

FBCM

# BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

FBCM Edition No. 15

BCOCA Edition No. 24

**August, 2005**

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Blackburn  
Cathedral  
Old Choristers  
Association

**Book  
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now!**

to come to the  
40<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
of  
Blackburn  
Cathedral Old  
Choristers  
Sat-Sun  
Sept 17-18



There'll be  
FIVE choirs  
this year!  
See pp. 4 & 20



FRIENDS  
of BLACKBURN  
CATHEDRAL  
MUSIC



Bach's B Minor Mass, Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2005, celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the birth of the Renaissance Singers, Thurs, 20 May, 1965

Before the concert there was a Reception in the North Transept, where conductor **RICHARD TANNER** greeted his parents, **John & Dr. Mary Tanner**, supported by **Canon Chris Chivers**.



The **Dean** and **Geraldine Armstrong** were there with **Canon Andrew Hindley** to greet the Singers' Chairman, **Peter Crewe** (father of the ubiquitous **Emily** – Music Scholar - and of YPC member **Naomi**).



A large and most appreciative audience filled the Cathedral Nave to hear the Renaissance Singers celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A number of singers augmented the fine choir for this special occasion, including a founder-member, **Dorothy Wade** who lives in Preston.



**Dorothy** points to a photograph of herself at the Singers' very first rehearsal 40 years ago – with your Editor, the choir's founder. (In those days it was called the Blackburn Bach Choir – but the spirit is the same!)

The Dean also greeted the deputy Mayor of Blackburn, **Councillor Dorothy Walsh** and her daughter, **Barbara Arkley**, the Deputy Mayoress, along with Head Virger, **Howard Waddell**.



Howard was heroic throughout that amazing weekend for not only did he fulfill all his usual duties with his accustomed efficiency and grace but he also acted as a waiter at the Singers' Celebration Dinner on the Sunday night. And he stayed behind afterwards to help clear up!

The choir was in superb form, as was the Northern Chamber Orchestra, with **Greg Morris**, harpsichord continuo, and former assistant organist **Ian Pattinson** at the chamber organ.



We were again blessed by superb soloists: **Philippa Hyde**, Soprano and **Paul Esswood**, Counter Tenor.



'Pippa' was also joined by the delightful tenor **Joshua Ellicott**



**Mark Rowlinson** was our splendid bass soloist whose rolling tones were heard to the full in *Quoniam* along with a superb obbligato French horn played by Naomi Atherton.



Richard had rehearsed his choir meticulously for just one month, including a long weekend away at Giggleswick School, so much so that they were able to start on the first note of the Mass without a pitch having been given. (That's better than a BBC choir did two years ago at the Proms – they had to be given their note!)



And if that weren't enough they did it again at the start of the second half, when the tenors have to begin on a loud note – all on their own. Full marks all round!

Also singing happily in the choir for this special occasion were **Phil & Joan Hunwick** – whose sons OCs **Chris and Noel** feature frequently in this journal.

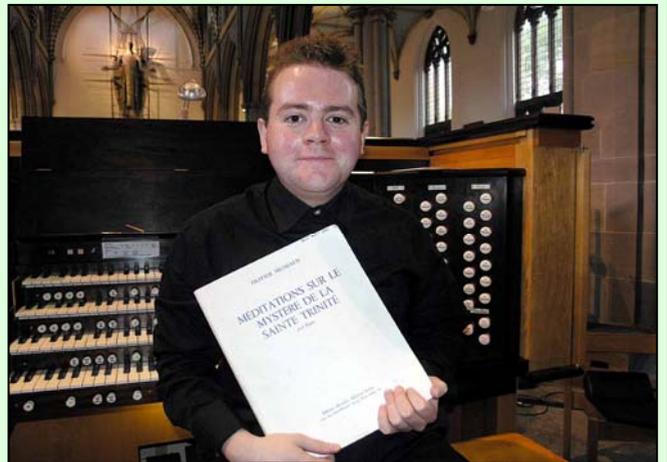


L-R: **Joan Hunwick, Dorothy Wade, Owen Kennedy** (who has sung with all four conductors and continues to lend his lovely tenor voice to many other choirs in Lancashire), **Phil Hunwick** and former member, **Anthony Peabody**, from Berkshire.

Full marks, again, to all those who helped to mantle the staging before the concert and dismantle it afterwards. That indeed was a work of supererogation!

And if that weren't enough, the next day was packed with activity: The YPC sang Parish Communion at 9.00, there was a Civic Service at 11.00 (*Let all the world, RVW*); The Friends of the Cathedral met in the afternoon for their AGM followed by Choral Evensong.

And then, at 6.30 **David Bednall**, Assistant Organist of Wells Cathedral, played Messiaen's fiendishly difficult *Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity*. A work which takes a full hour to play and which makes tremendous demands on the soloist, on the organ and on the audience. But all three triumphed gloriously.



David is one of the most brilliant organists in this country. Nothing seemed too difficult for him and, moreover, his whole performance was musical. Full marks again!

And then, if that weren't enough, on the Sunday evening our cathedral caterer, **Sara Swinburne** put on a lavish celebration dinner in the crypt for 70 members of the Renaissance Singers past and present, and their spouses.



No words of praise are too high for Sara's achievements that evening. We shall miss her terribly for, during the last three years, her superb catering skills have put the cathedral on the map for midday lunches and special dinners.

However, she has found that her cathedral responsibilities coupled with catering for the Longridge Golf Club, as well as her other catering duties, have stretched her to the limit.

**But folk who would like to have private parties catered by Sara should contact her at 07710-524-065.**



It was joy to welcome the Singers' immediate past conductor, **GORDON STEWART** who joined in the celebrations with his customary verve and good humour. **David Cooper** also sent his greetings.

JB was especially glad to welcome singers who had sung with him in the Singers in times past.



L-R: Eileen Hemingway, Alizon Elliott, Margaret Robinson, Janet Clayton (half hidden), Founder-member Dorothy Wade, Anthony Peabody, Kathleen Morley, Duncan Stainer (Great Grandson of Sir John!) and Founder members: Thelma McNeil, Jim Parker, Millie Sleight and Peter Crowther.

Five more Founder members had sent their apologies: the Revd. Ian Hollin, Bernard West, Margery Howarth, and Peter & Constance Heald.

The evening ended when **Richard Tanner** most generously invited **JB** to say a few (!) words. JB told how the choir had been formed, and related how they had entered for the BBC's International competition *Let the Peoples Sing*. In 1968 they beat all the other mixed voice choirs in Great Britain and the following year they reached the semi finals of the International competition, beating not only all the amateur mixed voice choirs in Great Britain which had entered for this competition, but also singing against a choir from Norway which eventually won.

Finally **Alizon Elliott**, who has sung under all four conductors, invited JB to conduct the assembled singers in *Linden Lea*. This was the last song he conducted with the Singers before he left for America in 1982, and it was, incidentally, the last song he conducted with his Princeton Singers in Princeton University Chapel, before he returned to live in Blackburn 7 years ago. Thank you, one and all.

**Best wishes to the Girls' Choir and Choirmen for their singing visit to Prague starting on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Canon Hindley, Richard Tanner & Emily Crewe have been there to make final arrangements, and so all should go very well indeed.**



**This is where our choirs will rehearse in Prague! Wow! And best wishes to the YPC for their singing visit to the Edinburgh Festival from August 28<sup>th</sup>. Come to the pre Prague and pre Edinburgh Concerts on Sat 23 July and Fri 26 Aug. (See p. 20)**

**Book Sat-Sun 17-18 Sept. for our Old Choristers Annual Reunion. (See p. 20 again) And now read this super letter from Old Chorister CHARLIE HOPWOOD (Prefect 1966)**

Dear J.B.,

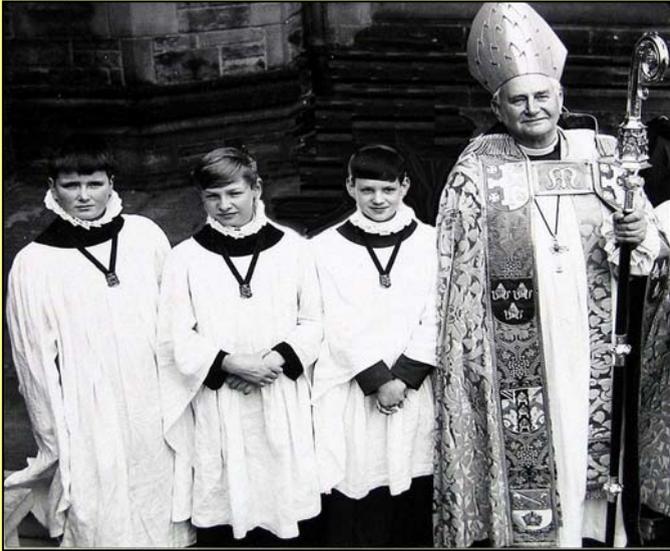
Thanks for keeping in touch, and for sending me the Newsletters which I read with interest.

