



The most important years of my life Page 11

Music & More

2013 No. 1

Blackburn Cathedral

£2



Snowdon conquered by piano & song p. 16

THREE FORMER CHORISTERS OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

David Rothwell, Peter Crowther & Tim Ferguson



SANG AT TWO 'PROMS' THIS SEASON
televised by the BBC from
THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL!



Number 1:

Former Chorister DAVID ROTHWELL

tells us what it was like to be so closely involved in one of them.

I had a surprise telephone call from Dr Douglas Lee in Hest Bank.

Douglas and Rachael Lee are two of the prime "movers and shakers" of RSCM activities both in the North West and nationally. When I joined Lancaster Priory choir about 18 months ago, I had noticed a photograph of Rachael in the Choir Vestry's "Rogues' Gallery" of former Directors of Music.

I then met Rachael and Douglas when I was invited to sing with RSCM Voices North (formerly the RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers). During one of our conversations it emerged that Rachael is the daughter of Blackburn Cathedral Old Chorister, Albert Ogden (who joined the cathedral choir as a treble in 1936!). What a small world!

Rachael also founded and continues to direct the Rushley Singers, based in Hest Bank, of which O.C. Peter Crowther JP is a founder-member and Chairman



I assumed that the reason for the telephone call was to deal with some minor administrative matter for RSCM Voices North, but that was not the case. The Rushley Singers had been asked to join with the Manchester

Chamber Choir and the Northern Sinfonia Chorus to form a 150-strong North of England choir to perform a newly-commissioned work ("Credo") by James MacMillan at one of the BBC Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall. Douglas asked if I would like to join the Rushley Singers for that event. It took about half a millisecond to reach a decision – Yes, please!

Douglas e-mailed the rehearsal schedule – 5 with the Rushley singers and 2 with the other two choirs – all rehearsals were compulsory. *Disaster!* One of the joint rehearsals clashed with some arrangements that we had already made to visit friends and family in Devon - I was in danger of being sacked as quickly as I had been recruited! One pleading e-mail later and my apologies for absence from that rehearsal were accepted – *Phew! That was close!*

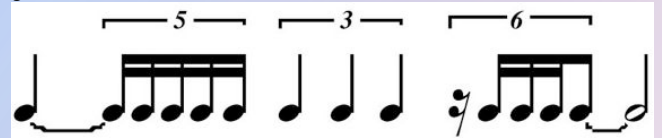
The initial rehearsal was cancelled because the publishers had not yet printed the music!

The music was eventually printed and issued before the next scheduled rehearsal to give us all the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the notes individually. *Help!* I had always thought that my sight-reading was fairly good, but this was impossible! There were x-tuplets all over the place (where x = any odd number), complex combinations of intervals, multiple dissonances with other parts, and absolutely no clues in the orchestral reduction to help with the pitching of the first note of any phrase. This was going to be hard!

When we assembled for the first rehearsal it was apparent that I was not alone in my concerns, and our first attempts were somewhat cacophonous. I was greatly impressed by Rachael's rehearsal – not only had she prepared a timed rehearsal plan, but she had already identified the "totally impossible" sections and had solutions to reduce them to just "very difficult". (The word 'Hippopotamus' is great for practicing quintuplets, because the five individual syllables naturally have equal length.)

Out of mutual bewilderment is born camaraderie! In the natural breaks in the rehearsal, there were small groups of people working separately to tackle some of the most difficult phrases. At other times it was possible to hear encouraging phrases being spoken – "Mission Impossible", "Mountain to climb", "I'll follow you". We all left that first rehearsal feeling very scared!

One of the outstanding contributions was from Andy Plowman, the rehearsal accompanist, whose ability to read ledger lines (some of which needed more than the fingers of two hands to count!), to interpret all manner of complex rhythms and to reproduce chords spanning many octaves was sheer genius!



Over the next two or three rehearsals some of the phrases became familiar and, gradually, there began to be more right notes than wrong ones! Rachael's patience (and ability to spot wrong notes!) was incredible – many lesser mortals would have withered under the strain!

The final Rushley Singers' rehearsal, prior to the combined rehearsal, was led by **Justin Doyle**, the Principal Conductor of the Manchester Chamber Choir and the appointed Chorus Master for the 3 combined choirs. He was a chorister at Westminster Cathedral, studied at King's College, Cambridge and is a very popular opera, orchestral and choral conductor. (Oh, and his Mum sings in the Rushley Singers!) Naturally, everyone was keen to show that the Rushley Singers were

every bit as capable as their perhaps more famous counterparts in the chorus, and all the hard work of the previous rehearsals suddenly all came together, and allowed Justin to concentrate on interpretation, with just a few corrections of occasional errors. We had done well!

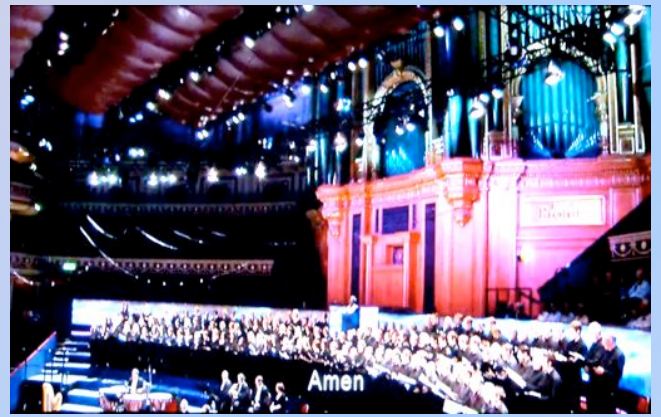
I missed the first joint rehearsal at the University of Cumbria, but one of my colleagues had made meticulous notes for me of things which had been changed/decided at that rehearsal, and which allowed me to annotate my score in advance of the next rehearsal.

The second joint rehearsal was held in The Studios at Media City in Salford – Wow, what a fantastic facility!



After a chorus rehearsal with Justin, we rehearsed with the BBC Philharmonic and their Principal Guest Conductor, Juanjo Mena. This was our first real opportunity to experience the effect of the whole work and to discover that working with the orchestra was very different from a piano reduction! For the first time, it felt like things had come together and that this was really going to happen. The rehearsal with the orchestra seemed to be over very quickly – such was the level of concentration (panic?). As was to be expected, the rehearsal concentrated on speeds, expression and enunciation – whilst we were all individually aware of errors that we made, there appeared to be a tacit assumption that we would sort those out for ourselves, and the emphasis was on the “bigger picture”.

The 7th August arrived. Peter Crowther had kindly arranged for the coach to collect a couple of us from Broughton. Since retirement, I had forgotten that there were two 6 o’clocks in a day!



Peter Crowther is on the extreme right, back row



I was totally impressed that whilst he was conducting an orchestra engaged in all manner of musical acrobatics, he was always in total communication with the choir through his baton, through his facial gestures and through his eye-contact.

When it came to the performance, the Royal Albert Hall was virtually full. Again, we had the opportunity to soak up the atmosphere (and to observe the TV cameras at work) during the Wagner and then it was our turn. The 20-minute work seemed to be over in a flash. The extended applause from the audience told us that all our blood, sweat and tears had all been worth it! **James MacMillan** came onto the stage to take his share of the applause and he appeared to be delighted with our efforts.



The concert was broadcast live on Radio 3, but was also recorded by BBC Four (TV) to be broadcast three days later.

This was our opportunity to hear not only how we had performed, but also how the whole work had come together – we had all been so focussed on the complexities of our own voice parts that we didn’t really have an appreciation of the overall effect of this “*world première*”. Although the work was designed for a concert performance, the complex rhythms, the different tonalities, the hints of plainsong and of different religious cultures all combined to produce a real spiritual and atmospheric effect.

The coach arrived back in Preston at 4am – a very long but exciting day! It was a great privilege to be able to participate in such an exciting venture and I am most grateful to Rachael and Douglas Lee for their kind invitation. *What’s next?!*

David Rothwell



The initial chorus rehearsal was held in the **Royal College of Music** (just across the road from the Royal Albert Hall), which was a privilege in itself!

The final rehearsal, with the BBC Phil. and the conductor **Juanjo Mena**, followed in the Royal Albert Hall.

The choir was strung out in three long rows – the sopranos were a short bus ride away from the basses! This was our first view of that most impressive building. The arena, where the promenaders stand, was much smaller than I remembered from watching previous proms. on the TV, but the concentric tiers of loggia boxes, grand tier boxes, second tier boxes, circle and gallery were totally awe-inspiring.



The session started with the orchestra rehearsing Wagner’s Prelude to Act 1 of “Tristan and Isolde”, which allowed us a few minutes just to absorb the fantastic atmosphere and to realise that this was really happening – to us!

The rehearsal was actually quite short – just a couple of run-throughs and a few final details of interpretation. James MacMillan was there and offered a couple of explanations of the effects that he had intended, which we hadn’t quite achieved, but he was most complimentary about our efforts. We didn’t tell him that we had spent a lot of time cursing some of the most difficult passages!

Juanjo Mena’s command of English was not easy to understand, but it was really quite inspirational that he was able to communicate his thoughts absolutely perfectly through his conducting style.

Promenade Concert Number 2:

Former Blackburn Choral Scholar **Tim Ferguson** was seen at another Prom in the Royal Albert Hall, singing with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, when they gave a scintillating performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony under the inspiring direction of **Daniel Barenboim**.

They all sang from memory and Daniel Barenboim conducted from memory! That's the way to do it!



When **Daniel Barenboim** first heard the choir he as 'bowed over by the freshness of their sound.'



The orchestra was Barenboim's own West-Eastern Orchestra (which is now led by his son, **Michael**) which was founded in 1999, and is made up of many races: Egyptian, Iranian, Israeli, Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Syrian and Spanish.

One young player said, 'The orchestra is a human laboratory that can express to the whole world how we can understand one another better.'



'The Guardian' commented: There can be no gainsaying the tremendously fresh contribution of the National Youth Choir, whose members delivered an encounter with Beethoven's hymn to the intoxications of freedom that none of them should ever forget.

*Well done, Tim – and well done Rachael, David & Peter!
But see p. 7 for yet another OC's Prom experience.*

From former Chorister **DAVID ROBINSON in Cheshire**

Dear JB:

I have only just got around to perusing this year's M&M No 2 (explanation later).

What a fascinating read was the historical piece about Blackburn. The things I never knew!

As far as sending the magazine online, I'm all in favour. Please sign me up.

The reason I'm late catching up is that I've been a busy boy. In March my companion **Jan** joined the staff at the residence of Lady Cholmondeley (pronounced *Chumley*) – three miles from here – and a regular haunt of various royals. A week into the job she slipped in a corridor and broke her arm (the humerus, a very awkward place). An operation was done and now, after nine weeks of very painful non-healing, she is able to fend for herself to some extent.

We have two horses, three dogs and two chickens to look after and make a meal every day for our 92-year-old neighbour. Just before the accident our other neighbour (we have only two) [*sic*] asked if we could walk and feed his dog for five weeks while he was in hospital. They say a *woman's* work is never done!

To augment our income while Jan has been unable to earn (self-employed) I have revived the crossword business which my late wife ran for many years. I have a brand new website www.crosswordshop.co.uk Fellow readers please take a look. Yours, **David**

Here's a Crossword offering for M&M



CLUES

ACROSS: 7 Vigilance (7) 8 Picture (5) 9 Gowns of office (5) 10 Tramp (7) 11 Lack of strength (10) 14 Division (10) 17 Not either (7) 19 Hurry (5) 20 Senior (5) 21 Columns (7).

DOWN: 1 Drops [of air] (7) 2 Melt (8) 3 Irregular (6) 4 Circle (4) 5 Lethal (5) 6 Measure of length (10) 9 Testimonials (10) 12 Bags (8) 13 Polishing substance (7) 15 Sudden (6) 16 Breezy (5) 18 Rent (4).

ANAGRAM

Rearrange the following letters from the grid to find a surname common among some former Cathedral choristers and clergy:

C3 B6 F10 J13 D2 K1 H12 M8

(Answers on p. 10)

A dazzling report by Canon Godfrey Hirst, former Residentiary of Blackburn Cathedral.

Musical sizzler on a summer evening

The Parish Church of Kirkham resonated to the summer sounds of the fantastic Renaissance Singers from Blackburn Cathedral. 32 members of this nationally recognised chamber choir made it a charity night to remember for an audience comprising local Kirkham parishioners, freemasons, and many other distinguished guests:



Back row left – Samuel Hudson, Musical Director, and five of the Singers plus James Davy, Assistant DoM.

Front L-R, The Hon. Mark Menzies MP, David Randerson (Chairman of The South Fylde Group), The Revd Canon Godfrey Hirst (Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain), Revd Rick Bunday (Vicar of Kirkham Parish Church), and Peter & Lesley Collins (Fylde Borough Deputy Mayor & Mayoress).

The Singers sang a wide and varied programme of famous vocal works that included Britten's *Choral Dances from Gloriana*, Bach's *Lobet den Herr'n*, Palestrina's *Exsultate Deo*, and four pieces by the Singers' Founder, John Bertalot: *Wesley's Gavotte*, *Ave Verum Corpus*, *Alouette* and the rousing *Abide with me*.



The audience were thrilled to hear the voice of The Revd Canon Godfrey Hirst who sang *O Isis and Osiris* from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, accompanied by Peter Jebson. Canon Hirst also acted as compère for the evening and gave an informative historical insight into the Masonic music of Mozart before his solo.

The profits raised at this musical evening will be shared between the Church Funds and Masonic Charities.

Thank you, Canon Hirst, and many congratulations!

Why haven't you heard from Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association?

Because you probably haven't let us know your MAILING address and your e mail address!

Please do it now!

john@bertalot.org snapeamanda@yahoo.co.uk

From David Goodenough in Edinburrrr

He's Director of Music at Fettes School in that great city and former Organ Scholar & Assistant DoM of Blackburn Cathedral.

Dear John,



I have a really busy Edinburgh Festival Fringe coming up. **Seven** solo recitals in two weeks and two concerts at the end of August accompanying the National Youth Choir of Scotland on that phenomenal Reiger organ in St. Giles' Cathedral.

My first concert is tomorrow evening. So, this is my busiest Festival Fringe yet - but I LOVE it! It's great to be in demand!

My son, **James**, who has rapidly reached the age of 16, is giving his first solo recital tomorrow in the Fringe. I hear impossible Chopin being practised as we speak...

Cheery bye,
David

Wow! Whatta talented family! Congratulations. JB And David gave a fabulous lunchtime concert for us in October which left us breathless. THANK YOU, DAVID!

OC Colin Young in Blackburn

Readers of *M&M* will remember that we featured Colin's trumpet-playing younger daughter, **Elzbieta**, in our last edition – she had won a place in the brass finals of the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year*.

Well, Colin sent this recent cutting from the *Lancashire Telegraph* which tells of the fine achievements (and similar great promise) of his elder daughter, **Alexandra**.



Colin's younger daughter, **Elzbieta**, has two more years at Chetham's School of Music and then she is hoping to go to University to study Languages.

Wow! Another talented family! Congratulations. JB

MUSIC & MORE

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THANK YOU!

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Phone: **01270-62-41-22**

From former Organ Scholar Tom Daggett



Tom succeeded our own Organ Scholar, Jonathan Turner, as Organ Scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, where he earned a first class honours degree! Wow - Congratulations!!

But Tom is now doing major pastoral work in the East end of London, initially supported by funds supplied by Blackburn Cathedral in 2010.

Dear John

I was in America on holiday this summer visiting family in L.A. – here's a photo of me in a poncho on the ridge of the Grand Canyon after a storm!

*In July 2010, whilst in the summer of his second year studying music at Lincoln College, Oxford, Tom began an internship with the *Contextual Theology Centre in London, which was very generously supported by the Dean's Discretionary Fund as well as Blackburn Cathedral's exChange programme.*

**The Contextual Theology Centre [CTC] is based at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine in East London - where Christians have engaged in worship, hospitality and service for almost 900 years, grounded in a daily rhythm of common prayer. The Centre exists to equip Christians for faithful, generous and effective witness in multi-faith contexts. www.citizensuk.org*

I am extremely grateful to Blackburn Cathedral for its support of my work in 2010. Without the generous grants I received, the start of my career would likely have taken a greatly different shape.

