

Blackburn Cathedral
Music & More £3
New Year 2010



Our new Mitre-Crowned Flagpole, p.20
Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, p.30

From OC CHRIS RYAN in Singapore

(He and his family were in England recently - see below)



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

Dear John,

I thought that you and the readers of "**Music and More**" would be interested to hear that while on our annual family UK holiday we managed to catch up with former Blackburn Virger **Edward Keen** in the lovely Welsh town of Builth Wells.

[Many of the 'long-timers' at Blackburn will remember Edward. Here's a photo of him when Princess Alexandra visited us for the first time in 1977 for the final Rehallowing of the Cathedral.



L-R: John & Sheila Walker, Canon Taylor, the Princess and Virger Edward Keen in 1977.

Edward left Blackburn to become a Virger in Winchester Cathedral. When JB visited him there many years ago he asked him about the mortuary chests in the chancel. 'I've been told that the bones of King Canute are in one of those chests,' said JB. 'Yes,' replied Edward in his broad Herefordshire accent, 'I dusted them last week!']

Knutsford – 'Canute's-ford' – is where Canute, 1016-1035, was believed to have forded the river

Chris continues: Last year Edward had a stroke and communications have been limited as a result, so I am delighted to be able to report that he is in very good spirits and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing him again - and introducing Jemima who is now 2 years old.



Following the stroke Edward has no movement or feeling down his right hand side and so is confined to a wheelchair. The good news there is that he will soon be getting an electric wheelchair so will have the freedom to leave his home unaided and lead more of a social life.

Edward's speech is also impaired, which makes verbal communications difficult and we joked about it being like a game of charades as we pieced our discussions together. For Edward this must be extremely frustrating, so it was great to see his sense of fun showing through this. Again there is good news to report on this as he has now started speech therapy classes, so the

situation should improve.

He is living in a small bungalow where he is well supported both by his niece, Pam, and her family and also by professional services who visit throughout the day.

Those that know Edward will not be surprised to know that beyond these issues he is most delighted and excited to be getting Satellite TV installed in time to watch The Ashes this summer!

Edward would truly welcome messages (although he is unlikely to be able to reply at this stage) and, of course, visitors (although we agreed that if anybody wishes to visit, they should advise in advance to make sure that arrangements can be made).

His postal address is, **18, Pendre Bungalows, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3BY.**

All the very best,

Chris, Bee Ling, Magnus & Jemima Ryan

Chris, thank you so much for this cheering news about Edward – for he was greatly loved by all of us in Blackburn Cathedral 30 years ago when you were a choir prefect. JB

From hardworking Choirman GORDON SHAW



John,

Thanks for delivering my copy of the Autumn edition of "**Music & More**" and the OC Reunion invite. Sorry I couldn't help with the postal arrangements. Hope it's been done without problems. [Yes, **OC Heather Starkie** has taken on the mammoth task of franking them for BCOCA at the cathedral office.]

Last week Sheila and I were away 'til Friday, it wasn't a week's rest: we visited 6 different sets of people in six days, Petworth House and Winchester Cathedral, Oakham in Rutland and lots of driving about.

(I don't do relaxing holidays!)

Sat – a friend's Golden Wedding celebration, Sun 8.0 am BCP Communion & family catch-up, and mail & email,

Monday gardening, lawns, veg. patch, etc. Tuesday looking after 3 granddaughters for 8 hours & a visit to Towneley Hall (fabulous place); today son **OC John** & family for tea.

Up early today & read our **M&M** Newsletter – what a whopper and so many events covered. Congrats on another masterpiece of editorial work.

Some of the pictures are absolutely fabulous, what a tremendous archival document for future generations.

Best wishes, **Gordon**

Thanks so much, Gordon, it's good to have you and Sheila with us so energetically. JB

Why isn't my news included in **M&M?**

Because you haven't sent it to the editor!

john@bertalot.org

It was a great joy (writes JB) ...

... to welcome Mrs. **Ruth Bond** as my guest at a special luncheon in the Master's garden of my old college – Corpus Christi, Cambridge – last summer. **Keith Bond**, who was sub organist here at Blackburn Cathedral but who sadly died in 2008, was my predecessor-but-one as organ scholar at CCC.



