

FBCM

# BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

F of BCM Edition No. 16

BCOCA Edition No. 25

**October, 2005**

Editor: Dr. John Bertalot,  
Cathedral Close, Blackburn, BB1 5AA  
[john@bertalot.demon.co.uk](mailto:john@bertalot.demon.co.uk)



Blackburn  
Cathedral  
Old Choristers  
Association

**TWO  
MORE  
40<sup>th</sup>**

Anniversaries

**October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Rehallowing  
of the Nave**

&

**November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**The first  
Concert**

by the (then)  
Blackburn Bach  
Choir  
now renamed the  
**Renaissance  
Singers**

See page 20



**FRIENDS  
of BLACKBURN  
CATHEDRAL  
MUSIC**



The Girls' and Men's highly successful tour of Prague. See pages 7-9

# History-making Girls' Mini Course

by RICHARD TANNER

Between 3rd and 5th May, the Girls' Choir enjoyed a half term "mini course". This was an opportunity to learn some new music, develop as a choir and spend some time getting to know each other.

On Friday 3rd the Chamber Choir rehearsed for the whole morning. So that the girls could watch a movie after lunch, RT set up a cinema in the crypt using a DVD player, surround sound system and the Cathedral's projector and screen. More rehearsals followed until 9pm, including the choir's first ever Friday evening rehearsal with the gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir. There was much to do, as Sunday was to be an extremely hectic day, musically speaking.

However, before that, on Saturday the whole Girls' Choir met up to rehearse, and then attend a stunning **Coffee time recital of American Songs**, given by **Nicola Mills** and **Greg Morris** in the Crypt. This was a wonderful educational opportunity for the girls. More rehearsals followed, then lunch.



After which everybody travelled to Megabowl in Preston for some ten-pin bowling. All of our girls were dressed in their pink tour tee shirts!



On Sunday the Chamber Choir joined the Cathedral Choirmen in singing the 10.30 Eucharist (Victoria's *O Quam Gloriosum Mass*) and 4pm Evensong (Leighton *Magdalen Service*, JB *Responses* and Elgar's "*Light out of Darkness*"). In between the two services, the girls and men had lunch at the Tanners' and after Evensong



they gave a most successful fund-raising concert in Clitheroe Parish Church.



They were joined by **Philippa Hyde** who sang Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* and JB's *Steal Away*,



W. A. Mozart  
1756-91



and **Lawrence Wood**, father of girl chorister **Alex** (see below) who is a member of the Hallé Orchestra, played his 'cello when the girls sang *Paris Angelicus* by César Franck.



The Clitheroe concert was organized by **Richard Chew**, father of **Sarah** (see below) and the large audience was extremely appreciative.



A big thank you to all the choir mums who helped look after (and feed) the girls over our rewarding three days of hard work and fun!



### Happy Quintet!

Laura Slater, Katie Holden, Alex Wood, Sarah Chew, and Rosie McInerney in their pink Tee shirts at Megabowl.

Richard adds: *The girls' mini course in half term was one of the most significant musical events in the last 20 years at the Cathedral, for it was the first time that the girls and men joined forces for the Cathedral Eucharist and sang a concert together. It was history in the making.*

Another letter from  
**OC JOHN WILKINSON**  
 in Winchester



Many thanks for sending the BCOCA Newsletters. What a superb quality publication!! I look forward to renewing friendships and memories through future editions. Congratulations and thank you for the obvious hard work that you put into them.

You asked for additional memories on TLD. **[Thomas L. Duerden, Organist & Master of the Choristers, 1939-64]**

When I first joined the Choir in 1952, I spent a fair amount of time in the organ loft during services, learning the ways of the choir and getting to understand TLD. I remember his emotional response to significant events, such as the Somme Day Service and the funeral of Bishop Baddeley.



*TLD & Bishop Baddeley in happy fellowship*

His tears reflected his great emotional response to events as well as to music. I also remember his tall stories of his naval days about cutting whales in half in his ship the *Leviathan*. Was that really the name of his ship? *"Those that go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in great waters ...they see the wonders of the Lord."*

I joined the choir in the mid 1950s whilst still at Infant School and can remember catching a bus across town dressed in an Eton suit, with starched collar and bum freezer. An incongruous sight against the cloth capped mill workers. I remember that my first solo was *Lead me Lord*, but many more followed, including the final one for **Archbishop Fisher** in Canterbury as highlighted in Derek Bell's article in issue 17.



With all good wishes and every blessing to you and all. **John.**

From **OC NEIL FELLOWS** in Germany  
 (a contemporary of **Derek Crompton**  
 and **Charlie Hopwood** from 1964)

Dear John!  
 Hoping this finds you in good health and spirits

I have been asked if I can suggest music for a Christmas concert here in Kiel which would be performed by a mixed school choir and quite a proficient orchestra.



Apart from having to help organize the above concert I have just finished a very busy season both with my own orchestra (we ended the season with "Parsifal" so there was no nice slow down before the holidays) and conducting the school amateur orchestra which I took over last summer.

We are expecting our second child in August and so I am probably going to spend the holidays trying to catch up on the odd jobs at home to make the place suitable for the new arrival.

I am also thinking of asking the Dean of Blackburn if he would still be interested in housing a visit by the orchestra I have taken over. They are very keen on taking a trip abroad and I thought it might be an idea to play something which might involve **Singers from the Cathedral who on a future visit to Germany could be our guests in a concert here.**

Well, I will sign off before I have any more good ideas. my very best wishes, **Neil Fellows**

From former Organ Scholar (2003-4) **ALEX DAVIES**



who is now organist at Lyme Regis Parish Church.

Dear John,

Hope you are well! I'm very busy at home working more or less full time in my parents' hotel **[The Kersbrook Hotel, Lyme Regis - 01297-442-596 - four star RAC rated - highly recommended by the Tanners]** but doing quite a bit of music part time.

I'm now organist of Lyme Regis Parish Church and have a small choir which is improving and building up a reputation! I'm working with local schools and trying to get the children involved as we did during my time at Blackburn Cathedral.



*Photo © Bridport & Lyme Regis News*

I teamed up with the local RSCM Chairman who will conduct a concert in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. I've invited about 35 people to sing and had 27 to the first rehearsal on Wednesday. We managed a sing through of a good selection of choral classics including *I was glad*, and *I saw a new heaven*, so a reasonable standard. Got 5 more rehearsals to sort out an hour's concert but might include the odd organ solo etc.

Amazingly I dug up 2 Ex King's Cambridge choral scholars locally, Bass and Tenor! Bit of luck!! Also a few young people but lots of older ones who are really trying. I gave them a CD of all music and they've been doing a bit of homework, hope they keep at it for it could be a good concert – the first in the church for about 20 years! Been rehearsing the school children for 6 weeks and they're doing brilliantly!

**MORE HISTORIC BRITTEN!**

Readers of this Newsletter will remember articles in our last two editions about **the first London performance on**

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1949 (NB correct date) of **Britten's Cantata, St. Nicolas** following Richard's super performance at last Christmas's **SPECTACULAR**.

Your editor attended that first performance in Southwark Cathedral (which was sponsored by the **Rural Music School Association – RMSA**) when he was a student at the Royal College of Music. **David Gedge MBE**, now organist of Brecon Cathedral, was the boy soloist who sang the demanding (!) one-note solo, *God be glorified*.

*We've now received a letter from Ernest ('John') Warrell MBE, who was sub organist of Southwark Cathedral at that time. He played the organ for that first performance! He writes:*

My dear John,

Congratulations to all who help to produce the splendid Cathedral Newsletter. It is of superb quality and gives a vivid picture of a happy and vibrant community.

I was very interested in your account of the *St. Nicolas* performance. Two things stand out in my memory:

(1) There was little time for rehearsing the hymns. During the performance it became clear after the first verse that Britten intended a complete cut-off and a pause at the end of each line. I, seeing through a glass darkly (the mirror was perched precariously on the top of the organ console) misinterpreted the last part of the cut-off gesture and came crashing in with Great-to-Mixtures, obliterating the silence. I was acutely aware of Britten's 'expressive gestures and compelling eye'!



**John Warrell & David Gedge at Southwark Cathedral, 1949**



**Britten and Pears at Southwark Cathedral**

(2) At that time the Southwark organ was tuned to the old sharp pitch and transposition was needed fairly frequently. However, on this occasion a piano was to be used with the organ and some fairly radical re-tuning of the piano had to take place.

It did not survive the onslaught of the two pianists\* and by the middle of the afternoon the effect was gruesome. The *Times* critic accused the organist of playing 'out of tune'!

With every good wish, **John**

*Ernest ('John') Warrell has just celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations! He sent his 1949 copy of the RMSA's magazine 'Making Music' to us – which includes an article on this performance and photos of Britten et al. JB has presented it to the Cathedral's archives, together with Mr. Warrell's letter.*

\*One of the pianists for *St. Nicolas* was **Marion Stein**, who had just married **Lord Harwood**. He was President of the RMSA. That's why he accompanied **Queen Mary** to the concert!