Tom continues: I was recently involved in organising a march through East London which had dramatic tableaux through which diverse community groups could tell their corporate stories.

I learned to play the accordion for this event, in order to lead a performance of a song about William Booth (founder of the Salvation Army).



I'm now Manager of the Centre as a whole, and I have branched out also as a freelance musician, working with a baby and toddler group in Stepney, a music theatre group for local primary school children, and as a Parish church organist in Bethnal Green.

<http://www.stpetersbethnalgreen.org/>

I also conduct a Gospel Choir and help with the Salvation Army's community lunches.

(Below) 'Rallying the troops' is one of me (centre) with the team of interns I managed this summer, outside the Department for Education - we were making civil servants aware of the living wage by welcoming them to work with biscuits, donuts, singing, and a smiling face.



I'm considering (for next academic year) to pursue choral music more seriously. My mind is not made up on this yet - as I lead a pretty

fulfilling existence at the moment, but I'm passionate about Church Music (as well as music in general), and might like to see where I can go with it. Any advice of course much appreciated!

Very best wishes,

Tom *Tom, this is terrific. We're so proud of you. JB*

From OC David Tattersall in NZ

Hi John,

I hope this email finds you in good health and enjoying these fantastic Olympics - New Zealand are doing really well considering there are only 4 million Kiwis, but I still cheer for Team GB you'll be pleased to note!

Thanks for the invitation to the Reunion but again unfortunately I will have to tender my apologies. Spring (which is just about with us now in NZ) is my busiest time on the farm. My lambing has gone well with almost 200% lambs per ewe. I have also just received my first calves from the dairy farms and will be rearing over 400 by September. As you will understand this means that I'll be too busy for a trip back to the UK.

I am glad that the BCOCA seems to be going from strength to strength and is keeping up with the times. I must say that I had a wry smile to myself when I think back to my time on the Committee when **Mark Hodson** and I tried (unsuccessfully you'll remember) to have the YPC girls included in the ranks. Now that would have been leading edge wouldn't it. (As you can tell I haven't improved with age!!)

Please pass on my best wishes to all the OCs, and reiterate my offer of a place to stay should any of them make it out here to sunny **Hawkes Bay** on the East Coast of North Island.

Warmest greetings as ever,

David.

(See another letter from David, p. 11)

Thanks David, so much, for your invitation to former choristers to pop down to see you. Hope you don't get swamped! Hawkes Bay (above) looks fabulous! JB



From Dr Harry Grindle formerly DoM Belfast Cathedral

Dear John,

I have cherished memories of our association over the years and of the splendid work which you did at Blackburn Cathedral. The Belfast Cathedral choristers who attended RSCM Cathedral Courses which you directed always spoke of you with veneration. JB was THE man!

Yes, I am on your mailing list for **Music & More** and look forward eagerly to receiving the periodic issues. It is an utterly SUPERB magazine and I am sure that there is

nothing like it anywhere else. Has it won any awards? If not, it certainly is deserving of them.

I am currently working on a revision of my book on Irish Cathedral Music which appeared in 1989 and which is long since sold out. I have actually had to buy two copies on Amazon to send to interested publishers!!

Please pass on my best wishes to **Maurice Maguire**.

Warmest regards, **Harry**

PS. I have recently met the new Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral. He is **David Stevens** who was formerly assistant at Newcastle Cathedral. He has a winning modesty which should commend him widely.

Thanks, Harry, and congratulations on your sold-out book! JB

Organist Genius DAVID BRIGGS...

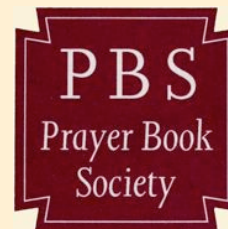
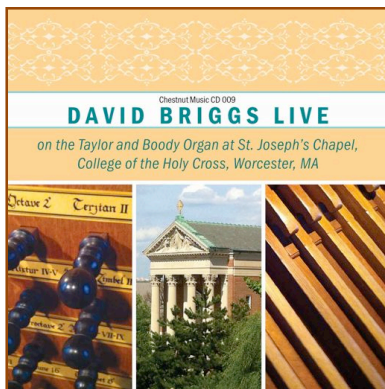
...who was our inspired Consultant for the rebuilding of our organ in 2002, (and who previously gave his very first recital here in Blackburn Cathedral when he was only 14!) has just made another brilliant CD.

The organ is a very special instrument in the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts and this CD includes not only superb playing by David of the music of J S Bach, but also a 40-minute 'Symphony' *improvised* by David. *Wow!*

Full details

<http://www.david-briggs.org/recordings-1>

David and Madge have a home in England, and also a home across the Pond. He's recently been appointed Artist in Residence at St. James' Cathedral, Toronto. JB



2012 SAW THE CELEBRATION OF THE 350th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

There's no let up in 2013. Just look at the 'cast' in our FESTIVAL at BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL on 27th APRIL

CHOIR: OCTAVIUS directed by Anthony Tattersall
ORGANIST: Samuel Hudson
PREACHER: The Rt. Revd. Robert Hardy
Former Bishop of Lincoln
SPEAKER: Dr John Bertalot

Details from Neil Inkley
6 Knot Lane,
Walton-le-Dale,
PRESTON, PR5 4BQ
01772-821-676

Yet another Promenade Concert experience! From OC PETER FIELDING in Ramsbottom

Hi John,



I spent a few years in the early Fifties singing in Blackburn Music Society and I was reminded of an occasion when I took part in a performance of Ireland's *These things shall be*, at a super performance at the Proms.

The occasion was a Choral Concert in the Royal Albert Hall on June 2nd 1951 to celebrate the *Festival of Britain*. It was attended by Music Societies from all over the Country.

The journey to London was quite traumatic!

We set off from the Boulevard in a rather old fashioned coach at 10.00pm the previous night, sleep was nigh impossible, and we arrived in the Capital about 6.00 am. We didn't have long before we assembled at the Albert Hall for a rehearsal with the Orchestra conducted by **Sir Adrian Boult**.

It was a very intense rehearsal, but we were all very tired and didn't appreciate what should have been a wonderful occasion. Fortunately we had recovered in time for the Concert.

Of course the music included 'These things shall be' as well as Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens*, Vaughan Williams' *Benedicite*, Elgar's *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*, Sullivan's *O Gladsome Light*, Stanford's *Songs of the Fleet*, and Quilter's *Non Nobis, Domine*. I'm not sure what time we pulled in at the Boulevard again!!

What an experience!

Regards, **Peter**

It seems quite habit-forming for Old Choristers to sing at the Royal Albert Hall!! Both James Davy and JB also played the organ there – though not for a Prom!



Former Chorister, BOB KEEN,

who sang a fine alto in the cathedral choir during JB's time, and whose son **John**, & daughter **Jill**, were choristers, and whose wife, **Pauline**, was a tower of ebullient strength to us all ...

... has not been well; in fact he's had a very rough time, but shows tremendous courage and great good humour. His chemo is working well.

He'd welcome chatty text messages of goodwill from his friends:

07767-126415 (*But see p.31 for good news.*)

With Bob's thanks to those friends who've already been in touch.

From 2011-12 Choral Scholar, James White

Dear Dr Bertalot,

Sorry again for the late reply: I've been camping in Sussex with my former choral scholar colleague **James Giddings**. I am delighted that I qualify for free subscription to the Old Choristers' Association [BCCA] but, of course, I understand the importance of donations for the support of publications of this high standard.

It is very kind of you to say that I was able to contribute musically, and more than musically, during my year as choral scholar. For my part, it was a privilege and a joy to work at Blackburn, and to meet and be involved with you, and **Samuel Hudson** and **James Davy**, and with the cathedral community in general. I had heard that cathedral communities can be dark places, but I saw precious little evidence of that, to my continued pleasure.

I look forward to visiting Blackburn (as I shall!), and also to future correspondence, whether in terms of e-mail or full-colour, lovingly crafted literature.

Yours, and with best wishes

Jamie



From OC The Revd. PHILIP CHEW in unpronounceable woolly Wales where he is Area Dean of 13 Parishes (*Dyffryn Clwyd, to be precise!*)

Dear John,



I am looking forward to the Old Choristers' Annual Reunion this September. Firstly it is always an important event in my Calendar, and secondly what makes this year significant for me is that it will include my 50th birthday.



I am planning to be there for the Sunday worship as well this year having arranged cover in the **Vale of Clwyd** for my several parishes.

There is no doubt that my experience of singing in the Choir with you (1970-77) **had a profound effect upon me** and was an important milestone in my life's journey, leading to my sense of a call to an Ordained Ministry. As you know I spent 13 years as Priest in the Blackburn Diocese before taking up my post in the Church in Wales.



L-R my wife Janice, daughters Egeetsia & Dimienne and me.

As Area Dean I have oversight over 13 parishes in the Vale but I am Rector of 5. It is a designated area of outstanding natural beauty on the medieval town of Ruthin. The town itself comprises **one of the first castles** to be built in Wales by **Edward 1** (1284 – 1327) although ransacked by Owain Glyndwr and then razed to the ground by Cromwell.

it was rebuilt and was the final home of **Lady Randolph Churchill, Winston Churchill's mother**.

It is now a hotel used for wedding receptions and medieval banquets.

The Church building of St Peter near the castle historically housed a college of monks both lay and ordained, and to this day boasts a very good choir and excellent organ. At the moment they are looking for



an organist and choirmaster so if you know anybody looking for a place, please let me know. Their last Organist and Choirmaster, Peter Litman, recently took the post at St German's Cathedral in the **Isle of Person** [*where OC William Heap lives*].

The parishes where I am Rector are Llanynys, Llanychan, Llangynhafal, Llanbedr DC and Llanarmon yn Ial. [*Llan, with a capital 'L' is Welsh for a small district, e.g. a parish.*] The first three are dedicated to Celtic Saints and have been places of worship since the 6th century. The first one Llanynys (which means island parish in Welsh) is very historic indeed and featured earlier this year on Gryff Reece-Jones' recent program series called 'Lost Routes' on BBC1. The episode it featured was all about pilgrimage.

The reason was the fact that it boasts probably the best preserved medieval wall painting of St Christopher and the Christ Child in Wales and possibly in Great Britain. It has recently been cleaned and stabilized by **OC Stephen Rickerby** and his wife **Lisa**.



As you know Stephen and Lisa travel the world restoring, lecturing upon, and writing about, historic wall paintings. After finishing in Wales in July they went off to China to give a series of lectures and then, on the way back, they are restoring a painting in a Buddhist temple in Bhutan (that is why Stephen can't be with us at the Reunion, but he sends his regards).



They have done a wonderful job with our painting and it is well worth a visit. The height and breadth of our wall painting is breath taking and is full of theological and philosophical depth. Gryff Reece-Jones called it "A Monumental Picture". It was discovered in the late 1960s underneath lime wash and was painted around 1430 by a contemporary of the soldiers at Agincourt.

I have this romantic image that some bowman called Llewellyn gave up archery after the battle, took up wall painting and came to Llanynys. If he was only half as good with the long bow as he was at painting then it was no wonder we won.



15th century 'formalised' painting of Henry V's Battle of Agincourt, 25 Oct. 1415

At the moment we are developing a pilgrim route between the three Celtic Churches starting at Llanynys' Patron Saint of Travellers and finishing at Llangynhafal a church dedicated to St Cynhafal, where his Well is said to have restorative properties. St Cynhafal's Well features in a recent publication entitled *Britain's Most Holiest Places* by Nick Mayhew Smith, 2011.



Llanynys Church

It surprises me just how much rich history and depth of spirituality there is in this beautiful part of Wales and only an hour and a half away from Blackburn. The Vale of Clwyd is Wales' best-kept secret and if anyone wants to go on a pilgrimage, this is the place to come.

I look forward to the Reunion and will hopefully see you there.

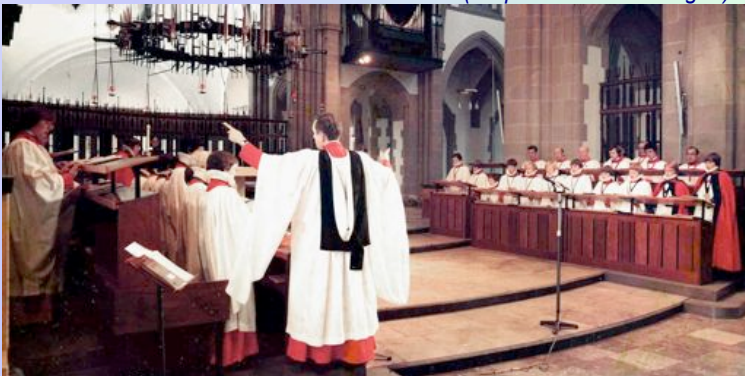
Happy Birthday for the 15th (a date which you and I share)

Phil Chew

My dear Phil, thank you so very much for this fascinating account of your life and ministry. You are indeed in heaven (a Welsh one) and clearly relishing every moment. What a change from your time in Burnley!

Mutual Happy Birthday, Phil! JB

And how very good to see **Stephen Rickerby** again: he was head chorister when Princess Alexandra came for the final Consecration of Blackburn Cathedral on 18th November 1977. (Stephen is extreme right.)



Dave and Alizon Elliott threw a party for the Renaissance Singers and to welcome our new musicians

They do this every year in their lovely home:
the atmosphere is relaxed, the company is great and
the food is delicious!



L-R: Choral Scholar and highly talented clarinettist **James Giddings** (starting his 2nd year with us) ... why does he look younger than he did last year?

Choral Scholar **Philip Almond**, who has just graduated from Huddersfield University,

Organ Scholar **James Kealey**, fresh from school and raring to go – aiming for his ARCO,

Our new skilled Assistant Director of Music, **Shaun Turnbull**, and

Our stratospheric (6' 6") Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson** and his delightful wife, **Rebecca**, (newly MA-ed) who are beginning their second creative year with us.

WELCOME!

The next day our musicians were on duty to begin the new season of music in Blackburn Cathedral.



Here is **Shaun Turnbull** playing for the 10.30 service, watched, assiduously, by organ scholar **James Kealey**.

Shaun's Postlude was, appropriately, Bach's Fugue on the Creed, generally known as the Giant Fugue, because of its striding pedal part.

43

This also demonstrates Bach's use of number symbolism to identify himself with the message of his music. If one substitutes numbers for letters, (A=1, B=2, etc), **CREDO** adds up to 43. There are 43 notes in the last pedal entry of this fugue. (Bach also uses 43 many times in the *Credo* of his *B Minor Mass*. Clearly Bach firmly believed in God. JB)

Blackburn Music Day
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!
Saturday April 20th 2013



Following our successful music day in 2011, we are pleased to present a second multi-choice workshop day designed to encourage and equip local church musicians to offer their best in worship. Potential leaders:

- JOHN BELL – well-known music leader, composer and broadcaster bringing insights from the music and worship of the Iona Community
- SAMUEL HUDSON – director of music of Blackburn Cathedral exploring choral possibilities for local churches
- STEVE JAMES – singer/song-writer and seasoned worship leader offering help in using worship songs to inspire and refresh congregational worship
- ANDREW MARIES – church music consultant and presenter giving tips on the canny use of music to nurture, shape and challenge your church's worship
- ANDY SILVER – director of 'Pop connection' an exciting initiative aimed to encourage music in schools, leading a dedicated youth music stream.
- TYNDALE THOMAS – inspirational Gospel music leader and producer, exploring the delights of Gospel Music
- SUE WITTS – Children's Work Adviser for Blackburn Diocese, leading a music stream for children.
- DARIUS BATTIWALLER – experienced organist and teacher leading sessions for basic and more experienced organists

Venue:

St. Wilfrid's Academy, Blackburn
 and Blackburn Cathedral.

