



Friends of  
Blackburn  
Cathedral  
**MUSIC**

# BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

F<sup>of</sup>BCM Edition No. 21

BCOCA Edition No. 30

**February, 2007**

*Designed and Edited by Dr. John Bertalot,  
Cathedral Close, Blackburn, BB1 5AA*

*Send your news and photos via E-mail to [john@bertalot.org](mailto:john@bertalot.org)*



BCOCA

Blackburn  
Cathedral  
Old Choristers  
Association

£3



Our original Lantern Tower, with stunning glass by John Hayward, was designed by Laurence King, who was the architect responsible for the major restoration and redecoration work completed here from 1964-1969. The Provost was Norman Robinson.

The Tower was restored and renewed in 1999 by our then architect, Brian Lowe, with glass by Linda Walton, which was inspired by the Water of Baptism and the Fire of the Holy Spirit. The Provost (later, Dean) was David Frayne.



**BEN TANNER**

**Heartiest congratulations to Pippa and Richard on the birth of Ben, Sunday, 15th October, 2006**

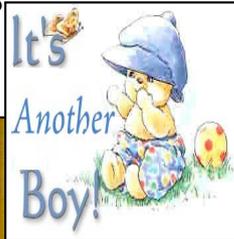


Ben is named after St. Benedict (not named after the new Pope!). Richard said that St. Benedict, who founded the Benedictines, was notable for his hospitality. May young Ben, brother of James, take after not only the Saint, but also his wonderfully hospitable and gifted Parents! [See page 22](#)

**Heartiest Congratulations to the Clitherow Family on the birth of EDWARD**



Canon Andrew Clitherow holds Edward whilst Rebekah echoes his lovely smile. Emily isn't quite sure!



**From OC PETER CROWTHER J.P. in Lancaster**



Hi John

Please find attached a picture of **JEAN** and me, with our first-born grandson, **ADAM**, (he wasn't laying abounden just then) and our newest grandson, **CHARLIE**. He is doing really well and **ALISON** is thriving.



Hope you can use this in the Newsletter, together with our best wishes to all our friends, wherever they may be.

Very best wishes to you

**Peter**

*Heartiest congratulations, Peter, Jean and especially Alison! What a lovely photograph of an equally wonderful family. JB*

*Peter is Marketing Officer of the Economic Development & Tourism Service of Lancaster City Council.*

**From OC PETER BANKS in Surrey**

A quick and informal note to let you know that **SOPHIE** was born yesterday (28<sup>th</sup> Sept.) at a bouncing 7lb 15ozs. Val and Sophie are both well, home within 6 hours of birth and providing Evie with a 'cute' little sister.

Best wishes to all

**Peter, Val, Evie and Sophie.**



*Heartiest congratulations to all, including Grandmother Joan Banks, who is a strong member of our congregation! Congratulations, also, to Peter on his paintings of Christ Church, Oxford, which adorn the walls of his house. JB*

# WELCOME 1

## DAVID SCOTT-THOMAS

A very warm welcome to our new assistant organist, **DAVID SCOTT-THOMAS**, who took up his duties with us in October, following Jonathan Turner's departure for the dark blue skies over Lincoln College, Oxford.



David has had a remarkable career already: During the last 15 years he has been organ scholar of Liverpool Cathedral under the dynamic leadership of Professor Ian Tracey. He studied at London's Trinity College of Music, and made his recital debut at the Royal Festival Hall! He was also organist of several London churches including St. James, Spanish Place. He then spent 7 months in Australia giving organ recitals, and he was also assistant organist of a church in the USA.

Since 1997 he has been Director of Music of St. George's Church, Stockport, which is one of the largest churches in the North of England. He's also directed choral societies and won prestigious organ-playing prizes.

He's multi-talented – playing not only 'classical' organ and piano music but also jazz, and he's certified in IT skills. He keeps fit by regular visits to the gym, and he enjoys horse-riding and gardening.

*Welcome, David!*

# WELCOME 2

## JEFFREY ROBINSON

An equally warm welcome to our new Assistant Virger, Jeffrey Robinson who came to us on November 1st – straight from being team manager for 9 years of Blackburn Ice Rink! His home is in Blackburn and he went to school at St. Wilfrid's.



'What I enjoy most at the cathedral is working with such friendly people,' said Jeffrey. 'It's so peaceful here.'

*But you'll have to deal with some awkward customers sometimes.*

'Yes, but I was quite used to that in my former job!'

Canons' Virger Suzanne Trudgill. said 'He's made a great start!'

*Welcome, Jeffrey!*

## Email from the new Dean of Westminster

### The Very Reverend John Hall

*(former Residentiary Canon of Blackburn)*

Dear John

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your latest wonderful Newsletter.

It was good to read of so many interesting events involving the musicians of Blackburn Cathedral – and particularly kind of you to include David Frayne's note about me since we (sadly) overlapped in Blackburn for so short a time.



I was delighted to read of so much and to know that cathedral music in Blackburn is going from strength to strength.

If you are ever going to be down in Westminster, please let me know. It would be good to see you again. I shall always be pleased to see old friends from my Blackburn days when I am at the Abbey.

With all very best wishes

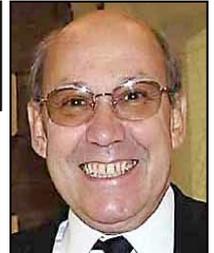
**John**

*See page 12 for more!*

*What about arranging a cathedral outing from Blackburn to the Abbey to visit our former Residentiary Canon? Ed.*

## E mail from OC

### BOB KEEN in Wilmslow



Dear John,

We thought the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BCOCA Reunion went very well, good music, good venue, good grub and above all, good company.

We went to the Sung Eucharist on the Sunday morning but I opted out of the anthem and instead went upstairs to ring some **Plain Bob Minor** and Cambridge Surprise Minor on what are lovely bells. There were only 8 ringers including me, so I thought their need was the greater.

Regards, Bob

*Well Rung, Bob Major! JB*

## E MAIL FROM OC NOEL HUNWICK

*who, with an Oxford contemporary, is setting up a new restaurant in London!*



Dear John,

The restaurant creation job is advancing slowly but acceptably surely. If only we could get a property....

We've just received our business cards and letterheads, They'll be temporary, as when we get a location the company name (Comp rants) will be less prominent (a good job as far as I'm concerned, the company was named before I arrived, and it's a truly bad name), the email address will switch to that of the restaurant (**inamo** – which I came up with...so am obviously far happier with!), as will the mailing address.

We're working through the next stage of screens from the graphic designer, about to speak to a couple of interior designers and architects, and also PR agencies. We'll be attending the Restaurant Show next week. Should be fun.

Noel.

INAMO ???! JB



## JOY FIELDING by Richard Tanner

Joy, who is the new director of our cathedral children's choir has had a distinguished career in local music education.

One of her first jobs was as assistant to **Edward Haythornwhite** at St Wilfrid's School. More recently, she has taught at St Mary's College and at Westholme, where she has taught in the upper school (including direction of their Chamber Choir, which I have just taken over from her) and also the junior school, where I have had the good fortune to observe her brilliant work with young children.

**Emily Crewe** worked as her class assistant on Mondays during her year as music scholar and gained a great deal from this experience. Joy also teaches singing and piano privately at home and has taught a number of our choristers over the years as a result.

Her email address is: [joy@jfielding.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:joy@jfielding.fsbusiness.co.uk)



## Guide publié en Français

Heartiest congratulations to **OC Godfrey McGowan**, who has written a guide to the cathedral in French! He told your editor that 'the demand for such is limited - apart from students engaged with their GCSE course work'!

*Godfrey has recently been in hospital - twice - but happily is now on the mend.*

*Hurry back fully healed, Godfrey, we need your faithful presence!*

## The report on OC DAVID SMALLEY'S GALA CONCERT...

...just managed to squeeze itself into the last edition of the Newsletter: the concert took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October; the Newsletter was mailed to the printers the next day!

But every congratulation should be showered upon David, for his concert raised significant cash in aid of the LOKNA Appeal (after the Tsunami in Indonesia). It was a musical as well as a financial triumph!

*Well done, David!*

### David wrote to your editor:

Dear John,

Thank you so much for your coverage of the October Charity Concert for the Lokna and other disasters. We raised over £2,000 on the night which, after considerable expenses for transport, programmes, use of cathedral and so on, should produce a profit of over £1,500 for the Fund. The accounts will be published soon.

Having donated towards the Newsletter in the past (we didn't get our names published then) and having offered to in recent times, we are happy to have the opportunity of contributing something. (It will be in Alison's name, then you can recover the tax).

You mentioned that you knew Herbert Howells in the latest



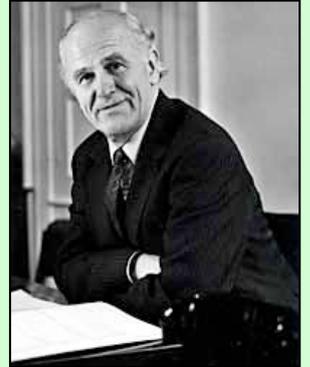
newsletter. I got to know him in the 1950s as he came to the Blackpool Competitive Music Festival every year.



One year he awarded me 97% for general musicianship (the 2nd prize was 85%) and I was invited to his table, while he took afternoon tea with the officials, where he gave me his copy of the tests in his own manuscript. We had a good haul that day as I won a prize in the sight-reading class too, with a different adjudicator.

I also used to enter the Fleetwood Music Festival where the main adjudicator every year was Sir David Willcocks.

I won first prize in the piano duet class several years running with different partners each time. One year it was rather hot so I took my jacket off and competed in shirt sleeves. After awarding the prizes David Willcocks beckoned to me with his finger asking me to join him at the keyboard where we played the piece through again, but not before he had removed HIS jacket and handed it to the steward, so that we both played in shirt sleeves. It brought the house down!



My piano teacher was Annie Almond ARCM who was a close friend of Kathleen Ferrier. They went to the same piano teacher, Frances Walker, who was an accomplished ex-pupil of Tobias Matthay. Annie was delighted when I won the Frances Walker Memorial Prize for Grade 7. At this stage I was a linguist and had no intention of making Music a major part of my career.

Thank you so much for continuing to produce your outstanding newsletters. The quality of presentation is staggering. One is led to ask, "Do you continue to pursue Music in your spare time?"

Best regards, **David**

## From OC JOHN KEEN in Nottingham (son of OC Bob)

Dear John,  
Thanks for yours.

I enjoyed every minute of this year's OCs' Reunion, particularly the choice of music, the arrival of some surprise but friendly faces from my own peer group (**Tony Murphy** from the USA, **Will Heap** from the Isle of Man and **Iain Thompson** from England!)

...and the fantastic food and ambience provided by Whalley Abbey. Not to mention the "Happy Birthday JB" rendition before the service. And practising in the Song School evoked lots of special memories.