**Queen Mary arriving at Southwark Cathedral with Lord Harwood for the first performance of *St. Nicolas***

(It's just occurred to your editor how he came to be at that concert – apart from the reason given in our previous edition – for he was a member of the RMSA, the Sussex Branch. He also remembers playing his violin in a youth orchestra at a concert in Lewes Town Hall which was attended by **Vaughan Williams!**)

## MORE HUNWICK NEWS!

**OC Chris Hunwick**, Archivist at Manchester Cathedral, is in the news yet again.

He recently received a letter from the archivist of Ely Cathedral who had discovered some ancient parchments in a box at Ely marked 'Manchester Cathedral'. They'd been in Ely Cathedral for 345 years and the archivist felt that it was time to restore them to their rightful home!



*Peter Meadows from Ely with Chris Hunwick in Manchester Cathedral*  
Photo © Manchester Evening News.

The earliest document dates from 1498 which lists the church tenants of Preston. 'No-one knew that the Church owned any property in Preston,' Chris told your editor. 'There's a lot of work to be done on these documents and we expect to discover many more historical details when I study them further. We're most grateful to Ely Cathedral for restoring our property to us, even though it did take them 345 years!'

## OC EDDIE HAWORTH in the Isle of Wight

**OC ALLAN HOLDEN** from Bolton wrote a delightful letter to the editor giving an update on **OC EDDIE HAWORTH**, who has not been in the best of health recently. Allan and his wife visited the Haworths in the Isle of Wight and found that Eddie was making great progress. **Hallelujah!**



**Eddie (left) and Allan** enjoying afternoon tea on the Isle of Wight with their wives. They were cathedral choristers with **Gordon & Ralph** over 60 years ago as the Prefects' Board shows.

1945	Gilbert Hindle
→	Alan D. Holden
1946	Gordon Fielding
	Ralph N. Robinson
1947	Walter Duxbury
→	Edward J. Haworth

**Allan wrote:**

'Unfortunately they will not be able to attend our Reunion this year, but Eddie sends his best wishes to all his fellow OCs and to everyone at the cathedral. We are encouraging Eddie to add some weight which obviously doesn't apply to his guest – ah-well, I can always diet later on!

'As for myself I look forward to being with you and enjoying another weekend of devotional music, happiness and friendship.' **Allan**

**GIRLS' and MEN'S Concert**  
**Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2005**  
*immediately before their Prague Tour*

29 talented Girls and 17 equally talented Cathedral Choirmen joined forces to delight a large and appreciative audience with some of the music they planned to sing on their tour of Prague (*see p. 7*). Their singing was polished and musical, and the sound of the girls' top Gs was thrilling in the *Hallelujah Chorus*, for which the audience stood!



The choir was directed with skill and musicianship by **RICHARD TANNER**



**GREG MORRIS** accompanied the choir most musically as ever, ably assisted by Junior Organ Scholar, **JOSHUA ABBOTT**



**PHILIPPA HYDE's** solos, from *Messiah* and arias by Bach and Mozart, were breathtakingly brilliant. Her very presence added grace to a magical evening.

Other works included music by Vivaldi, Rutter, Geoffrey Burgon (his *Nunc Dimittis* with **MATTHEW OGLESBY**, trumpet) Haydn, Victoria (men's voices: *O quam gloriosum*), Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Elgar (a gripping performance of *Light out of darkness*), Tallis, Schubert and Stephen Adam (*The Holy City*) – again with thrilling top Gs.



Enjoying her very first concert (although she slept through most of it) was **ANNA SOPHIA MORRIS**, who was born to **Dr. Rachel Thornton** and **Greg Morris** only 2 1/2 weeks before. **Congratulations!**



Pippa Hyde and Matthew Oglesby joined forces with the Girls' Chamber Choir (who rehearse twice a week!) in JB's arrangement of *Steal Away*

Helping the **Virgers** to dismantle our new staging after the concert was an energetic team of stalwart men, including Canon **CHRIS CHIVERS**, and **RUSS STEELE** with Canon **ANDREW HINDLEY**.

*Thanks!*  
 It was a great evening.



## NEW ASSISTANT VIRGER

We welcome **SEAN HELLEN** to the Cathedral who will assist Head Virger **Howard Waddell** and Canons' Virger **Mark Pickering** in their multi-faceted cathedral duties.

Sean, who is not yet 20, has already had an adventurous career: he worked in a Game Reserve in South Africa where he tranquilized lions, leopards, cheetahs and elephants. He was also involved in controlling soil erosion. Then for three months he was at the African Ocean Research Conservation foundation where he studied the behaviour of dolphins, whales and seals.

Clearly he's already made his mark here. Howard told your editor, 'Everyone loves him!' **Canon Taylor** told Howard after Sean had served at a 12.30 Eucharist, 'You've got a good one here!'



*Welcome, Sean!*

One of the first things Howard had to do for Sean was to order a new cassock for him.

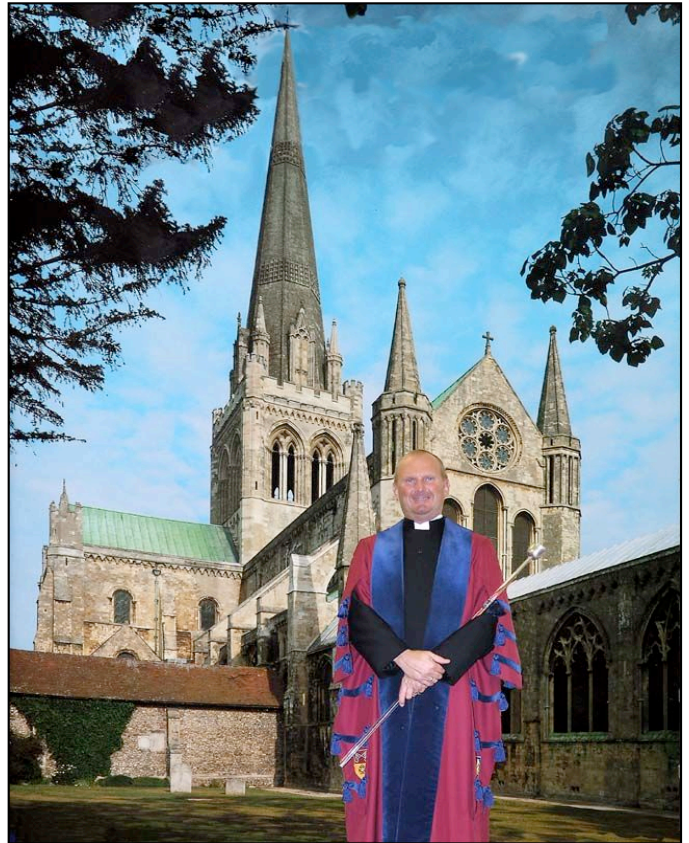
The Virgers' office these days is full of high tech equipment; not only photocopier & computer, but also a CCTV monitor which keeps a Close (sic) watch on ten strategic places in and around the cathedral. **You're on camera!**

**Here are Mark, Sean and Howard admiring Howard's photo at Chichester (see next column!)**



## Farewell to Head Virger HOWARD WADDELL, J.P.

Mourning and wailing on every side were much in evidence on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, when **Canon Michael Wedgeworth** announced to our congregations that Howard had just accepted the position of **Head Virger of Chichester Cathedral**. He takes up his new duties at the beginning of December.



There is no way that any of us can even begin to declare how greatly we have appreciated and valued Howard's ministry to us all during the last 8 years. In services his virging of Deans (two of them), Archbishops (one of them), Bishops (two of them plus Suffragans), Princesses (one of them) and other VIPs has added greatly to the dignity of our liturgy.

Howard began his career in Carlisle, as a Personnel Officer for the Royal Mail. He was also part-time assistant Virger at Carlisle Cathedral and was also made a Justice of the Peace. From there he moved to Hereford Cathedral as full-time Assistant Virger, and then as Canons' Virger.

In August 1997 he came to Blackburn as Head Virger. His care of the cathedral, with the help of his dedicated staff, has kept it in pristine condition; his willingness to go the extra mile is ever in evidence when clearing up has to be done after concerts and other functions; his Justice-of-the-Peace experience has enabled him to promote close relationships with the police, and he has been known, more than once, to have ushered out trouble-makers with the minimum of fuss.

And over and above all that (and more) he is the most approachable and gracious person who has shared his friendship with us all. **We shall miss him greatly, but rejoice for Chichester Cathedral which has chosen the right man for that important job in that most historic and beautiful place.**

And he has a beautiful house in that lovely Close – right next to the Deanery!



Our Dean hears Howard's news on his mobile in Prague

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Howard.  
Delighted to hear of your Promotion to the See of Chichester. A lovely Place to work and live. As ever Mark

Congratulations from the Head Virger of Westminster Abbey!



# GIRLS' and MEN'S SINGING TOUR OF PRAGUE, July 26-31

## by Hope Kerry, member of the Girls' Choir, and a pupil at Westholme.

*See front cover for a photo of St. Vitus Cathedral and all the girls*

On the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2005 the girls' choir (29 of us) and the men's choir (18 of them), accompanied by many parents, partners and staff (33 of them!), set off to Manchester airport.

