

Blackburn Cathedral

Music & More

£3

February 2009



Spectacularissimo! See p. 18

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO

Chairman ED McCULLOUGH &

Renaissance Singer Dr. VICTORIA GAUGE
on their marriage on Saturday 18 October.



Photo: Bradshaws of Burnley

The Cathedral Choir and Renaissance Singers, conducted by **Richard Tanner**, sang *I was Glad* at the Bride's entrance, accompanied by former Assistant DoM **Greg Morris**; the service was Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, accompanied by **James Davy**.

Other music included Duruflé's *Ubi Caritas*, Howells' *Jubilate*, Willan's *Rise up, my love*, and former DoM **David Cooper's** *Come, my Way*, with a stunning solo by chorister **Mathieu Woodburn**. **James Davy** composed the words and music for a special anthem for the service, which he conducted, and he played the couple out with the *Final* from *Vierne No. 1*. Wow!

Both fathers are Canons: **Canon Roy McCullough** is an honorary Canon of Blackburn and **Canon Barrie Gauge** is a former Vice Dean of Derby.

The Dean officiated, and Canon Gauge did the actual marriage. Canon McCullough and Singers' Chairman **Eileen Hemingway** read the lessons. It was a liturgical and musical marathon!

Sermon preached by The Dean

The Wedding at Cana is a chilling reminder to those at the front of the congregation today: what to do if the wine runs out! And this is a real possibility with a vast congregation packed with medics and the largest choir in Lancashire with 4 anthems still to sing!

St. John presents us with a family on the verge of social humiliation – perhaps caused by Jesus and his cronies turning up unannounced to the reception, and the wine ran out. Jesus saves the day by quietly providing ample refreshment: 130 gallons of it. But the significance is even greater for he does so by breaking through the restrictive practises of the old religion to allow the generosity of God to pour forth. It is a story of sensitivity and generosity.

And there is another story of sensitivity and generosity unfolding before our very eyes as Ed and Victoria pledge their generosity one to another in this marriage service. They have embraced a structure which calls from each of them a depth of generosity not just for the other but for those who will have the privilege of coming within the influence of this new community of love. Generosity in affluence and poverty, in the good days and the very worst of nights, in sickness and in health, and unto the very edge of the grave. The framework of marriage, too easily rejected by our galloping society, is based on trust not greed. It thus has the capacity to expand beyond the normal limits of our sight to embrace the unexpected.

As Shakespeare puts it in his Sonnet (116):

*Let not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments; love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.*

The happy couple honeymooned in New York and Barbados and, according to Victoria, 'had a great time.' But they returned home to a cold house, for their boiler had broken.

Welcome back to the real world!

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO

OC FRANK HARE who lives near Malvern

and who has recently celebrated a significant birthday,
is also celebrating the 10th anniversary
of his amazing magazine INSITE,
published for the PEIMF.

The PEIMF (The Petroleum Equipment Installers and Maintenance Federation) was formed in 1993 as the body that speaks for those companies and individuals engaged in the daily activities associated with the downstream petroleum industry throughout the UK and Ireland.

We asked Frank to tell us all about it:

Hi John

I prepare all of the text and pictures, sell all of the advertising, and collect all the cash. There is no profit so I need to get it right.

I take it to my graphics man David 4 times a year (another cottage industry) who does all of the clever bits based on my articles. I position the adverts with him and, after about 2 hours, he puts it together when I have left. Always nerve racking. You never know what will fit!



We print 1000 copies, which are read by about 5 readers each, average. It goes to 28 overseas countries too. Not originally intended. It costs about £ 1,900 to print it

My neighbour labels and stamps them all. We both package it - takes 2.5 hours. The postman collects in a van at the door. The village Post Office stamps and sends the overseas copies for me.

The cover is usually a cartoon but this time I wanted a montage of all the front covers we have ever done after 10 years. David did the rest after a short brief. Amazing.

My cartoonist is Brian from Hazel Grove Cheshire. We have NEVER met. I speak to him and may send him a terrible sketch on the fax. He always comes up trumps.

I don't know how I do it - it just comes together. It keeps me very much alive and in contact with the industry I have now been in for 30 years.

Oh, by the way, I also do the web site details and updates. Our web master does the rest.

www.peimf.com

Hope this helps
Frank

It certainly does, Frank – it puts our Music & More totally in the shade! Well done indeed, and renewed congratulations! JB

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO three new honorary Lay Canons

who were Collated by the Bishop
and Installed by The Dean
at Choral Evensong on Sunday 19th October.
when the choir sang Stanford in B flat
and Stanford's *O for a closer walk*.



Left: **Mrs. Andrea Fare Titterington** is deputy chair of the Cathedral Developments, and she has been the Regeneration Director of Liverpool Football Club among many other creative activities. She is a Reader in the Parish of Broughton, St. John.

Centre: **Mr. Michael Jack PC MP** has been the National Chairman of the Young Conservatives among many other political posts. Before entering Parliament in 1987 he was the Sales Director of a leading company in the food industry. He is a member of the parish of Lytham, St. John.

Right: **Mr. Michael Chew** has worked in industry since 1970 and has been the Mission Action Plan Facilitator for the Dioceses of Blackburn and Lichfield. He has been Churchwarden at Baxenden and Deputy Director of the Blackburn Samaritans.

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO our former Assistant Organist IAN PATTINSON

Organist of Lancaster Priory...

...who, on All Souls' Day, gave a stunning performance of Messiaen's *Les Corps Glorieux*.



Listening to Ian's supremely accomplished playing transported us into another world, for he re-created, so faithfully, every nuance which Messiaen demanded, not only fistfulls of right notes, some of which were very fast indeed, but also the actual sounds he produced from our organ – some of which we had never heard

before. This was a truly authentic performance – it was a privilege as well as a deeply spiritual experience to be there.

Chatting with Ian afterwards, we agreed that we knew of no organ in this country which could so faithfully re-create the French sounds that Messiaen demanded. "And the acoustics are Parisian, too!" added Ian.

Ian played this for us at short notice. "How much notice?" asked your editor. "Two weeks!"

From former Choirman **JAMES ATHERTON**

Dear John,

I recently sang in the live BBC broadcast from Blackburn and I felt that I'd like you to print this letter (in part if you like) in your excellent magazine.

I sang in **David Cooper's** Blackburn choir in the early 90s. He gave me my real first start in Cathedral music. You can only imagine how devastated I was to find myself at his funeral in Ripon earlier this year.

I was an alto then, but really a frustrated tenor.

I was always in awe of **Derek Crompton** and **Phil Hunwick**, easily as good a tenor line-up as any Cathedral Choir could boast! It was a huge honour and thrill for me to be invited to sing on the recent broadcast and stand next to these excellent chaps. I was welcomed back with warmth and for that I'm truly grateful.



James (top) with **Phil Hunwick** (middle) and **Derek Crompton** rehearsing for the September Choral Evensong broadcast.

I would like to congratulate **Richard Tanner** on his excellent choir. The choir was always in great shape under **DC** but it is absolutely fantastic now! I'm very proud to have associations with this glorious place and occasionally to come 'back home' and sing here whether as a soloist or as part of the choir.

I've been in the Choirs at **Chester, Lincoln, Winchester** and **St. George's Chapel Windsor Castle** and am now in my 4th year at **Gloucester Cathedral**. I can honestly say that, with the exception of Gloucester, there is no place I look forward to being in more than Blackburn Cathedral! Long may it continue to flourish....

As head voicer at Nicholson and Co, Organ Builders, I'm passionate about organs. As a boy I used to cycle from Holcombe Hill to Blackburn Cathedral to press my nose up to the smoked glass doors of the 1969 console and look at the stops! What an organ, is there a finer one? I'd love to talk to you about your thoughts when you designed it.

With all best wishes.

James Atherton

James is the tenor soloist for our forthcoming performances of MESSIAH both at Blackburn Cathedral and when the cathedral choirs are in Malta!

