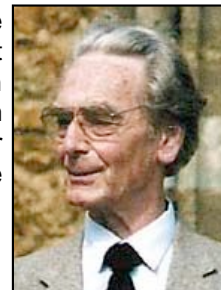
*We've enjoyed and appreciated your ministry, too!  
Thank you, Sean, and best wishes for your studies.*

We also bid farewell to our Virger **SEAN HELLEN** who has been assisting Head Virger **MARK PICKERING** so very ably and cheerfully during the past year.



Quite why all these musicians are buried in that churchyard I am not sure except in the case of Eileen Joyce who lived there. Beecham was apparently buried there after being exhumed from somewhere else!

kindest regards,  
Yours, **John.**



## *Time for Change!*

New buildings for the town centre  
and major changes in the Cathedral Close.

Some folk will remember Blackburn town centre as it was 40 years ago, before the present shopping centre was built.  
*(Photo courtesy of Jeff Stone, Hairdresser, Fleming Square.)*



Here it is today, pedestrianised, with no cars at all!



Well, major changes are imminent. The old buildings in Market Street Lane, (immediately opposite the main entrance to the



Cathedral, between Barclays Bank and BBC Radio Lancashire) were due to be demolished in July:

### LETTER FROM JOHN HAYWARD

who created so much of the art work in our Cathedral in the 1960s, including **Christ the Worker** on the West wall, the **Corona** over the central altar, our organ cases and the beautiful window in the South Transept.



Dear John,

Many thanks for sending the Blackburn Cathedral Newsletter which is, as always, enjoyable and full of evocative photographs! The place seems to be a hive of activity. I look forward to the next one!

I thought of you when I recently visited Limsfield Church in Surrey where I have designed a 'Musicians' Window' funded by a number of eminent musical societies.

The church must be unique in having in its churchyard the graves of **FREDERICK DELIUS** and his wife, conductors **SIR THOMAS BEECHAM** and **NORMAN DEL MARR**, concert pianist **EILEEN JOYCE** (who played the Rachmaninov piano concerto for the film *Brief Encounter*), the **HARRISON SISTERS** (cello and Nightingale) Prof. **DENIS STEVENS**, English musicologist and Professor at Columbia University New York, and **JACK BRYMER**, clarinet virtuoso.

The window is designed round the seated figure of **S. Cecilia** holding her 'great engine' (not quite quite as large as the Blackburn organ) and based on the Auden verse which Britten set to music in his Hymn to St. Cecilia:

*Blessed Cecilia, appear in visions  
To all musicians, appear and inspire.  
Translated daughter, come down and startle  
Composing mortals with immortal fire.*



These will make way for luxury apartments.



As part of the transformation of the town centre, plans are also actively in hand to create a more traditional Cathedral Close, by building a Deanery, houses for the Canons, Director of Music and Virger, and some apartments for sale.

The area around the Cathedral has already been named the *Cathedral Quarter*, and of course, Church Street was spruced up for ...

## 🇬🇧 The Queen's recent visit 🇬🇧



**The Dean writes:**

The visit of Her Majesty The Queen had of course been planned for many months. Indeed, the initial idea was for her to attend a Service in the Cathedral but for a variety of reasons that became impractical. In the event the **Bishop** and I together with **Canon Clitherow** and two members of the Interfaith Council were invited to meet her.

The town had been well prepared for the visit. The Station where the Royal Train arrived at 9.54 am on **Ascension Day, 25 May 2006** had been re-tiled, the grills in Church Street had all been polished and the Cathedral gardens looked as good as I've ever seen them.



The Cathedral party were invited by the Borough Council to Café Bee's (*sic*) beforehand (one of the refurbished Pavilions). There was an obvious air of nervousness and unreality as we shared a drink and conversation with some of the region's

movers and shakers. The Cathedral bells rang to signal the Queen's arrival at the Station and we spilled out onto a cheerful and sunny Church Street, which was impressively full of onlookers.

The Queen, in Emerald Green and the Duke (a nimble nearly 85 years old) progressed slowly up Church Street obviously enjoying the crowds and the happy atmosphere. Her Majesty was then introduced to the Bishop who then introduced us one by one.



I explained that the Cathedral could just be seen above the Pavilions. We turned and gazed at the spire. (That was when **Phil Hunwick** took his impressive though mischievous photo with caption!)



She enquired about the age of the building and the new extension. The Queen then moved on and was followed by The Duke, with whom I had a longer conversation about much the same thing, though he wanted to know a little more about the diocese, its age and its relationship with the Cathedral. I'm relieved to say that I could talk positively and in an informed way about our current very good relationships with the diocese. They passed on to the top of Church Street, where Her Majesty unveiled a plaque to mark the re-development of the Mall Shopping Centre.



*[The plaque was removed the next day but will be reinstated when the £47M redevelopment scheme is completed! So we'll have to make do with the 12 ft high Monster face which dominates Church Street! 'We're making Monster changes to the Mall'. See [www.themall.co.uk](http://www.themall.co.uk) Ed]*

It was a great privilege to meet both The Queen and The Duke. (Though I had been in their company before, I had never been formally introduced.) It was an even greater benefit to Blackburn for it has given the town a real confidence boost just as it finds itself on the cusp of Regeneration – a profoundly biblical concept in which the Cathedral's development plan plays a significant role. It is acting as a catalyst for the re-population of the town centre, the green shoots for which are now clearly visible.

## The Dean's Smart Car...



... is actually a theological statement, the Dean told your editor. 'It is efficient, compact, economical (60+ mpg) and ecologically friendly. Its intelligent design contains many safety features and embraces all that is necessary for efficient (and dry) movement. (You can almost hear the sermons hatching, can't you?!)'

## BBC Radio 4 4 June

### 8.10 Sunday Worship

*Spirit of God*. A celebration of Pentecost from Blackburn Cathedral, featuring Bob Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass*. With the Renaissance Singers conducted by Richard Tanner. Led by the Very Rev Christopher Armstrong. Preacher Canon Chris Chivers. Producer Simon Vivian

**What a brilliant live broadcast this was!** The clergy spoke so movingly and clearly, the singers, led by Richard Tanner, sang so thrillingly and Greg Morris's accompaniments on piano were dazzling! Their performance of *Ev'ry time I – feel the Spirit – movin' in my heart – I will pray!* was foot-tapping & finger-lickin' terrific!

But it didn't happen without a lot of planning and rehearsal beforehand, AND burning the midnight oil in the Tanners' kitchen until the early hours of that Sunday morning re-writing the script.



Producer Simon Vivian, Chris Chivers & Richard Tanner

**Many well-deserved letters of congratulation arrived. Here's a selection:**

Dear Mr. Dean

Just in case the Cathedral will be releasing a CD or Cassette of this morning's service, voluntary, sermon, prayers, trumpet and all, may I go to the top of the list to buy a copy? From the listeners' point of view ("distance worship"?) it all held together so beautifully that I want to hear it again and perhaps lend it out!

Rev'd A R H Macleod

Dear Dean

You will have many more expert judgments and congratulations. I write, as I had switched off the radio and was preparing to set off for Church, and the phone rang: it was from my oldest friends in the diocese from my curacy in St Annes fifty years ago.

He is in Blackpool Hospital, but his wife rang, so grateful and glad to feel he had joined in real Pentecostal worship, and proud to belong to Blackburn.

Dear Richard

What a lovely, inspirational and thoroughly uplifting Pentecostal service – a great joy to listen to on a sunny Sunday morning.

Hoping to see you again in September for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of BCOCA.

Every good wish

**Peter & Constance Heald**, Ely.

Dear Richard,

Just a note to congratulate all involved with the broadcast yesterday morning.