Further details contact: jacqui.mallinson@blackburn.anglican.org

10.00am – 2.10pm St. Wilfrid's Academy

Choice of any two of the above 75-minute workshops at St. Wilfrid's

2.30pm – 4.15pm Blackburn Cathedral

Preparation time and concluding worship in the cathedral

Solution to David Robinson's page 4 Crossword

Answers printed in reverse

so as to avoid having a quick peep!



ANAGRAM: 'Robinson'

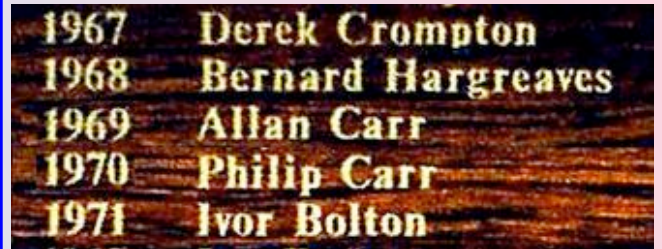
(i.e. Tom (a TLD bass), Ralph (a TLD chorister), David (me!), Grenville (now living in the USA), Archdeacon David (another TLD chorister), Very Rev Norman, former Provost of Blackburn. His portrait can be seen in the Assembly area.

Thanks, David Robinson!

From Former JB Chorister
BERNARD HARGREAVES
in California

JB,

I was over in Blackburn at the beginning of August, visiting my mother and attending a couple of family weddings (in Cyprus and then Glouchester). However, I did get a chance to attend the Cathedral for a Sunday Service at 10:30 am, but unfortunately, the choir was not singing at the service. Anyway, on a more positive note (no pun intended), I did briefly bump into Churchwarden **Philip Carr**. In retrospect, it was a good holiday/vacation and I did get a chance to catch-up with most of my family members at the two weddings.



From the Prefects' Board No. 2 in the Song School

From a family perspective, everything is currently fine in California with me and **Janet** (my dear wife).

Our eldest son, **Carl**, graduated from Berkeley with a BA in Economics in 2010 and is now working for Standard & Poor (a leader of financial-market intelligence) as an analyst in San Francisco.



The Hargreaves Family before their Berkeley years!

Also, our younger two sons, **Zachary and Jordan**, are also currently studying at Berkeley (it seems to have become a bit of a family tradition). Zachary our middle son is studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and recently worked at NASA as a student intern this summer.

Jordan our youngest son is studying Psychology as his major, but has a strong interest in music and is studying that as a minor (no puns intended). The Good Lord works in mysterious ways, it must be in the Hargreaves genes!

I look forward to reading an update of the 2012 Reunion in a future BCCA magazine.

Best regards,
 Bernard

It's great to hear from you, Bernard. Heartiest congratulations on the fine achievements of your three sons. You and Janet must be so proud of them.

By the way, is Glouchester anywhere near Edinburrrr? They're both somewhere on the Aisle of Person, I believe. JB

Why haven't you heard from
Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association recently?

Because you probably haven't let us know your **MAILING** address and your **e mail** address!

Communication is a 2-way process! Please do it now!
john@bertalot.org snapeamanda@yahoo.co.uk

**From OC DAVID TATTERSALL, again, see p.6
Subsequently a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy
and now retired to farm in New Zealand**

Hi John,

Yet again you MUST be congratulated on such a superb **M&M** publication. It came in the post today and I was presented with it on my return from feeding milk to my 300 calves! Just a few pages in I was, as always, transported back to **the most important years of my life.**

I can categorically say that if it wasn't for my friendships and the discipline that I learnt whilst in the Choirs of Blackburn Cathedral (and a reference from the Bishop of Blackburn!) I wouldn't have had my RN career or wouldn't have met my lovely wife or been blessed with my wonderful children.

'the most important years of my life'

I fully agree with the sentiments very beautifully put by **Graham Chapelhow**. The various choirs, and I should also add in particular their masters, have helped mould some exceptional citizens as is proved on almost every page of every edition of **Music and More**. You should be very proud.

They were indeed some wonderful years. How we managed to fit in all the practices, the services, our sports, our part time jobs and not forgetting the schoolwork is beyond me. Well I suppose we just did!

Also I have one other question to ask you. Is it possible to get a replacement for my own **St. Nicolas Award** that went missing when I was in the YPC. My mother still displays my certificate in her front room in Darwen, but I would so like to have the medal here in NZ. I am still so proud of that award you know! It is hard to believe that this semi retired Kiwi farmer was a Provost's Chorister, a Bishop's Chorister, St. Nicolas' Chorister and Head Chorister in his past.



Have a wonderful time at the Reunion – I'll be there in spirit. The memories of copious glasses of fine ale with **Bryan Lamb**, amongst others, at Whalley Abbey still bring a smile to my face!!

I joined our local Rotary Club about 5 years ago as a way of serving the community and helping others around the world. I thoroughly enjoy it and have been quite active since joining. Our club, The Rotary Club of Greenmeadows, has 64 members and is one of the largest in our District. They have asked me to be their President next year which is a exciting and quite humbling. We count CEOs of large companies and the Eastern Institute of Technology amongst our members, as well as successful local businessmen and the ever present retired Headmasters! The feeling of warmth, friendship and working towards common goals is actually not unlike being in a choir.

The only singing I do now however is in the shower and to entertain my livestock!!

Warmest greetings, as ever, z

David Tattersall was, as we've said before, one of the outstanding Head Choristers during JB's years as DoM of Blackburn Cathedral (1964-82) – and JB had many stupendous Head Choristers (four of whom singing tenor and bass today in the Cathedral Choir). David's younger brother, Anthony, also sings a fine alto in the choir – although he was nobbut a tiny treble during JB's last years here.

David: Thanks so very much for your terrific letter – I'm chasing a St. Nicolas Medal for you right now! Stand by! JB

**From Catherine Clark at the Headquarters of
The Royal School of Church Music
who is chasing up David's St. Nicolas Medal**

I just LOVED the copy of **Music & More** you sent to us –
thank you very, very much.

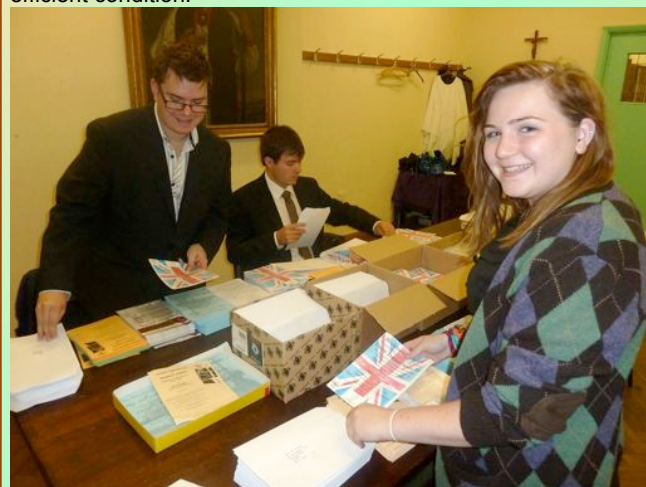
I haven't smiled so much in quite a while.



**WELCOME to our new
YOUNG LADY Choral Scholar
Daisy-Belle Dumsday**

Even though Daisy-Belle was admitted to the Girls' Choir in the Spring, she was about to complete her 'A' levels and she wanted to have a gap year before taking up her place at Huddersfield University to study Music and Drama.

So she will be singing in the *Young People's Choir*, the *Cathedral Consort* and the *Renaissance Singers*, and also giving a lot of help with administrative work to keep the cathedral's ambitious Music Department in a flourishing and efficient condition.



*Daisy-Belle stuffing envelopes with fellow choral scholars
Philip Almond and James Giddings*

She'll also be helping Renaissance Singer **Helen Davies** with the organization of Helen's music department at St. Christopher's School, Accrington.

WELCOME, Daisy-Belle!

**The First Wednesday Lunchtime Recital
of this new Season was given by our own
SAMUEL HUDSON**

... and what a recital it was! In his vote of thanks JB said that it must rank as one of the most brilliant recitals we've ever heard in Blackburn Cathedral. Why?

- 1 Because Samuel knew the cathedral organ so well. He was able to use the stops so artistically and so musically – it was a continual delight to experience such subtle changes of colour.
- 2 Because his playing was so technically perfect – for he played a most demanding programme: Bach's *Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C* Howells' Psalm Prelude *'Out of the deep'* and Hakim's fiendishly difficult *Te Deum*.

Every note was crystal clear, every note was so musical, every note brought the 'message' of the music straight into everyone's heart.

How fortunate we are to have such a highly gifted Director of Music.
Hallelujah!

With organ scholar James Kealey standing by to turn pages.



IAN PATTINSON

our former Assistant Organist, is now

DOUBLY ORGANISED

As readers of *M&M* will know, Lancaster Priory was given a massive grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to install two superb second-hand organs. 'Second-hand' is the wrong term, for they are organs made by the finest craftsmen, Henry Willis III and Harrison & Harrison.

These two organs (playable from one enormous console) have now been installed in Lancaster Priory – one in the West Gallery and the other behind the choir stalls towards the Eastern end of this enormous Priory. They were dedicated by His Grace, the Lord Archbishop of York at a spectacular service on Saturday 8th September, with Ian presiding at his monster console.



The very first piece Ian played, after His Grace had blessed Ian and the organ, was, most appropriately, *The Archbishop's Fanfare* composed by Dr Francis Jackson for the Enthronement of Donald Coggan as Archbishop of York, way back in 1961. And this piece fanfares truly gloriously, thanks to a very special Trumpet stop on this organ, which is called *Duchy of Lancaster Fanfare Trumpet!*

And let it be said that it is louder than Blackburn's *Imperial Trumpet* – for it's on 10-inch wind, whereas ours is on only 6 inches! (But we do have a 6-second echo, which Lancaster doesn't.)

Archbishop Sentamu preached with humour (as ever) starting with, *'Two organs – how greedy! But they'll see this Vicar out!'* After the service the Archbishop and Vicar stood together in the West Gallery for a photo.



Amongst the congregation were Samuel Hudson and your editor who congratulated a smiling Ian Pattinson afterwards. (See next column) And, my goodness, his console has a TV screen built into it, so that he can see the choir being conducted by the Director of Music, Jeremy Truslove!

The Priory Choir is enormous – over 30 trebles (boys and girls) and 20 men – which sang Howells *Coll Reg Magnificat* and Stanford's *B flat Te Deum*.

It was quite an evening.



The next day, Samuel and Rebecca Hudson took JB for a dazzling recital at the Priory given by Professor Ian Tracey, from Liverpool Cathedral. Again, the Priory was packed (we had to sit in a side aisle).

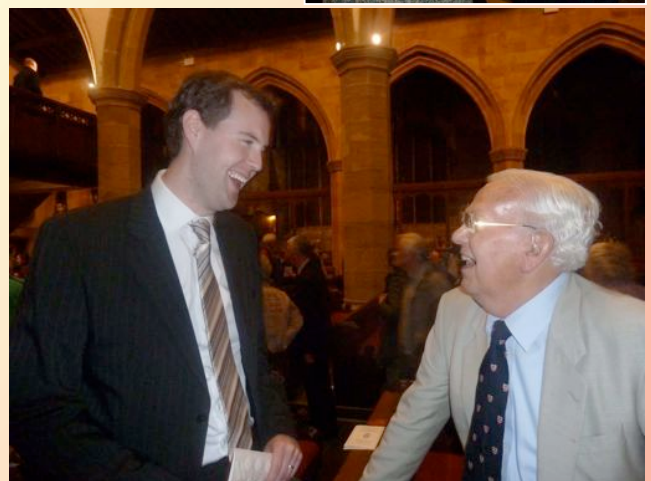


Ian not only played superbly but also made a point of thanking the organ builder, David Wells, for the craftsmanship of his team, and also Marion McClintock, (who is also a member of the Cathedral Chapter) who headed up the successful Appeal team. (Below)

Also in the congregation was Dr Noel Rawsthorne, former Organist of Liverpool Cathedral who had taught Ian Tracey. Samuel and Noel got on very well! (Below)



Noel was one of the most brilliant Cathedral Organists in this country, and JB had had the enormous pleasure of staging a *Battle of the Organs* at Blackburn with Noel way back in the 1970s.



Ian Tracey's recital (plus wine for the audience during and after the recital!) and the fellowship afterwards, gave us an evening ever to be remembered with joy.

Major recitals will be given on this organ on Sunday evenings at 8.00 pm in the New Year, including

Ian Pattinson, February 3, Samuel Hudson, March 3 and Richard Tanner and Philippa Hyde on May 5

Look at www.lancasterpriory.org for more details!

PS from Ian Pattinson at Lancaster Priory

Dear John,

I am only just beginning to recover from the excitement, enjoyment and stress of last weekend. I've never played for an Archbishop before and never previously had my forehead blessed with holy oil by an Archbishop (I feel I ought to be a better Christian and a better organist now).

And then to have an amazing recital by **Ian Tracey** attended by many people including numerous friends of mine, as well as a surprise visit by the great **Noel Rawsthorne** to give us two Cathedral Organists Emeriti standing next to two current Cathedral Organists after the recital: well it was all too much excitement!



Photo © Lancaster Priory

The Blackburn Branch of the Prayer Book Society

... held a delightful dinner in Whalley Abbey in September, attended by many distinguished guests, including **Lord and Lady Clitheroe** from Downham. It was arranged by our tireless Secretary/Treasurer, **Neil Inkleby** who is a former lay clerk of Peterborough Cathedral.



The after-dinner speech was given by **Canon David Galilee**, former Residentiary Canon at Blackburn Cathedral.



Neil Inkleby, Alan Reid and David Galilee

Needless to say, David's speech was made up of a host of funny stories (David's laugh is proverbial!).

The vote of thanks was given by the Chairman of our PBS, **the Revd. Alan Reid** who, similarly, cannot open his mouth without making a joke.

It was an hilarious, delicious and also a privileged evening.

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

... staged an Antiques day at the Cathedral in September with special guest **Eric Knowles** who appears frequently on the BBCTV's *Antiques Road Show*.



We had no idea how many people would turn up to have their special possessions valued by Eric and his colleagues – but the South Transept was soon crammed with folk who sat, sometimes for up to an hour, to await their turn at a valuer's desk. Admission was £5, for which one had up to three possessions valued. Some folk brought more – and therefore paid more – but it was worth it!

Well done, **The Friends**, who made nearly £1,000!

Friends' Chairman **Jeremy Duerden** with Appeal Chairman **Gail Stanley** hovering over **Eric Knowles**

The weekend of 15-16 September was busy for the cathedral

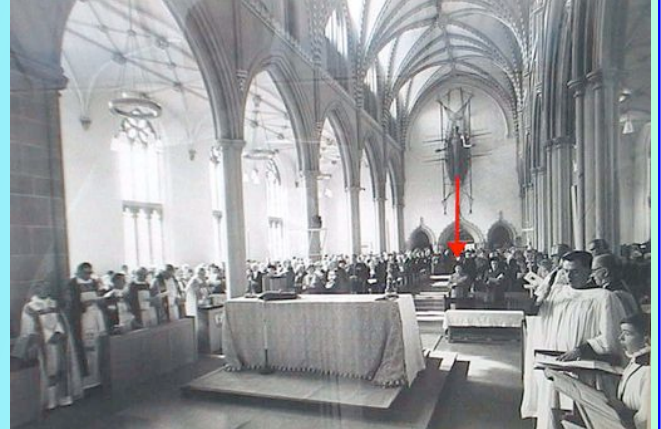
After the Choristers' Reunion weekend (see p 14)

the appeal was launched for the refurbishment of

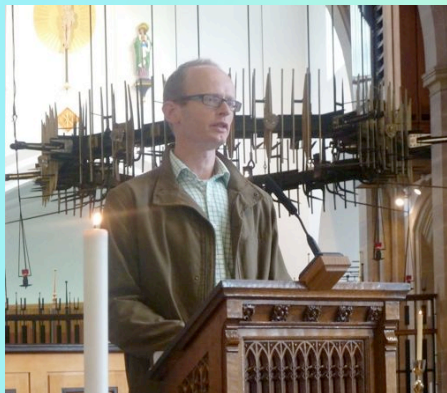
The Cathedral's Chairs

These chairs were first sat upon when **HRH Princess Margaret** came to our Cathedral on 6th October 1965 for the Rehallowing of the restored Nave. (She was an hour late, but sat on one of them, as did her Lady in Waiting.)

