

# BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

## *Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music Newsletter No. 2*

*and*

## *Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers Association Newsletter No. 11*

*Annual subscription: £10-00, (£5-00 for students) to  
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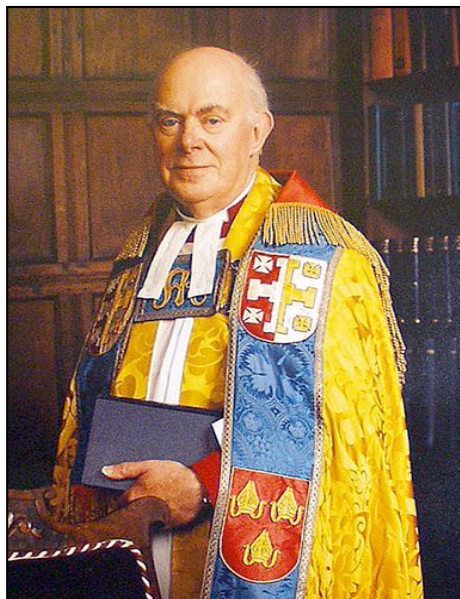
**February, 2003**

**General Editor: Dr. John Bertalot,  
Cathedral Close, Blackburn, BB1 5AA  
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On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, **PROVOST LAWRENCE JACKSON**, died aged 76 at his home near Stratford upon Avon. He had first been Vicar of Wymeswold Parish Church, then moved to St. James the Greater, Leicester. From there he moved to the prestigious church of Holy Trinity, Coventry, right next to the Cathedral, where his preaching attracted large congregations – rivaling those of the Cathedral – which is saying something! **Stephen Pedley**, now bishop of Lancaster, was one of his curates!

We all know of his tenure as Provost of Blackburn Cathedral – where his work can still be seen in the re-ordered chancel and East end of the cathedral. He created the Jesus Chapel (where the cathedral choirstalls used to be) and, in conjunction

with Laurence King, the cathedral architect, created the beautiful screens which enhance our central worship space around the altar.



**LJ's portrait, in the cathedral crypt**

JB wrote to Faith Jackson:

*You will be inundated with letters, and rightly so following the sad, sad news of Lawrence's death.*

*But what a marvellous tribute that was in the Daily Telegraph – you must be so proud, for you will know that it is because of you that Lawrence was able to achieve so very much in his colourful and brilliant career.*

*How well I remember his welcome to me when I gave a recital at St. James the Greater, Leicester, forty years ago when I was in Northampton.*

*When we were about to build the new cathedral organ in 1969 Lawrence was one of the Great and Good whom I asked to recommend to the Cathedral Council Messrs. J. W. Walker – for his organ at Leicester was a Walker.*

*I remember, so well, when he was appointed to Blackburn; Bishop Martineau invited the cathedral staff to meet him. All the canons and their wives were standing around him saying, 'Yes Canon Jackson' and 'No, Canon Jackson', and I came in with my Mum (slightly late) and exclaimed, 'Lawrence!!' That didn't go down too well with the resident Powers that Were!*

*How well I remember his first sermon at Blackburn – it was about Loving Kindness – and how well I remember so very many other moments during our adventurous tenure in that blessed place. You will know as well as I that those with strong personalities are not the easiest people to get on with, but that's OK, for that's who we are.*

*Lawrence was generosity personified when I applied for Princeton, USA – and it was largely through his recommendation that I got it. For this I*

shall be ever indebted to him, for that, possibly was one of the happiest and most creative times in my life (but not without conflicts, for there were a lot of strong personalities in that place, too!)

But, again, please know that it was because of you that Lawrence was able to be Lawrence, and for that countless folk will say a heartfelt 'Thank you, Faith!'

May your own life, once the next few weeks are 'overgot' become a time when you may bless yourself, as you, most surely, blest Lawrence.

Churchwarden and former choirparent, **Jim Iolden** organized a coach to take some of the cathedral congregation to attend Lawrence's funeral service in Holy Trinity Church, Coventry on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November. I had the honour to represent the Cathedral Old Choristers, and former choir parents were much in evidence, including **Jim & Audrey Iolden, Keith & Joan Banks, Rowena Gibson** and **Geoff Heap**. Mr. & Mrs. **Neil Inkley** were there, too, Neil is an OC of Peterborough, and also a member of BCOCA). Canons **Godfrey Hirst** and **Brian Beaumont** came with us, and robed for the service along with Dean **Christopher Armstrong**.

There was fog on the Motorway for much of our journey, and the church was shrouded in mist when we arrived. But inside there was a packed congregation –



The service, which LJ had drawn up, was led most sensitively by the Bishop of Coventry, **Colin Bennetts**, and by the Vicar of Holy Trinity. A former Dean of Winchester, **Trevor Beeson** read a lesson LJ had performed the wedding ceremony of Dean Beeson's daughter in Westminster Abbey)

The Bishop of Lancaster, **Stephen Pedley** preached a lively sermon from Lawrence's high

pulpit, which LJ had described as being 'twelve feet above criticism'.