It was a joy to listen to. The Renaissance Singers sounded well in the spirituals and the Bob Chilcott Jazz Mass came over well. I particularly liked the touch of the "Blow the wind Southerly" converted into the Holy Spirit during the prayers. Very appropriate with the Kathleen Ferrier connections.

Kind regards,

**Bob Keen**

To the Dean:

Hope you were pleased with the service. I enjoyed participating in the music, and shall remember you with all your Pentecost Vestments and huge earphones (worn at a jaunty angle) for a long time to come. I have to report that the Dean of Pembroke College, Cambridge was overheard on Sunday evening, instructing his organ scholar to listen to the service on the net to get some ideas for future services! What Blackburn does today....

The radio broadcast was wonderful and I mean in a spine tingling way! We intentionally listened at home using a good quality radio so that we were not distracted by what was going on. The effect was superb. I made sure that those who were involved and still around at 10.30 knew about our positive reaction and there were many others saying exactly the same thing.

A big thank you!

**And Simon Vivian wrote to thank all who took part:**

Dear all

More formal thanks will follow in due course, accompanied by CDs. This is simply to let you know how pleased I was with yesterday morning's Sunday Worship.

I've already had some very good, positive feedback. In addition to the office reaction, Chris Stokes (Director of Music of Manchester Cathedral) sent a text to say how much he'd enjoyed the service, and feedback from the listeners included the lines: "I was glad to hear this lovely programme since I couldn't get to church this morning. The music was very good." and "The jazz music was marvellous. Could we have more in future?"

Bob Chilcott didn't manage to hear the service live but emailed to say that he'd heard very good things about it from friends; I'll send him a CD.

So thank you all for all the time and imagination you put into making it such an uplifting experience... here's to the next one!!

Best wishes and thanks

**Simon**

**The visit of US Secretary of State, CONDOLEEZZA RICE, to Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, was covered by the world's press, TV and radio.**  
Your editor saw the visit reported on TV when he was in Italy!  
**It was arranged by our MP – the then Foreign Secretary, JACK STRAW.**



**Dr. Rice met the Cathedral clergy, Churchwardens and some members of the Cathedral Chapter.**  
**Jack Straw introduced members of the interfaith community in Blackburn.**





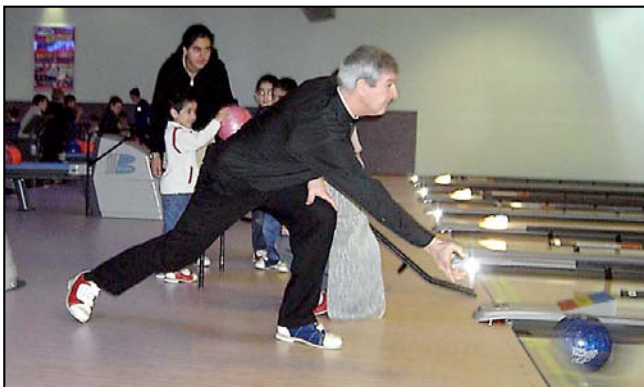
**2 PHOTOS on p.7:-**  
 Dr. Rice asked Richard to autograph her copy of his anthem (with Jack Straw's pen which he'd been given as a present from the Home Office when he was promoted to Foreign Secretary!) 'A Prayer for Peace' (words by Desmond Tutu) which he had composed specially for the occasion and which was sung by the boys and men.  
 She shook hands with all the boy choristers. Here she is with Prefect Arthur Geldard and Joseph Kennedy.  
 Then she heard our Girls' Choir singing two anthems including JB's arrangement of *Steal Away*, accompanied by Greg Morris, with Philippa Hyde as our exquisite soprano soloist.



Obviously she enjoyed every moment of this carefully prepared visit, and the girls were also clearly thrilled to meet her! 'She was very gracious,' said Sheila Shaw, 'for she went out of her way to shake hands with us all!'



**TEN-PIN BOWLING!**  
 As a change of pace, on April 15<sup>th</sup>, (Easter Eve), Richard Tanner took the boys and the Dean to the new Bowling Alley – just beyond Darwen Street Bridge. Chris Marsden, Michael Smith and Connor Buller enjoyed every minute, and evidently the Dean has had much practice at this!





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Your editor's E-mail has not been working for several months.

**But he now has a new E-mail address.**

So E-mail your news, photos and letters to him for the next edition!



Tom rehearsing one of his choirs in Trinity Church, Princeton, NJ

Next summer Tom plans to bring one of his choirs to sing in Blackburn Cathedral. Many cathedral choir families will remember their own happy visit to Princeton 5 years ago and the welcoming hospitality they received.

In May I also visited New York: first to attend a choral workshop at St. Thomas' Church, Fifth Avenue, led by Dr. BARRY ROSE. (Richard Tanner was one of his choristers at St. Paul's Cathedral, and later his organ scholar at St. Alban's Abbey.) When the present Director of Music of St. Thomas, JOHN SCOTT, introduced Barry to us, he said that Barry was a legend in his own lifetime. Hear, hear! Among the 40 choirmasters who attended that inspiring workshop was former Blackburn Cathedral Organ Scholar NIGEL POTTS who is now making superb music in the USA. It felt appropriate to have a photo of us taken in front of St. Thomas's glorious reredos:



Nigel Potts, John Scott, Barry Rose & JB

## BCOCA Mini Reunion in New York

As your editor's E-mail has been US (Un-Serviceable) for so long, so that Old Choristers haven't been able to write him letters (which are always such a great part of our Newsletters), perhaps he might be allowed to write his own 'Letter to the Editor', about his recent visit to the US (United States).

Dear Me,

It was a great thrill to visit Princeton again, where I had spent 16 most happy and fruitful years before retiring to Blackburn 8 years ago. I enjoyed so many wonderfully welcoming hosts and saw great sights, including a private guided tour of the Senate in Washington!

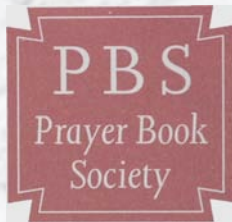
It was a tremendous privilege to conduct the superb choirs at Trinity Church again, through the generous invitation of my successor-but-one, TOM WHITTEMORE. Tom is one of the liveliest musicians I know; his energy is phenomenal and his ideas are thrilling. For example:

Through his initiative two choral scholars from Eton will be joining his choir next year before they return to the UK as choral scholars of King's and St. John's. Also the RSCM-in-America will have its new headquarters in Princeton, with Tom right at the centre of its outreach. New singers keep joining his choirs and the whole parish is thrilled by his caring and dynamic personality.

Two weeks later I was in St. Thomas Church again to hear John Scott's superlative choir sing an anthem which I had written for him – *Lord of the Dance*. (He recorded it the next day!) Also present was 'our' DAVID BRIGGS, for John's choir gave the first performance of an exquisite anthem that David had written for him too! Afterwards John hosted us for a delicious dinner in one of New York's most sumptuous restaurants. Wow! I love New York and New Yorkers!



## Prayer Book Society



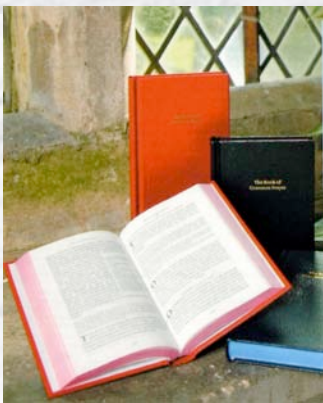
“O Lord, open thou our lips.”

