

Blackburn Cathedral

Music & More

£3

May 2008



**RECOLLECTIONS of DR. HERMAN BREARLEY
and THOMAS L. DUERDEN
*the first two Organists of Blackburn Cathedral***
by HOWARD SEYMOUR

*Father of OC 'Woody', and former dynamic Director of Music
of St. Wilfrid's School, Blackburn*

In respect of most of these recollections, I am what historians would term the secondary source. The primary sources are **my father-in-law, Fred Hargreaves** (hereafter referred to as FH) and **my early years' piano teacher, Arthur Bury** (hereafter referred to as AB).

My recollections of the incidents they recounted to me are very clear and I have no doubt that their accounts were correct. The following can therefore reasonably be assumed to be authentic.

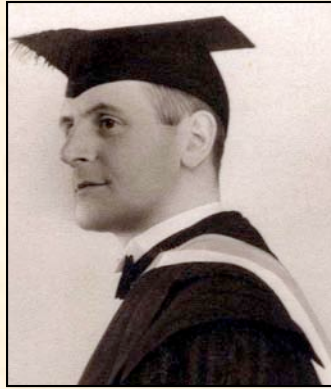


*Howard Seymour inspecting
our rebuilt organ in 2000*

Fred Hargreaves knew both Dr. Brearley and TLD.



Dr. Brierley in 1916
Organist here from 1916-1939



T. L. Duerden in 1932
Organist here from 1939-1964

Fred always spoke highly of Dr. Brearley whom he knew from his time as a young man in the Cathedral Choir. He spoke of him with a degree of affection and regarded him as a fine musician.

Strangely enough though, Fred didn't opt to undertake his own musical studies with Dr. Brearley, but for reasons he never confided to me, chose to have organ lessons in preparation for Associateship of the Royal College of Organists from the bright young man of the day who had made such a musical mark at St. John's Church, Blackburn - TLD.

Arthur Bury's relationship with Dr Brearley was that of pupil and master. He studied with him for his Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music in piano and afterwards, embarked on preparations for ARCO and an external BMus, neither of which he was able to complete because of war service. Arthur was an intelligent man and good musician and after the war he returned to Blackburn to establish a career as a private music teacher and local organist.

During FH's period in the Cathedral Choir, he was periodically asked by Dr. Brearley to play the last hymn and voluntary at the end of morning service. This was to enable the good Dr. to be out of the Cathedral in time to hear the Salvation Army band - which presumably had a regular procession in the town at about that time.

His particular fascination was a euphonium player who he told Fred, was an 'absolutely brilliant' extempore player. This bandsman, whose name we may never know, was able to improvise an adventurous independent part containing some daring harmonies which managed to be at one with what the rest of the band was doing.

Dr. Brearley was so enthralled by this player, that he was



to be seen striding out alongside the said euphonium player following the progress of the band through the streets of the town. One can conclude from this that Herman Brearley was catholic in his musical tastes and drawn to spontaneous and intuitive musicianship wherever it was to be found.

Dr. Brearley's readiness to experience music outside the Cathedral setting is supported by references I recall from both FH and AB to an occasion when the Cathedral Choir either performed or was invited to perform at the then Palace Theatre on the boulevard.

As I understand it, this performance/invitation was viewed dimly by the Cathedral clergy of the time and that this incident may



have contributed to the conclusion of his tenure as Cathedral organist in 1939 and his translation to St Silas'.



During the time Dr. Brearley was at the Cathedral, the organ was in the west gallery (where *Christ the Worker* now is) and it was there that AB went for his organ lessons.

There was at least one occasion when AB had tactfully to suggest to Dr Brearley that he moderate his language because he was aware of movement in the Cathedral below. I was never told what prompted the outbursts of bad language - it

certainly wouldn't be Arthur's lack of preparation for his lesson. We shall never know.

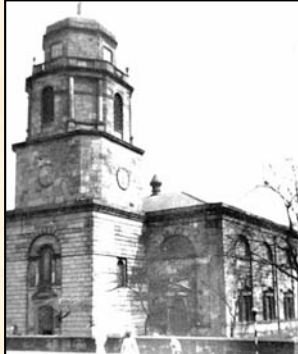
In the organ loft was a utilitarian music cabinet which Dr. Brearley had had specially made. It contained three banks of eight drawers of a size which would accommodate organ albums. On his departure, Dr. Brearley left this cabinet at the Cathedral and we can assume that TLD either bought it or 'inherited' it. Whichever was the case, when TLD retired he felt it was his to dispose of.

Knowing of AB's pupilage with Dr. Brearley and the regard in which he held him, TLD invited AB to purchase it. This he did and it spent many useful years in his music room in Mill Hill. It is now one of my prized possessions.

As well as being Cathedral organist, Herman Brearley was also Director of Music at QEGS.



I wonder how many Old Blackburnians since that time are aware that he composed the music for the school song. His 'Cantilena' is a well-crafted piece in a lilting compound time with some telling shifts of metre and key and is infinitely superior in quality to some of tasteless musical and literary doggerel which populate this genre. It would be appropriate for the archive to acquire a copy of this significant local piece.



TLD is an example par excellence of the local boy making good and he was justifiably proud of his achievements. Some of the most remarkable of these relate to the Prize Choir at St. John's Church, and there is plenty on record about this, but perhaps two recollections of FH will be of interest.

One evening he and TLD were about to leave St. John's after Fred's organ lesson when there was knock at the vestry door. It was a small boy from the locality who had turned up on his own and announced 'Please Sir, I want to join your choir and I can sing right 'igh up'. A few tests at the vestry piano proved that this was no empty boast and another singing career was launched.

On occasions FH went with TLD and his boys on the train to festivals and on other outings. He remembered one occasion when on the journey home the boys, calming down at the end of the day, spontaneously started to sing exquisitely in three part harmony. Either on that or some similar occasion, TLD had been rattled by an adjudicator who had said that the singing had been 'too perfect'.

My own experience of TLD's legendary choir training skills are very limited – not as a Cathedral chorister but as a member of QEGS Choral Society. Though this was right at the end of his career, he was still capable of delivering the magic. This had little to do with technique and everything to do with personality.

His position as Director of Music at QEGS was a part time one and he wasn't always around. Boys who wanted to do 'O' level music had to be fitted in 'extra curricular' which during my examination course necessitated leaving school and whatever was timetabled, to go to the Cathedral Song School for lessons there.

TLD was not lavish with his praise and to be told that one's work was 'bordering on the fringes' was high praise indeed. Most groups of such students would at some time or other hear the tale which began 'When I handed my Mus Bac paper to Sir Edward Bairstow...' (who was then organist of York Minster and Professor of Music at Durham University). We were duly impressed when he told us that on handing in one of his papers he apologised to Bairstow for taking the liberty to work the canon exercise in 8 parts rather than the required 4 and trusted that this would be acceptable.



T. L. Duerden in retirement 1964

I think it was probably to mark his retirement, but there was certainly one occasion when the Cathedral bells were rung in his honour.

At that time Church Street was heavily trafficked and had a policemen positioned on point duty at the top by Lloyds bank.

TLD was of course a well-known character to the officers concerned and on this occasion as the bells were ringing and he was crossing the road, he was seen by AB to engage the police officer in conversation – just long enough to be noticed but just stopping short of causing irritation and chaos – intuitive musical timing with that touch of theatre and eccentricity which were part of his musical personality.



Heartiest Congratulations to TOM DAGGETT, YPC member...

...for he has won a place at Lincoln College, Oxford to read music. Tom, who is a pupil at St. Wilfrid's School, told your editor that he eventually wants to study law – but a music degree will be a good start!

It's extraordinary how many of us from Blackburn Cathedral have studied at Lincoln College:

Our 2005/06 organ scholar, **Jonathan Turner**, is Lincoln's present senior organ scholar;

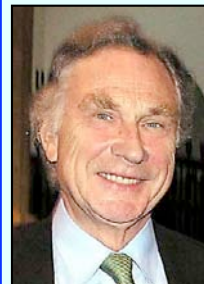


Emily Crewe is a member of Jonathan's chapel choir there

OC Chris Hunwick (the Duke of Northumberland's Archivist) studied Greats there;



Andrew Elliott (Renaissance Singer Alizon's son) is studying there for a D. Phil in economics;



Richard Tanner's father, **John Tanner**, also studied Greats at Lincoln College ...

... just after your editor, JB, was organ scholar there 55 years ago!



Former Blackburn DoM **David Cooper** was organ scholar there;



Alpha & Omega!

Well done, Tom, and thanks for keeping up this fine tradition!

There were changes

to our Annual Epiphany Service on 13th January which, as ever, attracted a large congregation including many Civic leaders in their regalia.



First, instead of three Canons taking the parts of the Three Kings, three Servers presented the Gifts instead.

It was something of a challenge to take their photograph before the service, as the gift of incense seemed to steal the show!

L-R: **Alex Barnes** (Gold)
Richard Robb (Frankincense) and **Simon Duxbury** (Myrrh)



Second, instead of the Gifts being presented at the central altar as in previous years, they were presented at a small but delightful modern Crib in the centre of the Nave, where everybody could see what was happening.

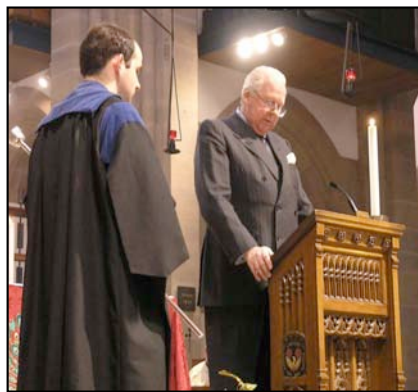
Third, even though **Richard Tanner** was happily back with us after his four months' Sabbatical, **James Davy** conducted the choir of Senior Girls and Men, whilst Richard played the organ.



Some of the girls lining up at the West end of the Nave with James Davy:
L-R Johanna Lund, Jessica Studholme, Laura Slater, Jamie Bett, Sophie Brooke (behind), Alison Holmes and Emily Kennedy (behind).



It was good to welcome four of our Lay Canons for the service. Pictured here are two of them: **Lady Shuttleworth**, chair of the Cathedral Council, with former High Sheriff and international footballer, **Jimmy Armfield**.