Requests for the next Reunion, please:

- More of the same with Whalley Abbey dinner;
- And more BCOCA altos - only 3 of us this year with split alto lines!
- And good luck to **Stewart Hopkinson** as he takes over the BCOCA Chair
- And to **John Marr** in his year as SOC

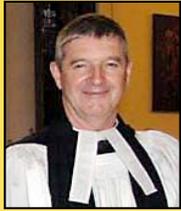
Best regards,

**John**

**Yes: This year's Reunion has been booked at Whalley Abbey, and the Cathedral, for Saturday-Sunday, 6-7 October.**

**Please note the later date, due to heavy bookings at the Abbey.**





## From Dean Christopher Armstrong

Congratulations on the latest Newsletter. It is quite excellent and one of its exceptional qualities is that it is so accurate!  
God bless,  
**Christopher**

*Thanks so much! Ed*

## From OC FRANK HARE near Malvern

Hello John

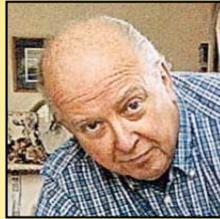
It was great to read about **Ivor Bolton's** wonderful career. You did so much for him when he was a boy and teen in our choir.

The piece on **David Fanshawe** was interesting. I was singing with the Romsey Singers when living there 1969-71, when we were asked to send 8 singers to sing at his wedding at Romsey Abbey. My only regret was that for the one and only time in my life I missed the FA Cup Final to be there.

One evening some year later I was travelling to Southport to give a lecture to the "Southport Scientific Society" and I heard his *African Sanctus* for the first time and was knocked out by it. I openly cried during the "Our Father" - quite something - as it still has the same effect all these years later!

That's it.

Love to all **Frank**

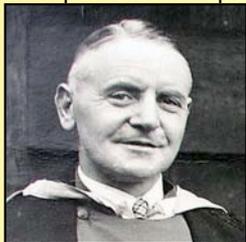


## From BCOCA Treasurer GORDON FIELDING

John,

I was sorry to hear that the grand piano used for choir rehearsals was on its last legs (or is it 'last strings' for a piano?).

I well remember it being used and sometimes misused during the days of TLD. [Organist 1939-64] The Friday rehearsals were accompanied by Rev Wallace Clarke, Precentor. He was a very accomplished accompanist.



**Unfortunately, his playing enabled TLD to move along the desks, rattling a pencil between our teeth if our mouths weren't sufficiently open, and flicking music off the desk if attention was lacking. No risk of such things nowadays!**

My father told me that the piano was 'rescued' from the Grand Theatre, where it had lain for several years under the stage. No doubt it needed restoration work before being used. Since that time, it has given sterling service for over 60 years - it has lasted longer than its original home at the Grand Theatre, but that's no surprise really. If the replacement lasts as long, it will still be played on long after most BCOCA members are long gone. With that thought I'll sign off.

**Gordon**



*Yes, a replacement is being sought for our grand old grand: stand by for an up-date.*

## Fielding CD of Piano Duets!

**Heartiest congratulations to OC PETER FIELDING and his equally talented son, MARK, who will be making a CD of piano duets in aid of BCOCA Funds., Peter wrote to the editor:**

John, thanks for another splendid Newsletter. I shall rally to the call and fill in a Standing Order towards the cost of same. (Thanks! JB)

I mentioned to Richard Tanner a little time ago that Mark and myself are intending making a CD of Duos we have enjoyed playing over the past years. We are going to record it at the School where Mark teaches, St. Edmonds in Herts. **All profits, after overheads will go to the Cathedral Music Dept.** This is assuming, of course that people will buy them! You never know.

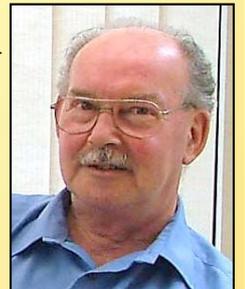


It was quite a coincidence reading in the Newsletter that OC **Peter Crowther** had spent time in Salzburg. Mark and myself also were there last week.

The weather was quite summery most of the week. We went to several Recitals, both Organ and Piano, and one in the Cathedral of Mozart's lesser known Organ and Choral works, including a C Major Mass which I must admit was unfamiliar to me, sung from the Organ Gallery at the back of the Cathedral. A wonderful week apart from my tired little legs, I don't think Mark is aware of the age gap!

Best wishes,

**Peter** *Thanks for your great generosity in supporting the Cathedral music programme through your CD! Ed*



## From Junior Organ Scholar, TOM DAGGETT

Dear JB, I haven't emailed in a while and just thought of doing so whilst reading the new issue of the November Newsletter which Jonathan Turner described as 'the best in the country'; and I fully agree.

I have experienced an interesting past couple of months. Firstly, I was in California for a month visiting my uncle, I thoroughly enjoyed it, as I do every time I visit CA! I was then rewarded with my GCSE results: 8 A\*'s, 1A, 1B. The day after, off to Vienna of course for what proved to be a



wonderful tour, I particularly enjoyed the acoustics in Peterskirche and Mozart Haus proved to be a delightful visit also.

Back from Vienna and straight into A Level work. I am studying English Language and Literature, Geography, Psychology and Music (of course!).



I'm currently cracking on with a Viennese Waltz for the Piano in D flat major and have also recently started writing one movement based on the formation of the Concerto Grosso in Ritornello form which I am thoroughly enjoying writing.

Unfortunately, my organ playing has been halted momentarily whilst I try to recover from RSI which has been and on going problem for the past 18 months! RSI is the most dreadful thing to get as a musician, it involves the arm ligaments being broken causing constant pain, especially when playing. Unfortunately I have suffered with it in both arms. The physio said that I had got it because the bones in my arms had grown quickly compared to the arm muscles; causing a strain on the tendons and ligaments. Nasty stuff!

I have been however, under way with Vierne's Carillon and have found it useful to start practising my hymn playing as I intend to become more involved with the playing side of things in the Cathedral, as discussed with Josh Abbott, James Davy and David Scott-Thomas; all of whom agree that this would be a good confidence building and useful thing to do.

Again, congratulations as always for another interesting issue of the Newsletter!

Tom

Tom: *heartiest congratulations on your impressive GCSE results. May the ligament problems soon be resolved. Ed*

## G. P. TAYLOR by Two who were There Who's G. P. Taylor?

*Children certainly know who he is, for the cathedral was packed by 700 children on the morning and afternoon of November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It should have been equally packed with adults in the evening! This is what you missed!*

The internationally famous children's author G.P.Taylor visited the Cathedral on All Souls' Day, to give a series of presentations to schools on 'things that go bump in the night' together with a presentation and discussion in the evening to an invited adult audience under the auspices of Canon Chivers' Education Exchange Programme.

Before the evening session began our speaker chatted to members of the audience who responded enthusiastically to his gifts of Christian love and joy, which were so very evident.



In his evening introduction the Dean said that Graham Taylor had had an after-death experience when he was 6, (he'd almost drowned) but had been a rebel at his Scarborough school, having set fire to his teacher's desk. He was constantly in trouble! He then moved to London and became involved in the punk music scene, but found London a thoroughly bad influence upon him.

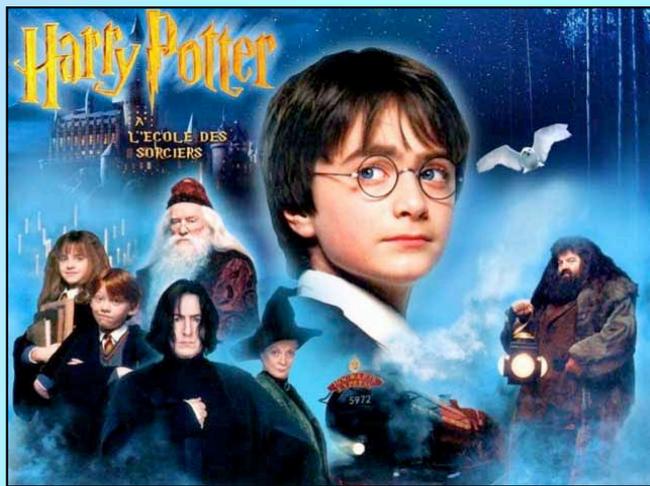
He returned to Scarborough – and it was about this time that Christianity began to play a part in his life. He became a social worker, fell in love with a Christian girl and flirted with the idea of ordination. Instead, he became a police officer and recounts this often traumatic episode in his life in colourful detail in his recent

autobiography, *Sin, Salvation & Shadowmancer*.

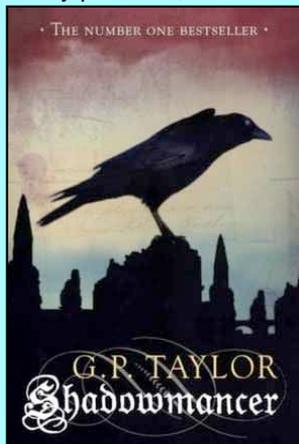
# G.P. TAYLOR *Sin, Salvation & Shadowmancer*

Being a policeman didn't satisfy his yearning soul however so he returned to the idea of ordination and it was then that G. P. Taylor met our Dean who was at that time Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of York. Graham said that it was the Dean who introduced him to poetry via T. S. Eliot. Graham found himself ordained and working in and around Whitby, a very atmospheric coastline, full of myths about the saints, pirates and ghosts.

On wet days off, The Rev'd Graham Taylor fell to writing a book: '*Shadowmancer*'. and the rest is history. He found, much to his surprise, that his book became a best seller – even outstripping the latest Harry Potter! **HOTTER THAN POTTER!**



The pressures on a popular author combined with a successful ministry as a conscientious parish priest became too much and Graham was invalided out of the stipendiary ministry, seeing his future rather in a wider ministry of exploration and articulation of the paranormal to young and fertile minds. Since his first book, G. P. Taylor has written 4 more children's books and is busy writing even more for his thirsty publisher, Faber.



During his presentation Graham Taylor told us how his parochial ministry on the North Yorkshire Coast had influenced his writing. (He bases the wicked parson Obadiah Demurral on himself for he was the Vicar of Ravenscar at the time!).

As J. K. Rowling began to publish her *Harry Potter* series, Taylor became more and more concerned about the bad press which God was getting, especially from another children's author.

He was encouraged to explore his writing further, developing this rich vein in human nature – hopefully to the glory of God.

During the lively discussion which followed Graham's presentation, there was much talk about the power of good and evil and the destiny of Christians as well as others.

People wanted to know how the church could move closer to the unchurched who were worried about such things and Graham gave a lively account of his own parochial experience in which he demonstrated that God was real, not just an 'abstract idea', and could be experienced by Christians in their daily lives.



G.P.Taylor had an excellent rapport with children in the afternoon and was also able to beguile adults in the evening. The faith of many of us was enlivened by all we saw and heard during that all-too-short hour. Afterwards GPT spent a long time chatting to the audience and signing copies of his autobiography.



It was an inspirational evening. Thanks so much to the Dean and to Canon Chivers and the Exchange programme for bringing us such fame and relevance.