I will try to attend some part of this year's O.C. gathering. I was abroad at the time of last year's event.

I went to London with an old school friend and saw some of the sights, including Westminster Abbey (after queuing for ages) and it brought back memories of singing there with you when you directed RSCM two-week courses there many moons ago.

I pointed out the choir stalls and tried to remember where I sat. But the Abbey seems to be more about history and commercialism. Still it did bring back those memories,

It also brought back the pride of being amongst the first recipients of the Bishop's Chorister Award in 1967. The photo of **IAN HARRISON**, **DEREK CROMPTON** and myself brought back good memories too.



**Charlie, Ian & Derek with Bishop Claxton in 1967. They were the very first Bishop's Choristers ever to be created. This Award for Excellence has now spread throughout the world. In those early years the Bishop treated his choristers to an outing and a supper. And they also 'attended' the Bishop whenever he came to their church or cathedral. JB**

I still remember a trip to Blackpool as guests of **BISHOP CHARLES CLAXTON** to see David Kossof in "A Christmas Carol" and then a fish and chip supper. A marvelous occasion!

I do hope to catch up with you this year, BUT hopefully I will be here for the O.C. event. Yours Sincerely, **Charlie**

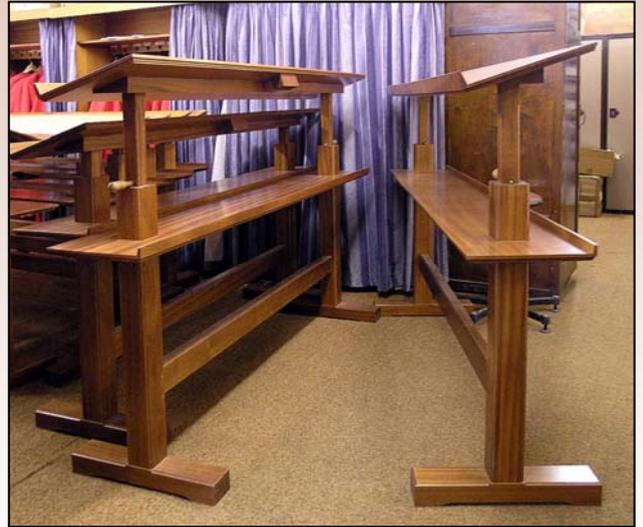
P.S. I know I owe a contribution for the Newsletters, so if you could let me know how much and where to send it I'd be grateful. *(It's going up to £15 p.a. this Sept. for which you get our super Newsletters. Thanks for your sub. JB)*

**Charlie** was also paired with **Derek** when they sang the duet in Mendelssohn's *I waited for the Lord*, with the Blackburn Music Society in King George's Hall to a capacity audience of 1,500.



## THE NEW ADJUSTABLE MUSIC DESKS

... are now firmly installed in the Song School. They are most handsome and should last for 100 years. (The lightweight stalls which choirman **Harold Fielding** made lasted us for 70 years!) The Cathedral is most grateful to the many generous donors who have made this gift possible.



The Old Choristers' Association received a gracious letter of thanks from the Chapter Clerk, because many OCs have donated most generously to the fund including SOC **Nigel Chew** (through his successful Poetrython) OC **Adrian Wilson** and former SOC, **Bob Keen**.

Dear Gordon

On behalf of the Chapter I am writing to thank the Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers Association for their kind gift of song school desks.

This gift is much appreciated and I should be most grateful if you would pass on the Chapters thanks to your members.

Yours sincerely

**Thomas A Hoyle**  
**PARTNER**

*A brass plaque for each donor will be fixed onto each music desk to commemorate a loved one:*

"Donated by **Peter, Gordon & Paul Fielding** in memory of **Harold Fielding**, Cathedral Chorister 1939 –1967, and to Ada, his wife."

(From **OC Eric Bancroft**) "In memory of **John H. Bancroft**, a Chorister in the 1940s"

(From **OC Michael Thompson**) "In memory of **Jessie Thompson**" (who made the first ruffs for Choristers in 1949)

(From **OC Stephen Holmes**) "In memory of Gordon and Shirley Holmes, parents of **Stephen** (prefect 1973), Cheryl and Lisa Holmes.

(From **John Bertalot**, Director of Music, 1964-82) "In loving memory of '**Bunny**' & '**Dots**' Bertalot from their son, John, 2004"

Former Senior Old Chorister **Phil Carr**, whose son **Michael** was a recent prefect, has also generously donated a music desk.

## WELCOME TO CANON CHRIS CHIVERS

EXTRACTS FROM A SERMON BY THE DEAN  
at Choral Evensong, Sunday 17 April 2005  
for the Institution of Canon Chris Chivers  
as Canon Chancellor



We are met today in order to welcome **Christopher Chivers** to this Chapter and diocese, together with his wife **Mary** and their spirited sons **Dominic** and **Gregory**. Chris is to be our Chancellor – our teacher and theologian – who will embrace the damp earth of Lancashire to remind us that God has claimed it for himself.

We hope that Chris, using the tools of the theologian, will keep God alive in our midst. With that mutinous chuckle and probing mind, we hope that Chris will help us face the questions of living together under God who has bestowed upon each of us immeasurable value.



There was a time when the Chapter was encouraged to appoint an evangelist rather than another theologian in the cast of **David Galilee**. I am so relieved that such pressure was resisted this time for the Church has many evangelists but few theologians. We were convinced that careful theology shared among the most unlikely people will so inform and re-establish our identity as God's people that evangelism will naturally follow.

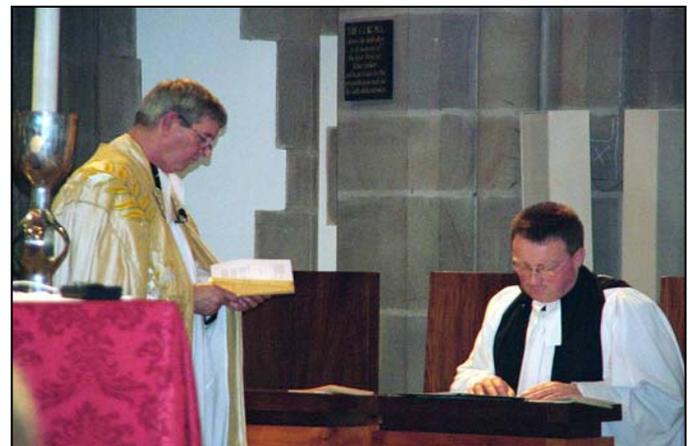
Furthermore, in any Cathedral community there will be a rich collection of expertise, gathered not just for the glory of God and its own benefit but also for the benefit of the

region. Theologian, pastor, liturgist, teacher, administrator and entrepreneur living together in a corporate body need reminding from time to time of the purpose and value of their corporate life.



And if this might sound somewhat insular, we hope that the theologians in our midst would look further afield for in this region and from this community a huge task confronts us as we tackle the questions of living together in a multi-faith context. Here is a task which we must attend to urgently – not just for ourselves but for the wider Church and nation for we are well placed and well resourced to attempt that work.

There is no better time to do so. It is the contention of any person of faith that there is a unity between all peoples and such a unity has already been given by God. We are already the richer for it but that insight has to be articulated with some urgency if we are not to value one another – or fear one another – for external reasons only.



Christopher will be salt, leaven – the grit which gives the oyster even more value – so that the cathedral may the more readily be valued and shared by a wider constituency.

### Theology.

We meet to celebrate Chris's arrival as the Chancellor at the most appropriate place – at the feet of our bishop who occupies his teaching seat, the *cathedra*.

It is this seat which gives to the cathedral its authority to be a centre of learning and **Nicholas**, in his generous way, is happy to share this work of the theologian, the godly teacher, 'the one whose prayer is true'. If we wish to be a community of teachers we must first of all be a community of learners, listening to God and to God's word mediated through one another and through our common toil in the ministry of Word and Sacrament.