As the coffin left the church the choir sang Howells' Coll. Reg. *Nunc Dimittis* most movingly, and **Faith** and her family greeted us at the West door as we left. It was a moving experience to be there. **May LJ rest in peace.**



**Dean Beeson, Bishop Bennetts and Bishop Pedley after the service.**

**Memories of LJ from DAVID GOODENOUGH**  
former Assistant Director of Music at Blackburn Cathedral and now Director of Music, Fettes College, Edinburgh, where Tony Blair was a pupil,



I'll always be grateful to LJ for giving me my 'break', as it were. He appointed me to BB in 1991, and I remember the lines of his appointment letter. He started 'Now that the dust has settled....'. Now, it seems, has come the time for his dust to settle, and he will be missed by many. I always found him to be a good man. There were times when perhaps

diplomacy could have been better used, but his heart was huge and one always felt loved, somehow.

When I was Organ Scholar at Blackburn Cathedral I used to arrive in my Dad's lorry on a Sunday morning - as LJ was giving out the announcements before the Eucharist began he announced to the assembled multitudes 'and finally, before the processional hymn, please could I ask whomsoever has parked a lorry in my space to remove it henceforth! We will now sing hymn.....' I wanted to die from embarrassment and nipped out during the prayers to move it.

Lawrence had immense style and it was very important to him that things were done with great 'theatre'. He used always to comment on my Gospel fanfares and took careful notice of everything that was going on around him. One morning when I ended a fanfare on an open D minor chord with an Eb and an Ab added on top (full organ), he looked at me from the pulpit, smiled and began his sermon with something like 'It's always good to be reminded of how it must be in the burning fires'.

I think the best one of his came after an Evensong where everything that could have gone wrong, did go wrong: One chorister spewed up, David Cooper dropped his hymn-book during the psalm, the fire brigade arrived during the Nunc and then during the offertory at the end LJ was walking around to the front of the high altar and with a wonderful sweep of the cope knocked the alms dish right down the steps where it landed in front of the choir. It took ages to come to a stop, rather like a spinning coin and the noise was unbelievable. At the end he said to me 'All we needed was the bloody circus to arrive for a full house!'.



Songs of Praise, broadcast on **BBC TV** from Blackburn Cathedral on Sunday, December, 1<sup>st</sup> was a triumph for all – especially, of course, for **RICHARD TANNER**, Director of Music, and **GREG MORRIS**, Assistant DoM, who played our magnificent organ magnificently.

The cathedral was packed to the doors with 1,200 choristers (a further 500 couldn't get in!) and the whole cathedral was lit most beautifully

**DEREK CROMPTON** sang the first verse of *O come, O come Emmanuel* as **the cathedral choir** and clergy processed from the West door, through the capacity congregation who held lighted candles, It was magical.



The cathedral choir sang superbly (of course)



and many were the close-ups of our boys, girls and men who added to their musicianship by watching their conductor like hawks.



**Robert Whalley**  
Senior Chorister;  
St. Wilfrid's School



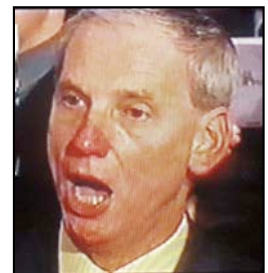
**Phillip Rowbottom (see P.7)**  
& **Michael Carr, Sr. Choristers;**  
QEGS & St. Wilfrid's



**Phil Wilson (Bass)** and **Laura Mitchell** –  
former Girls' Choir, now at Leeds University.  
Phil was JB's first head boy, way back in 1964!



There were close-ups of members of the congregation – who had been drawn from church and school choirs throughout the diocese – including a splendid shot of **OC DAVID SMALLEY** who lives in Mellor Brook.



**Choirmen**  
**James Twigg,**  
**Simon Gaunt,**  
**Edward McCullough** and  
OC Secretary,  
**Alec Stuttard**  
in full voice.

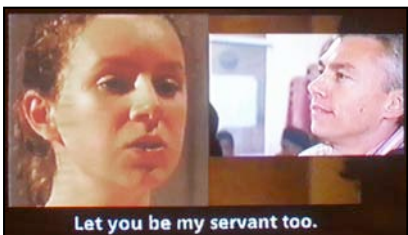
Alas, there were no close-ups of Richard who had done a terrific job in preparing and rehearsing the music – including composing some of the dramatic descants.

However, **GREG MORRIS** and the cathedral organ we featured – including our unique pedal **32ft Serpent** stop which the compere compared to the sound of a 'road drill'!



The compere was Jonathan Edwards, triple Olympic gold medallist. He said that Blackburn was a surprising place, not only for the fame of **Blackburn Rovers** – which was one of the founder clubs of the Football League, and was the only club to have won the FA Cup three years in succession, but also because of Blackburn's fame for brewing and manufacturing. One company produces nearly half a million CDs per day. Did you know that?