Getting into all the different groups that we had been set was more complicated than getting through check-in itself! There were the '**Can and Dec**' groups and '**check-in**' groups and the '**buddy**' groups. These were supervised by the volunteered parents, who most likely regretted it!

The staff included **Karen Brooke** (*robes & hotel supervision*) and **Josh Abbott** (*i/c Music copies*).

Our most responsible tour organizers, **Canon Andrew Hindley, Richard Tanner & Emily Crewe**, knew what excitements lay ahead for us all, for they'd already been there to ensure that everything would be OK! It was! **[Richard Tanner and Emily Crewe had prepared a magnificent Reference Book for the tour (34 pages) with everyone's names, photos of churches & places we'd visit, rules, and useful Czech phrases – Wow! Ed.]**



There were 86 of us in Prague, including family members.

Christopher Holmes and James Tanner enjoyed every minute of it!

On arrival in Prague, we soon collected our bags and made our way to the coaches, which took us to the Brevnov Monastery, our base for the next 6 days.



It is a beautiful building, with the hotel and restaurant in the grounds. We had a nice meal on arrival which, to most of the girls' delight, did not seem to consist of any vegetables or salad. It was a different type of food from that which we are used to in England, but it was not unpleasant.

All of us in the girls' dorms, which were situated in the monastery guest wing, were supposed to be asleep by 11pm, but it isn't very likely that anyone over 10 was! Getting up at half seven in the morning was not very welcome and it took a lot to get everyone up, since it was the equivalent to half six back in England. Not many of us enjoyed the breakfast, and the tea went a murky grey colour when milk was added, but we all grinned and bared it! We then had a rehearsal in a big room in the monastery, which had beautiful decorations.



Our Monastery contact, Brother Alexius Vandrovec, began his guided tour of the monastery in our glorious rehearsal room.

This was followed with a tour of Prague; the tour guide did have some interesting facts, although they were difficult to hear, even with her microphone on. We had to wear our pink tour T-shirts, made from quite a thick fabric; this made us swelter in the 35-degree heat, but they did help us to stay together. Prague is an amazing place; the buildings are just so original and old.



**The shrine of Good King Wenceslas** is in St. Vitus Cathedral (see front cover). He was a Christian Duke, AD 903-935, who fed the hungry and clothed the poor. But he was murdered by his jealous brother. However three years later his brother repented and had his body moved to St. Vitus, where it still is!

We gave a concert in a pretty little church in the middle of Prague, called St Martin in the Wall.



It went really well, and many people came to watch. It was really nice to see all the different cultures coming to hear us!

By the end of the concert everyone was really hungry, so we were all happy to see tram 22 arrive at the stop. At the meal we did notice many empty seats, not really hard to figure out where adults were!

Most of the men's choir and some parents went out for 'a drink or two'. This outing seeming to start a trend, which carried on throughout the tour, and there were many interesting stories to follow.

We had the boat to ourselves and enjoyed a wonderful buffet and barbeque on board. Then everyone went up onto the deck to enjoy the live band.



The Dean dancing with Chorister Supervisor, Catherine Webster

The Dean started off the dancing craze, and Sophie Lee and Megan Riding imitated the trumpet player with their coke bottles! Our boat was definitely the loudest on the river Vltava, as everyone was singing and dancing (and some adults drinking – again!). We also got to see all the sights from the boat, which was really nice. Then most of us retreated to the monastery, but the men's choir went out on the town.



We then gave a concert in St. Nicolas Church, an enormous church in the centre of Prague, where Mozart had played the organ.

Greg supported us magnificently on the organs – even though some of the instruments were at the far ends of the churches. Here he is playing the organ that Mozart had played 200 years ago.



Relaxing outside the church of St. Martin in the Wall were Hope Kerry (me!), Laura Stockwell (sister of Charlotte), Charlotte Cure, Gordon Shaw, and his granddaughter, Caroline Kenyon, Stephen Brooke, father of Sophie, Judge James Prowse & Simon Gaunt. At the concert we were given a standing ovation.

Next morning we started with a rehearsal and it was obvious that many people were regretting their late night and were trying to hide hangovers!

After another guided tour of the City, including a trip to the Old Town and Jewish Quarter, we all got dressed fairly smartly and went on a boat trip.



Many people paid to come to the concert in St. Nicolas Church, which was a big privilege for us. At around midnight there was the most amazing thunderstorm; it rained heavily and the whole sky lit up purple. Definitely something I'll remember!

On the Saturday, we all set off in coaches to travel 3 hours out of Prague to Western Bohemia, stopping at Karlštejn Castle, before arriving for lunch in Stříbro.



We were going to give our final concert in the little village church of St Jakob Kladruby

The village people, who had treated us to a lovely tea in the Parish House, came to hear us sing, and the really cute church was packed full of people; they even filled the organ gallery where Mr. Morris was playing a very old organ.



The concert went smoothly. Afterwards, we travelled back to the monastery for a meal, followed by presentations and thank-yous. This didn't finish till nearly 11pm!

Sunday was our last day and we were leaving around six in the evening. We all got up early and sang at the morning service in the monastery. A group photograph followed this, (below).

Then, before we knew it, we were leaving for the airport.



Canon Hindley at the airport with chorister supervisors Suzanne Rimmer, Catherine Webster and Val Edge

I was sad to go, yet happy to be coming home. The trip back didn't run quite as smoothly as we might have hoped; the tightened security made for very long queues and an irritable load of passengers.



Emily Crewe, and Mark Hounsell on the plane home. (Mark was a chorister of Richard Tanner at All Saints', Northampton, and is currently a tenor lay clerk at Lichfield.)

We arrived back at the Cathedral at 1:30am tired but very happy. **We are so grateful to everyone who made this tour possible.** I can't wait for the next choir tour! **Hope Kerry**



## PRAGUE POSTSCRIPT BY THE DEAN

Prague 2005 was an ambitious trip which we survived.



From a musical and a pastoral point of view it has brought us many advantages. Both Geraldine and I felt privileged to have been invited and enjoyed the event thoroughly. Prague was new to us – what a stunning city it is. Yes, it *has* cheap beer but so much more to offer the thirsty western European, especially a non-materialistic outlook combined with a sharp political instinct, the first element of which will soon disappear.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the planners for all their work on our behalf but especial thanks should go to every member of the tour party, for all contributed to its success. In particular, the girls were superb in every way but also the parents and adults who had not toured before – most of whom rapidly rallied round the organizers and enjoyed themselves thoroughly!

**Christopher Armstrong**

### E-mail to Richard Tanner from CLAIRE MARSDEN, (St Wilfrid's), a member of the Chamber Choir & YPC since last September:

I would like to say a huge thank-you to you and all those who made the Prague trip the success it was. It was my first big choir trip with the Girls' Choir and the Men's Choir and I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of it.

I really enjoyed singing in such majestic buildings with the full choir and the acoustics were brilliant. I personally felt that singing in such surroundings helped my voice develop and that I sang a lot better in Prague thanks to those who were there.

*Letters of thanks always mean so very much! Thanks for yours! I am sure that many other members of the tour will also have written to Richard to express their thanks. Ed*

### From Matt Oglesby (see p.5)

I enjoyed every minute of the tour. The weather was blisteringly hot, then dangerously high-voltage, the beer was cheap, food free, audiences splendid and venues quite beautiful.

It was rather poignant singing a quarter-tone sharp to a small countryside community who had probably never heard the type of music we sang. I believe some of the girls are sending their t-shirts back for the poorer children!

The trip was tempered only by **Francis Hills'** insistence on post-2a.m. bed times, though the fact that our room was one of the largest suites was somewhat comforting. It was an entire wing!

*Matt at the Tanners' end-of-season deliciously smoke-filled Bar-b-q in July*



**SOUTH AFRICA!** Plans are already being discussed for a singing visit by the Girls' and Men's Choirs to South Africa in 2007. Watch this space!

## Letter from Simon Vivian, BBC Manchester who produced our June broadcast of Choral Evensong

Dear Dr Bertalot

Having just received the August edition of the *Fo&BCM* magazine, I'm writing to thank you for your wonderful coverage of our visit to Blackburn last month to broadcast Choral Evensong for Radio 3.



*See page 16 for 2<sup>nd</sup> letter!*

It was a great pleasure to be involved in the broadcast and the photos you include in the magazine bring back happy memories of that afternoon.

Yours with best wishes

**Simon Vivian** Producer, BBC Religion and Ethics

### LETTER FROM OC TONY MURPHY in Herts.

Hi John,

Just managed to sit down and digest the Newsletter - as ever, a great read!

Our big news is that we're off to the USA again!! This time to New Jersey!! Cadburys have asked me to run the HR function for the US Confectionery business - which is basically Chewing Gum and Hall Mints!! (HR = Human Resources – used to be known as Personnel!)

Unfortunately we don't do chocolate over there! We have found a place to live in Montclair (about 12 miles west of Manhattan). I understand it's about an hour's drive away from Princeton where you lived.