They've been in constant use for 47 years!



When the Dean introduced our chair restorer, **Paul Case**, he said that he first sat down on one nine years ago when he was about to welcome Bishop Nicholas to Blackburn. 'I sat down,' said the Dean, 'and continued sitting down until I



was on the floor!

These chairs really do need a major restoration.'

Paul Case, from Osbaldeston, told us that each chair is cleverly made from 39 intricate parts.

'There's a lot of wood in these chairs,' he said, 'and so it would

be irresponsible to put them in the tip and make new ones for they are very special and intricately crafted.'



Each one will cost £210 to restore – and the difference between an unrestored chair and one which Paul has restored is remarkable – as Deputy Head Chorister **Harvey Finney** (left) and Head Chorister **William Fielding** discovered afterwards.

There are 400 chairs to be restored, and donors' names can be engraved on individual plaques on each chair.

We need lots of generous donors, so please phone **Julie Claux** at the Cathedral Appeal Office with your Restoration offers: 01254-50-30-90 ext 234. **Thank you!**

Our Cathedral Choristers' 47th Annual Reunion

Our 47th Annual Reunion was different from all the others, because we **updated our Constitution!** (Wow – that sounds exciting, doesn't it?!)

But before that defining moment many former choristers arrived in ones and twos in the crypt to hail their long-time contemporaries in the Cathedral Choirs.

Coming furthest was **Tony Murphy** and his wife **Liz**, who had flown all the way from their home in New Jersey to be with us! 'We flew in on Friday and we'll be returning on Monday,' said Tony. Now that's devotion for you – especially as Tony has made that journey more than several times to attend our Reunions. *Thanks, Tony!*



Another special traveller was **Bryan Lamb** who, as last year, came all the way from his home near Cambridge by taxi! What an inspiration he is to all of us. Readers of *M&M* may remember that he celebrated his 81st birthday recently by flying in a Chipmunk aeroplane – and he insisted that the pilot should fly part of the way upside down! (See *M&M 2012 No 2, page 13*) Bryan was a Squadron Leader in the RAF – he used to have a moustache which bristled, but he's now clean-shaven.

And yet another very special former chorister was **Bob Keen** from Cheshire who



has been severely ill, and was with us even though he was still in the midst of chemo.

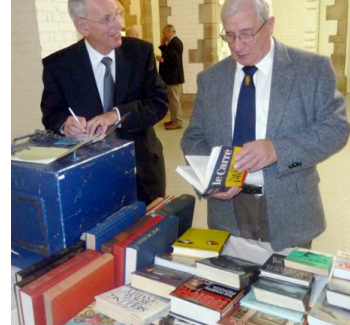
How good it was to see Bob's lovely wife **Pauline**, and their former chorister son, **John** from Nottingham. Bob told us that in between chemo treatments he knows when he'll feel 'down', and when he'll feel 'up'. When he's 'up' he goes bell-ringing! See p 29

Another special former chorister was **The Revd. Philip Chew** from North Wales who, that very day, was celebrating his 50th birthday. (See p.8) *Philip Chew & Bob Keen*



Two of our faithful members, alas, were very ill: **Geoffrey Taylor**, from Blackburn, who had recently celebrated his 80th birthday, had double pneumonia. (See his photo on page 30 of our last edition.) And **Tom Wilkinson**, from Bolton, was dealing with Motor Neurone disease. His wife, **Joy**, told JB that this had started only 12 months ago when they were on a cruise; Tom suddenly discovered that he was limping. He is now confined to a hospital bed in their dining room, with visits from carers four times a day. *Kyrie eleison.*

Two cards for Geoffrey and Tom were organised for us all to sign – which **Adrian Wilson** took charge of (of which Wilson Adrian took charge) – and we gather that they were much appreciated.



Former chorister (and current cathedral choir bass) **Phil Wilson** had set up his second-hand bookstall again to raise funds for the cathedral's music programme. His first 'set-up' had raised £600 and he aims to reach a grand total of £1,000 this time. *Thanks, Phil.*

Early browsers of the stall were (L) **David Smalley** from Mellor Brook and **Peter Fielding** from Ramsbottom. David was Senior Old Chorister a couple of years ago and his on-going fundraising scheme (of attractive notelets) has already raised £765 for the music programme. *Well done and thanks, David.*

A special guest that day was **Alastair Pollard**, former chorister of Durham, 1970-74, who is now the representative in the North of the National Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers. He told us that the Federation, and many other Cathedrals, are also revising their Constitutions to keep up with modern means of communication and also changing social structures.



Alastair was given a warm welcome by our Chaplain, the **Revd. Ian Hollin** who was a tenor in the cathedral choir in the 1960s during TLD's last years and JB's early years. He's ministered in several parts of the country – including a stint as Precentor of Exeter Cathedral.

We enjoyed an excellent lunch, provided by Paul Flowers and his Café-in-the-Crypt team – soup and sandwiches – not too much, (for we had to stay awake for our AGM when we would ratify of new Constitution!), which would be followed by a rehearsal for Choral Evensong.

It was good to see some young people 'midst the Establishment, who were enjoying their soups 'n sandwiches.



L-R Organ Scholar **James Kealey**, Choral Scholar **Philip Almond**, 'former' choristers' Treasurer **John Marr** and our new Secretary, choir-mum-&-wife, **Amanda Snape**, Chairman and choir bass **Stewart Hopkinson** and 2nd year Choral Scholar **James Giddings**.

Café coffee-pourer **Stephen Brankin** exercised his skills for the



benefit of (L) Churchwarden **Philip Carr** and best-selling author **Steve Holmes**, both of whom had been JB choristers last Millennium... ..as was **Iain Thompson** from Cheshire, who was also enjoying his lunch.



And so came the AGM when our New Constitution was passed unanimously.

That means, in practice, that members of four choirs, which regularly sing services in the cathedral, are eligible for membership, including our choral scholars and our organists. (We'd overlooked our organists 47 years ago!)

It also means that no one is an 'old' chorister anymore – just 'former' (unless they happen to be 'current').

Hooray!

JB introduced the idea that the Association should have **PATRONS** and **GRAND PATRONS**. Why? Because the cathedral's music programme (especially FoBCM) urgently needs extra funding. There's a hole in the budget right now which affects the planning of concerts. Therefore JB suggested that the Choristers' Association needs an assured annual extra income to help the cathedral's music.

PATRONS would donate £50 annually by Standing Order. (That's only as much as it costs to fill a car with petrol these days!) **OR £5 per month = £60 p.a.** And **GRAND PATRONS** would donate £100 annually by Standing Order **OR £10 per month = £120 p.a.** and this would be added to by Gift Aid.

Already, after only a few days, we have raised nearly £2,000. That's a start, but we believe that former choristers, present men choristers and parents of young choristers would be willing to become PATRONS or GRAND PATRONS.

There's a form enclosed with this edition of M&M – please fill it in now so that the cathedral's ambitious music programme may continue to thrill us all.

Thank you!

Our new member of the BCCA Committee is young chairman **Chris Snape** whose special responsibility is to encourage his contemporaries to become active members of BCCA. (BCCA? I thought the Association was called BCOCA – 'Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association'. No! Its new name is 'Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association'. We're not 'old' anymore – remember?)

The rehearsal of choristers and former choristers for Choral Evensong was taken up by our Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson**. The music, which had been chosen by outgoing Senior Old Chorister **William Heap**, was:

I will sing with the spirit – David Goodenough
Responses – Bertalot
Canticles – Brewer in D
Let all the world – RVW

And because that day also happened to be JB's birthday, **Samuel Hudson** generously invited JB to conduct his own Responses. Much energy was expended by everyone, and Choral Scholar **James Giddings** was the admirable Cantor.



The service went very well indeed – most former choristers found that their voices were working quite well after all, although the tenors were remarkably reticent. (That's a rare occurrence!)

SOC **William Heap** read the first lesson and our skilled organist was Assistant Director of Music **Shaun Turnbull**.



A moving moment occurred when Samuel Hudson presented to Canon Stockton, for his blessing, three young ladies who had been valuable members of our Girls' Choir. *See next column*



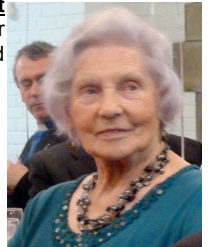
L-R: **Laura Slater**, who is going to Durham University to study Biology, but whose ambition was to become a Merchant Banker (!), **Jessica Studholme** is going to Chester University to read Religious Education, and **Daisy-Belle Dumsday**. But, if you have read page 11 carefully, you will remember that Daisy-Belle is one of our new Choral Scholars so, for her, it was *Vale atque Ave!* (Goodbye & Hello!)

At the BCCA Dinner that night in the Crypt, **four birthday balloons** were floating overhead to add to the festivities. It was very good to welcome so many friends and colleagues. (Please excuse lack of space for photos of all former choristers present.)



It was especially good to welcome **Margaret Dewhurst** (widow of our revered Fred – former sub organist and BCOCA Chairman), and **Laura Slater**, the first new member of BCCA!

Chairman Stewart Hopkinson made a great welcoming speech which made



Bryan Lamb and Gordon Fielding smile!

The birthday balloons celebrated **Phil Chew's 50th** (today) **David Smalley's recent 70th,** **Ralph Robinson's 80th** (the previous



Monday) and **Allan Holden's** fairly recent 80th.

Retiring SOC **William Heap** made a jolly farewell speech before handing over his SOC Pendant, heavily encrusted with gold bars, with the names of his illustrious predecessors inscribed thereon, to incoming SOC **the Revd. Ian Hollin**, who said that he now has three BCCA titles: SOC, Chaplain and Archivist!

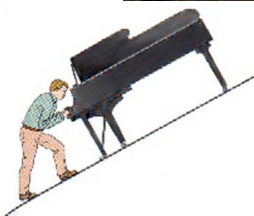
Thank you, Will, and Welcome, Ian.



And of course the Reunion concluded the next morning with a glorious Choral Eucharist.

Very many thanks to all!

SNOWDON CONQUERED BY PIANO AND SONG!



On August 11th a team consisting of members of the cathedral congregation, music and lay staff, clergy (led by the **Dean and Mrs Armstrong**), Virgers (including **Alex Barnes** with his all-seeing camera) and many friends climbed to the summit of mount SNOWDON 3,560ft (1085 metres) – the highest peak in Wales – *with a piano* – to raise money for the

nave chair appeal.

The Virgers carried up the grand piano, for Director of Music **Samuel Hudson** had agreed to play the piano on the very top of Snowdon!



The weather was warm and sunny and stayed clear so we were glad of a short break with piano and peak clearly before us. *Courtesy of Photoshop!*



Below: Panoramic view by Jeremy Duerden



When we arrived at the top of SNOWDON we were stunned with an amazing view which most of us had never witnessed before, for the day was so clear!

We stopped at the trig point for lunch and refreshments and continued drinking in the view.

The climb had taken a lot out of us – and especially the piano which, by the time we had reached the summit, seemed to

have shrunk considerably.

But we had an amazing mountain-top recital by Sam on the piano and we sang a few hymns and songs, such as *Cwm Rhondda*,

Climb every mountain and Chariots of fire as Olympic fever swept us along with the rest of the country.

Fellow walkers joined in our singing as we passed a hat around for extra donations.



The Dean and Gerry Armstrong (right) singing lustily as Sam (lower right) played his mini grand piano for the walkers to photograph and to sing along with. (with which 2 singalong)



On the way home champagne was opened to help us all to celebrate a very successful day.

We'd all been sponsored for our climb, and so far we've

raised over £1,000, with more donations still coming in.

Thank you, and well done, all!

From an account by Dean's Virger, Mark Pickering

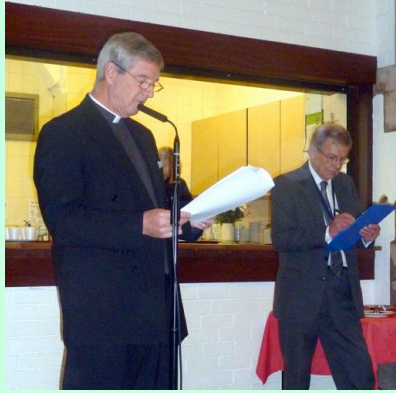
'Nearer and nearer draws the time...'

At a meeting of the congregation chaired by Churchwarden **Stuart Rothwell** after a Sunday morning Eucharist, the Dean told us that the plans for the transformation of the Cathedral Close (with a Deanery, houses for the Canons, apartments for the Music staff and Virgers, plus a 60-room hotel) were getting very close. 'We look forward to seeing bulldozers arriving to prepare the site,' said the Dean, 'although they'll cause their own problems!'



The Dean went on to tell us that the cost of the scheme (excluding the hotel) was still only £6.2m (*sic*) and that the present Deanery and Canon Hindley's house would eventually have to be sold to help finance this ambitious scheme.

There are many other appeals afoot right now, including an appeal to renovate the Song School, to restore 400 of our chairs (see p 13), to replace the 50-year old lighting in the cathedral and to sustain the cathedral's fabric.



These are challenging and exciting times and so we all need to put our shoulders to the proverbial wheel to help it all happen.



Our heartiest congratulations to The Revd. Steven Harvey

...who is an Assistant Priest at the Cathedral and Headmaster of Bury Grammar School, who will be installed as a Residentiary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral in the Spring.



We have so appreciated Steven's gentle and gracious presence with us for the last few years and know that his new ministry in the North East will be fruitful and greatly blest.

It pays to know the Right People!

Guess who was singing in the college choir in Greenwich Chapel for BBCTV *Songs of Praise* in September: former Blackburn music scholar **Emily Crewe!**

How did she manage to join this exclusive student choir for the telecast? *She knows the conductor: Richard Tanner!*

Emily is of course, Concerts and



Forever

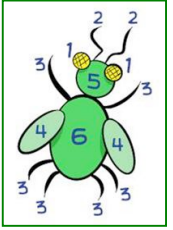
Tour Manager of **The Sixteen** – with whom she travels all over the world!

This TV programme was recorded before Richard left Greenwich to take up his appointment as Director of Music of Rugby School this academic year.



Highly Successful (and full o' fun) Beetle Drive

One Saturday night our versatile crypt was filled with cries of 'BEEEEtle', the smell of fish 'n chips and puzzles to test the brains of young and old, when dedicated ladies (and the occasional helpful husband!) organized a most enjoyable evening for members of our cathedral congregation and their friends.



Rowena Hargreaves, Sue Carr & Karen Brooke – efficiency & fun personified

To get us going **Sue Carr** (wife of former chorister and now churchwarden Philip) handed out a dazzling array of brain teasers – such as: what do these mean? **just144ice**. at**FrankFrankra**.

Then, in due order, we were fed with delicious fish 'n chips, brought from the Boulevard, having been cooked specially for us.



Fissionchips: Choral Scholar James Giddings, Family Brooke (Sophie, Stephen and Karen) and (in the dim distance) Choir parents Amanda & Antony Snape

Then the real business of the evening began with a **Beetle Drive** – with **Stephen Brooke** as our Master of Ceremonies. Some of us didn't realize that shaking dice could be so physically demanding!



There were prizes galore – for winning the Beetle Drive (Choral Scholar **Daisy-Belle Dumsday** won that with a phenomenal score of 194 – some of us only managed the low 80s). Prizes for the most artistically drawn Beetles, prizes for the best answers to Sue Carr's puzzles AND super prizes for a super raffle.

Well done, and thank you!