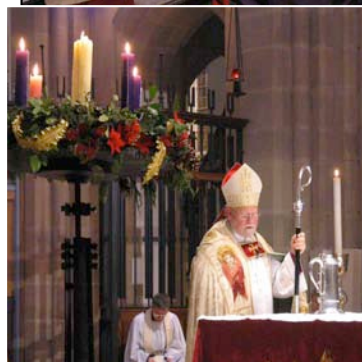
Again, as last year, the lessons were read by a succession of distinguished people from the Diocese – beginning with the Lord Lieutenant, **Lord Shuttleworth**, who read beautifully, as did most of the other readers.

But the greatest innovation was to have the entire congregation process to the font in the South Transept whilst singing a hymn, in time for the *Prayer over the Water*, which was said by **John**, Bishop of Burnley.



This was well managed, thanks to the guidance given by alert ushers, as the large congregation made their musical way from the Nave.

And the choir was there, too, to sing *Vidi Aquam* ('I saw the water') by John Scott and Simon Johnston. It was exquisite.



And after we had all returned to our places the Bishop blessed us and we departed joyfully, as Richard played us out with Bach's Great Prelude and Fugue in G major.

Then **Dean Christopher** led the Civic leaders and many other distinguished guests to the Crypt where he hosted a reception which, as ever, was greatly appreciated.

It was a good evening.





E mail from **ROBERT COSTIN**

Director of Music,
Ardingly College, Sussex.

**Assistant DoM
Blackburn Cathedral, 1995-96**

Hi John,

Things are busy at Ardingly but going well. One plans to do so much but needs to be realistic in the early days. I'm taking the Chapel Choir to Paris in the summer, which is something to look forward to.

I'm off to the States over Easter - a recital at St Thomas's NYC (a week after David Goodenough's - one of my predecessors at Blackburn) and a colloquium on Howells's organ music at Eastman School of Music, New York. It'll be great to catch up with David Briggs and mutual friends in the States.

Also planning a recital tour to NZ in the summer. Have concerts in Dunedin and Wellington Town Halls lined up which is probably enough - I'll also need some holiday. Hope to launch the new CD of Liszt and Reubke when I'm out there.

Hope you are thriving and well.

All best wishes,

Robert

How do you manage to direct the music at such a prestigious school AND also find time to practise the organ? Well done! JB

E mail from **OC Andrew Simm** in Bolton (Prefect 1989)

Dear John



I think I mentioned on my last email to you that the New English Orchestra that I sing with undertook a number of "Recreatio" concerts in Rome (nine 3/4 hour concerts in 3 days) last September.

Just to let you know that these were a great success and, all being well, we are returning for a week again this coming September!

I look forward to the next issue of the Newsletter. This is a great read by the way, I always read it cover to cover straight away.

I hope you are well.

Kind regards

Andrew

The NEO's website tells us that this amazing orchestra is composed of high quality instrumentalists from some of the top orchestras in the world, and that all members of the NEO are Christians from both Protestant and Catholic traditions.

As well as working with singers (like Andrew Simm) they also have dancers and give concerts all over the world.

Congratulations, Andrew! JB

Letter from **OC CHARLIE HOPWOOD** in Blackburn. Prefect 1966. [See p 20](#)

Dear JB,

I had a busy 2007 one way and another. Still working gainfully - well, 4 days a week anyway.



The main change during the last year is the purchase of an apartment in [Altinkum, Turkey](#). We have been over there three times since the building work was completed, including spending the New Year celebrations there.



A Turkish New Year is certainly different, and we enjoyed the change, including much better weather. I don't know how much time we'll spend over there eventually, but the Turkish people are very friendly.

My daughter Emma was married in September 2006 and I begin to feel old with 2 grandsons running rings around me when they visit.

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits.

My best wishes to you and the BCOCA

Charlie ([See page 7](#))

Your letter deserves several WOWs, Charlie: becoming a Granddad AND having a seaside holiday home in Turkey.

Congratulations. JB

E mail from OC **BERNARD HARGREAVES** in California. (Prefect 1968; a chorister-contemporary of Charlie Hopwood. [See p. 20 !](#))



John,

Good to hear from you, I hope everything is OK in Blackburn? I do still get to see some of the Blackburn Rovers football games at the weekend over here (thanks to Fox and Sky cable TV), it is a little bit of home-from-home.

I'm sure you appreciate what I mean having lived in the US for many years yourself.

Anyway, I will look forward to my next BCOCA Newsletter in February. Heads-up I may also be planning a short trip back to Blackburn at the end of February, 2008. I will let you know when I confirm my trip, and will plan to stop by the Cathedral for the Sunday service. Take care.

Best regards, **Bernard**

Bernard J. Hargreaves

Manager, Audit Services Dept.

GO-1, Quad 4 A

*Bernard: Thanks so much for yours - it would be terrific to see you again - the last time was at our 2005 BCOCA Reunion. JB **We did see him again. See p 20***

Heartiest Congratulations to **Canon Andrew Clitherow**

...former Residentiary Canon of Blackburn, who is now Priest-in-Charge (i.e. Vicar) of the large church of St. Cuthbert, Lytham. He has just been appointed as a Chaplain to HM The Queen!



Canon Clitherow said,

'This was a great surprise, but I regard it as an honour to be shared with all the faithful priests in the diocese.

'It will mean, in practice, that I have to preach one sermon a year at the Chapel Royal in St. James's Palace!'

The other 'perks' he gets are (i) to wear a Royal Red cassock, and (ii) to meet The Queen at a Palace Garden Party!



**We are delighted to hear that
GORDON STEWART
has been re-appointed Organist of
Huddersfield Town Hall**

Many of us know what trials and tribulations he has been through during the last couple of years, after the supposedly glittering appointment, which he'd accepted in the USA, fell through.



Gordon's weekly recitals at Huddersfield drew large and enthusiastic audiences – not only because of the brilliance of his playing and the engaging way he introduced each item, but also because he socialized with members of his audience during the pre-concert informal lunches in the cafeteria – making himself totally accessible.

The good times have returned. Well done, Gordon. JB

**Heartiest Congratulations to
JEFFREY ROBINSON**

who has been a Virger here for over a year, serving so faithfully alongside Dean's Virger Mark Pickering and our volunteer Virger Brian Newton and also, more recently, with Virger Siby Jose...

...for on Sunday 17th February, Jeff was promoted to be Canons' Virger.

Well done, indeed, Jeff!



**There was a delightful and delicious
Mini BCOCA Reunion at Haighton Manor...**

... in January to celebrate a significant birthday of MARGARET ROTHWELL, wife of OC DAVID.

One of the Manor's private luxurious dining rooms was filled, not only with some of Margaret's relations, but also with hand-picked Old Choristers and their families.



Apart from Host David (Prefect 1961), there were the parents of OC William Heap – Prefect 1978, now living in the Isle of Person – GEOFF & SHEILA HEAP, who live in JB's former house in Mellor, DEREK (Prefect 1967) and MARILYN CROMPTON, JOAN BANKS MBE (Mum of OCs Peter – Prefect 1973, and Dr. Ian – Prefect 1977), PHIL HUNWICK (Dad of OCs Chris – Prefect 1990, and Noel – Prefect 1993), Hon OCs DAVID & RUTH DEMACK, and your editor (Director of Music 1964-82).

It was a most happy evening which David Rothwell had organised with his customary super efficiency. For example, those

of us who couldn't remember what we'd ordered for the dinner – which included most of us (forms had been sent to us months ago to fill in with our choices) – were each given an individual menu with our courses highlighted.

For those who don't know, it was **David Rothwell** and **Derek Crompton** who, years ago, **built the choir library**. They constructed the wall dividing the choir vestry from the library; they built the library's enormous table, installed the shelving and bought boxes to put the sets of music in. And it's all still going strong (albeit with extra shelving and extra boxes) after nearly 40 years.



David & Derek (see pp 7 & 20) also compiled the first ever (in the world) computerized cross-referenced library catalogue. *That's* talented & dedicated enthusiasm for you!

**It was very good indeed
to welcome back to Blackburn Cathedral
IAN ROBERTS**

who was organ scholar here 2001-2002

Ian gave an exceptionally fine Wednesday lunchtime organ recital in January which attracted one of the largest audiences we have had in recent times. Clearly he has a fan club here!

He left Blackburn in 2002 to take up a similar organ post at Chichester Cathedral. He was then appointed 2nd Assistant at Chester Cathedral where he has continued to rise in status and musicianship. Currently he's Acting Assistant Director of Music of that historic Cathedral – and who knows what may yet lie in store for him?



After Ian's most musical recital: L-R Canon Michael Wedgeworth, Sarah Turner, James Davy, IAN ROBERTS and Richard Tanner.

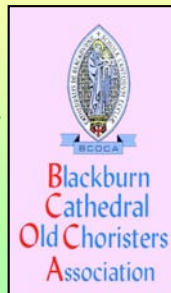
Blackburn Cathedral Newsletter

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Thank you!



The Newsletter is designed & edited by Dr John Bertalot
Send your news to john@bertalot.org



RSCM Festival 2008



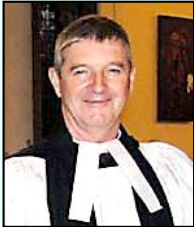
When **Richard Tanner** conducted the RSCM Annual Choirs' Festival in the Cathedral in January (seen here rehearsing the choirs in the North Transept) it was a particular delight to see, during the service, former SOC **ALBERT OGDEN** and his wife **MARY** receive their long service Awards from the hands of the Bishop of Hulme.

Although they were '40-year' Awards for singing in church choirs, Mary has notched up over



50 years and Albert, who joined the Cathedral choir in 1936 – well, work it out for yourself.

Albert has been approached to paint the Dean's portrait. 'It may not be easy,' Albert told your editor, 'for the logistics of the Dean coming to my home near Lancaster for sittings, and for me to come to Blackburn for background, may be more than I can cope with. But,' he added, 'it's a great honour to be asked.'



OC PETER HEALD our distant Archivist, recently discovered the requirements and test paper for this 1967 Award:

1. The candidates, drawn from many church choirs in the diocese, including the cathedral, needed to have reached the highest ranks in their choir,
2. clocked up at least 95% attendance in the last 6 months;
3. attended an RSCM residential course with merit, or passed a Grade 5 music exam;
4. and, apart from passing a searching theoretical and practical exam at the cathedral, they had to be strongly recommended by their Vicar and Choirmaster.

