



Friends of  
Blackburn  
Cathedral  
**MUSIC**

# BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

F<sub>of</sub>BCM Edition No. 20  
BCOCA Edition No. 29

**November, 2006**

*Designed and Edited by Dr. John Bertalot,  
Cathedral Close, Blackburn, BB1 5AA  
New E-mail: [john@bertalot.org](mailto:john@bertalot.org)*

**BCOCA's** £3  
**40<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**



## **GREG MORRIS'S FAREWELL CONCERT**

given before a  
packed audience  
in the Cathedral on  
Thursday,  
24<sup>th</sup> August.

This was also the  
Pre-Vienna Concert  
given by our  
Cathedral Young  
People's Choir

Soloists  
**NICOLA MILLS,  
MARK HOUNSELL**  
and  
**MARCUS  
FARNSWORTH**  
with **JONATHAN  
TURNER** and  
**RICHARD TANNER,**  
Organ.

See  
pages  
12 & 18



### E MAIL FROM DAVID BRIGGS IN EDINBRRRR



Dear John

I'm having a day off in the middle of a somewhat frantic (but very enjoyable) week - 5 concerts in 7 days in Haarlem, Mons, Brussels, Edinburgh, Wells and Carlisle.

Mad, but actually not as bad as it might seem because BA have cut their domestic flight prices by 50% and Easyjet is very useful too. It's cheaper (and a lot quicker) to fly than it is to take the train nowadays, and much less tiring than driving.

**Stephen Tharp** (formerly No 2 at St Bartholomew's Church, Park Avenue, New York) and now on the road (like me) wrote to me a couple of days ago and said the following:

*Hi David,*

*I've taken this afternoon to listen to your new recording. ♦*

*What tremendous music. The Organ Concerto especially is overwhelmingly engaging and haunting, especially the Passacaglia.*

*Had I mentioned that the organ sounds like a million dollars?!? Where can I see a new spec. for the instrument? (It isn't in the CD booklet.) What a fabulous sound.....*

*Best, Stephen*



All best from a rather chilly Edinburgh.

**David B**

♦ **NB This recording was made by Greg Morris (Organ) and Richard Tanner (Conductor) here in Blackburn Cathedral.**

### LETTER FROM OC DAVID ROTHWELL IN FULWOOD

Hi John

Thanks for your e-mail - I have updated my contact list accordingly.

Following my "retirement" from Pilkington, I, too, have been changing a few things. I use the word "retirement" fairly loosely, because, as I am sure you already know, "retirement" is not really my style. I am currently in the middle of a project which, if it succeeds, it will keep me off the streets for 25 hours a day, fulfil a long ambition and supplement my Pilkington pension!



I have been singing a little bit recently with a couple of Anthony Tattersall's choirs - it is nice to catch up with old friends and to knock some of the barnacles off the old vocal cords.

When we can manage to get all the gang back in the UK at the same time, perhaps we can plan a fish 'n' chips evening!

In the meantime,

Kind Regards

**David**

### E MAIL FROM OC PETER & CONSTANCE HEALD IN ELY

It is difficult to put into words the real value of your newsletter. It has always been a glittering report of what is going on in Blackburn music circles. It makes one wonder why one ever left. This last one makes one feel one hasn't. Good on yer.

Looking forward to no problems in seeing you again in September.

Always best wishes,

**Peter & Constance.**



### E MAIL FROM OC PETER HURST IN BLACKBURN

Hi John,

In a recent Evening Telegraph article was the following: In July 1956, boys from QEGS, stood on the site of a grammar school that existed four and a half centuries ago at Blackburn Cathedral.



Best wishes,

**Peter.**

The Cathedral had documentary evidence that the old grammar school existed in 1509. The boys stood on the site of the South Chapel, built in 1101, and was used as a grammar school four centuries later. **I wonder if any BCOCA men recall that incident, moreover could they be reunited for one of your famous photos?**

*Please let me know if you were on this photo. JB*

### E MAIL FROM OC PETER FIELDING IN RAMSBOTTOM

Another wonderful edition of the Newsletter, John!

You did mention in a previous edition that donations toward the cost of the Magazine would be welcome. I wouldn't mind forking out a few £'s. Where would I send it?

Hope you are well,

See you at the Old Choristers' Reunion in Sept.

Regards, **Peter**



*Peter: Thanks so very much for offering to help with the finances of producing, printing and mailing our Newsletters. This costs us well over £1,000 for each edition (four per year) and we have no regular funding except for BCOCA and FofBCM membership subscriptions, plus sales @£3-00 each. So generous donations are most welcome. A cheque (made out to Blackburn Cathedral) and sent to the Bursar, Cathedral Close, Blackburn, BB1 5AA, with a covering note saying that it's a donation to the Newsletter, would be very gratefully received. (See next page for a list of recent generous donors.)*

### E MAIL FROM OC STEPHEN WARD IN SALISBURY

Dear John --

Firstly, I have to say what a stunner the latest edition of the Newsletter (now more a fully-fledged magazine) is! Great photos, great print quality, and all wonderfully threaded through with your great sense of style and humour! Keep up the good work!



Secondly -- another year, another apology, I'm afraid... -- but sadly, I won't be able to make this year's reunion: as I'm going into hospital on 16th August for an Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion (what my specialist snappily refers to as an 'ACDF' -- which basically means that bits of me that were previously organic will become titanium... -- not quite The Six Million Dollar Man, though!): hopefully to stabilize my long-ailing neck. I should be back home within a few days, thankfully; but my movements will be limited for a while.

I hope the Reunion goes really well -- as I'm sure it will! (Seeing **Stewart Hopkinson** as Senior OC makes me feel really old, though...) **And please let it be known that if any OCs of my era are going to be in the Salisbury area in the next few months, and don't mind long, scenic walks (I've been told I must keep fit after my op...), that they will be made most welcome!**

I hope you are keeping well (if the photos on page 9 in the August Newsletter are anything to go by, you most certainly are...!)

Best wishes...  
**Steve.**

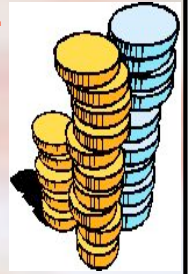
*Steve: So very sorry to hear about your troubles – may they soon be over and fully healed. Your cheerful smile is as brilliant as it was when you were a chorister-contemporary of John Marr, Steve Holmes and Stewart Hopkinson.*



**Stephen Ward, John Marr and Stephen Holmes in 1974!**  
OCs who live near Salisbury: please contact Steve Ward: his E-mail is [sward@sward.com](mailto:sward@sward.com)

## WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL

not only to generous  
**FRIENDS and SPONSORS**  
of **Blackburn Cathedral Music**  
and to **Cathedral OLD CHORISTERS**  
who faithfully pay their  
annual **Subscriptions**  
and to our **ADVERTISERS ...**



... but also to many friends and colleagues  
who send us extra **DONATIONS**  
for our **Newsletter.**

**Printing and mailing**  
our **Newsletter costs**  
**well over £4,000 every year**  
and this has to be raised  
**independently of funding concerts.**

### Recent generous DONORS include

Adams, Derek  
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Whiteley, Jean, & Joseph Evans  
Whittle, Brian  
Wilkinson, John, OBE  
Williams, Mrs. Ann

Special thanks to BCOCA which has donated £900 to the Newsletter

### How much could a donation be?

At least seven of the above have given **£100** each! **WOW!**

But an annual donation of **£20-00** or more would be very helpful – and for those who live abroad, **£40-00+** would be most useful.

**CHOIR PARENTS** already give us so much not only in time and money but also, of course, their daughters and sons who sing so brilliantly. But we would be so very grateful if you would like to help keep this publication in the black, so that we may continue to publish photographs of your talented children as they sing so wonderfully here, there, and almost everywhere else.

Contributions from our equally talented **CHOIRMEN** & individual members of the **RENAISSANCE SINGERS** would also be very warmly welcomed. Thanks!

If you would like to help to keep this Newsletter going in its present **colourful** form, please make out your cheques to **BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL,** and mail them, with a covering note '**Newsletter Donation**', to

**The Bursar,**  
**Cathedral Close,**  
**BLACKBURN BB1 5AA,**  
**(UK)**



...making sure that you give us your name and address!  
**Or please see Banker's Order enclosed. Thank you!**

### Letter from Richard Tanner

*Director of Music*

to the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music



Dear Friend,  
A big thank you to John Bertalot for putting together yet another spectacular edition of the Newsletter. Wherever I go in the world I seem to bump into people who have read and thoroughly enjoyed his publications.

You will not be surprised to hear that the cost of the newsletter is escalating.

**Therefore we invite all those who so enjoy the newsletter to make regular donations towards defraying the expenses involved. Please see Banker's Order...**



As I write, we are putting the finishing touches to next year's concert diary... I'd like to thank you very much for supporting our events over the past twelve months and can promise you an extremely exciting year ahead. **See P. 32**

With best wishes,  
**Richard Tanner**

## Luncheon to send the YPC to Vienna!

**EDWARD & ANITRA HAYTHORNWHITE** generously opened their historic house in Beardwood to us on Sunday 16 July to raise funds for the YPC's visit to Vienna at the end of August.



The sun shone, the flowers bloomed, the drinks flowed, the delicious food was shared and the buzz of conversations within and without the 17<sup>th</sup> Century house silenced even the bees for joy and bonhomie.



Sheila Shaw and Edward Haythornwhite in the Welcome Bar in the garden, with guest barman, Phil White, from Lichfield – who is a friend of Edward and Anitra Haythornwhite.

Whilst in the oak-beamed house, Judge Jeremy Duerden had forsaken his legal finery to assist the ladies in the serving of mouth-watering food. L-R Dorothy White (wife of barman Phil), Jean Duerden, (wife of the Judge), Val Edge and Hostess Anitra Haythornwhite.



This was not the first time that the Haythornwhites had invited supporters of the cathedral's music programme to their home – they held a similar luncheon last year. Both Edward and Anitra are strong members of the Council of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music and they help us in so many other ways too.



YPC director GREG MORRIS was there, of course, with Dr. Rachel and baby Anna.

How we shall miss them when they move to London at the end of August when Greg takes up his new post as Associate Organist of the Temple Church!

It was cooler inside the house, and there were easy chairs, Stella Haworth and Hilda Salter took advantage of both!



**BELOW:** Enjoying the sunshine were (L-R) Philip & Alma Roberts who last year celebrated their Golden Wedding.

But instead of receiving gifts they asked that donations be made to the Cathedral Music. A very large cheque was the result. We are so very grateful. Seated with them are Marjorie & Gary (Churchwarden) Wignall, and Brenda Carruthers (long-time choir parent).



The food was eaten with relish, and second helpings were not unknown, but enough was left over to feed a few of the 5,000!

Front (in the sun): Richard & Caroline Knight  
Behind (in the shade!)  
Dr. John Moses, Revd. Robert Moore & Jay Hutson.



And as a result of those two most happy and full-filling hours, Almost **£700** was raised for the YPC funds. We are most grateful to Edward and Anitra, and to all our friends who supported us so generously on that most glorious day.



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## NEW DEFINITIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON POST USA

- Coffee** (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
- Flabbergasted** (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
- Abdicate** (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
- Esplanade** (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
- Negligent** (adj.), a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
- Lymph** (v.), to walk with a lisp.
- Gargoyle** (n.), olive-flavored mouthwash.
- Flatulence** (n.) an emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
- Balderdash** (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

## Letter from OC PETER CROWTHER

Hi John

It was a pleasure to speak to you on the phone from Zell Am See in Austria. Jean and I had a truly wonderful and relaxing holiday, spending 3 days in Salzburg and then 11 days up in the Tyrol Region at Zell Am See.



Whilst in Salzburg we went to the Cathedral Church (The Dom) where we were treated to a concert featuring almost 400 voices from 11 choirs from the USA, an orchestra and 2 organs. It was brilliant and the American Director was called Dr Ralph Ely. The first half of the programme was Mozart's Missa in C, with Festival Chorus and Orchestra, whilst the second half consisted of pieces from the USA, such as Ave Maria by Nathaniel Dett, a superb Sanctus by Eugene Butler, and it closed with a piece called Thou Gracious God (the melody of which is better known to us as O Waly, Waly) by Mack Wilberg.

