



Blackburn Cathedral
Music & More £3
Spring 2010

'Music & More is the talk of the C of E'
The Lord Lieutenant and The Lord Chancellor
Two Archbishops, and 'A Dangerous Man'
Three Birthdays and Four Funerals
400 Children and Eight Choirs
A Sabbatical and a Slum
Five Gorgis and a Bishop
£3,500,000.00

'Music & More'

is the talk of the Church of England,'



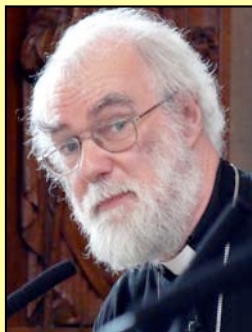
said **Dean Christopher Armstrong** to your editor, after the Dean had preached at the church of St. Anne, Fence (where JB is organist).

One doesn't know what to say after such a compliment! Perhaps a heartfelt, *'Thank you, Mr. Dean for leading, and so actively supporting, so many inspiring pastoral, outreach, worship and musical programmes at Blackburn Cathedral which bless us all so richly.'*

This generous accolade was reinforced a few weeks later when the Dean received a letter from Lambeth Palace following the visit to our diocese by His Grace, the **Archbishop of Canterbury**.

Dr. Williams visited many parts of the diocese and his tour ended with a glorious Eucharist, celebrated by **Bishop Nicholas**.

The Archbishop preached a crystal clear sermon on Jesus' Great Commission – 'Go and make disciples of all nations'. After the service he, and our MP, the Rt. Hon **Jack Straw**, answered questions from the congregation. It was a thrilling occasion which we shall long remember.



"Town and City Centre Ministry"

Visit to our twinned Diocese: Braunschweig



The Dean and two clergy from the diocese (**Fr. Timothy Lipscomb**, Rector of Preston and **Canon Peter Haggood-Strickland**, Vicar of St. Andrew's Burnley) visited Braunschweig Cathedral with the main intention of enabling the Dean to preach at the Cathedral on the Day of National Mourning and Remembrance followed by a speech in the Old City Town Hall to a Civic Reception.

Readers of *M&M* will remember the significant impact which **Dean Joachim** of Braunschweig made on the Cathedral and Civic Community here in Blackburn when he preached at Remembrance Sunday in 2008.



Dean Joachim Hempel, with Geraldine Armstrong and Dean Christopher Armstrong in Blackburn Cathedral, 2008.

Part of the agenda this visit to Braunschweig was to develop further our relationship between our two cathedrals by discussing certain elements of city centre ministry in which all three of our delegation excel. Sadly, **Canon Hindley** was unable to join the delegation because of pressures on the Chapter budget.

In his speech at The City Hall **Dean Christopher** expressed sorrow for the carnage which the 2nd World War had caused in both our countries but went on to explore the very positive ties which had developed after the war in order to prevent such horror repeating itself. 3 bombs were dropped on Blackburn; the centre of Braunschweig was incinerated by the RAF in October 1944, the Cathedral being one of the few buildings to survive.

Our delegation was also privileged to attend the Landeskirke Residential Synod in the beautiful hills above Goslar and enjoy the very generous hospitality of both the Cathedral and that of Bishop Friedrich.

Readers may wish to know that the Dean of Braunschweig, **Dom Joachim Hempel**, suffered a heart attack just before Christmas and was due to be kept in hospital until the New Year. At the time of going to print, we are still awaiting news but Joachim and his family are in our prayers here at Blackburn.



LAMBETH PALACE

The Revd Canon Anthony Ball
The Archbishop of Canterbury's Chaplain

The Dean,
Cathedral Close
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5AA

17 December 2009

Dear Christopher

Thank you for the copy of "Music and More", the Archbishop is most grateful. It is wonderful to see such excellent photographs from his visit.

With best wishes

In Christ,

The next edition of **Music & More** will be published in October!

Send your news, with **JPEG** photos to john@bertalot.org

From OC SIMON CRADDOCK in Huddersfield

Simon was the first chorister to be awarded the Dots Bertalot Memorial Badge for long service.

There's a photo of him, somewhere, wearing this badge, and also four others:

Bishop's Chorister, Provost's Chorister, St. Nicholas Chorister and the Cathedral Prefect's medallion.

He was weighed down by so many honours, but still managed to smile!

Here he is (L), singing carols in the shopping centre before these honours were bestowed, alongside John Keen, 30 years ago.



Dear John,

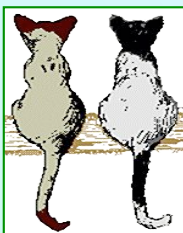
I'm so sorry to have been so intermittent in my contact with you, I'm afraid it's been Christmas card only these last few years.

In mitigation I can tell you that I've been studying part-time for a History MA at Huddersfield University and it's been a little tricky juggling study with the new job that I took on with Kirklees Libraries in 2007.

The course and new job started at the same time and I've been kept very busy. I found the course incredibly fulfilling and hope that it will give me a more portable qualification than my BA in Librarianship. I chose a subject that I loved (medieval history) and have had sterling support from Sally, Daniel and my workmates; I couldn't have done it without their help. I have just heard that I've passed the MA (my dissertation was on Middle English Romance) and so now find myself catching up on my social life.

I'll begin with an update on our small family unit: my younger brother, Dan, (who was in the cathedral choir with me) is working at Holmfirth Library and lives in a beautiful rented cottage in the middle of nowhere. The solitude and peace suits him much better than urban life; he's reviving old friendships, he's writing again and contemplating training as a teacher. He's become involved in work with young children as part of his library work and regularly delivers story time and other activities. He has a rapport with children and is very popular.

Sally and I are still together after 17 years and our relationship remains wonderfully fresh and fulfilling. She is my foundation, my heart and soul. We have two very old cats, one going strong, the other failing after 15 or so years and they are responsibility enough for us.



We live in a lovely house that we bought in 1997; unfortunately it's in a very tough part of Huddersfield so we've had to adjust to an unpredictable and sometimes trying lifestyle with noisy neighbours and other antisocial behaviour issues. Having seen the difference a change in environment has made for Daniel and having completed my studies our next priority is to sell the house and move somewhere a good deal more restful.

I manage Reference and Information Services for libraries in Kirklees. I've got a good team, creative and supportive but we are

bracing ourselves for the inevitable funding apocalypse that is going to hit local government after the economic collapse.

I'm an old hand at local government now (almost exactly twenty years) and have seen lean times before but this is, potentially a lot worse. I've applied for a job at the University Library with very ambivalent feelings. Although I've been dissatisfied with the overall direction of public libraries for many years I love the people that I work with and know that they value my leadership; I would feel wrong leaving them as the tidal wave of budget cuts looms ahead. In contrast University culture can be elitist and selfish so the tension between duty, honour and self-interest are preoccupying me very much at the moment.

This brings me on to values and beliefs. I don't share your faith but I still have boundless respect for all that the Cathedral gave to my life.

1980 * Simon Craddock

The musical training that you gave me helped to build my character. In the last two years I've rediscovered the leadership skills that I learned as Head Chorister – those years taught me more about motivation and people management than any of the management courses I've attended in my work life.

More importantly the love of music and the discipline of musical performance have enriched my life beyond measure and I have you to thank for that. I still like to sing (in the bath and around the house) and music remains a big part of my life (even if it's the rather tuneless whistling that sets Sally's nerves jangling).

I've learned that life can be 'nasty, brutish and short' but I balance all this darkness with love: Love for others and love for all that man can create. Love and creativity are, for me, sacred; the purest expression of our humanity.



My time at the Cathedral taught me to appreciate the beauty of music, symbol, architecture and language (incidentally, the basic Latin and liturgical knowledge that I picked up in my musical career have been invaluable in my mediaeval studies). My cultural appetites continue to grow and encompass both the sacred and the profane and I find beauty and pleasure in the light and the dark sides of human nature (this may explain why I have so much affinity for mediaeval culture).

That's more than enough of my pseudo-philosophical musings. It would be good to meet. I'm sure we can work something out now my free time isn't filled up with course reading and essay writing.

Thanks again for all that you have given me and for your continued interest and support in recent years. Although I've been lax in keeping in touch, your thoughts and prayers have been appreciated.

Simon, Sally and Daniel

My dear Simon, thank you so very much! Yes – let's meet. You and Daniel were special choristers all those years ago, and I remember your parents so well. I am delighted that life is so good for you all. JB

Adventurous Advent Event

We have exulted in the scale and scope of our Advent 'Lessons, Music and Processions' in past years, but **The Advent Sequence** this year exceeded anything we could have imagined.

First: there was a massive choir – actually there were three cathedral choirs: the Boys and Men, the Girls and the Young People's Choirmen; some 60 singers all told – and they're all volunteers! What a thrilling sound they made!



Second: the choice of music ranged from mediaeval plainsong, through J.S. Bach to Gabriel Jackson (b. 1962). And it was all sung superbly.



*The choirs at the West end, singing Gabriel Jackson's very difficult **Advent Responsory**, 'I look from afar', with Richard Tanner employing his elder son, James, as an ambulant music stand.*

Third: the choirs sang from at least seven different places in the cathedral: from the West end, in both Nave aisles, in each Transept, in the choirstalls and from the Ambulatory. There was a lot of processing, and all of it was carried through seemingly effortlessly and smoothly, for everyone knew exactly where they should be at any one time during that 90-minute service.

The eight YPC young men singing in the South Transept aisle.



Why did the choirs and clergy process so well? Because everyone had been meticulously rehearsed the previous two days. **Canon Hindley**, **Richard Tanner**, and **James Davy** had worked closely in all the preparations for this service, and they were helped by SOC **Emily Crewe**. *Well done!*



***Canon Hindley** about to read one of the lessons, assisted by server **Richard Robb**. The Thurifer was **Rachel Fielding**, assisted by her daughter, **Elizabeth**. Rachel's husband, **Paul**, is a cathedral choirman, and their son, **William**, is a cathedral chorister. The Fielding clan has had close links with the cathedral for at least 200 years – and the tradition continues strongly today!*

Fourth: we had three organists, and two-plus-eight (*sic*) conductors.

Our organ scholar, **Justin Miller** who comes from Princeton USA, led the congregational hymns – very well – which was not easy as there was a very large congregation; **James Davy**, our assistant director of music, created a marvellous improvisation near the end of the service as the choirs processed from the North Transept to the choirstalls.



And our guest organist, **Chris Lane**, who is the Assistant University Organist & Choirmaster at Harvard University USA, played a dazzling 45-minute Prelude before the service, including a movement from Dupré's *Symphonie-Passion*, which was thrilling.

Richard Tanner conducted the larger choirs, **James Davy** conducted the eight young men but, when he accompanied the choir on



the chamber organ, the young men conducted themselves!

Fifth: All the lessons were beautifully read (these again had been rehearsed by Canon Hindley). The excellent readers ranged from members of the congregation to our own Canons.

Sarah Turner reading the first lesson.

Sarah's brother, **Jonathan**, was organ scholar here. He then won the organ scholarship to Lincoln College, Oxford, and he is now organ scholar of Southwell Minster.



Our bishop was there, and after the service he told your editor that he had been vastly impressed by the whole act of worship – as were we all.

But there was more in store for some of us:

Before the service the Dean held a Reception in his office for the **Friends of Blackburn Cathedral**



Sixth: The cathedral was packed to the doors – Nave and both Transpts. And what a beautiful sight it was to see everyone holding a lighted candle!



Seventh: Of all the music which the choir sang – Jackson, Vaughan Williams (*This is the truth*), Goldschmidt (*A tender shoot*), Weelkes (*Hosanna*), Gibbons (*This is the record – soloist Jim Twigg*), Rachmaninov (*Bogoroditsye Dyevo*), and Paul Manz (*Peace be to you,*



sung in the Ambulatory), the most thrilling was perhaps Bach's 'Wachet auf', when the soaring treble line of boys and girls with the men's contrapuntal music and the cathedral organ combined to fill the cathedral with sounds that were sublime.

Eighth: The whole atmosphere, from beginning to end, was one of transcendent magnificence, for we were indeed worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness.



Outside the Dean's office **Karen Brooke**, secretary of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, admired the photos of our new Mitre-crowned cathedral flagpole. and the autographed photo of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which he gave to the Dean following his memorable visit to us in November.

And after the service Rachel Fielding told your editor that her chorister son, **William**, could whistle and hum simultaneously an extract from Beethoven's 7th Symphony – in two-part harmony. It sounded exquisite.

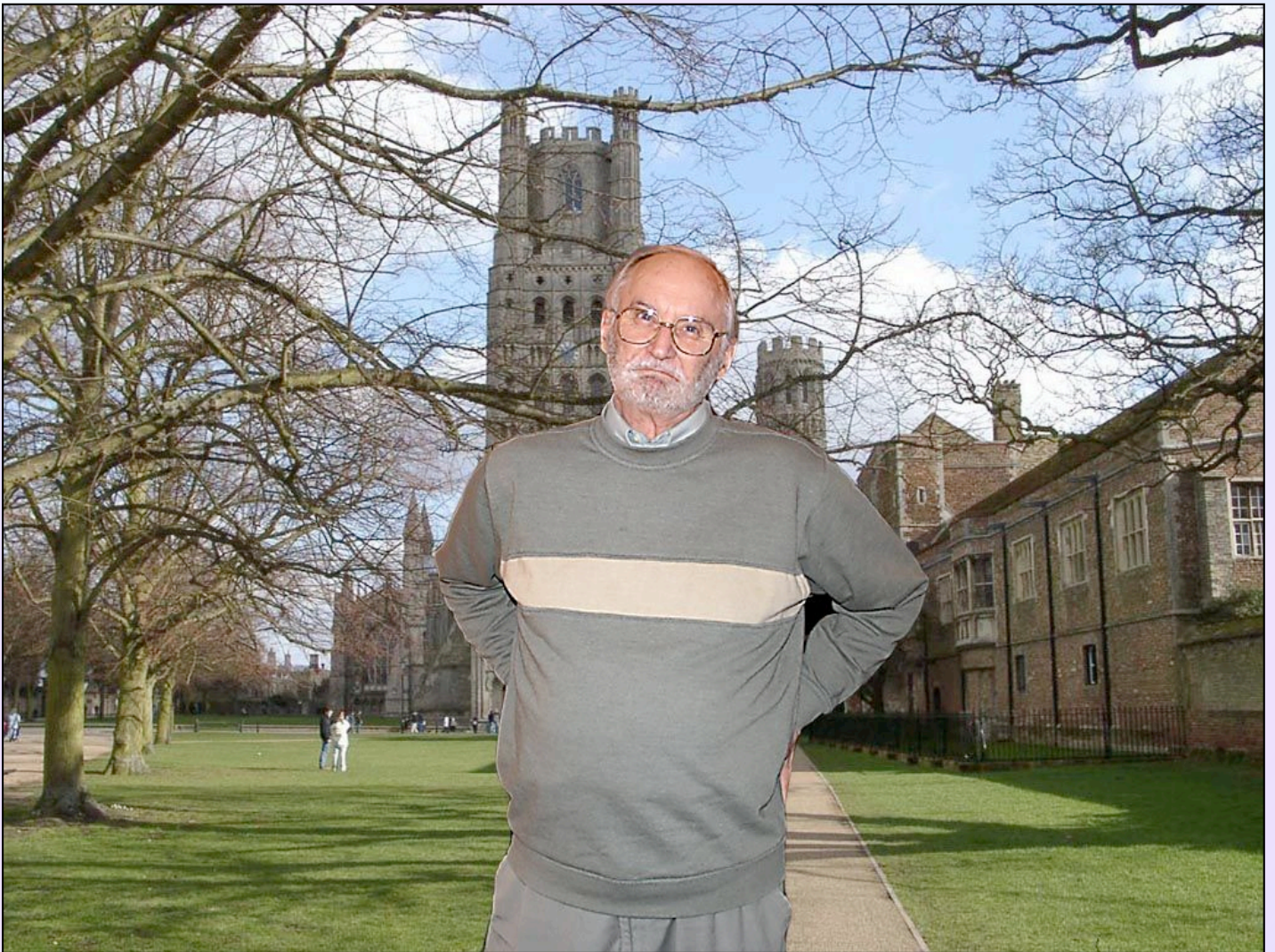
The nearest your editor had come to that was a two-part version of Tallis' *Canon*, which didn't sound nearly so good!

What a remarkable evening that was. Thank you, all!



Peter G. Heald, 16 July 1937 - 29 December 2009

Founder member of BCOCA



From CONSTANCE HEALD, in Ely:

Peter died earlier this morning. It really was a losing battle and his breathing was terrible. He had been in hospital for two weeks and gradually deteriorating. They couldn't control the chest infection / pneumonia - Catherine went in yesterday because she was at work and said he looked worse and the doctors had said that if there was no improvement they would cease treatment today.

As the Ward was officially closed due to the winter vomiting bug I didn't go in yesterday but this morning at 4.30 am Catherine got the call, phoned me and we went straight in and saw him looking very peaceful indeed.

It was so different and I'm glad we were able to do that. Addenbrooke's were really marvellous but in the end they said enough was enough. There had been indications he might have been transferred to the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge but that was not to be, thankfully.

From OC BRYAN LAMB, near Ely

So shocked to read your e-mail just now about Peter. It's only about a month ago that he was here with me, delivering back a copy of my autobiography which I had given him to read. I will be in touch with Constance of course. I would be glad if you will let me know about funeral arrangements. I will want to be there, of course.

From OC PETER HURST, in Blackburn

John,

I am devastated to hear this news, my association goes back to that

very first time BCOCA was formed and Peter was so much part of the beginning, I also remember the happy days at Walpamur (Crown) Paints in Darwen when Peter worked in Advertising with Donald Barnes, Ian Stancliffe *et al*, and he made me feel so welcome. He often represented the Association at Federation meetings and was proud so to do.