James: Let me know when you're next here so that we can chat about the organ! And yes, I asked for glass doors on the console specifically so that organists, and potential organists, could gaze at the stops, and especially at our 32ft Serpent! JB

Look out - you're on Candid Camera!

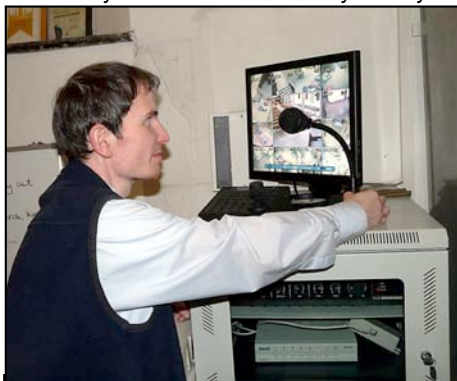


Even more advanced technology has come to the cathedral:
 (1) A new **SOUND SYSTEM** has been installed so that we can hear much more clearly every word spoken in services.

But may the editor say that super technology is one thing – clear, projected speaking is another. Both are needed.

We can always hear the Bishop most clearly, for he speaks up and he speaks slowly. But there may be others who think that all the work should be done by the expensive electronics. This is not so. Conversational speech in a low tone immediately drops to the floor and is unintelligible. And speaking quickly comes out as a blur.

As the bishop knows, the secret of speaking into a microphone is to pretend that it's not there, and so he speaks unhurriedly with a raised voice, as though to the back row of the congregation, and thus everyone can hear him very clearly!



Dean's Virger Mark Pickering with his adjustable multi-screen security system, digital recorder and microphone.

(2) New **CCTV CAMERAS** have been installed which are controlled from the Virgers' office. We have **16** cameras all round the cathedral, and inside as well! Two of the adjustable external cameras are so powerful that the Virgers can even zoom in upon car number plates!

And all the videos taken by the 16 cameras are recorded and kept for 7 days!

And that's not all.

When a Virger sees someone (or a couple!) doing something they didn't oughter, he can speak into his microphone and his words boom out forcefully through loud-speakers high up on the cathedral walls which sound as though they were the voice of God!

Powerful lights have also been added to dissuade folks from gathering in these places ... and all this has been done to make the cathedral a safer place for everyone, both inside and outside.



Canons' Virger Jeffrey Robinson outside the Assembly area, pointing to one of the new movable cameras, loudspeakers and security lights,

But there's more!

The police are closely involved in all this, and even they are impressed by the excellence of our new cameras!



The police with Canon Hindley and Mark Pickering before they inspected our new security systems.

But there's even more!

We have, as was announced in our last issue, a brand new, £250,000 state-of-the-art heating system from **Neales Waste Management**, for which we obtained a grant covering 90% of the cost. (Hallelujah & Thanks!)

We're the first cathedral in this country to install such a system which is Green friendly and which also generates some of the electricity it uses.

And it's all run from a laptop in the Virgers' office!



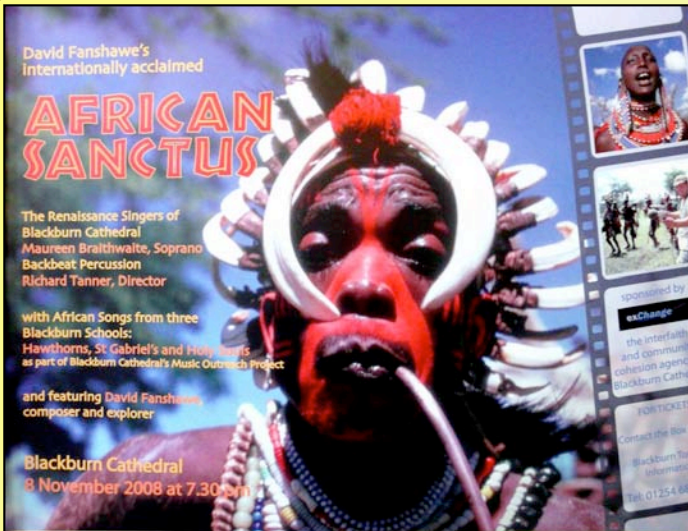
Canon Hindley explained that Mark could, for example, turn off the heating in the transepts when they were not being used, and have heating only in the Nave, thus saving a lot of fuel.

'And with the flick of a button,' continued Canon Hindley, 'Mark could immediately turn the heating on in the Transepts or elsewhere if it were needed.'



Truly Blackburn Cathedral is again leading the way in so many areas in the 21st Century!

African Sanctus



Blackburn Cathedral was filled with the sounds of children's voices from four Blackburn Primary Schools: *Hawthorns*, *Salesbury*, *St. Gabriel's* and *Holy Souls*, as part of Blackburn Cathedral's Music Outreach project.

But the previous day the composer and explorer himself, DAVID FANSHAWE was in the cathedral helping to rehearse the children in their important part in his groundbreaking composition. First, he listened to them...



... and then he gave them a few tips to make their singing even more exciting....



and after that he showed them how to play an authentic African drum!

And so the children were very well prepared for the next evening's concert!

Music reaching out to the whole world

"This was another memorable Gala and Global night of music-making at the cathedral," said Canon Chris Chivers.

Canon Chivers continues: There is no doubt that over the past few years the cathedral has considerably increased both its desire and its capacity to reach out to groups not always touched by cathedral ministry.

7-8 November saw musical events that acted as a prism and a catalyst for all these innovative aspects of outreach.



Fraser Eagle representatives Mr. & Mrs. John & Irene Nixon with Canon Hindley, before the concert.

Fraser Eagle, with other bodies and individuals, including exChange which gave £5,000, are our concerts series most generous sponsors and supporters



Our asylum-seeking and refugee community - especially its many African members - took pride of place in the audience at the Gala Concert performance of David Fanshawe's African Sanctus.



Guests from Zimbabwe with Rodney Swarbrick, CBE, Chairman of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music.



Jean Duerden handing refreshments to guests from Eritrea

The concert was also attended by our friends visiting from our link cathedral in Braunschweig - the Dean, **Dom Joachim Hempel** among them - who were enthralled with all that we are doing to touch the lives of 'hard-to-reach' groups.



Dean Christopher and Geraldine Armstrong with the Revd Christian Kohn (L) from Braunschweig Cathedral and Dean Joachim Hempel, who would be preaching at the Remembrance Service the following morning.



Val Edge and Judge Jeremy Duerden with Mrs. Gunhild Salbert chair of Braunschweig Cathedral Council, and Dr. Annette Bolt-Stuelsebach, Braunschweig Cathedral Council member.



Many from our own congregation were there, too. Chatting with FoBCM Council member Anitra Haythornwhite were Krystina & Derek Adams – former choir parents. (Krystina was a student of JB's at the RNCM last Millennium!) But centre stage - because they were on stage at the start of the evening and at other times - were 120 children from the four local schools: Hawthorns, Salesbury, St Gabriel's and Holy Souls.

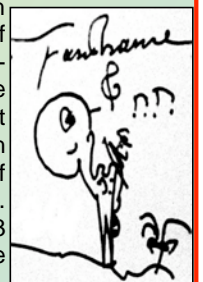


Gillian Turner with her children from St. Gabriel's School.



Joy Fielding and Gill Fourie, staff members from the Music Outreach Project, had been working hard with the children, teaching them songs from Africa, some of which were in 3 lively vocal parts, ready for a workshop on 7 November with the composer-explorer David Fanshawe.

So impressed was David Fanshawe with the children as he told them the story of how his cross-cultural, part-recorded, part-composed 'Mass' was created, that he asked the young people not only to sing at the concert's opening - which they did with great gusto - but also to interpolate two of their songs in **African Sanctus** itself. Characteristically he wrote wonderful A3 thank-you cards to each school complete with his famous '**camel signature**'.



The children of course brought parents, grandparents and other supporters to the concert, many of whom had never before been to the cathedral, let alone to a concert of this kind.



Gusto!