The whole concert was rather incongruously competing with (just outside of the North Transept) a huge outdoor screen and seating for around 5,000 who were watching Germany play Argentina in the World Cup. The noise from outside was not heard once, even during the quietest moments of the concert. Two nights later the concert was repeated in Vienna.



What an experience it was to hear Mozart performed so wonderfully in the composer's hometown and in a building in which he visited.

I have temporarily mislaid **Ivor Bolton's** mobile number and e-mail address but if you are going to see him at the Royal Albert Hall I am sure he will let you have them then. I spoke to Ivor on the day before we left for Salzburg and he was very helpful and a pleasure to speak with. Thanks for your help in the matter.

Very best wishes, **Peter.**

*We're delighted that you're fully recovered now, Peter. Ed*

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OC ANTHONY TATTERSALL

who's just got himself a job – two jobs, in fact!

Having just completed his year's training as a teacher at St. Martin's College, Lancaster, he'll be teaching up to Christmas at St. Michael's and St. John's Primary School, Blackburn. And then, in the New Year he takes on his permanent post as a teacher at St. Oswald's Primary School, Knuzden.



Your staff photographer caught **Kerry** and **Matthew** waiting at lunchtime for 'Tat' at the Diocesan Offices, where he's filling in this summer.

Matthew is learning the cornet, and Kerry is about to start learning the oboe. "That'll be very good practice for breathing!" she said.

Tat was full of beans, as ever. 'We've just put on three performances of *OLIVER* at St. Cuthbert's School,' he enthused. 'We had the school choir and the young singers from my own choir at St. Cuthbert's, and we had a band. It was great!' *Did you get full houses?* 'Of course we did!'

'I played Widow Corney in the production,' added Kerry as she ushered her family out to lunch; 'she's Mr. Bumble's sidekick!'

Tat is, of course, conductor of *OCTAVIUS*, a superb octet of singers who sing frequently at the cathedral.

Whatta family!

## BCOCA 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY (Founded 1966)

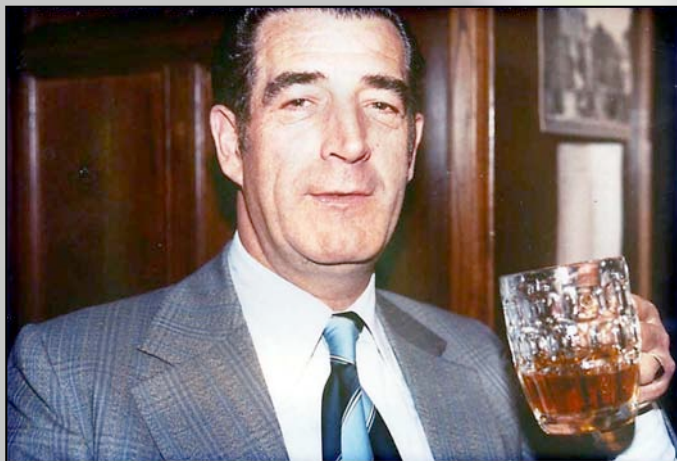
Because **JACK SMETHURST** was a founder member of BCOCA (along with **Peter Heald, Fred Green, Norman Eccleston & JB**) it's appropriate that we reproduce the account of Jack's AFTER DEATH experience – which may be seen framed in the Song School.



Jack joined the choir as a boy under **Tom J. Duerden**, and remained in it as a bass during **JB's** and **David Cooper's** reigns. He was an ordinary 'copper' – he had no ambition to seek promotion – but he had a heart of gold and was very greatly beloved by all who knew him.

But what happened when his heart stopped? Read on:

*After a Friday practice some of the cathedral choirmen had repaired to a local hostelry, as was their custom, to quench their thirst, and I, JB, was talking to Phil Hunwick (tenor). The subject of death came up. "Jack's had an after-death experience," he told me. I was stunned. Jack returned to our table carrying replenished pints, and I asked him about it. "Yes," he said, raising his glass, "Cheers!" I asked him to write his story for publication in the choir Newsletter for June, 1979. This is what he wrote:*



On Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1975, as a Police Officer, I had returned home from Lancaster Castle where I had been on security duties in regard to a trial which had been brought there as a result of an I.R.A. terrorist bomb attack in Birmingham earlier in the year. The security duties were long and arduous, requiring constant vigilance and concentration; the trial was in its twelfth week.

### Heart attack

The same evening, having promised to help a young colleague to celebrate his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday at a public house in Lower Darwen, I was driving my car along a quiet road when, suddenly and without warning, I became nauseous, very cold, sweating profusely and had a severe pain throbbing from the back to the front of my chest, and pain shot down my inner arms. Fortunately there was no other traffic on the road at the time and I managed to bring my car to a stop. Having some knowledge of first aid I knew that it was imperative that I received expert medical attention as quickly as possible, but I found that I was semi-paralysed. There were no houses nearby and I tried to attract the attention of passing motorists by sounding the horn and flashing my headlights, but to no avail.

### Hospital

After some time had elapsed I realised that I had to try to reach the Royal Infirmary, and after some difficulty in turning round my

car I managed to reach the hospital and stagger into the casualty department where I lost consciousness. I was given immediate heart resuscitation for I had a massive thrombosis in the wall of the heart muscle, known as myocardial infarction.

In the early hours of the following morning I was aware for a few minutes of my wife being with me, but I could not speak and I again lost consciousness. At this time I had been placed in the intensive care unit and my heart and pulse were being monitored by electrodes. During the short time of awareness I knew my life was in the balance. I asked God to forgive my sins and grant me his loving mercy.

Later the same morning at about 7.45 when the Day Sister was taking over I gave a deep roar (so I was told later) and my heart and pulse stopped. The staff applied maximum electrical heart stimulation.

### Heavenly Father

At this time I found myself walking in a dark place with no pain. I was at the bottom of an incline and on looking up I saw that as I climbed the incline it was getting lighter from black to brown, red, and at the top bright as sunshine. Silhouetted by the brilliant light were two figures and I knew that the one on the left was Almighty God, but I could not distinguish His features due to the blinding light behind Him. I went to Him at a slow pace, with the utter trust and wonderful joy that can only be described as a child going to his father, with no other thoughts in mind but that I wanted to be with Him.



### Conversation

I knew as I was getting nearer that if I saw His face I was going to stay and I didn't want to leave Him. He said to me (by transfer of thought), "You are going to return, but you must never tell anyone what you have seen." I replied, "But it is not fair, as desperately ill people will get great comfort if I tell them what I have seen." I said this spontaneously. He replied, "Because you have thought this, then you may." I then awakened in the unit and although I was very weak my mind was crystal clear, and I said to an auxiliary nurse who was standing by my bed that I had seen God.

### Answered prayer

At four minutes past eleven on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1975, I was mentioned by name in the prayers for the sick at the Holy Communion Service in Blackburn Cathedral. At the same moment my heart went into perfect rhythm. I later made enquiries about the exactitude of the time and it was corroborated by medical record and witnesses. From that time I made steady progress and on the following Wednesday I was transferred to a general ward and a week later was able to go home.

### Comfort

I now lead a normal active life and do not need any drugs and, apart from a fat free diet, there are no restrictions on what the average person of my age can do. I have written the above so that my experience may give comfort to the desperately sick and bereaved.

*Jack given 15 more years with us before he returned to his Heavenly Father. Every memory of him is joyful. JB*

## BCOCA MINI REUNION IN GERMANY!

At the end of July **Ian Pattinson**, former Blackburn Cathedral Assistant Organist, and now Organist of Lancaster Priory, and your editor met with 188 other organists and choirmasters from all over the UK and America, for a week in Cologne and Bonn, where we listened to fabulous organs and visited some of the most beautiful churches in that friendly country.

The high spot was, of course, going to an organ recital in Cologne Cathedral whose soaring West front makes one certain that there is a heaven.



Cologne Cathedral has two organs: a massive four manual instrument at the East End – complete with a 64ft stop on the pedals (sounding an octave below the lowest note on our organ) and a brand new instrument perched high up in the Nave. It weighs 30 tons and is not attached to the wall, but is hung from the roof on only four cables!!



We arrived at the cathedral at 7.00 pm for an 8.00 pm recital to find that it was almost full. By 8.00 pm many folk had brought their own chairs, but even then some had to sit on the floor. Ian and I, with 1,998 other musicians, listened to a fabulous recital by the resident organist, **Winfried Boenig** who played both organs from a monster console. Recitals are given *every week* to capacity audiences. The previous week's was by **John Scott**.

We also visited **Beethoven's birthplace** in Bonn – took a cruise on the Rhine and visited a Winery where we sampled their delicious wares. We also visited **Klais Organ Works**.

Klais built the new organ in Cologne Cathedral, as well as many enormous instruments in major concert halls around the world, including Singapore, Moscow, Beijing, Caracas and Birmingham Symphony Hall. It was quite a week!

## BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL'S 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

This month sees the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blackburn Parish Church becoming a Cathedral – on **November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1926**. A peal of bells will be rung to celebrate this happy event: stand by for an announcement in the 'Green Peril'.

Your editor was sent copies of some historic press cuttings by Mr. Douglas Carrington, from Lytham. Here are a few quotations from a Blackburn newspaper that month:

### BLACKBURN A CITY [sic] FOUNDING OF THE NEW SEE APPROVAL BY THE KING [George V]

Blackburn is now a Cathedral City, as yesterday an Order in Council founding the new See was approved by the King.

The meeting of the Privy Council, at which the King's approval was given, was held at Buckingham Palace, and Lord Balfour, Lord Cromer, Mr. W. C. Bridgeman, M. P., and Sir Maurice Hankey were present.

By this Order, Blackburn Parish Church becomes a Cathedral.



The decision [was] reached at a Diocesan Conference held in Manchester on June 10, 1922. The rival claims of Blackburn and Preston were animatedly discussed at the meeting, but Blackburn's claim was established.

Some months ago Quarry Bank, which stands on the slopes of Billinge Hill, was acquired as the home of the new Bishop, and it commands a magnificent view of the west coast of the county.

Blackburn Parish Church celebrated its centenary on September 13 of this year...

The Parish Church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and it is known [that] there were successively four churches before the present one, which is a very handsome edifice, and has a seating accommodation for 1,520 persons.



The new diocese now awaits with great interest the appointment of its first Bishop. *Hallelujah! Ed*

## ANOTHER MINI BCOCA REUNION...

took place at Ribchester Parish Church on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> August, at the wedding of **Henrietta Duckworth** and **Edward Clark**. 'Henri' is the daughter of Judge and Mrs. Brian Duckworth who were married in that same church over 40 years ago. 'And I'm wearing the same trousers today as I did then!' said the Judge!

Their eldest son, RUPERT, was a chorister of Blackburn Cathedral way back in the 1970s (a contemporary of Iain Thompson). Also at the wedding was OC MICHAEL WALKER.

A photo was called for!



Rupert, who flew all the way from Australia with his wife Chrissie, just managed to beat the restrictions on air travel which were imposed on the day they arrived – although some other guests, especially those from New York, didn't make it.

Rupert is now very busy as a Senior Environmental Officer and manager of Gold Fields in Kalgoorlie!

Michael, who flew from France, is a consultant for a firm of architects just north of Nice. 'A lot of rich Brits and others are building houses there,' he told your editor (who played the organ for the wedding). 'Business is good!'

The wedding was notable not only for the sweeping glory of the Bride's Mother's hat, and the longevity of the Bride's Father's trousers, but also because of the organ music the bridal couple had chosen. (Ed was an old chorister at Norwich Cathedral.)

The music before the service included, "Set me as a seal" Walton, 'The Blue Bird' Stanford, 'Summertime' Gershwin, 'Ilkley Moor' and 'The Lincolnshire Poacher', 'Jerusalem' hailed the entry of the Bride's Mother – to a round of applause. Purcell's *Rondeau* which Britten used for his Young Person's Guide, greeted the Bride; César Franck's *Prelude* was listened to during the signing of the register, and *Pomp and Circumstance No 4* blew the happy couple, and everyone else, out of the church. The packed congregation sang the three hymns lustily.