From OC JOHN WILKINSON OBE, in Winchester

Dear John,

Many thanks for informing us about this sad, sad news. We are truly shocked !

Peter has been a good friend over many years. It was he who recorded my first choir (St. John's) in Blackburn Cathedral. He and I organised the sponsored run in aid of the building fund (*Run for your money*) tracing the lineage of Blackburn Cathedral from Canterbury to Blackburn.

He joined Ely Cathedral as a lay clerk after me. He was in the choir that sang at our wedding. They lived at Isleham and Little Downham when we lived in the Soham and Cambridge. When they moved to Wimbourne, we were in Winchester and we would meet. We were good friends and kept in regular communication. Whenever we returned to the fens to visit friends, we always called upon Peter and Constance. We were looking forward to welcoming them here in 2010.

He will be a great loss to his family and to BCOCA. A lovely, warm, ebullient and kind man with much talent and

creativity. Our Prayers go out to Constance, Catherine and her family. May he be received into Christ's choir of heavenly angels in God's eternal kingdom.

From OC GRENVILLE ROBINSON in California

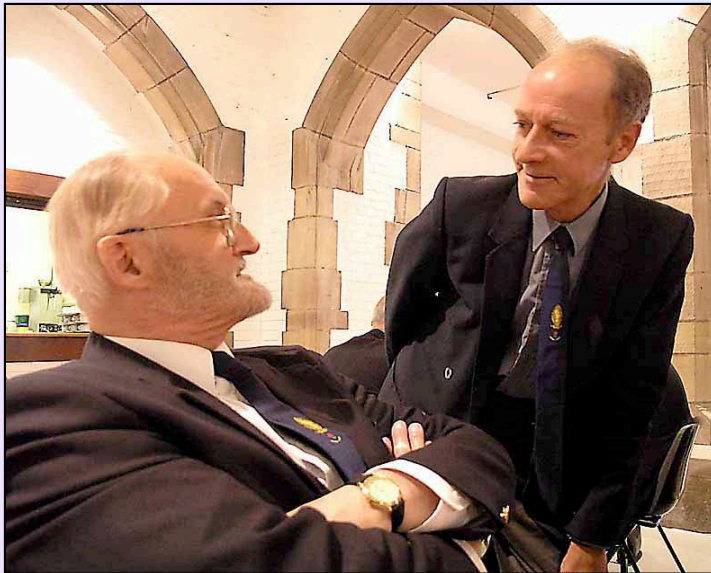
Dear All,

I know all of us have some great memories of Peter....his driving force behind the establishment of BCOCA, the excellent work he did for our Cathedral as the PR Coordinator, but my most abiding memory is his huge contribution to the building fund through *Run For Your Money* [from Canterbury to Blackburn]. I can't even imagine what an organizational nightmare putting the whole sponsored run together must have been. I do know for certain that Peter was there for all of us, encouraging, cajoling and at times twisting a few metaphorical arms.

As we all recall the Run was a great success, and that can be laid at the feet of Peter. He will be sadly missed by the friends he had and the lives he touched.

From OC DAVID ROBINSON in Cheshire

I am lost for words.



Peter Heald and David Robinson greeting one another for the first time for years – at our 2006 BCOCA Reunion. That's what BCOCA is all about.

From OC ALLAN HOLDEN in Bolton

So sad to receive your message re Peter's passing. I have so many fond and happy memories of Peter stretching back some sixty odd years and every one of them being aware I was privileged to be in the presence of a kind, gentle, generous and perfect gentleman, following in the footsteps of his father, Walter. We shall all miss him greatly. I shall be sending my condolences to Constance forthwith.

From OC FRANK HARE, near Malvern

Dear John

I cannot believe it!! This is a shock too far. Dear Peter was a great friend and wonderful character in all respects. Such great company and always there with wit and wisdom.

My heart goes out to Constance. I will write to her of course.

So sad - "Time like an ever rolling stream bears all its sons away" - but **not** forgotten.

From OC GORDON FIELDING in Knutsford

Dear John,

Such a shock.

Peter will be missed by so many of us. There will be so many memories of times and occasions together, which for some of us go back to wartime Britain, when we were choristers with Peter and his younger brother Eric under TLD. Since then he has played a major role in Church life and music, both at Blackburn and Ely Cathedrals. He will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Constance.

JB's memories of Peter

Peter was the cathedral choir secretary when I came to Blackburn in October 1964. His father, Major Walter Heald, had just retired as secretary and he died a few weeks after I arrived. (I invited TLD to conduct the choir for his funeral.)

A few weeks after I had begun my duties Peter came to see me – for it was clear that the way I led the choir was very different from the way that Mr. Duerden had conducted them – TLD was held in reverence by them all.

Peter asked me a question: 'You will be leading the cathedral choir from the organ, won't you?' (Mr. Duerden sometimes conducted the choir from the organ – putting his hand through the curtains which surrounded the console.) 'No,' I replied, I shall be accompanying them – it is they who will be doing the leading.' Peter was gracious enough to support me in this radical change and, gradually, my way was accepted by the choir – but it was not easy.



The cathedral choir in 1965. Peter is shown, top right

Peter told me recently that the choristers used to attend the cathedral 100% under Mr. Duerden because they were afraid to stay away. But they attended 100% for me because they enjoyed it so much. This, again, was typically gracious of Peter.

In my early years here I lived in the cathedral offices – the Dean's spacious office was my sitting room and the two offices directly above were two bedrooms. After the death of Major Heald, Peter's Mother moved away from Blackburn and so Peter needed a Blackburn home. I invited him to stay with me, and many were the fruitful ideas we discussed about the cathedral in the evenings.

One of them was the formation of BCOCA – and I well remember the evening when we, with choirmen **Fred Green, Jack Smethurst** and **Norman Eccleston** met to launch the Association. After our business was concluded the OCs reminisced for an hour or more about the days when they were boys in TLD's choir. It was a riveting experience – I wish I could remember what they said all those years ago. Now there is only one of us left.

And Peter was also a founder-member of my Blackburn Bach Choir (aka *The Renaissance Singers*) which led directly to his wedding with **Constance**, One of the hymns they had for their wedding was *Lead us, Heavenly Father*, which has the line, *Ransomed, healed, restored...* See **Bryan Lamb's** Eulogy on the next page.

Many were the times I stayed with Peter and Constance, when they lived near Ely. The last occasion was in 2008 for **Keith Bond's** funeral when Peter courageously drove us the considerable distance to Blythburgh Church and back, even though he was severely disabled.

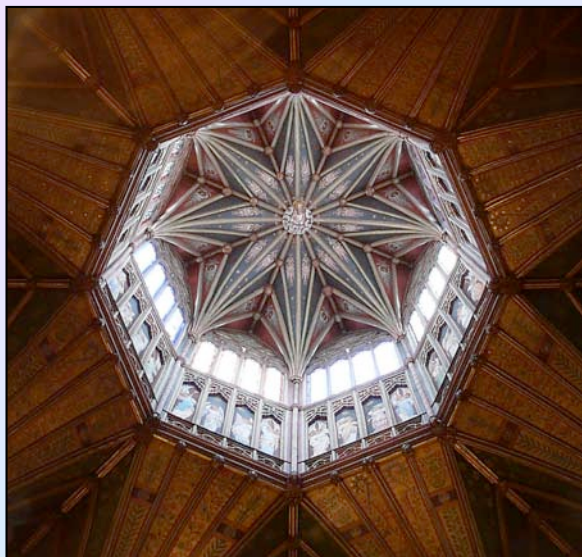
His gracious friendship and gentle humour have coloured my life for the last 45 years. I miss him terribly, as do we all. BCOCA Reunions will not be the same without him. But the memories he left behind will bless us all, so richly, in the years to come. **THANK YOU, PETER.**

TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 2010

Peter's funeral was held in Ely Cathedral, where he had been a lay clerk and where Constance is Chapter Clerk. It was a very misty day, and among the first arrivals were **David Wade** (left) from Preston – his wife, **Dorothy**, is Constance's sister – and **Myra and OC John Wilkinson** from Winchester. (See p. 20)



The enormous cathedral Quire and Chancel were packed with mourners. There wasn't a spare seat. As Peter's body was carried up the vast Nave, passing under the historic Lantern Tower, the cathedral choir sang Bairstow's *Lamentations*. This was an inspired choice by Constance,



for it had been a speciality of **TLD** during Peter's years as a treble and tenor in Blackburn Cathedral choir. TLD had been a pupil of Sir Edward Bairstow (organist of York Minster) when studying for his Mus.B.

There were eight robed clergy, led by the Dean, including our own BCOCA Chaplain, **Revd. Ian Hollin**, who read the Lesson.

Daughter **Catherine** said a few moving words, and the cathedral choir sang Ireland's *Greater Love*, which Peter would have sung so often, both as a treble and a tenor.



BRYAN LAMB'S EULOGY FOR PETER HEALD

Peter and I were friends for over sixty years. We had many things in common. We went to the same school (QEGS) and at various times we were both choristers in Blackburn Cathedral choir. Life-long friendships were forged at the Cathedral in the 1940s, which Peter and the rest of us valued greatly, and still do.



Peter was a musical child and with his younger brother **Eric** and many cousins, was taught to play the piano by his mother's brother, Uncle Jack. Peter's father, Walter, whom I knew well, sang tenor in the Cathedral choir and it was inevitable that both Peter and Eric should become choristers.

Soon after being recruited, both were awarded scholarships to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, an ancient institution in Blackburn. Peter won many music prizes at school, one particularly for sight-reading at which he excelled.

He and I always remembered an event which happened at school one day. At the time, he was a relatively small boy and I was a big one. He had been summoned to the prefects' room to be whacked, in expiation of sundry schoolboy misdemeanours.



Schools were different then and the regime was a little brutal. Peter duly appeared, looking apprehensive. But there was no way I was going to beat a Cathedral chorister and he was told simply to "push off," which he did instantly. Being a chorister had all sorts of unforeseen advantages! We often laughed about this incident in later years. Peter had a sense of humour.



Life for boys in the choir in those far-off days was very demanding; singing Evensong regularly after school, followed by hourly rehearsals and intensive training by the then Director of Music, **Tom Duerden**. Peter and Eric both enjoyed it, but there was little time for other activities like scouting or serious sport. Eric left the choir when his voice broke, but Peter's love of church music and high quality choral singing remained with him throughout his life and he continued later as a tenor.

Even after we left school and went our separate ways, the Cathedral remained an important focus for many of us. During college vacations or on leave from the Forces in the days of National Service, lots of us would return. Our friends would be there. We would even be allowed to sing again in the choir, provided we had been to a rehearsal. So Peter and the rest of us remained in contact. I even took him flying once. We hired a two-seater aeroplane at Squires Gate airport in Blackpool, flew round the Tower and then did aerobatics on the way back. Peter rather enjoyed being turned upside down.

In 1958, Peter began his two years of National Service with the East Lancashire Regiment, first at Catterick and then in Cyprus, which he often talked about.

Back in Blackburn, in 1964, John Bertalot became Director of Music at the Cathedral and asked Peter to help in re-founding the Blackburn Cathedral Old Chorister's Association, which is still going strong today. The trip northwards to the annual Reunion was a sacrosanct slot in the Heald household diary. After we both settled with our families here in East Anglia, Peter would take me with him to these splendid occasions, generously doing the driving. Later, he also involved himself with the Society of Ely Cathedral Choristers and in 1994 masterminded the National Federation Festival which Ely hosted that year.



BCOCA logo designed by Peter

In 1965, John Bertalot formed the Blackburn Bach Choir which Constance and her twin sister Dorothy joined, having been ushered into the audition by a certain Peter Heald! It was a very significant meeting.

Peter and Constance married in 1967. Daughter Catherine was born in 1971 in Bournemouth. Their ruby wedding was celebrated in 2007.

Peter was enormously proud of Catherine and Darren and adored his two young grandchildren, Ben and Jessica.



Most of Peter's working life was in public relations or with charities, first being appointed Blackburn Cathedral's Public Relations Officer in 1965 when the cathedral was re-hallowed. During this time he also set up The Samaritans in Blackburn. Similar posts followed in Bournemouth, Wimborne and Rossendale. In 1980, he was appointed Operations Director for the Charity SOS Children's Village, the headquarters based in Cambridge

About this time, Peter made contact again with an old Blackburn chorister friend, John Wilkinson. John had sung as a deputy in Ely Cathedral Choir and introduced Peter to Dr Arthur Wills. Peter was then appointed Tenor Lay Clerk here at Ely from Easter 1980, where he sang regularly until about 1992, followed by several years as a deputy. Constance was able to accompany him on several tours abroad with both Cathedral choirs, one of the most memorable being with the Ely choir to Rome in 1990.

In 1988 and 89, Peter spent a lot of spare time studying for the Archbishop's Diploma in Church Music. He was eventually successful and the diploma was presented to him personally by Archbishop Runcie at a service in the chapel at Lambeth Palace. Dean Patterson, the Dean of Ely at the time, lent him an academic gown to go with the accompanying hood.

More singing continued during the 1990s. Under the leadership of Canon Chris Barber, both Peter and Constance became members of a small group which sang at the 9.15 Eucharist at St Peter's Church, Ely, on the fourth Sunday of each month. Peter helped with the organisation and much valued his involvement.

In 2001, Peter became seriously ill, resulting in major surgery, including fusion of the right knee. After six months in hospital, he gradually learned to walk again. He made a remarkable recovery and was able to continue writing, sketching and studying. He was also able to serve as a committee member of two Ely organisations, The Friends of Ely Library and Fenprobe, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

In 2006 he completed an Open University B Sc honours degree, which he received at Versailles, a very memorable occasion, combined with a holiday in France and a choir tour in Alsace with the Blythburgh Singers, to which Constance and Peter had been introduced by Ruth and Keith Bond, Keith being a former assistant organist at Blackburn.

On May Day 2007, Peter completed a sponsored swim, the equivalent of a Channel crossing in distance.



He spent many weeks in a swimming pool in Chatteris doing this and raised over £3000 for Macmillan Cancer Care, to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of his brother **Eric**. For an older man with a disability to achieve this was pretty remarkable.

Peter's general health had been failing over the past twelve months, which he bore with characteristic stoicism. In early December following a fairly routine operation, his health declined and despite Addenbrooke's Hospital's strong fight for his life, he died there peacefully on Tuesday 29th December.

Constance and Catherine have been overwhelmed by the multitude of personal messages of comfort and support received since Peter's passing, and in particular have asked me to convey their thanks to the Reverends Alan and Jane Hulme, along with the congregation of St Mary's Church, Ely. Also the Dean and Chapter, Cathedral Choir and Community for enabling this service to be held here in the Cathedral, this very special place which Peter loved so dearly.

Today is a sad day for all of us here present, but I would like to think it is also a day to celebrate and to give thanks for the life of a good and worthy man, a special Christian gentleman held in high esteem. Peter was a generous, selfless, caring man, always on the lookout for ways to help others. He was a prolific fund raiser for good causes, for charities and for the less fortunate. He was also a loving husband, father and grandfather, and for many, a true friend. He will be sadly missed, but by us, never forgotten.



Bryan and Peter at our 2003 BCOCA Reunion

After Bryan's magnificent Eulogy, **Dorothy Wade**, Constance's twin, read out Tennyson's *Ring our wild bells*, and, after the blessing, the cathedral choir sang Stanford's *Nunc Dimittis in A* (without Gloria). That was so moving.

And to the joyful sounds of the organ playing Bach's Great Prelude and Fugue in A minor we left the cathedral, greeting friends along the way as we walked to the Almonry for a reception.

How good it was to see **Ruth Bond** there. She doesn't change.

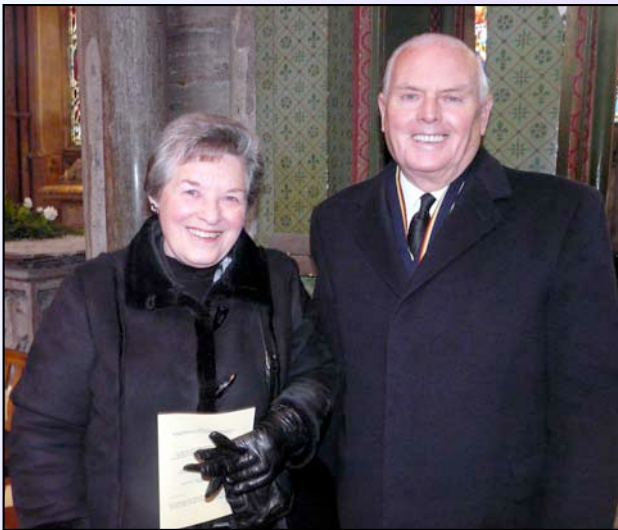


Margery and Norman Howarth travelled from Norwich to be there. Margery was another founder-member of the Blackburn Bach Choir.

Pauline and OC Bob Keen had come from Wilmslow to be there.



And **Constance** was our radiant hostess – seen here with **Michael Higgins**, former Dean of Ely.



1952
Peter Heald



And after the Reception some of us travelled to the Cambridge Crematorium for our final goodbye to Peter. This was particularly moving, as Constance had chosen for the entrance and the exit music a recording of JB's Princeton Singers singing *Linden Lea*. This was a favourite of Peter and Constance when they sang with the Blackburn Bach Choir: 'I be free to go abroad ... or take again my homeward road, to where, for me, the apple tree do lean down low in Linden Lea.'

Thank you, Peter, for the shining and self-giving life you led amongst us all.

From **OC JOHN KEEN** in Nottingham
John



Very sorry to hear the sad news about **Peter Heald** and **Ron Holroyd**.

It seems like only yesterday that I sat next to Peter, enjoying a chat during the 2009 BCOCA lunch.

I always regarded Peter as a pillar of the BCOCA community, backed up by his impeccable attendance record. His was one of the BCOCA faces I can still vividly remember from my treble days back in the late 70s / early 80s. There is no doubt that Peter will leave a noticeable gap in the stalls at future reunions. I also remember Ron on Virger duty from around the same era.