**From Renaissance Singer Jeremy Duerden,
Chairman of The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral.**

John: I attach a photo of the trip some of the singers made from Blackburn Cathedral to Lincoln Cathedral in August. We joined some others from the South to form the **Colne Singers** as the Colne River was close to some of the other singers and it was as close a town to Blackburn as we could get to match.



We sang Evensong Monday to Sunday save Thursday, and Mattins and Eucharist as well on Sunday the 27th, when this photo was taken. **Tom Stockwell**, former Blackburn Choral Scholar, and now a lay clerk at Lincoln (far left) joined us to intone.

Graham Moon (a member of the Renaissance Singers) was one of our conductors, and our organist was the talented **Ian Pattinson** from Lancaster Priory. (See pp 12-13)

We sang a wide range of music from Byrd (who was organist of Lincoln Cathedral 449 years ago) to Berkeley. It was hard work rehearsing about four hours a day but most enjoyable.

Many of our members stayed in university accommodation and **Peter Crewe** provided the most amazing food for up to 24 of us for dinner and at a price which was difficult to believe. We recorded our pleasure for his efforts by presenting him with a whisky decanter engraved with Lincoln Cathedral and a bottle of his favourite tipple to go in it.



Ever yours, **Jeremy**

Grand / Patrons of BCCA

The message your editor received at a recent music finance meeting was that, unless we can raise an assured extra annual income of at least £3000, the future of **Music & More** was doubtful.

The magazine was initially funded by the Old Choristers' Association – when it included news exclusively about past and present choristers. But then **Richard Tanner** founded *The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music* (FoBCM) – a splendid organization which takes responsibility for the funding and organizing of Cathedral concerts. He asked JB to include news in the magazine from this lively organization – and so FoBCM helped to finance the steadily growing magazine.

But in recent years M&M has included not only news of choristers and concerts, but also news of other Cathedral activities, and its costs and postage have shot up as it grew in size. The FoBCM made up the shortfall of income from their own subscriptions.

Matters have now come to a head, because there's a hole in the music budget due, almost entirely, to the costs of M&M.



But because so many good folk, over the years, have written to the editor to say how much they appreciate and value **Music & More (and the Dean himself has said that 'M&M is the talk of the Church of England!')** we recently launched the categories of PATRON and GRAND PATRON of Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association (BCCA).

We asked members of BCCA and their friends if they would be willing to become a PATRON (at £50 p.a.) or GRAND PATRON (£100 p.a.). The first Grand Patron was **Tony Murphy** who lives in New Jersey. Thank you, Tony.



But then, almost immediately, another chorister from JB's time, **Stephen Ward**, said that he'd prefer to pay £10 per month – which would bring his contribution up to £120 p.a. Thank you Stephen! And so we're almost there!

**Patrons and Grand Patrons so far,
in the order they've been received:**

- Tony Murphy** - New Jersey, USA
- William Heap** – Isle of Man
- Stephen Ward** - Warwickshire
- Stephen Holmes** - Blackburn
- Iain Thompson** - Cheshire
- John Bertalot** - Mellor
- Stewart Hopkinson** - Belthorn
- Allan Holden** – Bolton
- Jim Hulme** – Manchester
- Bryan Lamb** - Cambridgeshire
- The Revd. Ian Hollin** – Preston
- The Very Revd. David Frayne** - Somerset
- David Tattersall** - New Zealand
- Bernard Hargreaves** – California, USA
- Constance Heald** - Ely
- John Marr** - Mellor
- Bob & Pauline Keen** - Cheshire
- The Revd, Canon Godfrey Hirst** – Lytham St Annes
- David Goodenough** - Edinburgh
- Ralph Robinson** – North Yorkshire
- John Brearley** - Grandson of the Cathedral's first DoM
- Lindsey Cooper** - Devon
- Neil Shepherd** - Cornwall
- Mike Ryan** – Lancaster
- Chris Hunwick** – Alnwick Castle
- Neil Fellows** – Germany
- Noel Hunwick** – London
- Ian Harrison** – Bournemouth
- Nigel Chew** – Accrington
- The Revd. Philip Chew** – North Wales
- Alec Stuttard** – Blackburn
- Pat Stuttard** – Blackburn
- Gordon Fielding** – Cheshire
- The Rt. Revd. Nicholas Reade** – Sussex
- Philip Hunwick** – Hoddlesden
- Graham Chapelhow** – Blackburn
- Anthony Tattersall** – Darwin
- David Demack** – Leyland

**And we're also receiving many generous one-time donations!
See page 26. THANK YOU ALL, SO VERY MUCH.**

**Really, these Wednesday Lunchtime Recitals are amazing
– and so is their aftermath**

On Wednesday 3rd October we welcomed **Alex Woodrow** from Bradford Cathedral to play to us. Alex is not only the youngest cathedral organist in this country, but he also won all the first prizes when he took his FRCO exam at the age of only 19! His recital, needless to say, was stunning.

And after each recital, there's a gathering of the music staff, with the recitalist, for a delicious lunch in the Crypt.



Clockwise: **Daisy-Belle Dumsday**, **Mrs Janet Stockton** (wife of the Canon Chancellor) serving piping hot food, organists **Alex Woodrow**, **Shaun Turnbull**, **James Kealey** & **Samuel Hudson**, and choral scholars, **Phil Almond** and **James Giddings**. (Your editor momentarily left his delicious soup to take this photo!)

The conversation at this end of the table ranged from Pythagorean tuning and Head Chorister **William Fielding** being able to whistle and hum in harmony extracts from Beethoven's 7th Symphony, to discussing **Mongolian and Tuvan Throat Singing!** Wednesdays are never dull!

Jazz in the Crypt

The famous Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Swing Band, conducted by **Nigel Spooner**, and the equally splendid Jazz Band of St. Christopher's School, Accrington, conducted by Renaissance Singer **Helen Davies**, rocked the foundations of the cathedral one Saturday night, thanks to the meticulous organisation of choir parent **Amanda Snape** and her young team who suggested the concert.



Nigel Spooner is a brilliant organist (FRCO and bar) but when standing in front of his Swing Band he seems so gentle – and yet the results are superb,

for all his instrumentalists are wholly committed – and it shows.

Nigel is also wont to tell funny stories (he researches them from we wot not where) – but each story needs thinking about before one laughs. For example:

'Two sandwiches went into a café for a meal, but the proprietor came over to them and said, "Sorry, we don't serve food!"'



The Swing Band were joined by the Jazz Band at the end of the first half – the combined sound weren't overpowering as we'd expected, but wholly rhythmic and really very pleasant. An additional player was Nigel Spooner himself, who caressed musical sounds from a fearsome instrument!



Cathedral choir young tenor, **Chris Snape**, (above – 1st trumpet on the left) added to the rhythmic playing of the tutti ensemble.

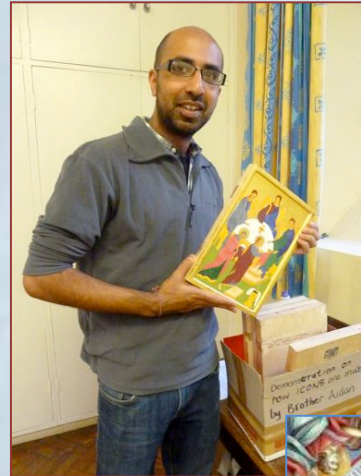
After refreshments **Amanda Snape** announced the prize-winners for the raffle (there's always a raffle!) and then Helen's Band took the stage but not before Helen had ensured that every instrument was in tune. Here she is checking cathedral chorister **Esther Warrall's** saxophone.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening – and, thanks to the suggestion of Christopher & Hannah Snape, the funds for the restoration of the Cathedral's Song School were better off by £600. *Well done!*



Illuminating Talk on Icons

Did you know that the Blackburn Museum has more historic Icons than any another museum in the UK – except for the British Museum in London?



Mr. Vinai Solanki, Curator of Blackburn Museum, gave a fascinating talk to **The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral** on the history of Icons (they began in the 3rd Century), how they are created (wholly intricately and wholly fascinating) and how Catholic Icons differ from Orthodox Icons.

Many were the profound thoughts he shared with us.

Perhaps the most challenging thought was: As God is Omnipresent (i.e.

equally everywhere), therefore when He looks, for example, at an audience with people in the front row, in the middle rows and at the back, everyone, to Him, is in the front row!

Icons try to represent this theological thought by re-thinking perspective. Look at the book that Jesus is holding in the Greek Orthodox icon – the back of the book is larger than the front.

We were enthralled!



Postcard from David Bruce-Payne in Dorset, former Director of Music at Birmingham Cathedral

Dear John,

I always enjoy reading **M&M** as it is full of interesting information and the most superb photographs. It is such a wealth of interest and energy – it's amazing how much music is created in Blackburn Cathedral.

Do please say 'good wishes' to **Shaun Turnbull** – he was such a lively and enthusiastic student with us at B'ham Conservatoire, and I am so pleased he is with you at Blackburn. I know he will remember many happy times with us all in B'ham.

All the best and many thanks, **David**

Thanks so much David – yes, you're right, Shaun is doing a great job with us – his playing is as exciting as his ebullient personality.

And thank you so very much for your generous donation for M&M – we need all the help we can get! JB

Readers of M&M will remember...

...the most moving article in our last edition (pp 22-23) which **Graham Chapelhow** wrote about his early years in the cathedral choir some 40 years ago. And how much he owed to his parents.

He wrote that his Father, Richard, who was in hospital, was his 'hero'. What a truly wonderful thing to write about one's Father.

Alas, Richard died shortly after the article was published – but he knew that he was a hero to his son. May his soul rest in peace.



Graham & Bev Chapelhow at our Choristers' Reunion in September

'THESE THINGS SHALL BE'

Our Autumn Concert

which commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the death of John Ireland

Blackburn Cathedral's musicians did it again, for this was a most successful concert!

Before the concert there was an appetising Reception in the North Transept for Patrons and their guests. Paul Flowers and his team from our Café in the Crypt created a delicious spread of *hors d'oeuvres* with wines for our generous guests to enjoy.



On the extreme left is **Bruce Philips**, Director of the *Ireland Trust* – one of our major sponsors – who said that the two Ireland concerts he had attended in Blackburn Cathedral were the 'highlight' of his year! Praise indeed.



Canon Hindley, with **Rebecca** and **Samuel Hudson**, welcomed our other distinguished guests, including **John Penny** who, with his wife, **Catherine**, had recently hosted a musical evening in their historic home in aid of the Cathedral's music appeal. (*See p 39 of our last edition.*)

It was good to welcome back **Benedict Todd**, our last year's gifted organ scholar, seen here talking with the Dean.



Benedict is now pursuing a PhD in Music at Bristol University. Well done, Benedict!

We also welcomed baritone **Mark Rowlinson**. He told your editor that he especially enjoyed coming to Blackburn, not only for the high standard of the music 'but,' he said, 'because everyone is so friendly'.



The concert was also amazing. The 95-voice choir was made up of many of our cathedral choristers, who were joined by the choir of Stoneyhurst College. The Northern Chamber Orchestra was superb: including four French Horns, harp, and also percussion as far as the eye could see.



Samuel Hudson's conducting was riveting: he looked at his players and singers almost continuously and he not only mouthed the words which the choir sang but also the words of the soloist. He was in total command and was a joy to watch!

A highly complimentary article was published worldwide shortly after the concert by www.seenandheard-international.com
Here are some extracts:

Blackburn Remembers Ireland's Idealistic Vision from the 1930s

[This] concert formed the culmination of an Ireland season that was the central span of the Blackburn Cathedral Appeal.

2012 saw concerts and other events to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of John Ireland. Allowing for the intensely concentrated John Ireland season that formed part of the Chelsea Festival (21-25 June 2012) **Blackburn's year-long Ireland celebration of the music has been the most ambitious.**

Friendly Blackburn Cathedral has had concert after concert since March. This one was the most impressive in programming terms. The augmented Northern Chamber Orchestra and choirs were conducted by the valiant instigator of the Ireland season, **Samuel Hudson**. Ambition is one thing and accomplishment another. Blackburn and Hudson carried off both with style.

We began with that most understated and atmospherically evocative of Ireland works – *The Forgotten Rite*. It's a short impressionistic piece, most delicately orchestrated and full of finely detailed invention. It is the gentle face of Ireland's absorption with pagan history. It's a masterly piece that received an aptly measured pensive pacing. The Cathedral acoustic did at one climactic point rather smear the orchestral weave but this was a very fine performance with some relishably prominent contributions from harp and celesta.

Then came Elgar's rousing *Give unto the Lord*. This is 'the full works': the grand Elgar in microcosm and very effective indeed. It was stirringly done with echoes of the great oratorios and of the *Second Symphony* along the way. The words were included in the free programme which was just as well as they were indistinguishable in the stone cathedral space. The Appeal Choir and young choristers from

Stonyhurst College made a brave noise and there was sturdy work for drums and brass.

Ireland's *These Things Shall Be* is a work of epic themes – peace and world fraternity – all in a short time-span. It was written in 1936 and has peace as its theme. All the works in the concert were concise but in its 25 minutes *These Things Shall Be* encompasses true grandeur.



My impressions of the performance? The child choristers sang out with utter dedication, the resentful rattle of the side-drum, the gruff brass, moments of pastoral calm too easily lost amid the torrents, the ethereally exposed high singing of the choristers and women and the accomplished serenity of the horn solo...

There's also the understated but magical moment when **Mark Rowlinson's** sonorous solo verse ends on the word 'fraternity' – a word devastatingly punched home by the choir quietly also singing the same word: no longer a single voice but a community statement. The sweeping arm gestures of young Sam Hudson already tall were made towering and unmistakable as he stood on the podium. The ninety strong choir was notable for its youthful age profile.

The second half of the concert included the all-out flamboyant heroics of the bipartite Walton. The romantic violin solo was taken by the leader in silvery filigree: more Yfrah Neaman finery than Oistrakh luxury but very effective against the predominant and glorious heroics. Ireland's *Holy Boy* is the softest sigh of a piece and was heard in its rare full orchestra edition.

The Ireland *Greater Love hath no man* has its moments and is by turns reflective, noble and fleetingly exalted.

RVW's *Five Mystical Songs* concluded the evening. Rowlinson was in fine form, shaping his singing with great intelligence and sensitivity to the words. *Easter* was overwhelming and the subdued emphasis given to the parenthetic words '*and much more*' was just right. It touches like that that identify the true artist. *Love Bade Me Welcome* was magically done – the mingled meeting place of the devotional and the pastoral. In the final *Antiphon* I have never heard the horn-calls that limn the exuberantly rhythmic introduction with such clarity. It romped along in tireless exultation and shook the candy twist scrolled vaulted ceiling.

The sponsors for the concert included the charitable trusts for RVW, Percy Whitlock and John Ireland; indeed **Bruce Phillips**, a true Ireland paladin and Director of the Ireland Trust spoke with gratitude between the Walton and the Ireland *Holy Boy*. The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music were also generous contributors. However **Booths**, the Northern supermarket chain, should receive special recognition. They were the only non-music based sponsor. All credit to them.

Whether Ireland's music will take off in the way that Finzi's has since the 1970s I doubt it, though it deserves to. That said, it stood shoulder high in the company of the music of three other greats of the English Musical renaissance last night.

Rob Barnett

Sponsored by
BOOTH'S

From former chorister **SARAH CHEW** studying at the **Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama**

Hi John,

I've been meaning to send this out for a while, just an update on how things are in Cardiff as I enter my final year here (along with **Josh Abbott!**).



Sarah Chew & Dad

Last year, our college had a new building which has really changed the way Cardiff sees the city and the opportunities we have from it.

The new building cost £22.5 million and, amazingly, all the money was paid back before the official opening (quite remarkable really in our current economic climate).

Upon entering the foyer, which offers views straight into Bute Park, we have '*The Richard Burton Theatre*' which seats 160, and '*The Dora Stoutzker Concert Hall*' which is the first custom built concert hall in Wales. This venue seats



400 and it's where the majority of our music concerts happen. It's allowed us to attract some incredible names to the college, with recent visits from Susan Bullock, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Cardiff Singer of the World competitions, BBC Young Musician competition (all televised), Elin Manahan Thomas, and even Rob Brydon doing an intimate stand up night in the hall (he was a student at the college many years ago).