A high spot in the service was the sermon preached by Fr. John Francis on *The Marriage at Cana*. Before he began he opened a bottle of champagne and poured glasses for himself and the bridal couple. All three refreshed themselves frequently during the sermon, much to the joy of the entire congregation.

There followed a lavish Reception for 100 guests at the Duckworths' historic home where 'Canaan' hospitality flowed in bucketsful, and a delicious dinner was served in a six-chandelier illuminated silken Marquee in their exquisite garden, to the accompaniment of a real band.

It was quite a day!



## Heartiest Congratulations

to our nearly-new full-time Virgers,  
**Mark Pickering (Dean's Virger)**  
and **Suzanne Trudgill (Canons' Virger)**

who were commissioned by the Dean during a brief but beautiful ceremony at the cathedral Eucharist on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Val Edge**, who is a member of the Cathedral Chapter, presented Mark and Suzanne to the Dean.

**STOPPE PRESSE:** Mark & Susanne have just announced their engagement! **Heartiest congratulations!**



## Excerpts from letters to the editor sent by generous donors to our Newsletters:



- **A ringing endorsement of Richard's big thank you. We are hugely heartened by the publication and look forward eagerly to each edition...**
- **It's a brilliant production and a bargain at the price...**
- **This is an appropriate way to say thank you to you and to all who contribute to produce such a marvellous record of events and people connected with the cathedral.**
- **Keep up the good work – it's brilliant!**



*Thank you so much for your enthusiastic generosity. Ed*

## ROCK & ROLL



Our enterprising former organ scholar **ALEX DAVIES** organised a Rock and Roll evening in Lyme Regis in September by the **BE BOP DADDIES** in aid of his new organ appeal. (See our last issue.) That lad has initiative!

*But we must note that none of the Daddies is looking at the conductor! But who needs a conductor when you Be Bop?*





**Senior Old Chorister  
STEWART HOPKINSON'S  
Three Peaks'  
Sponsored Hike  
in aid of  
BCOCA Funds.  
Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> May**



The second stage to Wernside peak was a gradual, pains-taking affair - punctuated by a brief rest as we waited in vain for Tony Snape's steam train to come by.

Half-way up, my son, Nick asked, 'Dad, how much further 'til we finish?' I replied '9 miles'.

As we trundled down the slope from Wernside toward Ingleborough he asked the question again and I replied '9 miles'. His reply cannot be published!



L-R: **Tony Snape**, (chairman) and Stew's friend **Paul Buckel**, **Edward Haythornwhite**, **Stew Hopkinson** and **Nigel Chew**. Stew's son, **Nick**, took the photo. Nick was fund-raising for his recent trip to teach at the Bethany orphanage in Tanzania

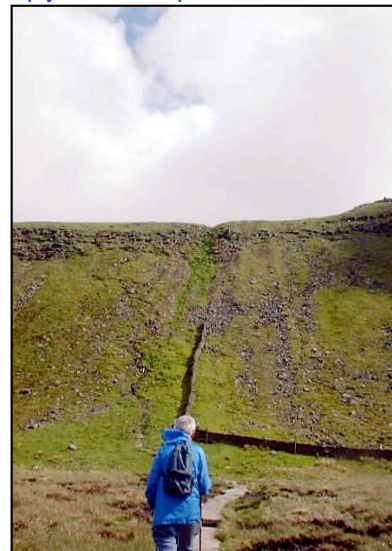
**The party met at Whalley picnic site at 5.45 am!**

Edward Haythornwhite was suffering from a debilitating cold and intended to walk with us as far as Ribble Head (one peak). In the event he managed the full circuit, and has been a cult hero of mine ever since!



We set off from Horton-in-Ribblesdale at 6.45am, past what must have been a 100 strong contingent of foreign tourists, complete with ruck-sacks and personal trainer who was either putting them through warm-up exercises or some kind of bizarre morning worship. They were not to be seen again as Ed set the pace to Penn-y-Ghent! As we 'yomped' to its peak I remembered thinking that there was something odd in the experienced walker's tendency to refer to a hill or mountain as 'she'. In this case 'Penny', whilst beautiful, was hard work to win over!

We descended through peat bogs to the valley below which led us on to Ribble Head where we rested for lunch (delivered by my wife who sensibly drove!) but not before encountering evidence of the 'Campaign for Simple English' on a farmer's gate - 'fasen all gates'.



At this stage in the walk my feet were blistered and the old legs were feeling weary but the scenery and the company were inspirational - that is the side of directly up. until we encountered Ingleborough's steep rise.

The distance between walkers became discernibly greater as the men were separated from those who thought that this would be an enjoyable way of raising funds!

Nonetheless we gathered at the top and made for the trig point where we shook hands in congratulatory fashion. The gradual descent back to Horton-in-Ribblesdale ('It's all downhill from here' ringing in my ears) went on forever.

Once in the village we made our way, as rapidly as the sore feet would allow, to the nearest pub. As we entered we were delighted to note that it was in fact a 'bikers' pub. I was greeted with the question 'Have you just walked the 3 peaks?' I replied 'Yes, mate' to which the gentleman in question retorted 'You want to get a bike mate - it's easier!' I was not in the mood for such hilarious exchanges but he was a burly chap who appeared to lack only one tattoo on his body, around the mouth area - 'fasen it!'

**Well done to all participants and sponsors. The total money raised for B.C.O.C.A is £500.**

**Well done and thanks, Stew, and to all your noble team!**  
**Ed**

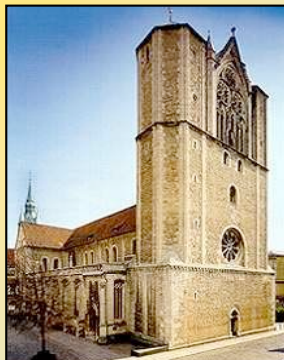
**And special thanks to a regular worshipper who wishes to remain anonymous but who has given a major contribution to BCOCA funds.**

## Predigt (Sermon) auf Deutsch



Heartiest congratulations to Canon **CHRIS CHIVERS** who has been invited to preach at our Sister Cathedral in Braunschweig on Remembrance Sunday, *in GERMAN!*

We remember our choir's visit there last year with much pleasure, and wish Canon Chris well as he revisits some of our many friends in that beautiful and historic place.



Braunschweig Cathedral was built 1173–1190, and it is a model of Saxon Romanic architecture.

Did you know that *Braunschweig* is German for 'Brunswick'?



## BCOCA Wedding

Richard Tanner writes:



One of the first tasks that I was confronted with on arrival in Blackburn in May 1998 was that of appointing a new assistant Director of Music to succeed Ben Saunders, who is now DoM of Leeds RC Cathedral. **TIM COOKE** was the successful candidate and he proved to be outstanding in this role. Like his successor, Greg Morris, Tim is an exceptional player and he was a terrific leader of the YPC and a fabulous improviser.

So I was delighted to be able to attend Tim's wedding on August 18th and even more thrilled that his bride is former YPC member **HELEN CROOK**.



Until moving to Spain a couple of years ago, Helen's parents, Major and Rosemary, were regular members of the Cathedral congregation and Helen joined the YPC aged 22 after leaving university (not long after Tim took charge of the choir). It wasn't long before her work took her to the south of England (and all over the world, for she is a high powered, multi-lingual, business woman) and not long after that Tim came to tell me that he would be leaving the Cathedral to pursue a career in teaching. In his wedding speech he finally revealed that the most important reason for his departure from Blackburn was to be close to Helen!

Tim is currently Director of Music at Josca's - the prep school

to **Abingdon School**, which is near Thatcham,

He has also recently become organist and choirmaster of Thatcham Parish Church. St Mary's was the scene for the wedding ceremony and I was privileged to conduct the choir - a mixture of friends (such as **Pippa** and **Dan Prowse**) and former colleagues of Tim's and his own parish church choir. **David Goodenough** played the organ to his usual inspirational standard - having got up very early and flown from Edinburgh.



Tim and Helen had selected a feast of music, including Britten's *Jubilate*, Glory to God (*Messiah*), *Laudate Dominum* (Mozart) with **Pippa** as soloist and Bob Chilcott's *Irish Blessing*. Tim had written a descant for Angel Voices with an athletic organ pedal part and David ended the service with the *Finale* to Widor's 6th Symphony.

The reception was held at Aldermaston Manor House and was a tremendous occasion with both Groom and Bride giving splendid speeches. Helen's was in the form of a poem. The Best Man read out a message of goodwill from Howard Waddell, too.



They then headed off for a honeymoon in South Africa.

*Heartiest congratulations, Tim and Helen. Ed*

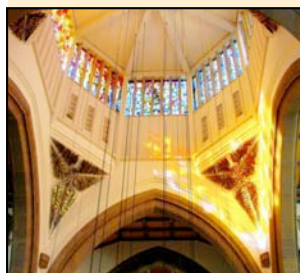
## Letter from ANNE WILKINSON in Hampshire (OC Michael Wilkinson died in 2003)

Prefects' Board No. 1



I'd like to share with you a postcard sent to me last year. It came from a priest friend of ours who moved from Hampshire to the Lake District.

Soon afterwards his wife became very ill & he had to make a daily journey to Preston Hospital, stopping *en route* at Blackburn Cathedral, which he called 'a worthwhile refreshment' on his journey.



He wrote: *I'm sitting here in Blackburn Cathedral and thought of you and Michael. He spoke so warmly of this holy place. What a vibrant and lovely building – a wonderful meeting of old and new. The whole building is alive with light and colour on this sunny day.'*

I managed to get him a CD of the choir to play on his journeys and he vowed to bring his wife to the Cathedral when she was well enough.

Good wishes to you all,

**Anne Wilkinson.**

*Thank you, Anne. JB*

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Chapter member VAL EDGE thought it would be a good idea if members of the Cathedral Chapter could get to know the members of our Young People's Choir, and their parents.

So on Sunday afternoon, 20<sup>th</sup> August, shortly before the YPC singing visit to Vienna, she threw open her lovely home in Beardwood for two parties: a tea-party for the Chapter to meet the young people, and a later party (with stronger beverages donated by a member of the Chapter!) for the Chapter to meet our young singers' parents. It worked wonderfully well.



There were delicious sandwiches, cakes and scones – all delicately prepared by Val and her helpers. In the dining room admiring the results of their labours on either side of Val (centre in her blue apron) are Matthew Bruce (son of Linda, our Music Administrator), Clare Holgate, Alex Wood, Laura Slater, Val, Sarah Chew, Claire Marsden & Emma Pearson.



Funds were raised for the Vienna Tour in various ways including a sponsored walk, a raffle, a car wash during a 10.30 service, and an evening meal at the Sharjan restaurant in Mellor. Wow!

With Val in her kitchen were Mrs. (Jonathan) Nyanyak Armstrong (Dean & Gerry's daughter-in-law) and Mrs. Sue Abbott. Clearly they'd enjoyed preparing such a super feast!

And joining them were Gerry Armstrong and her Mother! It was a most happy kitchen!

Later the Dean also joined them...

(The best parties are always held in the kitchen!)



With Dean Christopher were (L-R) Father Barry Orford, Assistant Librarian at Pusey House, Oxford, on holiday, staying with the Rev Steven Harvey, Head of Bury Grammar School for Boys, who had preached at Evensong in the cathedral that day. 'It was a good sermon!' commented the Dean.



Enjoying the tasteful furnishings in the house were Karen Brooke, Choir parent and Secretary to the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, & Diana Swarbrick



Through the curtains in the conservatory were Chapter members: (back row) Val, Peter Jolley & Margaret Dugdale. Front row: former High Sheriffs Rodney Swarbrick & Tom Dugdale, and Jean Duerden.