The almost sold-out house heard a riveting performance by the Renaissance Singers, the vibrant percussion group, Backbeat, the boldly mellifluous soprano soloist, Maureen Braithwaite, and multi-talented James Davy at the piano ...



...all under the skilled direction of Richard Tanner, who had borrowed a flamboyant African shirt (from whom?!) for the occasion.

In addition to the 'live' performers there was much music played through loudspeakers, which David Fanshawe had recorded in Africa. The combined sounds were stunning and frequently overwhelming.



The 'CC' shirt (who's CC?) which was worn by Richard Tanner was greeted by delighted whoops from the choir and ecstatic applause by the packed audience.

At the heart of African Sanctus, which fuses indigenous African music - much of it recorded at a time (1969-1972) when rapid urbanization in Africa was causing traditional cultures to be eroded

- lies a counterpoint of faiths which had already spoken to our Lancashire context.

When, in 2006, the BBC asked Anjum Anwar MBE, now our dialogue development officer, to work with Canon Chris Chivers to lead a Sunday Worship across the Christian-Muslim divide, as a commemoration of the fifth anniversary of 9/11, the two of them turned to African Sanctus for the iconic moment in the service.

When staying in Jerusalem in the mid 60s David Fanshawe had heard, during a Eucharist at St George's Anglican cathedral - where Canon Chivers preached last December - the Muslim Call to Prayer at the same time as the Christians were singing the Kyrie eleison.



Canon Chris Chivers greeting David Fanshawe before the concert.

An idea was born. And when he subsequently recorded the stunning chanting of a call to prayer in Cairo, he knew that he would have the choir sing a Kyrie with this.

There were many Muslims in the audience, accompanying school participants, and to see their look of rapt engagement, alongside their sister and brother Christians, and people of all faiths and goodwill, as together they heard this call to prayer from faiths in dialogue, was one of the night's great memories, one which the sponsors - **exChange**, the cathedral's interfaith development agency - had hoped would be an outcome of the catalytic role which they played in the whole venture.

David Fanshawe wrote of the Renaissance Singers' 'brilliant and dramatic performance, made all the more meaningful by the wondrous acoustic of Blackburn Cathedral.'

An asylum seeker from Zimbabwe spoke of 'feeling truly at home here for the first time.'

A percussionist from Backbeat - whose African drumming and marimba playing was simply magnificent - noted 'the way you've brought so many partners together in this performance. It's a sign of hope'

As a member of the audience thanked us for 'wonderful music and all those photographs from David Fanshawe's journeys' - which his wife Jane had projected for us - she exclaimed 'you've taken us to Africa.'

This was another night to remember, one that undoubtedly changed many perspectives, and drew diverse communities closer together.

A night that also saw a retiring collection raise nearly £300 for Luvo Mpande, the South African from Cape Town's Kayelitsha township whose education - as a scholar of the Kay Mason Foundation - the cathedral funds.

A night which ended in a curry house with David Fanshawe plotting alongside Richard Tanner, James Davy and Canon Chivers a possible Renaissance Singers tour to retrace the African Sanctus journey and celebrate the composer's seventieth birthday.

That David Fanshawe should choose the Renaissance Singers for such a venture says it all. And around the Chivers' breakfast table David wrote it out on a piece of card to which a few of us at the cathedral are turning occasionally with the hope that this particular dream, like the dream of the Blackburn Sanctus performance itself - and all that it represented - might also be fulfilled.

Deborah Johnson loves her new job...



... as Resources Coordinator for the Diocesan Board of Education. Previously, of course, she had been, for many years, the receptionist at Church House, where she was at the centre of all its many activities – answering phones, sorting each day's massive post, dealing with polite enquiries, dealing with difficult people, (and there were surprisingly many of them!), continually opening the barrier to the car park and trying to maintain her effervescent personality intact. (See *Debbie's successors*, p.12)

Well now she's in a completely different environment – in her quiet office just behind the font in the south transept.

'I love it here,' she said, as she helped a lady from Fleetwood who was looking for resources for a Christian lunch club.

'We have a vast quantity of high quality books, DVDs, CDs, videos and activity packs; they're all on sale or for loaning. We've materials for children's groups, for schools, for adult church groups – for everyone!

No wonder Debbie is smiling!



From OC BRYAN LAMB near Ely

Dear John,

Thank you for the latest edition of Supermag. It enables me to sit quietly for an hour and have a good old wallow in nostalgia.

I was especially moved by the new honours board commemorating us Senior Old Choristers. What a wonderful idea for John Marr to provide it in memory of his Mother.



1980 Bryan Lamb

From the new Senior Old Choristers' Board in the Song School

I have done pretty well this year getting my name up in gold letters.

A similar and even bigger board (with me in the middle of it) was unveiled at QEGS in the Spring. I had the pleasure of seeing it three weeks ago when I was summoned thither to attend Old Blackburnians' Lodge, where I was received with great kindness and presented with a magnificent illuminated address to celebrate my 50th anniversary in Freemasonry. It is now in a posh frame.

Isn't it amazing where the years go? This recent half-century thing led me on to ponder other life-shaping anniversaries, e.g., 66 years since I first arrived at the Cathedral, 65 since going to QEGS, 58 since discovering aeroplanes, [Bryan was a Squadron Leader in the RAF], and 51 since meeting Pat the Commanding

Officer. All the details of my last 77 years are now chronicled in my autobiography, written for my grandchildren to read after clog-popping. Come to think of it, I must get the spare copy back from Peter Heald.

I will be making every effort to be at next year's Reunion. What with that and the expected 500-year celebrations at QEGS, I will have to start saving up!

Thanks again for Supermag. Your efforts are much appreciated by all of us.

Yours ever,

Bryan

Thank you, Bryan for all you have given to BCOCA and the Cathedral during these years. I remember your Senior Old Chorister year so well – that was Way Back! We all look forward to seeing you at our next BCOCA Reunion. JB

RICHARD TANNER...

... invited members of the Preston & District Organists' Association to his home in November to hear and play his new house organ, which had been built for him by Anton Škrabl in Slovenia, and is housed in his former dining room (well away from the neighbours!). Although it has only 5 stops at the moment, more are planned.



As well as providing us with copious refreshments, Richard played music by William Byrd, Bach (G minor Fantasia and Fugue and a trio sonata) and Messiaen's *Dieu Parmi Nous*. That in itself was a *tour de force* on so small an organ, but it sounded magnificent. And afterwards a few brave souls had a go on the instrument themselves.

It was a most happy evening. Thank you, Richard!

A BIG WELCOME TO OC Alex Barnes, our new Assistant Virger...



who took up his duties in November.

Alex knows the cathedral well for he has been a server and was a chorister here under Gordon Stewart, as were his three brothers, Andrew, Alasdair and Antony.

(Opening envelopes in the Barnes' household must have been confusing with four 'A. Barnes' living there!)

Alex, who has been working a Beechwood Garden Centre, told

your editor that Andrew is now finishing his Ph.D in chemistry from Hull University, Alasdair is an electrician at Crown Paints, and Antony is Assistant Trainee Manager at Oakenhurst Farm near Darwen. **WELCOME, Alex!**

The Cathedral Organists' Association

...met in Windsor Castle on a sun-filled day in November – we meet every six months at some illustrious cathedral and, depending upon where it is, many of the brethren & sisteren turn up. Some 40 of us were there and it was a happy coincidence that RICHARD TANNER and your editor arrived at the Castle at the same time as JAMES THOMAS (left) – DoM of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral and former sub organist of Blackburn and Chichester.



Security was tight in that historic place, for we had to show our invitations and a photo ID to the policemen on duty (who had a check-list of participants) before we were admitted.

We gathered in a glorious 14th Century hall to the west of St. George's Chapel, where we were welcomed by the Governor of the Castle, Vice Admiral Ian Jenkins.

We enjoyed some stimulating presentations there on (i) what probationers should be taught – we all joined in with suggestions, (ii) the music of Elgar, by Dr. **Christopher Robinson** (who had visited Blackburn last October) and (iii) a riotous presentation by **Peter Nardone** (DoM Chelmsford Cathedral) on how one's physical stance can influence vocal production. We tried some of his exercises, and most of us were still left standing, even though we'd tied ourselves in knots!