As well as this, I keep myself very busy. I'm about to enter my second year with BBC National Chorus of Wales with a vocal scholarship, conducted by **Adrian Partington**.

It really is a fantastic chorus, rehearsing in Cardiff Bay in Hoddinott Hall, working with an incredible orchestra and singing some fantastic music. I did my first four Proms this summer! These were *Belshazzar's Feast*, Bernstein's *Mass*, Berlioz' *Requiem* and Debussy's *Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian*.

All in all, very busy! Somewhere in between BBC and my degree, I work for a Welsh based opera company called '*Opera'r Ddraig*' (this means Dragon Opera in Welsh, and the 'dd' makes a 'th'



sound down here!) and this year I am producer for our next production, Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*. I have a cabaret company which I started in 2010 which uses opera singers in training to sing modern chart songs in their own unique way. It is also something a bit fun and raises lots of money for charity. I also joined the Student Union this year and am the Welfare and Education Officer at the college.

It's still nice to see fellow Blackburn folk, **Alison Holmes** and **Joshua Abbott** around, and I had the lovely surprise of seeing former Blackburn choral scholar **Dave Young** in the canteen a few weeks ago! He was looking at the choral conducting course our college does which was founded by Adrian Partington, and Simon Halsey (a fantastic conductor and teacher who makes the classes really come to life for all involved!) The hard part is finding time to get back home to see my parents and visit friends at the cathedral!

Hope you are well,
Sarah

This is fantastic, Sarah. Heartiest congratulations from us all – how proud your parents must be of you – as are we all! JB

Before our Bishop Retired...

The Cathedral Chapter and Council gathered in the North Transept on 18 October to say farewell to **Bishop Nicholas and Christine** and also to thank **Lady Shuttleworth** for her 14 years as Chairman of the Cathedral Council. Speeches were made and two handsome paintings – both by local artist Mike Waters were presented. A good time was had by all!
Dean Christopher Armstrong



After our Bishop Retired...

... he wrote a most gracious letter to your editor after JB had given him a CD of 94 photographs taken at his Farewell Service (see some of the photographs on pp 24-25):

Dear John

Where do I begin to thank you for all the photos from 20 October? What a truly wonderful collection to remind us of what was a magnificent official ending. With all that has happened, and been given, and with the great generosity shown, I do not believe any diocesan bishop could have had a finer farewell.

I have been so fortunate to be here and to be the bishop for nearly nine years. The question for me is why does so little given receive so much in return, but then that surely says such a lot about the good people of Lancashire.

I do want to thank you for all the occasions you have photographed and for all your kindness from the moment we walked through the door.

We look forward to receiving copies of **Music & More** in our retirement.

Christine joins me in thanking you so much for all you have given over so many years and we send our very best wishes for the future and look forward to catching up with you on a return visit.

+Nicholas



London Bombings: 7th Anniversary



When **Lisa French**, a survivor of the 7/7 London bombings, came to Blackburn Cathedral in October for a dialogue with the cathedral's Dialogue Development Officer **Anjum Anwar MBE**, she re-lived her horrific experiences of that ever-to-be-remembered day.

Anjum Anwar writes: Lisa French was a marketing manager travelling for a meeting in London. She never made it to the meeting for, by boarding that bus, her life was to change for ever.



Lisa told us about her fateful journey on the morning of 7th July, on the bus that would take her to her meeting, which of course, she never reached.

As she climbed on the bus, a young man, who she described as a 'polite young man', brushed past her and went to the back. Lisa nearly sat next to him but, as both he and Lisa were carrying bags, she decided to sit in front of him, which was the only seat to remain intact during the blast.

After the blast she thought of that young man, and realized that he was a suicide bomber. But he had been so polite and he was now dead!

Lisa was listened to closely by students from Blackburn College and from the general public. Following her talk, she responded clearly to such questions as:

"Had she become religious since 7/7?"

"How had her family reacted?"

"What motivates her to work for peace, when she should be angry?"

We, at Blackburn Cathedral were honoured that Lisa could come and speak to us about how her life has changed. Instead of being full of bitterness, she has managed to turn her negative energies into something profoundly beautiful, working for peace for all.

Lisa today manages a charity called *Peace of Cake* which works to bring people together who have suffered some sort of tragedy.



Lisa French with Dean Christopher

Lisa was also one of the 8000 Olympic Torch Bearers, which she very kindly brought with her so that her audience in our North Transept could see it, for it is a symbol of peace.



The Cathedral Community Open Day...

... sometime during the so-called summer, was a great success. There were bouncy castles outside and volunteer handbell ringing inside, and even though it was a cold and windy day the cathedral choirs were well represented by a variety of stalls.

A number of choristers and their parents provided a second-hand bookstall, with baked cakes as an added attraction

Dominic Eatwell, who is a very tall member of our Young People's Choir, even entered some of his own home-baked chocolate cupcakes into the cake competition, winning third prize. Everyone agreed that they were not only delicious but also beautifully decorated. Well done, Dominic!



Cakes (L) and Books (R)

L-R Mark Molyneux (training to be a policeman), choristers Chris and Hannah Snape and Harvey Finney, with Dominic towering behind.

(Mark and Dominic seem to be praying. They weren't!)

Harvey Finney (Deputy Head Chorister) and his Mum, **Carole**, did a great job of putting together two more competitions: 'Guess the name of the monkey' and 'How many sweets in the jar?' which raised £50.

It was a really fun day – despite the weather.

(From choirmum Amanda Snape)



From former Choral Scholar Tom Stockwell in Lincoln

Hi JB!

Great to hear from you!

I always enjoy receiving **M&M!** It's good to see how things are progressing. Things here in Lincoln are great! I'm really enjoying the Cathedral choir (and as you pointed out, it's one

of the greatest buildings around!) and my job, teaching at the Minster school, is keeping me on my toes! I promise I'll come and visit soon when I get a window, but with Advent and Christmas looming, times are busy! I'll try and pop over in the New Year. I do miss Blackburn!

My brothers are both well thank you. *[Tom is one of triplets – all musical!]* Ewan is enjoying his time singing at Rochester cathedral and is doing bits and bobs alongside. Matt is about to move to Bristol to take up a job working for a large company doing something or other! This is a chance for him to make some money before making applications to join an airline as a pilot in the near future (he always did have his head in the clouds!).

How are you keeping?

All the very best, **Tom**

Great to hear from you too, Tom. Thanks so much for keeping in touch. Much appreciated. JB

*And it was also great in October to welcome back two of our former Choral Scholars who sang with our choirs for the **Bishop's Farewell service:** (See pp 24-25)*



*Rehearsing with our choirs: (L) **Tim Ferguson** (now at York University – see pp 2 & 4) and (R) **James White** (about to start training for the Priesthood – see p. 7).*

It was a happy coincidence...

... to meet former cathedral choir alto **Jack Holland** and his ebullient wife **Connie** in October. JB was enjoying a post-birthday luncheon with generous friends at **Gibbon Bridge** – and Jack and Connie were also there with some of their friends. They came over to talk with us.

Jack used to sing in Haslingden church choir, but joined us at the cathedral some 40 years ago, and great was his contribution to all we did, both musically and socially.



Jack was a 'dog' man. He was never able to come to our Choristers' Annual Reunions in September, because he was always called upon to be a judge at the prestigious CRUFTS DOG SHOW in London which was held at the same time.

But it was good to catch up again with Jack and Connie in that most gracious of restaurants (highly recommended!) where delicious cuisine and congenial surroundings combine to give its patrons most satisfying contentment.

Jack has also made a most generous contribution to our Patronage fund. Thanks so much, Jack

*Look up **Gibbon Bridge** on the web.*

Farewell, Bishop Nicholas

Blackburn Cathedral was packed to the doors when **The Right Reverend Nicholas Reade** took his farewell of his diocese during a memorable service on Saturday, 20th October.

A magnificent order of service had been drawn up by the hard-working cathedral staff with full colour photographs of the bishop from his childhood, college, marriage and priesthood years. All the participants had been meticulously rehearsed by **Canon Andrew Hindley** so that everyone knew where they should be and what they should do during the 2½ hour service.

It was very good to see our **Lord Lieutenant and his Lady** sitting in the front row (they had arrived early).



Next to them were the **Chief Constable**, and **The Lord Taylor of Blackburn**, who is a strong supporter of the cathedral and such a loyal friend to so many of us.

The processions were magnificent whilst we sang *O for a thousand tongues* with trumpet fanfares and glorious organ interludes arranged by Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson** and played by Assistant Director of Music, **Shaun Turnbull**. The trumpeters were from the Northern Chamber Orchestra which had participated so creatively in our John Ireland concert the week before.

Amongst the distinguished clergy (there were bishops everywhere!) were the Bishop and Dean from Braunschweig, our sister diocese in Germany.



The first lesson from the book of Daniel was read by **Christine Reade** and the second lesson was read by two pupils from Belshaws CE High School, representing the 200 church schools in our diocese.

In his final sermon Bishop Nicholas began with a light-hearted reference to his age, followed by the meat of his message to us:



'Although my hope is for heaven, yet I don't aim to get there just yet, for I look forward to being with you for the next Preston Guild in 2032!

Let us not be a Church which talks about prayer, but one which actually prays. For in the words of St. Francis: *We have only just begun.*

Your new bishop will be different from his eight predecessors; he will pray for you and so much more; and he will also serve the wider community of the Church.

Christine and I are deeply grateful to you all and we promise to pray for you every day.'

An informal but meaningful addition to the service was the presentation, by Bishop Nicholas, to All Hallows Parish Church, Bispham, which is the 100th parish in our diocese to have earned Child Friendly status.



The children from Bispham were led in procession by our two Archdeacons while the Bishop of Lancaster reminded us that the 50th Blackburn Diocesan Parish had received its award from the hands of the **Archbishop of York**, the 75th Parish had received its award from the **Archbishop of Canterbury**; therefore how appropriate it was that the 100th parish should receive its award from the hands of the **Bishop of Blackburn!**



Bishop Nicholas celebrated, assisted by Bishop John of Burnley and Bishop Geoff of Lancaster, whilst the choir sang music from Schubert's *Mass in G*.



The cathedral choir, with trumpets and organ, then sang Parry's *I was glad*, and the Bishop stood behind the altar because he was about to relinquish his Blackburn Diocesan Crozier to symbolise his formal resignation as Bishop of Blackburn.



And when it was all over – we discovered that it wasn't all over! For

Bishop John took centre stage to thank Bishop Nicholas for all that he had done for us during his 9-year Episcopal ministry. But after that the Bishop and Christine Reade were given presents from the diocese, including an exquisite hand-made coffee table.



This was a most moving moment for we could see in his face how much this affected him.



When +Nicholas and Christine walked down the Nave they were greeted by prolonged applause from us all as a gesture of our thanks to them both ... and then came the informal farewells outside the West door.

Thank you, Bishop and Christine for blessing us so richly. May you be equally blessed in your retirement in Sussex.



How very good it was...

... to welcome **Canon Chris Chivers** back to Blackburn Cathedral for a public Dialogue with Anjum Anwar MBE. Canon Chris was, as we all remember, a most dynamic Canon Chancellor here (coming to Blackburn via Westminster Abbey, Cape Town Cathedral and King's College, Cambridge).



When Anjum asked him what his earliest source of inspiration was, he replied that at the age of 17, when he was in Calcutta working with Mother Teresa he saw Calcutta Cathedral – looking so 'Anglican' and 'traditional'. He wondered what it was doing for the outcast, the homeless and the hungry in that most deprived city. But one day he noticed that the cathedral was being filled by volunteers with provisions for the refugees from floods. In other words, a cathedral can be the focus not only for spirituality but also a focus for practical help for the community.

Canon Chris certainly did this during his creative years of ministry with us. He said that the Church of England, at its best, can do great things.

But he also said many other challenging things which deserved to be heard. Would that his words could have been recorded for us all to act upon.

The Dean's 24-hour Poetry Reading Marathon ...

... was a great success. He raised well over £1,500 for the Cathedral Appeal.

The Dean shared readings with the BBC's **Ted Robbins**, seen here interviewing **Dean Christopher** for BBC Radio Lancashire just before the Marathon began at 12 noon on All Saints' Day.



Photographers were much in evidence – two to take the Dean's and Ted's photo, and a third to take a photo of the photographers!

The first poem to be read was George Herbert's *Love bade me welcome*, followed by John Betjeman's *Westminster Abbey*, which, so the Dean told us, was a superb example of how not to pray:

**So, Lord, reserve for me a crown,
And do not let my shares go down.**

After it was all over the Dean commented:

"We both managed to snatch some sleep during the night but the worst bit was just after the finish when the adrenalin evaporated! It was great fun. Working with Ted was hilarious and the BBC did a great job with publicity."

It was a fascinating and highly educational 24 hours. How the Dean and Ted stood up to it we shall never know!

Most Generous Donors to the Cathedral Choristers' Association (BCCA)

to help support the cathedral choirs
and to ensure that **Music & More** continues.

In addition to the very many generous folk who have agreed to become **Patrons of BCCA** (at £50 p.a. or £5 per month) and those who have agreed to become **Grand Patrons** (at £100 p.a. or £10 per month) **see p. 18**, we have received a number of 'Patronage-size' donations from friends, including:

Frank Hare. Frank was an outstanding choirman during JB's time and lives in a most beautiful historic house near Malvern (ancient timbers everywhere) with his wife, **Chris**. Frank, in his retirement, is editor and creator of a professional magazine devoted to the motor trade. His stupendous efforts put **M&M** in the shade!



Margaret Dewhurst, from Blackburn, is widow of our former assistant organist, **Fred Dewhurst**, who was a most loyal member of our Choristers' Association, and its Chairman for many years.

Margaret has often been seen helping with the serving of delicious meals created in our Café-in-the-Crypt, and she recently gave to the choir library Fred's copy of the *Blackburn Chant Book* which was created for the cathedral choir in 1971, in memory of former Director of Music **T. L. Duerden**.

It was the first chant book in the world to use modern notation (minims and crotchets instead of semibreves and minims). This (Blackburn) modern notation was adopted by the American Psalter in 1984! *The music is so much easier to see!*

Betty Parkinson MBE is from Blackburn, and her son former chorister **Stephen**, lives in New Zealand. They have given their donation in loving memory of **Stuart**, Betty's late husband, who was a faithful sidesman at the cathedral. He had a beautiful speaking voice, and was a most gentle man whom everyone loved.



Betty, who has been through some rough times health-wise recently, is now one of the liveliest members of our congregation. Hallelujah!

And we have received a '**Grand Patron**' donation from **Heather Starkie** who is a recent dynamic secretary of our Choirs' Association and also our 2007-08 Senior Old Chorister.



Heather did much to create a strong presence of former choristers at our Annual Reunion Sunday morning Eucharist. She strengthened the tradition of the reading of the first lesson by the new Senior Old Chorister, and the taking of the collection and the making of the Offertory by former choristers. We thank her so much for all this,

and more, and especially now as she was recently married.

And we have just received a '**Grand Patron**' donation from The Right Honourable, **The Lord Taylor of Blackburn CBE, JP, DL, LLD**. His generous cheque was enclosed in a House of Lords card in which he had written: *My dear John, Thank you for the grand work you do. Tom.*

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many friends of the cathedral music.



Cheques to 'BCCA' c/o the Cathedral please. THANK YOU, ALL!

BLACKBURN CHORISTER SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD IN LONDON

Blackburn Cathedral Girls' Choir and YPC Chorister **Louisa Stirland**, who was short-listed from very many young singers from choirs throughout the UK, sang her way to success in the prestigious **BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year 2012** competition recently. Louisa was named along with Isaac Waddington, who is 13 and hails from Portsmouth as Radio 2's Young Choristers of the Year 2012 in a special programme broadcast to the nation at prime time on a Sunday evening on Radio 2.