The exam was held in the cathedral on Saturday 8th April, 1967. For the written test they had to



- i. recognize three hymn tunes (the first 4 bars were written out for them) and to write the words to which they were sung;
- ii. put 12 seasons of the church's year in their correct order, and suggest a hymn or anthem suitable for each;
- iii. recognize familiar phrases from services and say from which service they came, and also what would be said immediately afterwards. (Example: '...but deliver us from evil. Amen.');
- iv. give the meaning of foreign words which appear in music. (Examples: *Decani, Adagio, rall...*)
- v. 'Point' three verses of an unknown psalm and compose the melody of a chant to which it could be sung;
- vi. Answer questions about key signatures;
- vii. Explain the meaning of an obscure verse of a hymn and compose a tune to which it could be sung;
- viii. Make a list of 20 points which help them to do their best in their choir. (e.g. *singing techniques, discipline, vestry drill...*);
- ix. Write a 200-word essay on 'My Choir'.

Candidates were taken out of the written exam, one by one, for their practical tests: Singing scales, singing a prepared anthem and sight-singing an unprepared one.

A month later the successful candidates (7 of them) attended a One-Day School at the Cathedral led by JB during which they prepared the music for Choral Evensong, when Bishop Charles Claxton presented his Awards.

Seen here, after the service, with Bishop Claxton, (and JB – back right), are – front row L-R: Cathedral Choristers **CHARLIE HOPWOOD, IAN HARRISON and DEREK CROMPTON**. The other four choristers are from diocesan church choirs. Alas, I cannot remember their names.

Ancient History Corner

THE VERY FIRST BISHOP'S CHORISTERS, May 6, 1967



Hopwood, Harrison & Crompton, with Bishop Claxton. (photo LET)

Blackburn Diocese was the first Diocese in the world to organize the Bishop's Choristers' Awards for Excellence. The Diocesan RSCM Committee, under the chairmanship of your editor, worked for several years to perfect this scheme (which had been inspired by **MARTIN HOW**, Headquarters Commissioner of the RSCM) to ensure the highest standards.

Bishop Claxton was so pleased with 'his' choristers that he took them, every year, for a supper and a show in Blackpool. And he also asked, whenever he visited a church in the diocese where one of his choristers sang (and this later also applied to long-service Bishop's-Chorister adults), that they should 'attend' him when he processed during their services.

There came a time at the cathedral, when we had so many bishop's choristers, that he was almost invisible when he processed, being surrounded by a host of treble & teen singers.

I write this now, because the RSCM, in its world-wide magazine *Church Music Quarterly* (CMQ) recently claimed that another diocese had begun these awards later. Your editor wrote to CMQ to put the record straight. We did it first, and from us it has now spread throughout the world.

And finally, *if* these first Awards had been handed out alphabetically, the very first Bishop's Chorister in the world would almost certainly have been **Derek Crompton**, who, most happily still sings in the cathedral choir.

Charlie Hopwood rejoined BCOCA a few years ago (see his fascinating letter on page 5) and **Ian Harrison BA, FRCO** is a full-time musician – with a fine school, and super choir at St. Stephen's Church Bournemouth, where he organizes a most ambitious and successful annual music festival.

Hallelujah! JB





"We are making History today in this Cathedral,"

...said **Bishop Nicholas** when he commissioned three most distinguished Ecumenical Canons during Choral Evensong in Blackburn Cathedral on Sunday, 27th January.

The new Honorary Canons, seen here with **Dean Christopher** before the service, are (L-R)

(Lutheran) Landesbischof Dr Friedrich Weber, bishop of our twinned diocese of Braunschweig,

(Methodist) the Reverend Stephen Poxon, about to be elected President of the Methodist Conference (the equivalent of an Archbishop), and

(Roman Catholic) the Very Reverend Canon Kevin Kenny, Rural Dean of Blackburn and Darwen.

Just before the service began the glorious array of clergy lined up in the Assembly area – the opportunity for a massed photograph wasn't to be missed!



The Venerable **John Hawley** Archdeacon of Blackburn, The Rt. Revd. **John Goddard** Bishop of Burnley, The Revd. **Chris Chivers** Canon Chancellor, **Petr Kolmar** Assistant Bishop of Braunschweig, The Revd. **Andrew Hindley** Canon Sacrist, Dr **Friedrich Weber** Bishop of Braunschweig, The Rt. Revd. **Nicholas Reade** Bishop of Blackburn, The Very Revd. **Christopher Armstrong** Dean of Blackburn, The Revd. **Stephen Poxon** President-designate of the Methodist Conference, The Very Revd. **Kevin Kenny** Rural Dean of Blackburn with Darwen, The Rt. Revd. **Geoffrey Seagrave** Bishop of Lancaster, and (see p. 10) The Venerable **Peter Ballard** Archdeacon of Lancaster.



Clergy and Choir assembled in the North Transept, from where **Richard Tanner** conducted the Introit: *Omnes de Saba*, 'All they from Saba shall come', by Jakob Handl.

Probationer **Dominic Chivers** proved himself to be a trustworthy music-stand!



After the Dean had presented the new Canons to the Bishop, Bishop Nicholas introduced the Canons to the congregation, and then he invited them to make their formal Declaration of Obedience to the Cathedral Statutes – which they did in clear, ringing tones.



And then, assisted by the Diocesan Registrar **Mr. Tom Hoyle**, they subscribed to the Declaration.



But the formalities were not over yet! Next, they knelt before Bishop Nicholas to receive his Commission...



... after which the Dean led the three new Canons to their stalls to the sound of enthusiastic applause from a packed cathedral.

And so Evensong proceeded. The Honorary Ecumenical Canons, and their Reverend colleagues, sang the hymns lustily, as did we all!



The choir, conducted by Richard Tanner and accompanied by James Davy, sang Samsion's Canticles in G & Responses and Berkeley's most moving setting of *Look up, sweet babe*.



Bishop Nicholas preached a dynamic sermon, lauding the peace-seeking and ecumenical ministry of **George Bell**, Bishop of Chichester, who condemned the use of saturation bombing of German cities in WWII. This irritated the Establishment, and so he was not considered when a successor to William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, had to be chosen: 'they' nominated Geoffrey Fisher instead.

Bishop Nicholas proclaimed the extraordinary achievements of our Ecumenical Canons, and believed that their work would help to promote a reconciliation of Christian denominations. There is hope if we work for it.

And after the service was over Richard Tanner played Bach's D major Prelude and Fugue – (the one which begins with rapid pedal scales which he managed so well) and there was yet another Reception in the crypt – although this time it was very informal. Coffee and tea, no wine!



Hilary Carr & her daughter Eiren with Richard Robb dispensing refreshments after the impressive 90-minute service.

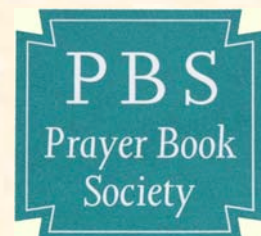
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Tearing down the Old, and Building up the New



The 1960s Shopping-centre Precinct, opposite the Cathedral, was biting the dust in January, prior to rejuvenation, as passing citizens looked on.

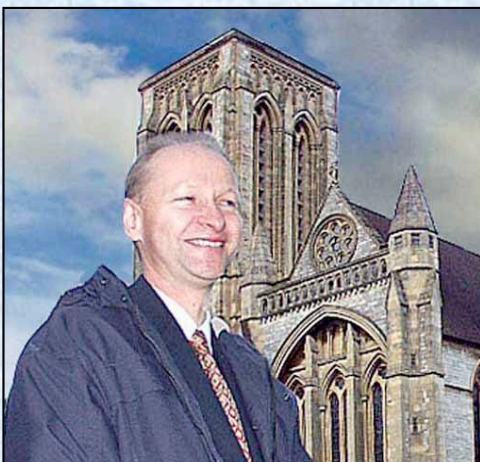


Richard Tanner spends much time recruiting new boys and girls for our choirs. That's why we have so many! Here he is auditioning three new boys at the beginning of February, assisted by several established choristers.

One of the newest new boys is Richard & Pippa's elder son, James (Right), who is a bundle of energy! Head Chorister Arthur Geldard, with Chris Snape alongside, looks after him.



OC IAN HARRISON...



...has organised yet another glorious **Festival of Music and Liturgy** in his impressive church of **St. Stephen, Bournemouth**. It's his 13th Annual Festival – which goes from strength to strength.

the irrepressible and incomparable **Dr. Barry Rose**, who will give the Festival Lecture, the superb choir of **Winchester Cathedral**, which will sing the Festival Evensong,

Andrew Millington (Organist of Exeter Cathedral) who will give the Celebrity Organ Recital, plus **Ian's own church and school choirs** which will sing a mound of music, with professional orchestra, including Mozart's *Spaur Mass*, Rutter's *Mass for Children*, and so much more.

AND Ian has almost completed the Appeal for the rebuilding of his historic organ. (**Percy Whitlock** was organist there.)

Well done, Ian!

Our effervescent Archdeacon of Lancaster, **PETER BALLARD**

...who is also our equally dynamic Diocesan Director of Education with 200 church schools under his care (he was also a Cathedral Residentiary Canon), has been even busier since he became Archdeacon.

For example, last August he became Pro-Chancellor of the new **UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA**, which was formed from an amalgamation of **St. Martin's College, Lancaster** (of which he has been a Governor since 1999 and acting chair since 2005) and the **Cumbria Institute of Arts**.

The new University has 17,000 students (where do they house them all?) and a budget of £85M.

But now that he's gotten (to use a useful Americanism) his University up and running, Peter installed the first Chancellor at a special ceremony in Carlisle Cathedral on November 24th 2007.



Here they both are after the ceremony. There's no need to say who the Chancellor is, is there? **(From Yours)**

Patronal Festival 2008

We don't do things by halves at Blackburn Cathedral. When there's a Festival to be celebrated, or Royalty, or an occasional Archbishop, or an international politician to be welcomed, it's done right well!

So for this year's Patronal Festival (*The Presentation of Christ – Candlemas*) we not only welcomed the delightful **Girls' Choir** from **Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin**, to sing with our own Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys, and Girls Choir, but also the strings of the **Northern Chamber Orchestra** to accompany Schubert's *Mass in G*.

And not only that, but our tireless and dedicated Virgers turned the seating of the Nave completely around – with congregational chairs running East and West, and a platform for the choirs at the West end.



Choirs & Orchestra rehearsing with Richard Tanner for the Festival Eucharist

After the 10.30 service members of the congregation enjoyed a Reception in our hospitable N. Transept, whilst our Virgers began the Herculean task of dismantling the platform and returning the Nave chairs to their usual positions for Choral Evensong at 4.00 pm.



Mrs. Geraldine Armstrong at the Reception enjoying the company of choir basses Judge James Prowse (L) and Philip Wilson.