*Your editor sat enthralled on the front row – lost for words, which is unusual! But he did snap up the first book to be sold and read it from cover to cover within 24 hours!*

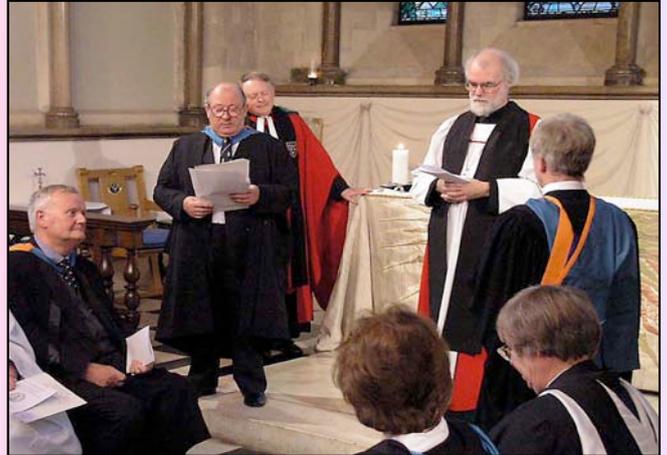
## TWO INSPIRATIONAL DAYS IN LONDON

RICHARD TANNER and your editor, being members of the Council of the Guild of Church Musicians, were invited to Lambeth Palace at the beginning of November to watch the Archbishop of Canterbury present Fellowships of the Guild to outstanding church musicians. (One of them was a bishop, and another was the Dean of Hereford, - both of whom are skilled organists!)



The chapel of Lambeth Palace was packed with guests, Council members and honorees. The achievements of each candidate were read out by the secretary of the Guild, Mr. **John Ewington**, OBE, supported by the Warden of the Guild, the Very Revd. Dr. **Richard Fenwick**.

Here (*below*) the Archbishop is about to award a Fellowship to **Christopher Barton** (extreme right), Director of Music of St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport, Sitting on the extreme left is **Richard Lloyd**, former Director of Music of Hereford and Durham Cathedrals, who was next in line for a Fellowship.



And afterwards there was a splendid tea for everyone, with delicious archiepiscopal chocolate cake, in the enormous dining hall whose walls are adorned with gilded portraits of former archbishops.

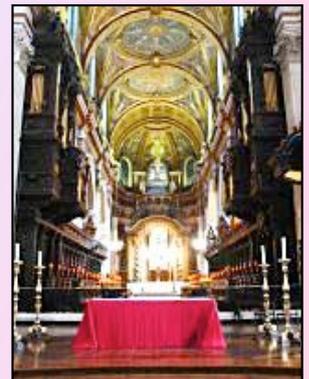
Richard enjoyed meeting many friends, and your editor introduced himself to our Most Reverend host.



Two days later RT and JB attended an inspirational day at St. Paul's Cathedral with some 50 members of the Cathedral Organists' Association. We were enthralled by lectures on the boy's changing voice and how to improvise; we enjoyed a splendid lunch and a superb Choral Evensong conducted by the Director of Music, **Malcolm Archer**.

The fellowship of such talented colleagues was most stimulating, and the magic of that immense cathedral was breathtaking, especially when it was dark. The subtle lighting enhanced the wonderful setting for the meticulous singing of the choir.

Richard was, of course, a boy chorister there! No wonder that he can inspire us all so marvellously at Blackburn!



# CHORISTERS' ANNUAL AWARDS

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – Bonfire Night!

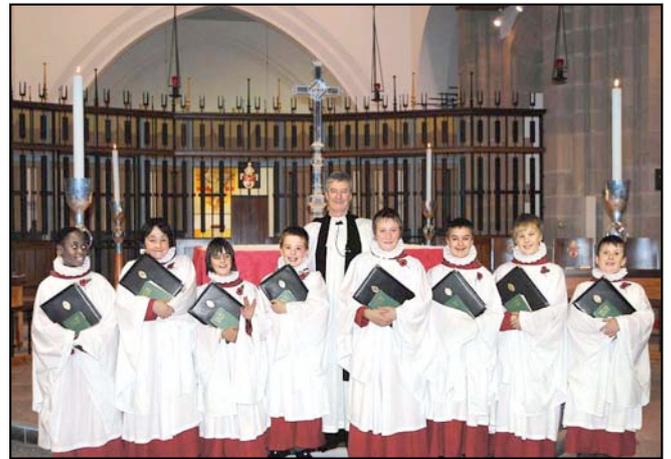
Introducing the promotions and awards, the Dean drew our attention to the youthfulness of the choir (front row!). Only 18 months ago we were wondering how such a young treble line could possibly cope yet now, here they were, being promoted to senior positions already.



Furthermore, in relation to the monetary awards, the Dean suggested that it must be very difficult for the Director of Music to make such decisions when so many of the choristers – male and female – are so very good.

Finally he noted that, though the awards were very special to the young people who received them, it was also a recognition of the role all the parents play in their patient, costly, yet gladly given support for their children, to the choirs and the cathedral as an institution. We are so grateful.

## Promotions – Boys – to Senior Chorister



Matthew Adelekan, Jonathan Brookes, Connor Buller, Anthony Gray, James Mitchell, Callum Shaw, Michael Smith and Matthieu Woodburn

Also Dominic Newell, **see photo on p. 15**

*Well done, all, and thanks to our generous Benefactors who made these awards possible.*



## Fred Green Award (left) –

Charles Forshaw, Anthony Gray and William Fielding

**Chadwick Memorial Prize** – Alex Lund (right)

**Dean Frayne Award** – Claire Marsden (See photo on page 15)

## Promotions – Girls:

Claire Marsden and Emma Pearson –

Head Choristers of Girls' Choir (See photo on page 15)

## Promotions – Boys – to Junior Chorister



Jack Aspinall, Dominic Billington, William Fielding, Robert Mitchell, Bradley Robinson, Christopher Snape and Nikki Zohdi  
Also Joseph Kennedy (See page 15).



**Dr. MARY TANNER**  
is now a  
**PRESIDENT of**  
**THE WORLD COUNCIL**  
**OF CHURCHES**

Dr. Tanner is, of course,  
the mother of our  
distinguished Director of Music

*Elected at the 9th Assembly in Porto Alegre,  
last September Dr. Tanner said:*

My father's family were Methodist and my mother's family Roman Catholic. They became Anglicans but growing up I often attended Methodist and Roman Catholic services. During the war I went to a Baptist Sunday school. So, from a very early age I became familiar with different traditions.

At university I became an active member of the Student Christian Movement. My first contact with the WCC came in 1974 when I was invited to the Plenary Commission meeting of Faith and Order in Accra, Ghana. That meeting was a life-changing event for me.

I hope to be a faithful and effective ambassador of the fellowship of churches, always open to listen to the experience of others. At a time of such brokenness and violence in the world I hope to be able to get across the message that for Christians being together in witnessing to the reconciling power of the Gospel is a more credible and authentic way than our divided lives.



We need to be together in witness, in service, in acting to overcome violence and in helping to protect and safeguard the creation. And we need to work even harder to overcome those things that prevent us from being together in Eucharistic communion.

The WCC is a crucial space for helping churches to engage with all of this, while listening more attentively to one another and not simply seeing things from our own perspective.



*Logo of the World Council of Churches*

## The First Concert of our New Season was one of the best yet!



The Renaissance Singers, conducted by Richard Tanner, were in terrific voice when they marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the British composer Gerald Finzi in November. Your editor, and many others, had never heard them sing better.



Their programme was demanding: beginning with Finzi's exquisite *Lo, the Full Final Sacrifice* (which he composed for the church of St. Matthew, Northampton) and ending with his exciting setting of *God is gone up with a triumphant shout*. In between there were eight unaccompanied part-songs, all of which were sung so expressively.

**James Davy** accompanied the singers with equally exquisite grace and colour – how fortunate we are to have such an accomplished musician join us so recently. **But that was not all!**

The Aronowitz Ensemble (a highly professional group of 6 superlative string players) gave us music not only by Finzi, but also, in the second half an extended work by Arnold Schoenberg.

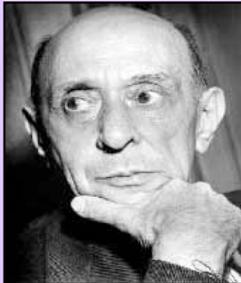


*Verklärte Nacht*, Op. 4 ("Transfigured Night", 1923), is a string sextet in one movement, which is regarded as the earliest important work of Schoenberg. It was inspired by a poem about a man and a woman walking through a forest on a moonlit night.

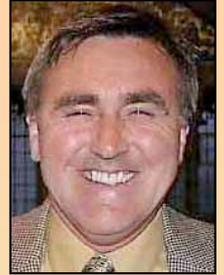
The name of Schoenberg has been known to strike terror in the minds of some music lovers – but this, being an early work, was written in his romantic style and it was given a wonderful and most moving performance. To hear it and to see the sextet play it was an experience we shall long remember.

The only thing lacking in that evening of music-making was a large audience!

**Friends of Blackburn Cathedral's Music** need to trust Richard's judgment in what he is offering to us and support him not only by your presence but also by actively going out and selling tickets to **all** your friends! They'll thank you for it.



## Letter from OC Bernard Hargreaves in California



JB,

Just a short note to say I enjoyed reading the most recent November 2006 Newsletter. Good job!



In particular, your article related to **Jack Smethurst's** after-life-vision, which was very moving and inspiring. I remember Jack and his family from my choirboy days –1967.→



Also enjoyed seeing the colour photos of **Ed and Anitra Haythornwhite** at their YPC fund-raising event.

Please find the attached check (cheque) which I am hoping you will convert into pounds for me. (*Yes thanks – done! JB*) This amount to cover my annual BCOCA membership for 2006-2007 and any remaining cash goes to the Newsletter fund.

I am looking forward to a trip back to Blackburn, with the family, for Christmas and the New Year. Hoping to see many OCs at the Cathedral on Christmas Day morning.

Until we meet again, take care and keep up the good work on the Newsletter!

Best regards,

**Bernard.**

*Thanks so much for your generosity. JB*

## From Dr. Richard Shephard Director of Development, and Chamberlain of York Minster



Dear John,

Your magazine sets a standard which I wish we could emulate. It must take hours of work, but it is brilliant in displaying the human side of [Blackburn] cathedral life. We're getting better at this, but you have set a very high standard.

Although I know very few people mentioned in the magazine, I find it fascinating to see what is going on in Blackburn and how the music is an integral part of the community life.

It's good that there is a growing link between Blackburn and York. I understand that [our Residentiary Canon] **Glyn Webster** is giving the talk at your [Friends'] dinner this year.

With all good wishes

Yours,

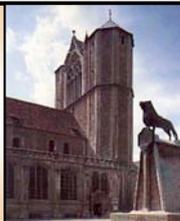
**Richard**

*Dr. Shephard is not only an internationally acclaimed composer of church music, but he has also been given the responsibility of raising £30M for the Minster Appeal! Donations – large or small – would be gratefully received by Dr. Shephard, at Church House, Ogleforth, YORK YO1 7JN*



## Chris Chivers' Sermon

preached in German in our twinned Cathedral of Braunschweig on Remembrance Sunday, 12 Nov. 2006. He was accompanied by Val Edge, who represented our Cathedral Chapter.