**The shock is that we're flying out next Thursday (25<sup>th</sup> Aug.) and so I won't be able to attend the Reunion.**

All my contact details are going to change from next week, so I will make sure I let you know the new email etc when I have them

Hope you're well - I will look in next time I'm in the area.

**Tony**

People Capability Director

*Tony: we'll miss you, but send every best wish to you and to Liz, Oliver and Jack, for another super time in God's own country. Please stay in touch. J.*

Prefects' Board No. 2



### LETTER from PETER BARLEY, Director of Music, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Dear John

I was very impressed with the latest Blackburn Cathedral Newsletter, so colourful, readable and well put together.

I was wondering if you happen to know who made the splendid new music desks for the rehearsal room. The cathedral here is interested in getting new ones for our rehearsal room, and I'd be grateful if you have any info.

With every good wish, as ever

**Peter**

*Yes! Get in touch with Canon Hindley who has all info. They cost about £500 each and are superb. Ed.*

[andrew.hindley@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:andrew.hindley@blackburn.anglican.org)



## WHATTA LOTTA CONCERTS!

An entranced audience of cathedral music lovers packed the crypt on Wednesday evening, 14<sup>th</sup> September, to drink a free glass of wine and to sit open-mouthed as **RICHARD TANNER** outlined the tremendous music programme which he and **GREG MORRIS** head up here – what's been 'n gone, and what's still to come.

With the wine went nibbles (also free!), which our new organ scholar, **JONATHAN TURNER** handed round (that's part of an organ scholar's job!). Here he is with chairman **GORDON SHAW** and a former choir-parent of JB from Trinity Church, Princeton, NJ, USA, **DR. CHARLES MAGEE**.



(Dr. Magee was in Manchester presenting a paper to an international conference of scientists. He'd heard so much about the music in Blackburn Cathedral from JB that he had to come over to see if it was true. It was!)

With the help of photographs projected onto a large screen, Richard reminded us of some of the wealth of concerts we had enjoyed during the last season: *Messiah*, *B Minor Mass*, *Christmas Spectacular*, thrilling lunchtime recitals and so much more.



Richard stressed the importance of the music programme for children. We have more singers in our choirs right now, and more ambitious music-making, including our regular choral services, than ever in the cathedral's history. Of this we should be very proud. (*We are!*)

This season's first concert will be the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert by the Renaissance Singers on November 19<sup>th</sup>**. (*i.e. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first concert.*) Richard has generously invited the choir's founder (your editor) to conduct it. *The cathedral will be full for this concert – BISHOP NICHOLAS and MRS. READE have already booked their seats!*

**RICHARD & GREG** told us of the exciting concerts planned in 2006 to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Mozart.

Richard will conduct the Northern Chamber Orchestra and Greg will play the first performance of the organ concerto by **DAVID BRIGGS** which has been specially commissioned by Blackburn Cathedral. (**That's on June 24<sup>th</sup>.**)

They will be recording it and the Briggs' Requiem in November so that CDs will be available for us all after the concert.

But it wasn't all talk and slide-show. Richard introduced our three gracious and highly talented sopranos who give individual voice lessons to all our children.

**ALISON SWANSON**, **NICOLA MILLS** and **PHILIPPA HYDE** each sang an aria to us, and each was given well-deserved resounding applause. We are so very fortunate to have three such gifted young ladies who enhance our music programme beyond measure.



**Alison, Nicola & Pippa look at wedding photos before they sang.**  
*Whose wedding? See page 19.*

And we were also treated to solos by three of our young choristers: **ADAM WHITTAKER**, **ABBIE NORTIN** and **LAURA SLATER**, who showed the fruits of such excellent teaching. They, too, were given most enthusiastic ovations.



At the end of the evening, having sat amazed at the revelation of such a wealth of music-making in our midst, **CANON HINDLEY** emphasized the importance of the music programme to the cathedral, to the town and to the diocese. "It all costs money," he said in his winning way. "If anyone feels they'd like to sponsor a concert, please see me right away."  
**Someone did – and he comes from America! Thank you!**

# Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, 17-18 September 2005

11.45 am. Buffet lunch in the crypt.



One of the first Old Choristers to arrive for the Reunion was **HAROLD STANCLIFFE** ('Call me Stan') and his wife, **Margaret**. They had come all the way from Lymington in Hampshire to be with us – *Wow, thanks!*

'I was in the choir in the mid 1930s,' said Stan, 'that was during the time of **Dr. Brearley**. He was a very kind man – perhaps too kind.' He paused for a moment and then added, 'We got a shock when **Mr. Duerden** took over in 1939. He was a very firm disciplinarian, but he made my brother and me Prefects!'

Prefects'  
Board  
No. 1

1940 Ernest Stancliffe  
Harold Stancliffe

Later that afternoon, after he'd seen his name on the Prefects' Board No. 1, he suggested to Chairman **Gordon Shaw**, that it would be fitting if the names of Old Choristers who had given their lives in the war could be created. 'Of course we'd have to be sure that no-one is left out.' *Yes, let's go with that! Ed.*

Tables quickly filled with OCs and they helped themselves to a delicious spread of home-made sandwiches and cakes. (Note the pink table-cloths which our new chef has provided to brighten up the Crypt Café!)

Foreground (left) is past SOC **ERNIE GORNER**, and (further away L-R) **EDWARD HAYTHORNWHITE** (former Assistant Organist with JB), and **TLD** choristers **ERIC BANCROFT** (BCOCA Vice Chairman), **ADRIAN WILSON** (Chorister 1947-49), **GORDON FIELDING** (BCOCA Treasurer, and Prefect 1946), **PETER FIELDING** (Prefect 1943) & **ALLAN HOLDEN** (Prefect 1945).



All the way from California came **BERNARD HARGREAVES** to his first Reunion. Bernard was one of **JB's** first new boys around 1965 – just after **Derek Crompton, Charlie Hopwood, Neil Fellows** et al had joined. AND his three brothers, **Ian, Stephen & Russ**, joined us as well in those far-off years. All we had was the redecorated Nave in which to worship and a temporary two-manual, 4-rank Walker organ which lasted us for 5 years!

Bernard was visiting his Mum in St. James' Road. 'I've been in California for 25 years,' he said in a rich American accent. 'After I finished my degree at Cranfield I worked for a while at British Aerospace in Preston. But then I heard of a company in San Diego that was looking for engineers; I applied and got the job!'

**It was very good indeed to welcome Bernard back to the cathedral where he and his brothers had made music 40 years ago.**

1974 Andrew Anderson  
 Peter H. Banks  
 Brian Edmundson  
 → John Marr  
 Stephen Ward  
 1975 Nigel Chew ←  
 Philip Chew  
 Edward Denham  
 Stephen Parkinson  
 Michael Ryan  
 1976 Martin Astley  
 Stephen Rickerby  
 Christopher Ryan  
 → Stewart Hopkinson

Director of Music  
**RICHARD TANNER**  
 was sitting with the  
 mid-younger members  
 of the Association:  
 Retiring music scholar  
**EMILY CREWE,**  
**SOC NIGEL CHEW,**  
**STEVE HOLMES,**  
 (Prefect 1973,  
 see p 21),  
 SOC Elect **STEWART**  
**HOPKINSON,**  
**JOHN MARR**  
 & former YPC  
 member,  
**HEATHER STARKIE**



12.30 Annual Meeting



The Dean, flanked by BCOCA Chairman **GORDON SHAW**, Vice Chairman, **ERIC BANCROFT** and Treasurer, **GORDON FIELDING** chaired a splendid meeting which was informative efficient and fun.  
 He told us that work may start in the Close in 2007 to begin building houses for the cathedral clergy, organist and Virgers; hopefully this will coincide with the 'gentrification' of the town centre by the Borough Council.  
 We now have 100 paid-up members of BCOCA, and the Newsletter is sent all over the world.  
 Former Chairman **FRED DEWHURST** gave a lively report on the Nat. Fed. Of Cath. OCs' Reunion at Durham recently. He said that OCs were still talking about the wonderful time they enjoyed with us in 1995 when **GORDON STEWART** was Director of Music.