He also noted that all English Cathedral are situated in cities – except Chelmsford and Blackburn! But he added that our cathedral has 'one of the finest collection of religious art in this country'!



**Naomi Crewe** (*Girls' Choir and YPC*) and **Jonathan Edwards** at the end of the programme.

After the recording on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November which took 3 hours, plus extra time for the cathedral choir, Jonathan Edwards was besieged by hundreds of young autograph hunters.

Our stalwart Virgers not only had to wait while autographs were being signed (which took a long time) but they also had to wait whilst the BBC technicians dismantled all their lighting, as it was needed the next day to light the Royal Albert Hall for the annual Festival of Remembrance! **Howard, Jane** and **Mark** didn't leave the cathedral until 2.00 in. the morning!



**Howard Waddell**

**LEAH STUTTARD**, ex-YPC and Renaissance singer, made her debut at the South Bank's Purcell Room on Tuesday, November 26. She was part of an ensemble called Mediva who perform Italian and Spanish medieval music. Leah sings, plays medieval harp and percussion instruments with the group who have recently been finalists in the International Young Artists Competition and have been frequent guests on Radio 4's Loose Ends and on Radio 3's *In Tune*. Leah is currently continuing her studies at the Schola Cantorum, Basel, and has recently toured France, Belgium, Italy and Spain with another ensemble specialising in early music.



**Dr. BENEDICT HOLDEN** (son of Churchwarden **Jim**, and **Audrey**) is now practising in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington as a Special Registrar in H.I.V. *Wow!* We saw him at the cathedral on Christmas morning. He worships regularly in the chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London. (*Make sure you've got a key to get out!*)

**Dr. KARL FARQUHAR** was also in the cathedral for a carol service (son of cathedral churchwarden **Jim & Pauline F.**) He's been practising in Paddington for a number of years (so he should know it by now!).

Also on Christmas morning **Bishop Alan** found himself surrounded by old choristers – L-R: **GEORGE NICHOLSON**, (one of JB's earliest new boys), **TIM LORD**, **GORDON SHAW** (BCOCA Chairman and cathedral choir tenor) and **JAMES TWIGG Jr**, son of **Joy & JAMES Sr.** – cathedral choir alto.

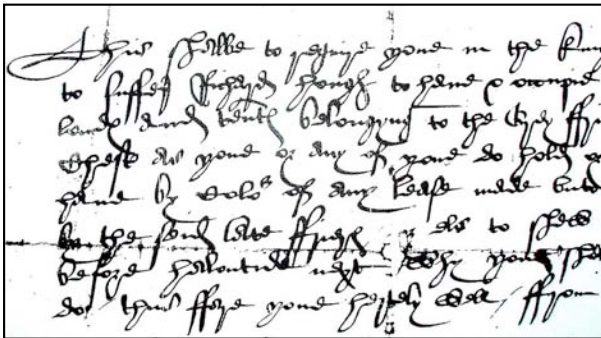


## OLD CHORISTERS' NEWS



**OC CHRIS HUNWICK**, whose Dad, **PHIL**, is a stalwart tenor in the Cathedral Choir, and who spent five years at Oxford, getting a jolly good degree in classics and then working for a year in the University Library, is now enjoying a year at Liverpool University, pursuing a Master's degree in paleography.

Here's an example of what he's currently deciphering (with translation below)



**This shallbe to require youe in the Kinges behalff to suffer Richard Henges to have & occupie all suche . . . (you can do the rest yourself!)**

Chris is also singing as a tenor in the choir of Liverpool RC Cathedral.

*"The workload for the university course this year has not so far been all that taxing, compared with what I have been used to; I have therefore agreed to a month's trial [at the Met, and] will still audition with Professor Ian Tracey [at the Anglican Cathedral] in case I should choose only to deputize at the Catholic Cathedral, in which case I could possibly dep. at both cathedrals."*

Chris is also a house tutor to some of the Liverpoolian undergrads.

**Chris's** brother, **NOEL HUNWICK** is now senior choral scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford. The job entails not only singing, but also sorting out problems between singers - undergrads and trebles – parents, and anyone else who has dealings with the choir. That's a great preparation for Life!

Noel was seen on TV in the summer when Magdalene choir was featured, in **Sir David Attenborough's 'The Blue Planet'** spectacular from Hyde Park. He's hoping to stay for an extra year (as

did his brother) – possibly working in the college's development office. Congrats. to Noel who celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on Christmas Day! *Is that why he's called 'Noel'? Yes!*

He was given a pretty special computer for his birthday, as you can see!