When your editor offered a donation for what he thought was the 'entry fee' for such a lavish party (for it was in aid of the YPC), his hostess said, 'No! It's my pleasure to give this party for such a wonderful group of young people.' She paused for a moment, and added, 'I've sold 60 tickets for their pre-Vienna concert next Thursday. If everyone really put their minds to it, they could do the same!'

What an energetic and generous lady! **Thank you, Val!**

## GREG'S FAREWELL CONCERT and the YPC's PRE VIENNA CONCERT...

... on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> August, attracted a full centre Nave (with many sitting in the side aisles). *Who sold 60 tickets, then?!*

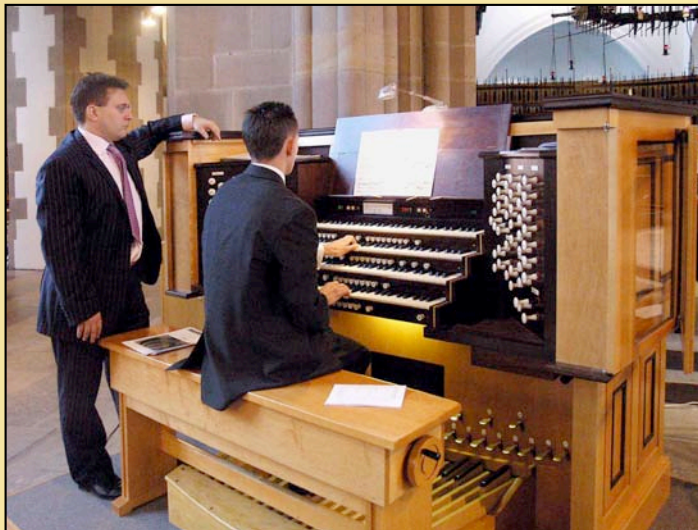


In his introduction to the evening the Dean observed that pre-tour concerts were high-voltage events. They were highly charged in the expectation of a wonderful 5 days to follow in Vienna on the part of the YPC and on the part of the parents, wondering just what to do in the silence at home!



Outstanding was a performance of Schubert's *Mass in G*, with our three professional soloists adding brilliance to the ensemble (see front cover). Soloists from the choir also added sparkle to Purcell's verse anthem *O God, thou art my God*.

Outgoing organ scholar Jonathan Turner accompanied the choir most sensitively and also played two organ solos: Elgar's *Voluntary in F* and Murrill's fiendishly difficult *Carillon*.



It just so happens that your editor heard the first performance of the *Carillon* over 50 years ago.

It was played at a Royal Albert Hall Promenade Concert by the organ virtuoso Arnold Richardson as an encore to his performance of a Handel organ concerto. Jonathan's dexterous playing more than matched Richardson's own brilliance.

Other outstanding performances by the choir and soloists were Tippett's *Three Spirituals* from *A Child of our Time* (Nicola's soaring top notes were spine-tingling.)



Also deeply satisfying was Howells' lovely *Like as the hart* in which the choir's exquisite tone was matched by Jonathan's equally musical accompaniment. (Again, your editor knew Howells; H.H. would have thoroughly approved of this expressive interpretation of his anthem.)

The choir excelled in Andrew Simpson's rhythmic *Sing unto the Lord* (composed for our YPC and the Youth Choir of Carlisle Cathedral), and the programme finished with an equally splendid performance of choruses and solos from Haydn's *Creation*, accompanied by Richard Tanner.

At least, it wasn't quite over because there were presentations to be made by the Dean to our three 'leavers': NICOLA MILLS, JONATHAN TURNER and GREG MORRIS.

**The Dean**, speaking from the heart, said that there was no experience more moving in the life of a dean than to work along side such creative and committed young musicians, both staff and volunteers. He paid tribute to the skill and exuberance of the YPC, "who had spent all summer preparing carefully for the concert - on sandy beaches in Spain, snorkelling in the Alpine lakes and stacking shelves in Tesco! They go to Vienna however as ambassadors - for the Cathedral, for the region, for their generation and for the God whom we worship". The Dean also paid tribute to all those who had assisted with the preparation of the tour at a time of particular difficulty for the cathedral staff. "To draw it together under such circumstances was a considerable feat and tribute must go to Richard Tanner who stands behind it all."



"If it was a privilege to sit and be swept up in such sublime music tonight, it was even more of a privilege to worship with this choir week by week at the 9 am Parish Communion service to which all are most cordially invited." Speaking personally, the Dean just couldn't wait for the return of this service at the start of the term and wished them all joy, success and safety.

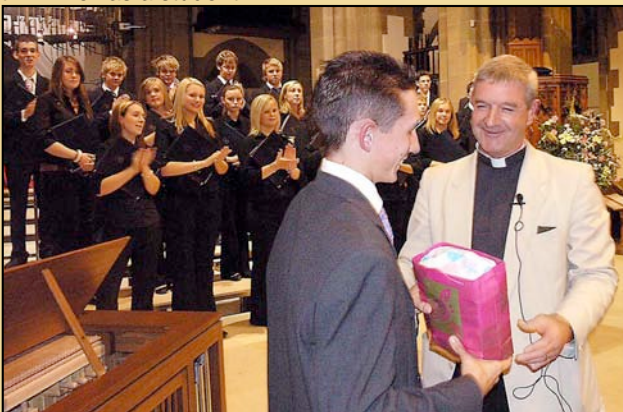
“Some however would not be returning quite so quickly.” In thanking **Nicola Mills**, the Dean said how fortunate the Children’s Choir was to have such professionalism lavished upon them, together with other members of the choirs who had received coaching from Nicola. “She will be greatly missed but we wish her well in the development of her career.”

Turning to **Jonathan Turner**, the Dean paid tribute to this exceptional young musician who will be departing for Lincoln College Oxford to take up an organ scholarship there. He would leave Blackburn with a huge volume of good will and gratitude engendered by his delightful manner.

“Jonathan,” he said, “was ‘spare’: it was an attitude that will suit him well as a student.”



Laura Slater & Nicola



He hoped that Jonathan might be lucky enough to find a café in Oxford that would feed him as amply as the Café-in-the-crypt. Apart from his great skill on the keyboards, Jonathan had a light touch and an infectious sense of humour. He had been well schooled by Richard Tanner for life as an organ scholar.

“It is with particular regret that we say goodbye to **Greg Morris** and his family tonight as they take their leave for The Temple Church, London where Greg will become Assistant Organist and Rachel can accelerate her medical career in the city. We will miss his superb playing, his sensitive accompaniments, his efficient organisation, his precise and accessible concert notes and his motivational ability.



“Who else could convince this bunch of youngsters to get to the Cathedral every Sunday morning at 8.15 am for rehearsals before the services began? Beyond that – and speaking as a

priest – I must pay tribute to Greg’s graciousness: his humility, gentleness, patience and his lively and enquiring faith. During Holy Week three years ago, it was sobering to see Greg first on the front row to absorb all that The Rev. Professor John Rodwell had to say in his artistic presentations of the death of Jesus.



“Finally I must pay tribute to Richard Tanner who has worked so creatively with Greg, allowing him to take risks, exploring his talents and complementing other strengths in the music department. Greg has been a delight to work with and it is with sadness tinged with pride

that we will let him go – proud in the knowledge that Blackburn Cathedral had played a small part in the moulding of such a gifted person.”

The Dean’s good-humoured and gracious speech of thanks was frequently interrupted by prolonged applause from the packed audience and also from the choir.

Then we made our way downstairs for a Reception in the Crypt where delicious nibbles and glasses full of refreshing drinks had been prepared by Chef Chris and his hard-working team. (Whilst upstairs our hard-working Virgers dismantled the stage. Thank you for that self-giving service!)



How good it was to see our new Assistant Director of Music there – **James Davy** – and also a former long-time



Assistant Organist, **Fred Dewhurst** (who was here in Tom Duerden’s and JB’s time). A final photograph of the three Assistant Organists was called for!

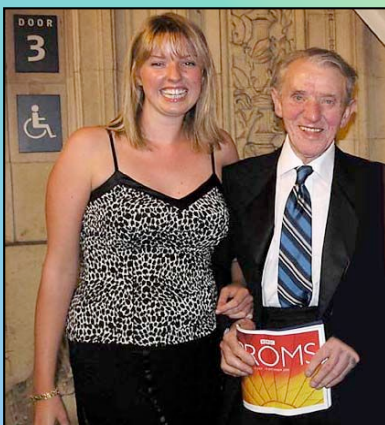
**Greg: Fare-well, well done, and Thank you! Ed.**

## A SPECIAL MINI BCOCA REUNION at THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

On Bank Holiday Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August, OC DEREK and MARILYN CROMPTON (Marilyn is a strong member of OC Anthony Tattersall's brilliant singing group OCTAVIUS), and your editor went to London to hear and see **OC IVOR BOLTON** conduct his Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra in a Promenade Concert which was televised and broadcast live by the BBC.



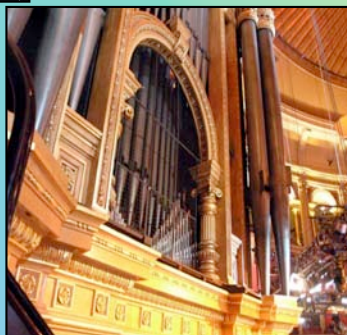
Outside the hall were gargantuan BBC trucks which were clearly there for the whole season, as they were fenced in pretty securely opposite what used to be the Royal College of Organists.



On the other side of the hall, by door 3, we met Ivor's cousin, **Lauren** who had been a member of our YPC, and also Ivor's father, **John**, who is a sprightly 89!

Ivor's wife, **Dr. Tess Knighton**, and their son, **Sam**, and Tess's Mother were there, plus several Bolton cousins, which gave a family atmosphere to what was a significant international occasion.

We found our seats high up behind the orchestra where we could see Ivor's face when he was conducting. We were right next to the historic organ which I'd played for the National Festival of Remembrance on live TV in 1982 (The Queen had been there!) and which had recently been rebuilt and was now the largest organ in the UK.



Ivor was a Blackburn Cathedral chorister during your editor's time as Director of Music, and was a younger contemporary of Derek Crompton.

He joined the cathedral choir at the age of 11 from QEGS (where his music-master was Jack Longstaff). He quickly showed his brilliance: He was always one of the first to arrive on Sunday morning and JB would sometimes find him playing one of Schumann's difficult piano pieces in the Song School – from memory.

He had perfect pitch. When we sang an unaccompanied anthem, instead a note being given on the organ, JB would sometimes point to Ivor who would sing the correct note immediately. 'How do you do that?' 'If you ask me to sing a G, I just sing a G!' (Of course!)

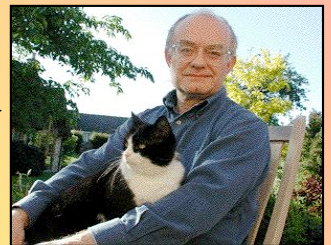
Prefects'  
Board No. 2

1971 Ivor Bolton

JB took him to the USA to take part in a 2-week choir course on an island in Lake Erie that JB was directing; he quickly made his mark there. (After the Prom Concert Ivor's wife, Dr. Tess Knighton, who is a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, told JB that that USA trip was a turning point in Ivor's life.)

JB taught Ivor the organ and Jack Longstaff taught him theory. By the age of 17 he was a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists – winning astronomically high marks. He played the organ for one of our live Choral Evensongs when Keith Bond was away. JB took him to Cambridge to play to Philip Ledger, who was then Director of Music at King's. 'Yes, he'll certainly win an organ scholarship,' he told us encouragingly.

He did: to Clare, where he was taught by the international composer **John Rutter**, and where, at the end of his first term, he met his wife-to-be, Tess Knighton, who was also a student at Clare.



Marilyn, Derek & I had a fabulous view of Ivor and of the orchestra as they played an all-Mozart programme. This was the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra's Prom debut, although Ivor had conducted Proms before. They were brilliant and Ivor was stunning. We couldn't take our eyes off him for he was the very embodiment of the music itself. One could tell how the orchestra would play the next phrase through Ivor's expressive gestures. And he looked at them all the time (*that's the only way to conduct!*), and smiled and always shared the audience's tumultuous applause with his players!