### Foreword by Canon Chris – to set the scene

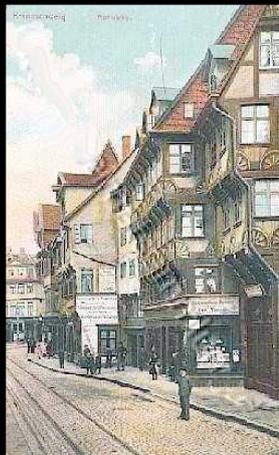
The invitation to preach on what for us is Remembrance Sunday – for Germans the Sunday following is their Sunday to remember the dead of the wars – was both a daunting and a moving prospect.



UK readers may not know that the beautiful Dom (Cathedral) in Braunschweig, one of the glories of north German architecture, was sequestered by the Nazis during the 1930s. One day the Domprediger (Dean) at the time found that he no longer had a pulpit. His congregation no longer had a place of worship. The Dom had become a Nazi Meeting Hall.

When, in 1945, the British liberated the city of Braunschweig, they set up headquarters in the Hotel where Val Edge and I stayed during our visit. Overlooking the Dom, General Montgomery swiftly decided that it must once again be used for worship. The prayers and hymns of the allied soldiers re-hallowed the cathedral. The people of Braunschweig feel the importance of this very acutely.

But there are other sides to this story which I felt very acutely as I prepared my sermon. The allies all but obliterated Braunschweig in bombing raids which targeted civilians - much as they were targeted in Dresden - in a way which brings shame onto the allies. This too is part of the story of the relationship between our two nations. Val and I were very struck as we walked around the city by what was lost and what has been rebuilt. Only one tiny medieval area remains as it was. The rest of medieval Braunschweig (which was mostly made of wood) was destroyed in several nights of sustained bombing. Somehow, perhaps because it enabled the pilots to chart their course, the Dom was spared.



Pre-war Braunschweig

This history is why I believe our relationship to be of the utmost importance. Reconciliation means owning up to awfulness on both not on one side. Its fruits are incalculable but can be felt palpably. I was determined to preach in German - though it was very challenging for me to do so - to express our respect for our German friends.

As Val and I stood at the back of the Dom following the service, we felt a surge of warmth, of affection and of connection that we will never forget.

### Chris's German Sermon (in translation)

We are in London, at Hyde Park Corner in late November 1939.

In the cold of an early winter's evening a huge crowd is gathering. Young and old, people carry piles of books. They throw them on top of each other to form a bonfire which a young man is about to light. 'Stop,' someone shouts from the back of the crowd. 'Do you hear me, stop,' the man repeats, as he pushes his way to the front.

There is silence, a tense, respectful silence, as the crowd recognise the man – he is a well-known London priest. Picking up one of the books from the unlit pile, he reads in German:



*'On the night that our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, taking the bread and giving thanks, and breaking it, he gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take this, and eat it, this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me by...'*

Closing the book he begins to translate the German into English. As he does so, there is absolute silence. The people have been told to bring German books to burn them. But can anyone now set light to a book containing words so precious, the very words of Jesus Christ himself? Do this in remembrance of him? A young woman steps forward to retrieve the books she had earlier thrown on the bonfire. And gradually others join her until all the books have been collected by their owners, the crowd dispersing in silence.

We are now in Moscow. It is February 1942 and a bitterly cold Sunday morning. Notwithstanding the cold, the central streets of the city are lined with people. Save for the policemen, who also line these streets, the crowds consist mainly of women – old women in their black skirts and scarves with heavy brows, thin hunched shoulders and hands roughened by hard work. No doubt every one of them is the mother or grandmother of a Russian soldier who has been killed by the Nazis. And this is their moment to enjoy revenge – to give vent to all their pent-up grief and anger. For before them the Russian generals are to parade roughly twenty-thousand German prisoners of war.

The procession begins with smartly-dressed German generals whose heads are held high in a vain attempt to preserve their dignity. The women hiss. One of them, in disgust, draws attention to the sweet – yet sickening – smell of eau de Cologne which wafts across the morning air.

The crowd surges forward. The policemen are barely able to control them. Yet suddenly the surge subsides. For behind these stiff-necked generals come line upon line of the lower ranks – soldiers, thin, unshaven, wearing dirty blood-stained bandages, hobbling on crutches or leaning on the shoulders of their comrades.



These soldiers walk with their heads down. As they do so the streets become silent. The only sound heard is the shuffling of boots and the thumping of crutches.

From the middle of the crowd an elderly woman in broken-down boots pushes her way forward and touches the shoulder of a policeman as she says, "Let me through."



Something about her persuades him to step aside. And so she passes through the crowd toward the column of soldiers unwrapping a coloured handkerchief to reveal a crust of black bread. She pushes the bread forward towards a soldier who totters awkwardly as she grasps his hands and helps him to manoeuvre the crust into his jacket pocket.

Now suddenly from every side women are running towards the soldiers, pushing into their hands bread, cigarettes, whatever they have with them. The soldiers are no longer enemies. They are people.



Standing in this beautiful cathedral, on this solemn day of remembrance across our European continent, a day when we recall the charred landscape of our shared histories, and

all that has tragically torn us apart, a day when we remember the millions of lives which have been lost or scarred on all sides of the conflicts of the last century in particular, one cannot fail to be moved by the poignancy of this place, and the way in which its rich history, its very stones embody an extraordinary tale of death and resurrection.

In this sense, I cannot help but recall the address which Domprediger Joachim gave in Blackburn Cathedral during his last visit; an address which moved us all to tears, because he spoke on your behalf, with such evident gratitude of the fact that it was General Montgomery and the men under his command who, in 1945, reclaimed this great building from the tyranny of the Nazis.



It was hymn-singing-soldiers who re-hallowed this sacred space, following its terrible desecration, by their prayers, their Christian worship. It was those men, he said, who liberated this cathedral for the all the people of Braunschweig – a sign of freedom and hope for a whole nation. It was those men who created a unique and undying bond between the people of our two nations, a bond which is expressed in the precious link between our cathedrals of Blackburn and Braunschweig.

This is why, in this of all places, I feel so privileged to have been able tell the two stories with which I began. For each of them, is about a moment when a link, a connection was made. Books which were about to be burnt were retrieved by their owners because those words of Jesus – emblazoned across the ravages of time – united German and English people together in Christ. Do this, burn these books, in remembrance of him? Never. For what Christ calls into one new humanity neither death nor life, nor principalities nor powers can separate or divide.

And for those Russian women, lining the streets of Moscow, their hearts filled with anger, this sense that we humans belong together, that we are united across the barriers of culture, language, race or even religion, this realisation meant that they had to see those forlorn soldiers as people, as neighbours, as members of the one human family.

A command is given. Do this in remembrance of me. An unavoidable response is required and offered. A broken crust of black bread is shared. Nothing more is necessary to unite us in love and friendship than the bread which we break. That is how things work in God's kingdom. In and through this bread-breaking and bread-sharing we discover our truest selves. We change the world. Thanks be to God.

the *Musikverein* (the Golden Concert Hall) from where the



New Year's Day concert is televised around the world. We sat so near to the front that we could hear the soloist grunting when he was playing Beethoven's 1<sup>st</sup> piano concerto. He was *brilliant* – as was the performance of Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique!* We also heard the **Vienna Boys' Choir** sing Mass (Mozart – with orchestra) at the Hofburg Royal Chapel, with seats reserved for us in the front two rows!

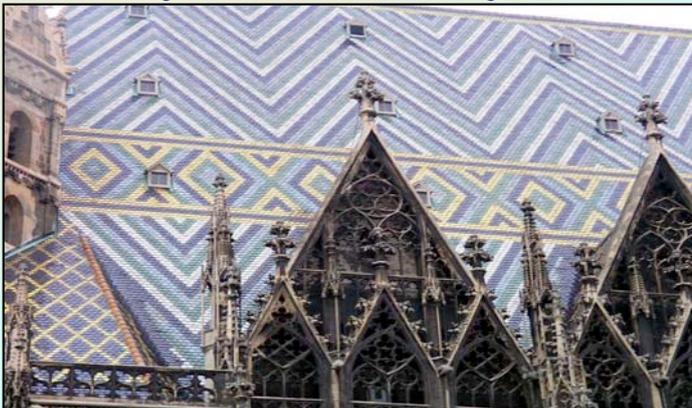
Although that was another memorable experience we felt that Blackburn Cathedral Choir would have sung it even better!



At the end of the Mass the boys, in their sailor suits, trooped down to the sanctuary from their gallery high up at the back of the chapel to sing a motet for us. Their disciplined deportment was very evident!

### VIENNA AGAIN

Two Old Choristers, one Hon. OC and their wives, and your editor spent an amazing weekend in Vienna at the end of November, exploring some of the churches where our YPC had sung only three months earlier, exulting in the 'gorgeous palaces' and also visiting the cathedral with its amazing roof.



Derek & Marilyn **Crompton**, David & Margaret **Rothwell** and David & Ruth **Demack** and JB also went to a performance of *Die Zauberflöte* at the magnificent Opera House. There was a staggeringly wonderful concert, with seats in the fourth row, in

### Christmas Concert by our Girls' Chamber Choir

Thirteen members of our talented Girls' Chamber Choir, conducted by **Richard Tanner** and accompanied by **James Davy**, gave an exceptionally fine concert in St. Anne's Parish Church, Fence, at the beginning of December.



They arrived for their rehearsal at 3.30 pm (the concert was timed for 7.30) and they left, with their audience wreathed in smiles of gratitude and admiration, at 9.45 pm. They were heroic!

Richard said, 'I really enjoyed the opportunity of bringing the girls to Fence. It was a wonderful occasion for them – I can't remember them having given a concert on that scale before by themselves. They seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly.' Those of us who were there agreed that it was one of the finest concerts we'd ever heard at Fence.

The girls' singing was exceptional (their top Gs rang out magnificently over the capacity audience) and there were some lovely solos by four of the girls and also by James on the organ. There was a wide choice of music – ranging from Handel's *He shall feed his flock*, to Rutter's *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*, with some audience carols, as well as four arrangements by your editor, one of which had Richard singing a baritone duet with the girls!



It was particularly good to welcome our former organ scholar, Jonathan Turner, fresh from his first term as organ scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, who arrived just in time to turn pages for James.

Between the rehearsal and the performance the girls, Richard & James, were fed by the St. Anne's ladies with endless slices of pizza and plates of cream cakes. Clearly this was food ideally suited to lubricate young larynxes and to energize musical fingers and feet!

Special thanks to the girls' parents who attended the concert – they must be very proud of what their dedicated daughters achieved that evening. It was a wonderful experience for us all.

and Chapter of the Abbey are ultimately responsible, was read out and the Dean responded by swearing and affirming a number of formal oaths.