In between sessions we relaxed in that most beautiful hall chatting to one another, where we were also served with a delicious hot luncheon and an equally appetizing tea.

Our host was **Tim Byram-Wigfield** – former DoM of Edinburgh Cathedral. We enjoyed a pre-lunch sherry in his most gracious and historic home which overlooked Windsor and Eton, and from whose windows we had a superb view of Eton College Chapel, built by King Henry VI (who'd also built King's College Chapel, Cambridge). *Didn't realize Hal 6 was a Master Mason!*



Eton College Chapel from Tim's sitting room in the Castle.

It was very good to see Dr. **Stephen Cleobury** there (DoM King's College, Cambridge – left) who was talking with Dr. **Michael Nicholas** (centre) formerly of Norwich Cathedral, for he had succeeded Michael as DoM of St. Matthew's Northampton many years ago (and Michael had succeeded JB). On the right was our genial host, **Tim Byram-Wigfield**.



Dr. Alan Thurlow told your staff photographer, just before a glorious Choral Evensong in St. George's Chapel which ended our conference, that when he (Alan) was assistant organist of Durham Cathedral (before taking up his appointment as DoM of Chichester Cathedral), Conrad Eden, the legendary Director of Music of Durham Cathedral, had once arranged to have the Canticles at eight successive Choral Evensongs to be sung by composers alphabetically:

- Atkins in A
- Bennett in B flat
(B flat in Germany is called 'B')
- Calkin in C
- Distin in D (never heard of him!)
- Elvey in E
- Farrant in F
- Garrett in G, and
- Howells in B minor
(B in Germany is called 'H')



That reminded your editor that when Dr. **Barry Rose** was leaving St. Paul's Cathedral, the Responses for his last week were by B. Rose (Bernard, not Barry) and the words of the anthems were 'There is no Rose' (**See more on p. 14**)

The Following Week

... RICHARD TANNER and your roving reporter travelled south again – this time for an Awards Ceremony for the Guild of Church Musicians in the Queen's Chapel, St. James's Palace.

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL ST. JAMES'S PALACE

Designed by Inigo Jones, the building of the Queen's Chapel was begun in 1623 for the use of the Spanish Infanta on her proposed marriage to the then Prince Charles.

This marriage did not take place, and the Chapel was completed by 1627 for Henrietta Maria, whom Charles I married on 1st May, 1625.

Used as a barracks from 1642, it was restored as a Chapel upon the marriage of Charles II to Catherine of Braganza in 1662 who established a Friary in its grounds. Mary of Modena worshipped here until 1688, after which it was given over to Reformed Worship by William III.

First to arrive were (L-R) Professor **John Morehen**, who is a



member of the Council of the Guild of Church Musicians, **Sir David Lumsden**, former DoM of New College, Oxford, and former Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, who had come to see his son, **Andrew** (right) receive an honorary Fellowship of the Guild. Andrew Lumsden is DoM of Winchester Cathedral, and is one of the very few guest organ recitalists we have welcomed to Blackburn Cathedral who have conquered our lively acoustics. Why? Because he listened to the music he was creating, and therefore amended his touch. *Come again!* (See p.14)

The Guild service was sung superbly by the choristers of St. Mary's Choir School, Reigate, with six professional adults.



The bishop of Norwich, representing the Archbishop of Canterbury, presented awards to church musicians of all ages who had worked hard for their diplomas, and then he presented honorary Fellowships to six distinguished church musicians who had worked equally hard during their illustrious careers:



Five Hon. FGCMs looking seriously attentive: (L-R) **John Belcher** (St. Asaph Cathedral & Tewkesbury Abbey), **Andrew Lumsden** (Lichfield & Winchester), **Andrew Nethsingha** (Truro & Gloucester Cathedrals, and now St. John's College Cambridge), **David Poulter** (Coventry, Chester & now Liverpool Cathedral) and **Andrew Wright** (Brentwood RC Cathedral).



Canon **Jeremy Haselock**, Vice Dean of Norwich who led the service, receiving his Hon. FGCM from his bishop, applauded by the Guild's Warden, the Very Revd. Dr. **Richard Fenwick**.

And after it was all over, and the compulsory group photos had been taken of honorees with VIPs, we assembled in the Royal Gallery at the back of the chapel (from where the Queens of Charles I & II had observed services) to enjoy a sumptuous tea and to chat with fellow musicians from North, East, South and West.



(L-R) **Richard Tanner**, **Lucian Nethsingha** – father of Andrew and former DoM of Exeter Cathedral – who was chatting to Dr. **Alan Thurlow** (Emeritus of Chichester), and (R) composer Professor **Peter Aston**.

As we walked back to Victoria Station past Buckingham Palace, it was good to see that The Queen was At Home, for Her Royal Standard was flying proudly in the evening breeze.

The BDF of CNW

Mrs. Helen Bailey, Chairman of the Blackburn Diocesan Fellowship of Church Needleworkers, (BDF of CNW) presents some new corporals to the Dean, watched by Mark Pickering, the Dean's Virger.



What's a corporal (apart from a two-striper in the army)? It's a small fair linen cloth on which the consecrated bread and wine are placed at Communion.

The BDF of CNW was founded in 1952 under the leadership of the Hon. Rachel Kay Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe Hall who was a great friend of our then Canon Sacrist, Canon Geoffrey Williams. The Fellowship now has 35 members and their skilled and dedicated work can be seen in churches throughout the diocese. For example, the cathedral has a laudian frontal, made by members of the Fellowship for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, which is stunning in both its design and execution.



The Fellowship has also made chasubles and stoles for Bloemfontein, our sister diocese in South Africa, and in May last year the Fellowship gave over 20 stoles to new Ordinands at a presentation held at the home of Bishop John of Burnley.

This year's project for the Fellowship is to create Linen for the Cathedral. Thus the token corporals which Mrs. Bailey presented to the Dean.

Thank you, ladies!

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An outstanding Head Chorister

by JB

David Tattersall

During my 18 years as Director of Music of Blackburn Cathedral, it was my privilege to have had a continuing succession of outstanding Head Choristers – as was the case during my predecessor's 25 years here. And this, happily, has continued ever since – right up to the present day.

But David Tattersall's reign remains in my memory because of what happened at one mid-week Choral Evensong. (In those days there were three mid-week Evensongs, and the boys could come to any two – depending upon their school commitments.)

The editor of a London Music Magazine had asked if he could come up to Blackburn to interview me for an article he would be writing. So when he arrived I showed him over the cathedral whilst we chatted about the music programme here.

The boys' pre-service practice was due to begin at 4.15 for the 5.00 pm service but, on purpose, I led my guest into the Song School several minutes late – knowing full well what we would see: the Head Chorister (David Tattersall) was rehearsing the boys for their warm-ups – as I knew he would. (I hadn't told him about the visit.) This is the sort of responsibility that Head Choristers were always prepared to take, for that's how it was!

Five minutes before the service was due to begin I led my guest upstairs. When we reached the organ console I realised that I'd left my hymn book on the piano, and so I asked my guest to fetch it for me.

A couple of minutes later he brought it to me and said, 'You did that on purpose, didn't you?' 'Did what?' I asked. 'You wanted me to see what the boys were doing when you weren't there,' he replied. 'What were they doing?' I asked. 'They were standing in two straight lines, absolutely still and silent, waiting for the clergy to arrive.' 'Of course they were,' I said, 'for that's what they're supposed to do!'

And the Head Chorister was, of course, David Tattersall. But his predecessors and his successors did the same week after week – for they prided themselves on their self-discipline.

I also led a committee meeting around the Song School grand piano once a month for the four choir prefects, during which we discussed how the boys were doing, and if there were any problems which needed attention. (I did the same with my head boys and girls in Princeton – who told me that they greatly appreciated being promoted to a responsible position in the choir's organisation. They felt so grown-up.)