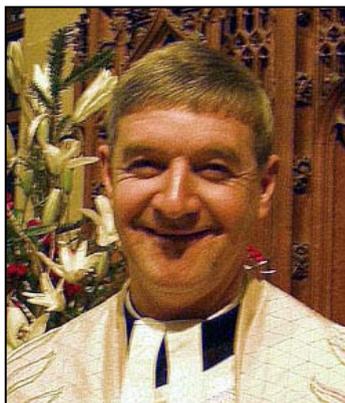
Don't let's kid ourselves either that the world is indifferent to the work of theology. Having recovered from a weekend when the media were saturated with huge theological questions posed by a funeral [of the Pope] and a wedding [of the Prince of Wales] carried out in the shadow of the cross, we are now confronted by the trading of tired political slogans promising the world in exchange for another cross on a voting slip. Here in current affairs is ample scope for the sharp contribution of theology.

Furthermore, there are complex currents blowing in the world of academic theology. The number of theological departments may be declining but the volume and quality of students who wish to study theology – especially after 9/11 – is rising rapidly in all age groups. Here again there is plenty of scope for a Church which cares about its umbilical cord, the word of God in its midst.



But don't let's run ahead of ourselves. Christopher begins his work from a particular stall next to the bishop's *cathedra* in this Cathedral Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Blackburn. It is in this place where his unique contribution to our common life will begin. Like most cathedrals, there are many advantages here in terms of art, architecture, music, liturgy, sacred space, opportunities for service. 'A serious house on serious earth it is'.

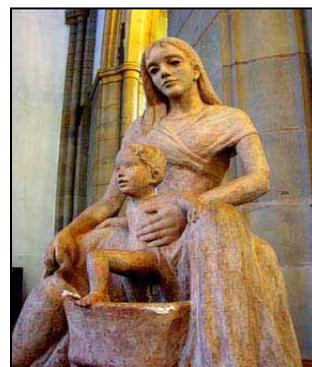
There is much to be done, our finances are limited but theology has always been done in dialogue: **faith and reason, scripture and tradition, nature and grace**. We are surrounded by so many friends and sympathetic institutions that, with a little coat trailing, the most surprising partnerships may emerge to take this exciting task of theology forward.



Your presence here today is a sign of your care for this place and for Chris in particular at the start of this exciting venture. **Please continue to bear Chris, Mary, Dominic and Gregory in your prayers** as they find their place among us and pray too, if you will, that this Cathedral Chapter and Foundation may embrace the damp earth of Lancashire as a sacrament of God's love.

## JOSEFINA DE VASCONCELLOS

Your editor risked driving to the Far North a few months ago (to Ambleside, although at his first attempt he was stranded on the M6 for five hours due to two lorries having spilled chemicals!) to visit the internationally acclaimed sculptress **Josefina de Vasconcellos** who created our lovely Madonna and Child over 30 years ago.



Josefina celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, but is still full of vitality and sparkling conversation.



She entertained me to a splendid lunch in a nearby hotel (where she was treated like Royalty) and then we went back to her studio.

"I love this head," she said, pointing out a recently completed sculpture on a shelf, "I call it **Perchance to Dream.**"

"Four years ago I flew to Japan where one of my sculptures was being unveiled." (What amazing energy this wonderful lady has!)

"I'm now working on a Stone Circle for Lancaster University. It's the only Christian Stone Circle in existence.

"Instead of having a sacrificial table in the centre, I have the *Agnus Dei*. The Lamb of God."

It was time to go – but the memory of the gracious welcome and the inspiration I received from this remarkable lady will long remain.



use this gift creatively in promoting dialogue between those who would perhaps not always easily be in conversation without her presence!

For this, and for so much else she has been awarded a number of honorary degrees, including a Lambeth Doctorate, and been decorated by the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 1999 she received the Order of the British Empire. In addition to all this she is of course the proud mother of **Richard** our Director of Music here in Blackburn. Please then welcome Dr Mary Tanner.



*It is difficult to summarise all that Dr. Tanner said about the matter of Women Bishops, but here goes:*

She told us that this matter had first arisen from a shortage of clergy in Hong Kong in 1968 when the Lambeth Conference (of Anglican Bishops throughout the world) was asked if Hong Kong Diocese could consecrate a women bishop. They were given a qualified 'Yes'. But by the 1998 Conference there were 12 women bishops elsewhere.

The matter of sexuality was discussed at a later Lambeth Conference, but it left many distressed. The action of the Episcopal Church in the USA by consecrating Gene Robinson as bishop revealed serious matters re the issue of how we resolve problems in the worldwide Anglican Communion. **There should be no such thing a 'going it alone', for Provinces have autonomy only in communion with their sister Provinces.**

Dr Tanner ended by saying: "There are different arguments still to be made, and it is a complicated matter not easily fully resolved. We cannot afford to be hermetically sealed off from each other."



**Bishop Rowell** agreed that there were major disruptions in the Anglican Communion as a whole as a result of the Robinson consecration – not least on account of ongoing dialogues between Protestant and Orthodox Churches.

**"We don't invent the Christian Faith – we receive it and then pass it on."**

## GAY BISHOPS: WOMEN BISHOPS?

On Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May in the South Transept before an informed audience **Dr. Mary Tanner** (mother of our very own **Richard**) and **Bishop Geoffrey Rowell**, Bishop of Gibraltar, debated two burning issues in the Anglican Church today: Gay Bishops and Women Bishops!

Our distinguished guests were introduced by Canon **Chris Chivers**: who said:



The late **Robert Runcie**, former archbishop of Canterbury, once described **Mary Tanner** as the doyenne of the ecumenical world, adding that she's the kind of person in whose presence people simply want to behave better. Which is quite an accolade. *(Laughter)*

She has held many distinguished positions in the ecumenical world, most notably for the World Council of Churches, and as the first General Secretary of the Council for Christian Unity.

She has worked tirelessly to foster a deepening of relations between the Church of England and the Evangelical Church in Germany and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches, and between Anglicans and Roman Catholics, and is known throughout the world for her writings. She came to the ecumenical world via a twenty-year period teaching Hebrew and Old Testament at Hull and Bristol Universities and at Westcott House, Cambridge [where one of her colleagues on the teaching staff was **Dr. Rowan Williams**! See page 14].

She currently serves on the Special Commission on Orthodox Participation in the World Council of Churches and is a member of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission.

She is widely recognised for her ability to see both sides of an argument, *[more laughter]* and to



The bishop continued, 'There needs to be a covenant in the Anglican Communion which may be retroactive, but which would ensure a measure of essential unity. And the Archbishop of Canterbury's role as *First among Equals* may need strengthening.'

Probing questions were asked from the floor and we wished that there could have been more time to explore these issues.

Afterwards the point was made to Dr. Tanner by a member of the audience that such seemingly divisive issues were no new thing. For in the early days of the Church there were major divisions ('*Should Gentiles be accepted into the new Faith?*') which were resolved only through careful discussion and the inspiration of the Spirit. Therefore may we be encouraged in our own discussions.

*It was an amazing experience to sit at the feet of two such distinguished theologians. Congratulations to Canon Chris for arranging such a stimulating and mind-expanding evening for us all. Let's have more!*

## CATHEDRAL ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

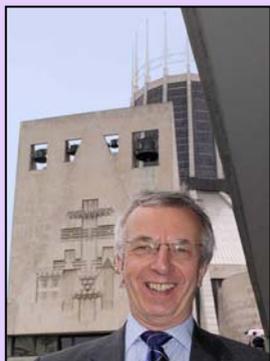
The COA (a distinguished body of all Anglican Cathedral Directors of Music in the UK, with some Directors of Music of leading RC Cathedrals and Collegiate Chapels), has recommended that '*...Leeds RC Cathedral should be added permanently to the list of institutions included under [Rules of membership]. The committee noted the extent and imagination of the overall programme at Leeds, with its significant outreach into the diocese and RC schools which could be a model for other institutions.*'

Heartiest congratulations to our former Associate DoM, **Ben Saunders**, who now directs the adventurous and highly successful Music programme at Leeds. Ben directed a brilliant live broadcast from Leeds several months ago and his choir has been accepted to broadcast Wednesday Choral Evensongs. That is the ultimate accolade.

**Ben, We're proud of you.**



We are delighted to learn that **Terry Duffy**, former Organist of Liverpool RC Cathedral (and a good friend and colleague to Blackburn, going back 35 years), has been appointed DoM of the Cathedral after many interregnums! He told your editor that at 65 he's now the oldest new cathedral DoM! **Congratulations!**



## LETTER FROM AMERICA

From **OC Bernard Hargreaves** in California. A memorable contemporary of **Derek Crompton**.

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. Judging from the BCOCA Newsletters I have received over the past year, you still seem to be actively participating and

involved with many Blackburn Cathedral related music activities, even though technically you are supposed to be retired!