(L) Fred Dewhurst making his report.  
 (R) **IAIN THOMPSON, DAVID METCALF** and **ADAM CREWE** were snapped as they made their way into the Song School for a rehearsal for Choral Evensong of OCs, BOYS, Sr. GIRLS, and members of the RENAISSANCE SINGERS, led by **RICHARD TANNER**.  
 It was **Adam Whittaker's** (the head boy) 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and we sang *Happy Birthday!* →



1.30 Choir Practice in the Song School and Cathedral

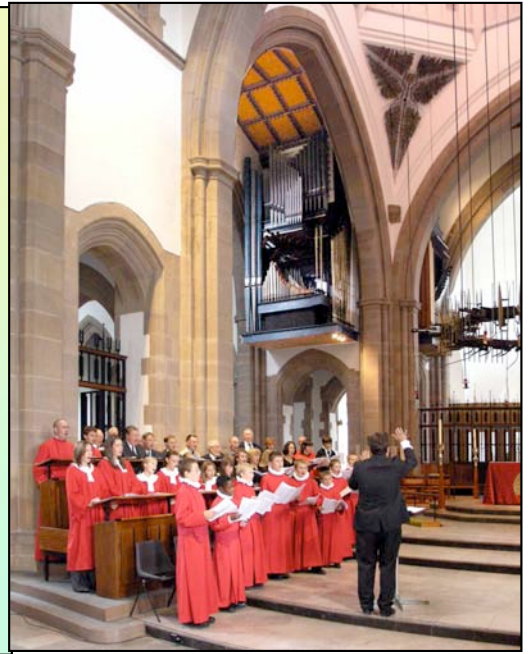




During the rehearsal in the Song School **GREG MORRIS** and new Organ Scholar **JONATHAN TURNER**, were moving our super grand piano into position in the cathedral (for it would be used to accompany the young children's choir for an item during Evensong). Your staff photographer noticed that the piano has the most amazing highly polished case. 'Twas worth photographing!

The rehearsal went very well indeed, and appetites were whetted for the service itself, which was sung by no fewer than SIX choirs & OCs!

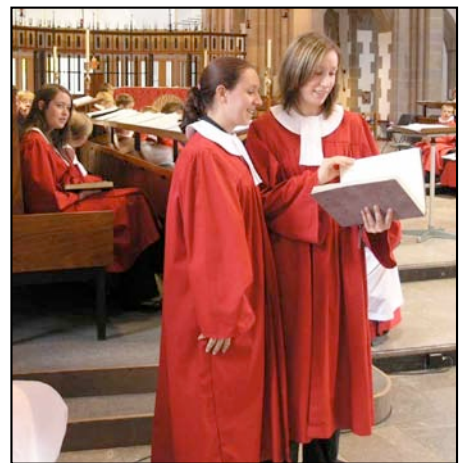
**The OCs, the Boys and representatives from the Men, the Girls' Chamber Choir, the Junior Girls, the YPC, the Children's Choir & the Renaissance Singers!**



**3.30 Choral Evensong**



Sr. Old Chorister **NIGEL CHEW** read the first lesson commandingly and after the Dean had read the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson there were presentations



BCOCA Chairman **GORDON SHAW** presented BCOCA plates to choir leavers **EMILY CREWE** and **MATTHEW OGLESBY**. Matthew was going to study music at Leeds University, and sing in the choir of Leeds RC Cathedral with former Blackburn Associate Director of Music, **BEN SAUNDERS**.

Emily was going the next day to Oxford Brookes University to study Music *and* Theology (*Wow!*). She had sung in all the choirs (except the boys') and also helped to train the Children's choir. That was the main reason why we had all the cathedral choirs with us that day.

The service came to a temporary a halt whilst Emily was loaded with presents from us all, including a TV set (brought by our stalwart Virgers, and ending with a book of photographs of choir friends presented on behalf of us all, by Emily's sister, Naomi.

The music for the service was *Locus Iste* (Bruckner), *Byrd Responses*, *Canticles* Stanford in Bb, and RVW's *Let all the World*.

Then the Children's choir sang *Seek ye first*, conducted by Greg Morris and accompanied (on our shiny piano) by Jonathan Turner, and the Girls sang *Close thine eyes* – words by King Charles 1<sup>st</sup>, music by Mary Plumstead.

All the young choristers were watched attentively by their proud parents. (See next page)



After the service **ALL THE SINGERS** and **ALL THE OLD CHORISTERS** were photographed (see next page!)

## SIX CHOIRS PHOTO

Colour copies of this photograph, on glossy paper will be available: **£12-00** for A4 (i.e. the size of this page) and **£20-00** on A3 paper (i.e. twice as big).

Photographs on A4 will be mailed to those who have ordered them, but A3 photographs will have to be collected from the Cathedral Office. (Allow 10 days; phone 01254-51491 to check).

Orders to **Dr. John Bertalot**,  
**Cathedral Close, BLACKBURN BB1 5AA.**  
 Cheques (*with order*) made out to **BCOCA.**  
 Please write your **NAME, ADDRESS** and **PHONE NUMBER** in block capitals.  
*All profits go to BCOCA.* Thanks. JB



7.30 Annual Dinner in the Crypt



(Left) It was a special joy to welcome **CHARLIE HOPWOOD** (R) to the dinner – for he was one of JB's very first new boys. He had an outstanding voice. Here he is with **BERNARD HARGREAVES** a fellow Prefect

1966 James Chambers  
 → Charles Hopwood  
 Colin J. Hopwood  
 1967 Derek Crompton  
 Colin Eastham  
 1968 → Bernard Hargreaves



(Above right) We were joined by the ladies: Back row: **Anitra Haythornwhite, Sheila Shaw & Philippa Hyde.**  
 (Front) **Geraldine Armstrong, Dorothy Green** (who celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday two months ago!) and **Margaret Dewhurst.**  
 (Below L) we welcomed **Kate & Neil Inkley** (Neil is an OC of Peterborough).  
 (Centre) **Sarah Chew** and son **Nigel** with **Elizabeth Parry.** And right, **Steve Homes** and **Victoria** – they're hard to miss!







## Old Choristers: Concluded



At the dinner the younger generation of OCs was well represented by (clockwise from the left), **Adam Crewe, Josh Abbott, Francis Hills, Tom Crosson, Matthew Bruce and Matthew Oglesby.**



The Carr twins (**Alan and Philip**) were indistinguishable, as ever, with Mrs. **Sue Hopkinson** trying to get away!

And finally, after our chefs had been given a great round of applause, **SOC NIGEL CHEW** invested his successor, & weight-lifting colleague, **STEWART HOPKINSON** with his chain of office.



It was a great evening: thanks and congratulations all round. It was very good to see **BOB KEEN** at the Sunday morning Eucharist. Even though he looked well, keep up the prayers! **Have there ever been so many singers, or choirs, for an OCs' Reunion in any cathedral before? Let us know!**

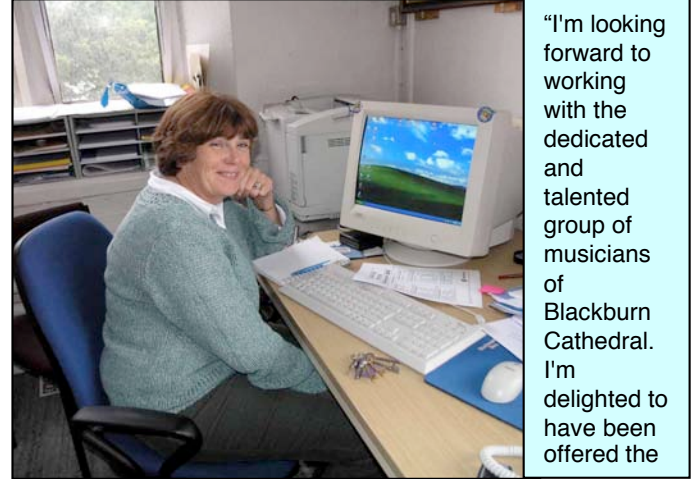
**NEXT YEAR'S REUNION** (the 41<sup>st</sup> to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – *work it out!*) will be on **16-17 September**, with dinner and accommodation at **Whalley Abbey!** **BOOK NOW! 01565-652-691**



## Welcome to **LINDA BRUCE** Our new Music Administrator

Linda took up her duties in September, following in the footsteps of the ubiquitous Emily Crewe.

She said, "I'm originally from Prescot, Merseyside, and moved up to Preston 16 years ago when I married Andy. I became involved in the life of the Cathedral 3 years ago when our son, Matthew, joined the boys' choir. I went on the tour of Germany and also to Edinburgh with the YPC this summer. I've even been known to help with choristers' robes.



"I'm looking forward to working with the dedicated and talented group of musicians of Blackburn Cathedral. I'm delighted to have been offered the

chance to work in THIS music department and hope that I can live up to the very high standard set by Emily in the past year."

**Welcome!** [linda.bruce@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:linda.bruce@blackburn.anglican.org)

## Welcome to **CANON MICHAEL WEDGEWORTH** Our new Cathedral Administrator



Michael writes: "Pat and I and our family of 5 children first came to live in Blackburn 16 years ago, when I was appointed Chief Executive of Hyndburn Borough Council. Discovering, as a Methodist that we had arrived on the doorstep of the Cathedral, a great amount of water has flowed under our bridge. I was ordained as an Anglican in 1993,

"At **David Frayne's** suggestion, I became Diocesan Secretary in 1995, and now work part-time as Cathedral Administrator. I am so pleased to be able to put my skills and experience, such as they are, to work in the place which is our spiritual home." **Welcome!**

[michael.wedgeworth@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:michael.wedgeworth@blackburn.anglican.org)

## Cathedral Newsletter On Line!

Readers who are on Broadband can now receive our Newsletter On Line! (c. 3MB).