Picture published courtesy of Tricia Yourkewich/BBC

The grand finale, presented by **Aled Jones** was held in front of a packed house at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church on Trafalgar Square in London and featured the eight short-listed contestants from around the country who each performed in front of a team of highly acclaimed judges. The panel included Suzi Digby, the international choir director and renowned promoter of young voices; Dr David Hill, the highly respected choral advisor and Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers; Ken Burton, the musical arranger and Director of the London Adventist Chorale, and internationally recognised soul singer Mica Paris.

Louisa, in winning this prestigious national award with her performance of *Quia Respexit* from Bach's *Magnificat* and *My Song is Love Unknown* by John Ireland, follows in the footsteps of Laura Wright who has had a number one album in the classical charts and recorded the Diamond Jubilee song, 'Stronger As One'.

And, of course, former Girls' choir member **Caroline Kenyon** won a top prize, competing against thousands of others from across the UK, when she sang at O2. See *M&M April 2012 p. 4*.

46 years ago singers from Blackburn Cathedral also won a national competition organised by the BBC when, shortly after their formation, the Renaissance Singers (whose original name was the *Blackburn Bach Choir*), won the title of Best Mixed Voice Choir in the UK – for two years in succession. So our congratulations to Louisa are redoubled for continuing Blackburn Cathedral's choristers' national triumphs.



Picture published courtesy of Tricia Yourkewich/BBC

Louisa, who attends Penwortham Girls High School, received a trophy and will be given tuition with a top vocal coach. She will also get the opportunity to appear on national radio and television on Radio 2's *Good Morning Sunday* and Radio 4's *Daily Service*. She will also feature on BBC 1's *Songs of Praise* early in the New Year, and take part in a recording of carols that will be broadcast on Christmas Day.

On receiving her award, host Aled Jones asked Louisa how she would be celebrating, to which she replied, 'With chocolate I hope!' On reflection this was a great response to make judging by the amount of chocolate related gifts she has received since making the comment. None of which she hastens to add will be consumed before, or for that matter, during services or rehearsals!



She is looking forward to a hectic and exciting year ahead, and would like to thank everyone connected with Blackburn Cathedral, and at school, for all their kind words and thoughts, which have gone to make this period in time very special and memorable for her. *Heartiest congratulations, Louisa!*

From former Choir Parent NEIL SHEPHERD in Cornwall

Life down here in Cornwall is going extremely well. I continue in my role of Director of Music at St Ives Parish Church which I enjoy immensely, as well as private teaching, directing Cornwall Community Choir (an outreach project with 5 daytime choirs) and three other choirs too - *Laudate* (SATB) singing Cathedral-style repertoire and two other choirs singing secular repertoire. *[Eleven Choirs – Wow!]*

The family are doing well.

My wife, **Kate** sings in one of my choirs down here.

Leanne (ex Blackburn YPC) is now married with two children of her own and our two little ones (Emily 12 and Lucy, 9) are both thriving, playing piano, flute and of course, singing! **Emily** sings with Truro Cathedral Youth Choir and **Lucy** is progressing through the piano grades and is determined to become an organist and

"make lots of noise and charge lots of money, like Daddy"!



Neil's Family in 2007 when they lived in Clitheroe

There is a warm welcome down here in Cornwall to any old friends from Blackburn - pop in if ever you're around! Best wishes to old friends in the **Renaissance Singers** and anyone else who remembers me!

Thanks for all your efforts with *Music & More*, John - it is fabulous to see the music at Blackburn flourishing so much.

Best wishes

Neil

Thanks so much, Neil! JB

Neil is a highly gifted musician – when the family lived in Clitheroe he was Director of Music of Standish Parish Church where he promoted many fine concerts. Before that he was Director of Music of a large Parish Church in the West Midlands where JB led a choral workshop for him. Clearly he is continuing his amazing work and we are so very grateful for his practical support of BCCA.

See p 18.

From Bishop Nicholas In Bexhill

Patron of Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association

Dear John,

What very good news [about the success of attracting so many Patrons and Grand Patrons of the Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association]... I am so pleased. I shall look forward to receiving your Standing Order.

The music in Blackburn Cathedral is something we will always look back on with great thanksgiving, and so much of that is due to your initiatives as Director of Music in the '60s to '80s. As a Diocese we are so fortunate to have such dedicated musicians, and there are so many occasions we will never forget.

Indeed as I write this I have in front of me the Fanfare composed by **Richard Tanner** for my Enthronement, and we are still enjoying the occasional look at the 94 photos you took at that most splendid of Farewell Eucharists. I don't believe anywhere else would have done their bishop anything like as well!



We are getting settled down here. The Church where I am based is **All Saints', Sidley**, which is in the poorest area of Bexhill, but there is an excellent liturgical tradition and a fine organist, Julius Weeks who is also an architect. He seems to play all around the place, and Kenneth Pont used to trust him enough to

have him play at Mayfield, and even during the Mayfield Festival. There's a small but keen choir. But for the really good choral music we have to go to Bexhill Parish Church where it used to be up to Cathedral standard, and I think it is still pretty good.

Do keep in touch,

Christine joins me in sending greetings, and prayer,

+ **Nicholas**

Thank you, so much, Bishop, for your continuing generous support of the music ministry of Blackburn Cathedral. You and Christine were inspirational lights to us all during your time with us, and your light will continue to shine brightly in all our hearts. JB



TOM WILKINSON R. I. P.

It is with the deepest sorrow that we learned of the death on November 11th of former cathedral chorister Tom Wilkinson.



Tom and daughter-in-law Joanna, wife Joy and son David at a reception after a cathedral concert a few years ago

Tom joined the cathedral choir when the legendary Thomas L. Duerden was Master of the Choristers, and he became a choir prefect in 1956. When JB succeeded TLD in 1964 Tom was an enthusiastic tenor and very keen on sport.

14 months ago, Tom suddenly discovered that he has a problem with one of his legs, and this quickly developed into Motor Neurone disease. Up to a few weeks ago he was still living in his home in Bolton with Joy - but was bedridden and had to have visits from carers 4 times a day. He could hardly speak. — our hearts bled for Tom and Joy.

Joy wrote to JB a couple of weeks before Tom died:

'We are fortunate to have two wonderful sons and daughters-in-law, as well as two gorgeous and very energetic grandchildren: Hannah who will be 5 on New Year's Eve and Thomas who was 3 in July.'

BCCA Chaplain, the Revd. Ian Hollin, visited Tom and Joy in their Bolton home several times — which they appreciated so much.

Tom's funeral would have been held at the cathedral, but the family felt that, due to the time factor, it should be held at Overdale Crematorium in Bolton. Our BCCA Chaplain, the Revd. Ian Hollin, led the service most beautifully — with a strong Resurrection message. His address was so moving that we sent copies to all OCs online.

The Cathedral was represented by OCs Philip Wilson and Nigel Chew (Tom was Nigel's Godfather) and by Edward and Anitra Haythornwhite — who gave JB a lift there. The Chapel was packed. It was a beautiful experience for us all — and especially for Joy, David and Neil and their families.

**Tom, may you rest in peace:
Every memory of you is joyful.**

From Cathedral Music supporter Terry Givens

Dear John,

My wife **Alison** sings with the Renaissance Singers and also with the Blackburn Cathedral Consort, and so we recently invited a close friend of ours to attend the outstanding and extremely moving Renaissance Singers' Autumn Concert, **'They shall grow not old'**.



At my request you gave my friend a copy of the latest **Music & More**, and after a few minutes browsing through it she remarked, **"My word, this is even better than 'Lancashire Life' magazine!!"** And guess what, she is right!!

I think I've probably visited most of England's great cathedrals over the past 30 years, and in the process have accumulated boxes full of brochures and diocesan publications.

But in my experience there is positively nothing out there to rival **Music and More** in terms of its articles, content, lay-out, stunning pictures of high quality, and generally eye-catching coverage of our cathedral's musical life, worship, and related social events.

I know that you compile and edit this entire publication single-handed, so I feel that it can never be stated too often just how fortunate we are to have such a magazine as **M&M** in Blackburn.

Long may you continue to provide us with such high quality information and entertaining insight into the musical and worshipful life of our great Cathedral.

Terry Givens.

*Wow, thank you Terry. And, yes, it was a fabulous concert. JB
See next page.*

‘THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD’

The Renaissance Singers were at their musical, and sensitive and expressive best when **Samuel Hudson** conducted an exceptionally beautiful Cathedral Concert on the evening before Remembrance Sunday.

Every work was moving; every work was performed from the heart and the audience felt an aura of peace settling upon us as we remembered, through carefully chosen and meticulously rehearsed music, the sacrifices made by so many so that we may live in peace.



The first work was, to many of us, most unusual. It was composed by Johann Schein (1586-1630) who was a German musician and one of the most polished composers of the period, but some of his harmonies could almost have been composed in the 20th Century. The words, in translation, were, *Those who sow in tears will reap in joy (Psalm 126 vv 5-6)*. This lovely work set the mood for the whole concert,

The Singers then semi-surrounded the audience – stretching across the Nave and halfway down each side aisle – to sing Byrd’s *Nunc Dimittis*. This was both musically and visually stimulating, and notable for the Singers’ blend and balance even though they were singing at a distance from each other.



We had a world premiere: **David Bednall’s** *How sleep the brave*. David has played at Blackburn Cathedral many times – he is an exceptionally gifted organist and is now studying for his PhD. This work, and his second anthem, *I am the light of the world*, were deeply expressive and exquisitely sung. The cello part, played by **Heather Bills** who plays with the Hallé and Northern Chamber Orchestras, wove a mellifluous commentary upon the choir’s singing. She also played a movement from Bach’s Cello Suite no. 2 so beautifully.

But for this member of the audience the greatest thrill came in the second half of the programme when Samuel Hudson conducted Maurice Duruflé’s *Requiem* entirely **from memory!**

And this was no empty gesture for, not only did he mouth the words of the entire work to his choir and convey, by his gestures, precisely how they should sing each phrase, but his conducting was wholly necessary, for the singers had only the vocal parts from which to sing – there was no organ part for them to follow. So, for example, after a certain number of

bars’ rest, they had to come in confidently on the right note – and this they could only do if Samuel Hudson brought them in – which he did over and over again.



And no words of praise are too strong for Assistant Director of Music **Shaun Turnbull’s** playing of this fiendishly difficult work.



Your editor mentioned to him, before the concert, that the *Sanctus* was probably the most demanding accompaniment of the *Requiem* (for it had running triplet semi-quavers in the left hand throughout) to which Shaun said, ‘No, that’s quite straightforward!’ And so it turned out to be. Shaun’s playing in our cathedral is notable for its expressive colourfulness. And this was certainly true during that most memorable evening when he seemed to use every stop on our organ – from the *Vox Humana* to the *Imperial Trumpet* – and everything in between. It was thrilling.

But there was one more surprise in store. The mezzo-soprano soloist in the *Pie Jesu* of the Duruflé was none other than **Rebecca Hudson** wife of our Director of Music. And what a truly serene performance she gave – not only with her lovely voice, but also by her calm deportment. The spirit of the Latin words was truly created – *Grant them eternal rest*.



*It was a concert ever to be remembered in tranquility.
Thank you!*

Chorister Awards

It's always good to receive awards, and it's very satisfying indeed for the benefactors who give them.

At Choral Evensong one Sunday in November a host of awards was given to our cathedral choristers from a many Benefactors. Each Award was announced by **Samuel Hudson** and presented by **The Dean**.

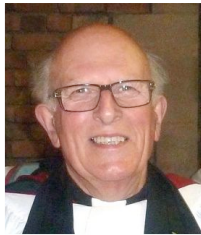


The Livesey Trust Awards, founded in 1769, is given for excellence to choristers who live within the old Borough of Blackburn.

Its recipients were (R-L) **Lee Felipes, Luke Felipes, Emily Kennedy** and **Megan Riding**.



The Dean David Frayne Award is given to an outstanding chorister, who was **Esther Worrall**. **Frank Ashton** presented the award; he was Clerk to the Trustees of the Livesey Exhibition Endowment when the Dean David Frayne Award was created.



The Fred Green Award, in memory of a longtime Churchwarden, Choirmen, and sometime Mayor of the Ribble Valley and Rotary District Governor, is for especially committed cathedral choristers who live outside Blackburn.

Its recipients were (R-L) **Aidan Halsall, Matthew Howard** and **Sebastian Roberts**. (Next column)



(The Fred Green Award)

The Chadwick Memorial Prize for excellence comes from a bequest made by **Peter Chadwick**, a former teacher at St Peter's CE Boys' High School. It was awarded to our outstanding Head Chorister, **William Fielding**.



The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Awards are made to two choristers who have shown themselves to be engaged in the life and work of the cathedral and who make an excellent contribution to the cathedral choirs. The silver goblets, which would be held for a year, were presented by the Chairman of the Friends, **Jeremy Duerden**.



They were awarded to BBC Young Chorister of the Year **Louisa Stirland** and Deputy Head Chorister **Harvey Finney**.



Dame Mary Tanner, former President of the World Council of Churches and Mother of our previous Director of Music, gave an Award for the longest serving member of the Girls' Choir (which is the equivalent of the Dots Bertalot award for the longest serving boy chorister).



It was presented to Prefect **Megan Riding**.

*Well done, all,
and a big
Thank You
to our
generous
benefactors!*

BLACKBURN MUSICIANS PLAY IN WINDSOR CASTLE DUNGEONS!



Local ceilidh band "Frolicking Pete and the Fumbling Fingers" had a booking on Friday, 9th November you would not expect for a Lancashire-based band. They provided the music for a ceilidh in Windsor Castle! The Royals, however, did not attend and the dance was held in the Castle's social centre – the dungeons.



The six-piece band played a four-hour set. L-R: Peter "the Squeeze" Robinson on melodeon, Gin Crewe on concertina and guitar, Peter Crewe, father of ex cathedral singers Adam, Emily and Naomi Crewe, who calls and plays whistles, banjo and mandolin, Frank "the Harp" Wood on harp and guitar, Andrew Elliott, son of Renaissance Singer Alizon Elliott, on fiddle, and the Rev. John Hallows on bass.



Said Peter, the caller: "Well, it was certainly an unusual booking for us; we usually perform at venues across the North of England, from Newcastle to Chester, but we've never ventured as far south as Windsor as a band before.

But we were made very welcome and the dancing was tremendous to watch.

It's a shame we had to rush back

North the following morning for another engagement (i.e. Sunday morning at the cathedral!) But we were invited to look round the castle although we didn't really have the time.

Accommodation was in the Cloisters at the Castle overnight. **Justin Miller**, organ scholar at Blackburn some years ago, set up the ceilidh and invited us because he'd been to a New Year's ceilidh of ours. Other ex-Blackburn Cathedral members present included **James, Richard and Pippa Tanner, Tom Daggett and Emily Crewe.**

It pays to know the Right People to get you into Windsor Castle! Not Her Majesty this time, but former organ scholar Justin Miller who knows the sub organist of St George's Chapel, Richard Pinel, who did the necessary arranging!

GOOD NEWS from Bob Keen in Cheshire

I am pleased to be able to report that the results of my recent PET scan showed that all the lymphoma shown in January has gone. There is a little damage to the left lung, probably caused by being on the ventilator for so long, and that is likely to be permanent.



Bob & Pauline at our September Reunion (see p. 14)

There is therefore no need for radiotherapy and so it is a case of building up one's strength which is taking a little longer this time round.

We are going off to the Cotswolds for a week to give **Pauline** a proper break. She needs it after the year she has had. She has been a wonderful support to all of us, and so have John and Jill.

Thanks for all your support and prayers. This means ever so much to us all

Regards,

Bob



Hallelujahs all round!

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS to Alex Barnes

who has been conferred with the title of **Choir Virger** by the Dean, in recognition of his contribution to the life of the Cathedral through his work as Virger.

This is particularly apt, as Alex is a former Cathedral Chorister as were all his brothers!

And Alex is very handy with a camera, too!