Please thank **PETER HEALD** et al for putting together so many articles for the Newsletters. I know it must be quite a challenge at times, soliciting interesting input and photos from Old Choristers, as well as gathering some of the archive materials etc. Thank you for a wonderful legacy.

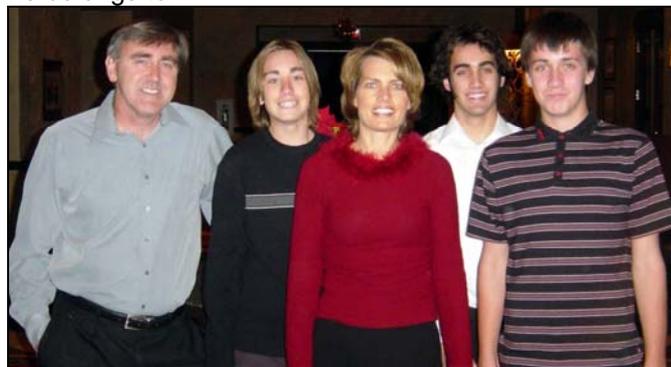


**Bernard Hargreaves in 1966**

Well it is that time of year again and I have recently completed and submitted my annual taxes to the State of California and the federal Government. And **the good news is I still have enough money left to renew my annual BCOCA membership**, but may not have enough to buy a ticket to see Blackburn Rovers play in the semi final of the F. A. cup. Who would have thought it, it must be relayed to all American 'soccer' players they have in the team!

Anyway JB, I've been pretty busy with work and things over the past year and haven't really made the effort to drop you a line, so here goes:

My oldest son, **Carl**, who is almost 18 years old, is going to start college next year, hopefully. His younger brother, **Zachary**, who recently turned 16 years old, has just passed his driving test and of course is now looking to Mum and Dad for a decent car. Not forgetting our youngest son, **Jordan**, who recently turned 14 years old, who is spending his future inheritance (but doesn't know that yet!) on fees and costs related to the baseball team he belongs to.



**Bernard, Zachary (16), Janet, Carl (18) and Jordan (14)**

The story would not be complete without mentioning my dear wife **Janet** who spends much of her valuable time and money looking after the wants and needs of the three teenagers. Does this sound familiar to anyone else?

So, JB, as you no doubt may or may not have gathered, next year's BCOCA membership may be a totally different story! But on a more serious note, I and my family are all doing fine. I have been fortunate in many ways and count my blessings every day.

Sometime this year hopefully, I will be able to work a vacation and perhaps a **flying visit back to Blackburn**. I'll look forward to visiting the Cathedral and some of my old friends. So, until we meet again, take care,

Best regards, **Bernard. (PS – over)**

**PS:** I think I also figured another one of the 'unknown' young choristers from the photo in last year's Newsletter of the choir in 1966. His name was **Colin Pickup**; he went to St. Wilfrid's school and later moved to somewhere near Selby in Yorkshire. I'm wondering if any of the other OCs from that era remember him also?

**PPS:** If **Grenville Robinson** is also living somewhere in Southern California, or **Norman Beaumont** is visiting again, please ask them to drop me a quick line. It would be good to meet up with them again after 40 years!

## ASCENSION DAY

Two greatly contrasted offerings of music were made on Ascension evening: The ladies of the **Renaissance Singers** sang a Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott (a former King's Singer). And then, in the still heavily incensed semi-darkened cathedral, our own **GREG MORRIS** played Messiaen's *L'Ascension* to a rapt



audience who sat in the choir stalls. It was a magical evening, and we all felt the Spirit's presence for we left the building in silence.

**The Renaissance Singers will broadcast the Chilcott Mass live on BBC Radio 4 next Pentecost Sunday! (June 4<sup>th</sup> 2006)**

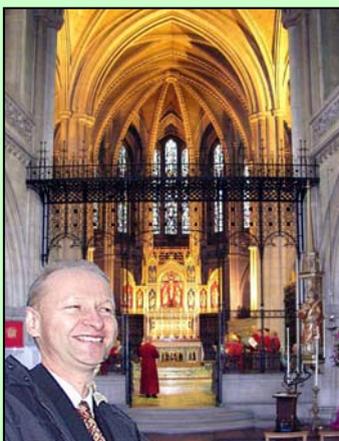
## BOURNEMOUTH FESTIVAL

**OC IAN HARRISON** again created a marvellous weekend of music-making in his distinguished church in Bournemouth (St. Stephen's) where Percy Whitlock was organist.

His Festival programme this year (30 April - 2 May) was printed in a beautifully coloured booklet- 60 pages long - which included full details of all the Festival services and concerts.

There were recitals given by **Paul Hale** (Southwell Minster), **Roy Massey** (former Hereford Cathedral) and Guildford Cathedral Choir. Clergy included the Dean of Durham and Bishop of Southampton, and Ian's own superb choir and orchestra added much to that weekend.

**Ian, we're proud of you!**



## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ORGAN

**GORDON STEWART** called your editor in May having just returned from the USA (as had your editor!). Gordon had been to Philadelphia to the biggest working organ in the world: The Wanamaker Organ - a giant 6 manual console placed in the department store of Lord and Taylor - a quasi vast Selfridges. Recitals are given on it three times a day during shopping hours. It's a great tourist attraction.

"What were you doing there?" asked JB, "giving a recital?" "No, I was presenting a programme for the Beeb on *The World's Greatest Organs*" to be broadcast on **Radio 4 on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 1.30 pm**, directly after *The News at One*. I sat on the seat that you've sat on several times!



"I interviewed Peter Conte, the brilliant resident organist and also people in the store. I've never done a presentation programme before. It was a great experience."

"When did you get back?" "A couple of days ago - I had to give an organ recital in Huddersfield Town Hall as soon as I returned - but it went OK!"

**Whatta man! Be sure to tune in to Radio 4 on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 1.30 to hear Gordon's mellifluous voice, and also to hear Peter Conte play his giant organ.**

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

to **OC PETER and CONSTANCE HEALD** in Ely on becoming the grandparents of Benjamin Michael.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY, 2005

*Admittance and Award*

It is always a joy when choristers are admitted to the cathedral choir or promoted within its ranks, for this is always done in the context of a service.

A printed order is prepared and the ceremonies take place immediately after the second lesson.

When the Dean admitted **Matthew Adelekan** to membership of the boys' choir he said that Matthew had

graduated to the choir very quickly indeed. Congratulations.



**Richard Tanner, Howard Waddell Head Virger, The Dean, Canon Andrew Hindley and Matthew**

It was good to see Matthew's parents in the congregation to share this happy event.

Then your editor presented the **Dots Bertalot Memorial Medallion** to Head Chorister, **Adam Whittaker**. (See p. 16)

He said, "Mr. Whittaker, it gives me special delight to present to you my Mother's Memorial Medallion as the longest serving chorister in Blackburn Cathedral boys' choir, for you have shown exceptional dedication to the music of our cathedral, not only by your singing with the boys, but also in helping to train the younger children. And for this I honour you.



"This medallion was first presented to a Blackburn Cathedral chorister 25 years ago, and each one, during the past quarter of a Century, has added to its lustre. Now it's your turn!"

Foto phrom **OC Michael Hamm** in West Kirby

**"Three men in a boat** is a snap I took of **Gordon Fielding, Ralph Robinson and Eddie Howarth** in a rowing boat on the lake at Southport on one of our choir outings - must be late 1940s."



And they're still with us – **Gordon** (in Knutsford) is BCOCA Treasurer, and **Ralph** (from Yorkshire) and **Eddie** (in the Isle of Wight) are 'regulars' at our BCOCA Reunions. **Are you coming to this year's 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion?**

## NEW ORGAN SCHOLAR

We give a big welcome to our new organ scholar, **JONATHAN TURNER**, who begins his cathedral duties on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jonathan, whose home is in Longridge, has sung in Longridge church choir since the age of 8, he started to learn the piano at the age of 11, and, for the last 2½ years, has been studying organ with **Nigel Spooner**, Longridge's brilliant organist.

He's now in his gap year, between finishing at Runshaw College, in Leyland, and going up to University in 12 months' time where he will study music.

Ambition? To become a Cathedral Organist, of course!

**Jonathan, welcome!**



## HISTORICAL BRITTEN

One of the great joys of editing this Newsletter is the feedback one gets from time to time from distinguished readers. This is especially true of the article in our last issue which told the story of how your editor (then 17 years old and a first-year student at the Royal College of Music) had attended the first London performance of **Britten's St. Nicolas Cantata** – in the presence of **Queen Mary**. The first item in that concert was a performance of Purcell's *Rejoice in the Lord*. Your editor could remember the names of two of the soloists, but not the third, who was a small bass.