How many church musicians cut their teeth on the Book of Common Prayer, and love it still!

Bedrock theology; stirring memorable language; the familiar Calendar. “Every Englishman’s birthright” which we should hand on to succeeding generations.

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

## OC CHRIS HUNWICK’S WEDDING

Chris, who with other members of his cathedral family is rarely out of the news, really excelled himself this time by getting married on 21<sup>st</sup> April. His bride was GERALDINE WHITE from Sunderland, whom he met when they were studying for their Master of Archives degree at Liverpool University.

The Best Man was Chris’s younger brother, OC NOEL, and the wedding was held in the RC Church of St. Benet in Sunderland.

There was much superb music! Mozart’s *Missa Brevis* in D and his *Ave Verum*, Howells’ *Like as the hart*, and settings of *Ave Maria* by Parsons and Arcadelt, plus a psalm, hymns & Widor.



Chris had invited a few of his choir contemporaries from Lincoln College, Oxford, to form a very select choir, together with

a few singing friends from Blackburn: ALIZON ELLIOTT & her son, ANDREW (who is currently at Lincoln College studying for a graduate degree) and his brother JAMES, LINDSEY COOPER and DEREK & MARILYN CROMPTON. The organist was a former organ scholar of Lincoln, NICK CHALMERS, who is now director of music of Westminster Abbey Choir School and sub assistant organist at the Abbey. The conductor was Chris’s Godfather, your editor.

We rehearsed for only an hour – but that was more than sufficient, for the singers and organist were so very talented. The service itself went like a dream, and apparently some of the local congregation who were there wondered why their own church choir couldn’t sing like that every Sunday!



At the end of the lavish Reception, choir parents PETER & GIN CREWE along with Andrew Elliott and several others, led the playing of a Ceilidh to which the newlyweds led the dancing. It was a very great day. Heartiest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Hunwick Junior & Senior, and to Mr. & Mrs. White!



Chris and Geraldine are, at present, living in Liverpool, but they hope to move to Clitheroe as soon as possible.



PS: The next day In the car on the way home the Cromptons and your staff photographer passed this roadside sign. It had to be recorded for posterity!

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## ASCENSION AT ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS



Heartiest congratulations are due to RICHARD TANNER for the superb music which he conducted for a live broadcast from St. Martin's on May 25<sup>th</sup>, Ascension Day. The BBC provided him with a superb choir, soloists (including Philippa Hyde and Nicola Mills) and orchestra, and the service was attended by high executives of the Beeb plus a large congregation.



The *Church Times* wrote an enthusiastic report about the broadcast:

The annual service, open to the public, has been broadcast for at least 30 years, but I can't recall a better one than this.

The music for the Eucharist was Mozart's *Missa solennis*, which was far from solemn, but full of exuberant joy. After the sermon the 'Hallelujah' [sung by Pippa] danced the message into the soul.

The whole service was thoughtfully shaped and beautifully sung (by the BBC Daily Service Singers and the church's own choir). It was a credit to everyone taking part.

*Well done, Richard & Pippa.*

## THE GUILD OF CHURCH MUSICIANS

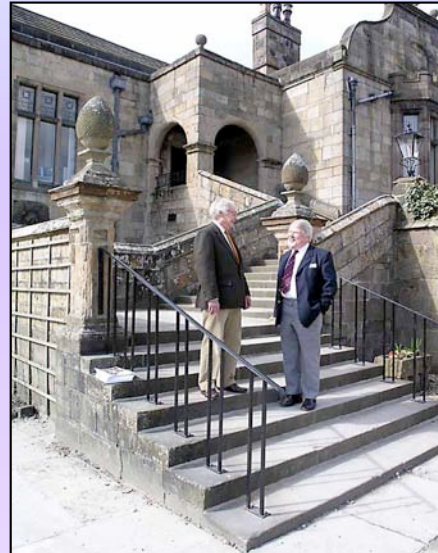
honoured us by coming to our Cathedral and to Whalley Abbey for their Annual Meeting in April. The Guild, whose President is **Lady Mary Archer**, and whose Warden is the **Very Reverend Dr. Richard Fenwick**, Dean of St. Woolos Cathedral in Wales, is an international body of church musicians whose aim is to encourage high standards in church music. RICHARD TANNER and your editor are members of the GCM's Council which meets regularly in London.

So it was very good to welcome members of the Council, with

their President and Warden, to enjoy a wonderful dinner in the superbly refurbished Abbey on the Friday night, when they were welcomed by Dean Armstrong.



*Dr. Mary Archer and Dean Fenwick enjoying a speech given by Simon Lole, former Director of Music of Salisbury Cathedral.*



*Professors Peter Aston and John Morehen, members of the GCM Council, enjoying the Abbey sunshine the next day*

*This is where the BCOCA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion will be hosted on Saturday night, 16<sup>th</sup> September. See next page*

On the Saturday, after a splendid breakfast and a lecture by Dr. Fenwick, we all trooped to the cathedral for a guided tour



by the Dean followed by a short recital by the boy choristers conducted by Richard Tanner with Greg Morris letting of musical fireworks on the organ.

Professor Morehen gave a gracious vote of thanks, and Richard & Greg were invited to give recitals on the newly restored organ of St. Catherine Kree in the City of London where the GCM Secretary, John Ewington, OBE, is director of music.





After lunch in the Crypt Café, Choral Evensong was sung by the Girls Chamber Choir & Men which was very well received.

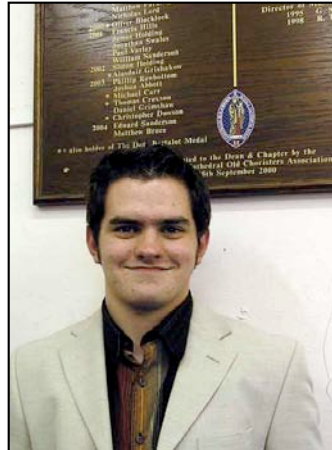
Members of the Guild who had brought their robes donned them for the service. Some looked most distinguished!

His Honour Judge Anthony Russell, and GCM Secretary John Ewington, OBE enjoying the choir's singing.

It was a most happy and successful visit thanks to the 4-star facilities now being offered at Whalley Abbey, (*all the bedrooms are en suite!*) and the welcome given to the GCM by the Cathedral clergy and its musicians. Blackburn more than lived up to its enviable reputation for warm hospitality and great music.

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 1 to YPC member CHRIS DAWSON

who has recently been accepted as a member of the prestigious National Youth Choir. Singers from all over the UK strive to sing with this choir and so congratulations are most certainly in order for Chris.

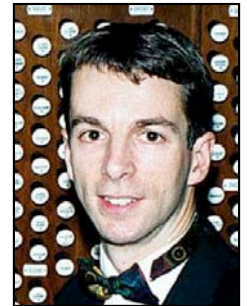


Chris told your editor that he recently sang a concert in the Bridgewater Hall with the choir.

'There were 120 singers in the choir,' he said. 'It was a great thrill to sing with them in such a magnificent hall – and there'll be more to come!'

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 2 to former organ scholar NIGEL POTTS

who has just been appointed Organist & Choir Master of Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Manhattan's Upper West Side, effective 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2006. (West 69<sup>th</sup> Street & Broadway near the prestigious Lincoln Center in New York City.) See another photo on page 9.



*Nigel wrote to your editor:* I will be responsible for directing the 8 voice professional choir for weekly services and establishing a series of Choral Evensongs and special services as well as founding a children's choir.