The Radio Times called Ivor the 'British period-performance specialist' and his leadership showed it. He's the first British musician to be appointed Chief Conductor of this virtuoso orchestra. They clearly love and respect him as much as he loves and respects them!



The concert was thrilling beyond belief. I've never heard Mozart played like that before. Every phrase was beautifully shaped by every musician and it was Ivor's inspirational musicianship coupled with the polished professionalism of his players which made it a concert ever to be remembered.



And after it was all over, and they'd played an encore, Derek, Marilyn and I made our way downstairs to the conductor's room, past some pretty tight BBC security, to meet Maestro Bolton.

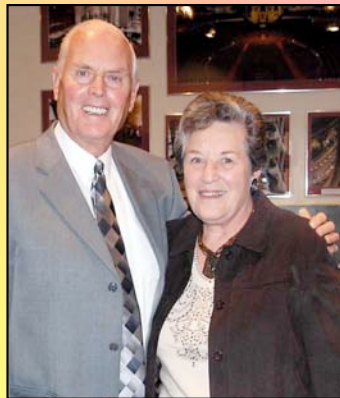
He was standing in a curved corridor talking with someone, but when he spotted us he rushed over and said, 'This is my mentor! If it hadn't been for you I wouldn't have been here tonight!' *What amazing generosity!* Ivor introduced us enthusiastically to everyone who was there – his agent, Jonathan Groves (son of the conductor Sir Charles Groves), the BBC producer who was responsible for tonight's presentation, the superb orchestral leader ('He's the best' enthused Ivor),

and so many more. It was a most happy and ever-memorable reunion.



A BBC lady came up to me: "You've been paged to go to the Stage Door", she said. 'Who, me?' I went, and standing there were **Norman and Margery Howarth**, from Norwich, former members of the **Renaissance Singers**. In fact Margery was a founder member!

'We read about Ivor's concert in your last Newsletter,' said Margery, 'so we had to come!' 'Yes,' agreed Norman. 'We remember young Ivor so well in the cathedral choir all those years ago!'



They'd been with us last November for the Singers' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert. It was wonderful to see them yet again.

We made our farewells and returned to the conductor's room where Ivor had shed his formal clothes. 'Right!' he said, 'now you're all coming to dinner with me – you and Tess and the leader, and the producer, and Jonathan Groves, and our generous German sponsors; it's only just around the corner!'

So we walked briskly to a splendid hotel in Queens Gate, which was heavy with flock wallpaper, chandeliers and portraits of the Great and Good, where three large round tables had been beautifully prepared for us to enjoy an amazing dinner.

We sat with **Tess** who told us that their son, Sam, (who'd now gone to bed in their London home – he's 14) was quite used to going to concerts to see his father conduct. 'He even sat through an entire performance of *Meistersinger* and didn't utter a word!' said Tess proudly.



Ivor joined us halfway through the meal, after paying his due respects to the two generous benefactors who sat with the leader and orchestral manager at another table. 'What have you been doing recently?' I asked him.

'Well, we've been very busy in Salzburg with Mozart's 250<sup>th</sup> where I conducted concerts and three operas. I conducted 7 operas with the Bavarian State Opera in Munich. and I've conducted in Florence, Paris and the Royal Opera House here in London.'

He paused for breath: 'And I'll be conducting the Mozarteum Orchestra for the opening of a new concert hall in Los Angeles in October. I'll be coming to the Bridgewater Hall next April.'

'I expect you'll enjoy a good night's sleep after today's concert?' 'No! I'm catching the 4.30 am flight back to Salzburg tonight, because we've got another concert there on Thursday!' *Ivor's energy is amazing!* Derek, Marilyn and I reached our hotel at 1.00 am, totally exhausted, but boundlessly thrilled by all we had seen and heard that night, and very, very proud of Ivor.

To see these pictures bigger and brighter, click on to [www.bertalot.org](http://www.bertalot.org) ('Promenade Concert')



## BIRTHDAY LETTER FROM OC BRYAN LAMB in Cambs.

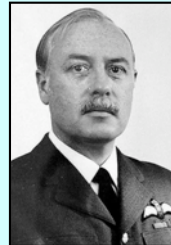
Dear John,

Well I beat you to three-quarters of a century (by the usual two months).

I had an amazing birthday. The threatened celebratory hot air balloon ride didn't materialise, thankfully. I've always been an engines man myself, four preferably. Instead I was presented with a surprise voucher for a trip in a Cessna two-seater from our local airfield.



*It was fantastic!*



I told the pilot that I'd been around aeroplanes in the past, studiously omitting the fact that it was 40 years ago. He said: "Well you'd better get on with it then."



Courageous or foolhardy, whichever it was, he let me do everything from take off to landings. I did three. The first two touch-downs could only be described as "arrivals," but nothing broke

The last one was a real smoothie. Seldom has a cock been so a-hoop! Not bad for an old codger of 75? I have been swanking about it ever since. The grandchildren thought it was "real cool."

Looking forward to helping you celebrate your 75<sup>th</sup> at the Reunion weekend.

Yours ever,

**Bryan**

**Congratulations & thanks, Bryan ... and SNAP! JB**

## From OC Ernie Gorer

Dear John,

Returning from a short holiday in Scarborough I stayed over in York, and by mid-afternoon I'd decided to attend Evensong at the Minster.

After the service a member of the clergy was talking to me, and when he discovered that I was from Blackburn Cathedral he said to me, 'That is a wonderful journal that you publish there. I doubt if there are any other Cathedrals in the country with one to match that!'

Praise from the Minster is praise indeed!

Yours, **Ernie**. (Former Senior Old Chorister)





# BAR-B-Q at the Deanery

On Tuesday evening, 29<sup>th</sup> August, the Dean and Geraldine Armstrong threw open their Deanery and garden to the Cathedral staff and Sidesmen and Sideswomen for a happy get-together. The only entrance requirement was a bottle – preferably full!



Coming through the Deanery front door – please welcome Churchwarden (and Old Chorister) Gary Wignall and Margery...  
...followed closely by Churchwarden (and former choirparents) Jim and Audrey Holden, with former Senior Old Chorister Ernie Gorner in the rear.



Whilst outside Duncan and Christina Barker were cooking the beef and chicken delights, watched closely by former choirparents Stuart and Betty Parkinson and Stewart Rothwell. A long line soon formed!



They were all making for the hospitality table, where Dean Christopher was welcoming Jayne Horsfall.

Former choirparents Sheila and Geoff Heap weren't far behind. 'We've just spent five weeks in France,' said Sheila, 'and now we're planning a visit to Italy!'



Virgers Suzanne Trudgill, Mark Pickering & Brian Newton had their glasses charged.



Steve and Dean's Secretary Pauline Rowe with Choirman & Events Assistant (and former choirparent) Phil Hunwick were pretty far back in the line...



Brian Newton was one of the earliest members of the YPC



... as were Cathedral Architect James Sanderson and Andrea. But a good time was had by all. And it didn't rain! Thanks indeed to our generous hosts!



**YET ANOTHER WORLD-CLASS CD  
of BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL ORGAN  
Regent REGCD217**



Organ Virtuoso KEVIN BOWYER's latest CD, **'THE STORM'** recently recorded on our organ, has received a rave review in the August glossy magazine of the American Guild of Organists:

*'Storm pieces were popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries.*

*'Mr. Bowyer employs all of his technical prowess and musical sensitivity to conjure up some fearful squalls as well as some lovely moments of repose. The instrument is an effective weather machine. This is a fascinating and entertaining program, brilliantly executed.'*

**Faith to Faith**

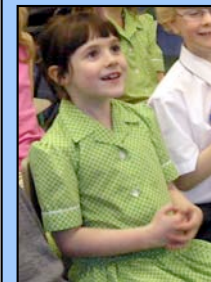
Canon Chris Chivers and Anjum Anwar MBE will be presenting another series of weekly **Face to Face** and **Faith to Faith** lunchtime discussions in the Cathedral this month, starting on **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00 pm** and continuing until **5<sup>th</sup> December.**

Last year these discussions on living out the Christian and Muslim faiths in our community attracted large and lively audiences. This time they have invited special guests to join them from the Jewish, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths.



Enjoy lunch in the Crypt Café beforehand, and bring your questions for discussion. **All are welcome.**

At her first rehearsal with the children Joy had them sitting and standing, and clapping in circles. It was great fun!



And you only had to look at the children's faces to see that they enjoyed every minute of their rehearsal.



**Welcome, Joy!**

**From OC INDRA HUGHES  
in New Zealand**

Dear John,  
Greetings again from Auckland.

As you may have heard, we have had some exciting developments here with my choir *Musica Sacra*. Earlier in the year I stumbled across an internet advert saying that the 1981 Mander chamber organ first played by John Scott at the Royal Wedding (Charles and Diana) was being sold by Princeton University.



This was the same organ that accompanied Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's performance of "Let the bright seraphim", which everyone remembers if only for the hat.

I'm so thrilled that we were able to buy the organ and bring it here to NZ, and not only that but we were specially honoured to have **John Scott** himself come down from New York to inaugurate it for us in its new home. We had a fabulous concert to a full house in the cathedral, including Bach's Cantata 29 with its famous showpiece Sinfonia and Mr Scott's fingers projected onto a big screen.



**JOY FIELDING**

**Joy by name, Joy by nature! ...**

...is the new leader of our Children's Choir; she succeeds Nicola Mills who had to relinquish this delightful responsibility due to the increase of her singing commitments.

Richard Tanner writes: 'Joy Fielding is the music teacher at Westholme Lower School. I have watched Joy working with children and I know that we are most fortunate to have her on board.'





As you can imagine the organ is causing a lot of interest, not only because of its amazingly beautiful appearance but also because of its impressive pedigree and most importantly its wonderful sound.



Here are some pictures from our special night. I've got full details of the organ, as well as our concert programme etc, on the choir's website [www.muscicasacra.org.nz](http://www.muscicasacra.org.nz)

Cheers and greetings to everyone.

Indra

Your editor received an Email from **John Scott** in New York (about another matter) which included this sentence:

*I had a wonderful time in NZ last week playing in a concert with Indra Hughes's Musica Sacra in Auckland. Another Blackburn protogé! What an enterprising and impressive musician he has become!*

Heartiest congratulations to Indra on his sparkling initiatives. So many of us remember his amazing playing of Bach's *Art of Fugue* here in January! Well done, indeed! Ed



### From GREG MORRIS at the Temple Church in London

Dear John,

Many thanks for your kind letter. Rachel and I have had a wonderful six years in Blackburn, and it is harder to leave than perhaps even we anticipated! Thank you also for all the support and encouragement you have given me over the last few years.

But life goes on, and we are looking forward to the challenges ahead. It looks likely that we will all be able to move to Buckinghamshire (where Rachel will be working and where we have accepted an offer on a house) by the end of October, so the commuting between Lancashire and London should not last too long!

With all best wishes,

Greg

*We miss you both so much. Every best possible wish for your happiness and success way down South! JB*

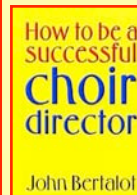
## Wednesday Lunchtime Recitals have started again!

The first, on 13<sup>th</sup> September, was given by the former organist of Salisbury Cathedral, **SIMON LOLE**. Simon and Richard Tanner were both choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral – but not at the same time. When Richard introduced Simon he said, 'Simon was organ scholar at St. Paul's when I was a boy, and he taught me!'

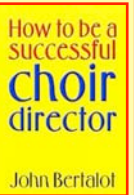


Simon played a fully varied programme – much of it loud; so much so that two ladies who had been sitting on the front row moved further back after the first piece!

*Make it a habit of coming along to the Cathedral on Wednesdays to enjoy not only a tuneful recital at 1.00 pm, but also a delicious lunch served in our super Café in the Crypt before or after the 45 minute recital.*



### John Bertalot's 3<sup>rd</sup> book on choirstraining is read all over the world



I found myself quite unable to put it down, It should be required reading for the RCO Choral Directing Diploma. Well done you!