One of the Blackburn prefects acted as secretary, and he took minutes and wrote them up in a book. What's become of that Minute Book? Someone must have it – it's a treasured archive.

One more memory of Prefect David:

At Choral Evensong one Sunday we were singing the Canticles to Howells' setting for St. Paul's Cathedral – which has a most glorious ending with a very loud chord, accompanied by almost full organ. I used to conduct the choir standing on the miniscule part of the choir platform right next to the head chorister. After the final chord had echoed away, David let out an exhausted, but triumphant 'Phew!' That, for me, summed up the spirit of dedication of the choir, for he had given his all – and it was very good!

Thank you David, and thank you all the Head Choristers who have given, and continue to give, of your very best to our music programme at Blackburn Cathedral, for what you have given not only enriches our worship, but it will enrich, for ever, your own lives.

1979 David Tattersall

David became a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy, navigating nuclear submarines. He has now retired to New Zealand with his family where he has set up a small plant nursery, selling vegetable seedlings to the local garden centres. (See his letter in our last issue, p. 18)

THE ADVENT PROCESSIONS

The cathedral was packed – almost every seat was taken in the Nave and in both Transepts – for the annual Advent Sunday evening service of music, readings and processions.

But before it began, the Dean hosted a Reception in his spacious office for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral and their guests.



Canon Roger Hamblin, the Priest in Charge of Wray with Tatham, together with his wife Sylvia and their jovial host.

At least the office seems spacious when the Dean is there by himself, but it wasn't spacious enough to contain all those who'd accepted his invitation – for many guests overflowed to the passage outside. Your staff photographer was hard prest to plow



his way through the throng to persuade guests to look natural as he took at least three photographs of each. But some guests weren't aware that they were being snapped – thanks to a pretty effective zoom lens.



The Revd. Alan Reid, Chairman of the Blackburn Branch of the Prayer Book Society chatting with Alma Nichols, a faithful member of our congregation.



David Thornton, Friends' Council Member, offers refreshments to Philip and Virginia Johnston (Philip is, of course, a former headmaster of QEGS) who'd come all the way from Skipton for the Reception and Service.

And, of course, Bishop Nicholas was there, seen here talking with Elisabeth Parry.



And what an impressive service it was – with music rehearsed by Richard Tanner and James Davy. The clergy and Virgers were rehearsed in the complex processions equally meticulously by Canon Andrew Hindley

The cathedral choir of men and boys processed down each side aisle of the Nave (Dec & Can) carrying lighted candles and singing the Advent Prose, *Drop down, ye heavens*, with Richard Tanner being both Conductor and Cantor.



And after the Dean had welcomed us, the Cathedral Girls' Choir, who were at the East end of the Cathedral in the Ambulatory immediately behind the bishop's throne, sang the first of a series of unaccompanied Advent Antiphons most beautifully. (See photo next page)



The light from their candles was reflected in the polished marble of the floor. And after a reading, by Mrs. Geraldine Armstrong, and more choirs' music, the congregation in the Nave lit their candles as the men, boys and clergy processed to the North Transept singing *O come, O come, Emmanuel*.



And so the service proceeded in each Transept in turn with music and readings.



In the South Transept the choir sang Weelkes' *Hosanna to the Son of David* – a thrilling sound – before they temporarily processed to the choirstalls to sing Gibbons' *This is the record of John*. But your photographer couldn't see who was singing the alto solos so beautifully, until he realised that it was Richard Tanner himself. (See photo next column)

The organist was our talented David Scott-Thomas, as both Richard and James were kept busy conducting their respective choirs. What a fine music team we have at Blackburn Cathedral!



Richard Tanner singing Alto Solos



One more set of processions – to the West end of the cathedral to sing, in Russian, Arvo Pärt's *Virgin Mother of God*, which was both rhythmically and melodically thrilling.



Then back to the choirstalls, with the cathedral fully lit, where both choirs combined to sing Bach's *Wachet auf – Sleepers Wake!* The double treble line sounded superb.



The Bishop blessed us and we departed in silence, strangely moved by such an inspiring service.

From Dr. Barry Rose OBE in Somerset,
former Director of Music of Guildford & St. Paul's Cathedrals
and St. Albans Abbey. (See p. 9)

Richard Tanner was a chorister at St. Paul's under Dr. Rose, and later became his organ scholar at St. Albans Abbey.

Hello John,



Good to hear from you, and I understand you are still as active as ever - long may it continue!

I'm interested to know whose Canticles were sung at Durham when they reached the letters Q, X & Y...

I knew that, somewhere, I had a copy of that Music List from my last week at St. Paul's, and your e-mail has spurred me on to find it. (See below)

Life is much the same here - I'm dashing around trying to do one too many things, and pretend that I'm years younger than I am! Off to New York for 3 weeks in February, and conducting a Festival in St. John the Divine Cathedral - Nave and Quire now fully opened, and organ just finished - should be very exciting.

All the best,

Barry

Thank you, Barry! I didn't realize that so many composers had set the words of There is no Rose.

The July 1984 St. Paul's Cathedral music list which you sent me shows that on your last week there the choir sang Rose Responses, on Monday the boys sang Britten's setting of There is no Rose; on Tuesday the full choir sang There is no Rose set by Ronald Corp (a choral conductor). On Wednesday they sang Howells' St. Paul's service (glorious!); on Thursday the men sang a mediaeval setting of There is no Rose. On Friday the full choir sang Joubert's setting of There is no Rose, and on your last day they sang Gerald Hendrie's setting of There is no Rose. I think that the clergy will have got the message.

I was especially interested to read of Gerald Hendrie, for we were students together at the Royal College of Music with Harold Darke teaching us the organ, and we were also contemporaries as organ scholars at Cambridge - he was at Selwyn, I at Corpus. Small world! Enjoy New York! JB

From Professor John Morehen in Nottinghamshire

Dear John, (See p.10)

John Ewington [Secretary of the Guild of Church Musicians] has sent me the photograph of the Lumsdens and me which you took the other day at the Queen's Chapel, St. James's Palace.



It is a super photograph, and I thank you very much for capturing it and for sending it on to John E. You may not know, but not only was I David Lumsden's very first Organ Scholar at New College, Oxford (1961), but I also played the organ at Andy's Christening... so it has nice resonances for me.

You have taken some wonderful photographs. Every time I see one that is stunning you trump it with something even better.

Thanks so much.

Yours ever,

John

Thank you, John M; I remember you as a talented teenager (with an FRCO!) singing at the two-week RSCM Course at Liverpool Cathedral in 1962 (?), which was conducted by Dr. Gerald Knight, the Director of the RSCM. I played the 5-manual organ for Bairstow's Blessed City - an anthem which was new to me, and so I spent more than several hours practising it in the locked cathedral one night. That was an experience I shall never forget! JB

Discover what's on at the Cathedral
www.blackburncathedral.com

An apology to members of the YPC

We deeply regret that members of the YPC didn't receive their invitations to the BCOCA Annual Reunion last year.

Invitations will be sent for this year's Reunion, which is on **Saturday and Sunday 12 & 13 September**. So please book this date in your diary now, for we eagerly look forward to enjoying the company of our young people - not only to the lunch and Choral Evensong on the Saturday, but also to the Reunion Dinner that evening.

Our renewed apologies, and ...

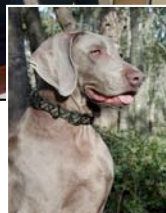
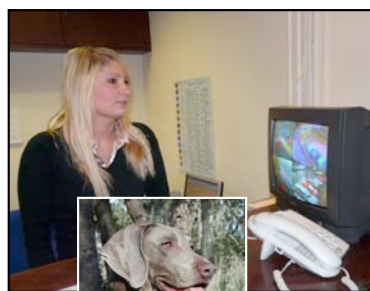
...please book this year's Reunion on Saturday and Sunday 12 & 13 September



Deborah Johnson's successors

at the Reception desk in Church House are

Melanie Lord in the morning...