My sympathies and thoughts go to their families and friends.

From **OC DAVID TATTERSALL** in NZ

Peter Heald brings back fantastic early reunion memories out at Whalley Abbey... The "Old Guard" OCs always were so much fun for us younger ones!!!

I have been following the Big Freeze via the internet, in between my bouts of hay making. We had a wetter than normal spring, but it was still dry by UK standards. Summer is well and truly here now with temps into the early 30s and cloudless blue skies (and when I say blue, they are absolutely bright blue here).

If you ever get the urge to travel out so far you would be made most welcome to stay with us in Napier. Indeed, if any OCs do make it out here they must look us up in Napier - it's a lovely place and we're always good for a few days accommodation! **Betty and Stuart* Parkinson** called last time they were out to see their **Stephen (Old Chorister)** who lives in Hamilton about 4 hours' drive away.

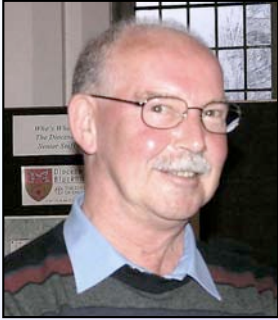
I wish you well with your travel plans to Ely for Peter's funeral, and if you remember, please pass on my warmest greetings to Bryan Lamb - a finer chap you would struggle to find.

David

**Written before Stuart's sad death. See p. 35*

From OC PETER CROWTHER JP in Lancaster
A letter to Constance Heald,
reproduced with permission

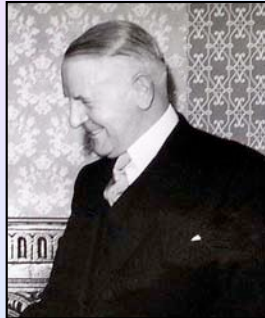
Dear Constance



Jean and I were both deeply shocked and saddened to learn of Peter's sudden and untimely death. I pride myself on being able to come up with words for most occasions but I am struggling right now to know just what to say that will adequately express my feelings. Peter seemed to have been around for as long as I have been connected with Blackburn Cathedral and it is almost impossible to think of that place without thinking of Peter in the same thought.

He and his father, Walter, were in the men's choir stalls when I joined as a new Singing Boy in 1952 and they were both people that I looked up to as being both senior and very talented.

Peter always had an infectious sense of humour and this often seemed to manifest itself in the choir stalls when either some words in the psalms struck him as funny or something happened that would involve **Tom Duerden** or Provost William Kay, as there was always a bit of an edge to that relationship. Being a tall person Peter did not find it easy to hide his amusement and this would often travel across the chancel to the other side where men and boys alike would join in the joke.



When I joined the men's choir I was fortunate enough to become a friend of Peter's and I started to learn just what a very good singer he was and why he was so highly regarded by his fellow choristers. When Jean and I were married we became part of a group that included **Peter and yourself, Norman and Margaret Eccleston, Barry and Maureen Hughes and David and Eva Metcalf**, and Jean and I remember with great affection the fun that we had as a group surrounding the music-making at Blackburn or at other Cathedrals we visited and the tours to Holland and Germany.

The launch of the **Blackburn Bach Choir** was a landmark day and both Peter and I enjoyed it immensely. We were able to give vent to singing the kind of music that Tom Duerden would never have done and it was great.

Constance with Peter Crowther at the Choir's first rehearsal 1965



When John Bertalot arrived in Blackburn, former Cathedral choristers were a disparate, disjointed and uninterested group. John worked closely with **Peter** and with **Norman Eccleston** and members of the Fielding family to identify former choristers, to track them down and produce a membership list and a constitution for what became Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers Association, more fondly known as BCOCA and, besides JB, nobody was more central to its founding and continuance than your Peter.

Nobody could have done more to discover former choir members and entice them to join and come to Reunions. When I took over from Norman as Secretary I always knew that I could trust and rely on Peter to do what he promised and to a very high standard. You could not always say that about a lot of people but Peter was always there and always delivered the goods.

I remember him working at Walpamur in the design Department but I never really understood what Peter did after that. I may be well wide of the mark but I felt that he never again found a comfortable niche in his professional life, although that could not be said of his contribution to music and to a number of charities for which he worked.

I have grown away from BCOCA with living up here and it is something I regret. However, Jean was able to come to a Reunion with me a couple of years ago when we stayed at Whalley Abbey and we were so very fortunate to share our dinner table with Peter. As always it was a joy to have a conversation with him and to discover that his boyish sense of humour and fun had not deserted him.

BCOCA Reunion 2008. Ian Hollin, Adrian Wilson & Peter Crowther



We well remember the Saturday nights at Whalley when, after Dinner, we would retire to the Library for the rest of the night to be regaled by **Jack Smethurst** and many others with tales of the "old days" under TLD and we would sit up into the wee small hours long after the staff and JB had departed. One of our dafter episodes was a desire to find a Night Club in Whalley called the Ace of Spades but we never did find it despite wandering around the streets of Whalley about 2.00am. Just what we would have done if we had found it nobody will ever know!

Surprisingly, Sunday mornings usually found us quite chipper and bright eyed as we surfaced for a good breakfast before trooping over to Blackburn to rehearse the Sunday morning service, to a surprisingly commendable standard. However, things started to fall apart as alcohol hit the system once again at the Sherry Reception prior to departure. It is utterly impossible to think of these happenings without thinking of Peter and his involvement in and contribution to the Reunion weekends and I am so pleased that we managed to catch up with each other just a couple of years ago although, sadly, you were not able to accompany Peter.

First Norman went, then Barry, then David, and now Peter, so how isolated do I feel? They were a great bunch and Peter stood out even in a talented group such as that. Singing ability, a sense of pride, a real love of church music and a sense of humour were just some of the qualities that Peter had in abundance and displayed to the world. It was obvious that he loved his family and felt so proud of you all and that came over in the way that he talked about you. I feel hugely honoured to have known Peter (and shared a name and initial (Peter G) with him. We shall all miss him enormously but none so much as you and Catherine and the rest of your family.

Sadly, Jean and I will not be able to come down to Ely for the funeral because of responsibilities to grandchildren but, please, accept our love and sympathy at this most difficult time. Our thoughts will be with you that day.

With all our love and best wishes
Peter and Jean Crowther

(See page 20)

HANDBELLS

BY ORGAN SCHOLAR JUSTIN MILLER

to celebrate the restoration of our own set of handbells



Justin admires a set of the newly refurbished cathedral handbells

Tower bell ringers in England (who had their own way of ringing bells in sequence - quite unlike the random style then prevalent in the rest of Europe) started using tuned handbells to practise their intricate ringing patterns.

It must have been much warmer and more comfortable for them to learn their intricate patterns of changes around the local hostelry fire than in the dark and draughty belfries on a cold winter's night.

Undoubtedly these bells were then used for simple tunes and so the art of tune ringing began.

It was not long before the bell foundries started making handbells specifically for method and tune ringing; with clappers and handles tailor-made for the purpose, a vast improvement from the basic clapper assembly used on cattle bells!



Blackburn Cathedral Handbell Ringers in 1927. They certainly dressed appropriately!

In the past century handbells have caught on as a splendid and rewarding group activity, and this autumn the Cathedral was able to send two octaves of our five-octave set to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London.

Justin compares two handbells, one before, and the other after restoration



Our bells, which are thought to be over 100 years old, now look brand new! New leather parts have been fitted and the bells have been retuned to international standard pitch, a semitone above their former tuning.

All of the metal parts have been polished and seven bells were engraved with inscriptions specified by their sponsors.



This pristine handbell was restored in loving memory of Sheila Brickell

It gives me great joy to say that a group of seven enthusiastic people are once again ringing these historic bells at the Cathedral. We made our debut at the Parish Eucharist (sung by the YPC) on Mothering Sunday.



Canon Taylor with Gary Wignall, cathedral bell ringer, admires three of our restored bells with Justin Miller.

We have also loaned one and a half octaves of our smaller handbells to St. Gabriel's Primary School with the object of developing new links and encouraging the growth of ringing by young people. This has produced a very enthusiastic response from the youngsters who practise during their Tuesday lunch break.

Well done, Justin!

It was a great joy

...to welcome **Michael Barry** to our cathedral in December. Michael is editor of the illustrious magazine of the **National Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers**; he visited us to see if the reputation of Blackburn Cathedral's music is as super as it is reputed to be.

He said that it is!



Michael will be featuring our cathedral in a long article he has written about us for the next edition of the Fed. magazine, Once A Chorister.

Here he is (right) with JB's camera-expert neighbour, Bob Loynds, examining Michael's super camera.

Another Stunning Fielding Recital



Peter Fielding is amazing. He's the senior member of the Fielding clan. One son, **Robert**, is Director of Music of Romsey Abbey – where he directs a fabulous choir. Robert's son, **Richard**, was a chorister of Salisbury Cathedral Choir and learns the organ from his father. Another of Peter's sons, **Mark**, is professor of Piano at the Royal Academy of Music, where one of his pupils won the piano rounds of the BBC's Young Musician of the Year in 2009.

Peter gave this super piano recital in Blackburn Cathedral in February, even though he'd recently had a hip operation and also an operation on his hands! He'll shortly be celebrating his 80th birthday with a gathering of Fieldings from far and near.

He played a demanding programme which included Chopin's fiendishly difficult Polonaise in E flat – which calls for very rapid scales indeed. They presented no problem. (His efficient page turner was **Rachel** Fielding, brother Paul's wife.) Chopin was the penultimate piece. We thought, 'What can top that?' What topped it was a duet from Fauré's *Dolly Suite*, for which he was joined by his nephew, Cathedral Chorister **William** Fielding; **Paul & Rachel's** son. It was wholly delightful!

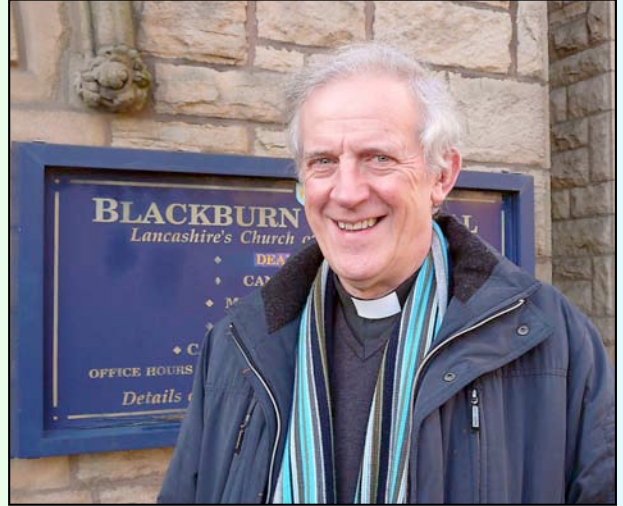


Needless to say, there were Fieldings galore in the audience, so another photograph was called for afterwards!



Nephew **William**, **Peter**, Grandson **Luca**, daughter **Sarah & Jasmine**, wife **Andrea**, son **John**, brother **Paul & Rachel**, brother **Gordon**. Wow!

Canon Michael Wedgeworth, MBE



We were so sorry to hear that Michael Wedgeworth retired from the cathedral at the end of February, where he has filled more than several roles. He's been Cathedral Administrator for five years, and in his spare (*sic*) time he has headed up our Asylum and Refugee programme with Wesley Hall.

And in addition to all that he has been Chairman of the Governors of Blackburn College for the last five years, having been a Governor for eight years before that.

Blackburn College is one of the great success stories of our Borough. Its new buildings dominate the centre of Blackburn. And for Michael's services to further education The Queen has honoured him with an MBE. Well done – we are delighted for you, Michael.



Blackburn College has 15,000 students and in January 2008 the College was awarded a Grade One Ofsted Inspection, one of the best ever inspection reports for a College in the whole country. The College has also received many other prestigious awards for excellence. The £14m St. Paul's Centre (above) was opened in 2009 and a third phase to create a new core building will begin in 2010.

Courses range from basic numeracy to Masters in Law – Honours degrees awarded by Lancaster University, the University of Glamorgan and the University of Central Lancashire. *Well done, Michael, and all your colleagues.*

Michael said, 'Three of my five children enjoyed studying for their A levels at Blackburn College, and this led me to become a parent governor.' He added, 'Pat and will continue to be involved at the cathedral. I have recently become Chairman of Third Sector Lancashire (TSL) which works on partnerships between voluntary bodies and local government. It does this by fund raising, sharing information, organising events and cooperating with local authorities. Voluntary bodies will be commissioned to provide far more social services than in the past.'

Michael added, 'Local councils and indeed the Government now 'commission' work with children, the elderly and many other groups which voluntary bodies (e.g. TSL) are better placed to deliver.'

'The cathedral's **exChange** project in the field of community cohesion is an excellent example of this. But there is a huge opportunity for the Church generally and other faith groups to expand their social care activity through this commissioning route.'

'My aim as Chairman of the Board of TSL is to widen the spread and strengthen the impact of such projects, not least through the churches.'

(You call this retirement?!)

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

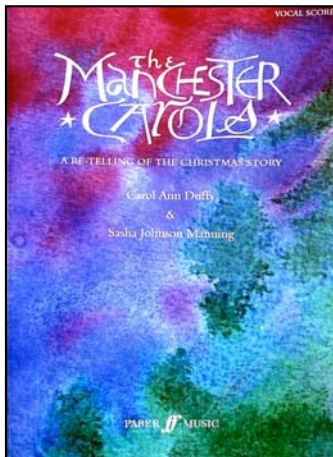
'Spectacular' photos by Andy Bruce



The Christmas Spectacular was certainly Spectacular

Not only did it feature our own cathedral choirs, with superb soloists and the Northern Chamber Orchestra, but we also welcomed, the choir from St. Gabriel's School, Blackburn, under the direction of Gillian Turner. Everyone sang and played delightfully under Richard Tanner's ebullient leadership.

The richly varied music included not only firm favourites such as Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, and Harold Darke's *In the Bleak Midwinter*, but it also included a superb performance of *The Manchester Carols*.



The Manchester Carols are the product of an inspired collaboration between composer **Sasha Johnson Manning** and **Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy**. They're a collection of 12 carols, linked with a gentle, entertaining narration, which reshape and modernize the Christmas story. On 27th December the BBC gave a repeat broadcast of the carols from 2008, with the Northern Chamber Orchestra conducted by **Richard Tanner**.



Handbell Ringers at Christmas

by Cathedral Chorister William Fielding, Year 6 St. Gabriel's School

At St. Gabriel's school we have started a handbell group. It was a fairly encouraging start, we had ten children from year 5 and seven from year 6. The handbells are on loan from Blackburn Cathedral which has another 40 bells. We progressed well and soon some more people wanted to come and join, so we split into 2 groups.

We had our first performance in school assembly; it went really well. One group started to learn some more challenging pieces, and some even had harmony added to them. This meant that 2 people had to play 2 bells each!

At Christmas we performed in Blackburn Cathedral at one of the lunchtime recitals, this was a fantastic experience.

We have had help with our technique from **Justin Miller** (Blackburn Cathedral's organ scholar); he has been an inspiration and we wouldn't have progressed so quickly without him.

We have come on wonderfully and we hope that you can come to hear us very soon.



Christmas Day

... was a most happy and most musical occasion.

Richard Tanner rehearsed the *Messe Solennelle* by Jean Langlais with his cathedral choir, and carols for communion:

In the bleak, Ding dong, Away in a manger and O Little One Sweet.



Even the choirmen looked happy!



How did Santa get in here?

Christmas Day

was also an occasion for sartorial elegance in Blackburn Cathedral.

The Dean led the way with a stunning Cassock-Alb (unbuttoned) which his Mother had made for him when he was Chaplain to the University of Durham...



...followed closely by YPC member (and assiduous page-turner for the organist) **Jonathan Brookes** who wore his Welsh Tartan in dashing style.

But it was the **Bishop's** glorious Mitre which attracted your editor's eye after the service:



'Did His Holiness lend this to you?' enquired your editor.

'No,' replied Bishop Nicholas, when he was giving his greetings to members of the congregation as they left the cathedral, 'it was given to me by the clergy from the Diocese when I first became Bishop of Blackburn.'

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL MUSIC clocked up another first (see p. 36)

During Lent, for Choral Evensong was sung from Mondays to Fridays, as well as Sundays.

Mondays by the *Schola Cantorum* – young men from the YPC. Tuesdays by *Girls' voices*, Wednesdays by *Boys' voices*,

Thursdays by *Girls' voices* again, and Fridays by **The Cathedral Consort**.

There was a period when Choral Evensong was sung for **13 consecutive days** – due to the RSCM Festival one Saturday.

AND ALL THESE SERVICES WERE SUNG BY OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTARY SINGERS. Well done, indeed!



Graceful
Music
for
Soprano
Trumpet and
Organ
followed by a
Champagne
Reception



Philippa Hyde, Tim Barber and Richard Tanner attracted a capacity audience for their wholly delightful Annual New Year's Eve Concert in the North Transept of Blackburn Cathedral.

In fact extra chairs had to be found to seat us all!



These three consummate artists gave us an hour of exhilarating music – by Handel, Monteverdi, JSB and more.

It was thrilling to hear Philippa sing rapid passages of semiquavers, which were answered equally skillfully by Tim on his trumpet, whilst Richard, at the organ, or at the piano or at the harpsichord, provided sensitive accompaniments.

But Richard also had his time in the musical spotlight, for he gave us a thrilling performance of Vierne's *Carillon de Westminster*. This piece, as organists know, is a show-stopper, and Richard ended with full organ plus the Imperial Trumpets. As these happened to be directly over the heads of the audience we received our money's worth – and more!



At the Champagne Reception afterwards we noticed that Richard's father, **John**, and our immediate past organ scholar **Jonathan Turner** and your Editor all wore their Lincoln College, Oxford, scarves. (At least, that's what this photo shows!)