In addition, I will join Artist-in-Residence (and Yale classmate), Paul Jacobs, in overseeing the installation of a new organ to be delivered for Easter 2008 and thereafter we will create a concert series. **Well done, Nigel!**

See Nigel's and the church's web sites:

[www.nigelpotts.com](http://www.nigelpotts.com)

[www.csschurch.org](http://www.csschurch.org)

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 3

to Diocesan Children's Officer, SUSAN WITTS who organised an education event in the cathedral in May in partnership with the Cathedral Music Programme, which attracted a lot of children. RICHARD TANNER gave the children a 45-minute workshop on the cathedral organs. They look fascinated – and rightly so!



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers Association.

Saturday and Sunday, 16-17 September, 2006

Whalley Abbey is filling up fast with Old Choristers who have booked the luxurious accommodation (at very reasonable prices) for the Saturday night. Phone the treasurer: **01565-652-691**

**This year's new Old Choristers come free!**

Programme:

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September:

Lunch at the Cathedral, AGM and rehearsal for Choral Evensong.

Dinner at Whalley Abbey with drinks at the bar before and afterwards!

Installation by STEWART HOPKINSON of JOHN MARR as new Snr. Old Chorister

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Breakfast at the Abbey  
9.45 rehearsal at the Cathedral for  
10.30 Eucharist with choir.  
12.00 noon. Farewells



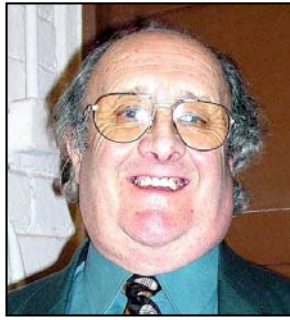
The Association was founded in 1966 (and so this Reunion will be our 41<sup>st</sup> Reunion, but the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our founding – work out the mathematics!).

Two founder-members of our original committee are still with us, PETER HEALD and your editor (who celebrates his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday the day before the Reunion!). So come and join us.

**Forms enclosed for BCOCA members. Fill them in NOW, please! We do want to see you all again.**

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 4

to Old Chorister GEOFFREY TAYLOR who recently clocked up his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of joining the cathedral choir under T. L. Duerden. He received his 40 year Long Service Award (20 years ago) from the hand of **Bishop Cross**.



Geoffrey told your editor that he had a piano pupil who, a few years ago gained a staggering mark for Grade 8 – 146 out of 150! Well done, Geoff!

**Geoff continues:** I am still teaching piano and singing, and recently entered a 15 year old in the Rossendale Festival. Next week have some piano entrants taking A.B.R.S.M. exams.

Apart from the asthma I am feeling very well again (just wish I could reduce weight and have more breath pressure). I'm still singing with Blackburn Music Society. and looking forward to taking part in CARMINA BURANA next April at the Bridgewater Hall with massed choirs of 350 voices under Jim Eastham.

However prior to that I look forward to being with you all at the Reunion at Whalley Abbey. My brother Alan had his Golden Wedding celebrations there last month and I was very impressed with the alterations and the excellent cooking. **Yours Geoff.**

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 5

to Choirman ANDY JUMP on his recent wedding in May. No photos available yet! Andy met his wife, Sarah, when he lived next door to her married sister! They were married at the cathedral (of course) and the cathedral choir sang for them (of course).



"It was the longest wedding we've ever sung at," yawned one fellow tenor. "It went on for at least an hour and three quarters, and we sang Mozart's *Missa Brevis*, *Zadok*, and Rutter's *The Lord keep you*."

A wedding photo is pinned to the notice board in the men's vestry. No doubt a copy will arrive on your editor's desk ere long!

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 6



to OC Dr. BENEDICT HOLDEN who has recently been appointed Consultant at the Hillingden and St. Mary's Hospital in Paddington.

"It's more managerial than hands-on," Benedict told your editor after the Somme Day Service. He was visiting his parents – Jim Holden is a Churchwarden. "But I'm specializing in HIV treatment." It was good to see his smiling face again.

## HEARTIEST DELIGHT



for the good news of OC BOB KEEN who is making a great recovery from his recent prolonged illness.

His son, OC JOHN, wrote to your editor, ***Dad's currently with Mum - sunning it in Spain, returning through France. He had a check up before they went and was fine.***

Hallelujah!

## NIGHT AT THE OPERA

The Renaissance Singers conducted by Richard Tanner gave a most happy concert in the crypt in May. A large and appreciative audience enjoyed hearing music by Mozart (Overture to the *Magic Flute*) Verdi's *Anvil Chorus* and Puccini's *Humming*

*Chorus* from *Madam Butterfly* and Dido's *Lament*, from Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*. The soloists were Philippa Hyde, Matthew Minter and members of the Singers, including Alizon Elliott and Tony Robinson, with OC Peter Fielding at the piano.

Helen Davies (Marimba) and Matthew Drury (Piano) gave a thrilling performance of music from Bizet's *Carmen*, Damian Trafford sang *A wandering Minstrel* most delightfully, and the programme ended with soloists and Singers performing Verdi's *Brindisi*, from *La Traviata*. A very good time was enjoyed by all!

**First Soprano Ann Oaten's children certainly enjoyed it.**



Old Chorister extraordinary and Basso Profundo PHIL WILSON excelled himself, as usual, by giving a spirited rendering of the *Nightmare Song* from Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe*:

*"When you're lying awake with a dismal headache, and repose is taboo by anxiety; I can see you may use any language you choose to indulge in without impropriety!"*



Delicious refreshments were served to all and afterwards some Singers and eager helpers did the washing up!

Here's Alizon Elliott with a laden tray of empty glasses.

It was a great evening. THANK YOU!



Former Director of Music **DAVID COOPER** has not been well. Please keep him in your prayers.

For an update phone Paul & Rachel Fielding **01254-249-085**



# FIVE AMAZING DAYS IN BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL Wednesday to Sunday, 21-25 June, 2006

## Day 1: Royal Gala Concert in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra

**Richard Tanner** with the boy choristers and members of the Girls' Chamber Choir had been working right up to the last minute to prepare the music for a most unusual, yet wildly successful concert which, as ever, had attracted a capacity audience.

So last-minute was it that Richard was only told at 2.30 that afternoon that, due to a mix-up, he was to conduct a performance with full orchestra, of **Vaughan Williams' Lark Ascending!** He did it superbly, of course.

The concert had been organised by **Mrs. Gail Stanley, MBE,**



former High Sheriff, who had gathered together a powerful committee which not only took care of all the logistical details for the concert, from 'No Parking in the Cathedral Close that day' and the hiring of lighting and amplification experts who filled the cathedral with their efficient equipment, to making appeals to those who have this world's goods to raise money for the Prince's Trust. Mrs. Stanley told your editor that while many people and organizations had responded generously to the Appeal, some did not even bother to reply. 'It's been very hard work,' she said.

But the hard work paid off handsomely.

When your staff reporter entered the cathedral that afternoon he was greeted by a gale of sound coming from powerful loudspeakers which were amplifying the singing of our two star soloists, **PHILIPPA HYDE** and Presenter **ALED JONES**, a regular broadcaster on BCTV and radio!



They were conducted by **Richard Tanner** and accompanied by the **Lancashire Sinfonietta** led by **Lyn Fletcher**, with our girls and boys singing lustily and most beautifully behind them.