We've said it before, but we'll say it again, **our Virgers are heroic!**



Virgers Jeffrey Robinson, Mark Pickering & Siby Jose

The superb Festival Lunch was prepared and served by **With a Twist**, headed by **Martin Jones**. It was exceptional in deliciousness, in skilled preparation and in attentive service.

Richard Tanner asked for a second helping of pork, served by Martin and his courteous assistants, as **Philippa Hyde**, who sang the soprano solos in the Mass, looked on.



Baby **Jonathan Chivers** seemed especially satisfied after having been fed with incomparable sticky toffee pudding by his Dad.



Dominic (L) and **Greg** also looked contentedly replete!

After the rehearsal led by **Richard Tanner** we enjoyed a glorious Choral Evensong, sung by both Girls' choirs and our Choirmen, which began in the

Ambulatory with a lovely Introit by Richard, *Haec Deum caeli*.



The other music was: Leighton's *Responses*, Wood's *Coll Reg Canticles*, and Eccard's *When Mary to the temple went*.



Of course **James Davy & Tristan Russcher** (Christ Church Dublin's Assistant DoM) played the organ magnificently,

Special thanks to our host families who welcomed the Dublin girls into their homes for that wonderful weekend.



Magnificent Messiah

Saturday, 9th February, was a very special day in the history of Blackburn Cathedral's music ministry, for we were privileged to hear a superlative performance of *Messiah* sung by three of our Cathedral Choirs – **Men and Boys, Senior Girls and the Renaissance Singers**.

They were accompanied by **Canzona** – who played period instruments (thus creating the sounds that Handel would have heard). They were formed in 1992 and are directed (led) dynamically by **Therese Caudle**. It was fascinating to see the players continually watching Ms. Caudle to ensure that they all played exactly together.

Our soloists were incomparably splendid (see their photo next page). The balance between choirs, soloists and orchestra was outstanding.

This concert was the first since **Richard Tanner**'s return to the cathedral after his four months' well-earned Sabbatical. We have never seen him conduct better – his musicians followed every nuance of expression that he gave them. He was a joy to behold.

But, of course, before the performance there was the usual compulsory Reception in the North Transept for our generous Sponsors and Friends, without whose munificence none of our concerts would be possible.

One of the first arrivals, to be greeted by **Canon Hindley**, was **Mr. Richard Chicotel** from San Francisco. (But he hadn't come 6000 miles just for this concert!) He was on a business trip to several European countries, and so it was very good to welcome him here.



Val Edge, a strong member of our congregation, was the centre of attention when we photographed more distinguished patrons:



L-R **Vidushi Golash & her father, Aprajay Golash, Val Edge, Simon Yates, a most generous sponsor, with Gway Rajiah & Sara Rajiah**

Val told your staff photographer how much she was looking forward to going with some of our choristers to Princeton, New Jersey, in the autumn. They'll be attending a choristers' course at the seaside with American choristers.

Two eminent doctors, **Mr. Srinivasan & Dr Azaveo**, were also welcomed by Canon Hindley with a member of staff from **With a Twist**.



Another of our sponsors that evening was **With a Twist** – a superb catering company headed by **Martin Jones** (see p. 11). They provided delicious nibbles that evening to complement the wine provided by our own Café in the Crypt.

There were many doctors with us that evening, for the concert had also been generously sponsored by BMI Beardwood and BMI Beaumont Hospitals.

Four doctors were standing in a row:



Drs Colin & Lesley Harris, and Tim & Sarah Clarke. We gathered that at least two of them had been medical students together.

It was also very good to welcome **Dr. Jackie Gavan** (centre) who was talking with **Simon Corns**, new Headmaster of QEGS, and **Dr. Elke Corns**.



It was especially good to welcome **Mr & Mrs. Peter Smith**, who were chatting with **Mrs. Geraldine Armstrong** (centre).



Peter is organizing the national gathering of the **Friends of Cathedral Music** who will be meeting in Blackburn in October.

And so came the concert: **See front cover**.

Canons' Virger **Jeffery Robinson** made the Health and Safety announcement – for Dean's Virger **Mark Pickering** and his wife were skiing in Austria! – and **Rodney Swarbrick**, Chairman of Blackburn's Friends of Cathedral Music, introduced the artists.



All our musicians were magnificent.

L-R: **RICHARD TANNER** (Conductor),
PHILIPPA HYDE (Soprano)
OWEN WILLETTS (Counter-tenor)

Owen sang for us at very short notice due to the indisposition of David Clegg and, like all our soloists, he was a joy to watch as well as to listen to.

PHILIP SALMON (Tenor)

PETER HARVEY (Bass), and

Head Chorister **ARTHUR GELDARD** whose confident professionalism matched that of his adult peers.

Arthur sang the four short solos: *'And there were shepherds ... And suddenly there was with the angel...'*

At the end of the first half, when conductor, adult soloists, orchestra and choirs were receiving a well-deserved ovation, Richard invited Arthur to make his way to the front from his place in the choir.

He was greeted with an almighty cheer, which was also very well deserved.



It must have given **Richard Tanner** and his wife, **Philippa Hyde**, special pride to have their elder son **James** singing in the choir. He'd joined only a few weeks' earlier, but managed to hold his own for much of those three hours, keeping both eyes on his Dad! →

The attentive and appreciative audience filled nearly every seat. They also enjoyed refreshments in the interval. And standing for the Hallelujah Chorus helped their circulation, for Richard had decided that the performance would be complete – many other performances omit the lesser known arias and choruses.

And so the concert, which began at 7.00 pm, ended at 10.00 pm. But every moment was relished to the full, and afterwards we all went home having experienced a triumphant evening, which was exquisitely beautiful and wholly glorious.

At least, almost everyone went home; the Virgers, needless to say, remained until the early hours dismantling the staging and restoring the Nave chairs to their usual positions ready for Sunday's services.

Thank you – one and all!



E MAIL from DAVID BRIGGS in USA

David, as everyone knows, was the consultant for the rebuilding of our organ in 2000; he is a world-class organ recitalist, and gave his very first recital here in Blackburn Cathedral when he was only 14 (when he played the whole programme from memory!).



As well as being a sought-after recitalist and composer, David is a nearly-qualified pilot; but, perhaps, not yet authorized to fly AIR FORCE ONE – the plane of the President of the United States!

Hello John

Hope all continues well in Blackburn. We're just re-printing the Requiem/Organ Concerto CD [*the concerto commissioned by Blackburn and recorded by Richard Tanner and Blackburn's former Asst. DoM, Greg Morris*] which has sold its first 1000. They are playing the Concerto in Ely Cathedral on 4th October this year, although I can't be there, sadly. I'm playing at the Temple Church in London in a couple of weeks and so look forward to seeing Greg [*who is now the Associate Organist there*].

Madge and I are loving Massachusetts. We recently moved there from New York City.

We now live in Ipswich, Mass., on the High Street which allegedly has the most **C17 houses** of any street in the USA. It's Pilgrim Fathers territory. It's very picturesque – with a lot of marshes and forests, not to mention being 3 miles from the beach.



I practise at Ascension Memorial Episcopal Church, where there is a very good two-manual Fisk organ. In fact they've just appointed me 'Artist in Residence' which is very nice. We're just 28 miles from Boston's Logan Airport, so I can get around the world to do my stuff very easily.

We're just bringing out our first Chestnut Music DVD [*my recording company – see my website www.david-briggs.org.uk*] – Widor Toccata and Improvs. on the Cavallé-Coll organ at St Sernin, Toulouse. Pretty amazing sound and my first ever attempt at voice-over! I offered them English, American or French accents – we went for the first. We're calling the DVD **Bombarde 32'** - the St Sernin 32ft Reed surely has to be the finest in the world (with Blackburn a close second of course). I recorded it at the same time as the cover CD for next month's BBC Music Magazine, coming out on the 12th of March.

I hope this finds you well. I'm coming to Clitheroe to re-open the organ on Thursday 5th of June – are you around?

All very best wishes and Madge sends her best regards, too.

David

Yes! I'm sure we'll get a crowd of fan club for your Clitheroe recital! JB



The (National) Friends of Cathedral Music – see page 12 – have announced that the BBC will, from September, restore their 'historic' live broadcasts of Cathedral Choral Even-songs from Sundays to Wednesdays! **Blackburn** will give one of the first – on 24th September.

There will be recorded repeats on Sundays.

We believe that most cathedrals will breathe a sigh of relief at this change of heart by the Beeb.



Café-in-the-Crypt



As well as our dedicated regular staff who provide meals during most lunchtimes, and refreshments before and after major events, we are fortunate in welcoming the help of members of our congregation to assist in serving food and drink to hungry customers.

In our last edition tribute was paid to **OC Godfrey McGowan** who was often seen wielding trays of food and spreading some of his efficient joy to all whom he served.

Similarly, **Mrs. Margaret Dewhurst**, wife of former cathedral sub organist, **Fred Dewhurst**, is another most welcome helper.

Photographed here, with sisters **Jill Young (L) & Hilary Carr**, is **Mrs. Diana Swarbrick**, who is not only the wife of former High Sheriff **Rodney Swarbrick CBE** (who is the Chairman of our Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music) but she is also a lively member of our Cathedral Council and the Cathedral Chapter. She's also a Trustee of the Shepherd's Street Trust – which disburses funds to help needy under-21s.

Clearly she enjoyed her stint of Martha-dom that afternoon when we happened to catch her in mid-serve.

Our Delightful Children's Choir

under the director of **Joy Fielding**

sang at the 9.00 am service on Sunday, 2nd March – Mothering Sunday. And what did they sing? 'I'll do anything for Mum', of course!





Old Chorister The Revd. **Philip Chew**, was inducted by the Bishop of Burnley as Vicar of St. Francis' Church, Feniscliffe, & St. Aidan's, Mill Hill on 3rd February.

(L-R) OCs **Ernie Gorner, Geoffrey Taylor** and **David Smalley**; with **Sarah Chew** (Mum), Bishop **John, Philip** and brother OC **Nigel Chew**.

The photographer was Mark Howorth, Churchwarden at St. Francis' – son of OC **Eddie Howorth**.