Before Ruth and I went into the College (which is almost opposite King's) we saw the new Corpus Clock, donated and designed by **Dr. John C. Taylor**, who was a contemporary of JB's at CCC. He also donated a new multi-million pound Library which is behind the clock. The clock is one of the must-see sights of Cambridge.

The clock's face is a rippling 24-carat gold-plated stainless steel disc, nearly 5ft. in diameter. It displays the time by opening individual slits in the clock face backlit with blue LEDs; these slits are arranged in three concentric circles displaying hours, minutes, and seconds.

The dominating visual feature of the clock is a sculpture of a grim-looking, devouring metal locust. This sculpture is actually the clock's escapement. Dr. Taylor calls this beast the **Chronophage** (*Time Eater*). It moves its mouth, appearing to "eat up" the seconds as they pass, and occasionally it "blinks" in seeming satisfaction. The creature's constant motion produces an eerie grinding sound that suits its task. The hour is tolled by the sound of a chain clanking into a small wooden coffin!

Below the clock is an inscription in Latin from 1 John 2:17: "*The world passeth away, and the lust thereof.*"

The clock is entirely accurate only once every five minutes. The rest of the time, the pendulum may seem to catch or stop, and the lights may lag or race to get ahead. According to Dr. Taylor, this erratic motion reflects life's "irregularity".



Conceived as a work of public art, the Chronophage reminds viewers in a dramatic way of the inevitable passing of time. Dr. Taylor deliberately designed it to be "terrifying": "*Basically I view time as not on your side. He'll eat up every minute of your life, and as soon as one minute has gone he's salivating for the next.*"

It was opened by Professor **Stephen Hawking** in September 2008 and cost £1M.

The luncheon in the Master's garden, at which Ruth and I and a few other old members were guests, was delicious – but halfway through, the heavens opened and we were deluged! But I was delighted to see that my four books on choirstraining are in the new Taylor Library and much used by the music undergraduates!

'Google' [Corpus clock](#) for a super video!

From Dr. Roy Massey, MBE

former DoM Hereford Cathedral

Hi John,

The esteemed Blackburn magazine arrived this morning and I hasten to send thanks and warmest congratulations on a bumper issue.

You are a brave man to put a grinning geriatric on the cover, but the compensation of seeing his distinguished companions in front of the matchless backdrop of Mr Pearson's peerless St. Stephen's apse almost excuses your foolhardiness in including him.



Dr. Roy Massey ▲

I've read it from cover to cover - as always - and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Your coverage of **Ian Harrison's** Bournemouth Festival is very well done indeed and I much appreciate your kind words about my Hereford recital.

What does come through loud and clear is the enormous range of activities at Blackburn Cathedral and I'm quite sure that there can be few places which are more alive or more enterprising on so many fronts. You are a marvellous ambassador for the place and they are indeed lucky to have you around. Long may it continue and may your photographic arm never grow weary.

How are the finances of the magazine these days? Do they need another organist's mite? Let me know if they do.

Ruth and I are off to Three Choirs at Hereford tomorrow and when that is over, going on to Norfolk for another week in the Walsingham area where we shall be seeing **John Jordan** [former DoM of Chelmsford Cathedral] for a meal.

The Hereford programme looks quite splendid and all we need now is some ideal Festival weather - Sunshine, pleasant breeze, no rain and not too hot. My first Festival in 1976 was in a heat wave - and never to be forgotten. I wouldn't wish that on anyone.

As ever,

Roy

Roy: Thank you so much for your generous comments on our Autumn M&M. It was an honour to have you on the front cover with OCs Ian Harrison and Robert Fielding, and two more distinguished brethren. We are so grateful for your offer of another 'mite'. You were so generous last time, and we do need donations to help us go forward. Thank you. JB

From OC IAN HARRISON in Bournemouth

Dear John,

What a surprise to open Blackburn Cathedral's **Music & More** to see St. Stephen's, Bournemouth on the front cover (*photo above*). It was a lovely photo which reminded me of such a happy weekend. Also the generous write-up of our 14th Annual Festival inside the magazine with your excellent photos.



I did enjoy reading about OC **Neil Fellows**, as I remember his well as a young singer with me in Blackburn Cathedral choir in the 1960s.