Blackburn Cathedral's former Organ Scholar

NIGEL POTTS is on youtube

<http://www.nigelpotts.com/>



Nigel is making much music in the USA these days. He lives in New York City where he is organist of a City church, gives many organ recitals and now he appears on youtube. Have a look!

Toccata & Fugue in D minor (Op.59) - **Max Reger**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1Z1s0g1FdE>

Sonata in D minor (Op.42, No.1)) **Guilmant**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNWZILl9t28>

Overture from The Occasional Oratorio **Handel**
(transcribed by Nigel Potts)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iITsNoqLH3M>

Rhapsody in D flat major (Op.17, No.1) - **Howells**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAG227WY6CA>

Our heartiest congratulations to Dr Francis Jackson, CBE

...who was recently awarded a Lambeth Doctorate of Music by **Archbishop Rowan Williams**. Dr. Jackson was, of course, our Consultant when our new 1969 organ was being designed – so we have strong connections with Dr. Jackson. He was, for many years, the legendary Organist and Director of Music of York Minster.

Lambeth doctorates (i.e. honorary doctorates bestowed by the Archbishop who is a 'one man university') are counted as 'real' doctorates in the world of university degrees. Most honorary degrees bestowed by universities are indeed 'honorary' – though very acceptable to those of us who have received them!

As Dr Jackson already has an earned doctorate from Durham (i.e. he worked for it) and an honorary doctorate from the University of York, so he's now a triple-doctor and right glad we are for him and for his delightful wife, **Priscilla**.

Dr Jackson, who recently celebrated his 95th birthday, received his award at Lambeth Palace at the same time as **Dr. Martin Neary, LVO**, former Director of Music of Westminster Abbey. (Dr Neary's most famous service was the funeral of Princess Diana.)

Dr Neary told JB that when he (Martin) congratulated FJ on reaching such an exalted age, he replied with his typical disarming charm, "Yes, I know, and to have got there without really trying!"



Photo of Dr Jackson from 'Cathedral Music' magazine 2/12 page 36

YPC tenor Christopher Snape

**is also a trumpeter in the superb
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Swing Band (see p. 19)
which visited Malta in November**

Four years after having been in Malta with the boys' choir, mainly to sing Handel's *Messiah* with **Richard Tanner** at the Manoel Theatre in Valetta, I was back there in November. This time I was playing with the CRGS (Clitheroe Royal Grammar School) Swing Band conducted by **Nigel Spooner**, and we spent a few days playing concerts around the island.



Chris is standing in the middle row, this end

We had quite a varied range of venues including the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Malta's capital city Valetta, a shopping area in the town of St Julien and, my favourite location a sunny, open plaza in the old town of Mdina. We also had the opportunity of playing for the residents and staff of our hotel in the resort of **Qawra (below)**.



I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing in such beautiful settings and in wonderful temperatures of 25°C and occasionally needing to wear sunglasses, something that does not normally happen in our UK venues, certainly not in late autumn.

However, the tour was not all about performances. The band members also had some free time which gave us a chance to explore the sights of Malta; one of my particular favourites was a relaxing boat trip around the coastline of this lovely island.

At one of our venues a member of the audience from Columbia stated that she loved our genre of music but did not get many opportunities to hear where she came from; she suggested this could be a possible location for the next tour. I think we may need to start the fund raising now!

*Thanks, Chris, and well done.
Columbia?
Wow!*

The next Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Rev Justin Welby will be enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral on 21 March 2013.

He was educated at Eton and Cambridge, and his wife Caroline and he have five children.

He said that he is "utterly optimistic" about the future of the Church of England and spoke of the "massive sense of privilege" of being responsible for the leadership of the Church of England.

"To be nominated to this post is both astonishing and exciting. It is something I never expected."

We look forward to the day when Archbishop Welby can visit Blackburn – for his three of his four immediate predecessors have done so within fairly recent years: **Archbishops Donald Coggan, George Carey and Rowan Williams**.



We are we most grateful to yet more readers of M&M

...who have given us Patronage-size donations recently to further the work of the cathedral's music department and to ensure the future of M&M.

Amongst recent donors, who wish to remain anonymous, are two members from the choir of St Anne's Church, Fence, and also another faithful reader who lives near Preston. Thank you all, so very much!



A Big Welcome to Charlotte Wells
 who is our new *Chef de cuisine*
 in the Cathedral's Café-in-the-Crypt



Charlotte had her own restaurant in Blackburn, but gave it up to have a family. So now, having fulfilled that ambition, she is already delighting us with new menus, most delicious cuisine and her own special smile.

Look out for more news of Charlotte in the next few months, for her connections with Blackburn Cathedral will shortly become even stronger!

240 years of birthdays!

The cathedral has been celebrating a number of birthdays recently. As well as those celebrated at the Choristers' Reunion in September (see p. 15) we've had three more recent 80th birthdays to celebrate:



The Revd. **Robert Moore**, who sometimes sits in the congregation, and sometimes assists in leading services, celebrated his 80th birthday in September. With him is former choir parent **Barbara Walmisley** who celebrated her 80th with a party in the crypt in November.

And in October a most faithful member of our congregation, **Alma Nichols**, celebrated her 80th.

It's well-known that going to church tends to keep you in better health than not going. It's something to do with being forgiven. Try it!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALL!



Gary & Margery Wignall's
GOLDEN WEDDING

Dear John,
 on the 18th August 2012 we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary which originally had taken place in the Cathedral



on the same Saturday in 1962. Canon Glyn Jackson, who was Canon Sacrist, officiated and TLD played the organ which was situated above our present choir stalls (see photo). The choirboys also sang and, to Canon Jackson's surprise, we recorded the service. Thanks to Phil Hunwick this has now been converted to a CD, a copy of which we have placed in the choir archives.

As a coincidence our eldest son Stephen and his wife Wendy were also celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary four days' later, so we decided that we should do something special and all go to Paris by Eurostar to celebrate. Our hotel was situated next to Place Vendome square which contains Napoleon's column and the apartments which were occupied by Frederic Chopin.



We had a very memorable time visiting The Louvre Museum and the Mona Lisa, and sailing down the river Seine to Notre Dame Cathedral where we witnessed Evensong with clouds of incense. Another day we walked up the Champs Elysees to climb the Arc de Triomphe and to take the short walk to the Eiffel Tower. The vista from the top is breath taking – seeing all the principal buildings.

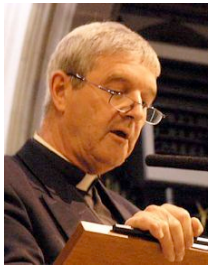
The day before we left we took a taxi to Montmartre to see the Sacre Coeur Basilica a magnificent church with a separate bell tower containing a 19 ton bell. A week later we gave the flowers at the Cathedral and hosted wine and celebration cake for the 10.30 congregation. It was a very special time.

Heartiest congratulations, Gary and Margery. You are both a continual joy to us all.

Gary was a chorister with TLD 61 years ago and he has been a bell-ringer for over 56 years, including two periods as Tower Captain. He's been a Sidesman, Churchwarden and a member of the Administrative Chapter and of the Cathedral Council. He's also served on the Governing Body of St. Wilfrid's Academy!

In recognition of this outstanding service he and Margery were invited to Buckingham Palace to attend the Queen's Garden Party in May.

A congratulatory Wow is surely called for!



On Sunday morning, 25th November, the Dean read the following statement to the cathedral congregation:

The General Synod of the Church of England has voted to reject the draft legislation to allow women to become bishops. While there was a strong overall vote in favour, the legislation fell because of the requirement for separate majorities in each of the three houses.



We acknowledge the frustration, bewilderment and anger that this vote has caused on all sides of the debate.

The Cathedral has to act as the Mother Church for the whole Diocese which has a spectrum of views on this issue, a spectrum which is replicated among the Cathedral congregations.



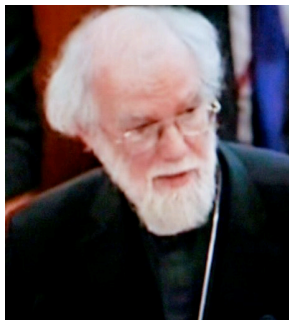
Canon Sue Penfold and others at the General Synod listening to someone who spoke against the consecration of Women Bishops

We believe that the model of diverse gifts and qualities which this Cathedral currently offers is a pointer to the way forward, where generosity and sensitivity are exercised in a challenging situation.

There will be anguish for some time but we will continue to strive for the gospel to be proclaimed, lived and faithfully expressed through the work of this Cathedral Community.

Our prayers continue for the General Synod, for the House of Bishops, and for each other as we strive to find the right way forward under God. Please pray especially for all those who are hurt by this decision.

If any of the Cathedral congregation wishes to speak to a member of the clergy about this issue, they are most welcome to do so.



In his final address to the General Synod, Archbishop Rowan Williams said:

God is a sending God, who meets us in situation after situation and sends us to people to make a connection, which connects them, in some way or another, with God. Making connections is part of an Archbishop's ministry.

Synod is a place where we seek but don't always succeed in making connections. My prayer for Synod is that

its capacity to make connections will be strengthened, and deepened and constantly grow.

St John of the Cross said, "Where there is no love, put love, and you will find love." After our recent deliberations I'm tempted to say, 'Where there is no trust, put trust, and you will find trust.'

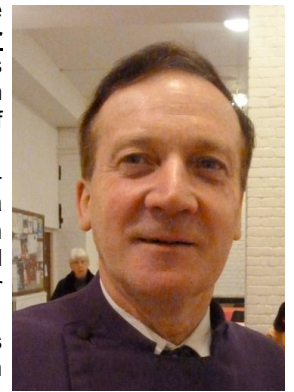
God has shown Himself to be trustworthy, and God has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. What more is there to be said?

How very good it is...

... to welcome back to the Cathedral Men's Choir, **Peter Eastham**. (He had taken a year's leave of absence to care for an elderly relative; that's the sort of person he is.)

Peter is one of our longest-serving choristers: he was a choirboy with **Tom L. Duerden** way back in the early 1960s and has sung with us, virtually, ever since.

One of Peter's many interests is steam trains. He's been chairman of the Worth Valley Steam Railway in Yorkshire for many years (that's **Brontë** country) and he's still closely connected with that delightful enterprise.



It makes a great day out – perhaps next summer, if we have one?

It's also very good...

... to hear from former chorister **Ian Harrison**, who has just become a Patron of BCCA and also added a handsome Patron-sized cheque to support our cathedral's music programme. *Thank you, Ian!*

Ian, like Peter Eastham, was a TLD chorister. He studied the organ with JB and eventually won an organ scholarship to Durham University.

Ian has been making great music for many years way down south – in Bournemouth, where he is Director of Music of St. Stephen's Church, (where Percy Whitlock was organist). Ian is also DoM of a super Prep School near that seaside city.



Ian (R) with Dr Alan Thurlow, former DoM of Chichester Cathedral, after Ian had received his honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians in 2009

Ian organises a magnificent annual music festival at St. Stephen's which attracts first-class musicians and choirs from such august places as Chichester, Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals, and more. **His next Festival is 4-6 May 2013.**



St Stephen's Festival Bournemouth

From Darkness to Light

Our Annual Advent Sequence, *Veni Emmanuel*, is always full of surprises, even though we now expect our cathedral choir to sing superb anthems in near darkness as well as processing to every corner of our cathedral.

But before the service began, the **Friends of Blackburn Cathedral** hosted a reception the Dean's study. (*Thank you, Mr. Dean.*)



When **Jeremy Duerden**, the Friends' Chairman, made an announcement that the Friends had seats reserved for them in the cathedral, and that they should fill up the front rows first (a very un-Anglican thing to do!), he was listened to in absolute silence... which is not

surprising as he's a retired Judge!

In the cathedral, before the service, organ scholar, **James Kealey**, played an ambitious programme of music. (He is so talented, and works very hard.)

Outstanding in James's offering were Howells' *Psalm Prelude Set 1, No. 1*, J. S. Bach's *C major fugue* (BWV 545 ii) and Brahms' *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*. James really did set the mood for the service which was to follow.

The Nave and most of the transepts were packed with an expectant congregation as the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, and the Cathedral Girls' Choir sang the Advent Responsory from the West end.



And as all choirs processed in near darkness we were never sure from where they would sing next. It was a magnificent feat of choreography as well, of course, as a rich and moving musical and spiritual experience.



Lessons were read, prayers were prayed, hymns were sung, and **Bishop John of Burnley** presided – sitting for the first time on our cathedra, which had been occupied so magnificently for nearly ten years by Bishop Nicholas.

Towards the end of the service all the lights were turned on. We had indeed come from darkness to light.



Although the rest of the cathedral was in darkness, lights had been provided for the choir – for the music was most demanding. It was a thrilling setting by **David Briggs** which set the highest standard for all that was to follow.

As the choir processed to their next positions (on either side of the Nave) candles were lit for everyone – which created an expectant atmosphere for the whole service.

The choirs' list of anthems, chosen by Director of Music **Samuel Hudson**, was most ambitious:

- I look from afar* – **David Briggs**
- Rorate coeli* (Drop down, ye heavens) – **Joseph Rheinberger**
- Vigilate* (Watch ye therefore) – **William Byrd**
- There is a flow'r* – **Stanley Vann**
- Ave Maria* (Hail, Mary) – **Anton Bruckner**
- Wachet auf* (Wake, arise) – **J. S. Bach**
- Never weather-beaten sail* – **Richard Shepherd**, and
- Lux Aurumque* (Light, warm and heavy) – **Eric Whitacre**.

The service lasted for nearly 90 minutes, but the choirs sat down for only 64 seconds! Afterwards, in the vestry, one of the choirmen commented, 'Oh, my poor feet!' (*That's a direct quote from Britten's 'Let's make an opera!'*)

Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson**, must be congratulated on the exceptional musical content of that service and when **Shaun Turnbull**, our effervescent Assistant Director of Music, played his post service voluntaries – Bach's *Nun, komm der Heiden Heiland* (BWV 661) and the 'Great' *g minor* (BWV 542) the congregation were invited to stay and listen.

Would that this courtesy to our organists would continue after services, for it is their special offering to the worship of our cathedral in which we all may join – by listening.

MUSIC & MORE Supplement IS NOW ONLINE

Thanks to the generosity of so many readers who have become Patrons or Grand Patrons of Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association, the future of **Music & More** is assured.

Not only will we continue to have **printed copies** (twice a year – February and July) but up-to-date reports on our cathedral's most exciting musical activities will also be immediately available **online**, either through the cathedral's or JB's websites:



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Look at these articles online available right now:

1. Distinguished visitor from Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.



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with cathedral choirs, school choirs, soloists, orchestra, organ and ever-changing coloured lights with mist machine!



3. Our own Louisa Stirland sings at No 10 Downing St.

And we have a new staff member for youth: Gill Taylor!



4, 5 & 6. Christmas Party, Christmas Day & NINE LESSONS & CAROLS



5. Our NEW YEAR'S EVE concert given by Samuel Hudson ...

and Much More!



New articles, with glorious photos, are continually being added Online! Take-a-look! Google Blackburncathedral or Blog.Bertalot.org

Our unbounded admiration

to the Very Revd. Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, and to Mr James O'Donnell, Director of Music of Westminster Abbey for their three wholly thrilling programmes on BBCTV in December about the life of Westminster Abbey.



Not only was the buoyant and inspiring ministry of that blessed place portrayed so clearly, but the message it gave to the whole country, and beyond, about the privileged experiences that cathedral choristers can have when singing inspired music

in hallowed surroundings, must lead many parents to consider if their children could also become cathedral choristers.

Although we aren't 'Westminster Abbey' (for The Queen doesn't tend to drop in to see us quite so frequently!) yet we do offer boys and girls formative experiences which will affect their whole lives.

And at Blackburn it's free!

Former Blackburn Cathedral Chorister **David Tattersall**, who became a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy, said that **the most important years of his life** were spent as a Blackburn Cathedral Chorister! (See p. 11)

At least one young singer (who sang so enthusiastically with his school choir for our *Christmas Spectacular*) has now applied to join Blackburn Cathedral choir and there are many more!