**David Gedge MBE, Director of Music of Brecon Cathedral, wrote the following letter:**

I read and greatly enjoyed your Blackburn Cathedral Newsletter – a most lavish production.

I can tell you that the 'diminutive bass' at Southwark Cathedral in *Rejoice in the Lord* was **Maurice Bevan\***, and that the anthem was conducted by **Dr. Reginald Jacques** [conductor of the London Bach Choir].

**I was also there because I sang the part of Young Nick in St. Nicolas, for which I was paid 5 shillings – [25p] – a princely sum in those days!**

The three 'Pickled Boys' were fellow Southwark Cathedral Choristers, 'Jumbo' Webb ('cos of his ears!), David Gibbs (who later sang for **Barry Rose** at Guildford) and Michael Riggs.

In charge of us all was **E. H. 'John' Warrell MBE**, then Assistant Organist at Southwark, who was my first piano teacher, and whom I succeeded as Organist of St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, in 1957, (home of the

English Hymnal\*\*.) John is now nearly 90 years old and is still living in Eltham.

Family Gedge and the Britten connection will all be told in **'A Country Cathedral Organist Looks Back, 1939-1973'** which will be published in September!! No scandal!!

All good wishes,  
Yours Ever, **David**.

**\*\*St Mary's** enjoys a special place in the story of Anglican music and liturgy. This is the church where **Percy Dearmer** (Vicar 1901-15) worked with **Ralph Vaughan Williams** and **Martin Shaw** to compile the first edition of *The English Hymnal* (1906). So it was here in Primrose Hill that congregations first sang many well-loved hymns such as **'He who would valiant be'**, **'In the bleak mid-winter'** and **'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'**.

**David Gedge sent a photo of himself and Hazel and a letter in which he wrote:** *Hazel is a much better organist than I am having broadcast recitals on Radio 3 & 4! We are seated at the Cathedral Organ after the second (with me) rebuild in 1996; Percy Daniel & Co did such a good job.*



**\* Richard Tanner adds:** "Maurice Bevan was for many years a Vicar Choral at St. Paul's – including the time when I was a chorister there. He was an inspirational singer and a fine musician."

## The national magazine of CATHEDRAL MUSIC

Two generous mentions of Blackburn Cathedral were made in the May edition of *Cathedral Music*: *Our Messiah* and *B Minor Mass* received happy mentions, as did the Girls' Choir upcoming visit to Prague in late July. The correspondent added: *"Blackburn also boasts a splendid choir Newsletter which should be required reading for Friends in that diocese."*

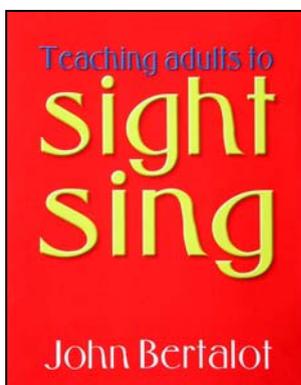
May your editor be forgiven for including a review in this magazine of his book **Teaching Adults to Sight Sing**:

"Yet again John Bertalot has produced an excellently produced and well-written handbook on choir training. This time teaching adults how to sight-sing.

"I used this recently on a new adult choir I had to train for a series of Christmas services and the results were striking.

"A first-rate handbook with warm-up exercises and good practical advice and where better to get it than from a master. A new approach we should all be open to use.

"The only thing to beat this handbook is to get John Bertalot along to a choir



practice, but that would mean he would have to spread himself too thin, so we get the next best thing, and have to be grateful for this written advice." *Daniel Reed*.

## Letter from the former Dean of Ely, The Very Reverend Michael Higgins

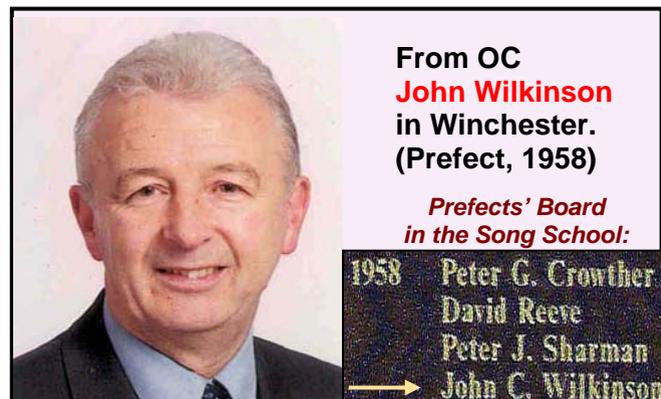
Dear John

The trouble with the world in general is that many good things happen in it nobody ever hears about.

Many good things are happening with the music at Blackburn, and you have made quite sure that everybody hears about them!

Congratulations on a major achievement! It is a riveting read, attractively presented, with attractive contents. You obviously are only too aware of the old adage that a pic. is worth a thousand words! There can be few cathedrals who have such a **vibrant** music newsletter, which will bring dividends not only to the music but to the whole life of the cathedral.

Warm good wishes,  
Michael.



From OC  
**John Wilkinson**  
in Winchester.  
(Prefect, 1958)

*Prefects' Board  
in the Song School:*

1958 Peter G. Crowther  
David Reere  
Peter J. Sharman  
→ John C. Wilkinson

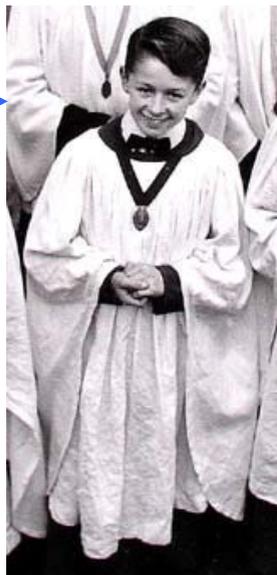
Dear JB,

I am prompted to write following the publication of the photo and note from Derek Bell in the February 2004 edition. I remember fondly the Cathedral Choir school courses and the memorable event in Canterbury in December 1959 with the then Archbishop. Also, having just retired, time is more on my side and I feel compelled to reconnect with the BCOCA and bring you up to date with news.

Members and friends may be interested to know that I have just been appointed **O.B.E** for services to education in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2005. This came as a great surprise and honour, and as a family we are delighted.

**My experience in the Cathedral choir was both formative and is long lasting in its influence and impact on my career.**

I joined in 1952 aged 7 and left the boys choir in 1960 as head chorister, I then helped establish the successful youth group, the Cathedral Young People, under the leadership of **Revd Brian Selvey**. After training as a teacher at St. John's College, York, I returned to Blackburn to teach at St. John's Junior School with OCs **Walter Bebbington and Norman Eccleston** [Norman was a founder-member of BCOCA 39 years ago] and rejoined the cathedral choir as a bass/baritone between 1966-68 shortly after you arrived at Blackburn.



I followed Walter to teach in Ely, Cambridgeshire, joined Ely Cathedral choir, met **Myra**, my wife and married in that cathedral in 1969 with a joint choir of men from Ely and Blackburn, much helped by Norman and by **OC Peter Heald** [also a founder-member of BCOCA.]

After a year's research at Cambridge University Dept of Education I gained my first headship at 28 and developed an expertise in early years and primary education leading to part time work at the University.

After a second headship in Cambridge and a further research degree at the University of East Anglia, I left for Hampshire to become an adviser/inspector (and registered inspector for OFSTED), and then Head of Educational Policy.

I was asked to establish a new corporate unit for Early Education and Childcare. This resulted in being appointed adviser to the incoming government in 1997 for early education. In 2001 I became Hampshire's Assistant County Education Officer (lifelong learning). I had overall management of the Music Service (national award 2004 as best in the country); the Youth Service, Early Education, Adult and community Education and Outdoor Education.

Myra and I live in Kings Worthy, Winchester. Myra is a principal lecturer in microbiology at the University of Portsmouth. Our two children, my mother (Olive) and Myra's parents live nearby. Son Christopher is a local solicitor and daughter Catherine an early years teacher. She has just produced our first grandchild, Jack.

This has been a great career, capped by the Queen's honour. I am now drawing breath before the next educational challenge.