To see what it's like, take a look at the last edition by clicking

[www.bertalot.com/bcoca/newsletter200508.pdf](http://www.bertalot.com/bcoca/newsletter200508.pdf)



## E-mail from new OC Matthew Oglesby (See pp. 5 & 12)

After a month of awkward and somewhat lethargic impatience, the nation's eagerly awaited examination results have finally revealed their secret, and many ambitions, I'm sure, have been realised. I arrived at Runshaw College at the crack o' dawn on the 18th August under instruction to turn up at 0730.



It turned out to be a photo opportunity for the college: in fact most of the students there at that time were either thus-confirmed Oxford or Cambridge students, or, like myself, confounded candidates of said establishments!

I managed to acquire the necessary grades to be accepted at Leeds University to read Music (the BA not BMus) and so the pace should now quicken in the lead up to my 'installation' in some manner of living-quarters, which means, unfortunately, that I may not be returning to the Cathedral for more than a week into September. I will, however, be making every endeavour to be present on the 17<sup>th</sup> for the Old Choristers' Reunion.

One exciting consequence of my moving to Leeds is that I've gained a place as a choral scholar in Leeds RC Cathedral Adult Choir™, currently under the guidance of once-Blackburn's BEN SAUNDERS. When taking an audition there a few months back I was rather worried that my pieces (taken from the Messiah) were under-rehearsed and that my voice was embarrassingly semi-functional. But the sight-reading skills I've picked up from a decade at Blackburn seemed more than satisfactory, and I have the continual encouragement of RICHARD and GREG, and their most recent predecessors, to thank for that.

'Tis looking up.

In incidental news an acutely-talented Daniel Brett, composer and pianist extraordinaire currently studying at Runshaw, and I, have been discussing the prospect of a collaborative choral work based on the many wonderful stories of the book of Genesis. It is our belief that in recent days the Christian public is in need of gentle nudge in reminder of the glory of God, so maybe this time next year our so-far flighty ambition will be forth-coming. Leeds is positively wriggling with musical opportunity, and it would be foolish not to take full advantage; I am really looking forward to my time there.

*Matt: Heartiest congratulations on your well-deserved successes, and every best wish for a glittering future. Ed*

## LETTER FROM OC MICHAEL THOMPSON in Clayton-le-Moors.

Whilst browsing through an antique shop in Knutsford with my wife earlier this year I came across a photo album containing a number of picture postcards, one of which depicted our Cathedral from the East end long before the major extensions began. Happily the owner was prepared to sell the card to me as a single item. Maybe you have seen this view before, but I had not and found it quite fascinating to see how imposing the Cathedral (then Parish Church) looked even then.



The readers of your excellent and informative Newsletter may similarly find this flashback in time as interesting as I did.

*That was around 1900. Here's the same view today! JB.*



Heartiest congratulations also go to our new organ scholar JONATHAN TURNER, a fellow Runshaw student with Matt Oglesby who has also claimed an armful of As

**But not only that: Jonathan has just won the organ scholarship to Lincoln College, Oxford!**

Lincoln College seems to be a favourite with Blackburnians: it's only 4 years since OC CHRIS HUNWICK was there – gaining a splendid degree in Classics.

But it's exactly 53 years since your editor was awarded the same organ scholarship. And DAVID COOPER was organ scholar there, too! "I am so grateful to Nigel Spooner for all he taught me during my years at Longridge" said Jonathan. **Well Done!**



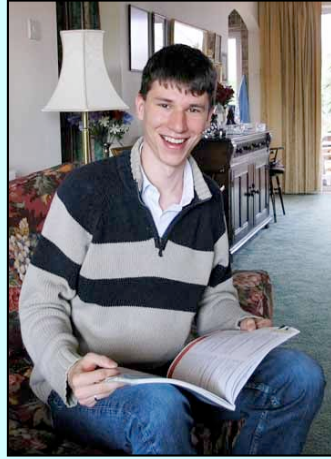
## OOPS!



In our last edition we reported how well Octavius (OC Anthony Tattersall's hand-picked choir) had sung for services for the Annual Meeting of the Prayer Book Society. Yes, they did sing very well (and a double CD of their services is available in the cathedral and at Whalley Abbey). But the music they sang wasn't what we advertised! They sang, Brahms *How lovely*, Ireland in C Communion, Stanford in C Mag & Nunc and *Blessed be*, Wesley. **Sorree!**

Former Blackburn Cathedral Organ Scholar **JONATHAN CLINCH** blew in to see your editor in August (to ask for hints about his choral conducting finals).

Jonathan is now in his final year as organ scholar of Keble College, Oxford, and doing wonderfully well there. As well as conducting the College choir and playing for services, he also sings in several Oxford choirs. He visited Berlin recently with the choir of Somerville College and was invited to return next year to give some organ recitals. He's also been invited to give a recital in Blenheim Palace!



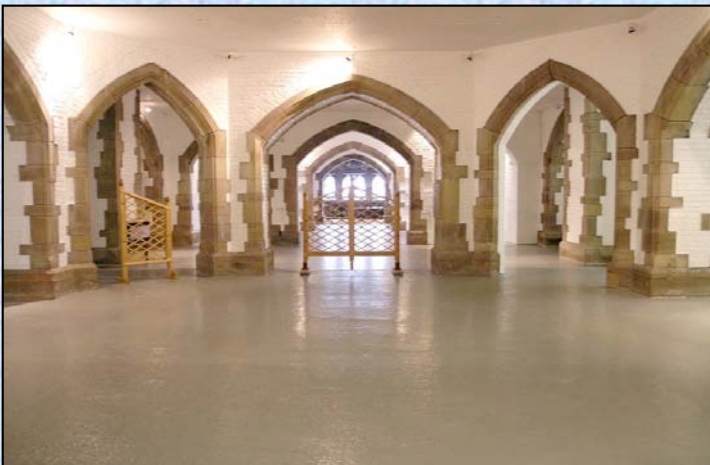
He's also organist of Pusey House, which holds full choral services every week with a choir made up of Oxford choral scholars. "Last year," he said, "in successive weeks they sang Masses by Widor, Vierne and Langlais! They're very good!"

His own extensive organ repertoire now includes the whole of Vierne's 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Mozart's *Fantasia in F minor/major*, Howells' *Sonata* (fiendishly difficult), and Duruflé's *Alain Prelude and Fugue* (ditto). His finals' organ recital will explore the history of the organ Fantasia, including works by Sweelinck, Bach, Mozart, Franck and Alain. Wow!

What are his plans after graduation? "I might take a teaching diploma at Oxford Brookes (which is better than Cambridge!) or look for an organ scholarship post at a major cathedral." Clearly, he's a young man to watch.

## REDECORATION AND RENEWAL are the order of the day!

Our spacious crypt under the central altar and South transept was transformed in August when the black walls were painted a brilliant white. Whatta difference it's made!



Canon Michael Wedgeworth told your editor that the painting was done by **John Lambert**, whose expert firm has done most of the Cathedral work. A volunteer team is redecorating the toilets.

**Our new chef is Chris Dobson, from Accrington.** (See his photo on page 16!) He has been a head chef in a Lake District hotel, but sustained a climbing accident whilst living there, and had to leave to recuperate. His most recent job was chef/manager at an art gallery/coffee shop in Accrington.

He prides himself on providing the freshest ingredients, and has devised a brand new menu which will be complemented by Daily Specials of a more traditional type. For example, **light breakfasts will now be available every weekday until 11.30 am!**

Attractive new table cloths and uniforms have been acquired to give a more coordinated, stylish feel, with menus, posters, and leaflets sent to local businesses.

Everything was ready for the re-opening on Tuesday, 30th August.

*See page 16 for the first photo of Chris!*

**Chris Dobson is available in the Crypt Café on (01254) 265-915, between 8.30 and 3 pm, Tuesday to Friday.**

### And that's not all!

Several months ago there was a major flood in the crypt (something to do with one of the boilers), which covered the floor in the Song School with water, lifting up many of the tiles which had been laid there in the 1970s.

The floor has been dried, and beautiful blue tiles have replaced the old ones, giving the Song School (which is under the North transept) a fresh lease of life.

The former floor was laid 31 years ago by Choirmen **Derek Crompton and David Rothwell** to a stylized design by JB of the Cathedral's Coat of Arms – the winged heart, pierced by a sword.



The old music desks, which had been designed and made by Choirmen **Harold Fielding** 70 years ago, had lasted us more than twice as long.

See *Newsletter, May, 2004.*



That floor gave stalwart service to more than seven generations of choristers after it had been opened at a memorable ceremony by organ virtuoso **Daniel Chorzempa.** See *Newsletter, September, 2004.*

Now the Song School glows with its new floor, on which our superb new music desks stand. Great thanks for times past, and great anticipation for times to come!