The Cathedral has recently lost two more faithful friends:

Former Provost's Virger and ubiquitous handyman **RON HOLROYD**

An Appreciation by his son, OC Peter Holroyd



Kath & Ron Holroyd

Dad was born in 1922 on Friday 13th February. He was actually lucky with this date, he joined the Navy during the 2nd World War on Friday 13th and was eventually demobbed on the 13th. During his school days he sang in Saint John's choir whilst TLD was choirmaster. After leaving school he started work in the family plumbing business.

He went to war in 1941 and served on *HMS Britomart* which took part on the Russian Convoys in the stormy Arctic weather.



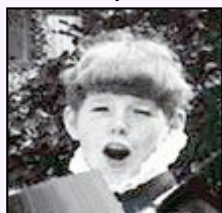
[Peter's elder brother, Michael, told JB that when his Dad was wondering whether to join the Army or the Navy during WWII he decided that he'd prefer to drown rather than be shot, so he joined the Navy!

Michael also said that, when *Britomart* was on the Russian convoys in the depths of winter and when they were attacked from the air, the crew in the engine room, who included Ron, were locked in! They don't make them like that any more. Ron was a hero, and twice refused a commission.]

Peter continues:

During one of his on shore breaks he arranged a blind date through a *Wren* (the Women's branch of the Royal Navy). The date was in Blackpool and he fell in love immediately and told Kath (my mum) he was going to marry her. He did in 1946, and they were together until she died in 1986.

After leaving the Navy he went back to plumbing with his father in the family's plumbing business. He eventually took over the business in the early 1960s.



He became involved with the Cathedral after encouraging Pete to leave St John's choir and join the Cathedral choir. He was the Provost's Virger and helped out with plumbing needs at the Cathedral.



[JB remembers Ron knocking down part of the wall which divides the Song School from the Vestry. He had an enormous hammer, and

rained mighty blows on that wall. The space he made is now fitted with two doors, which divide the two rooms.]

He retired from the Cathedral in 1984 to look after Kath who was seriously ill. After she died he continued to do work for the Corporation until he was 72.

He has three grandchildren - Anthony from Michael's marriage to Susan. Emma and Luke from Pete's marriage to Julie.



Luke, Peter, Julie and Emma Holroyd

In July 2009 Anthony and Kate had a baby called Abi, who gave him the honour of becoming a Great-Grandad.

Emma is 15 and is in year 10 at Lostock Hall High School in Preston, and Luke is in year 9 at the same school. Dad was so proud of them. Emma recently passed the Mensa IQ test and came in the top 1% of the country; he intended to reward her, but he was not quite sure what it was about.

Luke is interested in designing buildings and would like to be an architect, while Emma wants to be a Vet. When the kids were growing up he was always there to baby-sit or to play with their train sets or dolls or even walk the dog. The kids will miss him so much: he was a major part of their lives.

On Christmas day he was with us for Christmas dinner which he thoroughly enjoyed and then he dozed off watching the television. He had been seriously ill numerous times and we were hoping that he was indestructible and would eventually get a telegram from The Queen for his 100th birthday, but that was not to be.

Thanks for everything Dad we will miss you.

After Ron's Funeral in the Cathedral, JB met a RN Commodore who had come from Liverpool to represent the Royal Navy in honour of Ron.



JB said, 'I played some of Handel's *Water Music* before the service, to symbolize Ron's profession as a plumber, but I couldn't think of anything to represent the Royal Navy.' The Commodore thought for a moment, then suggested, 'What about *Yellow submarine*?'

Pete has worked as a manager for Booth's supermarkets for many years, and now manages the shop in Kendal and also the Artisan Restaurant. He's been there for nearly a year and enjoys the new challenge of working with chefs. Julie works as an Office Manager for QISoft in Leyland, (*look them up on the web*).



Pete, Luke & Julie. Photo by Emma

From OC DAVID ROTHWELL in Fulwood

Peter Holroyd's parents used to live directly across the road from my parents, so I knew him long before his Cathedral associations, when he was a plumber in his father Owen's business at the bottom of Shear Brow.

I had many happy times with **Peter Heald** in the cathedral choir. I fondly remember accompanying him and the Cathedral Film (which JB had created about the rebuilding work); taking it around the diocese to raise money and interest in the Cathedral - and assisting him with "*Run for Your Money*", when we ran from Canterbury to Blackburn. And of course, singing with him in both the Cathedral Choir and the Blackburn Bach Choir.

OC HAROLD 'STAN' STANCLIFFE

1940 Harold Stancliffe



'Stan' receiving his congratulatory 70th anniversary card from the Dean at our 2008 BCOCA Reunion.

Stan has been a shining light at our recent BCOCA Reunions. He, with his wife **Margaret**, were driven all the way from their home in Hampshire to be with us – their chauffeurs being their son-in-law, **Richard** and daughter **Miranda**, seen here at our 2007 BCOCA Reunion.



After attending our 2006 Reunion he found a friend near his home who wrote an article for us about **Provost Kay** (See *M&M*, November 2007). He and his family attended two more Reunions – but they were unable to be with us for 2009 due to Stan's ill health.

Stan and his twin brother, **Ernest**, joined the cathedral choir in 1938 – in the days of **Dr. Herman Brearley** when there was only the Nave of the present cathedral, with the organ in the West gallery and the choir at the East end.



In 2004 Stan and Margaret happened to visit the cathedral where they met OC **Gordon Shaw**, who showed them round. As a result of that happy meeting Stan asked to join BCOCA, and wrote the following – which we published in the October 2004 edition of *M&M*:

A little bit about me: I have Masters' degrees from Cambridge (King's College) and London Universities; served 20-plus years as an officer in the army; worked in Shell International Petroleum and Shell UK and retired on 31st December 1984. Since then, nearly 20 years of busily doing nothing.

I married in 1951 and we have two children, a son who is a Canadian and Petroleum Geologist, and a daughter who graduated in Geophysics and later Art, but now runs a small IT company with her husband.

Some recollections of the choir: I joined in 1938 under Dr. Brearley, sang at the laying of the foundation stone for the cathedral extension by the **Princess Royal** [this stone can be seen in the cathedral crypt] and I was in the choir on Sunday 3rd September 1939 when **Provost Kay** brought a



battery radio to the service and we heard **Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain** declare war. **Provost Kay** had put on his medals!

Stan's funeral was in the cathedral on 29th January and, at his special request, it was attended by his close family only: Margaret, Richard and Miranda, and their son, **Russell**, who flew from Canada to be with them.

Margaret invited several of us, with some of Stan's QEGS contemporaries, to a reception in the Millstone, Mellor. 'Stan planned his funeral meticulously,' said Margaret. 'He knew that the end was near and he died, very suddenly.'

Stan's ashes were placed in the Columbarium in a place that he had chosen, which happened to be near ground level. When he saw it on his last visit he noticed that Mr. Duerden's ashes were placed higher up. 'He'll be looking down on me!' said Stan!

Stan was a lovely person – his very presence amongst us radiated joy and peace. May he now be resting in an abundance of the joy and peace which he created for us all.

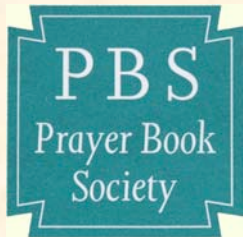


From OC **PETER FIELDING** in Ramsbottom

I shall write to Stan's wife, Margaret. Prior to being admitted to the Cathedral Choir in 1939, a few of us from St. John's Church choir used to accompany TLD to the Cathedral for rehearsals with the Cathedral Choristers before TL took over there.

I remember practising 'Let the Bright Seraphim' and 'Let us with a Gladsome Mind' (? Nicholson). I also remember '**Stan**' Stancliffe & OC **Albert Ogden**. It must have been early 1939 or even late 1938 because we had all been admitted to the cathedral choir by Easter '39. Thought you might find this of interest.

All good wishes, **Peter**



Blackburn Diocese Branch

DEFENDING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

**JOIN US AT OUR FESTIVAL
ON SATURDAY 8th MAY
AT BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL
Eucharist at 11.00 a.m.**

**Celebrant: The Bishop of Blackburn
Preacher: The Revd. David Tickner, MBE**

Find out more from
Hon. Secretary,
Neil Inkley,
6 Knot Lane,
Walton-le-Dale,
Preston PR5 4BQ

01772-821-676

Mr. Rodney Swarbrick, CBE, DL

The Council of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music (FoBCM) were greatly saddened at their meeting in February to learn that their outstanding Chairman, Mr. Rodney Swarbrick, has had to relinquish his chairmanship on doctor's orders.



Rodney, who is a former High Sheriff of Lancashire, has helped our cathedral's music to flourish as never before. Through his hard work and his distinguished connections we have been able to offer concerts and engage professional soloists & orchestras of the highest standards, which have delighted our audiences for several years past.

Thanks in large part to his leadership the FoBCM is now out of the 'red' (which arose through one of our major sponsors going into receivership), and so our future looks considerably rosier.

But this is not 'goodbye' to Rodney or his charming wife, **Diana** (who is a member of the Cathedral Chapter), for they look forward to attending many of our future concerts. **Thank you, Rodney.**

M&M is printed by the **DELMAR PRESS Ltd.**,
Nantwich, CW5 5LS, 01270-62-41-22

... and supported financially by generous donors,
**The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, and
Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association.**

and published by
Blackburn Cathedral, BB1 5AA

From former choir parents Derek & Krystyna Adams
Hi John.

We recently spent a few days in Chichester.

As we toured the Cathedral, we were delighted to meet **Howard Waddell**, Head Virger, who was our own Dean's Virger until a few years ago.

He very kindly showed his house and gave us information about (and Free Passes to!) some local attractions.

Attached is a photo from his garden. Members of his staff had given him a cushion with the legend **GRUMPY but gorgeous!** embroidered on it.

It's nice to know that Howard is appreciated down South!



From OC MICHAEL HAMM in West Kirby

Hi John

I was so sorry to hear of Peter Heald's death - thank you for keeping me up to date with the news.

Interested to hear of **Bryan Lamb** who was a few years senior to me in the choir. I do remember Peter and his brother Eric - and their mother.

1948 Michael E. Hamm

Some years later I conducted a concert with the BBC Philharmonic in Manchester and visited Blackburn on a Friday night for **TLD's** rehearsal. We visited the pub afterwards and I managed to miss the last train home - so I was stranded in Blackburn for the night. **Peter Heald** came to my rescue and arranged for me to spend the night with members of his family and collected me the next morning to take me to the station. I shall always remember his great kindness to me on that occasion.

Many thanks for the splendid **Music and More** which I always read with great interest!

With very best wishes to you and all who knew me in the 1940s...

Michael

CHORAL WHISPERS

We were delighted to receive a copy of the choir magazine of **Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral**, which is packed with news of the so-many musical activities in that glorious place.

Also there's an abundance of news of present and former choristers.

Featured on the cover is a photo of the new bronze doors of the cathedral, with effigies of a former RC Archbishop and Bishop **David Sheppard** who had co-operated so creatively in ecumenical work in Liverpool.



JB remembers that when he was an undergraduate at Cambridge, David Sheppard, who was then a theological student at Cambridge and Captain of the English Cricket Team, had been invited to address a 'Freshers' Squash' in JB's large room at Corpus. We managed to pack in about 70 new students. That was quite some meeting!

From OC John Wilkinson OBE in Winchester

This letter was written before the sad death of Peter Heald

Dear John,

In July I attended the National Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers in Winchester and worked as a steward. There I met the redoubtable **Fred Dewhurst** and his wife, **Margaret**. We enjoyed a delightful festival with receptions in the Guild Hall, and Great Hall of the old castle built in 1222, where the king and parliament met before they moved to London. The festival coincided with the Hampshire Food Fair, so we enjoyed the local produce. The services in the Cathedral were magical and it was good to sing in a choir again

Heartiest congratulations, John & Myra, on celebrating the 40th Anniversary of your Wedding!

It all came flooding back and has prompted me to start singing again after a long break.

Also during this period, **Myra and I celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary** and this brought back strong and emotional memories of the service in Ely Cathedral sung by the men of Blackburn and Ely Cathedrals, with organist Roger Judd and the head chorister of St. John's College Cambridge as soloist. The central work was William Byrd's Mass for Three Voices. I enclose a photograph to stir a few memories and remembrances.

Every blessing to you all. **John Wilkinson**



Part of the photograph which **John Wilkinson** sent, taken at his marriage to **Myra** in Ely Cathedral 40 years ago.

The five Blackburn choir men are (L-R in dark cassocks):

Front row: **David Metcalf** – former Blackburn Cathedral Choir secretary, and **Barry Hughes**, an irrepressible tenor who was the life and soul of our choir's life 40 years ago.

Back row: **Peter Crowther**, **Norman Eccleston** and (at the end) **Peter Heald**.

Norman and Peter H. were founder members of BCOCA.

And of those five choir men, only Peter Crowther remains with us now. Peter lives in Lancaster where he is Chairman of the local Bench of JPs.

SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Anjum Anwar, MBE, Blackburn Cathedral's Dialogue Development Officer, was in South Africa recently where she and **Canon Chivers** presented a paper at Cape Town University on their work of inter-faith dialogue here in Blackburn. The paper was well received, and afterwards Anjum had her photograph taken with **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**.



'We were very pleased to be asked to show-case our work at the Cathedral, and of course, Blackburn Cathedral's innovative approach to dialogue was well received', said Ms. Anwar.

But Anjum and Chris weren't the only Blackburnians to meet **Archbishop Tutu** towards the end of the family's three months' visit to South Africa, for **Chris and Mary's** two elder sons, **Dominic** (10), who is a cathedral chorister, and **Gregory** (9), questioned the Archbishop about the anti-apartheid struggle, his own segregated schooldays, and also the forthcoming World Cup which will be held in South Africa.

(They had exchanged school timetables at St Francis Primary, Blackburn, for home schooling in Cape Town led by their grandmother, while Canon Chris wrote and lectured during his sabbatical visit.)

'Interviewing Archbishop Tutu was part of a project the boys did on South Africa; they loved it,' said Canon Chris.

The Archbishop told the boys of scary experiences when he faced armed police during anti-apartheid demonstrations. 'It did get scary when they had their guns, tear gas, their dogs and whips, but we were borne up by knowing there were so many people praying for us.'

He recalled going to school in a church building without desks, where pupils knelt to write on their benches, in a segregated society

where there is still an education gap between the former white schools and 'black' township schools.

But roads and other infrastructure are already improving as a result of the World Cup. 'We hope there will be an influx of many tourists for the World Cup and that they will inject money into our system,' added the Archbishop.

'I hope that that will mean the Government has just a bit more resources to fight poverty, to be able to provide more and better houses, although it's happening at a very difficult time in the world economy.'



'Gregory (L) and Dominic were already good friends of the former Archbishop,' said Canon Chris who knew the Archbishop when he (Chris) was Precentor of Cape Town Cathedral before coming to Westminster Abbey, and thence to Blackburn. 'He calls them his *'high fivers'* because of the way they greet him when they meet.'



Ceilidh: Saturday 8th May 7.30

'I've been thinking of an event to come up with for my fundraising idea', said Senior Old Chorister **Emily Crewe**. 'Several people have requested that I organise a Ceilidh and try to get as many people involved as possible. Lots of the current choir members enjoy them as well as former choristers and their families.'



James Davy & Gillian Turner Ceilidh-ing at Jonathan Turner's 21st
 'There'll also be a raffle and lots of games at this event,' added Emily. Bring your own drinks and food, but the music will be provided by a special band

**Proceeds to BCOCA
 to help our choirs' programme
 Tickets also from Linda Bruce:
 01254-50-30-82**

Tickets: £25 for a family
 £10 for an adult
 £5 for a child

available from emily_crewe@hotmail.com 0773-174-9062

National Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers 100th Annual Reunion WESTMINSTER ABBEY 24-26 September, 2010



Celebrations will include
 Special Services in the Abbey
 A tour of the Palace of Westminster
 A boat trip down the Thames
 A Festival Banquet
 and more

We'll also celebrate the 450th anniversary of the
 refounding of the Abbey by Queen Elizabeth I
Contact

Richard Watts, wacoc@westminster-abbey.org

**Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers Annual Reunion
 will be on**

**Saturday-Sunday
 18-19 September 2010**

Invitations to our Old Choristers
 will be mailed at the beginning of August.
Constance Heald hopes to be with us.

Sixty thousand Words!

**JB has been writing articles on choirtraining
 for *The Organists' Review* for the last 8 years
 (Phew!)**

(It's an international magazine for Organists & Choirmasters)

His final three articles (Nos. 28 to 30) feature lessons he has learned from illustrious musicians over the years, including Orchestral Conductor **Sir Malcolm Sargent**, **Dr. Boris Ord** (of King's College, Cambridge), **Fernando Germani** (Organist of St. Peter's, Rome) and many others.

He's also included **THOMAS L. DUERDEN**, his predecessor as Organist of Blackburn Cathedral:



TLD was a gifted choirtrainer – his choir won first place at the Welsh National Eisteddfod for several years and his former choristers, some of whom are still with us, revere his memory. He was a great disciplinarian and cared deeply for all his choristers, boys and men alike.

It was TLD's sense of discipline from which I learned so much. The boys sat with their arms folded whilst lessons were being read and sermons preached. I didn't know that boys could sit still like that, and so I endeavoured to maintain that tradition.

However my approach was to change from an imposed discipline to a willing self-discipline. When a new boy joined the choir he was given a number of singing tests to pass (this has now been expanded into the RSCM's *Voice for Life*).

And when he had completed these tests he was given a cassock and the head boy showed him how to process into the cathedral in his new cassock, bow to the altar and then sit absolutely still in the choirstalls for five minutes on his own with his arms folded, before the head boy told him that he should now process back to the vestry with equal dignity. When he had done this to the head boy's satisfaction, he qualified to become a member of the cathedral choir. And he was thrilled!