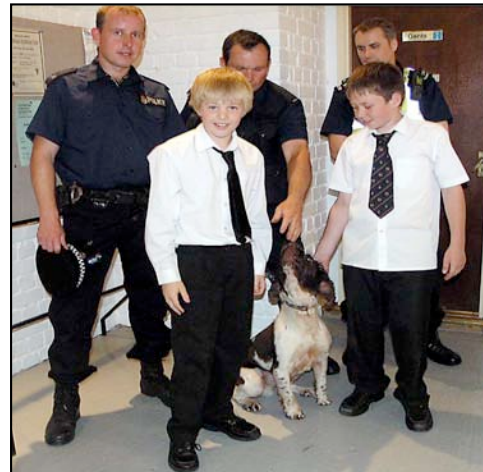
They rehearsed for nearly 2 hours – a popular programme, including Handel's *Silent Worship*, Rutter's *For the beauty of the earth*, Mendelssohn's *O for the wings of a dove*, Schubert's *Ave Maria*, and so much more.

Our boys and girls matched the professionalism of the orchestra and worked very hard, producing exquisite sounds. During the concert **Aled Jones** praised the young singers, saying that they were some of the finest choristers in Britain. This was greeted by tumultuous applause. (Can you spot 6-year old **William Fielding**?)

**Aled Jones** also announced that it was **Alison Holmes'** 13<sup>th</sup> birthday that day. She was given a mighty cheer! (Alison is 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right, back row.)



After the rehearsal the musicians had their supper in the crypt while the official guests began to gather in the North Transept to be presented the HRH Princess Alexandra, who had last visited the cathedral 29 years ago for its final Consecration.



But before HRH arrived, the cathedral was searched by the police and a very lively police dog which quickly made friends with choristers **Michael Smith & Christopher Marsden**



(Right) The Official Presentation line: →

**Mr. Peter Robinson**, High Sheriff, **Mrs. Jackie Robinson**, the Mayor & Mayoress of Blackburn with Darwen, Cllr. **Mrs. Dorothy Walsh & Mrs. Barbara Arkley**, the Chief Executive of Blackburn with Darwen, **Mr. Phil Watson CBE**, the Bishop of Blackburn, the **Rt. Revd. Nicholas Reade & Mrs. Gail Stanley, MBE, JP, DL**, Concert Organiser

**Lord Shuttleworth** (left) made the Presentations.



Not only did the Princess speak at length to everyone she met, but she also met distinguished guests who were enjoying pre-concert refreshments in the North Transept.



**Gail Stanley** (centre) presented **Edwin Booth** (left) and his party, while two press photographs – right - (and your staff photographer) tried to capture every moment.

**Gerry Armstrong**, **Shirley Watson** (wife of Blackburn with Darwen Chief Executive, Phil Watson) and **Mary and Chris Chivers** waited their turn patiently and were eventually rewarded. Some of us were presented twice, before and after the concert!



And then the concert began – and what a concert! After the National Anthem (which we all sang lustily) Richard conducted a spirited performance of Mozart's Overture to *Don Giovanni*. This was followed by **Aled Jones** (who is a former chorister of Bangor Cathedral) singing *Silent Worship*. Everyone could see our

soloists, choir and orchestras up close, for a giant screen had been erected in each aisle relaying images from a powerful camera halfway down the Nave.



Our choristers excelled themselves in singing *For the beauty of the earth*, accompanied so colourfully by the orchestra.



The singing of our own **Philippa Hyde** was not only exquisite, but it also filled the cathedral with soaring silver sounds as she sang *O for the wings of a Dove*, accompanied by our choristers, followed by a scintillating performance of Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate*.

This brought the first half to a superb conclusion.



Then the entire audience was treated to a champagne reception in the transepts.

Enjoying the liquid refreshments were **Judge Brian & Carolyn Duckworth**, and **Sheila Walker**.



Meanwhile the Dean asked your staff photographer to be sure to take a photo of the Princess when she signed the Visitors' Book in the Jesus Chapel.



The commission was fulfilled, but not before HRH noticed your staff photographer suitably on his knees before Royalty! (Next to the Princess is Mrs. Stanley, and far left is Lady Shuttleworth.)

The second half of the programme was as exciting as the first: favourite after favourite boomed out through the excellent loudspeakers as soloists, choir and orchestra under the superb leadership of Richard Tanner, performed *You raise me up*, *The Lark Ascending*, *Summertime* (Philippa Hyde), *If it's Magic*, and your editor's newly orchestrated version of his *Steal Away*. (HRH and Mrs. Stanley followed the music in their specially printed copies.)

The concert ended with everyone joining in *How great thou art*, and an encore, *All through the night* (in Welsh and English).

The packed audience gave the musicians a well-deserved ovation,



and two young choristers, **Christopher Snape & Nikki Zohdi** presented enormous bouquets to Pippa and Aled.



And then, in the crypt, some of the cathedral musicians were lining up to be presented to the Princess by Richard Tanner.



L-R, **Richard Tanner**, **Alex Whittaker**, (with bouquet for HRH) **Naomi Crewe**, **Emma Pearson**, **Claire Marsden**, **Adam Whittaker**, **Charles Forshaw**, **Arthur Geldard** & **Philippa Hyde**.



The press photographers were kept busy, and HRH graciously posed with two young choristers, **Christopher Snape & Nikki Zohdi** and **Alex Whittaker & Naomi Crewe**.

Then she spent a long time talking with **Philippa Hyde** and **Emily Crewe**.



But that was not all for, after the Princess had left, **Aled Jones** met our young musicians – the boys and especially the girls!





Of course, Aled signed many autographs!

And here he is with **Rebecca & Anthony Gray**. Rebecca is a server in our cathedral. →

It was a most successful evening. Well done, all, especially our own young singers & Richard and Pippa.



## Day 2: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

The community cohesion, education, outreach and development agency of our Cathedral sponsored an outstanding lecture!



**Inaugural William Temple Lecture**  
given by  
**The Right Reverend N T Wright**  
*Bishop of Durham*



**Bishop Tom Wright** is one of the world's leading scholars on the New Testament, and especially on the letters of Paul. He is also a member of the Eames Commission currently pondering the crisis within Anglicanism caused by the consecration of an openly gay bishop in the United States. **Bishop Nicholas** and **Dean Christopher** introduced the bishop to a large and appreciative audience which filled the Nave, who listened intently as he argued his case for *Believing in the Real World. The Challenge of Faith to Secularism and Fundamentalism*. The audience asked many searching questions afterwards.

Look up ['bishop wright durham'](#) on the web and you'll discover mind-blowing articles by him and about him.



## 'NT WRIGHT TAKES BLACKBURN BY STORM'

writes  
*Canon Chris Chivers.*

**NT Wright**, one of the foremost theologians and New Testament scholars in the world, delivered the first **William Temple Lecture**, presented by **exChange**, to a packed cathedral on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



Advancing faith as the answer to secularism and fundamentalism, he captivated his audience with an invitation to **get real**, and thus to deal with the **reality of the world** rather than a world which some commentators would have us seduced into accepting as reality.

Taking a broad view across some very important history - especially since the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century - he showed how secularists had increasingly been concerned to have religion seen as a private enterprise, and to keep it off the public stage. This, he suggested, was a denial of the truth of religions, for they are inextricably linked to the whole of life not merely the private domain.

He also illustrated the way in which religions had been forced towards fundamentalism - if you turn the garden of the world into a patio by trying to concrete over it and forcing religion underground, is it any surprise when some forms of religion force themselves back through the concrete?

What was needed, he argued, was more reasoned and reasonable religion. And in clear references to the Anglican tradition of Richard Hooker - which focuses on a balance of **scripture, reason and tradition** as the formula for theology, in other words, for our thinking about God and his world - he strongly advocated the importance of reasoned discourse and dialogue, rather than the poor shouting match which can often pass for such discourse when secularists in the media bleat on about religion as being damaging and dangerous.

As a lecture it was a *tour de force* which held his 400 strong audience for almost an hour, after which he answered questions in a delightfully informal and accessible way.