**RUPERT DUCKWORTH** in Australia, a contemporary of **IAN THOMPSON**, has just celebrated the first anniversary of his wedding to **Chrissie**. He suffered a bad car accident last year – but writes in their Christmas Newsletter: *'2003 will be a busy one for Rupert. In January he will start the last of the post car crash operations to have the scars on his left wrist tidied up – it was the main skin graft site for his ankle. He is not looking forward to the following weeks of recovery and months of rehabilitation & subsequent loss of general fitness.'* All good wishes, Rupert for your op. **(Ed)**

Heartiest congratulations to **OC ADAM CREWE** who recently announced his engagement to **Kelly Charter**. Adam is in his second year at St. Martin's Teacher Training College, Carlisle, and he also sings in Carlisle Cathedral choir. He's a barman in his spare time.. Kelly works in Carlisle, and they met on the internet. *Wow!*



Adam told your social reporter, at a Hunwick Christmas party, that the choirmen at Carlisle play

**Holy Bingo** during sermons. They're each given a sheet with selected Biblical words and phrases – such as, *Christ, God, We all need to..., And finally...* and the singer who notices most words during the sermon gets the prize. Unlike profane Bingo, all the word-sheets are the same – so it's an exercise in concentration – and the Dean knows all about it. Several other cathedrals have taken this up – it's better than doing crosswords!

## OLD CHORISTERS' Letters to the Editor

**IAIN THOMPSON** sent an e mail to the editor about our new Newsletter (*'Bigger and Better!'*). But he also said that he and an 'in' clique of OCs who were in the choir together, clock up how many mentions they have in **CAPITALS** in each edition – *'It kind of keeps us going'*:

The score for the last edition was:

**IAIN**, in Cheshire – 2 mentions.

**TONY MURPHY** in San Francisco – 1, with star ('cos there was a photo of him with a Union Jack coming out of his head).

Dr. **SIMON** 'Walt' **DANIELS** in Newkassll on Tighne – 1. He made the mistake of reading the Newsletter in his surgery and had to suppress sniggers when he read about the goal that **GRAHAM DEAN** had scored when the cathedral boys played the Mellor choirboys in 1981. *"It was a screamer of a goal – from the Preston New Road end!"* said the good doctor.

At the bottom, with no score, came **WILL HEAP** in the Isle of Person! *But you've made it this time, Will!*

**Start your own scorecard by sending your news to JB, at [john@bertalot.demon.co.uk](mailto:john@bertalot.demon.co.uk)**

From OC **SIMON CRADDOCK**

John,

So good to be in touch after so many years.

I am now living with my partner Sally and our two rather spoiled cats in Huddersfield. I work for Kirklees Metropolitan Council as Stock Librarian. The job is basically to manage stock in our 23 libraries, overseeing stock selection, deployment and rotation. It is not a traditional frontline library job which means that I work office hours and have weekends free. It is a more strategic post involving a lot of statistical and policy work, performance measurement and work around the new public library standards.

Sally and I have been together now for over ten years. Our relationship is strong, steady and a constant source of wonder. I'm very lucky. We met whilst we were working together down in Kent. Sally's family still live down in the Tunbridge Wells/Tonbridge area.

My younger brother, **DANIEL** moved over to Huddersfield almost two years ago and we see him when we can. *[Daniel's photo, as a boy, was featured in the last edition of our Newsletter – along with football wunderkind, **GRAHAM DEAN**. Ed]*

I wanted so much to thank you, John, for my time in the Cathedral Choir. I look back on those times often and with great affection. The seed that you planted and nurtured all those years ago, my abiding love and connection with music of all forms is a gift that brings me constant pleasure. My (public) singing days are over but I have been told that I have a reasonable baritone. I guess the training and vocal discipline never wears off.

My musical tastes are eclectic, ranging from the sacred to the profane but I still find myself, from time to time returning to the music we all shared at Blackburn. Good Friday always finds me playing Bairstow's *Lamentations*. I attended the Good Friday Ante-Communion at Blackburn last year.

Christmas would not for me be complete without a rich array of music. At this time of the year music seems particularly resonant. Cathedral Christmases were always magical. I'm particularly drawn to the carol, a musical form where Christian themes sit alongside something older, echoes of a more primal, earthy music. *"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"* still stirs me up wonderfully. The aching Russian soul of Tchaikovsky's *"Crown of Roses"* and Poston's stark but beautiful *"Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"* are always part of our Christmas time.

Music remains intensely important for me in a world where spirituality, civilization and genuine passion seem in increasingly short supply.

With very best wishes,

Simon.

*[Simon Craddock was the first chorister to receive the **Dots Bertalot** memorial medallion – in September 1981. In those days boys wore medallions which showed their rank and achievements (in a similar manner to clergy wearing their hoods). Simon wore no less than six medallions at one time: Head Chorister, Bishop's Chorister, Provost's Chorister, St. Nicolas Chorister, Senior Chorister (having passed Grade 5 singing exam with distinction) and the Dots Bertalot medallion as the longest serving choirboy. He looked quite Masonic! Ed]*

Whoopee: Here's another letter from Dr. **SIMON** 'Walt' **DANIELS** (*over the page*):

Sorry to have missed you, JB, at this year's Old Choristers' Reunion – after making it two in a row. **IAIN THOMPSON**, **WILL HEAP** and I have committed ourselves to making it three in a row next year, too! It was good to see **TONY MURPHY** also. The organ sounded (and looked) great. Enjoyed **BOB KEEN**'s memories of **CANON WILLIAMS** in the last Newsletter.