And so I have always encouraged my singers – boys, girls and adults – to foster a sense of self-discipline in attendance, in demeanour and in their singing. This worked at the cathedral, it worked for my choirs in the USA and it continues to work in my little village church. I've written about this in previous articles in the *Organists' Review*, but it was through TLD that the inspiration came.

JB also included in this article a life-transforming sentence which he heard on the radio:

'When you set a boundary for a child he, or she, will immediately cross it – to see if there's a boundary there.'

In other words a boundary is a positive space within which we can achieve excellence. Think of the game of tennis: players strive because they know where the boundaries are, and so they are free to pursue excellence.

How many times do children 'win' when they know that a parent doesn't mean it when they set a boundary? 'William, stop that. William, I told you to stop that. William, how many more times must I tell you to stop that?' Who's in charge? William is, and he knows it, but the parent doesn't!



But, in reality, William has lost, for he needs boundaries within which he, too, can excel. A child without boundaries to guide him is an unhappy child.

We all need boundaries to define who we are. That's how we know where to focus our energies for success.



Ms Anjum Anwar, MBE

Anjum Anwar, Dialogue Development Officer of Blackburn Cathedral, was one of a 12-member delegation to the Middle East recently, which was organized and funded by the British Council and VSO. The Volunteer Service Overseas organisation (VSO) brings people together to share skills, build capabilities, promote international understanding and action, and change lives to make the world a fairer place for all.

Anjum spent three weeks in Muscat, Oman, where she had dialogue on the subject of "A conversation with a Muslim in the West" with Sheikh Khalfan, at the **Grand Mosque**, which was attended by 350 people.



She was also granted an audience with His Eminence the **Grand Mufti Sheikh Ahmed**, and spent an hour and half explaining about the work of Blackburn Cathedral in creating community cohesion.



She presented both Sheikh Khalfan and His Eminence the Grand Mufti with two small presents given by **Dean Christopher Armstrong** with messages from the Dean and the **Bishop of Blackburn**.

Canon Chancellor **Chris Chivers** sent a message which was read out to the audience at the Grand Mosque. This was received positively, as was the conversation between Anjum and Sheikh Khalfan.

Sheikh Ahmed sent a message to the Muslims of UK asking them to live the Islamic faith positively, and to the non-Muslims to be kind and understanding in their treatment of the Muslim community.



Blackburn Cathedral's innovative work was mentioned in the Omani Press, and at the farewell dinner, Anjum spoke to an audience which included the British Ambassador, **Dr Noel Guckian OBE**, about the importance of dialogue and the challenges that the world faces if we do not surmount difficult issues.

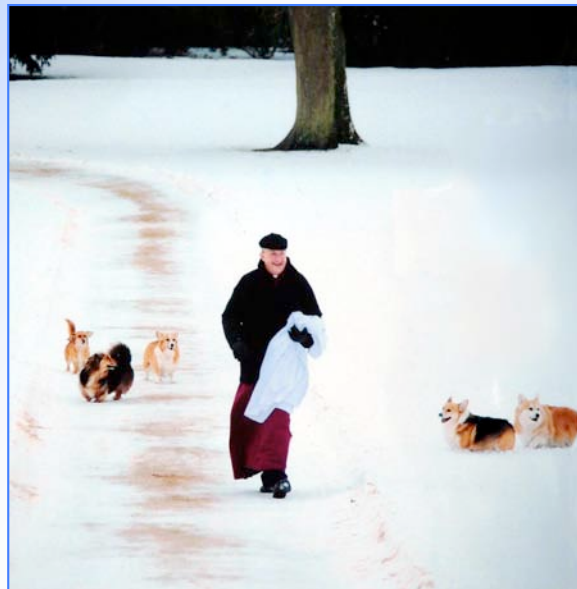
Well done, Anjum!

WHO AND WHERE?

We heard that a certain Bishop was invited to stay with a certain Lady and Her husband for the first weekend in the New Year. The Bishop also preached at morning service in their historic Parish Church.

Someone took a photo of his Right Reverence as he was returning to the house from celebrating early HC.

The only clues as to where this might be can be gathered from the dogs and the Sand...!



© Photograph strictly copyright

FORMER RENAISSANCE SINGER, (Tenor)

...**Anthony Peabody** is now not only a Doctor but also a Revd. He sang with the (then) Blackburn Bach Choir around 1975 – so several current Singers will remember him. He had, and still has, a wonderful sense of humour. See the e-mail he sent recently from his home in Berkshire:

John, I forgot to send you this photo (as you requested). This is us, bearing with fortitude the accumulating years. I am on the left.

Musical highlights of the year included me singing all the Advent antiphons in our beautiful candlelit church, and playing the bass banjo in a service (not at our very sensible church). A liturgical first I think, but from the sublime to the gorbliney. I can see now why the banjo has never caught on in a liturgical setting.



Anthony and Jenny



TWINS?

JB asked The Revd. Dr. Anthony if he had a twin brother who happened to be Vicar of St. Anne's Church, Fence (where JB is organist).

No!

The **FORGIVENESS** project

The core of Jesus' message was **forgiveness**. None of us is perfect – we've all made mistakes. The Book of Common Prayer says, 'We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those which we ought not to have done...' We all need forgiveness, and we also need to forgive one another.

Jesus said, 'Love your enemies...'

And so **Canon Chris Chivers** and **Ms. Anjum Anwar MBE** organised an amazing evening in the North Transept in February bringing together people who had been tortured and abused, but who had forgiven those who had inflicted these sufferings on them.



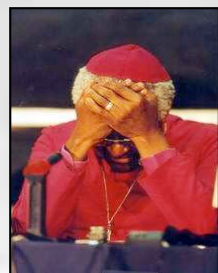
The large audience, led by the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn, sat in stunned silence as Canon Chivers opened the meeting by telling the story of a woman in South Africa. He said:

A 70-year old woman had been called to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, concerning the activities of a policeman in her township. It transpires that he had come one night with some others and in front of the woman had shot her son at point-blank range.

(Canon Chivers was in South Africa and saw this woman telling her story.)



Two years later the same officer had returned to arrest her husband. Some time later the policeman came yet again. This time he took her to a place where he showed her her husband, who was still alive. But as her spirits lifted, the policeman doused the husband with gasoline, set him on fire and killed him.



As the woman concluded her testimony, Archbishop Tutu, trying desperately to keep his own emotions under control, addressed her: 'What would you like the outcome to be of this hearing?'

After a long pause, the woman answered, 'I would like three things. First. I want to be taken to the place where my husband was burned so I can gather up the dust and give his remains a decent burial.

Second, my son and my husband were my only family. Therefore I want this police officer to become my son, to come twice a month to my home and spend a day with me so I can pour out on him whatever love I still have remaining inside me.

Finally, I want this officer to know that I offer him forgiveness because Jesus Christ died to forgive me. Please would someone lead

me across the hall so that I can embrace him and let him know that he is truly forgiven.'

As people led the woman across the room, the police officer was completely overwhelmed and fainted. The woman's friends and neighbours, most of whom had been victims of the same sort of violence, began to sing softly, *Amazing Grace...*

[This story was told in the February 2008 M&M]

Canon Chivers asked us, 'Do we have the courage to take the first step to forgive?'

A group of nine young people was there – Roman Catholic Croats, Orthodox Serbs and Muslim Bosniacs – whom Anjum and Chris had met when they spent time in Bosnia last October. They had been flown in specially to share their experiences with us in Blackburn that evening.

They spoke of their own recent sufferings, and of their own efforts to forgive. You could hear a pin drop as they relived their experiences with us.



Canon Chris with his nine young guests afterwards

Anjum and Canon Chris then chaired a short session when more young people told of their sufferings. '**The strongest power in the world is forgiveness,**' said one young man.



A woman called Margaret told of the traumatic experience of having her house burgled and losing irreplaceable family treasures. Eventually she summoned up the courage to visit the burglar in prison, and now she works to help victims of similar violence.

Canon Chris added: *She also subsequently lost her daughter in a car accident so the point she was making was they'd lost their family photos (treasures) in a burglary, then they lost the real treasure – her daughter. 'I cannot change the world,' said Margaret, 'but I can change myself.'*

And we also listened to soothing music played on the cello and organ – Albinoni's famous *Adagio*, which gave us room to meditate on all we were hearing. This was played by a cello student from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, accompanied by our own Justin Miller.



The cello music was chosen because Vedran Smailovic, a Bosnian cellist, had played it twenty-two times in a crater in Sarajevo to remember 22 victims of bombing there during the Bosnian War.

Choosing the Albinoni was itself an act of remembrance of past horrors, for it had been reconstructed from a fragment of music found in the ashes of Dresden 65 years ago.



(We had bombed the historic town of Dresden towards the end of WWII, causing untold suffering. But forgiveness has now been exchanged between us, and as a sign of this there is the Coventry Cross of Nails on the altar in restored Mariankirche



and a glorious golden Cross on the top of the church's dome, which was also a gift from Coventry.)

This was a most moving evening when we listened in absolute silence to horrific stories of torture, pain and destruction – and consequent forgiveness.



Then we moved to the South Transept for an exhibition called 'The "F" Word', which demonstrated, so powerfully, the need for Forgiveness in our world today.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu sent a message to us that evening, through Chris:



"I am delighted that the Forgiveness Project is being seen in Blackburn Cathedral and that you are being joined by friends from Bosnia-Herzegovina, who know only too well the cost of forgiveness and reconciliation.

You are doing amazing things, I know, in Blackburn as Christians and Muslims - God's goodwill ambassadors - to try and foster understanding and to put yourselves

in the other person's shoes so that you can walk together on the path to peace.

May the exhibition be an inspiration to you in this.

There can be no future without forgiveness.

There can be no forgiveness without truth-telling.

And there can be no truth-telling without people of courage to start the journey.

You are all people of courage.

I salute what you are already doing and encourage you to continue travelling along this most important road for the future well-being of our world."

Thank you, Chris and Anjum for an unforgettable evening.



Sponsored in part by **exChange**, the cathedral's social cohesion programme which encompasses inter-faith work and community education.

The next Edition of *Music & More* will be published in October
But Old Choristers will receive their invitations to our *SEPTEMBER REUNION (18-19th)* this coming July!

'F Word' exhibition visited by IRA bomb victim

Sunday 28 February saw an unexpected visitor greet Anjum Anwar MBE and Canon Chris Chivers as they were showing a group from Lancaster round the 'F Word' exhibition.

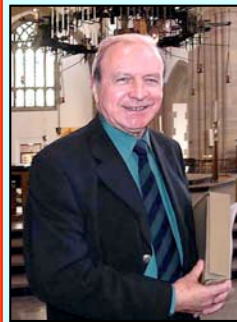
Blackburn-born Sue Hanisch, who now lives near Kendal – and who lost her right leg in 1991 in the IRA bombing at Victoria Station, London – had heard from a friend that the exhibition was in Blackburn and decided to visit her mother, who still lives in Blackburn, and bring her along to the cathedral to have a look.



Photographed next to the panels in the exhibition which tell her story she joked with cathedral staff that she could use her prosthetic right leg to do a dance if they liked, and proceeded to do one in *Morecambe and Wise* style.

Commenting, **Canon Chivers** said: "It's fantastic that Sue Hanisch was here. Her humour and resilience are characteristic of so many people who have overcome terrible suffering and learnt to forgive. What a privilege it was to have her back in her home town."

ANOTHER HONOUR FOR BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL



Blackburn Lay Canon, **Jimmy Armfield**, was also honoured in the recent New Year's Honours list: he was awarded a CBE for his services to the community in Lancashire.

Jimmy is a former High Sheriff of Lancashire, and was a star football player for England. We are honoured to have him as one of our lay Canons.

From Canon Andrew Clitherow in Lytham

Dear John

I wonder if you remember once taking a photograph of me standing at the high altar in the Cathedral, surrounded by incense at an Epiphany Carol Service. If you do, I would be most grateful if you could please email me a copy.

I miss the Cathedral and in particular its excellent music.

It is most useful to receive a copy of ***Music & More*** which helps to keep me in touch with what it going on. Thank you.

May all you do continue to flourish!

Best wishes, **Andrew**.



Yes: here you are, wreathed in holy smoke in 2008!

Mrs GAIL STANLEY, MBE, JP, DL

Your editor was honoured to be invited by Mrs. Gail Stanley to visit her in her lovely home so that she could share with me some of the exciting plans which are now being made to launch the Cathedral Appeal, of which she is the vibrant and influential Chairman.



'The Appeal must take a lot of your time,' said JB as Mrs. Stanley brought a tray of coffee and biscuits into her airy sitting room. 'Yes it is very busy at the moment, and the Appeal Team, who are based in Canon Hindley's former office, are working hard. I communicate most days with them.' She poured a cup of coffee and let me loose on a plate of delicious biscuits. 'Our Appeal Director is **Rupert Swarbrick**, son of **Rodney & Diana**.'

'Rodney was a High Sheriff of Lancashire, as were you,' remarked JB. 'Yes, and Diana is a member of the Cathedral Chapter,' responded Gail. She paused for a moment and added, '**Louise Hicks** is our Appeal Administrator – she was a cathedral choir parent – and we have just appointed a secretary, **Marie Greenhalgh**, who will be in the office to make sure that there's always someone at the end of a telephone as the Appeal gets under way.'

'I believe you're building up strong teams to help you to direct the Appeal?'

'Yes; our President is **Lord Shuttleworth**, who is Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire; he often attends functions in the cathedral – **Lady Shuttleworth** is, of course, Chairman of the Cathedral Council – and The Rt. Hon. **Jack Straw**, MP for Blackburn, has generously agreed to be our Patron.'



Above: The Dean with Lord Shuttleworth at the Royal Concert in Blackburn Cathedral in 2006 which was organised by Mrs. Stanley and attended by Princess Alexandra.

Left Lord Chancellor Jack Straw, in the cathedral last November, when he answered questions in company with Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.

'We are setting up an Executive Committee with the Dean and five chairmen of working groups. For example, we've invited Mrs. **Sue Carr** to chair the cathedral congregation's working group.'

'Sue's husband, Philip, is one of our churchwardens,' interrupted JB. 'He and his twin brother were cathedral choristers during my time as Director of Music here, and their son, Michael, is a member of our YPC,' he added.

'Yes, and there will be chairs for Community Cohesion, Diocesan, Business and Music. Our pre-launch dinner in March will be in the Cathedral itself (black tie) and the official launch for the Appeal will be in September,' added Gail. 'We aim to raise £3 1/2m to fund the cathedral's outreach to the community, to support its amazing music programme and to keep the cathedral itself in good repair.'

'It sounds as though you have everything organised already.'

'Oh, no – we're also setting up a limited company to create charity status for the Appeal; this will be managed by seven Trustees. And we shall be seeking active participation from the dedicated people of Lancashire; this Appeal is for the whole county, not just Blackburn.'

'How do you fit all your many activities into you life? I know that you are a member of the Cathedral Council, President of St John Ambulance in Lancashire, a Board Member of the University of Central Lancashire, Chairman of the local British Heart Foundation, and also an active Magistrate and former Bench Chairman.' (JB paused for breath.)

'I enjoy what I'm doing to the full,' answered Gail, 'and my husband, John, is also very busy. He's professor of upper limb surgery and he's also on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons.' Gail paused once more, and added, 'We have two children, both of whom are doctors, and we also have two grandsons!'



'This is a hugely exciting time for the Cathedral,' said Gail with a smile, 'and if we are to achieve our goal it will require the active and enthusiastic support of everyone.'

'Blackburn Cathedral is Lancashire's only C of E Cathedral – the red rose county. Its remarkable outreach work has already had a major impact throughout the diocese and beyond, and it needs a secure income to enable its inspiring ministry not only to continue but also to expand.'



After two mind-blowing hours, JB left Gail's gracious home with his head buzzing with the dynamic and ambitious plans that his hostess had shared with him.

These are indeed exciting times for us all.

**APPEAL
OFFICE**

Phone: 01254 50 30 90 x 434

rupert.swarbrick@blackburn.anglican.org
louisehicks@blackburn.anglican.org



Canon Chivers' Sabbatical in South Africa

What's a sabbatical? Not a holiday, as my long-suffering wife **Mary** - who hoped to see a bit more of me - would testify! Though it is meant to contain some holiday it's a period for work in a different context and for reflection on the work that you normally undertake. Almost five years in as **Canon Chancellor** was a good time for one. I spent mine lecturing, giving seminars, writing, editing, proof-reading the new cathedral guide book (which I'd finished writing just before I left for South Africa) and making a film.

The lecturing and seminars first. For a short while in December I was joined by my colleague, the cathedral's dialogue development officer, **Anjum Anwar MBE**, so that we could give a presentation at an international conference at the University of Cape Town to mark the United Nations **Year of Reconciliation**.



The conference was an important one because most of the world's leading practitioners in the fields of conflict resolution and reconciliation were there.

I also gave a number of seminars and talks for undergraduates and post-graduates about the work of **exChange** in the fields of community cohesion, reconciliation, inter-faith and extremism eradication. As a person who spent eight years before ordination in training to teach I found this classroom context very invigorating.

In terms of writing I worked on three books. Before I left I amassed the articles I have written in the last 5 years for national and international newspapers, periodicals and other publications. I located 130 - which is just over one a fortnight since I came to the cathedral. I re-read them as part of the reflection on the journey since coming to Blackburn and even approved of some of what I've written! 80 pieces I edited and substantially rewrote in some cases to form a collection: **Choose life: reflections of a priest-journalist**. All being well (it's with the publishers now) this should appear late in 2010.