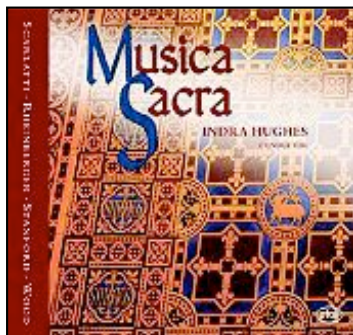


Former Blackburn organ scholar, **INDRA HUGHES**, who has been making super music in New Zealand for several years, has just issued a CD of his choir **Musica Sacra**. Atoll **ACD802**. See **Indra's website**: [www.musicasacra.org.nz](http://www.musicasacra.org.nz)

It received a great review in the June edition of the International Record Review:

"Musica Sacra is an Auckland-based choir whose reputation has yet to spread far beyond its native New Zealand. With the international release of this, its second CD, that should change, for it is an exceptional disc. Hughes has a visionary approach . . . elysian fields [are] bursting with wonderful moments, and with a masterly manipulation of the eight-part a cappella textures serving an invigorating musical creativity. . . this is a 'must have' disc."

**Heartiest congrats! Indra is, of course, a former conductor of the Renaissance Singers, following David Cooper. JB**



The service itself was especially memorable because **Princess Margaret's** plane was delayed for over an hour due to fog. We had two false starts and then decided to begin without her. She arrived at the end of **Archbishop Coggan's** sermon (we could hear the cheering from outside). So she processed in to a delayed fanfare played by the trumpeters of the Lancashire Regiment followed by the singing of the Offertory hymn! (See, below left, the photo taken during that hymn. *The Princess is directly in line below the West door.*)

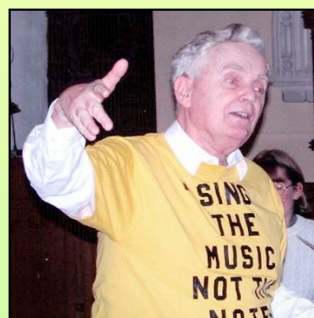
The kneeler which **Canon Geoffrey Williams** embroidered for the Princess of her coat of arms **without a pattern and from memory (!)** is kept safely in the Sacristy.

**Special thanks will be offered on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 2005.**



## 2: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, 7.30 pm: Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the first concert given by The Renaissance Singers

originally called THE BLACKBURN BACH CHOIR



**Richard Tanner** has most generously invited **John Bertalot**, the choir's founder, to conduct this concert in the cathedral. **Bishop Nicholas and Mrs. Reede** will be present, and **we expect a very full Nave**. Tickets are available from **Debbie in the Cathedral office**. (01254-51491).

Our organist will be **Lyndon Hills**, organist of Preston Minster and father of **Francis**, who was interim conductor of the Singers in 1983 when **JB** went to America, before **David Cooper** took over.



The very first item will be Palestrina's *Kyrie* from his Pope Marcellus Mass; this was the opening item at the first concert all those years ago.

Other music will include Bach's Motet, *Jesu, Meine Freude*; Parry's *Songs of Farewell*, and old favourites such as *Linden Lea*, *Loch Lomond* and one of the pieces that the choir sang for the BBC's International Choral Competition: JB's show-stopping arrangement of *Bach goes to Town*, called, *I Gotta Car!* That choir won the National rounds for two years in succession, beating every other mixed-voice choir in the UK!



**Past members of the choir who have sung with JB are invited to join us for Linden Lea & Loch Lomond. Call Alizon Elliott: 01254-56349. It will be a wonderful evening.**

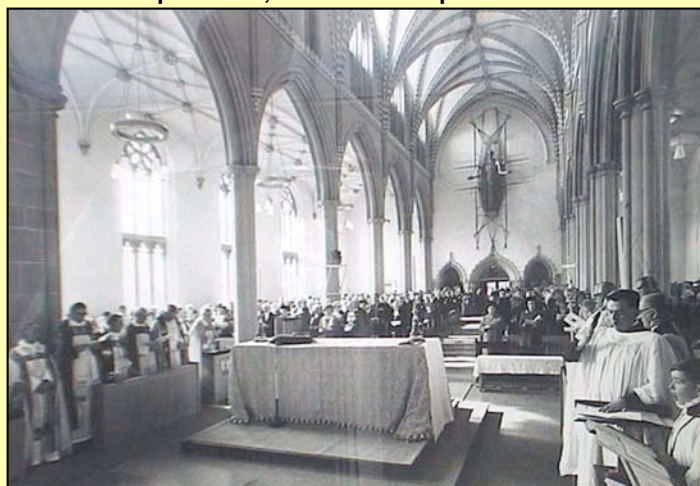
## TWO FORTIETH ANNIVERSARIES

1: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1965

### The Rehallowing of the restored Nave

by **Bishop Charles Claxton**

in the presence of **HRH Princess Margaret, Donald Coggan, Archbishop of York, and Bishop Herbert, the first Bishop of Blackburn**



**L-R:** Canons Tony Schofield (Bishop's Chaplain), John Dixon, Geoffrey Williams, Tom Rockley & Desmond Carroll, and Provost Norman Robinson. (*Archdeacon Desmond Carroll is the only one still with us!*)

On the right is **JB** conducting the choir, and **Chorister Neil Fellows**. (See page 3.)

A chipboard screen had been erected where the choir steps now are to divide the Nave from the rest of the cathedral; we worshipped in the transepts for 9 months whilst the Nave and Nave crypt were totally transformed, and then, from October 6<sup>th</sup> 1965, we worshipped in the Nave for 4 years whilst similar work was carried out in the rest of the cathedral; the Lantern Tower was built, and the brand new organ installed.

For those four years we had a temporary 4-rank extension organ in the Nave (which was very effective). **JB** invited **Dr. Francis Jackson** from York Minster to play for the Rehallowing service and **Fred Dewhurst** played music beforehand.

In addition to the cathedral choir, **JB** had invited a few diocesan choirs to send one treble each to augment us that day. One of them was 12-year old **Colin Edmundson** from St. Silas. Colin is now a Barrister and was, for a time, director of music at King Edward's School in Birmingham. One of his organ students was **David Riggs!**

Welcome to our new Chef, **Chris Dobson** and to his enthusiastic team. (See p. 14.) On the first day of the newly opened *Café in the Crypt* he created a delicious sandwich for your editor, watched by Canon **Michael Wedgeworth**.



Chris was making me a **Mrs. Kirkham's Award-Winning Lancashire Cheese Sandwich with Onion Jam, on organic bread which is baked daily for us!** (Only £3.25). Highly, **HIGHLY** recommended! Come and try it for yourselves.



Religion & Ethics

Mr Richard Tanner  
8 West Park Road  
Blackburn  
BB2 6DG

Dear Richard



Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2005

Though I spoke to many of you after our *Choral Evensong* broadcast from Blackburn last week, I've been keen to put my thanks in writing.

As I'm sure you'll appreciate, our weekly broadcasts of *Choral Evensong* are extremely important to a great number of listeners; not just to those listening to the broadcast live on BBC *Radio 3*, but also to those who hear the service via the internet in the days immediately following the transmission, both in this country and around the world (*Choral Evensong* is the most regularly selected item in the 'Programmes on Demand' section of the *Radio 3* website).

It was a great pleasure to work with you all again and to broadcast something which was so worshipful, a comment amplified by a number of listeners. In particular, I would highlight your rousing singing in Howells' *Jubilate*, the gents' devotional performance of David's anthem and the beautifully peaceful final hymn. You all put so much effort into the afternoon rehearsal and I think it paid real dividends during the service; all accompanied by Greg's wonderful playing.

May I also ask you to pass my thanks on to the Dean and Chapter who all read, led and interceded with reverence and panache.

I'm sure I will see you all in due course but, until then, I send my very best wishes.

Yours with thanks,

Simon Vivian  
Producer, BBC Religion & Ethics



RSCM

## OLD CHORISTER STEPHEN HOLMES

...blew into your editor's home at the end of August. He was delivering some choir archive material from the time when he was a cathedral chorister in the 1970s.

"Do you remember those RSCM two-week courses you directed with hand-picked singers from the UK and USA in Coventry and Canterbury Cathedrals in 1971 and 1972?" he enthused! ("Yes, I do! I also chose our own best choristers to be with us.") "**Simon Lindley** was our organist and I went with some other Blackburn Choristers: **IVOR BOLTON, STEPHEN HAGAN, DAVID MELLODY** and **BRIAN EDMUNDSON**. We had a great time!"

He paused for a moment and asked, "What's Ivor doing these days?" ("He's married to a professor in Cambridge and conducts Opera in Munich!") "**DAVID ROTHWELL & DEREK CROMPTON** were our librarians. They were very efficient!"



*Crompton, Melody, Bolton, Rothwell, Hagan, JB, Holmes, Edmundson  
Canon Joseph Poole (in gold cope) the Precentor of Coventry*

"And we had a great time when the choir went on a singing tour to Holland and North Germany in 1974!" ("Yes, we did.")