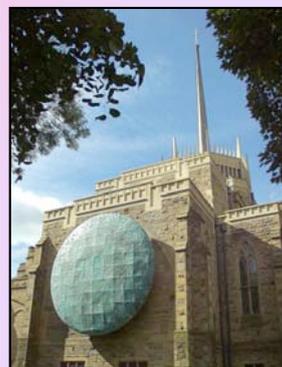
**Blackburn Cathedral was represented formally at the service by Dean Armstrong and Canon Chivers who were robed and processed.**

The text of Dean Hall's sermon to the 1500-strong congregation, was from Genesis 28:17. '*How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven.*' [This is, of course, the text over the main entrance to Blackburn cathedral.]

Early in his sermon he stressed the importance of music in worship: 'The worship offered here has always been strengthened and enriched by music, whether the plainsong or polyphony of ancient years still enjoyed today, or the increasingly rich and demanding music of the modern era. The contribution made to the daily worship of almighty God by the Abbey's choral foundation today rightly enjoys unequalled respect in the musical world and in the Church.'

'Here the organists and choir offer the commitment of their skill, art and dedication to the glory of almighty God, and in the proper religious context. It is no wonder that cathedrals and the Abbey attract huge crowds for festivals. If the great English tradition of choral music of which we are heirs could be revived in the parish churches of our land, what a joy that would be.'

The Dean concluded with, perhaps, an unintentional link to Blackburn Cathedral's 2001 sculpture on the East wall, which was commissioned and inspired by Dean Frayne:



'I end encouraged by John's apocalyptic vision. He saw "*the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.*" He saw the tree of life "*and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*" I commit my ministry as Dean of Westminster to serving this vision and preserving this Abbey, as it has been for a thousand years, as none other than the house of

God and the gate of heaven, none other than an open channel of God's gracious power and love, for the sake of Crown and People, for this City and for the healing of the nations.'

**Pride at our strong connection with the new Dean, and renewed congratulations are certainly in order.**

## Dean John Hall

On the same day as the girls' concert, but 235 miles south, **JOHN HALL** (former Residentiary Canon of Blackburn Cathedral) was installed as the new **Dean of Westminster.**

Afterwards he was photographed in the Jerusalem Chamber built c. 1520, It was here that King **Henry IV** died, and where his son, who was there with him, walked out as **Henry V.**

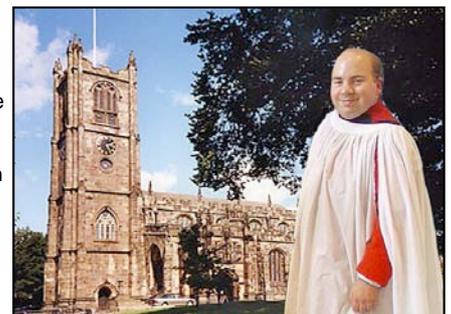
It was also here that the committee met which translated the **Authorized Version** of the Bible in 1611.



The centuries-old Installation ceremony – part of it in Latin – was conducted during Choral Evensong at the Abbey – The Grant and Mandamus from The Queen, to whom Dean

## From former Assistant Organist Ian Pattinson Organist of Lancaster Priory

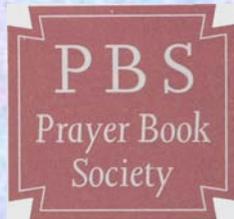
I greatly enjoyed reading the latest newsletter, as I always do, especially the article about the IAO Cologne trip, and the photo of us both outside the magnificent facade of Cologne Cathedral, which brought back happy memories!



These newsletters are great, because, whenever I visit Blackburn, I have the illusion that my last visit was far more recent than it really was, due to having learned, from the last newsletter, so much about everything that has been happening with the place and the people associated with it.

Hope you are able to keep it going financially. Best **Ian**

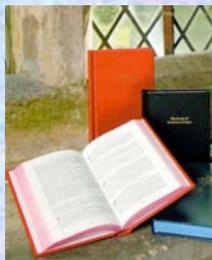
## Join the Prayer Book Society...



... or you can 'sample' us first!

- **Come to our Annual Festival at the Cathedral on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00 am**  
Celebrated by **The Bishop of Blackburn** and sung by **Octavius**, conducted by **Anthony Tattersall**, with the first performance of **John Bertalot's** new anthem commissioned by the PBS.
- **Send for our CDs sung by Octavius:**
  - 1 **H.C. & Choral Evensong**
  - 2 **Matins and Choral Evensong**
 Each CD priced at only £2.
- **Send for 'Blackburn 21<sup>st</sup> Century Papers' containing 7 significant papers.**  
Book: only £1.80

**Contact** Hon. Secretary,  
**Neil Inkley,**  
6 Knot Lane,  
Walton-le-Dale,  
Preston PR5 4BQ  
01772-821-676



## Bishop Geoffrey Pearson

When Archbishop Sentamu consecrated Geoffrey Pearson as the new Bishop of Lancaster in York Minster he was joined by Bishop Nicholas and Bishop Alan, and a large congregation from Blackburn, saying *We welcome you as a shepherd of Christ's flock. Build up the Church in unity and love, that the world may believe.*



Our new Bishop 'Geoff' with Mrs. Pearson were also welcomed in Blackburn Cathedral by Bishop Nicholas, Dean Christopher and our congregation on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at a service sung by our YPC, followed, needless to say, by a Reception in our hospitable crypt. **Welcome!**

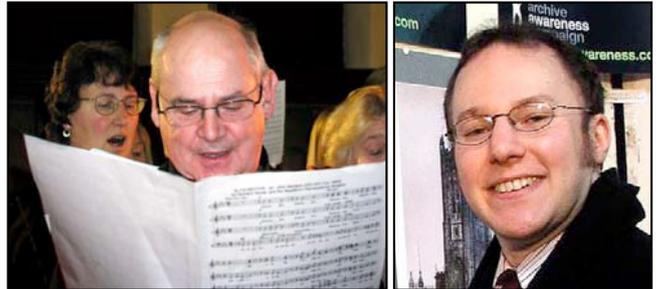
**Have you booked your seats for our GALA MESSIAH – March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm?**  
**It will be a sell-out! Phone 01254-60-30-82 NOW!**

## OCs Tony Robinson from Manchester & Chris Hunwick from Liverpool ...

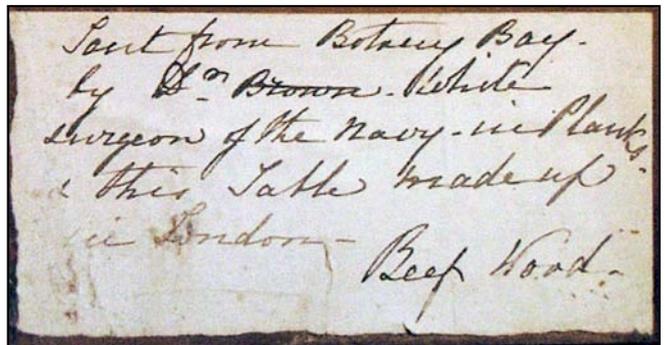
... combined their professional skills recently to solve a remarkable historical puzzle.

Tony told your editor: 'I had been asked to research the provenance [origin] of a beautiful table which had come to the notice of an international auction house in Australia.

'When I was rehearsing with your hand-picked choir to sing the Mozart *Requiem* at a concert in your church in Fence I chatted with fellow bass, Chris Hunwick, about my investigation. There was a hand-written label under the table and as Chris is an expert paleographer [hand-writing authority] he generously offered his help.



'I sent him a photocopy of the label and he said it was



written before 1830 – which was exciting, for it seemed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the table had belonged to Sir Andrew Snape Hamond (1738-1828) who was a celebrated naval commander and had been Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Canada, for three years. He was a friend of William Pitt and also of Admiral Nelson and had fought in the American War of Independence! *[We lost!]*

'The story could go on for several pages, but the upshot is that the table, which was still in the Hamond family, was originally valued for auction at around **\$80,000**. But as a result of Chris's and my investigations it was eventually sold for **\$245,000!**

'I thought you would be interested to know what surprising results can sometimes ensue from the networks and contacts brought into being by the Cathedral music and its various affiliated groups.

'With very best regards and admiration for your amazing Newsletter.

*Tony*

**Tony Robinson,** Consultant Researcher for Bonhams & Goodman, Sydney, Australia.

*Tony & Chris, heartiest congratulations on the remarkable outcome of your combined researches. Ed*



## WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL...

...for the substantial contributions to our Newsletter which are coming in thick and fast – for generous **Donations, including one for £200, two for £100 and several for £50**, and for **Standing Orders from £100 to £15** from good friends whose generosity is helping to keep our Newsletter financially healthy.

**FRIENDS of BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL MUSIC** *In addition to subscriptions from Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, and Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association, we have received Donations and Standing Orders from:*



**Correct up to January 10<sup>th</sup>**

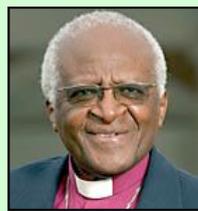
**More names in our next issue!**

Anonymous (from Dorset)  
 Armstrong, the Very Revd. Christopher (Dean)  
 Bancroft, Eric (Vice Chairman, BCOCA)  
 Banks, Mrs. Joan, MBE (Former Choir Parent)  
 Bertalot, Dr. John (Cathedral Organist Emeritus)  
 Brooke, Mrs. Karen (Choir Parent)  
 Carruthers, Mrs. Brenda (Former Choir Parent)  
 Chave, Mrs. Myrna (Choir Grandmother)  
 Chew, Mrs. Elaine (Choir Parent)  
 Chew, Mrs. Sarah (Former Choir Parent)  
 Chesters, The Rt. Revd. Alan (our former Bishop)  
 Duerden, Judge and Mrs. J. (Friends of Bbn. Cathedral Music)  
 Duckworth, His Honour Brian, (Former Choir Parent)  
 Ellsworth, Mrs. Roberta (Former Princeton USA Choir Parent)  
 EXCHANGE (the cathedral's community cohesion agency) *See p. 20*  
 Fielding, Peter (Former Senior. Old Chorister)  
 Frayne, The Very Revd. David. (Dean Emeritus)  
 Gibson, Mrs. Rowena (Former Choir Parent)  
 Goodship, Janet (Renaissance Singer)  
 Green, Mrs. Dorothy (for the fourth time!)  
 Hargreaves, Bernard (Old Chorister – from California!)  
 Heald, Peter (Founder member, BCOCA)  
 Heap, William (Old Chorister)  
 Heap, Geoffrey (Former Choir Parent)  
 Highton, John (Old Chorister)  
 Hirst, Canon Godfrey (Former Sr. Old Chorister)  
 Hodgson, Alan (Old Chorister)  
 Holden, Allan (Former Senior. Old Chorister)  
 Holland, Jack (Former Choirman)  
 Holmes, Stephen (Old Chorister)  
 Howarth, Norman (Former Renaissance Singer)  
 Hunwick, Philip (Former Choir Parent and current Tenor)  
 Hurst, Peter (Old Chorister)  
 Keen, Bob (Former Senior Old Chorister)  
 Lamb, Bryan (Former Senior. Old Chorister)  
 Lund, Mrs. Vivienne (Choir Parent)  
 Massey, Dr. Roy (Former Director of Music, Hereford Cathedral, and Past President, the Royal College of Organists)  
 McGowan, Godfrey (Old Chorister and faithful Sidesman)  
 McVean, Robert C. (Old Chorister of Edinburgh)  
 Parkinson, Mrs. Betty, MBE (for the second time)  
 Pattinson, Ian (Former Assistant Organist)  
 Rickerby, Stephen (Old Chorister)  
 Robinson, Margaret (Founder member: Renaissance Singers)  
 Robinson, Ralph (Old Chorister)  
 Rothwell, David (Old Chorister)  
 Shephard, Dr. Richard, (Chamberlain of York Minster) *See p. 9*  
 Slater, David (Choir Parent)  
 Sleight, Mrs. Mildred (Founder member: The Renaissance Singers)  
 Stancliffe, Harold, (1938 Old Chorister)  
 Stanley, Mrs. Gail, MBE (Former High Sheriff)  
 Tanner, John (father of our Director of Music)  
 Thompson, Iain (Old Chorister)  
 Turner, Jonathan (Former Organ Scholar)  
 Turner, Mrs. Gillian (Mother of Jonathan)  
 Tustin, Steve (Old Chorister)  
 Webster, Canon Glyn (Canon Residentiary, York Minster)  
 Whiteley, Mrs. Jean (Friend of Blackburn Cathedral Music)