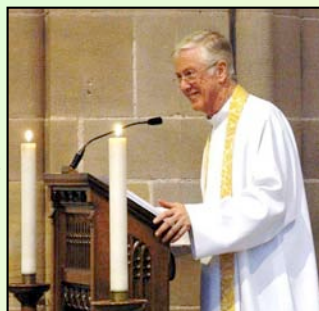
Also for publication in 2010 I edited 30 BBC scripts into book form as **Telling it slant: broadcasting faith in the twenty-first century**. This aims to give readers a devotional month's worth of 'services'. Once some copyright issues with the Church of England have been resolved this should be published fairly swiftly.

By the end of the sabbatical I was halfway through a third book: **Talks with Thabo**. This is based on 16 hours of recorded interviews I did in April 2009 with the new Archbishop of Cape Town, **Thabo Makgoba**, one of the emerging leaders of the Anglican Communion.



Towards the end of my time I gave the Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture in Cape Town - a somewhat terrifying event as about 500 people were there. I reflected on Shaping and being shaped by memory. (One lecture is on the cathedral website.)

As a family, the older boys were home-schooled by my mother-in-law, who did a fantastic job with them, taking them through the school syllabus as well as doing a project with them on the history of South Africa which included them interviewing **Harry Wiggott** - our Holy Week preacher in 2007, and the priest who ministered to **Nelson Mandela** on Robben Island and in Pollsmoor Prison - and **Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu**.



The latter was recorded on video by Dominic Gill who made a short film about **exChange** in 2009 and who joined us for two weeks to make a film about **Luvo Mbande**.



the boy whose education the cathedral has helped to fund through the Kay Mason Foundation. (Photo above with Greg). The film should be edited for a premiere at the cathedral in the summer before it is seen at various film festivals.

Mary coped with our youngest son, **Jonathan**, whose 'terrible twos' exhausted and entertained us.



He was a bit homesick but loved his time in South Africa especially the rapport he built up with Salati, an African elephant he fed when we went on a brief safari made possible through the generosity of the English Clergy Association, who help to fund clergy holidays in this kind of sabbatical as well as in other contexts.

We worshipped at **St George's Cathedral** for the most part, where I was previously on the staff. I preached there on our last Sunday.

We also worshipped in a house church with our friend Nancy Gordon, with whom we stayed for two weeks. For the rest of the time we lived with Niki, Carl, Daniel and Thomas Loubser - old friends - their two boys being the same age as **Dom** and **Greg**. We can't thank them enough for their hospitality.



The cathedral guidebook came back and forth in proof form and will be published at the end of March by Scala Publications.

I reflected a lot in prayer and bible study, and through spiritual direction, on my time at the cathedral. This was challenging which was good. **Three key themes emerged:**



One was gratitude for all the opportunities that you have given me, not least to get **exChange** going.

The second was more self-critical - a concern that I haven't always found the opportunities or the right means to keep you all more informed, engaged and may be more involved in what I'm doing.

The third was a reflection more generally that the cathedral institutionally hasn't really worked-out where to place the work I was asked to do in this ground-breaking area in relation to other work - not in my job description - which it wants done.

I've often felt that my work seems marginal to cathedral life when the business of people getting along with one another which is what community cohesion and interfaith is all about - whether one thinks this should be addressed from a cathedral or not - is utterly central to the present and future well-being of Blackburn and Lancashire, indeed of our whole society.

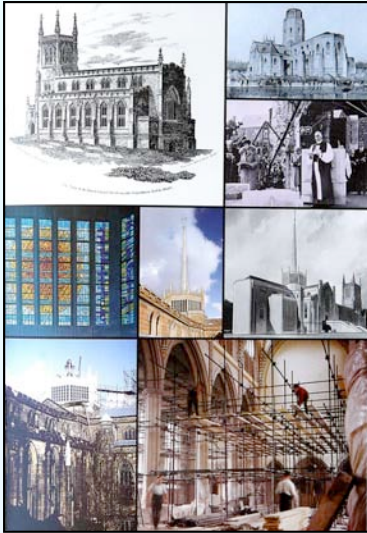
It's never easy to get all this right but as I've suggested already to the Dean this is something that as a whole community we will need to work through in the next few months. As ever, I welcome any feedback that might help us to do so.



Blackburn Cathedral Guide

...written by **Canon Chris Chivers**, has just been published. And what a magnificent and comprehensive guide it is! It's full, not only of splendid photographs of the cathedral as it now is in all its glory, but there are also historic photographs of the cathedral going way back to the origin of our present Nave in 1926 - and way before that, perhaps to 596 - for we are mentioned in the Saxon Chronicles!

There's a page devoted to some of these historic photographs:



Middle: One of the glorious glass panels designed by John Hayward for our 1967 Lantern Tower. (Alas this glass is now disintegrated.)

The present 1999 Lantern Tower.

Laurence King's 1964 less ambitious design for the cathedral - but even this was not fully realised.

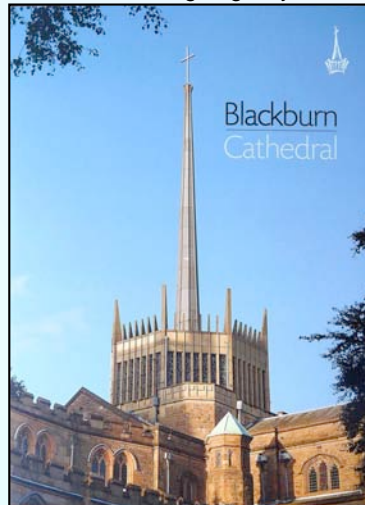
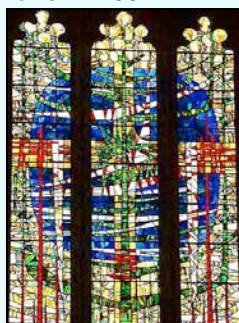
Bottom: The building of the new Lantern Tower in 1967

The transformation of the Nave in 1965 before John Hayward's *Christ the Worker* was affixed to the West wall of the Nave.

And there is so much more.

Copies may be obtained from the Cathedral shop. Only £3.99.

Part of the window in the South Transept by John Hayward made from the 19th century glass in the old Nave.



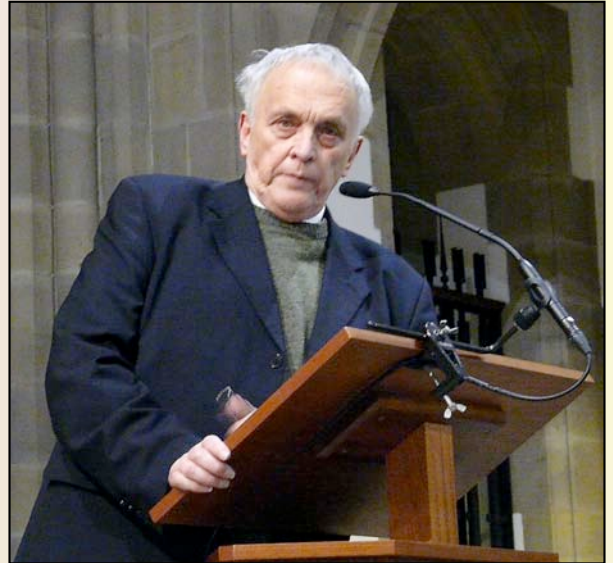
HISTORIC PHOTOS PAGE:

Top: The 1826 parish church
The ambitious 1935 design for the cathedral.

The laying of the Foundation stone by Bishop Percy Herbert in 1938 in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. (Now in the crypt)

FROM TROUBLEMAKER To Peacemaker

Revolutionary Reverend gives Temple Lecture



Mention of the name **Donald Reeves** when he was Rector of one of London's most famous churches, St James's Piccadilly, used to send shivers down **Margaret Thatcher's** spine when she was Prime Minister.



When **Enoch Powell** was going to St. James's to take part in a dialogue the Iron Lady described Reeves to Powell as 'a very dangerous man.'

Powell said afterwards that he thought the Rector 'a very nice man' and that he 'couldn't understand what all the fuss was about.'

At the time Reeves' church attracted the likes of **Norman Tebbit** and **Tony Benn** for some of the liveliest discussions in society.

This February our cathedral was the venue for Donald Reeves to reflect not only on his revolutionary reverend years but also his amazing work to bring peace in the Balkans. Braving the awful late wintry weather - it began snowing just two hours before the lecture started - the audience were treated to a sparkingly, engaging and informal presentation entitled **Reconciliation: walking the talk in the Balkans.**

'**From trouble-maker to peace-maker.**' This is how one newspaper recently commented on the journey that Donald Reeves has walked as director of '**The Soul of Europe**', an organisation that has given sustained attention over the last ten years and beyond to Bosnia, Kosovo and other trouble spots at the heart of Europe.

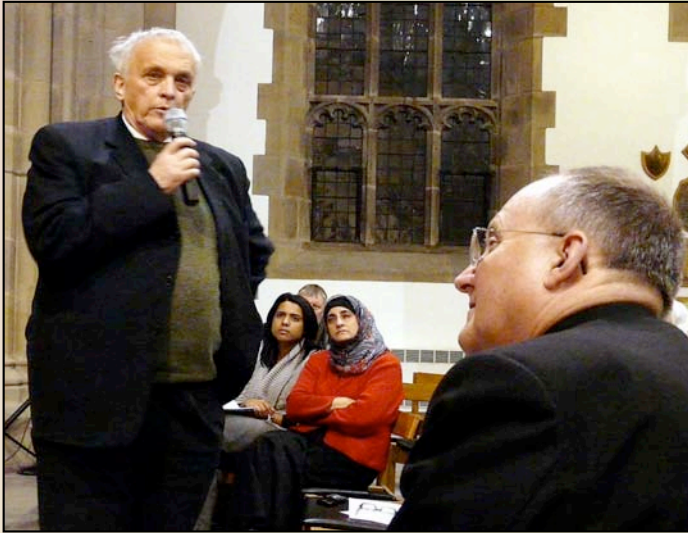
In the New Year's honours' list 2008 he received an MBE for his services to interfaith work, peace-building, and conflict-resolution in Bosnia Herzegovina.

And with this background he did not disappoint as he explained to his audience how one "began with talks about talks" - letting each side "decide on the layout of the room and so on" - before one ever got to "talk about anything of real substance".

He gave detailed illustrations of "the mapping exercise that you have to undertake to identify allies and spoilers" and the "attention that had to be given to the spoilers in particular." "It was easy," he suggested to "ignore the spoilers" but to do so "just stored up problems." "You have

to incorporate them," he added, "they're vital to peace-making."

He cited the international community "as one of the chief spoilers in the Balkans, because they do their six months' stint of duty in a place and just want to keep the lid on things so that it looks good on their CV, when what's needed is someone to take the lid off and get real."



"You need shoes and tables," he argued. "You have to stand in other people's shoes if you're to get them round the table, and not the grand tables in the marble-lined rooms of officialdom."

Having illustrated his peace-making activity from the story of a mine in Bosnia where torture was practised during the conflict in the 1990s, a torture of Muslims about which many were in denial, he was asked the qualities he thought a peace maker ought to possess. "Infinite patience and a certain kind of intuitive steeliness," he replied.

The following morning, as part of the cathedral's outreach work, **Anjum Anwar MBE** and **Canon Chris Chivers** took Donald Reeves to Burnley, and to the University of Central Lancashire campus there, where he addressed a class on the MA programme in interfaith and community relations.



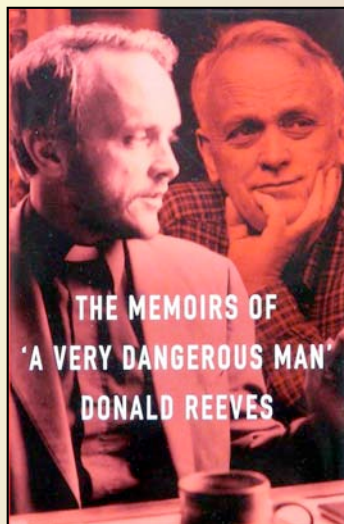
Commenting on the lecture and the class, Canon Chris Chivers said: "We flew nine young Bosnians to Blackburn earlier in the month when we opened the 'F word' (the Forgiveness project) exhibition in the cathedral.

"It was a delight to hear from one of the great humanitarians of our day how cross-cultural and interfaith work in their Bosnian context can indeed change even the most conflict-affected places in the world.

"There are important lessons for us to learn here in East Lancashire in what Donald Reeves had to say to us, and the framework he offered us, as we seek to reach across communities, build trust and foster friendship. We, too, need to look at who the allies and spoilers are, and how we can engage them in the conversations we're having."

Donald Reeves' autobiography was on sale after his address. Your editor bought a copy and found it wholly un-put-down-able.

JB started to read it as soon as he got home, and continued reading into the early hours for DR's writing enables the reader to travel alongside him throughout his extraordinary life. **Highly recommended.**



Donald Reeves : Post Script

At the end of Donald Reeves' lecture your editor asked him if **IVOR BOLTON** had been his organist when he was Vicar of St. James's Piccadilly. 'Yes.'

'Ivor was a chorister in Blackburn Cathedral and I taught him the organ,' said JB. 'He went on to win the organ scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge, where he continued his studies with John Rutter.'



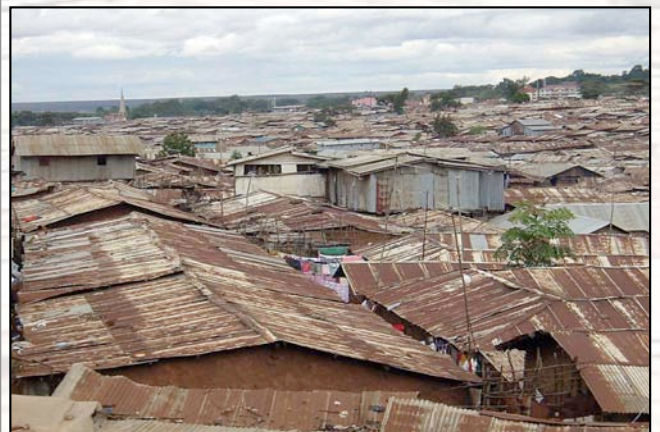
'Yes,' responded Donald Reeves again, 'and he's now an international conductor directing the Leipzig Mozarteum Orchestra and conducting at the London Proms.'



JB with his former chorister Ivor Bolton in 2008 after Ivor had conducted an outstanding concert in Bach's St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig for which he was given three standing ovations!

In Donald Reeves' book he mentions Ivor: **'The two most prominent directors of music at St. James's Piccadilly were Leopold Stowkowski and Ivor Bolton....'**

Kibera comes to Blackburn



KIBERA: an unspeakable slum on the outskirts of Nairobi, capital of Kenya

A Temple Lecture given by Rye Barcott and Salim Mohammed

When Canon Chris Chivers met a group of young 'twenty-somethings' in a Washington bar the night before the inauguration of President Barack **Obama**, one of them stood head-and-shoulders above the others.

Canon Chivers had just visited Bobby Kennedy's grave on

which are inscribed those inspiring words: *“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.”*

“Then I met **Rye Barcott**,” Canon Chivers recounts, “this animated, engaging former US marine who had served in some of the world’s most difficult trouble spots, who told me the story of how he and **Salim Mohammed** and the late Tabitha Atieno Festo founded a charity **Carolina for Kibera**. But not just any old charity: a charity in which the poor themselves set the agenda, dictated the pace and determined the programme. It was inspiring stuff and all of a piece with the Obama story, the new President himself being of Kenyan descent, who had lauded the charity’s work on a visit just prior to his presidential run.



Barack Obama
standing with
Salim Mohammed.

Salim is now a student at Manchester University – his journey to Blackburn was short; but Rye Barcott flew all the way from Kenya to be with us.

Returning to the UK, Canon Chivers was determined that people in Blackburn would have a chance to hear the story, which is how Rye and Salim came to give a Temple Lecture – to the back-drop of the F word exhibition (the Forgiveness project) – in our North Transept on 2 March 2010.

Earlier in the day this Christian-Muslim ‘odd couple’ – as they describe themselves – had given a talk to students in the University Centre at Blackburn College that had riveted them. In the cathedral they captivated a large audience which not only represented a wide cross section of the population in age range – from more senior cathedral parishioners through members of Woman’s Voice to young members of Youth Action – but also saw clergy from the diocese alongside trainee-imams from the Muslim College in Moss Street.



Bishop Nicholas introduced our two speakers, Rye and Salim.



Rye Barcott



and **Salim Mohammed’s**

honesty was one of the most striking features of what they said, the way in which – like our own Christian-Muslim pairing of Canon Chivers

and Ms Anwar – they were not afraid to expose the differences of opinions and perceptions they had shared when Rye first went to the Kibera slum for three months, and inevitably began from a perspective of “how to fix the problems...”

“Learning to listen to the voice of the poor themselves” and to the way in which “the solutions lay in their hands. Learning how to join in with their capacity to change their situation”. These were keys to the founding of a charity which linked the educational institution of which Rye is an alumnus – the University of North Carolina – with pioneering work in the Kibera slum.

For a Lancashire audience well-used to the dominance of soccer – as Africans like Salim tend to refer to it – the story they told of the football league deliberately setting out “to cross tribal boundaries” and “break down stereotypes” – was a fascinating one: how first wooden goal-posts had been stolen for fire-wood, then metal goalposts had been stolen to make bed frames before they drilled the latter with holes at intervals, so they could neither be made into beds nor used for water-pipes!



But most moving of all, perhaps, was the account of the late Tabitha Festo who got to know Rye, “she made me sit down and hear her story”, and who “with the minimal financial input of \$25 to start a vegetable-selling business, had soon saved \$100 profit, enough to start a clinic in a shack” which has now grown into a “purpose-built clinic at the heart of community treating thirty-thousand people.

It was a night when Bobby Kennedy’s tiny ripples of hope rolled across the cathedral as many more questions than could be answered produced yet more compelling evidence of what must surely be one of the world’s most rooted and revolutionary charities.