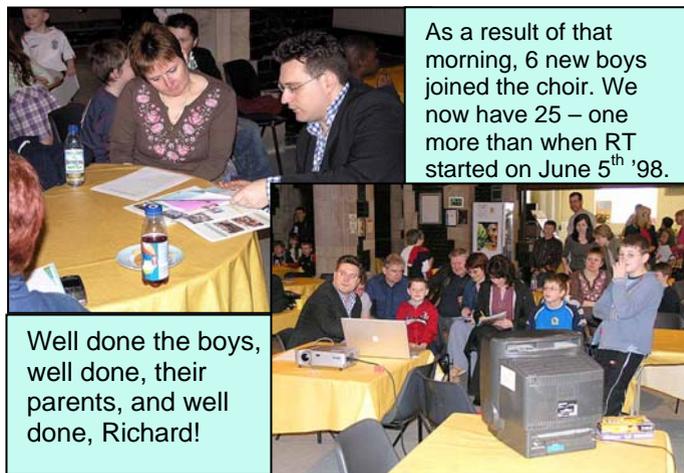
My fond wishes to all my former choristers and friends.  
**John.**

## RECRUITMENT

Richard Tanner held a recruitment morning at the cathedral a few months ago.

After a carefully prepared publicity campaign, potential new boys and their parents gathered in the crypt to see the choristers at work and to watch a slide show of what it's

like to be a cathedral chorister (not least, photos of the choir's successful tour of Germany!)



As a result of that morning, 6 new boys joined the choir. We now have 25 – one more than when RT started on June 5<sup>th</sup> '98.

Well done the boys, well done, their parents, and well done, Richard!

## The Journey

at BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL



**Canon Chris Chivers** has written a most helpful leaflet about our new series of paintings, *The Journey*, which were installed at the end of Lent. This leaflet is designed to be used by folk who come into our cathedral of all faiths, and of none, to help them on their own spiritual journeys.

There's a perceptive introduction about the history of art, 'Images have the power to evoke and provoke emotions', especially in the church, 'As you walk around the cathedral, you will bring your own images to the fifteen you will confront on your journey', and how the world is filled with suffering.

Then each Stage of the Journey is described 'The head is bowed down. The upper body is rigid with fear' (Image 1) and the significance of the colours is explained. 'The yellows emphasise the inner strength not only to be a survivor but actually to become a victor.' (Image 3)

At the end of each explanation is a prayer, or 'Pause for thought'.

*'Remember all mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, partners and spouses, children, friends and neighbours who must watch their loved ones suffer.'*

(Image 4)



Chris wrote: 'Our hope is that by the end of the journey the changing colours will have done their work on your soul and that the divine dancer will have accompanied you a few steps further along your journey.'

**Copies of the leaflet are available as you enter the cathedral, and a book in which you may write your comments!**



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. **Rowan Williams**, wrote to Chris after receiving a copy of 'The Journey' to say, **Outstanding and very moving work. I hope it will speak to many.**



The week after these paintings were installed one of the most impressive services we have experienced was sung by the Renaissance Singers under the direction of Richard Tanner, with Greg Morris at the organ.

The choir sang Allegri's *Miserere* ('Have mercy upon me, O God' – the one with the top Cs), starting in the Jesus Chapel and gradually walking around the cathedral whilst they sang sections of the *Miserere*. Then they stood in silence during the reading of carefully chosen passages and instrumental solos.

**Eileen Hemingway** read from Lamentations 1, 'For these things I weep...' whilst the Singers looked at the fourth image, **Jesus meets His Mother**.



**It was a most moving evening.**

**LETTER from  
OC FRANK HARE  
near Malvern**

Hello John,  
Wow and more wows.  
The mag is excellent.  
What a difference colour makes.



**Frank & Chris  
in their historic home near Malvern**

Just a few notes from down here.

I saw **Derek and Marilyn's** piece about their 25th wedding anniversary. I remember it well. We sang for them *My beloved spake* by Patrick Hadley – the "love anthem" – at their wedding in the cathedral; it seems to have worked. (Well done to them both.)

The news items regarding overseas trips reminded me of the very first trip the cathedral choir made to Holland and N. Germany circa 1972.

The second concert was in Ryksvijk (or something). We arrived at the Town Hall by coach and had to navigate a marching band of 100 kids in highly coloured uniforms, blowing bugles and banging drums. We thought it was a festival or some such local event, but on disembarking realised it was for us !!!!! For our second tour in 1975 we were better prepared for we brought gifts for the Mayors who welcomed us and official greetings from our own Mayor and Bishop.

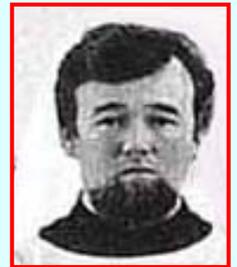


Also that occasion to honour our visit the local carillonneur, from his tall tower in the city square, kept playing our National Anthem with endless variations whilst we stood rigidly to attention (on JB's instructions!).

**Jim Smith** (a local chemist who was our senior bass and who had been in the choir all his life) said, "Eee he's goin on a bit".

In Northern Holland we all got billets with hosts who had cars to shepherd us to and from homes and venues. All except **Barry Hughes**. (Barry was a diminutive tenor with a lovely sense of humour.) He was placed with a large spinster who only had a bike.

We were all waiting on the bus for Barry to turn up, when round the corner he came with this tall (BIG) lady with his suitcase on her bike which he was pushing. The whole bus creased with laughter at this incredible sight – and Barry wore a huge grin as he was applauded onto the bus! **Barry looking surprisingly serious!**



On another occasion when we sang at Moordrecht the weather was so hot that some of the men decided to wear very little beneath their choir robes. I was sitting opposite Barry for the concert, and his cassock came open...!

Also in Moordrecht you gave me the cantor part to sing for the processional. It was OK for the rehearsal, but when it came to the concert they'd turned out all the lights except for three chandeliers. I had to wait until I reached a chandelier before I could go on! A nightmare!

In N. Germany the local Pastor marched us all to the local underground war memorial to show us what we had done to them in the war. He then proceeded to stuff us with hot sausages as a punishment.

I could go on, but a final word this time. Friends that Val and I made at the Fountain Kirk near the Hague on our first trip, made a visit here two years ago. Hans and Ada Kyvenhoven have been our friends ever since 1974. Great !!

There are many tales I could tell (and some I couldn't).

Love to all at Blackburn, **Frank**

**THE LANCASHIRE BRANCH of the  
PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY**

... held its annual Festival in the cathedral on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Two fully choral services were sung for them by **Octavius**, **OC ANTHONY TATTERSALL's** nine (*sic*) hand-picked singers.



**Anthony Tattersall**  
as a  
*Senior Singing Boy*  
in 1982

They were a joy to accompany and to listen to, AND they tackled most ambitious music, including former Asst. DoM **DAVID GOODENOUGH's** lovely anthem, *I will sing with the Spirit*, and Howells' *Coll Reg* canticles. Because Octavius made such a great impression when they sang at last year's PBS Festival, it was decided to record both services this year for posterity!

*Copies of this fine CD are now available in the Cathedral shop and at Whalley Abbey.*



The secretary of the Lancs. PBS, **NEIL INKLEY** (seated right) is a former chorister of Peterborough Cathedral. He's a strong member of our congregation.

Supporting him at the PBS-ess deliberations in the crypt were the Branch President, **Lord Clitheroe** (L) and Chairman, The Revd. **Alan Reid**, who's a great after dinner speaker!

## Talking of David Goodenough . . .

. . . he brought his Gallery Choir from Fettes College, Edinburgh, to give a lunchtime concert in the cathedral in June. They were conducted by Joanne Armstrong who is about to succeed David as Director of Music of this distinguished house of learning (David is being promoted to Housemaster!).



There were also solos by the talented boys and girls – on flute, clarinet and voice. Super!

David accompanied the kilt-wearing young singers on our splendid organ. It was so delightful to hear them all, and their audience gave them prolonged rounds of applause. Come again!



## OC PETER HOLROYD

. . .blew into your editor's home a few months ago. (He does this regularly, every five years!)

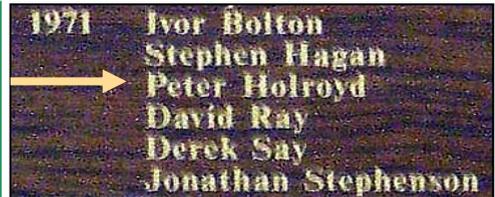
Peter's home is in Walton Park. He's been manager of many branches of Booths' Supermarkets during his career, and he has just been promoted again, this time to the Marton branch where he has a staff of 110. "It's much nearer home than Ilkley", he said.