**Day 3: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.**  
**Organ Virtuoso DAVID BRIGGS**  
**gave two seminars**  
**on our cathedral organ**  
**to 400 young schoolchildren.**



In the morning 300 children sat spellbound by his captivating talk and immediate interaction, and a further 100 children were equally fascinated by what he had to say, and the way he said it, in the afternoon.

He asked many questions (and found out each child's name when he or she answered) and he laced his comments with rare good humour. ("What do Martians eat? Mars Bars!")



Their enthusiasm for answering questions was amazing...



It was wonderful for me to be reminded of what I had missed most at Westminster Abbey when I was Precentor, after Bishop Tom, who had been a Residentiary Canon there, left to go to Durham: the clarity, breadth and depth of the sermons and lectures he had delivered at the Abbey were outstanding.



**Bishop Tom**, as our own **Bishop Nicholas** - who chaired the lecture, and **Dean Christopher** - who welcomed the Bishop of Durham, agreed afterwards, has set a standard of debate and thoughtfulness which lecturers in the future will find hard to match. **C.C.**

*And there were lavish refreshments for us all afterwards in the crypt.*

The outreach of Blackburn Cathedral to the Borough, the Diocese and beyond right now is so exciting.

If you wish to be informed about future lectures, call Mrs. Janine Brown, Canon Chivers' PA, on **01254-50-30-81**



... and his control was astonishing. When he asked one child to help him, a teacher remarked, "That one's trouble!" But he wasn't, for David had him 'eating out of his hand!'



He had them blowing an organ pipe to see how it sounded,



He had them playing chords on the organ to see what sounds the different stops made.

And they gathered round the console in groups whilst he played for them.

And he made them laugh. It was an amazing experience to be there!



When your editor asked him how he had acquired such easy control of the children he said, "I've read your books!"

**David Briggs is such a natural teacher, as well as an organ virtuoso and gifted composer. It was a privilege as well as a joy to watch him.**

## John Bertalot's

four best-selling books:

### "Teaching Adults to Sight-Sing!"

*'Essential reading for choirmasters & singers, beautifully written and destined to become a classic.'*

**Colin Mawby,**  
former Master of the Music, Westminster Cathedral

Teaching adults to  
**sight  
sing**

John Bertalot

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**Malcolm Archer,**  
St. Paul's Cathedral

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**successful  
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John Bertalot

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**TIME & TUNE, Blackburn, 01254-697-460**

**Day 4: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

## World Premiere of DAVID BRIGGS' ORGAN CONCERTO

**There's never been an event like it in Blackburn Cathedral!**

David Briggs' Organ Concerto is a world-class composition which will be played wherever there's an organ and an orchestra to play it. And he wrote it for us! Specifically for Conductor RICHARD TANNER and Organist GREG MORRIS.

DAVID had flown from New York with his wife, MADGE, for this performance (see photo front cover).

He had also brought members of his family – especially his Mother, JANE, who had been with him when he gave his very first public recital in Blackburn Cathedral over 30 years ago when he was 14!



But before the concert Canon Chris Chivers and David Briggs gave a seminar before a fascinated audience of musicians who wanted to know how David had written such a work.



'I just wrote it down, having worked out the forms I would use.' *Did you have to rewrite any of it?* 'Not really. It's rather like improvisation – you can't go back to change something that you've already played!'

We were so taken aback by this that very few of us dared to ask any questions but eagerly looked forward to hearing the work which David had specially created for us.

We all repaired to a Reception in the North Transept (there's *always* a Reception in the North Transept!) where the principal sponsors for the concerto, Dr. CHARLES & SHARYN MAGEE from Princeton, NJ, met David and Madge at the table where they were selling CDs of the Concerto (and of David's lovely *Requiem*), which Richard and Greg and the Northern Chamber Orchestra had recorded so superbly 6 months ago.



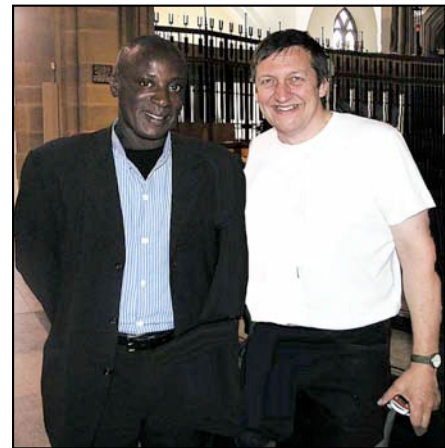
And they also enjoyed meeting the Dean who, with the Canons, is always so supportive of the ambitious and most excellent music being made in the cathedral right now.



Funding for this concert had also been generously given by JAY HUTSON and Dr. JOHN MOSES – who also come from the USA, but are now living near Blackburn and are regular members of

our congregation. We are deeply indebted to all our Patrons and Sponsors, and the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, without whose generosity such concerts would not be possible.

Special guests were organ virtuoso WAYNE MARSHALL, dazzling organist of the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, and



DAVID WOOD from Huddersfield who, with his team, made sure that the organ was pristinely tuned and ready for this major concert. It was!

### WORLD PREMIERE OF THE BRIGGS CONCERTO

This was a stunning success. As Greg Morris, the brilliant soloist, and the Northern Chamber Orchestra under Richard Tanner, had recorded it only 6 months earlier, the performance was guaranteed to be inspired. It was!



The audience enjoyed close-ups of the soloist thanks to a giant screen and a splendid camera operated by Dr. Paul Wright and Andrew Stringer from St. Anne's Church, Fence. The sounds of the orchestra – ranging from full-blooded to delicate writing for harp and xylophone, plus equally dramatic dynamic ranges for the organ – from almost inaudible Celestes to full organ with virtuoso playing by Greg's hands and feet, ensured that the audience was also kept on its toes!

CDs of David Briggs Organ Concerto with Richard & Greg, plus a recording of his exquisite *Requiem Mass*, may be ordered. Call the Cathedral Music Office: 01254-50-30-91

Needless to say, the performance was greeted with rapturous applause and flowers were presented to Greg and Richard. Richard presented his to David!



And then David was 'on stage' again; this time to improvise on themes to be submitted by the audience. However, Ben Holland, the orchestra's leader, quickly stepped in, saying, 'I have a theme,' and he promptly played a well-known theme by Haydn on which David improvised for over 20 dazzling minutes.



It was such a privilege to sit, literally, at the feet of one of the world's greatest organists. And then there was another Reception.



John and Mary Tanner were there, of course, rejoicing in everything that their son was creating for us.

Whilst Levi Bibby (left) and Jonathan Armstrong handed round trays of delicious savouries which Chris Dobson and his team had prepared for us.



And then came the second half of the programme, which was devoted to a performance of Maurice Duruflé's lovely *Requiem*, beautifully sung by the Renaissance Singers, with Helen Francis, mezzo-soprano, and Marcus Farnsworth, baritone.

David Briggs' own response to this performance is worth quoting – from his letter of thanks to Richard Tanner:



Dear Richard

Thanks so much for Saturday night. I was thrilled beyond measure at the way you directed the new Concerto - just the right tempi and degree of nuance.... perfect.

And the Duruflé was one of the most highly charged performances I've ever heard. Thank you very much indeed.