*Dr Roy Massey, Past President of the RCO*

Your book is Fantastic!

*Dr. June Nixon, St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.*

If we all acted on your advice our choirs would be flourishing and undoubtedly the best in the world.

*The World-wide Journal of the RSCM*

Bertalot is one of the world's leading and most sought-after choral directors. His book is so successful and should be read by all.

[cathedral-sounds.org.uk](http://cathedral-sounds.org.uk)

No serious person working with a choir can afford to pass by Bertalot's *How to be a Successful Choir Director*.

*The Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians (USA)*

I'm reading your third book – and loving every illuminating word of it! I continue to sit at your feet and learn soooooo much. You are one of the treasures of my life. Thank you again, John, for your myriad gifts.

*Dr. Owen Burdick, Director of Music, Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York, NY*

Copies available from TIME & TUNE: 01254-697-460

# Celebrating 40 Glorious Years of Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association

On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, nearly 60 Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers came from as far away as Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, the Isle of Man, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire and even from the USA for this, our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. It was a glorious day.

First to arrive were **Harold ('Stan') and Margaret Stancliffe** all the way from Lymington, Hants. Stan joined the cathedral choir in the late 1930s and, with his brother, became Prefect in 1940.



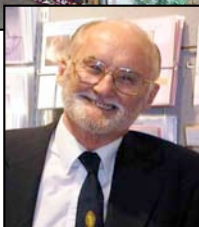
Next to arrive were BCOCA Treasurer **Alec Stuttard**, Chairman **Gordon Shaw**, and **Michael Thompson** from Clayton le Moors. And adding grace to the photo were the twins, **Constance Heald**



(who was here with founding BCOCA member OC **Peter** from Ely) and **Dorothy Wade**. The twins and Peter were also founding

members of the Renaissance Singers over 40 years ago!

They were standing in front of an amazing exhibition in the South Transept of more than 200 tapestries from schools all over the world, depicting what life is like in their towns or villages. The Dean showed SOC **Stewart Hopkinson** and **Nigel Chew** some of the glories which were on display. Then he dashed off to interview a potential assistant Virger



**Peter Heald (Prefect 1952)** is treasurer of the Friends of the City of Ely Library which is putting on a not dissimilar exhibition of works by secondary school children in Ely Library.

'It's how they see Ely,' said Peter, 'and it's also designed to brighten up the library's entrance. The results are superb.'



Next to arrive was OC **Steve Holmes (Prefect 1973)** who was about to enter the Gate of Heaven and make his way to join his fellow OCs in the Crypt. 'Manchester United is my life!' he said. (Hooray! Ed)

Already in the Crypt were Choristers from TLD's reign (1939-64). Below L-R:

**Peter Fielding (Prefect 1943)**, **Allan Holden (Prefect 1945)**, **Eric Bancroft** (Vice Chairman), **Sheila Fielding** next to **Gordon Fielding (Prefect 1946)**, and behind, **John Highton (Prefect 1943)**.



It was a very special joy for all of us to welcome back **Bob Keen** after his prolonged illness. Bob was an outstanding alto during **JB's** time, Pauline was a very active choir parent and their children John and Jill were both choristers. How good it was to welcome **Pauline** and **John** with us, too!



**11:45: Buffet lunch – delicious!**

Tucking in were (L) **John Keen (Prefect 1981)** and **Godfrey McGowan (Prefect 1960)**,



and **Heather Starkie** (YPC) with incoming SOC **John Marr (Prefect 1974)**.

**Chef Chris Dobson and his team had done us proud!**



Past Chairman and former Sub Organist **Fred Dewhurst** was there with OC **David Smalley**, and **Richard Tanner** who was taking a brief break from rehearsals.



Richard must work harder than many other cathedral Directors of Music anywhere. His schedule for the weekend was:

**Friday:**

- 4.30 pm Meeting of Finance group of FofBCM
- 6.30 Rehearsal with girls and boys
- 7.00 Rehearsal with boys
- 7.45 Rehearsal boys and men
- 8.30 Rehearsal girls and men
- 9.45 Drinks at the *Bonny Inn* with the choirmen then dinner at *Sha Jan* Restaurant until midnight.



**Saturday:**

- 8.30 am to 10.00, Rehearsal with boys
- 10.30 to Noon, Rehearsal with girls
- 12.00 Lunch with girls and meet BCOCA alums.
- 1.00 pm rehearse boys and girls
- 1.30-3.00 rehearse boys, girls & BCOCA
- 3.30 Choral Evensong and organize group photo
- 5.00-7.30 BBC Rehearsal/Balance with Renaissance Singers
- 8.00 Meal with BBC Sound engineers
- 10.00 Drinks at Whalley Abbey with BCOCA



**Sunday:**

- 6.00 am get up
- 7.00 am BBC rehearsal with the Renaissance Singers
- 8.10-8.50 BBC Live broadcast
- 9.45 rehearse cathedral boys/men
- 10.30 Eucharist with BCOCA, then farewell drinks with BCOCA.
- 12.30 Lunch and rest
- 3.15 Rehearse Cathedral boys/men
- 4.00 Choral Evensong
- 7.00 pm Dinner with a concert sponsor
- Midnight, Bed



'That was a normal weekend!' commented Richard!

*(Phew – it wasn't like that in my day! JB)*



With past-SOC **Ernie Gerner** was another most welcome OC, **David Robinson** (*Prefect 1965*), who'd recently moved from Cornwall to Cheshire. 'I'm still with newspapers as Sub Editor,' he said. 'I drive 25 miles to Macclesfield every day working on community news. It's the same group as the Daily Telegraph.'

'Gill still runs her Crossword business from home. She sends her puzzles all over the word – even as far as Bangkok!'

David smiled ruefully and added, 'It's a bit of a culture shock to come North again after 20 years in Cornwall; it's cold and the traffic is horrendous, but Gill is glad to be back near her family who live in Wrexham.'



Another welcome arrival was OC **Paul Fielding** who had brought his young chorister son, **William**, with him.

Many will remember William's outstanding singing of '...and a partridge in a pear tree', at last year's Christmas Spectacular.



The tables quickly filled up with reminiscing OCs.



It was a special joy to see **David Robinson** and **Peter Heald** deep in conversation for they hadn't seen each other for many years. *That's what our Reunions are all about!* Both were in the choir during TLD's and JB's time.



A perennial favourite is **Ralph Robinson** (*Prefect 1946*), from Yorkshire. Ralph was later to propose the Loyal Toast at the dinner – which was made especially memorable by his ready wit!



Meanwhile **William Fielding** was doing full justice to the excellent lunch!

And then our ebullient Chairman, **Gordon Shaw**, called us to order for our Annual Meeting.



L-R: Chairman **Gordon Shaw**, The Dean, Treasurer **Alec Stuttard** (*Prefect 1953*), and Treasurer **Gordon Fielding**.



The Dean chaired the meeting, as ever with humour and efficiency, paying tribute to the hard-working cathedral staff – clergy, musicians, virgers and hosts of volunteers. He told us that the recent concert attended by **HRH Princess Alexandra** had raised £30,000 for the Prince's Trust. 'That was amazing!' he commented.

He also told us that when US Secretary of State, **Condoleezza Rice**, had visited us, two military helicopters had circled overhead for 45-minutes. 'They made conversation rather difficult!' he said.

Plans for the development of the Cathedral Close, with 60 Apartments, a Deanery, houses for the resident staff, and a garden, had been submitted to the national and local authorities and there were high hopes that a start would soon be made. 'All this will cost in the region of £21M,' said the Dean, 'and not a penny will fall upon the diocesan parish share! Other cathedrals are watching us closely [sic] to see how it goes.'

A special welcome was given to **Tony Murphy (Prefect 1978)**, who had flown from New Jersey USA, especially for our Reunion.



We then rehearsed in the cathedral. The Old Choristers looked very much at home for, of course, they were!



Tony quickly teamed up with three of his contemporaries, **Iain Thompson (Prefect 1979)**, incoming SOC **John Marr (Prefect 1974)**, and **William Heap** from the Isle of Person, (**Prefect 1978**).

Tony was growing his hair (it was noticeable!). 'I'm doing it so that children who have lost their hair through cancer, can have wigs made from real hair,' he said. 'It's for an organization called *Locks for Love*. I've still got to grow another 10 inches! *Well done, Tony!*



**Iain**, who's in Shell Chemicals in Cheshire, is doing his bit to reduce carbon dioxide emissions around the world. *Well done, Iain!*

As we made our way to the Song School to rehearse for Evensong, copies of the music were being given out by OC **Chris Dawson (Prefect 2003)**. The indispensable **Emily Crewe** (now at Oxford Brookes University when she's not at the cathedral!) and **Simon Gaunt** (OC of St. Paul's) were supporting him.



Richard Tanner had told us that he needed more music desks, for there were so many singers in our choirs these days. The packed Song School made this abundantly clear!



And it was very good indeed to welcome our new Assistant Director of Music, **James Davy** (from St. Alban's), whose accompaniments were outstanding for their musicianship and imaginative colour.



SOC **Stewart Hopkinson** read the first lesson commandingly, and after the service there was a group photograph.





BCOCA 40th Anniversary Annual Reunion, 16th September, 2006

During Evensong **Naomi Crewe** (L) and **Abbie Northin** had been welcomed into the BCOCA fellowship by SOC **Stewart Hopkinson**.

Abbie was leaving next day to begin her studies as St. John's College, York, and Naomi would be looking after the Tanner household, where a brother or sister was shortly expected for James.



It was especially good to see Mrs. **Sarah Chew** in the congregation. Her younger son **Philip (Prefect 1975)** is Vicar of St. Stephen's church in Burnley, and her elder son, **Nigel (also Prefect 1975)**, is about to take his Black Belt in Jujitsu!



It was also very good indeed to welcome OC **David Marr (Prefect 1977)** & his attractive wife **Sheila**. We last saw David when he sang his final service as a treble in November that year for the first visit of Princess Alexandra!

In his brief but powerful speech, retiring SOC **Stewart Hopkinson (Prefect 1976)** who is also our new BCOCA Chairman, thanked those of us who had founded BCOCA 40 years ago and especially retiring Chairman **Gordon Shaw**. (*Ovation!*)

Conversation during an especially delicious dinner at 5-star Whalley Abbey (after a BCOCA group-photo on the steps with the ladies – see *next column*) was at a high level. **Tony Murphy**, who is an executive at Cadbury's in the USA, said that they are working to produce degradable chewing gum; **William Heap**, who was sitting next to his charming daughter, **Charlotte**, told us that he had 150 customers all over the world whom he was advising regarding their investments; **Iain Thompson**, with his delightful wife, **Carrie-Anne**, had just bought an allotment. 'It's 5 rods long,' he said. 'What's a rod?' I asked. 'It's the distance between the end of the nose on your ox, and the back of your plough!' (*Of course!*)

'Now it's up to the younger generation to ensure the future of BCOCA,' he said. He then handed over his badge of office to **John Marr**.

It was a GREAT Reunion!  
**See p.32 for next year!**

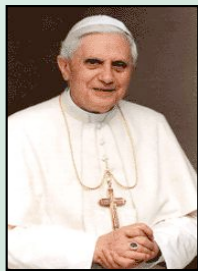


# A quest for peace

BBC Radio 4 Sunday worship at Blackburn Cathedral  
(for the second time this year)

by Canon Chris Chivers.

(Cathedral photos taken during the Sunday rehearsal at 7.30 am)



As tensions ran high around the world, at remarks which Pope Benedict XVI had made about Islam in a lecture, so listeners to Radio 4 grappled with the issues all morning on Sunday 17 September. Perhaps one of the highest-profile Christian-Muslim flashpoints for many a year was unfolding just as listeners were continuing to tune in for the 8.10 am Sunday Worship from Blackburn Cathedral.

Canon Chivers and Richard Tanner had been phoned in August and asked at very short notice to fill a slot that another church was no longer able to fill.

It was the Sunday post the fifth anniversary of 9/11 so the idea to respond swiftly to the anniversary in some way proved itself an excellent catalyst for the crafting of words and music that would reflect on the quest for peace.