Melanie, who lives in Accrington, has a son, Austin (11), and a dog - a Weimaraner - which she takes for walks. She's secretary for the Children's Diabetes Group in Blackburn, which raises money for Blackburn children who have this disease.

...and

Gillian Jones in the afternoon.

Gillian loves the outdoors - she's a keen gardener, and when she goes on holiday with her husband they like going off the beaten track to explore the history, archeology and culture of foreign lands. She's a big supporter of the British Legion for her son, Michael, has been in the RAF for 17 years with many overseas tours of duty to war-torn areas of the world.



with some assistance from

Vikki McArthur

(daughter of chairman Stewart Hopkinson)

and **Andrea Dewhurst**.

Please say 'Hi' to these ladies when you come to Church House - most folks do, but a few don't!



It's not an easy job and a friendly greeting goes a long way.

From Mrs. Joan Holden in Kent:

In a Christmas card to JB and all the Old Choristers who knew OC Tom - Joan wrote, "with many thanks for continuing to send the magazine - I really love it."

Thank you so much, Joan. JB

We were so very sorry to learn of the recent death of TRUDA MARTINEAU, widow of Bishop Robert, They had retired to a lovely house in Denbigh, N. Wales, and were blessed with many happy years there. They had blessed us so richly during their years here. Every memory of them both is beautiful.

Bizzee Christmas

In addition to the Cathedral's own Christmas services (of which there were many) we again welcomed school choirs who either held their own Christmas services, attended by parents, or gave lunchtime Christmas concerts – which parents again supported in large numbers.

Your peripatetic photographer came to the cathedral one weekday in December and found **Feniscowles Primary School** in full voice as they sang their Christmas concert to parents. The carols sounded so beautiful – including Silent Night, which they sang in German. And there were readings, too – all meticulously rehearsed



Well done, Feniscowles!

Their visit was advertised on our new **digital notice board** which the Virgers update every day from their laptop.



Canons' Virger **Jeffrey Robinson** showed your phogotraper how the messages change every ten seconds. They're interspersed with striking photographs of the cathedral so that visitors really can really see what's going on!



But that wasn't all. In the South Transept your phagophorter found organ builder **David Wood** and **Michael Leadbeater** from Huddersfield (who rebuilt and enlarged our magnificent organ 6 years ago) hoping to tune the organ when there was a spare moment, for **Richard Tanner** would be playing a lunchtime recital the next day devoted to the music of **Olivier Messiaen**, on the centenary of his birth.

But it was also a Bizzee Christmas away from the cathedral – for example the **Renaissance Singers** sang two Christmas Concerts in addition to singing at the Christmas Spectacular. (How do they find time to do it?) One was in Salesbury Church, and the other in your editor's church at Fence where they attracted a capacity audience.



James Davy accompanied the Singers on piano and organ, and **Helen Davies** chimed in with side drum and **Graham Moon** with tambourine. Chairman **Eileen Hemingway** gave a beautiful reading, and 'Gin' Crewe read with humour *A Politically Correct Christmas*. **Richard Tanner** conducted, of course, and persuaded the audience to join in lustily for their own carols.



After it was over everyone retired, with some speed, to the Church hall where mulled wine and mince pies were awaiting us all. It was a very good evening!

(Next day it was an equally good Sunday morning for the church choir, for after their pre-service rehearsal they finished up the left-over mulled wine and mince pies. The service went exceptionally well after that!)

Olivier Messiaen b. 10th December 1908

And then, three days later, exactly on the Centenary of Messiaen's birth, **Richard Tanner** gave a masterly performance of *La Nativité du Seigneur* as a lunchtime concert, interspersed with poems by Bishop John V. Taylor, read so clearly (out of sight) through our excellent new sound system by **Canon Chris Chivers**.

Richard's performance was not only wholly accurate, of course, but also very moving. When Jesus had accepted his suffering, Messiaen's triumphant ending, on full organ, was spine tingling. And by the last movement, *Dieu parmi nous*, God most certainly was with us.

One could well imagine Messiaen looking down upon Richard with approval.



THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Quote from a recent letter:

Parishioners will find comfort in worshipping in the language and style they are familiar with from their childhood...

JOIN US IN HELPING THIS TO HAPPEN.

Find out more from
Hon. Secretary,
Neil Inkley,
6 Knot Lane,
Walton-le-Dale,
Preston PR5 4BQ
01772-821-676



We welcomed four more distinguished Honorary Canons in November:



Presenting their credentials to The **Dean** (framed by Canons **Chivers** and **Hindley**), were L-R
The Revd. **Carolyn Woodcock**, MBE, who is a prison Chaplain and has four grandchildren,
The Revd. **Andrew Sage** who is Warden and General Manager of Whalley Abbey, our Diocesan Retreat House,
The Revd. **Roger Smith** who was a chorister in Truro Cathedral and later became organist of St. Saviour's Church, Eastbourne. He is now Vicar of St. James' Church, Haslingden – (*Stand by, Canon Smith, to get roped into BCOCA! JB*), and
Sir Charles Peter Lawford Openshaw, who is a Judge of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division in London. Sir Charles is a long-standing member of the Prayer Book Society. (*See our advertisement above.*) He and his wife, **Dame Caroline**, made history when they became the first married couple to be sworn together as High Court Judges.

Welcome!

Snippet of news from Dean David Frayne

David is now acting Rector of the parish church of Gillingham in Dorset, for the last Rector has recently retired and so David has been asked to take charge during the inter-regnum.



The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Gillingham, dates from 1270 – it's an exceptionally beautiful church in the diocese of Salisbury. We know that David and Liz will enjoy their time in that historic place (which is only around a few corners from their lovely home).

INAMO is in the news yet again!

What's INAMO? You must have read about it in at least the last three editions of *Music & More*! It's OC **Noel Hunwick's** new Ground-breaking Restaurant in Soho at 134-136 Wardour Street. (Oxford Circus tube is 10 minutes' walk away.)

It's receiving rave reviews from newspapers, magazines and periodicals not only in this country – but also abroad. They'll even be convening two meetings this year in Las Vegas.

For example, this is a snippet of glowing publicity from *The Mail on Sunday*:

OCs **John Marr** and **Heather Starkie** tried to dine there a few weeks ago, but as they hadn't booked, there was no table available!

So, if you'd like to treat yourself to a very special meal in a very special place, book your table at Noel's amazing restaurant **now!**

020 7851 7051
reservations
@inamo-
restaurant.
com

IN DEMAND THIS WEEK'S MUST-HAVE, MUST-SEE, MUST-DO

► THE RESTAURANT

Don't play with your food, play with the table. At new Asian fusion restaurant Inamo in London's Soho, it's a computer monitor, allowing you to see your food before you order it, and even book taxis and play Battleships – or just mess about changing the 'tablecloth'. Beats peeling labels off bottles. inamo-restaurant.com



THE SANCTUARY PROJECT

by Canon Michael Wedgeworth



This is the new name of the Cathedral's work with Wesley Hall Methodist Church on behalf of Asylum Seekers and Refugees.



Our pictures show members of the Cathedral Chapter meeting together with the **Methodist Minister at Wesley and the Dean**, when the Chapter recently held one of its regular meetings at the Hall.



The Rev'd **Jim Jones**, in welcoming us, explained that the work was now entering a new phase, with improved facilities for drop-in

and advice at Wesley, and more intensive work with families and children by staff from the Children's Society.



Our own **John East** will continue to be "our man" in the Project, making the link between our two churches and our efforts to serve people from countries across the world. But, with the aid of a grant from the North West Development Agency, he will focus especially on helping adults who have been given leave to remain in this country to prepare to enter the jobs market.

**Welcome to
the Asylum/
Refugee Drop
at Wesley Hall
This
Way**

The Dean said "This joint project is a fine example of ecumenical co-operation and practical support for some of the most needy people in our community. I am especially pleased about the partnership with the Children's Society which was founded by the Church of England, and is guided by Christian values and the unconditional belief in the worth and importance of all children"



Spectacularissimo

An almost full Nave greeted the musicians, led by Richard Tanner, for this year's Christmas Spectacular – for spectacular it was indeed, both musically and visually.