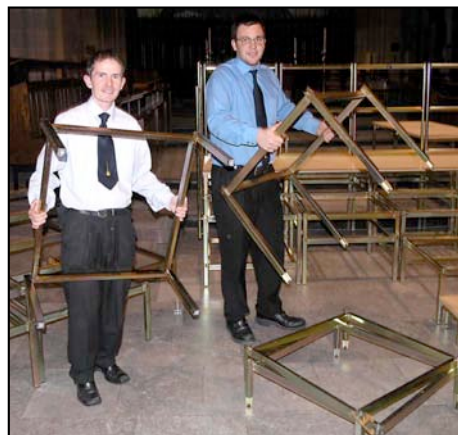
We're in Paris for a few days 'detente' in the middle of a wall-to-wall June/July concert schedule. It's good to be back in the most beautiful city in the world again..

See you very soon - and have a good summer.

All best  
David B.

But none of this could have happened unless our faithful and so-willing Virgers had carried out their responsibilities so well. The hard part is clearing up afterwards, when everyone's gone home.

**Thank you Mark, thank you Sean!**



## Day 5: SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> June The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme

The cathedral was full, yet again, for the Annual Somme Day Service – which commemorates the battle in France, begun at 7.30 am on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. During that day thousands of lives were lost – especially lives of soldiers from Lancashire. The Battle lasted 4 months – the army advanced only 6 miles and a million soldiers lay dead.



The commemoration Eucharist was conducted by the Dean who also preached most movingly. The first lesson was read by Brigadier G. P. Sheldon of The Queen's Lancashire

Regiment, and it was inspiring to see the Standards presented to the Dean at the beginning for the service, to be placed around the altar during this act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.



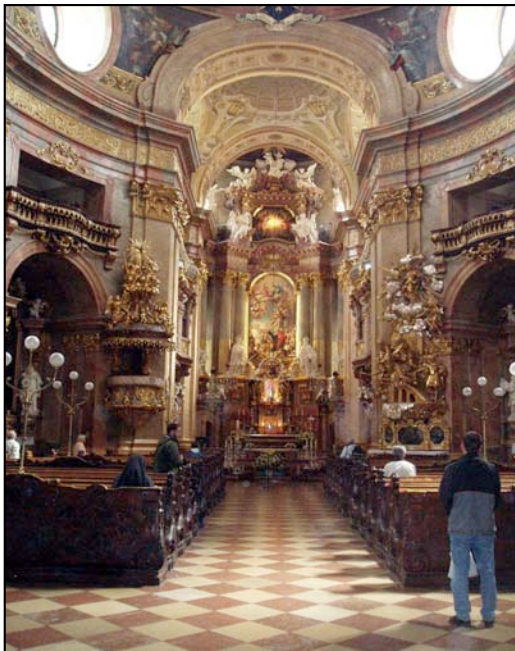
The music of the cathedral choir and organ was reinforced by the band of the Lancashire Royal Artillery. It was a worthy occasion.



## YPC VISIT TO VIENNA

*Thus ended five amazing days at our cathedral.*

*But was there time to relax? No! For the Young People's Choir are now making their final plans for a singing visit to Vienna in August!*

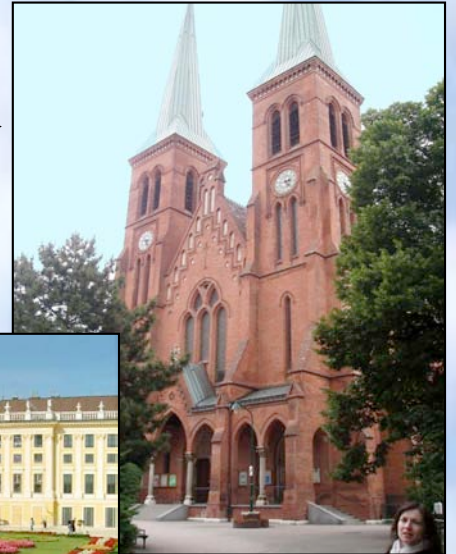


**Greg Morris writes:** After the Pre-Tour Concert on THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST AT 7.30PM, the choir will depart from the Cathedral at 4.00 am the next day for Luton airport. From there we will fly to Bratislava, and take a coach to Vienna, arriving mid-afternoon.

The singing starts on SATURDAY, when we will be singing at St Peter's Church (*Photo bottom of previous column*) in the heart of Vienna. We will be singing at a mass which may or may not include a wedding - we are still awaiting confirmation!

On SUNDAY we will sing morning mass at St Bridget's Church, →

and Choral Evensong at the Anglican Church in Vienna.



We will be able to relax at the magnificent **Schönbrunn Palace** over lunchtime and through the afternoon. ←

On MONDAY we will take a day trip out to Eisenstadt



where Haydn lived and worked for the Esterhazy family. We will give an evening concert at the Bergkirche in Eisenstadt.

TUESDAY will be our day off, including a sight-seeing tour of Vienna and an afternoon relaxing at the funfair at the Prater, before we return home on Wednesday.



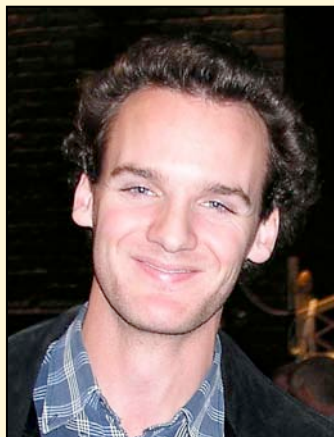
The YPC (23 of them) will be accompanied by 3 professional soloists - **Nicola Mills** (soprano), **Mark Hounsell** (tenor) and **Marcus Farnsworth** (baritone). **Jonathan Turner** and **Richard Tanner** will play the organs, while the **Edward & Anitra Haythornwhite** and **Val Edge** are coming to lend their expertise in a supervisory capacity. **Judge Jeremy & Mrs. Jean Duerden** will be with us to represent the Chapter.

Many parents have also made their own arrangements to stay for a few days in Vienna as well! *What a great tour this will be! Ed.*

## GREAT NEWS FROM our 2003 organ scholar ALEX DAVIES

Dear John,

As you may have read the old Hele organ in my church here in Lyme Regis, Dorset, had a fire recently while I was practising the *Sparrow Mass* for a local choral society concert. Smoke filled the gallery floor up to my knees! The poor old instrument has been limping along for some time but has served us valiantly over the years; it was the first organ I ever heard and inspired me to learn - so must be thankful for that despite its obvious problems.



The fire two weeks before the Appeal Launch was amazing timing. It really brought home to many that the organ really was failing significantly, no matter how hard I tried to play well at services and to make the best of bits of the instrument that worked that day. It was the first time it had been silenced in the church for over 70 years!

When we first started talking about a new organ 18 months ago I was obviously very excited. I had the honour of inviting many different builders to view the instrument, all of whom said nothing was worth re using and suggested we should start a fresh.

With initial guidance from Peter Halls our organ advisor, our Vicar John Harrison and I discussed a new 2 manual tracker of about 24 stops positioned on the west gallery with all the builders. I must admit, when the quotes started coming in my initial enthusiasm was tempered with the huge cost. I was thinking about my local town raising all that money and justifying its cost! However after discussing it with John, we forged ahead formed our organ committee and got things going. Since then many little things keep happening at our church and in the life of the town and keep reminding me that despite the weight of the appeal we are doing the right thing!

The Organ Appeal Launch attended by the Archdeacon of Sherborne, Paul Taylor (who's also an organist), the Town Mayor and over 120 people from the area, included a display – a superb power point presentation by our chairman and a member of the congregation, Andrew Nicholson. Andrew is another one of those people who keep coming right. He is Director of Nicholson Church bell hangers, played Clarinet for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, has enormous mechanical and musical knowledge, (recently repaired the fire damaged organ blower!) is supremely organised unlike me and is used to major church appeals. Could there be anyone better...and in Lyme?!