*Hey, OCs – tell me now if you plan to be with us for next year's Reunion – for that will encourage your contemporaries to join us here. 13-14 September. john@bertalot.demon.co.uk*

BCOCA Treasurer, **GORDON FIELDING** tells me that delayed subs are coming in very well – thanks! He tells me that **MICHAEL HAMM** is busy with the Hoylake Choral Society as deputy conductor. Programme in the future includes Schubert Mass in A flat, RVW Folk songs & 5 Mystical songs, and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. 'Good to know he is keeping his hand in' commented our faithful treasurer.

To JB from OC **DAVID EVANS**

I happened across an old friend of yours and mine, while out shopping yesterday, **PETER HOLROYD**.

I was glad to hear that you have reunited yourself with Blackburn and still are involved with the Cathedral. I don't know if you will remember me from what seems like an awful long time ago. I was in the choir under your guidance at the same time as **IVOR BOLTON**. I have heard some very good things about Ivor and am really happy that he has continued with what was obviously his great passion. Some time ago, Ivor was involved with a musical production at Westholme School at which two of my nieces attend, but unfortunately I missed it! *C'est la Vie!*

I trust that you are keeping well? Every now and then, I think back to what seemed then a lot of hard work, however my time at the Cathedral was precious to me and will be cherished for the rest of my life. I look back with affection on all the choristers and support staff (that very much includes yourself and Mrs. B) and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you.

**OC PETER CROWTHER** in Lancaster, told the editor that he looks forward to being with us all for our next Reunion in September. He missed the last one 'cos he was not well – overwork. Happily he's seen the light and is cutting down somewhat. Peter

was a TLD chorister and also sang a superb bass in the early years of JB's reign.

From OC **JOHN KEEN**

Thanks for the recent lengthy newsletter. Very intrigued to see **GRAHAM DEAN** making a nostalgic appearance and glad that he's been located. Yes I seem to recall him being quite a footballing talent in his youth. I particularly remember Graham flaunting his ball control skills in between rehearsals during the 1981 RSCM course at Canterbury Cathedral (think there was a BCOCA gang of about 6 on that trip under the leadership of Philip Moore - is he still at York Minster? [Yes. Ed.]

Very sorry to hear the sad news about the loss of **CANON WILLIAMS** and **LAWRENCE JACKSON**. They were both part of everyday life at the Cathedral and will be greatly missed. As a small chorister it always seemed daunting to have to recite in their presence the Creed / General Thanksgiving (etc) as part of the structured progression up through the ranks. I seem to remember Canon Williams would be forgiving enough to offer a second opportunity if things went awry and he was always generous enough to award 8 or 9 out of 10 for a polished re-run.

I look forward with interest to watching the Advent Carol service on Songs of Praise this Sunday. I trust the purple cassocks will be on full display.

*[Yes, there were six Blackburnians on the 1981 RSCM Canterbury Course – Peter & Ian Banks, Andrew Anderson, Chris Birchall, Graham Dean and, of course, John Keen. Peter wrote in the choir magazine: "Mealtimes were interesting. Spontaneous singing erupted whilst waiting for meals, including such gems as the National Anthem, Land of Hope and Glory, rule Britannia (for some foreign singers in our midst who came from a former Colony) liberally mixed with close harmony, and also well known hymns in 4 to 10 parts with Blackburn tap-room endings.' [A tap room ending was a spontaneous descant at the very ends of some hymns – with trebles sailing up to top Gs and above, when they felt like it. Canon Williams did not approve! Ed]*

From OC **GEOFFREY TAYLOR**: *re Mr. Brearley's request in the last Newsletter for info re his Grandfather:*

Dear John, I have been pleased to help John Brearley by sending him copy CANTILENA QEGS school song QUAM ELISSA REFUNDAVIT, SCHOLA BLACKBURNIENSIS, in his grandfather's own handwriting. I have carried it in my wallet since

1948!!!!!!!!!!!!, It should be worth an entry Guinness book of records!!!!

## MEMORIES OF 'TLD'

**Mr. Thomas L. Duerden, Mus. Bac.,  
Organist and Master of the Choristers  
of Blackburn Cathedral, 1939-64**

*from a booklet published by BCOCA  
and available from the cathedral office*

Episode 1

### HALF A CENTURY AGO

by **OC BRYAN LAMB**

(retired Squadron Leader in the RAF)

I first arrived on the doorstep of Blackburn cathedral about three years after TLD took his job there as Organist and Choirmaster. It was during the under-fed dismal days of World War II: July 1942. I was deposited there by my Mother and instructed to get singing at once, if not sooner.