Peter told JB during his last visit in October 2000, 'Being in the cathedral choir created my character!' *Thank you, Peter, it's a mutual relationship.*

Family news: **Julie** has completed a computer course with distinction; **Luke** (9) is joining the Cubs, and **Emma** (10) is enjoying gymnastics. (*Perhaps a candidate for the 2012 Olympics?*)

**Peter was an outstanding Choir Prefect**, in company with other illustrious musicians, 34 years ago!



## FUND RAISING

. . . to help finance the Girls' and Men's choir visit to Prague in July has been hotting up – very satisfactorily.

A number of girls 'bagged' at ASDA and raised over £800 from willing customers who appreciated their labours.



*Chloe West (R) bagging, and Jamie (half hidden) & Tracy Bett*

Colourful T-shirts were created – and they worked wonderfully well!



*The T-shirts are modelled by Claire Marsden, Carly Bett & Naomi Crewe, and (right) counting the cash are Jamie Bett, Emma Pearson and Naomi Crewe, again.*

**Other fabulous fund-raising events included:**

**A Launching Lunch** in the lovely home of Anitra and Edward Haythornwhite.

**A bodyshop event** by Alison Kerry.

**A cake stall** at Westholme school organized by Megan Hindle and Alison Holmes.

**Singing at a wedding** in Salesbury Church,

**A Ceilidh** at British Aerospace organized by Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Kerry.

**A concert** with the Cathedral Choir Men at Clitheroe Parish Church.

**A Summer Fair** in the Crypt, with refreshments and stalls

**A Grand Raffle** at the pre tour concert in the Cathedral on 23rd July.

**Smartie tubes** were filled by the girls with 20p pieces

**An Auction of Promises** organized by Mrs. Brooke. *The Dean was the first person to respond with an offer to clean shoes!*

**PHEW! BREATH-TAKING MONEY-MAKING!**

**To date well over £8,000 has been raised through dedicated team efforts & generous sponsorships. We are most grateful. Well done and thanks, everyone!**

And the Dean also promoted five boys to Chorister rank:



*L-R: Watched by retiring Prefect Edward Sanderson are Connor Buller, Callum Shaw, Michael Smith, Frazer Whittaker, Chris Marsden and Peter Syme, Well done!*

**CHOIR CEREMONIES**

... are always carried out most impressively by our clergy and musicians. They **welcome** those who are admitted to our choirs, **honour** those who are promoted, and **thank** those who have given years of service to our magnificent music programme.

Such ceremonies took place at Choral Evensong in April when three Prefects, who have given outstanding service to our choir, were thanked by the Dean.



L-R  
**Tom Croxson**, (who is now singing alto in the Men's choir),  
**Matthew Bruce**, who has joined the YPC,  
and **Edward Sanderson**.

**Cathedral Choir trip to Florida 2006!**

Plans are now being discussed for the cathedral choir to sing in Florida in 2006. Probably at half term, 20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Venues may include Vero Beach, Jacksonville Cathedral, Orlando Cathedral and more. And of course Walt Disney World is in Florida, AND Sea World AND lots more!**

Financial arrangements may be discussed with the music staff.

So if you want your son to go to Florida for the experience of a lifetime, he'd better join the cathedral choir right now! **Phone Richard Tanner: 01254-51491**

**LONDON ORGANISTS**

Your editor had the pleasure of meeting two distinguished organists in London recently :

The first was **DUNCAN ASPDEN** (he was a chorister with **DAVID COOPER**) and was featured in our last edition of the Newsletter after he has been appointed assistant Director of Music at Farm Street RC Church – a major appointment.

When we lunched at The Oratory Restaurant (appropriately within the shadow of Brompton Oratory – highly recommended) he told me of his other musical activities:

Having spent the early part of his life as an accountant in the City, he changed course three years ago to make music – less shekels but much more rewarding!

As well as making music at Farm Street, he's just been appointed conductor of the City of Oxford Choir (Wow!). They rehearse at Magdalen. He also conducts the St. Peter's Singers in Hammersmith; they recently celebrated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Carissimi. (Didn't we all?) He lives in Highgate and would love to play our organ at Blackburn. (*Hint!*)



**Gordon Shaw**, Chairman of Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association, presented these fine singers with their BCOCA ties. (We'd run out of ties but a fresh supply had just arrived! →)



Watched by the Dean and Canon Hindley, outgoing Head Chorister **Tom Croxson** invested incoming Head Chorister **Adam Whittaker**, with his historic Prefect's cloak. ←  
(It's at least 50 years old!)

Another London organist who would love to play our organ (again) is none other than **MALCOLM ARCHER**, the distinguished new Director of Music of St. Paul's Cathedral.



Malcolm grew up in Lytham St. Anne's and gave two lunchtime recitals in our cathedral when he was a teenager.

He has, therefore, a particular love for our cathedral and made a CD of improvisations (with **David Bednall** – see page 3) a few months ago. "I'd love to make another one," he told your editor as he played his house organ. **Richard Tanner** told your editor, "He's most welcome to return at any time!" So, watch this space!

After hot showers we needed lunch and a pint of courage, as it was time to climb a 12metre telegraph pole and slide off the top at great speed! Mr. Tanner would have been proud of Alex Whittaker's sustained top A as he braved the zip wire! Mrs. Forshaw got the biggest cheer of all (proof of her escapades can be viewed on the centre's website: [www.rockriver.co.uk](http://www.rockriver.co.uk)).

*Choir parent Denise Sanderson helping Connor Buller to fly!*



## BOYS' ACTIVITY DAY



Our boy choristers enjoyed a great day out on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March when they visited the Cliffs Farm Activity Centre at Mawdesley and expended some of their considerable energy climbing walls, shooting arrows, sailing through the air and I don't know what!

**Chorister Anthony Gray wrote:** Our group began our adventure in the climbing room. We were fitted with harnesses and safety ropes and had to make our way from floor to ceiling and abseil back down again whilst dangling from a rope!

Finally the terror of all terrors: the high trapeze! Another climb up a swaying 1,200cm telegraph pole, this time to be scaled like a climbing wall. At the top was a small square of wood on which we had to balance before leaping across a gap to catch a thin trapeze. Edward broke the record for the number of attempts (6!) and the number of pull-ups on the high trapeze (13!).

*Head Chorister Adam Whittaker and Chris Marsden (again) taking aim, with one of the Centre's helpful instructors.*



**Chris Marsden (L) helping Fraser Whittaker to climb a wall. (Have you ever felt liked climbing a wall?)**



Next it was time for a dip – at least it was for those who had got tired of kayaking and braved the water fully clothed!

**Alex Whittaker sailing into the Wild Blue Yonder**



All this excitement combined with rugby-playing dogs and fast Frisbee games made for a fabulous, exhausting and terrific adventure day out.

Thank you Mrs Sanderson for organising it, and thank you Mr and Mrs Sanderson, Mrs Buller, Mrs Shaw, Mrs Forshaw and Mrs Gray for your taxis and supervising skills.

**Anthony Gray**

# LIVE BROADCAST: CHORAL EVENSONG

BBC Radio 3, Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2005

The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, and the Girls' Chamber Choir

Howells *Jubilate*, Bertalot *Responses*, Blow *Canticles*, David Briggs *Ave Maria*, Peace, perfect peace, Franck's 3<sup>rd</sup> Choral

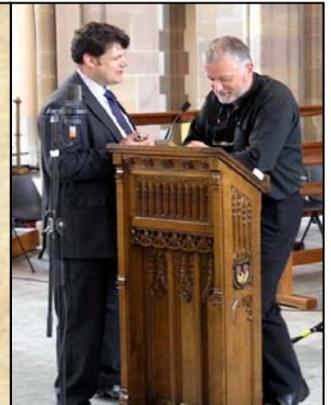
Dear Mr Tanner,

Thank you for one of the most passionate and spiritual experiences of "Choral Evensong" in recent months.

I was despairing that one could any longer hear spiritual conviction brought about through music, but you all managed this most splendidly. *Nick Reed, Isle of Mull.*



**Philip Booth**, the sound supervisor, set up his equipment in the BBC van (he could see everything on a helpful monitor screen!), while the producer, **Simon Vivian**, who was a boy-chorister at Worcester Cathedral, rehearsed **Canon Andrew Clitherow** in his reading of the first lesson.



**Richard Tanner** then rehearsed the combined choirs meticulously, whilst the technicians made sure that the tall microphone stands were placed in exactly the right positions.



**Greg Morris**, as ever, excelled in his playing of our magnificent cathedral organ (he had become a Father only two days before!) assisted by Jr. Organ Scholar, **Joshua Abbott**. (NB: Joshua turned pages...!)

Notice that our **new Choir Desks** (see page 5) were used for the broadcast. "The organ is too loud for a broadcast when the choir is sitting in their usual stalls," said **Canon Hindley**. "This position makes the job of balancing choir and organ so much easier for the BBC."