Anyway the launch event was a great success; fifteen minutes before the start, I was nervously checking over the sponsor register for all the pipes of the new organ. An early arrival asked me what I was doing - he left having donated the Open Diapason stop! If ever a start for the evening - that was it! A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all, the appeal now stands at £67,000.

The organ committee had realised that the old organ could fail at any time and considering that a new organ would take several months to install, an instrument might be needed. Remembering the Tickell chamber organ at Blackburn, I suggested we buy one which would get us through should the organ fail, it might also hold its value should we need to sell it to complete the fundraising.

While searching for chamber organs we came across Anton Skrabl an organ builder from Slovenia.

Skrabl does not yet have an organ in the UK, so despite listening to numerous superb recordings, we had to visit Slovenia to play them and see for ourselves. None of our advisors at

Diocesan level were able to come, so I rather gingerly called Richard Tanner to see if he and his family could spare him three days from Easter Monday!

Slovenia was fantastic; a demanding three-day trip enabled us to try many different organs all over the country and into Austria. Richard was superb and was eagerly putting all the different organs through their paces and Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor at 1 am after an 16 hour day, was sensational although we were worried the police we going to turn up!

A visit to the factory was amazing to see so many new instruments being built.



Skrabl produces every component of his organs in a high tech modern factory employing over 50 staff. Andrew was thrilled with the quality of work he was seeing and Richard was entertaining us and factory workers busy playing various organs around the shop floor, including a little house organ that caught his eye!...



To date we have a preliminary specification drawn up and a fixed price so we could confidently launch the appeal knowing what we are aiming for! I feel privileged to be part of the committee who has this wonderful opportunity to provide an exciting new instrument for Lyme Regis. But I must thank Blackburn for the many experiences and ideas which are helping me to achieve our appeals aim.

Many thanks for your enthusiasm for our project and I hope some details can be included in the Newsletter as you suggest. Sorry it taken me a few days to write but extremely busy rehearsing children for our RNLI concert, practising and organising for several other concerts for our appeal this summer (see [www.lymeregisorganappeal.com](http://www.lymeregisorganappeal.com) for details), teaching and also running my parents' Hotel!

Best wishes  
Alex.

*Wow – Alex! Heartiest congratulations to you and your team, and to Richard for all you are achieving with this amazing project! JB*

## FROM OC ALEC STUTTARD

**Anna Stuttard**, elder daughter BCOCA secretary Alec, has recently been appointed to the position of International Director for the UK charity *Home Start*.

The organization helps families in need of support through disability, isolation, social exclusion, bereavement, or illness. She was previously publications director for Amnesty International.



Anna also recently won an "unsung woman" award in the London borough of Haringey, where she lives, for her voluntary work as a breast-feeding support counsellor.

Anna, married with two daughters, was a member of the Young People's Choir in the '80s when Keith Bond was the director.

**Anna's sister Leah**, also a former YPC singer, has recently completed a tour with an Italian early music ensemble called *Micrologus* which played in Seville and Santiago de Compostella in Spain, Nice in France, and Vienna. She teaches and plays medieval harp, piano and harpsichord and currently lives in Nottingham.

*Alec – thanks and heartiest congrats. Ed*

## OC DAVID SHARPLES

**David Sharples**, died on June 7 aged 56. David was in the boys' choir towards the end of TLD's reign and afterwards joined the servers. He had lived in Skelmanthorpe for many years and leaves a widow and son.

**We are all so very sorry and send our love and deepest sympathy to Liz and to their son Richard.**

## OC PETER CROWTHER JP

Dear John,

In early March (just after my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday) I had to undergo a brain scan after one or two worrying symptoms! The tests showed that at some stage early in the year I had suffered two minor strokes, one affecting my spatial awareness with my vision and the other affecting my left leg. I was also diagnosed as having become diabetic, but only just!

Since then I have undergone a series of checks and have started a new regime of tablets that have stabilised my condition. As a result my walking is almost back to normal whilst my eyesight is improving slowly. But I was immediately banned from driving by my doctor.

I am well on the way to full recovery and have lost 1 stone in weight just by refraining from eating what is allegedly bad for me. Very best wishes

**Peter Crowther**  
Lancaster

*Peter was one of the founder members who sang so wonderfully with the Renaissance Singers for their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert last November.*

*Peter tells me that his recovery is progressing – so much so that he and Jean were able to spend a holiday in Austria in June. This is good news – but our prayers remain with you, Peter.*



## STOP PRESS!

Heartiest congratulations to former Organ Scholar **JONATHAN CLINCH** (photo page 3) who has just earned his BA from Oxford University. 'I can't be at the degree ceremony,' said Jonathan, 'as I shall be in Australia taking up my new post as Assistant Organist of Perth Cathedral.'

## E Mail from OC IVOR BOLTON in MUNICH

Dear John,

Thanks for new E-mail address. I hope you're having a good summer. I'm in Munich for rest of July (7 operas!) and Salzburg for all of August – 3 Mozart operas and concerts. **We have a Prom Concert at the Royal Albert Hall with my Mozarteum orchestra on August 28<sup>th</sup> – obviously on radio 3 and also on BBCTV4 at 7.30 pm.**

Let's speak soon. All best. In haste, Ivor



*It will be a full Mozart programme at the RAH with Ivor's Mozarteum Orchestra from Salzburg, including Symphonies 34 & 38 (the 'Prague'), and Piano Concerto 24 in C minor with Lars Hogt as the soloist. Ed*



*Ivor: Heartiest congratulations on all your amazing career. I plan to be with you for your Promenade Concert at the RAH on Monday August 28<sup>th</sup>! We're all enormously proud of you! JB*

## E Mail from OC TONY MURPHY in NEW JERSEY, USA.

Hi John

I am sitting in Salt Lake City airport after a great vacation riding the rapids on the Green River in Utah! It's late and our plane is delayed!!!

Sorry we missed each other when you came to NJ in May. I was away on business for the whole week as it turned out.

Not sure yet whether or not I can make it back for the BCOCA this Sept - I'll know nearer the time.

I hope you are keeping well  
Best wishes **Tony**

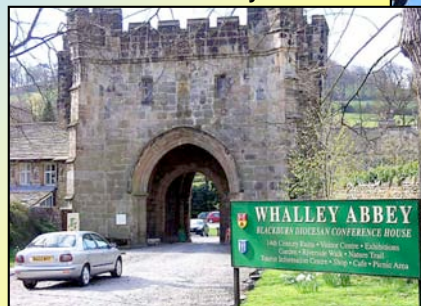
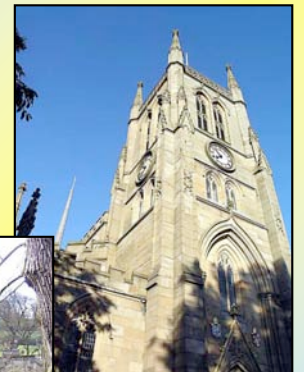
*Tony: Terrific to hear from you. Thanks so much for keeping in touch. It would be great if you could come to our Reunion. JB*



## BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL & WHALLEY ABBEY

**are the venues for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Old Choristers' Reunion 16-17 September.**

**Every Old Chorister who can possibly come, should be here for this most significant 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**



*Sr. Old Chorister Stewart Hopkinson*

**Music for Choral Evensong on Saturday (Old Choristers and Cathedral Choir)**  
*Ave Verum Corpus – Mozart. Responses – JB*  
*Canticles – Sumsion in G. I was glad – Parry*

**See page 12 for full details.**



**Printed by DELMAR PRESS, Nantwich, CW5 5LS**