**TLD in 1939**

(When Mother said 'jump' one usually jumped, often quite high.) I never knew what possessed her to take me to the Cathedral at the age of eleven.

I had already been singing quite happily for three years in Balderstone Church Choir, sometimes in the company of my Air Force brother, Gordon, (ten years older than me) when he was home on leave. He loved it there. Perhaps Mother thought I would be closer to the Almighty in a Cathedral setting.

I was taken to meet TLD in the old Song School. Balderstone hadn't taught me much, but I could drum up a moderately acceptable *Praise, my soul* a couple of verses of which were duly rendered, and TLD signed me on. A few months of preparation ensued before formal admittance to the Choir on Christmas Eve, 1942, in company with **EDDIE HOWARTH, RALPH ROBINSON, MICHAEL HAMM, & ALAN HOLDEN.** (See p. 10)

We lived in un-sewered Mellor and at the time I was a pupil among the raving lunatics at a certain Secondary School in Blackburn, a sort of educational Wormwood Scrubs. I had been given a one-year sentence to serve there for failing the 11-plus.

With School and Cathedral duties, the days were long for an eleven-year old waif. Bus rides to and

from Mellor extended the days at each end. The Cathedral was pretty demanding. We sang Evensong twice a week with an hour's rehearsal after every service. Then there was the Friday evening rehearsal with the gents, another (boys only) on Saturday morning, and two big services on Sundays. TLD ran a strict regime with fairly tight discipline, though there was always a ready smile and often a twinkle in his eye. He wasn't lavish with praise, but when you got it, it felt good.

I only played truant from a service once. It was in late February 1943. Brother Gordon was home and had promised to take me to the cinema at the Rialto after a daily Evensong. For some reason I was fed up and cut the service that day. I hung around our rendezvous, but unknown to me, Gordon had gone to the Cathedra to pick me up. It took him some time to find me. The last entry in his 1943 diary describes the frustrations of having an idiot kid brother. Four days later he was killed whilst depositing high explosives on Berlin from a Stirling bomber.

I fancy that those days were probably quite difficult for the life of the Cathedral. Many of the choir were in the Forces and would fleetingly appear dressed as sailors or airmen. The chap in charge of the whole set-up was the redoubtable provost William Kay, an impressive World War 1 ex-warrior, with a multiplicity of DSOs and MCs to prove it. Nobody was ever in any doubt as to who was the boss. Bill Kay was a dignified, generous and kindly priest but retained the style of an infantry battalion commander. He could display a terrible temper and in extremes would go purple (deeper than Episcopal) with rage.

One day, after calmly dismissing us with the usual prayer, following Evensong, he burst from the clergy vestry and dashed outside in his shirt sleeves to capture an unfortunate urchin, visible from the vestry window, in the act of relieving himself on consecrated ground. He was brought inside by the scruff of the neck by a very cross and very purple Provost. Interrogation revealed that he was a Catholic, a condition which appeared seriously to aggravate the offence. One suspected that the Provost believed these small scurrilous agents (this wasn't the first one!) were dispatched deliberately by the Pope's lot across the town to deposit their indignities on the C of E property. The ecumenical movement hadn't developed very far in the 1940s. Of course, we choirboys interpreted this event as the joke of the month!



Part 2 of Bryan Lamb's memories will be published in the next edition of the NEWSLETTER.)

wore collars and bow ties like this up to the time that **DEREK CROMPTON & Co.** were boys in the 1960s!)

**'Miles-Phillip'**

There are only six characters in this opera – and Miles takes more than his full share of singing and acting alongside professional adult singers. This production received rave reviews in the national press – so heartiest congratulations to **Phillip**, to his **parents** and to **RICHARD TANNER** for grooming him to such a state of professionalism that he was chosen for this part in the face of the fiercest competition.



**SPECTACULAR LUNCHTIME RECITALS**  
by  
**BRITISH CATHEDRAL ORGANISTS**  
Wednesdays at 1.00 pm  
*Lunches are served in the Crypt Café before and after every recital.*

January, 2003  
29th **Christopher Stokes** Manchester Cathedral  
February  
5th **Colin Walsh** Lincoln Cathedral

**SAT. 8 Feb. 7.30 CELEBRITY RECITAL**  
**CARLO CURLEY**

12th **Neil Taylor** Sheffield Cathedral  
19th **Paul Hale** Southwell Minster  
26th **Peter Wright** Southwark Cathedral  
March  
5<sup>th</sup> *Ash Wednesday*  
**John Bertalot, & Derek Crompton (Tenor)**

**SAT. 8 March 7.30 CELEBRITY RECITAL**  
**GORDON STEWART**

12th **Mervyn Cousins** Liverpool Metropolitan  
19th **Peter Barley** St Patrick's, Dublin  
26th **James Lancelot** Durham Cathedral  
April  
9th **Huw Williams** St Paul's Cathedral, London