Given the cathedral's increasingly high-profile role in interfaith matters it seemed absolutely right to build on the dialogue relationship that Canon Chivers has fostered with Anjum Anwar MBE, of the Lancashire Council of Mosques, and to explore the contribution that religions have made – both



negatively and positively – to world peace, involving young people from the cathedral (including Jonathan Turner who read a lesson so well) and from Blackburn College, with the musical talents of the Renaissance Singers, Philippa Hyde, James Davy and Richard Tanner.



Following an introduction from the Dean and the Taizé chant, *My peace / leave you*, a personal experience of Canon Chivers's from pre-9/11 New York set the scene for an exploration of the text, *And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares*.

At one stage it had been the intention to sing a setting of this text by Sir John Tavener, but when Canon Chivers and Richard Tanner decided that this wasn't quite right, they turned to James Davy, on practically his first day in the saddle, as Greg



Morris's successor.

His haunting setting contributed much to the atmosphere of a meditation which then saw Anjum Anwar reflect on some significant moments in Islamic history where peace has been promoted.

As she also related her experience of not being served in a local shop the day after 9/11 simply because she was a Muslim, she spoke movingly of her resolve to overcome this slight with love, as she encouraged listeners similarly to overcome the conflicts of life with the same quality, and to reach across differences of religion and culture.



The Renaissance Singers vividly expressed this call in the extraordinarily evocative setting by David Fanshawe (from his African Sanctus) of the Kyrie which accompanies the singing of the Muslim Call to Prayer. **The composer himself, a distinguished explorer and advocate of inter-faith co-operation was clearly deeply touched by the performance: he wrote wonderfully warm and appreciative letters to both Canon Chivers and Richard Tanner. (See p. 31)** For many this musical meeting-place clearly made the words real. 'You gave us all something to hope for... something to work for,' said one correspondent.



Arrangements for the choir of the hymns *Make me a channel of your peace* and *Lord of all hopefulness*, together with Richard Tanner's setting of Desmond Tutu's Prayer for Peace – composed for the recent visit to the cathedral of Condoleezza Rice – and Philippa Hyde's luminous rendering of Charles Stanford's solo *Song for Peace*, framed the prayers

– which were being written up to a minute before the service, so as to capture where people were in relation to contemporary events – and all of which spoke of the need to move beyond tolerance towards respect.

The angst being experienced around the words of Pope Benedict and their possible meaning and undoubted significance was reflected in the words of the young people who asked that we be sensitive in the language we use to one another, as also to the way in which we treat each other whatever beliefs we hold to.

As words gave way to a gloriously uplifting voluntary by Marcel Dupré, everyone present knew that they had been involved in an act of worship which had modelled the kind of conversations and respectfulness that it sought to promote.



As one of the more elderly of the cathedral's 10.30 congregation later put it: **"it was perfect...every word, every note... it gave us vision and hope."**

You can't ask for more than that!

Read the script of the broadcast!

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/programmes/sunday\\_worship/documents/20060917.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/programmes/sunday_worship/documents/20060917.shtml)



## OC DAVID SMALLEY...

... organised an astonishing concert in the cathedral on 11<sup>th</sup> October. 200 children came from St. Mary's School, Mellor, Westholme School Choir, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Choir and Swing Band, with the Conchord Singers from Hyndburn. Much of the music was by David himself and it was he who brought the whole evening together. Amazing!

It was in aid of the rebuilding of Lokna village in Indonesia which was virtually wiped out by the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami.



Jonathan Armstrong's wife, Nyanyak, lost 40 members of her family that day, and Jonathan gave a moving account of what had happened since. The whole evening was a tremendous success and it was attended by a full centre Nave of parents and friends, and by the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn.

*Well done, David!*

**Glossy copies of the BCOCA Reunion (p. 23): £10-00 for A4 (the size of this page) and £20-00 for A3 (twice the size of this page). All profits to BCOCA.**

Order from John Bertalot, Cathedral Close, Blackburn BB1 5AA, enclosing your cheque made out to BCOCA.

Include your name and address, **PRINTED** please!

A4 photos will be mailed, but A3s should be collected from the Cathedral Office. Allow 7-10 days. Thanks. JB

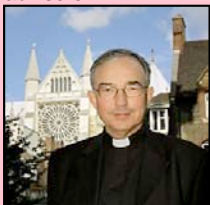


## Former Canon of Blackburn Cathedral to be the new Dean of Westminster!

**Canon John Hall** was Diocesan Director of Education at Blackburn from 1992-98, succeeding **Canon Brian Beaumont**, and was appointed a Residentiary Canon in 1994. He was also a member of the Governing Body of St. Martin's College.

Canon Hall then moved to London as General Secretary of the National Society for promoting Religious Education, and in 2002 he became the Chief Education Officer of the Church of England, concerned for parish education (children, young people and adults), school education (5,000 C of E schools – Religious Education is in all schools) and the Church's involvement and interest in lifelong learning, further and higher education.

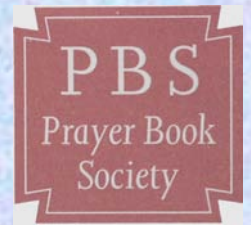
He has led, at Church House Westminster, a professional team that relates to Government and other national educational bodies, and resources the forty-three Diocesan teams of education officers and advisers.



Canon Hall (57) said, "With its many, great resonances for Church and State, in the service of monarch and people, and as a place of pilgrimage and prayer, **Westminster Abbey has a unique ministry**. Becoming the next Dean of Westminster is an immense honour and challenge, which I look forward to with relish."

*Among John Hall's interests is music! His many friends in Blackburn will rejoice in his appointment. Heartiest congratulations are most certainly in order!*  
**MORE from Dean David Frayne: See p. 31**

## Prayer Book Society



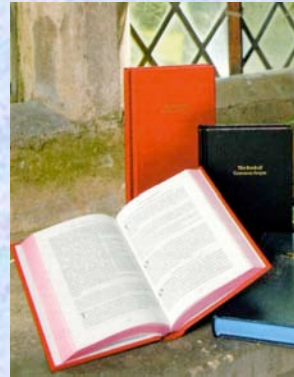
"O Lord, open thou our lips."

How many church musicians cut their teeth on the Book of Common Prayer, and love it still!

Bedrock theology; stirring memorable language; the familiar Calendar. "Every Englishman's birthright" which we should hand on to succeeding generations.

Help us to stop the BCP being sidelined. Use it or you'll lose it!

### Join the PBS



Write or phone the Blackburn Diocese Branch  
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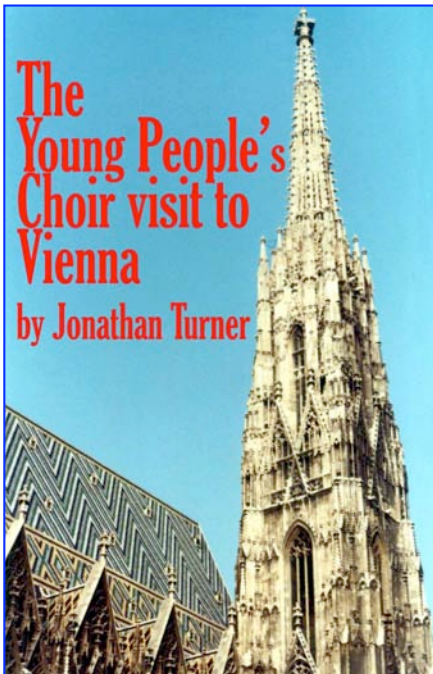
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Photos by Andy Bruce, Jeremy Duerden & Jonathan Turner.

From the 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 the Young People's Choir, skilfully directed by Greg Morris, undertook their tour of the historic city, Vienna.

Most of the tour party were very prompt in arriving at the cathedral for 3:00am on the Friday, some of whom came sufficiently filled with bacon sandwiches, amongst other substances.

It was also clear some people hadn't been to bed, however the majority were surprisingly awake and highly talkative! We were very fortunate to have Nicola Mills, Mark Hounsell and Marcus Farnsworth, our three wonderful soloists, travelling with us.



The Cathedral's exceptional Director of Music, Richard Tanner came too. He was brilliant, not least in accompanying, but also helping me with registration and balance, which was crucial.

Also joining us were Anitra & Edward Haythornwhite and Val Edge who were our fantastic 'buddy group' leaders. We were very grateful for their time and efforts in organising, supervising, and not least baking! In addition, Judge Jeremy & Jean Duerden came to represent the Chapter, and took some stunning photographs!

Our coach journey from the Cathedral to Luton Airport took just over 4 hours, and by the time we arrived very few people had caught up on sleep!



After scouring duty-free, we boarded and landed in Bratislava at soon after 2:00pm, local time.

Despite a small security scare involving our box of tour programmes, we continued from Bratislava Airport, taking a short coach journey across the border to Vienna.



We arrived at our hotel, Don Bosco Haus, at around 4:00pm and allocated everyone to their room. After dinner at the hotel, most of us were shattered, and many had returned to their rooms by 8:30pm. It had been an extremely long day and we had two important days ahead of us!

The following morning we took our first trip into the centre of Vienna. Arriving at Stephansplatz, virtually the first landmark we saw was Vienna's magnificent cathedral.

During the morning we located Peterskirche, and I was briefly able to acquaint myself with the vast organ!



Afterwards we visited Mozart Haus where we received a fascinating audio guide about his Viennese life.



After lunch everyone returned to Peterskirche for a rehearsal with the soloists and organ, eventually performing an evening mass, Schubert in G. This had to be one of the more unusual services I have ever been involved in because it was carried out in German and I was required to play when pointed at! The building, however, was spectacular, and lovely to sing and play in.

It was a very interesting experience that was followed by a short concert.

*(See full-page photo opposite)*

Heartiest congratulations to Edward Haythornwhite who kindly announced and translated the titles of our pieces at two minutes' notice!

For dinner we travelled to Wambacher restaurant that was 10 minutes walk from the hotel, making it convenient to have late nights there! On this occasion everyone was able to take full advantage of the whole menu, with many people having huge trays of ribs!

*Wambacher*



For much of the tour we were joined by Martina, who is daughter of Elisabeth & Johann Wunderer for whom Pippa Tanner was au pair during her time in Vienna. Having spent a year in the U.S.A. Martina's English was excellent, which was most useful when it came to ordering food, as she kindly translated for every table!

This particular evening everyone returned to the hotel fairly early, as we needed to get up around 6:30am in order to travel to our second venue, Briggittaskirche.

Marcus Farnsworth warmed the choir up rigorously at the hotel before we left, and after some tram confusion, we eventually reached Briggitskirche in time for a 9:30am mass.



Again, we performed Schubert's Mass in G, along with the choir motets 'God so loved the world' by Chilcott, and Byrd's 'Ave Verum'. The service ended with Andrew Simpson's 'Sing unto the Lord', followed by organ improvisation on it!

playing Praeludium in C by Buxtehude – I didn't realise until half way through that everyone had remained seated to listen!



Some of the staff and soloists completed the day with a sumptuous meal at The Renaissance Hotel Restaurant. This gave us a chance to relax and enjoy some of Mozart's dumplings!

On Monday, life was more relaxing. In the morning, we were taken on a walking tour of Vienna, kindly planned by Philippa Hyde. This was fascinating both historically and visually. Certainly the most moving part was seeing a monument that was in commemoration of more than 65,000 Austrian Jews who were killed by the Nazis between 1938 and 1945.



The weather was very pleasant, which made for a lovely afternoon at Schönbrunn Palace. After an audio tour of the extravagant palace everyone enjoyed free time in the huge palace gardens, amongst other attractions.



The monument was made up of stone-carved books, each representing a single person, which was highly touching. The tour finished with ice cream at Eissalon Schwedenplatz.



I enjoyed lunch in the Gloriette, which had glorious views back over the city. Later that afternoon everyone regrouped to travel to our final venue, Christ Church, the Anglican Church in Vienna (*photo of rehearsal, next column*).