It was yet another of those unforgettable and inspiring cathedral occasions and ended with Rye and Salim embracing Blackburn when they wore Rovers’ scarves presented to them by Ms Anwar and Canon Chivers.



Ms Anwar & Canon Chivers thanking our two speakers after they had been presented with Rovers’ scarves.

Record RSCM Awards' Service

Never have we welcomed so many diocesan musicians to the cathedral to receive their Awards for long service, faithfulness and excellence! 82 Awardees plus another 50 singers from church choirs throughout the diocese, and also from Blackburn Cathedral, made it a special day for all of us who were privileged to be there.

The choir of singers, organists and choirmasters rehearsed under the direction of **Richard Tanner** from 10.30 that morning to give us a service which was not only beautifully sung, but also meticulously prepared so that everyone knew precisely where they should be, and how they should process. **Canon Hindley** was, as ever, thorough in his organisation. It was magnificent carried out. **James Davy** played the organ superbly, of course.



The massed singers lined up in the North Transept from where they sang the first Introit: **David Cooper's Come, my Way**, written for this service 5 years ago, with our own Head Chorister, **Matthieu Woodburn** singing the solo.

They then processed to the enlarged choir stalls to sing their second Introit, Stanford's *O for a closer walk*.

(Has there ever been a service in Blackburn Cathedral with *two* Introits?)

The singing of **Keith Bond's Responses** (Keith was sub organist here), **Walmisley** in D minor and **Walford Davies' King of Glory** was impressive.



And then came the Awards – equally meticulously prepared by the Diocesan RSCM Committee under the chairmanship of **John Catterall, MBE**, who has just been awarded an honorary ARSCM for his services to church music in this diocese. (He has 40 boy choristers in his choir at St. John's, Broughton, and 20 men!!)

First, **The Archdeacons' Award for Loyalty**.

The **Ven. John Hawley** said that today's choristers had begun their walk of loyalty to the Church: may they continue this walk so that, perhaps, some may be called to enter the Ministry of the Church.

The first chorister to receive the Archdeacons' Award was our own **Matthew Adekan**, followed by 43 more choristers from the Cathedral, and from St. John's Church Higham, St. John's Church Broughton and St Mary's Church Mellor.



Then came **The Dean's Award for Excellence**.



The Dean said that today we remembered **George Herbert**, some of whose texts we were singing at this service, who was one who had responded to the call of God. May there be many here today who will continue to offer their own excellence to God.

The first chorister to receive his Award was cathedral chorister **Jack Aspinall**, followed by 16 other choristers.

And finally, **The Bishop of Blackburn's Award for Excellence**, which was presented by the Bishop of Lancaster.



Bishop **Geoff** added his thanks to all who were receiving Awards.

He said, 'Music feeds the souls not only of those who are singing, but also of those who are listening.'

Our own **Jamie Bett** was the first in line, followed by 11 more choristers.

The Bishop then presented **Long Service Awards** to nine adults, including **Frank Ashton**, who was about to retire as organist and choirmaster of Mellor Parish Church after sixty years' service. He and all other recipients were warmly applauded by the singers and the packed congregation.

It was a glorious day for us all. Well done!



Looking below the surface

An archeological survey was recently carried out in the Cathedral Close by a team from Bradford: 'Graeme' and 'Jimmy' laid out the Close meticulously with enormously long tape measures which enabled them – with the help of a machine that looked like a lawn mower, but wasn't – to plot where large burials or stone caskets might be hidden beneath the surface.



This is a necessary task before work can begin on the first stage of the cathedral development plan. They had the place to themselves as this was carried out on a Saturday, and so the Close was virtually car-free,

The Manual Dexterity of Justin Miller

Justin, our talented organ scholar from the USA, who has been delighting our cathedral choirs and congregations by his expert playing as well as his delightful personality, recently gave an organ recital in St. Saviour's Church Bamber Bridge, where choir parent **Graham Halsall** is Vicar.



'I played music for Advent and Christmas', said Justin: 'Bach's *Great G major P&F*, *Boëllmann's Suite Gothique*, and lots of chorale preludes by Bach and Dupré.' *Did it go well?* 'Of course it did!'

(Photo Andy Bruce)

We are so grateful

to many generous readers of **M&M**
who have sent munificent donations to us
during recent months
to help this publication to keep going.

We need £1,000s

to ensure that it continues to flourish.

Cheques, please to **Blackburn Cathedral (for M&M)**
Bursar's Office, Cathedral Close, Blackburn BB1 5AA
Thank you so much!

From OC & former Organ Scholar DUNCAN ASPDEN in Buckinghamshire.



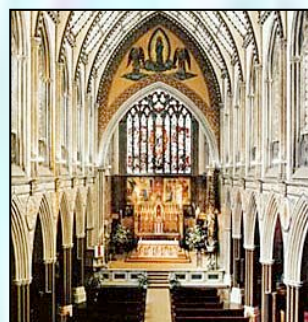
Duncan was a Blackburn Cathedral Chorister, and then became Organ Scholar for David Cooper whilst in the 6th form at QEGS 1991-2. He recently gave a splendid organ recital in Chichester Cathedral.

John: Yes: the Chichester Cathedral organ gave me a rare opportunity to practise properly; it is such a delightful instrument, though hard to play really well. A 30ft video screen which enabled the audience to see me playing took me slightly by surprise: nowhere to hide any rust on the pedal technique!



My current musical life is mostly conducting - primarily choirs, often backed by period instruments. My regular fixes are three chamber choirs based in London and Oxford, plus the professional church choir at Farm Street RC Church in Mayfair where I'm Associate Director of Music.

Farm Street Church is remarkable: it's discreetly located in the smartest bit of London, and has a fine history. There were boy choristers before the war, supposedly the best in London - George Malcolm said he based the famous Westminster Cathedral boys' sound on what he'd heard at Farm Street.



Since about 1960 there have been professional adults, initially under Nicholas Danby (who taught almost everyone who's anyone who passed near London) and now with David Graham (professor of organ at the RCM) and myself.

I conduct about half the Sunday services, and also book the singers. We keep a very large repertoire with lots of Mozart and Haydn, the Spanish Renaissance, and 20th century French and German particularly. Not much Parry, Stanford, Brewer, Howells *et al*, for we try to focus on what shows what our primarily operatic singers do the best. Weber's *Jubelmesse* is a real favourite - quite unthinkable with boys, but wonderful with our team.

Situated where it is, and as such a handsome church, there are lots of special services: more in fact than any other church in London apparently, and often for famous old families or celebrities. Though of course I couldn't possibly disclose who...!

I also play continuo (harpsichord and organ) whenever I can, and being otherwise freelance get involved in whatever else comes up. A lot of repertoire seems to come from Venice just now, perhaps because I got engaged there on a visit in January! **[Congratulations! JB]**

Haven't seen any other of my contemporaries at Blackburn for a while, though **David Knight** was 'Jonathan' in a performance of Handel's *Saul* in St James's Piccadilly for me last year. I also took a lot of pleasure in doing **David Cooper's *Dormi Jesu*** in a couple of Christmas concerts in 2008: the best tribute I could think of to a great influence.

Love hearing about Blackburn from your **Music & More!**
Duncan

Our Patronal Festival

... was sung by the Boys, Girls, Men and Young People's Choirs, with Philippa Hyde (Soprano) accompanied by members of the Northern Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Richard Tanner.

Our splendid team of Virgers had again worked hard to transform the Nave into a Collegiate style – with the massed choirs on risers and the orchestra at the West end of the Nave, and the clergy celebrating at the East end. (And, of course, the Virgers dismantled the risers and turned all the chairs back again for Evensong that afternoon!)



Photo taken by Andy Bruce before the service.

The music was, as ever, ambitious and glorious: Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*, and anthems by Eccard and Rachmaninoff.

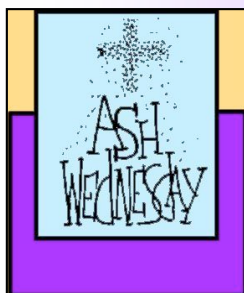
Music before the service, for organ and orchestral, was Albinoni's *Adagio*, and afterwards, a movement from Handel's *Organ Concerto Op. 7 No. 2*.

An imaginative innovation during the service was to give the congregation lighted candles – seen here during the reading of the Gospel.

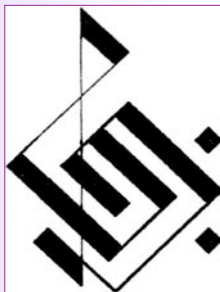


And 17 days later came Ash Wednesday

when the evening Solemn Eucharist was sung by
The Renaissance Singers
conducted by Richard Tanner



The sublime music, sublimely sung, was *Missa Inclina Cor Meum* by Philippe de Monte, *The Lent Prose*, *Remember not*, Purcell, and *Emendemus in melius* by William Byrd.



(The Singers' treble-and-bass clef logo was designed by OC Peter Heald)

Is there anything
WRONG WITH
THIS PICTURE?
(See our front cover)

Check the Lantern Tower glass in relation to the direction in which the Holy Spirit is facing.



Our Young People's Choir and Girls and Horses

In December, members of the Young People's Choir and some of the Girls' Choir conducted by **James Davy** visited Myerscough College to sing Christmas Carols as part of an Equestrian charity event for the Riding for the Disabled Association.



Singing in the bitterly cold International Arena the choir entertained the audience with traditional carols and other festive items, accompanied on an electronic piano by our organ scholar **Justin Miller**.

Despite the contrast in the performing space (a waxed sand floor instead of the Cathedral's limestone paving and no acoustic instead of our usual 6 seconds!) ... and also the cold weather, the well-wrapped-up choir made a great contribution to the evening, delighting the audience and helping to spread the word about the Cathedral's superb music programme into another part of the county.

Before we sang, choir member **Sarah Turner** gave a dressage demonstration on her horse, *Custard*, which was a delight to watch.



More Music and More

In addition to **The Dean's** generous comments about *Music and More* (see page 2)...

Mrs. Gail Stanley (see p. 25) said, '*Music & More* is a brilliant magazine – its quality is superb!'

And **Bishop Nicholas** wrote:

'You do a good journal, and work very hard on it, and I am glad there can be another first [in this issue]!'

What first? Ahh, yes!



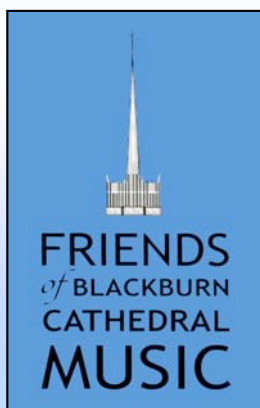
Mrs Gail Stanley when she was High Sheriff, in company with the Dean and the Bishop of Blackburn.

Our new Chair of the Council of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music



The Dean and Chapter are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms. **Kate Thompson** as our new Chair of the **Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music**, following the retirement of Rodney Swarbrick CBE, DL

Kate's mother worshipped at the Cathedral as a child and young person. After Kate's parents were married, the family, including Kate, worshipped at St James's Lower Darwen.



Kate became re-connected with the Cathedral five years ago, when her nephew **Niki Zohdi** joined the Cathedral choir as a young chorister

She has been a member of the FoBCM Council since its inception.

As a company Director with a lifetime of commercial experience, the Dean and Chapter, along with the FoBCM Council, believe that Kate is the ideal person to take the Friends forward.

Kate was born and brought up in Lancashire and entered public life at an early age when she was the youngest person ever to be elected to the Borough Council.

Music Outreach Project – King George's Hall



It was an amazing sight, and an amazing sound – to see and hear 400 children from fifteen schools, plus our own *Lantern Voices*, crowd into Blackburn's enormous King George's Hall to rehearse for a concert which would attract a capacity audience that evening. This was the largest number of children our Cathedral's Music Outreach Team has ever brought together at one time. Our dedicated Animatuers had been working for several months in Lancashire schools to bring this about – with great success, supported by a Government grant.

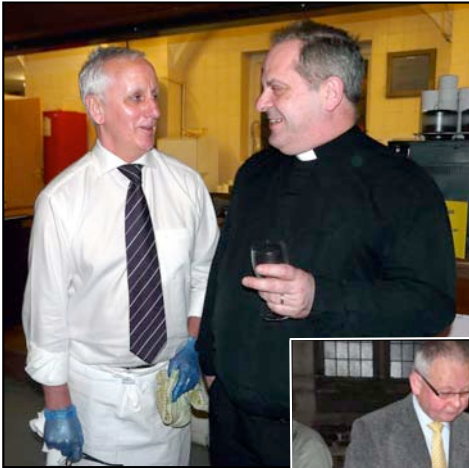
Your peripatetic photographer was highly impressed, not only by the singing but also by the impeccable organisation. We were told that the 400 children would be in their places ready to start rehearsing at 1.45 pm. And they were all there ready two minutes early!

Wow! Heartiest congratulations to their Animatuers, **Jeff Borradaile** (who led most of the singing that day), our own **Joy Fielding** and **Gill Fourie**, and recent assistant cathedral organist **David Scott-Thomas** at the electronic keyboard.

Photo (left): Jeff and Gill conducting the children.

This Season's Concerts' Launch

...was held in the Cathedral Crypt in March – preceded by a splendid buffet of tasty nibbles provided by our new chef, **Paul Flowers**, seen here talking with Canon **Andrew Hindley**.



Paul trained not only as a chef but also as a hotel manager. Before coming to Blackburn Cathedral he was managing four hotels. But he has settled in so well, and we are delighted to welcome him into our creative fellowship.



Edward Haythornwhite (left) was seen talking with **Rodney Swarbrick**, who enjoyed himself so much, as did we all.

Richard Tanner, in his presentation, told us that we now have eight choirs at Blackburn Cathedral, and all singers are voluntary. This must be a record! *Well done, indeed!*

Richard gave us a marvellous evening of music, with songs sung by the **Renaissance Singers** (what a superb blend they have – even in the unhelpful acoustic of the crypt). The star performers, everyone agreed, were our two head choristers, **Matthieu Woodburn** and **Alex Wood**, who sang duets and solos with professional confidence and

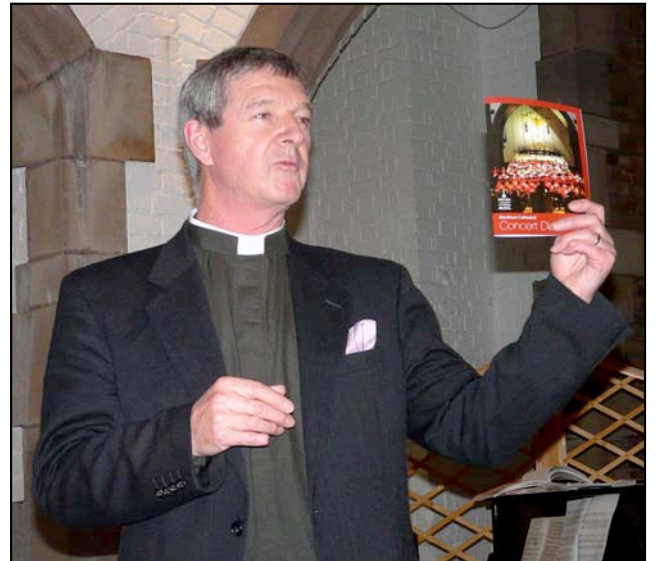


musical skill which enraptured their audience.

Their offerings ranged from Rutter's *For the beauty of the earth*, and an extract from Monteverdi's *Vespers*, to *O for the wings of a dove* (sung by Matthieu with excellent breath control) and *Blow the wind southerly* (sung unaccompanied and so exquisitely by Alex).

The Renaissance Singers' offerings were also far ranging and equally entrancing, from *Il est bel et bon*, to *Ain't Misbehavin*.

The **Dean** played his part, too. He not only welcomed us at the beginning and thanked **Rodney and Diana Swarbrick** for all that they had done for the Cathedral's music, but he also advertised the new Concerts' Diary in no uncertain manner!

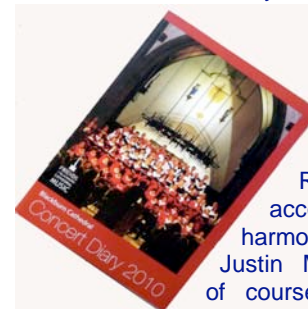


Our irrepressible **James Davy** sang 'Poisoning Pigeons in the Park' by Tom Lehrer. He did this, apparently, whilst he was still taking the YPC for a practice down the corridor. That young man is so talented! (Bilocation is clearly something to be worked at by us lesser mortals.)

And **Canon Hindley** brought the evening to a close by introducing to us **Kate Thompson**, (see p. 33), who has just succeeded Rodney Swarbrick as Chairman of the Council of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music.



Canon Hindley renewed his thanks to all our generous Sponsors and Friends, and said that everyone present (and their friends who weren't present) should become paid-up members of FoBCM. 'If you don't, I'll be after you!'



Richard and his strong music team have drawn up a mouth-watering series of concerts for us this year – including Monteverdi's *Vespers*, The Sixteen again,

Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonelle*, accompanied by two pianos and harmonium (!) played by organ scholar Justin Miller, and so much more, and of course, our **Christmas Spectacular**.

Give these Music Diaries to all your friends: they're FREE!

J. STUART PARKINSON

1934-2010

Faithful Sidesman and Choir Parent

Canon Hindley wrote:

Stuart had been ill for a couple of weeks but had only recently been admitted to hospital following a 'silent' heart attack.

He collapsed and died unexpectedly in hospital last evening.

Please remember Betty in your prayers.



Stuart's funeral on 25th March was a most moving occasion. It was attended by a large congregation with Cross and Candles, and a choir which sang Rutter's *The Lord bless you*, and Dyson's *Nunc Dimittis in D*.

Philippa Hyde sang *I know that my Redeemer liveth* accompanied by Richard Tanner.

Betty had chosen strong hymns for us to sing: *All people that on earth – 'to give thanks for Stuart's love of God and his lifelong devotion to Him'*, and *Eternal Father*, to reflect Stuart's time as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy during his National Service.