Our stalwart **Virgers** carried the desks up from the Song School for the broadcast, and carried them all down again. They also ensured that no stray folk disturbed the peace of the Cathedral. Thanks!

**Martin How**, composer and former Headquarters Commissioner of the RSCM, phoned Richard to congratulate him on a superb broadcast. "I could hear every word, the Blow was so relaxed. Exactly right! And the playing by **Greg Morris** of the César Franck 3<sup>rd</sup> Choral at the end was magnificent."

*So was the timing – there was just half a minute spare!*

To Richard Tanner from Composer-Organist DAVID BRIGGS in New York:  
 Just a very quick email to congratulate you, Greg and your gents on the beautiful performance of my 'Ave Maria' during yesterday's outstanding broadcast on Radio 3. I really enjoyed the whole service - but especially the new anthem which was sung very expressively and with excellent intonation and blend.



Canon Hindley Presented the service most beautifully.



'Pippa' Hyde listened to the singing of the boys whom she had coached.



The choirmen on Decani sang splendidly (notice that Music Scholar **Emily Crewe** led the girls on that side).



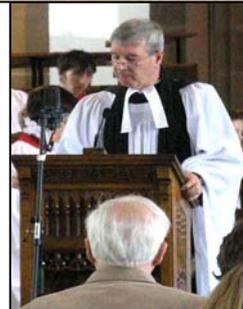
The choirmen on Cantoris listened carefully . . .



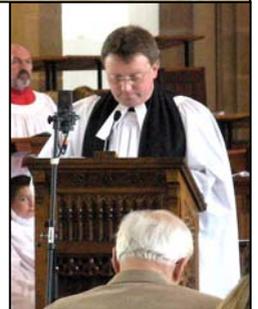
. . . when **Simon Vivian** said: "A great sound, but I need to hear the Ds more clearly". Simon's PA, **Judith Sharp**, ensured that the timing was exact.



The splendid solo boys in Ian Tracey's arrangement of *Peace, perfect peace*, were (L-R) Adam Whittaker & Alex Lund, and Charles Forshaw & Arthur Geldard.



Dean **Christopher Armstrong** read the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson and Canon **Chris Chivers** led the prayers.



**From Mr. John Ewington OBE: Secretary of the Guild of Church Musicians:**

Congratulations on a splendid service this afternoon. The words of the psalms were wonderfully clear - some of the best I have ever heard!

Your man Greg played the Franck A minor with great verve. The organ sounded very good.

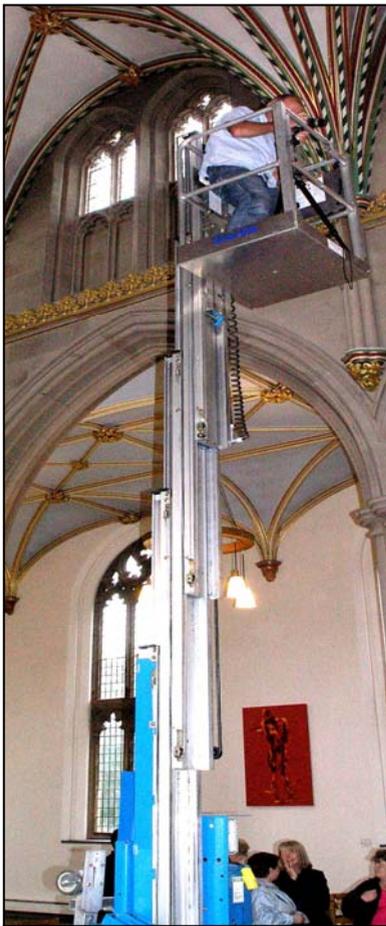
**We look forward to hearing and seeing it next year when we come to Blackburn for our Annual Reunion. (29<sup>th</sup> April)**

And after the broadcast there was a photograph of all those who participated - including our BBC guests.

But why are they laughing, and why are they looking up? And why is PA **Judith Sharp** holding her head in her hands?

See over!





They were smiling because the Choirs, Clergy & Beeb enjoyed seeing the professional photographer launch himself almost to the cathedral ceiling to take his photos!

*Emily writes:* When I began working at the Cathedral last July, I wasn't quite sure what to expect, nor, I found out later, were Richard or Greg. They'd never had a non-organ-playing organ scholar before! I have had a fantastic year at the Cathedral: it's been hard work but lots of fun, and it isn't over yet because I've still got the tour to Prague with the Girls' choir and the Men and the tour to Edinburgh with YPC.

I have learned so many things this past year and have gained a lot of confidence. If you'd put me in a room with the Children's Choir last September I wouldn't have known what to do, yet now I enjoy taking the rehearsals when I have to do them. I can photocopy with the best, improvise a barbecue at ten minutes' notice, file almost anything, and produce a cup of coffee at any hour of the day or night. I've learned to work in a team and enjoy it, and seen the results of the cathedral, caring in how children have changed and become happier, more confident people.

I know how much running around the choir parents do too. My parents used to bring at least one of my family to Cathedral every day except Mondays. It's worth it though because I have had such a good time and learned so much!

I'm off to Oxford Brookes this September to do a combined degree in music and theology. I will be back during the holidays though so you don't get rid of me that easily!

Thank you to everyone who has made my time at Blackburn so enjoyable, not just those who I've worked with but the people I have sung with over the past years and their families. I'm going to miss you all! An especial thank you to Greg and Richard who have put up with me every day and given me such outstanding musical opportunities. I can now play the star stop on the organ! **Emily Crewe**

### BCOCA EXCEPTIONAL REUNION 2005!

This year's **Annual Reunion of Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers** will be especially special, for not only will the OCs sing with our **Boys and Men**, but they will also be joined by the **Girls' Choir**, the **YPC** and the **Children's Choirs** AND the **Renaissance Singers!**

Why? To do honour to Emily Crewe who has sung in so many of our choirs during the last ten years and also to stress the importance of the **Old Choristers' Association** which is such a faithful body of musicians who love their cathedral and who support it so magnificently.

We have members all over the world: in the **USA, Germany, France, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore** and throughout the **UK!**

Invitations will be sent to all Old Choristers who have paid their subs (£15 pa – cheques to **BCOCA** mailed to **Gordon Fielding, Greenacre, Parkfield Rd., Knutsford WA16 8NP**, please).

On **Saturday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** there's lunch, a super rehearsal and Choral Evensong with all choirs led by Richard Tanner, and a magnificent dinner in the evening. On the Sunday the OCs sing with the men and boys.

It will be an exceptional weekend of fellowship and music. We'd love you to be part of it. **Call BCOCA Chairman Gordon Shaw for details: 01254-81-3586.**

### There's more music being made in Blackburn Cathedral now than at any time in its history!

Heartiest congratulations to RICHARD TANNER and GREG MORRIS and their teams of enthusiastic supporters.

This programme deserves your support – in fact we couldn't do without it.

Music-making on such a scale (*sic*) demands not only a strong time commitment from all singers, but it also needs a norful lot of money!

Hiring Orchestras (for Messiahs, B Minor Masses etc) costs thousands, AND we're buying the platforms on which the choirs stand – which also costs thousands.

We're so grateful to the many who do support us financially by becoming a **FRIEND OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL MUSIC.**

*Minimum annual sub is only £30.*

(This will give you admission to all the Wednesday lunchtime recitals – there'll be 20 of them @ £3-00 each – so you're already making a profit of £30!)

You'll also receive regular copies of this Newsletter and full details of all the concerts held in our beautiful cathedral.

Patrons' subs go up to £150-00 which give you priority seating *and much more!*

All choir parents and are encouraged to support their children by becoming Friends. **THANKS IN ADVANCE!**

**WE SAY  
FAREWELL and THANKS to  
Music Scholar EMILY CREWE**  
who has sung in our choirs since she was 8, and for the last year has been 'right-hand-person' to Richard and Greg. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for all she has done for us, for she has so greatly enriched our music programme.



### Upcoming Concerts in our Cathedral which deserve your support – all at 7.30 pm

**July 23. Sat. Girls' and Men's pre Prague recital.**

(Remember Gordon Stewart's broadcast from Philadelphia on BBC Radio, Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1.30 pm.)

**Aug. 26. Fri. YPC pre Edinburgh recital.**

**Sept. 14. Wed. 1.00pm. First of this season's Lunchtime recitals. Admission £3.00, but free to FRIENDS!**

**Also on Sept. 14th 7.00pm Launch of Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music programme for 2005-06. Music & Eats!**

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