But first, of course, there was a Reception in the North Transept for Patrons, Friends and Sponsors who had generously supported this concert (and other concerts) with their presence and their financial generosity.



Canon Andrew Hindley (R) with guests from our sponsors FRASER EAGLE.

The Dean was there early to welcome our many distinguished Friends, Patrons and Sponsors without whose support there would be no concerts.



Mrs. Andrea Sanderson (wife of our Cathedral Architect) enjoys the company of Mrs. Diana Swarbrick, (member of the Cathedral Chapter) and Mrs. Geraldine Armstrong, (a.k.a. Mrs. Dean).



Mr James Sanderson, Cathedral Architect (centre) with his guests including (R) Mr. Peter Turner, Chairman of Blackburn Cathedral Developments, and Mrs. Julie Turner.



And, of course, the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Shuttleworth were there, with Ms. Annette Moore, Chief Executive of Chester Cathedral, who were welcomed by Mr. Rodney Swarbrick CBE, Chairman of the FoBCM.



Mr. Alan Rowntree (3rd from left) Senior Partner of Waterworth's with his Waterworth's guests, our sponsors.

And being thoroughly refreshed, our guests were ready to join the expectant audience, which was already seated, to enjoy a marvellous evening of Christmas Music-making.

[See front cover.](#)

The concert began with a sparkling performance of *Sleigh Ride* by the Northern Chamber Orchestra, which featured not only a riot of percussion ...



... but also Renaissance Singers' member **Helen Davies** playing the Whip – two hinged pieces of wood – which brought her a spontaneous 'Hooray' from the audience.

The concert featured not only carols for the audience, such as *Joy to the World*, and *Good King Wenceslas* (in a canonic arrangement by JB), but also carols for full choir, such as *The Little Road to Bethlehem* and



Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, with **Stephen Varcoe** as our mellifluous soloist.

Many soloists came from the Cathedral choirs of boys and girls. The four girl soloists **Alex Wood, Sarah Chew, Laura Slater & Alison Holmes** sang short solos amongst the choir with individual microphones, but your staff photographer wasn't quick enough to catch them, alas.

With the boy-soloists it was easier, for they (generally) stood immediately in front of the camera ...

... including young **James Tanner**



(son of Richard and Pippa – centre) who didn't look at his Dad at that crucial moment – but it was OK! – and Prefect **Connor Buller**. They took it in turns to sing *Walking in the Air*.

Then it was the turn of six solo boys who sang the recits from *Messiah* – *There were shepherds...* etc. – which they sang very well indeed, especially bearing in mind that they were on opposite sides of the Nave.



L-R: **Bradley Robinson, Connor Buller and Christopher Snape.**

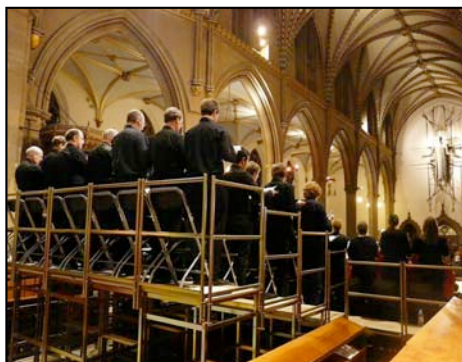
But all six soloists watched Richard very closely, especially for 'And suddenly, there was with the angel...' Well done.

L-R: **William Fielding, Mathieu Woodburn and Joseph Kennedy.**

It was a glorious evening.



One of the highlights was a performance of John Rutter's arrangement of *We Three Kings*. Each King was sung by Stephen Varcoe, who did a quick-change act between each verse – donning a different hat and holding a different gift. (See [front cover](#)). It was hilarious.



We were, as ever, deeply indebted to our Virgers who erected the staging beforehand (and moved all the Nave chairs) and de-erected it afterwards – and re-placed the chairs ready for Sunday morning. Thank you, all!

Blackburn Cathedral Composers Featured in Nine Lessons and Carols

Richard Tanner honoured Blackburn Cathedral composers, past and present, in the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight* on the Eve of Christmas Eve.



Choir and Clergy line up in the Assembly area before the service



Two Latin carols by former Director of Music **David Cooper**, *Dormi Jesu*, and *Verbum caro factum est* (The Word was made flesh), were sung so sensitively.

The latter was sung immediately after the Dean had read the Ninth Lesson – and we all remained standing for it. It was most moving.



Once in Royal David's City, sung by Prefect Mathieu Woodburn

Assistant Director of Music **James Davy**, who played the organ for the service – including a recital of Christmas organ music beforehand by Buxtehude, Bach, Messiaen, Hollins, Yon, Walcha and Langlais (phew!) – had been commissioned to set words by **Isobel Galilee**, the late wife of **Canon David Galilee**:

*Long years ago ...
... there grew a rose – a rose
without a thorn...
... the flowering of God's love.*



This was both moving and exciting – for it was in James's

inimitable style – wholly new and most expressive, beginning quietly but ending triumphantly.

Also featured was an arrangement, dedicated to **Alex McCullough** (see p.21), of *Noel nouvelet* by former choir parent (and former Director of Music of St. Wilfrid's School) **Howard Seymour**. Two of Howard's Blackburn chorister sons are now making distinguished music in high places – **John** is Director of Music of Sedbergh School, and **'Woody'** is principal bass in Worcester Cathedral choir.

At the opposite ends of the age range was a carol written last year (words and melody) by cathedral chorister **Dominic Chivers**, (son of **Canon Chris** and **Mary**) harmonized by former Director of Music, **John Bertalot**. Your editor must confess that he had forgotten how, 12 months ago, he'd 'realised' Dominic's lovely tune – and was moved by the exquisite performance given by the cathedral choir.



After the service **Lady Shuttleworth** congratulated Dominic on his lovely carol.

Congratulations were in order, too, to chorister **Niki Zohdi** who read the first lesson, and to many other choristers who sang solos,

It was particularly good to hear **William Fielding** sing a solo, as his Mother, **Rachel**, was acting as a Virger for this service, and his Father, **Paul**, was singing in the choir.



Ed McCullough and Paul Fielding

Special congratulations must be given to **Richard Tanner** who fielded a massive choir for this service, almost all 'regulars' and all volunteers: 25 boys and 18 men. This is especially praiseworthy when cathedral and church choirmasters in the UK, in the USA and elsewhere, are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit boys.

Richard's success is due not only to his own skilled enthusiasm and creative relationships with the choristers' parents, but also because the cathedral clergy support, in every way, the imaginative and ambitious music programme which he and **James Davy** lead. Without such support this delicate and proud tradition could so easily wither. Once gone, it would be gone for ever.



'He came down to earth from heaven...'

After the service there was a reception in the crypt, when congregation, clergy and choir mingled for a convivial hour.

JB was especially pleased to see three of his own Old Choristers there – **Simeon Stuttard**, son of choirmaster **Alec**, and **Pat**. Unfortunately Simeon disappeared before JB could get his camera ready.



But OC **David Whittle** was photographed talking with his father, **Brian**, and the **Dean**. David, like OC David Tattersall, served as an officer in the Royal Navy, before taking up horticulture in East Anglia

It was also a joy to see OC Dr. **Benedict Holden**. Benedict is Consultant at the Hillingden and St. Mary's Hospital in Paddington, specializing in HIV treatment.



*Benedict (R) with his parents Churchwarden **Jim**, and **Audrey**, and **Sheila Shaw** (Left)*

And then it was especially good to be introduced to a **David Cooper** OC, **Alex McCullough**, by his brother, choirmaster **Ed**.



L-R: Ed & Dr. Victoria (see page 2), Helen & Alex McCullough

Alex told your roving reporter that he had just been appointed Headmaster of the school which is attended by the Truro Cathedral choristers. What excellent news! And how good it was to swell the ranks of our own Cathedral Old Choristers' Association. Welcome back, Alex!