**Richard Tanner with Phillip in the Song School.**

The Memorial Service to **PROVOST JACKSON** was held in the cathedral on Saturday morning, 11th January. The nave was full of friends and admirers of LJ, including **Faith Jackson** and her family, and the cathedral was knee deep in Canons, Bishops and other ecclesiastical high-ups, including our own **DAVID FRAYNE.**



**Canon Michael Taylor (who read a lesson), Bishop Alan, and Deans Christopher and David.**

The sermon ('*Indelible Memories of LJ*') was splendidly prepared and equally splendidly delivered by **Canon Godfrey Hirst**, who said, '*Out of all the conversations I've had with Lawrence Jackson, I never thought I would ever, ever get the*



Heartiest congratulations to Senior Chorister **PHILLIP ROWBOTTOM**, who took the leading role as the boy **Miles** in the Royal Northern College of Music's major production of Britten's Opera, **The Turn of the Screw**, in December. (NB Our cathedral choristers

last word, especially from the pulpit which he so majestically occupied for 19 years. (Laughter!)

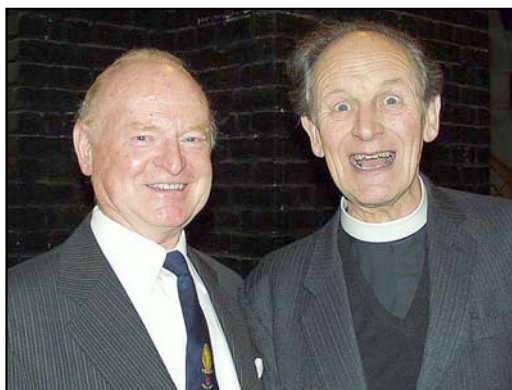
The splendid obituaries in the national press said that he was a 'one off – you'll never have two Lawrence Jacksons – his ministry is unlikely ever to be emulated.' As I came up the back stairs this morning to assemble for worship, I remembered the number of times, when I was a Residentiary Canon here, and felt a prod in my back, and Lawrence would say, 'Now Godfrey, keep it short, keep it short!', and I would turn round to him and say, 'Mr.. Provost, it will be as short as your sermon last week!' He never preached a short sermon!



**Canon Godfrey Hirst with Jenny Chesters**

The cathedral choir sang splendidly (**RICHARD TANNER** had generously asked **JB** to conduct that morning) and **GREG MORRIS** played superbly, as ever – including a fair chunk of Elgar, LJ's favourite composer – the anthem being *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*, which the choir sang most sensitively. Many were the compliments showered upon the music during a delicious Reception in the crypt afterwards. One Diocesan Bishop told JB that Blackburn Cathedral choir were far better than his own cathedral choir (which has a residential choir school and professional lay clerks!)

Enjoying the excellent food and drink provided by the cathedral caterers were Old Choristers **ALLAN HOLDEN**, wearing his Old Choristers' tie, and the Ven. **DAVID ROBINSON**, (looking slightly surprised!) wearing his archidiaconal dog collar,



both of whom remember the cathedral during the second World War when the transepts were only partially built. We have living history in our midst!

What a joy it was to see the three 'Very Reverend' Ladies together in the cathedral kitchen, reminiscing about the changes made to the Deanery during three reigns!



**Geraldine Armstrong, Liz Frayne & Faith Jackson**

It was a most happy morning – we gave Lawrence a great send off. He would have been pleased.

**Faith Jackson** wrote to **JB** afterwards, 'Will you please express my gratitude to the choir for their presence and singing of the lovely music on Saturday. The girls [my family] and I found it all very moving to hear the choir again. How Lawrence missed it all living here [near Stratford] and being confined at home. Wednesday Choral Evensongs on the BBC was one way he could enter it all again. It was a very good service. Everything, readings, music, address – all so appropriate and fitting for 'himself'! Thank you.'

**WELCOME** to a new alto in our Cathedral Choir! **ANDREW ORR** hails from Belfast – he read music at Belfast University, was organ scholar of St. George's Church in that City, and is now resident here as manager of Blackburn Children's Library. **Welcome!**



**JOHN BERTALOT**, who doubles as Cathedral Organist Emeritus and also Organist of Fence Parish Church, near Burnley, (where he exults in a brand new organ – with four 32s and two fanfare trumpets!) – will be giving two **BACH FOR ALL**

recitals in his church in Lent, with hand-picked choir, on Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm. (Come early, for the church will be full!)



**RICHARD TANNER & 'PIPPA' HYDE** will give a third concert for Organ and exquisite Soprano in Fence Church on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 when they will present a wonderful programme of tuneful music which will delight everyone. Book your tickets now (£5-00 –

worth every penny!) Phone: **01282-614-009**  
(St. Anne's Church, Fence, is opposite The Bay Horse Inn, just off the A6068, exit 8 from the M65.)