**Thank you!**

## Christmas Meditation



**Archbishop  
Desmond  
Tutu  
& Canon  
Chris Chivers**



## BBC Radio 4

"God's high-five to the world" is how **Desmond Tutu** used to describe Jesus to **Dominic** and **Gregory**, the young sons of **Canon & Mrs. Chivers** who got to know the Archbishop when Chris was Precentor of Cape Town Cathedral.

In a meditation for Christmas Night, Chris again enlisted the help of his Most Reverend friend in explaining to his sons the significance of the Christmas story - in which God comes to earth as a baby.

And there was music recorded in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town.

*The St. George's Singers from Cape Town will be giving a concert in our Cathedral on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May.*

**Book this date NOW in your diary!**

## Isobel Galilee...



... was laid to rest at a beautiful service in Blackburn Cathedral on 7<sup>th</sup> December, which was led most sensitively by the **Dean**.

The choir, conducted by **Richard Tanner** with **James Davy** at the organ, was made up of some members of the Renaissance Singers and also by Old Choristers. Their singing of Psalm 90 was exceptionally moving: it has never been sung more tenderly. The ebulliently gifted soloists in Purcell's *Rejoice in the Lord alway* (with all the ritornelli played on our Tickell organ) were **James Twigg, Derek Crompton** and **Phil Wilson**.

There was a large congregation, including David & Isobel's children and grandchildren, and the sermon was preached by a long-time friend of Canon David – Canon Brian Hebblethwaite, Life Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, who combined sensitivity, recollection and humour in a delightful blend. *Our thoughts and prayers are with David at this sad time.*

## ...Howard Waddell

But It was a happy surprise for all of us to welcome our former Head Virger, **Howard Waddell**, now Head Virger of Chichester Cathedral, who had driven up specially for this service.



Afterwards his many friends crowded around him and it was difficult for your staff photographer to capture him and **Mark Pickering**, his successor, for a compulsory photo.

After a Reception for David Galilee's guests in the crypt, one of the more senior members of our congregation mentioned to your editor that the anthem had seemed rather long. 'Purcell wrote it to keep Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> happy!' he replied. Quick as a flash the lady answered, 'I thought Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> had other ways of keeping himself happy!'

**FIVE MEDITATIONS ON THE APOCALYPSE**  
 by Jean Langlais (1907-1991)  
 played by James Davy  
 with perceptive commentary by Chris Chivers  
 Sunday evening, 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The cathedral was in almost complete darkness, and heavy with incense, for the performance of this mind-blowing work, and our brilliant soloist had positioned himself so that he could not be seen by the highly select audience who sat in the choirstalls.



This was appropriate, for Langlais was blind from birth – he could only hear his music in the dark – and the music was so demanding upon the audience (let alone for our soloist!) that we needed every ounce of concentration to follow what was being offered.



The work, which took an hour to play, with illuminating commentaries between each movement, was fiendishly difficult – at times it seemed to out-Messiaen Messiaen (they were contemporary Parisian church organists). Every page had surprises – surprises in music (from long-held complex chords to quicksilver running passages – James seemed to have 10 fingers per hand, otherwise how could he have played so many notes?), surprises in registration (the organ had never sounded so colourful) and surprises in dynamics (from the almost inaudible to the almost unbearable).

It was a triumph for James Davy who showed himself more than equal to the brilliance of his recent predecessors. If this music had been offered in Notre Dame or Cologne Cathedral, it would have attracted an audience of thousands.

It was a privilege to be there. We left the cathedral in awe.

**Have you booked your seats for our  
 Gala St. Matthew Passion – April 4th?**  
*It will be a sell-out! Phone 01254-60-30-82*



Head Girls Claire Marsden & Emma Pearson, Jr. Ch. Joseph Kennedy & Sr. Ch. Dominic Newell – see p. 8



## Preston Pianos

*The Alliance of*  
 The Music Cellar & Titterington Peck

**The Music Cellar**



Piano Restorers  
 Complete piano re-builds  
 Regulation & Tuning Service  
 Credit cards & finance available  
 Rental scheme  
 Classical guitars



New Pianos by Yamaha, Kemble, Kawai, Minster Range.  
 Restored Pianos by Steinway, Bluthner & Bechstein etc.

**Studio 13, Leeward Road, off Chain Caul Way, Riversway, Preston PR2 2TE**  
**Telephone: (01772) 739071 [www.prestonpianos.co.uk](http://www.prestonpianos.co.uk)**

Heartiest congratulations to OC (and founder member of BCOCA) **PETER HEALD** in Ely, who has undertaken to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Support Fund by **swimming (yes, swimming!) a Marathon 26 miles 385 yards**, but not all in one go.



He wrote to your editor: 'I began in July 2006 and managed only four lengths (73 yards 1 foot) before tiring. Now I am able to complete 24 lengths (1/4 mile) at a time. I am 69 years of age and registered disabled with a permanently stiffened right leg, the result of a cycling accident. Just over ten years ago my brother **Eric** (also an Old Chorister of Blackburn Cathedral) who was a great swimmer, died of cancer. His final few weeks were spent in St. Catherine's Hospice, Lostock Hall, in the care of Macmillan nursing. And so I want to support them.'

**Now, Old Choristers and friends, Peter deserves our own support for this amazing feat. Phone him for his address and get your own generous cheque ready! 01353-775-391**



# Christmas Spectacular 2006



This year's Spectacular was even better than last year's – and that's saying something, for last year's was amazing! The combined cathedral choirs sang so musically, and they clearly enjoyed every moment (there was massed swaying during *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas!*). The Northern Chamber Orchestra were superb, as ever.

Our four scintillating soloists NICOLA MILLS, JANE MAUDSLEY, MATTHEW MINTER and ADRIAN BLAKELEY added enormously to the joy of the evening. It was a particular delight to welcome back Nicola Mills who was, until last year, director of our Children's choir. Every time we hear her she shines more brightly.



And RICHARD TANNER directed the whole concert with consummate ease, professional skill and great good humour.

This took a lot of doing, for his forces were spread out over a long distance; so singing together with the orchestra was not easy, but they did it!

He challenged the audience to sing lustily and they responded with a will. And he also sang a solo himself – the first verse of *White Christmas!*

But before the concert began there was a Reception in the North Transept for Sponsors and Friends



The Dean welcomed 1946 Old Chorister **Michael Thompson & Mrs. Mary Thompson**. **Chris Dobson**, and his team had prepared delicious refreshments, suitably washed down by sparkling liquids. Here our guests were being offered tasty fare by **Fara Salemi**.



More early arrivals were **Gemma Nuttall** (extreme right) from **Fraser Eagle**, one of our generous sponsors, with (L-R) **Claire Pevitt**, **Chris Brennan** and **Stuart Wright**.



A party from **Forbes Solicitors**, tonight's major Sponsor, were there: L-R **Rob & Jane Burbridge**, and **Wendy & Jim Wright**, with **Kit Dawson** from the YPC (L) doing the honours.



And, of course, there was the audience, who relished every musical moment, from a scintillating performance of the first part of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, to favourite Christmas carols such as *Jingle Bells*, *I saw three ships*, *O Holy Night* and much more.

It was a particular joy to see and hear our Children's Choir singing two items under the direction of **Joy Fielding**. They were all dressed in special *Christmas Spectacular* T-shirts for the occasion! Their second song was *I'm being eaten by a Boa Constrictor*, which brought down the house!



It was a magnificent evening and our thanks go to our highly talented singers – who are all voluntary, and to their so-supportive families, but especially, of course, to Richard Tanner, James Davy (who played the organ) and Joy Fielding for creating such an amazing music programme.

Most grateful thanks go to our munificent sponsors, whose generosity made it all possible.

And very special thanks to our Virgers who set up the staging several days before, and took it all down again that night, ready for Sunday worship. Their zeal is amazing!



**FRIENDS**  
of **BLACKBURN**  
**CATHEDRAL**  
**MUSIC**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2007**

10.30 am Patroanal Festival Eucharist with Choirs and Orchestra.

*Missa Sancti Nicolai* Mass by Haydn

1.00 pm Gala Lunch (only 100 tickets available)

4.00 pm Patroanal Festival Evensong with five Choirs and Orchestra.

Sponsored by



**Fraser Eagle Group**

# Faith to faith

Following the success of two series of Tuesday lunchtime dialogues earlier in the year **Canon Chris Chivers** and **Anjum Anwar MBE**, Education Officer of the Lancashire Council of Mosques, hosted a further series on four Tuesdays in November and December in the North Transept.

On each occasion, Anjum or Chris interviewed a well-known local figure from another faith community.

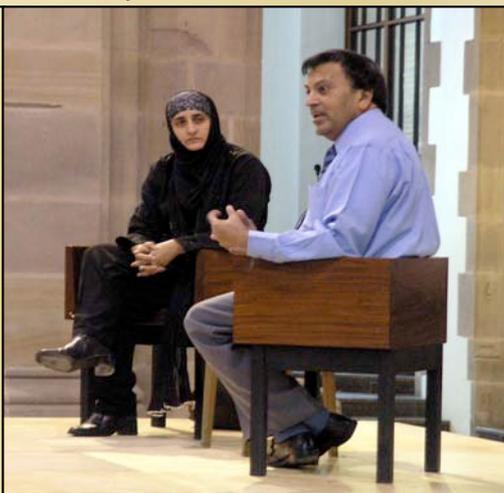


The series began with a much-loved **Sikh**, Mrs Amritar Kaur Bamrah, standing in at the last moment for her equally-respected husband, Mr Charan Singh Bamrah.