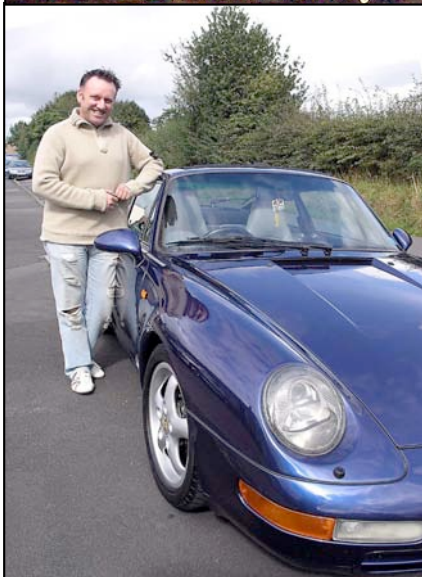
*Brian Edmundson, Stephen Ward, John Marr & Steve Holmes.*

"What are you doing these days, Steve?" "I'm driving a lorry – HGV – and I've got two sons: Jordan (18) who's a plumber,

and Joshua (15) is a pupil at Ribblesdale High School. I like to get home every evening to be with them so I don't drive far."

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

**1973 Shaun Chamley  
Mark Hodson  
→ Stephen Holmes  
David Mellody**



He broke off to enthuse once more. "Do you remember those Easter Day mornings when **Harold Darke** came to hear us sing his *Darke in F?*" ("Yes, I do. **Dr. Gerald Knight**, the Director of the RSCM, often stayed with me on those occasions.")

"We televised it one Easter Sunday, live, and I sang the treble solo in the Gloria. I've never forgotten that!"

("Dr. Darke sat next to my Mother for that service", added JB. **David Rothwell** was the bass soloist and **Keith Bond** was our organist. \*)

"I'm coming to the Reunion," said Steve as I saw him to his car. "I've got **Shaun Chamley**, to join BCOCA too. We were

prefects together. Those were great years!"

I watched him disappear in a puff of smoke as he sped homewards to Brownhill in his Porsche 911 Carrera, which can do 172 mph! **WOW!**

*\*One of the archives Steve brought with him was a recording of that Televised service in 1972! Some of the descendants were way-out!*

*The choir, in those days, sat at the extreme East end of the Cathedral (where the Jesus Chapel now is) sitting in the temporary choirstalls which are now in the YPC vestry. That was before the present decorative screens and bishop's throne had been thought of! The clergy sat where the choir is. How things have changed!*

*McGloria*

**The Young People's Choir** directed by **Greg Morris** and with former Assistant Organist **David Goodenough** as their meticulously musical accompanist, gave a Dress Rehearsal Concert in the North Transept of the cathedral on Friday, 26 August, prior to their long-weekend singing visit to the fringe **Edinburgh Festival.**



The sound of the choir was inspiring and the sopranos' high notes rang through the cathedral thrillingly.

There wasn't a spare seat and their singing, introduced by **Canon Hindley**, was greeted by enthusiastic applause. The main work in the programme was Vivaldi's *Gloria* and their two delightful soloists were our very own **Nicola Mills** and **Alison Swanson** who added enormously to the joy of the evening.

**McLETTER from  
DEAN DAVID FRAYNE**

John

Liz and I caught up with the Young People's Choir in Edinburgh on August 28/29. Here is one of the pictures I have: the YPC members with their former Dean and his Lady!



**Needless to say, their singing and musicality were superb.** We attended both the Evensong and Benediction at Old St Paul's and their concert in Greyfriars Kirk and **we came away from both bursting with pride.**

Our Edinburgh host friends could not have been more impressed.

It was so good to have met not only **Andrew Hindley** and **Greg Morris** again with **Rachel Thornton** and baby **Anna** but also their host and organist, **David Goodenough.**

Love from us both

**DAVID**

**The Young People's Choir tour to Edinburgh**  
by Tom Daggett



On the 27th August, the Young People's Choir, directed by **Greg Morris** and supervised by **Canon Andrew Hindley**, travelled to Edinburgh which took five hours on the coach!



On arrival at Edinburgh, we explored the city and ate before watching the marvellous show 'Jump' which consisted of comedy and immense acrobatics. A group of actors did some short sketches containing a lot of gymnastics, this got us all in the mood for a really good tour.

Following which, we travelled to Fettes College where we were kindly accommodated thanks to **David Goodenough** who is a housemaster there and also our talented organist. We enjoyed playing pool and exploring the building; what a late night that was!



The next morning we rehearsed for the Evensong and Benediction which was to take place in Old St. Paul's church that evening. When Greg was happy with the rehearsal, we were able to travel into the city centre to enjoy our free time and watch the wonderful street performers of the famous Edinburgh festival.

Evensong and Benediction were successful, and the service was very moving; we all sang our hearts out and the result was a smile across Greg's face. *Naomi Crewe adds: I think the YPC had sore knees after the Benediction!*

We then left Old St Paul's and travelled to an Italian restaurant where we had earned our food through singing at Evensong, the phrase 'sing for your supper' was true in this case! I devoured a rather large *Calzone* pizza and as a result, felt bloated! I surprised Canon Hindley and myself when I managed to eat it all.

We all enjoyed that delicious Italian food and were joined by some choir parents who I am sure, felt the same way.



**Alison Swanson** and **Nicola Mills** were our two star soprano soloists. Their singing and their presence added so much to the musicality and fun of our visit.

After another late night full of excitement in the pool competition at Fettes, we retreated to our rooms for well earned rest. There always has to be some degree of fun on a tour, there always is with Blackburn Cathedral!



**Matthew Parkington** ('Parky') polishing and **Matthew Bruce**, son of our new Music Administrator, **Linda Bruce**, hoovering. (We had to keep our common room tidy!)



After having been forced out of bed on Monday 29th, I made my way down to the common room for breakfast, although after the amount of food we'd eaten the previous night, not many of us were hungry.



We then rehearsed at Fettes in preparation for our concert at Greyfriars Church for which David Goodenough played the fine organ later that evening.

After having finished, we travelled to the city centre for our free time which I spent at a musical, performed by London sixth formers with **Canon Hindley**, **Nicola Mills**, **Alison Swanson**, **Emily Crewe** (Blackburn Cathedral Music Scholar) and **Josh Abbot** (Jr. Organ Scholar).

The concert later on was brilliant. David accompanied us and we performed Vivaldi's Gloria along with other favourites.



It was great to sing in Greyfriars because of the excellent acoustics, Greg was pleased with the performance as we were ourselves. Our last meal out was spent in an Indian restaurant close to Greyfriars church, although hot, the curry was very pleasant.

When back at Fettes, our final late night stretched very late, we had to be up by 7:30 the following morning in preparation for our departure; impossible! I was forced up at 8:15 the following morning and packed quickly. We departed Fettes at 9:00 am and were all sad to leave. Our tour had gone exceptionally well and we now begin to think of rehearsals for next year's tour!

Thank you to **Greg, David Goodenough** and **Canon Hindley** for having made this tour possible. Thanks from us all in the YPC!

**Nicola Mills (Mrs. Richard Maunders)**

We got married on Sat. 30th July in Rochdale.

**Richard**, my husband is 33 and an ICT teacher.

He doesn't teach anymore, but runs his own Digital Signs and Graphics business. Prior to the wedding we had been together for 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years and now look forward to having children.



Back: Nicola Mills, Head Chorister Adam Whittaker & Music Scholar Emily Crewe  
 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Georgia Ball, David Heyward, Bethany Riddlin, Nicholas Day, Annabel Steele, Elliott Day & Daniel Anderson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Sam Reedy, Julia Johnstone, Sofia Talbot, Grace Collum, Henry Hacking, Matthew Barrett, William Fielding & Beth Nield  
 Front row: Dominic Chivers, Peter Johnstone, Fiona Anderson, Kate Davies, Niki Grant, Lucy Duffy, Isobel Allan, Ben Slack

At Nicola's first children's' choir rehearsal in September, they gave her their wedding present. Nicola said, 'It was a lovely surprise to be presented with a card and a beautiful bouquet of flowers by the children. It was very kind of them.'



**Jeffrey Makinson** from Manchester Cathedral played the organ and we had a trumpeter, a tenor, a soprano and an SATB quartet from the Daily Service singers who sang & played for us.



**From Outgoing Senior Old Chorister NIGEL CHEW**

Hi John  
 Just a quick note, **Laura** gave birth to a fine baby boy on Monday evening (7lb 6 ounces). We have called him **Joseph Nigel Chew**.



**Nigel**  
 Heartiest congrats!  
 Whatta way to bring your triumphant year as Senior Old Chorister! to an end! Ed.

Printed by

The Image Works®

It was fantastic. For the hymns we had *Seek ye First* and *Bind Us Together*, reminiscent of our school days.

We had the reception at Rochdale Town Hall and had a live band in the evening.

*Heartiest congratulations from all of us, Mr. & Mrs. Maunders!*  
**Richard Tanner adds:**

*Pippa, Greg and I were so sad that we were unable to be with Nicola & Richard on the day of their wedding for it coincided with our Prague tour. But we all remembered them that day during our final concert in the Czech Republic.*



**Nicola continues:**

Since I have been leading the cathedral children's choir this is the first time we have all had a photograph taken. The children were told to come in nice, clean uniforms (not easy on a Friday afternoon), and I allotted the whole 45 minutes to having the photographs taken.

I was very pleasantly surprised and very proud that everything was completed in 10 minutes. The children behaved very well and enjoyed posing and saying 'cheese'. They looked beautiful, as I am sure you will all agree.