Here, we performed Choral Evensong, a fitting end to the singing part of the tour. We sang 'O Nata Lux' by Tallis, Radcliffe Responses, Nicholson in Db and an excerpt from Part 2 of 'The Creation' by Haydn. The choir sang extremely well in what was Greg's last ever service with them, and I finished by



This set us up nicely for an afternoon at the Prater (*Funfair*)! This complex of rides and fun fair activities seemed to stretch for miles, therefore keeping everyone occupied for many hours! (*See photos next page!*)

Almost all of us enjoyed crashing into each other on the **dodgems**, and even on the **go-karts** for many laps! Some preferred to get wet-through on the **log flume**, and others came off '**Superman**' feeling nauseous.

Overall, everybody had a fantastic time, so much so that a group returned the following day to exhilarate themselves further!



Enjoying the dodgems were (top) Jonathan Swales and (R) Matthew Oglesby

Vienna's impressive sights, and was followed by free time in the centre of the city.



That evening was our final visit to the Wambacher restaurant, and it was most enjoyable. (L) Josh Abbott and Alex Wood (again!)



Above: Jeremy Duerden & Val Edge. (L): Edward & Anitra Haythornwhite

Go - karting was Alex Wood (and many others!)



James Holding took the opportunity to say a few words of thanks to Richard, myself and, of course, Greg.

The choir had kindly collected and bought each of us presents. This was a poignant way in which to end six wonderful years for Greg, and I was very fortunate to have been involved in just one of them.



As expected, the evening soon turned into morning, and table tennis was still being enjoyed at 4:00am!

Surprisingly, everyone was ready to leave on time the next morning, but I for one was sad to leave such a captivating city. It was a wonderful way to end my year at the cathedral, and I was glad to have shared it with the people I did.

Enormous thanks go to Nicola, Mark and Marcus for adding so much to the tour both musically and socially. Likewise, Edward, Anitra & Val were fantastic, and I know we couldn't have coped without them. It was lovely to have Jean & Jeremy joining us, as they too were wonderfully supportive and provided everyone with spectacular photographic memories.

My personal thanks to Richard, Greg and Linda for making my year so memorable. You've provided me with so many outstanding musical opportunities, which I now look forward to taking to Lincoln College. Of course, I will miss everyone in Blackburn enormously, but I do hope to see you all during my holidays! (Final photo of most of us, next page!)

Jonathan Turner



Log-fluming were (front) Laura Slater, Rosie Mc-Inerney and Ed Haythornwhite



Closeups on Superman: Alex W., Emma Pearson & Josh Abbott

The next day it seemed like a very early breakfast! During the morning almost all the whole party took tram no. 2 around "Ringstrasse", although it was noticeable two of our soloists were missing! This enabled everyone to take in more of



## RENAISSANCE SINGERS IN WALES

### by Richard Tanner

This summer the Renaissance Singers spent a few hot July days singing daily services in the beautiful Welsh Cathedral of St David's.



Not all of the Singers were able to make it, so it was a great delight to be able to welcome back former choir members, [Janet Clayton](#), [Ruth Turner](#), [Andrew Darke](#) and [Emily Crewe](#) (although, I'm not sure 'former choir member' is an accurate description!), as well as [Philippa Hyde](#) and Jonathan Turner's sister, [Sarah](#), to sing with us.

There was an interesting mixture of music, composed by Ireland, Tomkins (former organist of St David's), Victoria, Monteverdi, Leighton, Moon, Tallis, Sumsion, Chivers, Wood, Mozart, Stanford, Mendelssohn and Bach, to sing.

We enjoyed skillful organ accompaniments from [Greg Morris](#) and [Jonathan Turner](#) and it was a delight to perform Mozart's Laudate Dominum and Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer" (incorporating "O for the wings of a dove") with Philippa Hyde as soloist.



On Wednesday evening, I gave an organ recital on the recently built fine Harrison Organ. There was a large and appreciative audience.

I told them how wonderful it was to be staying in St David's, but that Lancashire is also a lovely place to go for a holiday! The welcome from the Cathedral was superb. The [virgiers](#) were so helpful and the [Dean](#) and [Canons](#) extremely friendly. So much so that they invited us to a special drinks reception in the garden of the Canony after Matins on Sunday.

The social side of the week was, as always, great fun. Chairman, [Eileen Hemingway](#), was the life and soul of the party as would be expected. Our chief chef, [Peter Crewe](#) - along with his assistant [Naomi Crewe](#) - fed us all with the most delicious meals each day at Caerhafod Lodge, where the majority of the tour party were staying (some 7 miles out of the City). Others were staying at the Square and Compass pub or in caravans and tents.



It was [Owen Kennedy's](#) swan song as a member of the Renaissance Singers and his great service to the choir was celebrated on our last evening. Right up until his final appearance with us, at Evensong on 20th July, he was singing at the high standard we have all enjoyed for so many years. We will miss his musicianship and friendship tremendously - but hope to see him on a regular basis.

So, a big thank you to Owen and another big thank you to [Gordon Shaw](#) for organising the entire week for the Renaissance Singers. He worked extremely hard on our behalf and the great success of our week in Wales is a great tribute to the attention to detail that Gordon put in on our behalf.



Over the past five years the Renaissance Singers have now sung services in Cathedrals in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales!!

**From  
Dean David Frayne  
on  
Dean of Westminster  
designate,  
John Hall**



Yes! How good that Blackburn Diocese and Cathedral will bask in not a little "reflected glory" upon learning that John Hall is to be the next Dean of Westminster. The gifts that he shared with us at Blackburn will be ever more evident in good measure in such a "high profile" appointment.

There can be few Cathedral Canons who can boast of THREE Installations in the same Cathedral! John was installed as an Honorary Canon by Michael Taylor (acting Provost) before my arrival and his subsequent Installation as a Residentiary Canon.



It was upon his appointment as the Church of England's Chief Education Officer that he was installed as an Honorary Canon again after Bishop Alan Chesters and I decided that John should take "something of Blackburn with him" as he left Blackburn for London.



John's gifts as Blackburn's Director of Education fully supported and built upon those new links with schools and Diocesan work among children and young people that the Cathedral was trying to forge. The Christmas "Lunchtime Carols" was but one example.

As an already experienced priest and pastor, (Diocese of Southwark!) John quickly won the affection of many in the congregation who responded to his thoughtful and incisive preaching and to both the dignity and spirituality that was clearly evident in the way he conducted worship.



If there is anything in the current Cathedral worship programme that owes its origin to John Hall, it is the contemporary Liturgy for Good Friday that he very successfully pioneered with Gordon Stewart and the Young People's Choir as a

most fitting evening climax to the traditional Choral Matins, Litany and Ante-Communion and the Three Hours' Devotion.

John always relished his Blackburn opportunities to offer his ideas around the Chapter table. Now for his second chance - but now it will surely be "Abbey refereeing!!"

*Liz & I are well, having had a splendid "Great Train Journeys" holiday in Switzerland and looking forward to 10 days in France next month. Glad that the BCOCA weekend went so well. DAVID*

**PRAISE INDEED!**

The Internationally known composer **DAVID FANSHAWE** wrote this letter to Richard Tanner after our recent Sunday morning live broadcast when the Renaissance Singers sang his African Sanctus.

*Heartiest congratulations are due to Richard and the Singers for their brilliant performance of this unusual work. Ed.*



18.9.06  
Dear Richard,  
Many congratulations on the choice of music and all performances for the BBC's Sunday Worship Service yesterday. I thought the Renaissance Singers sounded quite lovely and I felt your most lyrical counterpoint to the Call to Prayer was quite sublime. The mix was just right and the juxtaposition of Tape to Live perfect. One of the best performances I have ever heard. Perhaps you might consider a complete performance in Blackburn Cathedral one day? (African Sanctus) Please pass on my most sincere congratulations to all the singers and thank them for a very spiritually uplifting service. I loved your piece too.  
Very best wishes  
David Fanshawe

*From Philip Billson, BBC Producer of Sunday Worship.*

A belated thank you to everyone who took part in the speech & music and to all those who worked to make things like this happen logistically at the Cathedral. It was a tremendously good service and has gone down extremely well at Radio 4...

...the music was top notch, with some lovely new pieces to boot (thanks to Richard and James). It was a considered and thought through piece which I know people will remember.

All good wishes, Philip



**EXPLORE** our Cathedral Websites!



You can see what's on at the Cathedral every day!

You can read the choirboys' own website!

You can read some of the past editions of the Cathedral Newsletters (although they will take a little time to download!) ... and MORE!

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cathedral!  
It's all happening here!



- The Cathedral's Website is [www.blackburncathedral.com](http://www.blackburncathedral.com)
- Richard Tanner's Website is [www.richardtanner.co.uk](http://www.richardtanner.co.uk)
- The Boy Choristers' Website is [www.bcbchoir.org.uk](http://www.bcbchoir.org.uk)
- Your Editor's Website is [www.bertalot.org](http://www.bertalot.org)

## Concerts' Launch for 2006-2007

On Wednesday evening, 4<sup>th</sup> October, in the crypt, before an enthusiastic audience of Blackburn Cathedral Music Friends, RICHARD TANNER unveiled what will be the most ambitious series of concerts in Blackburn Cathedral yet!



When the Dean welcomed us, he said that music was the flagship of enterprise in our cathedral. And although this was true of other cathedrals, yet in Blackburn we manage to produce amazing results from so many willing volunteers, for which he and the Chapter are so grateful.

Richard said that our last season raised standards and expectations and how grateful he was to everyone who had contributed not only musically and organisationally but also financially.

He then shared, little by little, the amazing programme that the music department has prepared for us – using a digital projector (which took a little persuasion to get going!). However the Dean said that the delay allowed us to enjoy a welcome glass of wine beforehand instead of having to wait until the end!



*Using the projector, Richard showed us just what we had enjoyed last year, and what is being prepared for us all this year.*

And In between each unveiling we were treated to a wonderful selection of vocal solos from our younger choristers, who delighted us all.



*Our young soloists L-R: Adam Whittaker, Sarah Chew, Charles Forshawe, Emma Pearson & Angela Hicks.*



Arthur Geldard sang *Linden Lea* from memory most beautifully, and **Philippa Hyde** sang not one, but two solos so deliciously – from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, giving us a foretaste of what is in store for us later this season.

## The Programme!

Performed by our cathedral choirs of boys, girls and men, and the Renaissance Singers, with outstanding soloists and orchestras!

**Nov 11 Music of GERALD FINZI**

**Dec 16 CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR – GALA!\***

**Dec 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE, with Champagne**

**Jan 27 Concert by brilliant PERCUSSIONISTS**

**Feb 4 10.30 Eucharist. PATRONAL FESTIVAL**  
Haydn Mass with Orchestra  
4.00 Choral Evensong with Orchestra

**Feb 24 Music of EDWARD ELGAR**

**March 4 Biber MYSTERY SONATAS**

**March 16 Handel's MESSIAH – GALA!\***

**April 4 Bach's ST. MATTHEW PASSION – GALA!\***

**April 21 THE SIXTEEN**

**May 22 ST. GEORGE'S SINGERS, CAPE TOWN**

**June 23 LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS – GALA!\***

**July 7 GALA DINNER**

**PLUS**

*\*GALA! = Concert with Reception!*

- Our regular **Wednesday Lunchtime Recitals** by highly gifted musicians.
- Organ Meditations of music by Messiaen & Langlais
- Primary Schools Christmas Lunchtime Concerts
- **More BBC Broadcasts!**

Prospecti with full details will be available in November. Call Mrs. Linda Bruce for your copy. 01254-50-30-82

And keep in touch by looking at the cathedral website at least once a week!

[www.blackburncathedral.com](http://www.blackburncathedral.com)

*How very fortunate we are to be in this blessed place right now where so much is happening, Liturgically, Pastorally, Musically and in creative Outreach to our Community.*

**All these concerts deserve your support. Remember who sold 60 tickets for one concert? You could do the same!**



Next year's **BCOC Reunion** has been provisionally booked for **6-7 October** at the Cathedral & Whalley Abbey.



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Printed by DELMAR PRESS, Nantwich, CW5 5LS