And there were at least two other OCs there that day – singing in the choir: OC **Joseph Twigg** (son of alto **James**) and **William Sanderson**. *'Twas good to see and hear them!*

OCTAVIUS

OC **Anthony Tattersall's** choir, Octavius, is in much demand – not only singing occasional services in the cathedral when the regular choir is on holiday, but also elsewhere.

In December they gave a memorable carol concert in the village hall at Mellor – sponsored by Round Table.



Included in the singers are several OCs from Blackburn Cathedral. Anthony is himself a Blackburn Cathedral OC (Anthony may be glimpsed on the right.) It was a most enjoyable evening, not least because of Anthony's informal approach. A lot of cash was raised for a Good Cause.

Another gift to the Cathedral

It gave your editor enormous pleasure to present to the cathedral a family treasure: his grandfather's solid silver tray. This had been given to him (John Allcock, OBE, FSAA) by his staff upon his retirement exactly 75 years ago as the first City Treasurer and Controller of Cardiff.



It will now be used, *in perpetuo*, to carry the Communion Vessels from the Sacristy to the Altar on Sundays and Feast days.

It was first used that night – Christmas Eve.

The New Year's Eve Concert

... is now a regular feature of our concert season. Beginning at 7.00 pm and lasting less than an hour, it allows guests to enjoy good music, drink a convivial glass of champagne, and then go on to their own New Year's Eve parties.



Our three stunning soloists were (L-R) **Tim Barber**, trumpet, who regularly plays with the Hallé Orchestra, and our own **Philippa Hyde**, soprano, and **Richard Tanner** who was not only skilful accompanist but also solo organist and guest baritone!

They performed songs by Purcell (*Hark, the echoing air*), Scarlatti, Byrd, Monteverdi, Mendelssohn (*O for the wings of a dove*), and they ended with *Let the bright seraphim*, by Handel.

Tim Barber added to the delight of Philippa's sprightly, sparkling singing by playing the occasional equally nimble obbligato – decorated roulades – which added to the enjoyment of the evening.



Tim also played some solos – the *Andante* from Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, and also "Purcell's" *Trumpet Voluntary* by Jeremiah Clarke.

Richard gave a thrilling performance of Vienne's *Carillon de Westminster* – based on the chimes of Big Ben – but the composer was given an inaccurate version of the chimes.

(Can you sing the hour chimes of Big Ben accurately? – most people can't!)

It was a delight, also, to welcome **Lawrence Wood**, former member



of the Hallé, orchestra, who accompanied Pippa on his 'cello, in César Franck's *Panis Angelicus*. (The lighting was so subdued that we couldn't get a satisfactory photo of Lawrence playing his cello – but we made up for it afterwards during the Champagne Reception in the Crypt!)

Richard's talent as a baritone came when he joined Pippa for a duet arrangement (by your editor) of *Rocking*. What a joy it was to accompany these two highly talented artists!

Slowly *p*

Sop

Ma - ry's lit - tie... sleep, do not stir, sweet - ly... sleep,

Bar

Ma - ry's lit - tie... sleep, do not stir, sweet - ly... sleep,

In the audience was Head Girl, **Sarah Chew**. 'I've just been accepted to study music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff,' she told your peripatetic photographer. 'I'd love to have my photograph taken with Richard and Philippa, for it's all due to their influence and teaching that I won my place there.' **Well done, Sarah. We're proud of you!**



'What do you want to do when you've finished your studies?' asked JB.

'I'd love to be a professional singer – perhaps in London – with the BBC Singers.'

'Go for it!'

Your p. ph. was then hauled off by Mrs. **Carolyn Duckworth** to greet retired Judge **Brian Duckworth** and members of his family who were celebrating around a crypt pillar.

Brian was, as ever, in sparkling form, for he had happily recovered from a recent serious operation. 'I've lost two stone since my operation,' he said with a smile.

There must be a less drastic way of losing weight??



2009 started with a bustle of activity

For example, the boys had their usual 90-minute rehearsal with Richard Tanner on Saturday 19th January, but this was followed by a sing-along-day for the girls – in preparation for the morrow's Epiphany Carol Service, and the performances of *Messiah*, at Blackburn Cathedral and at the Manoel Theatre in Malta, as part of the cathedral choirs' (three of them!) singing tour of Malta in February at the invitation of Malta's Prime Minister.



Not only are the boys given regular theory tuition every Saturday by OC **Emily Crewe** (who is now Administrator of the Northern Chamber Orchestra), but the girls that morning were also given some theory lessons by OC **Kit Dawson** – who is a chairman in St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Edinburgh – singing 6 choral services a week! 'We sang one of your anthems recently,' he told you editor. 'Which one?' 'Save us, O Lord for men's voices – which you wrote for former DoM **Matthew Owens**.' In his spare time (*sic*) Kit is studying for a Master's degree in Chemistry at Edinburgh University – a 5-year course.



Emily always looks radiantly happy, and Kit Dawson enjoyed watching James Davy proof this month's Music & More!



And in addition to all this activity, **Philippa Hyde** gives regular singing lessons to the choristers. Here she is telling **William Fielding** about his jaw, and the necessity to relax his shoulders.

The next day, Sunday, was, of course, full of services, culminating in the **County Epiphany Carol Service**, which was attended by Mayors from all over Lancashire, and beyond.

Epiphany Civic Carol Service

SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY 2009

AT

6.30PM

THE WISE MEN COME TO THE MANGER

SUNG BY THE GIRLS CHOIR & MEN OF THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Our new digital display board told everyone what was going on!

Every year this service is different. This time the choirs sang the Matin Respond from the North Transept, whilst the clergy waited, led by our new Assistant Virger **Alex Barnes**. Another difference was that one of the 'Kings' was Choirmother **Rachel Fielding**. We're getting integrated!



There were impressive processions; one of the most notable was by Judge **Jeremy Duerden**, Chairman of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, who brought a flagon of wine to the altar in a procession of one, and stood rock-steady during the singing of Eric Whiteacre's *This Marriage* (its parallel triads were strangely beautiful).

Another anthem which caught our special attention was Judith Bingham's *Epiphany*; its intriguing discords were

most successfully negotiated by choir and organ alike.



Special words of praise, not only for **Richard Tanner** and the choir, but also for **James Davy** who presided at the organ – giving us an Epiphany organ recital beforehand, with music by Buxtehude, Bach, Messiaen, Durufle and Reger, and playing us out with Garth Edmundson's dazzling Toccata-Prelude on *Vom himmel hoch*. **Super!**

And this was only the start of a year which is packed with special events, both musical and pastoral. Read all about them in our next edition! See www.blackburncathedral.com/



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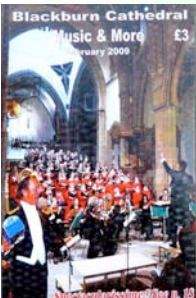
...and so some OCs have generously increased their annual Subs – one even gives **£100 p.a.**

Thank you!



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Some folk send regular **generous donations** to help us to carry on with this universally acclaimed publication – thank you!
But we need more – much more, please.



Music and More and More and More!

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Thank you!

We were so sorry to learn of the death of OC Allan Holden's Mother, at the beginning of January. 'Lonny' was nearly 102 – a wonderful age – and she was so proud of Allan. The Old Choristers sent her a card on her 100th birthday, which she greatly appreciated.

Her funeral was in Holy Trinity Worship Centre, Blackburn, on 12th January, and six OCs were there, including BCOCA Chairman and Vice Chairman, to support Allan in his great loss. At the service (which was packed – extra chairs had to be brought in), it was said of 'Lonny' that *'she shone the love of God'*. Hallelujah!
May she rest in peace.



January saw **Canon Chivers** in the USA to cover **Barack Obama's** Inauguration for various African newspapers, including the Cape Times, and to write pieces for the Church Times, the Church of England Newspaper and The Tablet, and also to broadcast live from the USA BBC Radio 4's Daily Service on January 21st.

He also kept a radio diary for BBC Radio Lancashire. More news in our next issue