Past Vicars of St. Francis have included the father of OC **Godfrey McGowan**, and the

1975 **Nigel Chew**
Philip Chew
Edward Denham
Stephen Parkinson
Michael Ryan

legendary **Canon Fred Street** who was the unofficial Precentor at Blackburn Cathedral during JB's & Phil & Nigel's years. **Heartiest congratulations, Phil!**

GUEST OF HONOUR

Canon Chris Chivers was the guest of honour at the Preston and District Organists' Association Annual Dinner in Pickering Park Hotel in February. Previous honoured guests have included the present **Dean of S. Paul's**, and Dr. **Francis Jackson CBE**. The Association has over 100 members who come from as far away as Cumbria, Blackpool, Clitheroe and the Wirrall.

Chris spoke of his experiences when he was Precentor of Cape Town Cathedral and of many Royal occasions when he was Precentor of Westminster Abbey.

One of his most embarrassing moments came when he was preparing for a service in Cape Town Cathedral.

He noticed a scruffily dressed man crouched over a chair – and his posture was such as to suggest that he was blind drunk!

Imagine Chris's surprise when he approached the man to give him assistance – offering him tea and sandwiches in the cathedral hall. The man looked up and said, 'It's very kind of you, but I haven't yet got to that stage!' It was Archbishop Tutu at prayer!

Chris's carefully prepared speech at the dinner went down very well with the members, especially as he inspired us to fulfil our own vocations even more faithfully.



L-R: your editor (immediate past President), Dr. John Ellis (incoming President), Canon Chivers, Eric Dunne (hard-working Secretary) and Stewart Whillis (President).

OLD CHORISTERS!
Send your news, with photos, to john@bertalot.org

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations Founded 1910



WE WERE DELIGHTED to receive from FCOCA a copy of their annual Magazine in its new and stunning format, for it seems that it may have been modelled closely upon our own Newsletter!

The Editor, **Michael Barry**, was gracious enough to say in his covering letter, 'Struggling hard to emulate your amazing OC magazines!'

How very generous!

Their new magazine, which is sent to all the old choristers of Cathedrals throughout the UK, has a glossy cover of the choir of York Minster, and inside there's not only an account of the activities of our own Blackburn Cathedral Choirs during the last year, expertly written by Choirmaster and



BCOCA Secretary **ALEC STUTTARD**, – together with reports from the other cathedrals – but also a photo, in colour, of our choristers outside Notre Dame Cathedral. taken during our visit last year.

Thank you, Michael. Please accept our heartiest congratulations on your own amazing new magazine!

Dame Mary Tanner

On Tuesday 12th February Pippa and I travelled to London, where we met up with my parents and sister (Lucy) and her husband (Simon) for a wonderful 24 hours, staying in the London Elizabeth Hotel and having a lovely family dinner, followed by a trip to Buckingham Palace the next morning to watch HM The Queen invest my mother as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, for her services to the Worldwide Anglican Church.

My parents, Lucy and I took a taxi to the Palace - recipients are entitled to bring three guests. But we were a bit stunned, and the Dame was somewhat nervous, to discover that the Taxi driver couldn't actually find the Palace and we had to direct him there!

Once we entered the Palace, we made our way up a grand staircase where recipients are separated from their guests until after the ceremony has taken place.

As my father, Lucy and I approached the Ballroom, we were whisked off by an official who asked us if we had been to an Investiture before. We answered that we had been to watch my mother receive the OBE in 1999 from the Prince of Wales. He replied, "So you know what's involved, but you won't have sat in such good seats before!" as he showed us to some of the best seats in the Ballroom, with an exceptional view of the ceremony and very close to The Queen.



We had a wait of about 45 minutes before the ceremony was due to start - plenty of time to be entertained by the Orchestra of the Blues and Royals and to look through the list of the 100 or so recipients who were to collect their awards at 11am. No Kylie Minogue or Michael Parkinson, but Des Lynam was the celebrity of the day, except for my mother!

At 11am HM The Queen entered the Ballroom attended by two Gurkha Orderly Officers, a tradition begun in 1876 by Queen Victoria. There were also five Yeomen of the Guard and various senior members of the Household on the dais. After the National Anthem had been played, the Queen invited us all to sit. She then decorated each recipient in turn, taking the relevant Decoration from a velvet cushion held by a senior member of the Household.



Three gentlemen were made Knights - each knelt on a velvet stool to receive the Accolade, which was bestowed by using a sword which had belonged to King George VI. Becoming a Dame is the female equivalent of Knight, but no swords are used! Dame Mary was the second person that morning to receive her Award - a Breast Badge and a Star pinned on to her jacket by HM. We then watched as about a hundred others received awards; each one had a short conversation with The Queen.

The last award was to a gentleman from Lancashire, who was receiving the Queen's Gallantry Medal for tackling two armed men in Skelmersdale.

Once the Queen had left the Ballroom, we all made our way outside to the courtyard where there were a number of official photographers at the ready. We couldn't leave the Palace immediately as they were changing the guard and we weren't to get in the way!

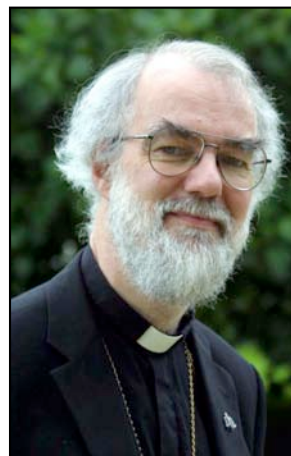
Finally we managed to find our way out and into a taxi, which took us to Church House, Westminster,



where my mother had worked during the 1980s and 1990s and where General Synod was sitting that day. On arrival, the first person that we bumped into was Archdeacon Peter Ballard!

Pippa and Simon joined us at this point for a delicious lunch, hosted by Colin Menzies (Secretary of the Corporation of Church House), in his office, which boasts a stunning view of Westminster Abbey. It was the most perfect way and place to celebrate my mother's achievement and we were honoured to be joined, for a while, by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Once we had finished lunch Dame Grandma (as my James calls her!) was escorted onto the General Synod dais, from which the Archbishop gave a brief speech in her honour, in which he said:



"DAME MARY TANNER, President of the World Council of Churches, who has just been awarded her DBE by Her Majesty The Queen, is the greatest gift to 20th-century ecumenism. We have been in the habit of calling her 'the Dame' for some time. Now the Supreme Governor has caught up with us.

"Dame Mary has made an immense contribution to scholarship, ecumenism, and the general good heart and good spirit of our Church," he said.

This was followed by a round of applause from members of Synod.

Later, Dame Mary said, "This honour is not only for me personally, but also for the work for the WCC and the Anglican Communion which is thought worth recognizing". She added, "I'm aware that so many people taught me and worked with me around the ecumenical tables, from whom I've learned so much".

The rest of the family were shown to the Synod Gallery, which was an excellent vantage point not only to spot celebrities of the Church of England, including our own Bishops of Blackburn and Burnley, but also for us to round off the celebrations by watching the Dame with a great feeling of pride.

Richard Tanner

Three Beeb Daily Services sang by the Renaissance Singers Two live and one recorded – 19-20 February, 2008

Getting up at 5.30 am is not the sort of thing that many of us enjoy, but when the BBC calls, we do it – and the rewards in musical achievement and *esprit de corps* make it all worthwhile!

The Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 (Long Wave only) is the Beeb's longest running programme and, even though the services are only 15 minutes long, the amount of work that goes into each broadcast is amazing.

Richard Tanner had to prepare at least nine hymns for the three services – some in special arrangements by **Malcolm Archer** (former DoM of St. Paul's Cathedral) and **Simon Lole** (former DoM of Salisbury Cathedral) and two by **your editor** (former DoM of Blackburn Cathedral)!

And so very early starts had to be made by us all in order to get to the modernized Emmanuel Church in Didsbury, on the far side of Manchester from where most of these broadcasts are transmitted, to arrive in time for our rehearsal at 8.15 – not least because of the snarled-up traffic on the Motorways at that early hour.

Happily cups of tea and coffee were served almost non-stop in the church refectory so larynxes were kept well lubricated.



Even though **Richard Tanner** directed the Singers superbly (of course) and **James Davy** played the organ and piano equally dexterously (of course), yet Beeb Producers are King in that situation and what they say goes!

Philip Billson (L) seen here consulting with Richard, has produced several of our live Choral Evensongs – it was a pleasure to work with him for, like all Beeb producers, he was so relaxed, and made everyone feel welcome.



There was an intensive hour's rehearsal followed by a run-through, and then, after a few minutes' break, the actual service was broadcast live. It was very good

James, assisted by **Sarah Turner**, did wonders on the rather restricted organ.



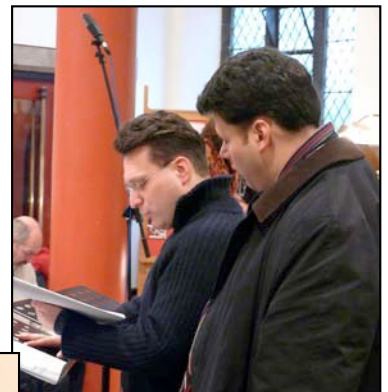
During the rehearsal the question was asked, 'Who will read the lesson?' and your editor found himself pounced upon to fulfil this role!

(It was good, the next day, to receive an e mail from a university professor friend in the USA who had heard the broadcast. Such are the wonders of modern technology!)

But the Singers sang twice as much the next day – one live broadcast followed by a music recording for Thursday.

Our producer this time was **Simon Vivian**, who has not only produced our Choral Evensongs and sung with the Renaissance Singers, but he's also **Ben Tanner's** Godfather!

Our reader this time was Singers' Chairman **Eileen Hemingway**, who read exquisitely.



This Wednesday service was led by BBC producer the Revd. **Stephen Shipley**. He sat at a table near the choir, speaking softly and persuasively into a microphone, keeping both ears alert, through headphones, to directions from the producer who was in the BBC studio.



It's always a source of amazement to us that these broadcasts are timed to finish exactly 5 seconds before the Greenwich time signal is heard!

And after Simon Vivian had complimented everyone on another super broadcast, the Singers rehearsed the music for the following day's service. The ladies ... and the men.



Both JB's arrangements were for choir and piano – and James tackled the seemingly endless running quavers with consummate ease – again assisted by Sarah Turner, whose brother, Jonathan, is senior organ scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford. (See p. 3)

And after that recording many singers returned home, but others went to work, or celebrated in the nearby *Café Rouge*.

But not **James**, for he was due, 90 minutes later, to give the lunchtime organ recital at Blackburn Cathedral – a duo – with **David Scott-Thomas**.