Next up was Renee Black, one of very few **Orthodox Jews** in a town which once had its own Jewish newspaper, followed by Adiccabandhu of the **Buddhist** community, who began to use his Buddhist name (he was previously known as Marty) when Anjum challenged him earlier in the year to do so!

Finally, Ashok Chudasama, of the **Hindu** community, paid tribute, as had all the guests, to the welcome that they received from, and the affection they felt for people of all faiths.



Between 70 and 140 people attended each session ...



...including large numbers of young people from Blackburn College.

Such was the interest created by every meeting that many questions were asked.



Significantly the acting Chief Constable of Lancashire, Mr Steve Finnigan, attended one of the discussions, as did the Mayor of Blackburn, demonstrating the support that the police give to interfaith dialogue.

Running like a thread through all of the conversations – which sought to give a thumbnail sketch of each faith – was the hope expressed in some words of the theologian Hans Kung:

**“No peace among the nations  
without peace among the religions.  
No peace among the religions  
without dialogue between the religions.  
No dialogue between the religions  
without investigation  
of the foundations of the religions.”**

There were, as ever, very many Carol Services at Christmas, sung by our own choirs.

A special favourite with the citizens of Blackburn was the Annual Service sponsored by the Lancashire Telegraph with spectacular fireworks engulfing the cathedral beforehand.  
*Photo from Phil Hunwick*



Pat Wedgeworth and Parnal Rothwell take a break from decorating the Cathedral for Christmas to look at the Christmas Crib, which proclaims the message of Peace and Hope, and which is placed, appropriately, in front of our magnificent Pulpit.

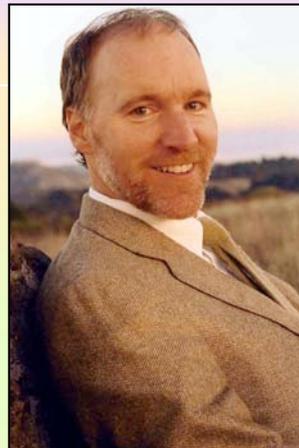


Our fine team of Virgers prepared the cathedral meticulously for every Carol Service – including putting printed orders of service onto every chair with military precision, with an envelope-form for Gift Aid and a free pen to fill in the form!



## DIMMOCK IS COMING TO BLACKBURN!

International Organist **Jonathan Dimmock** who is also well known as a choral conductor, vocal coach, accompanist, continuo player, San Francisco Symphony musician and church organist **is coming to Blackburn!**



He has held musical posts at **Westminster Abbey**, the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in **New York City**, and St. Mark's Cathedral in **Minneapolis**, and currently serves as organist of the vast St. Ignatius Church, **San Francisco**.

He is co-founder of American Bach Soloists, founding director of AVE (*Artists' Vocal Ensemble*), and founding President of Art to the Nations, employing musicians in international negotiations to aid in conflict resolution.

He has recorded over **20 CDs**, and this February he is giving recitals in Grace Cathedral **San Francisco**, All Souls' Langham Place, **London** and **BLACKBURN**, and later in Lincoln and Durham Cathedrals.

**So, yes, he's coming to Blackburn Cathedral to give us an organ recital on**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30 am. BE THERE!!!**



Extra practices were held to ensure the highest standards. Here the boys are rehearsing with Richard Tanner on the Thursday morning before Christmas, prior to enjoying a hot dog lunch, and then the movie, *Flushed Away*, which they enjoyed!

## Heartiest Congratulations to Sarah Chew

who entered the Colne Luther Greenwood Memorial Festival in November and won one 3<sup>rd</sup> place, one 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and one **FIRST** place in the Junior Light Opera section against stiff competition.

Here she is holding her well-deserved Trophy.

Sarah, 16, is a member of the Girls' Chamber Choir and of the YPC and she attends Runshaw College, Leyland where music will be one of her 'A level' subjects.  
*Well done, Sarah!*



## IT WAS VERY GOOD...

to see international conductor **OC IVOR BOLTON** again, with his wife, **Dr. Tess Knighton**, and their son, **Sam**,



when they were visiting Ivor's parents and sister in Blackburn at the end of December. They all enjoyed a splendid lunch at the Spread Eagle in Mellor.

Ivor told your editor, 'I have to get back to Salzburg immediately for I'm conducting a New Year's Eve concert with my Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra.' Then he added, 'I'm conducting 16 performances of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Covent Garden in June. I'd love you to be there for one of them.'

[The tickets range from £76 to £184 each! Any takers?]

**Check these Websites to discover what's on!**

**The Cathedral's Website:**

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

**Richard Tanner's Website:** [www.richardtanner.co.uk](http://www.richardtanner.co.uk)

**The Boy Choristers' Website:** [www.bcbchoir.org.uk](http://www.bcbchoir.org.uk)

**Your Editor's Website:** [www.bertalot.org](http://www.bertalot.org)

## To Veil or not to Veil

The day before **Jack Straw's** weekly article in the Lancashire Telegraph hit the world stage (in which he suggested that



Muslim women might consider removing the *Niqab* for the sake of cross-community relations) mobile phone messages and emails had already been whizzing to **Anjum Anwar** and **Canon Chris Chivers**.



They were both in Cape Town, South Africa, preparing for a trip to **Archbishop Desmond Tutu's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday** celebrations after which they would be grilled live on SABC Radio for an hour on Christian-Muslim relations. The reason for the frantic flurry of messages was the first three pages of the LT, beginning with the front-page banner headline: *Canon blasts council race policy*. When Jack Straw's article appeared the next day, it was clear that the LT had held-over a wide-ranging interview with Canon Chivers as the warm-up for what was to follow.

Ms Anwar and Canon Chivers' initial reaction to the MP for Blackburn's remarks was that they were very carefully worded, and that they raised crucial issues, especially as to the boundary between faith and culture on which the whole debate about the veil seemed to hinge. They both wished however that he hadn't raised the issue in the LT but in dialogue with people, not least with Muslim women themselves who wear the veil. They expressed these initial impressions via an article which Canon Chivers was commissioned to write for *The Tablet*, the Roman Catholic International weekly.

Following the subsequent debate, several things became very clear. One was the simple fact that Muslim women seemed not to be being engaged by Jack Straw in the debate: he seemed to prefer to speak almost exclusively with Muslim men. The other was that the nuanced complexity of the issue was not being explored with the depth that seemed necessary.

There was plenty of knee-jerk reaction, little real reflection. Added to which, those who clearly objected even more strongly than Jack Straw to the wearing of the veil *per se* rather than in certain situations were not being heard either, except in a very sloganised way.

So it was that Ms Anwar and Canon Chivers sought to mobilise the grass-roots community to have an open discussion in the cathedral, a place which, as two Muslim speakers were to remind the audience on the night of the debate, is widely regarded as one of the safest spaces within which to have such a public conversation.

Ms Anwar and Canon Chivers were nervous as to whether Monday 11 December would be a good time for a debate when so many people would be pre-occupied with other festivities.



*The Dean introduces the speakers to an expectant Nave.*

But they needn't have worried, for following an extended mention on GMTV Breakfast Television – and with posters and postcards advertising the event distributed all over the county –

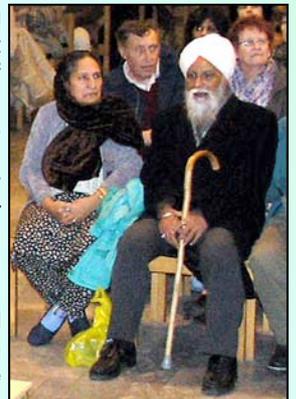
over 250 people from Blackburn, Accrington, Preston, Nelson, Lancaster, Blackpool, Burnley, Darwen and many places in between packed the nave for a night which the **Dean, Christopher Armstrong** subsequently acknowledged to have been "One of the best nights in my time as Dean, a night when the Cathedral came alive and came into its own... the atmosphere fizzing with animated conversation."

Following the by now standard format for an Anwar-Chivers conversation, with roughly 25 minutes of input dialogue to explore the religious injunctions behind the concept of veiling, its history both in Islam and Christianity, the different cultural responses to the Qu'ranic injunction, issues of freedom of expression, public safety, communication and cohesion, the debate was thrown open to the floor. By this time the audience had grown even bigger and stretched to the back of the cathedral.



Perhaps the most encouraging and distinctive aspect of what followed was the honesty of people on all sides of a complex debate in expressing their views articulately and respectfully. Everyone was heard, and many acknowledged that their understanding had grown considerably across the one and a half hours of the event.

Many of the questions and comments were greeted with approving applause by the attentive audience.



Undoubtedly the most moving moment in the evening came at its close when Canon Chivers and Ms Anwar invited everyone to stand and to share a greeting with someone behind them.

Immediately, animated groups of people could be seen all over the cathedral sharing their reactions and feelings. It was certainly a night to remember.

*This edition of the newsletter is supported financially by the community cohesion, education, outreach and development agency of Blackburn Cathedral, which receives funding from:*

**exChange**

Department for  
**Communities and  
Local Government**

**Northwest**  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

# Nine Lessons and Carols, Saturday, December 23rd

Or perhaps it should have been called '9 Lessons and 20 Carols' – for the Cathedral choir, directed by **Richard Tanner** and accompanied by **James Davy**, gave a packed congregation, which filled the Nave and almost filled both transepts, a rich palette of 15 carols which thrilled us all; and there were 5 carols for the congregation to sing, too!

How very good it was to see Old Chorister **David Whittle** sitting with his parents in the North Transept. David joined the boys' choir in 1978 and then graduated to the YPC which was directed by **Keith Bond**. Like his contemporary, **David Tattersall** (elder brother of Anthony) he was commissioned in the Royal Navy, and then he managed his own landscaping business.

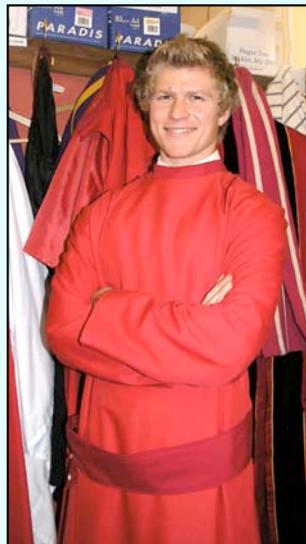


David & Brian Whittle

'What are you doing now,' asked your editor. 'I'm teaching Geography to troublesome kids in Norwich,' he replied with a grin. 'I hope that it'll give them some perspective on the world today!' It was very good to see David again, as he sat down with his parents, Brian and Ruth, to wait for the service to begin.

Another welcome Old Chorister there that evening was **Joseph Twigg**, who joined his Dad, altho **Jim Twigg**, in the choir for the service.

'What are you doing these days?' 'I'm in my second year at Durham studying Sociology,' he answered as he tried to get his over-large cassock to fit him. (The belt was nearly round his knees!) 'What are you going to do with that when you graduate?' 'I'm not quite sure – yet!'



The choir had rehearsed meticulously in the late afternoon, and pre-recorded *Once in Royal David's City* (soloist, **Arthur Geldard**) to be broadcast on Christmas Eve on BBC Radio Lancashire.