Our cathedral choirs were seen on **BBCTV Songs of Praise** twice more in January! Four of the Girls' Choir were shown singing most splendidly:



Back row: **Emily Crewe, Alex Rowbottom**  
Front row: **Sophie Brooke, Emma Pearson.**

## CHORISTER CEREMONIES

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2003

That Sunday evening was special not only because the cathedral choir were, as usual, singing superbly, (*Howells Coll. Reg.* – **Derek Crompton, soloist**) but also because many Farewells and Hails were marked in the boys' choir.

**Dean Christopher** presided, with **Canon Hindley** as Master of Ceremonies, when **RICHARD TANNER** introduced to His Very Reverence the boys who were singing treble for the last time, boys who were upgraded and the chorister who had served longest in the boys' choir.

**Oliver Blacklock**, who has served in our choir for eight years, and **Francis Hills** who had sung with us for 6 1/2 years, were thanked for their years of loyal and faithful service – they were welcomed into the Cathedral Old Choristers' Association and given their Old Choristers' ties by Senior Old

Chorister **PHILIP CARR** (who had been one of **JB's** 'boys'), and at the end of the service, after having been blest by the Dean, walked down the Nave with him in majestic and moving procession.



**Oliver Blacklock, The Dean, Philip Carr & Francis Hills**

And if that weren't enough to mark the nostalgia of this occasion, the beautiful Introit, Responses and Vesper Anthem were by **Lyndon Hills**, Francis's Dad, who gave the opportunity, at the very end of the Vesper anthem, for Oliver and Francis to sing their very last treble solos in duet. Wow! Happily both lads will be joining the YPC, and Francis will also join the men's choir to sing a most useful alto.

To fill the vacancies left by these two remarkable choristers, **James Holding** was promoted to Head Chorister and **William Sanderson & Jonathan Swales** Deputy Head Chorister. Well done!



**William, James & Jonathan**

Two new prefects were created: **Simon Holding** (James's brother) and **Alasdair Grishakow**



Three boys were upgraded to Senior Chorister:



**Phillip Rowbottom, Thomas Crosson & Joshua Abbott**

And three new boys were welcomed into the choir:



**Arthur Geldard, Matthew Bruce and Alexander Lund**

And finally, The **Dots Bertalot Memorial Medallion**, for the longest serving Chorister was passed by **JOHN BERTALOT** from **Oliver Blacklock** to **Christopher Dawson** who has been in our choir for seven years!



**Dots Bertalot** was Choir Mum for 10 years, way back in the 1970s, when **JB** was Director of Music. She was greatly loved by everyone, and so the Cathedral Old Choristers gave this Medallion in her honour. (Her portrait may be seen behind **Kit Dawson**.)

It was quite a service!

## OUR OLD CHORISTERS' ANNUAL REUNION 2003

...will be on Saturday-Sunday, 13-14<sup>th</sup> September when we expect all old choristers who live nearby – including our newest Old Choristers, **Oliver & Francis**, to enjoy

meeting with those who've been boys and girls in the choirs in times recent, and not-so-recent.

Members of the YPC (who are all 'Old Choristers') will be given a specially warm welcome. (You get your first Dinner **free!**)

## OCs' ACCOMMODATION

Those who live far away may like to stay in the homes of Blackburn OCs for the Reunion. If so, please contact Chairman **GORDON SHAW. 01254-81-3586.**

Blackburn & District OCs who have a **spare room** and who would like to welcome an OC into their home for the Saturday night are urged to call **GORDON** right now, please. **Thanks.**

## PLANT SALE – 12<sup>th</sup> April

Senior Old Chorister **PHILIP CARR** will be sponsoring a **PLANT SALE** in the Cathedral Crypt on Saturday morning, **12<sup>th</sup> April**. So, if you'd like some supa plants for your garden, and would like to help raise cash for BCOCA to help the Cathedral Choir, stand by to receive an order form – or phone Philip now, to make sure of your order: **01254-671-101**

## **NEW CD by GREG MORRIS**

**"Veni Creator Spiritus"**

**Music for the Feast of Pentecost**

Fabulous music by

**Bach, Buxtehude, de Grigny, Franz Tunder,**

**Messiaen, Duruflé, and Carl Ruti**

**Fabulously played by our own Greg Morris**

**On our Fabulous organ!**

**Orders from the Cathedral Office, BB1 5AA**

**01254-51491**

## **JAZZ WORKSHOP!**

Scott Stroman, the inspirational professor of jazz from the Royal Academy of Music, led an outstanding choral workshop in the cathedral in January for 50 teenagers – including 20 members of our YPC. **GREG MORRIS**, who organized the day, said that the singers learnt how to improvise harmonies to Gospel songs and how to perform this specialized repertoire. "They went away buzzing with enthusiasm" enthused Greg.