This, needless to say, was the greatest fun and it attracted a particularly large audience. One of the pieces they played was by P.D.Q. Bach (1807-1742 ?!), entitled *Toot Suite*. James said that when he and David had rehearsed it the previous evening they couldn't stop laughing. The final fugue, for example, was based on *Yo Heave Ho!* from the Song of the Volga Boatman.

But James's duties were not over yet for, apart from his regular cathedral responsibilities, he was due to give another lunchtime recital the following week and also to accompany the soloist at the lunchtime recital two weeks later!

And seven days after that the Renaissance Singers would be singing Bach's *St. John Passion* in German, with orchestra.

But Richard, James and the Renaissance Singers, would also be recording the Beeb's *Sunday Half Hour* the Thursday after their Daily Service broadcasts with another JB arrangement!

There's no let-up for our cathedral musicians!



Well done, **Richard**, well done, **James**, and well done **Renaissance Singers!**



By the way, **Richard** is one of the regular Directors & Organists for the BBC Daily Service; **James** is a regular Organist, and Canon **Chris Chivers** is a regular Presenter. Well done, Blackburn! They must all love getting up so very early so regularly!

inamo Update

Readers will remember the full-page feature in our February edition of OC NOEL HUNWICK's plan to open a brand new and very exciting restaurant called INAMO in Wardour Street, London, this summer.

Your editor, accompanied by PETER WRIGHT, who is Director of Music of Southwark Cathedral and currently President of the Royal College of Organists, visited the site in February to be given a guided tour by Noel.

Currently it's in the hands of the builders – rubble and gaping holes everywhere. But Noel and his business partner (both from Magdalen College, Oxford) are fully focussed on the progress.

'We're planning to have a 'soft' opening in June,' said Noel, 'to

which we'll invite our friends, and then the official opening will be in July.'



Noel was excited, and so were we!

120 Blackburn Diocesan Churches Embroidered on the Bishop's 1400th Anniversary Chasuble!

Occasionally one doesn't know who folk are with whom one rubs the occasional shoulder in the cathedral..

After an **Anjum-Chivers** Tuesday cathedral lunch in March (which was addressed by **Bishop Nicholas**), Mrs. **Diana Swarbrick** (see p. 14) introduced your editor to **Mrs. Jo Ratcliff** who lives in Ribchester. 'I created this Chasuble in 1993 for Bishop Alan to wear for the Cathedral's 1400th anniversary service in 1994 which was graced by the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.' said Mrs. Ratcliff. 'The service was entitled *Living Stones*.'

'Wow!' thought your editor predictably, 'we must have a photograph of this.' So **Canons' Virger Jeff** graciously unlocked this Cathedral treasure and displayed it in the Sacristy with its creator.

Mrs. Ratcliff is a musician as well as an expert embroiderer. She studied piano and flute at the Royal College of Music, and teaches music as well as being heavily engaged in creating ecclesiastical embroidery.

Many of us remember **Bishop Alan Chesters** wearing this Chasuble again for his final service five years ago.

'I wish it could be worn more often,' said Mrs. Ratcliff, as Virger Jeff returned it to its place in the Sacristy.

Yes, indeed, for it's a unique Cathedral treasure.



From
Peter Parshall,
Music Development Officer,
Christ Church Cathedral,
Dublin.



Dear John,

I'm sure that there have been a series of emails backwards and forwards across the Irish Sea since the recent visit of the Girls' choir from Blackburn. Might I just say how delighted we were to be able to welcome the girls from Blackburn who all contributed so marvellously to Evensong on St David's Day. It's really great to have been able to establish a link with such a vibrant music department and also be able to renew acquaintance with **Richard Tanner**. (See page 25)

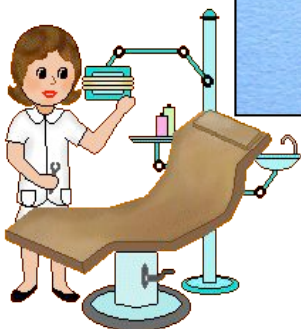
My partner, **Judy Martin** (who is of course DOM here) receives the Blackburn Cathedral music magazine and it's wonderful to be able to share vicariously in the vibrant music-making that goes on in Blackburn cathedral.

We would very much like to be able to send a donation to you to help with the considerable amount that the production of this magazine must cost. The only slight problem is how to get it to you? I could arrange a Sterling Draft at the bank, if you would let me know to whom it ought to be made payable.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards, **Peter**

*Thank you so much, Peter. A cheque sent to the Cathedral Bursar, made out to **Blackburn Cathedral**, with a note saying that it is donation towards the cost of the Newsletter would be most welcome. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. JB*



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SPRING CLEANING



Virger **Jeffrey Robinson** took this photo (don't know how, 'cos he's on it!) of the stalwart folk who sprung cleaned the cathedral on the Ides of March. Well done, and thank you!

OC BERNARD HARGREAVES from California

...blew into the cathedral for a Wednesday lunchtime recital in March hoping to see your editor (he did!). It was great to see Bernard again. JB was his choirmaster here over 40 years ago. And Bernard had brought his Mum – who, in those far-off years, supplied no less than 4 choristers to our choir.

A photograph was called for – with Bernard standing where he had stood in 1966 in the temporary choirstalls (where the pulpit now is) – for we worshipped in the newly restored Nave, whilst the Transepts and Tower were being transformed. Two of his brothers were there, and so many other well-known names.

1966 Photograph from the late OC Godfrey McGowan's archives from the Lancashire Evening Telegraph. Has anyone got an original of this photo?

Mrs. Hargreaves, who lives in St. James's Road, had 7 children – the four eldest joined the choir. The youngest of those four, **Russell**, was only just 8 when this photo was taken – he hadn't joined by then. But he's now 50, with one son and he recently hosted a Hargreaves Family Gathering in Doncaster where he lives with his family.

Stephen, Bernard and **Ian** each have 3 children.

'Ian would love to have a photo of the Re-hallowing of the Nave service in 1965 when Princess Margaret came,' said Mrs. Hargreaves. 'Right, I'll send him one immediately,' replied your editor.

How good it was to see Bernard again, and to catch up with the news of the Hargreaves clan who were such an integral part of the cathedral choir all those years ago.



Back rows: Bob Anderson, David Cronshaw, Jim Smith, Tom Wilkinson, Norman Eccleston, Peter Eastham, Bernard West, (Michael Taylor – visitor) David Rothwell, ?, Andrew Wilson, Peter Heald & Ian Hollin.

Boys 2nd row: Charlie Hopwood, Grenville Robinson, **Ian Hargreaves**, George Nicholson, Colin Hopwood, Colin Eastham.

Front row: **Stephen Hargreaves**, Harold Ranson, Stephen Walker, Derek Crompton, Jimmy Chambers, **BERNARD HARGREAVES**, Stephen Hartley, Ian Harrison and Neil Fellows.



Bernard and Mrs. Hargreaves, 2008

The reason for this 1966 photo of the choir was a full-page article in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph entitled **Exciting year ahead for the choir**. Events included the cathedral boys singing the first chorus of the *St. Matthew Passion* with the Blackburn Music Society in King George's Hall, including 25 boys from diocesan choirs, whom JB would audition. (In those days, many church choirs had boy choristers!)

There would be the launch of a new annual Three Cathedral Choirs Festival with Manchester and Chester Cathedrals, starting at Blackburn. Our Cathedral choir had also been invited to sing a weekend of services in Coventry Cathedral, and two choristers would sing with a specially selected RSCM choir in Westminster Abbey to celebrate its 900th anniversary.

And finally, JB would direct three prestigious residential courses for choristers and choirmasters in the USA and Canada.

It was all happening in those days, **but it's also all happening here right now! See our next issue (Tanner in the USA)**

HELEN DAVIES and JAMES DAVY 'Strike a Note!'

Helen & James gave a brilliant and most unusual recital in Fence Parish Church in February (where your editor is organist).

Helen, who is a vibrant member of the Renaissance Singers and Head of Music at St. Christopher's CE High School in Accrington, played four instruments: the Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone and Glockenspiel, whilst **James**, our sparkling Assistant Director of Music, accompanied her on piano and organ.

They attracted a near capacity audience, which clapped enthusiastically after every piece of animated and tuneful percussive excitement.

So successful were our talented duo that immediately after the concert they were engaged to play again next season in Padiham Unitarian Church which runs a most successful series of concerts.

Helen will be giving another of her concerts (entitled STICKS 'N' TONES) with Matthew Drury in the Cathedral on Saturday June 7th at 7.30 pm. If you'd like an evening of exhilarating music, BE THERE!



LETTER from OC PETER SHARMAN

in Cheshire

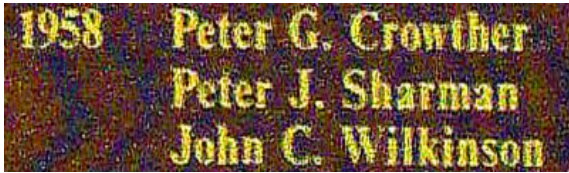
Dear John,

Thank you so much for another quite superb edition of the Newsletter, which I think is the best yet, even by your own high standards, I enclose a cheque towards the costs of the magazine – I also have an annual debit mandate to *The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music*.



Life here in Cheshire has been somewhat difficult for the last couple of years ... however, Joan and I are reaching out again and just want a little bit of luck on the health front to enable us to enjoy life to the full.

We hope to see old friends – **Anitra and Edward Haythornwhite** – in the not too distant future. It is great to read about old friends from my choir days.



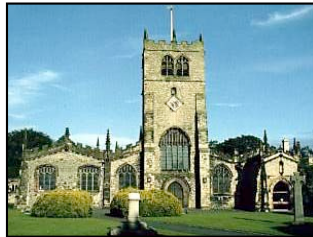
Keep up the great work, John, and warmest wishes to you and your readers.

Kind regards.

So many thanks, Peter, for your generosity. I'm delighted to hear that you and Joan are surely on the mend. JB

LETTER from HUGH DAVIES

Director of Music,
Kendal Parish Church →



Dear John,

Thank you for sending the very excellent Blackburn Cathedral Choir Newsletter – what a superb production it is.

But your November edition stopped me in my tracks when I got to page 11. There, in the photo of the 1971 Coventry Cathedral RSCM course which you directed, standing directly behind you is ME aged 19!



What memories came flooding back! I remember **Roy Massey** improvising a fugue on *Girls and Boys come out to play* as the children went off to Sunday School during the Sunday morning Eucharist – brilliant! And Alan Ridout's 12-note service with men's voices, and the Howells Coventry Mass (which was too difficult for the Coventry Cathedral choir in those days!) – that made a huge impression on me – and so much else!