'We've got to cut it down to 55 minutes for tomorrow's broadcast', said producer **Gerald Jackson** (next column, centre). Afterwards he commented, 'I must put a mike between the choir

stalls next year, as well as over them, for we didn't pick up the soloists too well.'



Choir carols ranged from the traditional: Boris Ord's *Adam lay Ybounden*, Bach's *O Little One Sweet* and Harold Darke's *In the Bleak Midwinter* (tenor soloist Derek Crompton, of course!) to challenging settings of *I saw Three Ships* by Simon Preston, *Look up, Sweet Babe*, by Lennox Berkeley, *Make we Joy* by Sasha Johnson Manning (2004), and a lovely setting of *Our Blessed Lady's Lullaby* by Canon Chris Chivers.

Then they had a break before a final run-through in the Song School.



Three small probationers sat in the front row of the congregation for the service, looked after by former organ scholar, **Jonathan Turner**. **Joseph Kennedy's** young brother, **Adam**, needed a bit of help with his robe as his sister looked on!

And then, after a Vestry prayer by the **Dean**, the choir, servers and clergy gathered at the West end of the cathedral as Assistant Organist, **David Scott-Thomas**, finished his Prelude – which was timed almost to the minute.

How many Old Choristers have experienced that long wait, knowing that, as soon as the organ stopped playing, they had to sing, all on their own, that awesome verse, *Once in Royal David's City*, realising that their performance would set the tone for the whole service? What a privilege – what a responsibility!

**Arthur Geldard** sang it very well indeed, and sustained the last note for its full two beats. It was going to be a great service!



**James Davy** accompanied superbly, of course, and his Postlude – the *Finale* from *Widor's 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony* – attracted an admiring fan club who burst into well-deserved applause afterwards.



Centre are **Frank & Margaret Ashton**. Frank has been organist of Mellor Parish Church for over 40 years. He recognises brilliant organ playing when he hears it!

An unusual view of the choir in full voice.



And after the service there was, of course, a Reception in the Crypt attended by the **Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn**, (left) former High Sheriff **Mrs. Gail Stanley** and **Dr. John Stanley**, **H. H. Judge Brian Duckworth** and **Mrs. Carolyn Duckworth**, and



very many more good friends. Here the **Bishop** chats with **H. H. Judge Jeremy Duerden** and his party.

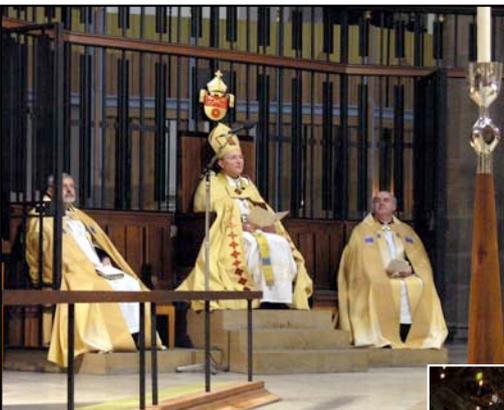


**Kit Dawson & Joseph Twigg** sit in the overflow seats on the far side, as Prefect **Charles Forshaw** reads the first lesson.

The Virgers, as ever, added considerable dignity to the service by the way they led each reader to the Lectern.



The **Bishop**, flanked by **Archdeacons John of Blackburn and Peter of Lancaster**, enjoyed every minute of the service, for he could be seen mouthing the words of almost all the carols



But after that, the cathedral musicians were invited to the lovely home of **Richard & Philippa** for another Reception, where we inspected not only the magnificent extension to their home, (designed especially for parties), but also, of course, to rejoice with **James** and very young **Ben!** (see p. 2) It brought to an end a magnificent evening. Thank you so much!



Special tribute must be paid to Head Chorister, **Adam Whittaker**, who sang no fewer than **FOUR** solos during the service. And they weren't only 'easy' solos (which solos are easy?) such as the first verses of *In the Bleak Midwinter*, and *Silent Night*, but also highly demanding ones, such as Berkeley's *Look up, Sweet Babe*, where his notes were difficult to pitch. He was magnificent! Well done!



## GORDON SHAW...

...a man of many parts, recently celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday! Gordon not only sings in the Cathedral choir and the Renaissance Singers, but he is the Singers' Librarian. He's also a member of the Cathedral Chapter. and was, until last year, our outstanding Chairman of BCOCA. He and Sheila have 8 grandchildren – all girls – one of whom, **Caroline**, sings in our girls' choir. **MANY HAPPY RETURNS, GORDON!**



## O.C. Chris Hunwick is Castle Bound!

Old Chorister **Chris Hunwick** has just been appointed Archivist to the Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick (pronounced 'Annick') Castle! This deserves a round of riotous applause, for it's a job for life!



*Chris wrote to your editor:*



I begin work on 5th March 2007. I will be working at Alnwick Castle, the second largest residential castle after Windsor, and the location for 'Hogwarts' in the Harry Potter movies.



The Archives date back to the 12th century and fill approximately 2 km of shelving, at least ten times the size of Manchester Cathedral's collection!

*(Chris has been Archivist at Manchester Cathedral for the last few years, and his wife, **Geraldine**, is Archivist to Manchester University.)*

We will be provided with a house somewhere on the estates, rent free for three months. Hopefully this will allow us time to sell our Liverpool flat and to get to know the area, so that we can purchase a house in Northumberland. Geraldine will be looking for a job at one of the record offices in the area: Berwick upon Tweed, Woodhorn, Newcastle, or Durham.



*(It had been hoped that Chris might have been able to become part-time Archivist here at Blackburn Cathedral if funding were available – for we have some irreplaceable treasures. But, of course, this will not now be possible.*

*Here's Chris examining some archives in our cathedral offices recently.)*

*Chris continues:* My early start date at Alnwick may not allow me time now to put together a Heritage Lottery Bid for Blackburn Cathedral's Archives; I will have my work cut out just to get everything finished at Manchester, but it may be possible later.

*Chris, heartiest congratulations again. May you and Geraldine find much happiness and fulfilment in that most historic place. JB*

## STOP PRESS

**1.** Pretext Publishers in South Africa has recently published **Canon Chris Chivers'** edition of the Collected Poems of Harry Wiggett, a priest who ministered to Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu when they were in prison.

**2.** February 2007 will also see the publication of a short book, **Dear Dom and Greg...**, letters which Chris has written to his sons, all of which have been published as editorial pieces in Cape Times, and one of which formed the basis for the Radio 4 Christmas Meditation that he presented with **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, (see page 14).



*Mary, Dominic, Gregory and Chris Chivers at Westminster Abbey, shortly before they moved to Blackburn.*

Archbishop Tutu commends Canon Chivers' letters on the back cover of **Dear Dom and Greg...**, by saying:

*Gregory and Dominic are my very special high five friends. I hope that one day they will read these eloquent and challenging letters from their father and be inspired to discover the better world which God is trying to bring to birth through the goodness in each one of us. These letters are a lovely gift to us.*

*Copies available at the cathedral very soon – ask Chris!*

## La Nativité du Seigneur

On Sunday evening, 7<sup>th</sup> January, **Richard Tanner** gave another masterly performance of Olivier Messiaen's Christmas classic in the cathedral – he's played it here at least four times during the last few years.



This time the mystical message of the Incarnation, which Messiaen strove to convey through his unique music, was amplified by poems (read by **Virginia Crewe**, mother of old choristers **Adam, Emily and Naomi**) by **Bishop John Taylor** (1914-2001) former Bishop of Winchester who was a great patron of artists and musicians. Bishop Taylor had worked with **Chris Chivers** to produce this ordering of music and poetry just a few weeks before his death.

It was a spiritual experience for all of us to listen, in the incense-filled darkened cathedral, to Richard's inspired playing, and to Bishop Taylor's numinous words:

*He who lay curled in Mary's womb,  
has broken new-born from the tomb.*



## Former Sr. Old Chorister PETER FIELDING

gave a superb lunchtime piano recital in the cathedral on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, which opened our dazzling 2007 concert series. He attracted a capacity audience in the South Transept with his fiendishly difficult programme of Bach, Brahms and Beethoven.

In the audience were not only members of the Fielding clan, but also many fellow Old Choristers, some of whom were Peter's contemporaries when T. L. Duerden came here as Director of Music 68 years ago! *What talent, what comradeship!*



L-R: Alan Holden, Tony Robinson, Ralph Robinson, Eric Bancroft, Gordon Fielding, Adrian Wilson & Gordon Shaw.

## Former Organ Scholar JONATHAN TURNER

will be bringing his choir from Lincoln College, Oxford to sing a **CONCERT by CANDLELIGHT** in the cathedral on

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
**at 7.30 pm.**

On **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** they sing the **10.30 service** with our choir, and **Choral Evensong** on their own.

And the next 4 days they sing the 9.45 am Daily Service on BBC Radio 4!



And guess who's in his choir? None other than our ubiquitous former Head Girl, **EMILY CREWE**, who is in her second year at Oxford Brookes University. Also **ANDREW ELLIOTT**, son of Renaissance Singer, Alison Elliott.

**Please come along to support them!**

**Tickets only £5.00 for the concert (under 16s free!)**

## The Prime Minister of Malta

Dr. Lawrence Gonzo and Mrs. Catherine Gonzo, opened the new headquarters of FRASER EAGLE (one of our major sponsors) near Burnley in January, and they also visited cathedral.



They were welcomed by the **Dean and Canon Chivers**, introduced to members of the Chapter (including choirman

**Gordon Shaw**), given a guided tour of the cathedral by the Dean, refreshments in the crypt, and then they listened to an enchanting recital by our choirboys and girls, conducted by **Richard Tanner**, with **James Davy** at the organ.



Music included *He shall feed his flock* (Messiah), *Panis Angelicus*, *For the beauty of the earth* (Rutter) and *The Holy City*. Our trebles have never sounded so thrilling.

After it was all over Dr. Gonzo thanked the musicians, and asked who the youngest chorister was: **William Fielding**, of course!



**Chorister Jonathan Brookes**, who had fractured his arm whilst skating, asked the Prime Minister to autograph his plaster: which he did!

**Dr Gonzo enjoyed the recital so much that he hopes to hear the choir sing in Malta!**

It was a most happy morning. But the day wasn't over for Richard Tanner or James Davy (they'd already had two rehearsals with the boys and girls that morning), for there followed a 6-hour rehearsal with the Renaissance Singers and the Manchester Chamber Choir for their performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* on April 4<sup>th</sup>. **Have you booked your seats? 01254-50-30-82.**

Next day there was the usual full Sunday, including the **Epiphany Carol Service** attended by Civic leaders from the Diocese.

On Monday and Tuesday there would be Master Classes for the boys, girls and men led by **Dr. Barry Rose**, and on the Wednesday there would be a live **BBC Broadcast Choral Evensong on Radio 3!** Our musicians work so hard!

**Read all about it, and more, in our next issue!**



Printed by DELMAR PRESS, Nantwich, CW5 5LS