The Dean said that 'Stuart was one of the Cathedral's most faithful servants', and it was very moving to hear Stephen, Stuart & Betty's younger son, give a beautiful tribute to his father - which was laced with gentle humour.



Stephen, who had flown from New Zealand for the service, thanked all those who had written to Betty. 'It is good to be back in the cathedral where I was a chorister in the 1970s. My father was a gentle man, and everything worked in our home because of Betty's loving care.'

'Stuart used to collect his newspaper every morning from the local newsagent and, when the Asian gentleman there was told of my father's death, he cried.'



Canon Hindley also paid tribute to Stuart. Stuart's father was serving in the army in India. He told the story of Stuart and Betty being at junior school together.

One day Betty went home and told her mother, 'There's a boy in my class who's going to India, and when he comes back I'm going to marry him.' And she did – in 1948, 62 years ago.

Canon Hindley said that Stuart's love of music drew him to worship at the cathedral – thus the strong links with his family which have blessed us all. Stuart had many talents and he gave of himself unstintingly.

'He was a man who would make heaven a better place.'

Stuart: we thank God for every memory of you.

From OC DAVID TATTERSALL in New Zealand

Hi John,

I heard last night from my mother that Betty's husband Stuart has died last week in hospital. They were stalwarts of the Cathedral, and the choir in particular, during my time as a chorister and member of the YPC.

Betty is such a wonderful lady and as our Choir Mum she was such a treasure! (she had to be because your Mum was such a hard act to follow!!). Hope this finds you in good health. Give my Mum a call - she'd love to chat with you I'm sure.

Warmest regards,

David

It was a happy coincidence that a special old friend at Stuart's funeral was **Colin Edmundson**. Colin has had a most distinguished career as a skilled organist, as Academic Deputy Headmaster and Director of Studies at Bolton School and also as a Barrister.



But his first connection with Blackburn Cathedral was in 1965 when JB invited a few choristers from selected diocesan churches to sing with the cathedral choir at the Rehallowing of the Nave in the presence of **HRH Princess Margaret**.

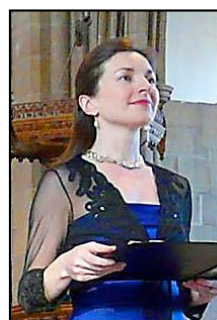
Colin was a chorister in the choir of St. Silas' Church, Blackburn, and both he and JB remember that Rehallowing occasion as though it were (almost) yesterday!

from
OC GORDON FIELDING
in Cheshire



Dear John,

I sang in a memorable performance of the St Matthew Passion yesterday, at Shrewsbury Abbey.



Comments have been made on the sensitivity of the singing of the Arias. This was particularly true of the Soprano soloist, **Pippa Hyde**. It was such a great pleasure to see her gracing the performance, which was quite moving.



The background for me was that The Lydian Singers, of which I am a member, were invited by our DofM to join with one of his other choirs, The Phoenix Singers, who are based in Shrewsbury. Both are small Chamber choirs, so it would have been quite a challenge for just the one choir.

Our choir are singing the weekend Services at Durham in three weeks. **Rachel Fielding** will be joining with us on this occasion, to add a little more Fielding representation to our choir. It's a rather large building to fill with sound, without the benefit of the Blackburn acoustics.

I recently did a count up of the number of Cathedrals in which we have sung. It came to over 50, in the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe. No doubt other BCOCA members have similar records.

With best wishes,

Gordon

Congratulations and thanks, JB

Our 8th Choir !

Ever since RICHARD TANNER was a chorister in the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral 30 years ago (which was directed by the brilliant BARRY ROSE), it has been his ambition to direct the music at a cathedral where daily Choral Evensong is sung.

Well, thanks to his creative initiative, he fulfilled his ambition this Lent. Our 'regular' choirs sang Choral Evensong on Sundays and also on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. (See p. 15.)

But for Fridays he formed a special choir called **BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CONSORT** made up of hand-picked adults who generally rehearsed for only 35 minutes before each service.



Photo: Andy Bruce

And what an ambitious programme of music they sang!

February 19 A service to honour the 100th birthday of former Peterborough Cathedral organist, Dr. STANLEY VANN.

Responses Vann *

Canticles Vann in e minor

Anthem *Ave Maria*

composed for Blackburn Cathedral by Dr Vann.



February 26

Canticles Daniel Purcell in e minor

Anthem *Cast me not away* – S. S. Wesley

March 5

Canticles *First Service* – Thomas Morley

Anthem *O Lord, look down from heaven* – Battishill

March 12

Responses David Cooper

(Director of Music, Blackburn Cathedral 1983-95)

Canticles *Fauxbourdon* – Cooper

Anthem *Drop, drop slow tears* – Cooper

March 18

Canticles Magnificat, verses alternating with *Joseph lieber, Joseph mein*

Anthem *The Cherry Tree carol*

March 26

Canticles Thomas Hunt

Anthem *Woefully array'd* (Cornysh)



Well done, Richard and Blackburn Cathedral Consort.

***Alas, we learned that Dr Stanley Vann had a fall in March and died a few days later. How fitting it was that he lived to be 100 knowing that he was honoured, not only by his cathedral organist colleagues and friends, but also by countless former choristers who had passed through his musical hands.**

More Bells, Bells, Bells

Our talented organ scholar, **Justin Miller**, has attracted some adventurous members of our congregation to form a bell choir. He invited your editor to visit them in the Bishop Chesters room one evening, where six stalwarts were eagerly lapping up all that Justin revealed to them.

'You ring a bell as though it were a glass of wine – you keep it upright so that you don't spill any,' he said. (I didn't know that!)



L-R: Louise Hicks, Carol Fishwick and Rowena Gibson not spilling a drop.

So far they're tackling simple music – hymn tunes – playing your one note whenever it comes in the tune. (But Rowena was entrusted with two different notes!) That takes a lot of concentration if you've not done it before, especially if you have to play the second note of a pair of quavers (which comes off the beat).

At the end of the hour the ringers gave Justin a present to show their appreciation of his good-humoured patience – a chocolate car with his name on! Well done!



Afterwards, former choir-parent Rowena introduced your editor to her fiancée, **Cecil Hargreaves**, who was also a novice bell-ringer. 'We're getting married in the cathedral on July 3rd,' said Rowena.

Congratulations!



Richard Tanner's 40th Birthday...

... was celebrated in great style at the *Epernay Champagne and Cocktail Bar* in Manchester in March. (Very smart!) **Pippa Hyde** had kept it as a closely guarded secret from Richard until the last moment. When he arrived he was greeted by some of his closest friends:



L-R: Richard, Roger Barlow, Dr Barry Rose (who was DoM at St. Paul's Cathedral when Richard was a chorister) and your editor. Roger Barlow who owns Gerrard Seel, sponsors our New Year's Eve concerts AND supplies the champagne!

Richard's Mother was there, of course – **Dame Mary** – who was chatting to **Simon Vivian**, BBC producer, who is young **Ben Tanner's** godfather.

And equally 'of course' there was a strong party of friends from the cathedral:

Mary & Canon Chris Chivers, James Davy, Sarah Turner and organ scholar Justin Miller.



Our delightful hostess, **Pippa Hyde** (extreme right), had organised the evening marvellously for as well as champers there were delicious nibbles and a splendid birthday cake.



With Pippa were (L-R): Sally-Anne Heaford, Sasha Johnson Manning, (Sasha had composed the Manchester Carols –see p. 14) and Charlotte Vivian.

More stalwart cathedral guests were there to enjoy it all:



Virginia Crewe, Russ Steele, Canon Andrew Hindley, SOC Emily Crewe and her Dad, Peter.

Late arrivals (because they had driven all the way from Sheffield to be with us) were **Mary and Neil Taylor**.



The barmen were highly skilled at mixing delicious drinks, as well as providing excellent champagne. They even provided cups of tea for one guest!



Neil, who is DoM of Sheffield Cathedral, had given a stunning recital in Blackburn Cathedral the previous month. We're still talking about it!

Richard cutting his birthday cake.

And there was a surprise present for Richard, which had been organised by our brilliant Assistant DoM, **James Davy**.



It was a book of anthems, most beautifully printed, composed especially for Richard by some of his closest colleagues:
(In alphabetical order):

John Bertalot

David Briggs (who was the consultant for the rebuilding of our organ)

Chris Chivers (who wrote his own words as well as his music)

James Davy

Simon Lole (former DoM of Salisbury Cathedral)

Sasha Johnson Manning (see above)

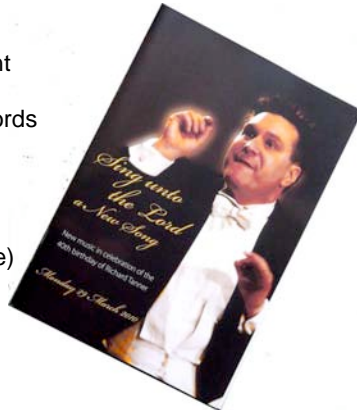
Matthew Owens (DoM of Wells Cathedral), and

Andrew Parnell (former sub Organist of St. Alban's Abbey where Richard was organ scholar).

Canon Hindley had written a laudatory tribute to Richard, and the book had been designed by **Reyhana Daud** whose artistic work enhances so much of our work at Blackburn Cathedral.

It was a wonderful evening (some of us didn't get home until 2.00 am!).

Thank you, Richard and Pippa!



Pre-Launch Dinner for the Appeal for Lancashire's Cathedral

Blackburn Cathedral (*Lancashire's Cathedral*) was filled with some of Lancashire's Great and Good one evening in March. They'd come to show their support (both moral and practical) for the £3½m Appeal which will be launched this autumn to further the Cathedral's creative outreach.

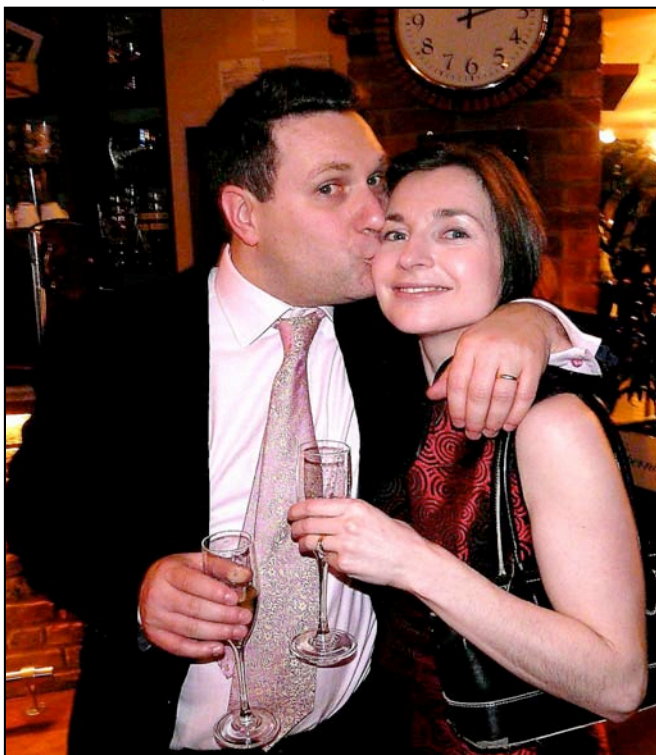
Mrs Gail Stanley, the Appeal's Chairman, welcomed guests at the West door.



Bishop Nicholas and Mrs Reade being welcomed by Mrs Stanley
Canon Sue Penfold enjoyed meeting Faiths Act Fellow Ushna Mughal and Mr Roger Graham, of *Graham and Brown*, which has been a most generous benefactor of the cathedral.



whilst Canon Andrew Hindley welcomed (L) Mr & Mrs Gordon Taylor, (Mr Taylor is Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers' Association), and Professor John Stanley, surgeon.



One of our distinguished guests was **Chief Superintendent Robert Eastwood**, seen here with Mrs. Stanley. He is Commander of the Eastern Division based at Greenbank.



When your editor asked **Lord Shuttleworth**, the Appeal's President, if Lady Shuttleworth would be with us that evening, he replied, 'No, she's in Hereford to see her twin sister being sworn in as Herefordshire's High Sheriff!'

And then dinner was served in the North Transept. And what a magnificent setting it was to hold such a significant event!



At the **Dean's and Mrs. Armstrong's** table they welcomed the Rt. Hon. **Jack Straw**, MP for Blackburn – who is the Appeal's Patron.

In his speech of support for the Appeal, Mr. Straw stressed the importance of the outreach of the cathedral which covered not only the whole of Lancashire, but it also was being felt in the corridors of power at Westminster.



Between each delicious course **Richard Tanner** introduced some of the cathedral's musicians who sang and played for us, including Head Choristers **Matthieu Woodburn and Alex Wood**, former chorister **Angela Hicks**, YPC member **Barry Hudson-Taylor** who played Beethoven exquisitely, and organist **Justin Miller** who played Elgar.

Richard stressed the enormous scale of the musical outreach of the cathedral – for not only do we have 8 choirs made up entirely of voluntary young people and adults who come from a wide area around Blackburn, but

there is also a major musical outreach to 75 Lancashire schools which involves 2,000 children and their teachers. 'The government has supported this latter outreach, but as that source of finance will shortly cease we urgently need funding to continue – and to expand – this ministry to the whole diocese.'



When **Canon Chivers** spoke, he said that after he had taken up his ministry as Canon Chancellor five years ago, he was told that there was no budget for his work! And so he has had to raise it himself – some £500,000 – which has enabled him and Ms **Anjum Anwar** MBE to interact with over 75,000 people of many faiths.

Canon Chivers continued: 'Archbishop Desmond Tutu recently said of us: "**ExChange** at Blackburn Cathedral is one of the most dynamic and hopeful agencies in the world today. It is doing amazing, ground-breaking work to foster peace and friendship across communities. Is there any more important work in our twenty-first century context?'

'That's a lot to live up to. But with your help and the help of the many beyond this cathedral, whom you influence and represent, we can do our best to reach many thousands more.'

Canon Hindley said that in his 15 years at the Cathedral he has been proud to be associated with fund raising for projects totaling in the region of £4m including major restoration work on the fabric, new lighting, new heating, new sound systems, and now we need to replace all the 45 year-old chairs as well as to improve the outside of the cathedral – which is seen by so many people due to its central position in the borough.

Mrs. Gail Stanley, the Appeal's Chairman, stressed the significance of the cathedral's outreach to the whole of the diocese and beyond, 'for this is **Lancashire's Cathedral, not just Blackburn's.**'



Lord Shuttleworth, Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, commended the Appeal to us all in the warmest terms. He was confident that we would reach our target, given the tangible goodwill which was so apparent tonight.

And so the evening drew to a close – but no-one wanted to leave – for they had all enjoyed such a good time.

Edwin and Annie Booth certainly showed their joy...



...and **Gail Stanley** gave special thanks to her Appeal team – **Rupert Swarbrick and Louise Hicks** – whose hard work had ensured the success of that happy evening.



Our next edition (in October) will be so full of news that we may have to exceed our record of 40 pages!

The Musical Offerings at the Cathedral up to (and beyond) Easter

were so rich, so varied, so magnificent and so inspiring, that it would take 4 more pages to describe them. But space won't permit.

Let's take just one example—Wednesday in Holy Week:

The **Renaissance Singers**, with **Philippa Hyde** (Soprano), sang a most exquisite programme of music ranging from William Cornysh (1465-1523) *Woefully Arrayed*, to Kenneth Leighton (1929-88) *Crucifixus pro nobis*.

They began with Allegri's *Miserere* (top Cs sung by **Rachel Fielding – p.4**) – they sang this in sections in all four corners of the Cathedral in turn – N. & S. Transepts, E. Ambulatory, the West end of the Nave, and ending at the head of the Nave on Risers. The effect was dramatic – especially as choral sections were interlaced with readings and prayers.

15 year-old **Barry Hudson-Taylor** played Beethoven's *Moonlight 1st movement* so musically, and **James Davy's** playing of Howells' *Out of the deep* was transcendent.

The audience listened in stunned silence - no applause.



There was a choral service on Maundy Thursday, two on Good Friday and three on

Easter Day, beginning with the Young People's Choir rehearsing at 4.15 am for a 5.30 am service!



170 Years

Bernard West, devoted cathedral choirman with TLD, JB and DC, recently celebrated his 90th birthday!



He received many cards from Old Choristers, including one from

Dean David Frayne!

'How did they all know it was my birthday?'

Bernard asked JB.

Bernard was also Founder-Secretary-Treasurer of the Blackburn Bach Choir (now *Renaissance Singers*). 'I'm having to walk with two sticks now,' said Bernard, 'but I'm keeping very cheerful.'

Photo of Bernard taken at our 2009 BCOCA Reunion.

Well done, Bernard!

OC **Peter Fielding** has just had a successful second hip operation.

'Hip-hip hooray!' he quipped.



Peter is looking forward to his birthday in July when the Fielding Clan will gather from all over the UK. He'll be only 80!



ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT • www.ram.ac.uk

15 March 2010

From the Principal

Richard Tanner

Dear Richard

I am very pleased to inform you that our Governing Body has elected you Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM).

You may like to know that Associateship may only be offered to past students of the Academy who have distinguished themselves in the music profession and made a significant contribution to it in their particular field.

I hope that you will accept this honour. Lord Burns, Chairman of the Governing Body, would like to present you with your ARAM certificate on Tuesday 11th May 2010, at an informal celebration at 3.30pm, in the Duke's Hall. There will also be a chance, for those who have not visited the Academy recently, to enjoy a brief tour after the event.

Many congratulations on becoming an Associate of the Academy.

Yours sincerely

Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood
Principal

Canon Andrew Hindley,
the Canon Sacrist, said,

'Richard's absolute commitment to cathedral music goes without saying. To be recognised as making an outstanding contribution to his field by the Royal Academy of Music is a huge and well-deserved honour.'