With all good wishes,

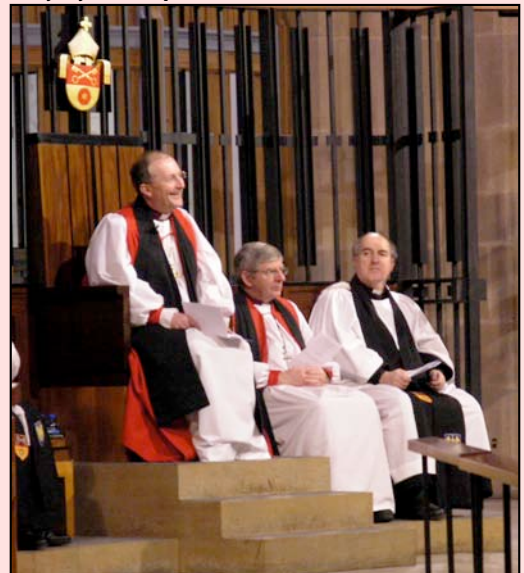
*Thank you so very much, Hugh. Those were two wonderful weeks – and we had several of our brightest Blackburn choristers there, too, including **David Rothwell, Derek Crompton, Steve Holmes, Philip Crozier, Ivor Bolton** and more! And as well as having **Dr. Roy Massey** as our organist for the first part of the course, we were then privileged to have **Dr. Simon Lindley**. Wow!*

THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER

... the Very Reverend **JOHN HALL** visited Blackburn Cathedral in the New Year – where, ten years before, he had been a Residentiary Canon and also Director of Religious Education for the Diocese.



He preached a riveting sermon on education at Evensong which was listened to with rapt attention by everyone, especially by **Bishop Nicholas**.



After which, at the leading of his successor, **Archdeacon Peter Ballard**, he presented prizes to representative teachers and pupils from diocesan church schools.

It was a most happy reunion with a most distinguished priest, of whom we are so proud.



Bach's St. John Passion

There has never been a finer nor more moving concert in Blackburn Cathedral than the performance, by the Renaissance Singers, of Bach's *St. John Passion*, sung before a large and deeply appreciative audience on the Wednesday in Holy Week.



The sound of the Singers was sublime; their tone was translucent and so musical. Every entry was sung with confidence and deep feeling, and their German was superb. (They had been coached for their German by Philippa Hyde. What an excellent teacher she is!)



They were accompanied by *CANZONA*, an orchestra made up of authentic 18th Century instruments, and led vibrantly by **Theresa Caudle** who played not only the violin, but also the Viola d'Amore – a larger instrument which was much used in Bach's day.

The soloists were not only thoroughly professional –



knowing every note and word and phrase so thoroughly that they could have almost sung the demanding score from memory – but their recitatives and arias flowed one from another, interspersed by expressive choruses and chorales by the Singers, in seamless joy and spirituality. (See photo bottom of p 22)

They were **Philippa Hyde**, Soprano
Stephen Burrows, Countertenor, (Right)
Mark Rowlinson, Bass (next to **Richard Tanner**)

Marcus Farnsworth, Jesus, (Left) and
Joseph Cornwell, who was both Evangelist & tenor soloist.



A surprise and very welcome soloist was our own **James Davy** who sang the short but important part of Servus.

A special word of praise for the Continuo players, Andrew Arthur (chamber organ), and **Mark Caudle** (cello). Their contribution to the flow of the music and its interpretation cannot be praised too highly.



Especially moving was Mark's lyrical accompaniment of the alto aria, **Es ist vollbracht** (*It is accomplished*). One could feel the audience hanging upon every exquisite note.



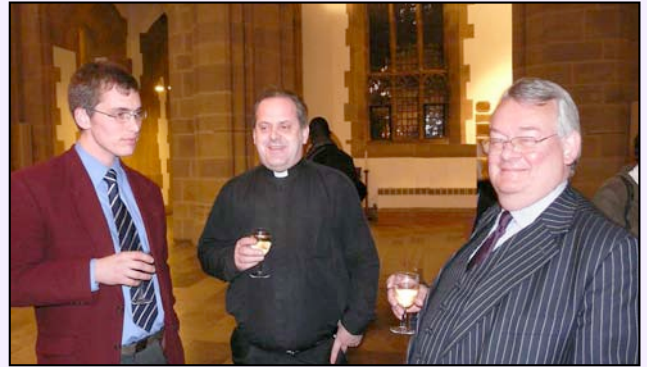
Richard Tanner excelled himself; never has he conducted better. Not only did he know and love every note, but he directed his Singers, soloists and orchestra so expressively throughout that he brought out not only Bach's sublime music, but also the spiritual message of the Passion narrative.

And how fortunate we are to have **Philippa Hyde** as our 'resident' soprano soloist. Her singing and her very presence are grace personified.



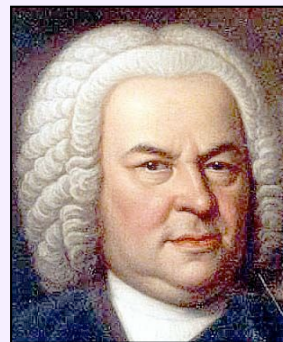
Refreshments were, of course, provided for the audience in the interval. It was very good to see His Honour Judge **Anthony Russell** talking with Canon **Hindley**. Judge Russell is a new and most welcome member of the Council of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music.

On the left is **William Prideaux**, talented Director of Music of Ripley St. Thomas C of E High School, Lancaster. See their amazing website: www.ripley.lancsnqfl.ac.uk/



The concert was sponsored by the Renaissance Singers themselves; they raised thousands of pounds and, as far as the audience was concerned (and also, surely, for the Singers themselves) every penny was worthwhile.

A special word of praise for the *pace* of the performance: the pauses between the various movements were exactly right, and Richard used silences (such as after the Death of Jesus) so very effectively, which reinforced Bach's own musical spirituality.



Let it be said that that performance would have rejoiced Bach's heart, for his own choir at Leipzig was not nearly as good as the Renaissance Singers.

It's on record that he wrote to the school authorities (from where his musicians came) to say that one third were satisfactory, one third were not satisfactory and one third were hopeless!

No words of praise, therefore, are too high for all that every musician gave us that evening. They were all *very* satisfactory! It was a deeply spiritual as well as a profoundly musical experience to be there. Thank you. JB



CAFE CONVERSATIONS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Over the last couple of years Tuesday lunchtimes in the Spring and the Autumn have established themselves as the time for dialogues. Series around various topics gave way this spring to a change of venue and format.

Upstairs formality transposed itself into downstairs informality – and quite a lot of free soup and sandwiches for those who were there.



The rotunda space in the Crypt café became for an hour the venue for a wide cross-section of the community to come together and to listen to local leaders in conversation with our dialogue development officer, **Anjum Anwar MBE**, and **Canon Chris Chivers**.

A clutch of political leaders – Councillors Colin Rigby, Tony Melia and David Foster – all displaying a frankness and openness which we don't always associate with the political classes, were interspersed with the chief executive of Elevate East Lancashire, Max Steinberg OBE, who gave a brilliant overview of Lancashire-wide regeneration, **the Bishop of Blackburn**, who told us how he



came to faith and why it matters, alongside Superintendent Sarah Oldham, from the Lancashire Constabulary, and Educational Director of the Sufi Council, Irfan Chishti.

For **Holocaust Memorial Day**, **David Arnold**, a former president of the Jewish community in Manchester and a holocaust educator of note, told Miriam's story.

She was a Jew. We were horrified to see and hear how much the Jews, and others, had suffered under the Nazis.

Students are taught in school that Aryans, the name people of pure German blood, are racially and biologically superior to all other people, especially Jews, traveller gypsies and black people.

13 September 1933

It is a criminal offence for a German and a Jew to make love. 15 September 1935	All marriages between Germans and Jews are declared illegal. 15 September 1935
Jews cannot be German citizens. 14 November 1935	Jews cannot vote or stand in any election. 14 November 1935

David Arnold showed how many laws had been passed in Nazi Germany at that time. This was deeply distressing, especially when we realised towards the close of the narration that **Miriam was his mother** who, in her teens, had to be smuggled out of Germany to live safely in England.

The event attracted well over a hundred people.



David Arnold with photo of his parents



For the **Tuesday of Holy Week**, so great were the numbers who wanted to hear **Moazzam Begg**, spokesman for the Human Rights Organization, Cage Prisoners, author of Enemy combatant, and prisoner of conscience in **Guantanamo Bay**, that the conversation was moved to the nave of the cathedral.

Here, Moazzam was joined by **Canon Michael Hunn**, our Holy Week preacher from the USA. Both men captivated their listeners.



Of Moazzam's lack of bitterness at his appalling treatment, **Canon Chivers** said towards the end of the conversation: "I have only met three such people in my life: **Nelson Mandela**, imprisoned on Robben Island, **James Mawdsley**, imprisoned in Burma for pro-democracy activities and now **Moazzam**. They all have the same quality: a radiant integrity which has turned suffering to good, and directed this good to everyone who meets them."

A student correspondent from Blackburn College referred to Canon Hunn as a "sublime American priest..." and went on to say: "I was particularly impressed by his wise words, his sincerity, dignity and manners."

Of the series of conversations he commented: "Quite obviously the whole programme made a lasting impression." It was a sentiment echoed by many others.



THE GIRLS' CHOIR WEEKEND IN DUBLIN

by Head Chorister Sarah Chew

The weekend began at 6am on Saturday 1st March, when we arrived very tired and sleepy-eyed at Terminal 1, Manchester Airport, to depart for our weekend tour of Dublin.

After breakfast at the airport we boarded the plane for our one-hour flight. The view of Ireland from the plane was glorious and it was easy to see why this was known as the Emerald Isle.



After landing we caught a coach from the airport into the city centre, and walked to Christ Church Cathedral, where we would sing our first service. We dropped our bags off and met the Director of Music **Judy Martin** who recommended some of the sights of the city to us.

While some of the over-18 members of the group went looking for an Irish pint of Guinness, my buddy group went to some of the places recommended by the music staff at Christ Church. We went to the Queen of Tarts Cafe for hot chocolates and cakes which were out of this world!



This was followed by a tour of the city where we saw Trinity College, the National Gallery, Dublin Castle, St Patrick's Cathedral, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Guinness Storehouse.



We then went back to Christ Church for a fabulous lunch. Here's **Val Edge** enjoying lunch with us.

We rehearsed for Choral Evensong, which we sang with the Girls' Choir of Christ Church Cathedral conducted by Christ Church's lively Director of Music, **Judy Martin**.



It was very well received; we sang *Rose Responses*, *Dyson in D Canticles*, and *Vaughan Williams Lord, Thou Hast been our Refuge*.

We were then treated to a lovely reception in the home of one of our hosts, which ended our first happy day in Dublin.

On Sunday morning we had an early start for Eucharist at **Saint Patrick's Cathedral** with their **Girls Choir and Choirmen**, conducted by **Richard Tanner**. Here, we sang *Missa O Quam Gloriosum* by Victoria and *Lord for thy Tender Mercies Sake* by John Hilton.

This was followed by a delicious lunch and a final chance to walk around the city before getting back for Choral Evensong, conducted by **David Leigh**, their Assistant Director of Music, who had once been organ scholar at Blackburn Cathedral.



Peter Barley, their Director of Music, accompanied us on their fine organ.



We sang *Collegium Magdalenae* Canticles by Leighton, Leighton's Responses and John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth*.

We then made a very quick dash to catch the bus to take us to the airport followed by a short flight to Manchester.

During our busy two days in Dublin we had met lots of interesting people who made us all very welcome and we had a wonderful weekend which we shall long remember.

As well as thanking our generous hosts, the girls would like to thank **Mr. Tanner, Val Edge, Tracey Bett and Sandra Holmes** for looking after us and making everything run smoothly.

JONATHAN TURNER'S MESSIAH

Heartiest congratulations to JONATHAN TURNER, former organ scholar at Blackburn Cathedral, and now senior organ scholar at Lincoln College, Oxford, (see page 3) who conducted a fine performance of *Messiah* in the chapel of Exeter College (next door to Lincoln College) on Friday 15th February.

(Lincoln's chapel would have been too small to hold his choir AND his orchestra AND his enthusiastic audience.)

It was a most happy (as well as successful) occasion, for one of his soloists was our own **PHILIPPA HYDE**, and the continuo was played by our own **JAMES DAVY** seen here – *photo below* – with the ubiquitous and ever-helpful **EMILY CREWE**.

The other most special tenor soloist was **JAMES ATHERTON**, who sang in Blackburn Cathedral Choir under **David Cooper**. How good it was to hear him again. Jonathan's whole family were there, too.



So this was a very wonderful evening – with so many Blackburn connections. AND it was in Exeter College Chapel that Richard (who was organ scholar there) and Pippa were married 15 years earlier. They stood on the spot from where Jonathan was conducting!



Philippa, James Davy, Jonathan, James Atherton & Emily
Well done, indeed, Jonathan, we're so proud of you!

What's on at Blackburn Cathedral?

S e e

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INTERFAITH PASSOVER SUPPER

On a day that had seen the distinguished Muslim prisoner of conscience remind us that Jesus had been such a prisoner (see p. 24), almost one hundred people of many faiths and world views met in the crypt during the evening to experience the meal we believe was the context for the Last Supper.



Rabbi Leonard Book from Blackpool conducted the participants through what he described as a mock Passover meal. He explained the elements and all shared some of these thereafter. The fellowship of the different faiths was brilliant.

Sr. Old Chorister Heather Starkie's Ladies Pamper Night

...in the cathedral crypt on 2nd April was a great success. There were twelve stalls laden with goods, from cuddly toys to delicious chocolates and beauty aids – all of which had been set up in less than 90 minutes that evening.



Margaret Duckworth (whose husband, John, is John Marr's Godfather) and **Philippa Hyde**, admiring a stall of cuddly toys.

SOC Heather Starkie introduced a practical skin care session to an appreciative audience of ladies. She also encouraged her partner, John Marr, in selling admission tickets for the evening – which raised some £400 for the Old Choristers Association. **Well done all, and thank you!**



Stalwart helpers. L-R **Ian Roddy** (Drinks Master) **John Marr**, SOC **Heather**, and OC **Ernie Gerner**, who was also a Drinks Master and Nibbles Consultant!

ANOTHER AMAZING SINGING DAY arranged by our Music Outreach Project

On Saturday, 8th March, Blackburn Cathedral Nave was packed with children for the second of our government-sponsored **Music Outreach Projects**.



As well as children from many schools it was very good to welcome members of the (Adult) Blackburn People's Choir – who sang, not only by themselves, but also with the children.



The singers were welcomed by **Canon Chivers**, and also by **Richard Tanner**, who conducted our own choristers.



Our own **Philippa Hyde** sang Mozart's *Alleluia* to the school children, all of whom gave her their total attention.



Our Cathedral Junior Choir – **Lantern Voices** – sang ...



... and, led by **Jeff Borradaile** and accompanied by our own **Joy Fielding**, many school choirs sang too.



It was a most successful and happy morning, and every credit is due not only to our musical leaders and their choristers, but also to Cathedral Chapter member **Peter Jelley**, who is the Managing Coordinator of this project.

The next Music Outreach singing day in the cathedral will be on Saturday morning, 14th June. Don't miss it!

The YPC, directed by James Davy, sang most beautifully for a Sequence of music and readings on Good Friday Evening. The music was by Bob Chilcott, Marcel Dupré, Gibbons, Purcell, and James, himself. *Well done!*

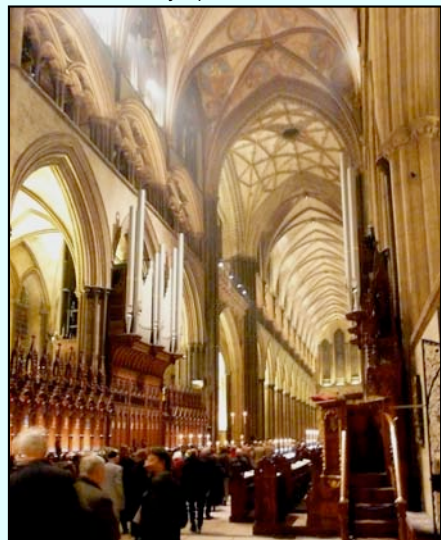


A PRIVILEGED SARUM EXPERIENCE



At the end of March your editor was privileged to attend a three-day Conference, packed with 18 scholarly lectures by eminent authorities, which celebrated the 750th Anniversary of the final Consecration of Salisbury Cathedral.

Delegates were limited to only 100 and there was a waiting list. On our first evening, after a Reception in the Chapter House and Supper in the Cathedral's modern Refectory, we were treated to a remarkable service in the semi-darkened cathedral of **Easter Vespers, Procession and Compline**, sung in almost unending glorious Plainsong according to the medieval Use of Salisbury. (Let those who read understand!)



This was wholly extraordinary: it was sung by the cathedral choirmen augmented by the choral scholars of St. John's College, Cambridge – 21 professional singers in all, and they made a superb sound.

They represented the 50 (ordained) singers who would have filled those historic choirstalls 750 years ago and who would have sung similar services every day in that most holy place.

Three outstanding memories of that service: (i) seeing two coped priests censuring the High Altar, (ii) experiencing the sight and sounds of the procession of clergy and choir to the West end of the Cathedral as they sang the Magnificat, and (iii) hearing **Tim Hone** (Head of Liturgy and Music) play on the organ alternate verses of the Magnificat in a quasi Byrd style – as was the custom in those days. Few of us have ever heard such music in such a breathtaking setting.

And after that service, the sight of the cathedral, transformed by recently installed floodlights, brought our first day to a magical close.

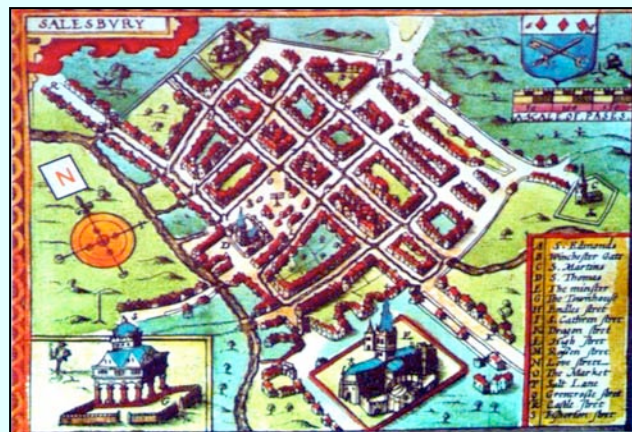


The next two days were filled with the 18 lectures given by most erudite authorities on the history and life of the cathedral since its Sarum days 'up the hill'. The first lecture set the tone for the Conference: "**The Bishops came down from the hill.**" The highly articulate lecturer spoke fascinatingly without notes, and his illustrations and hand-outs from ancient manuscripts were all in Latin. (i.e. he expected us to be able to understand them all – that sort of audience!)

The major point he made was that the Bishops of Sarum in the 12th Century made the decision – to move from Sarum 'down the hill' to the plain – based on verses from the Bible, especially from

psalms 46 and 48: *The rivers...shall make glad the city of God: the holy place of the tabernacle of the most highest. Upon the north side lieth the city of the great king...'*

And so they built a new city on the North side of the new Cathedral, which was bounded on two sides by the river Avon.



Professor **John Harper**, retiring Director-General of the RSCM (whose HQ are in Salisbury Cathedral Close) was another fascinating lecturer as well as being a specialist authority for the music sung at the opening service.



It was good to see **Canon Jeremy Davies** again, the Canon Precentor (seen here with the Bishop of Salisbury who is also musical).

He said that he wished Salisbury could publish its own Newsletter – emulating our Blackburn Newsletter. How very generous!

It was also very good, during those three packed days, to rub shoulders with so many other highly gifted folk.

For example, at the Conference Banquet on the second evening I had the privilege of sitting between two lady D.Phils from Oxford. The first had previously been a student at the Royal College of Music just after my time there, and the second knew our **Canon Chris Chivers**. (Everyone knows Canon Chris!)



I also enjoyed a cup of coffee with the Secretary of the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral, Lt. Colonel **Hugh Keatinge**. I was much taken by his Friends' lapel badge. (It's about 4 cm high.) Couldn't we create a similarly striking badge?

Salisbury is a favourite place for Army Officers to retire to. I told Col. Keatinge that we at Blackburn went in for Judges – though not necessarily retired!

It was such an enriching experience to be in that sacred place for those three remarkable days.

Before I left I took one more look inside the cathedral. The Virgiers had just turned all the Nave chairs around to face the West end – where they'd erected a large concert platform.

We do that, too!