The work on restoring St. Stephen's organ is moving on apace and hopefully we are on course for completion by November.

Mum and Dad (who still live in Blackburn) are here for a week and send their very best wishes – they hope to be with me at the Queen's Chapel, Savoy on Nov. 4th for my Hon. FGCM.

Best wishes,

Yours ever, **Ian**

See p 26 for more about Ian Harrison at The Queen's Chapel..

From former Squadron Leader OC BRYAN LAMB, near Ely.

Hi John,

Thanks for the *M&M*. Great stuff as usual. The bit about organs and Henry Willis & Sons evoked 56 year-old memories, for HW&S were my first ever employers.

It was in the summer of 1953 and I was just down from my second year at Leeds University where I was supposed to be studying something or other, but in reality learning to fly. It was clear that in order to stay eating and drinking during the long vacation, it was necessary to seek gainful employment.

The Blackburn Labour Exchange sent me to, of all places, the Cathedral! HW&S had been contracted to move the organ from its old position above the west door and wanted to recruit two temporary local labourers to help with the work. They were quite happy to take me on just for the summer, so I got the job.

The Liverpoolian masters were not overly generous with the wages though. I think I was paid three pounds sixteen shillings a week. I earned three times that much the following year on Leeds trams, where as a new pilot officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, I was the only commissioned tram conductor in the history of public transport. But I digress.

I already knew, of course, that the organ was to be shifted. A large platform had been erected upon two walloping great steel girders hammered into the arches and over the heads of the choir. What on earth possessed **Provost Bill Kay** and **TLD** to have it stuck up there I never knew. But of course it didn't last in the long term. My understanding is that eventually a wealthy parishioner sent the Provost a large cheque with a request: "Please go and buy yourself a decent organ and put it in a better place." *[Yes, the organ was rebuilt by another firm. But when JB arrived here in 1964 he found that some pipes had been tied together with tape, and were so close to the Swell box that it wouldn't open properly. The console was a hazard to the organist's health as the lighted couplers, above the swell manual, burnt one's fingers!]*

I think the old organ was a Cavallé-Coll with pneumatic action involving miles of thin lead pipes. It took two whole weeks to dismantle it. The innards were covered with thick black oily cotton-industrial Blackburnian soot. Taking it down was a desperately filthy task. I had never been so dirty. Every day I emerged from the Cathedral as black as the ace of spades.



The job got cleaner as the reconstruction began and bits of organ got spirited on to the dreaded platform, directly above where the choir now sits. The work became really quite interesting. But I think my most important function was to act as bookie's runner for the foreman, Charlie Worrall. He was a great one for the gee-gees and most days I would be despatched to the turf accountant with his bets. He lost his money most of the time. I was also the unofficial intelligence agent for the Provost who I think found it useful to have one of his own men on the team.

The work went on for quite a few months after I left to return to my "studies." I believe other changes have taken place over the years, leading to the splendid instrument we have now. Our Cathedral has been a great place for organ transplants.

I enjoyed the summer of 1953.

Organ building? *Been there, done that!*

Yours ever, **Bryan**

[See more about building our organ, p. 8](#)



From Dr. Martin Neary, LVO, former DoM of Westminster Abbey

My dear John,

Thank you so much for kindly sending us the latest issue of Blackburn Cathedral *Music & More*.

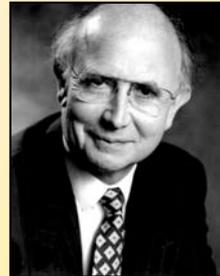
There is a wealth of fascinating material as always, and it was so right of you to pay tribute to **Ian Harrison's** outstanding work at St. Stephen's, Bournemouth, and in particular his Annual Festivals.

Thank you too for your kind words about my participation in this year's Festival, and for the photographs which brought back such happy memories of a lovely weekend.

We have just returned from Northumberland and the Corbridge Chamber Music Festival, during the course of which I directed the *St. Johannis de Deo* Mass at St. Andrew's Church, using Ian's instrumental parts!.

Penny and I hope that you, too, have been having a good summer.

Meanwhile, all good wishes, **Martin**.



From former Organ Scholar **Jonathan Turner,** now Organ Scholar at Southwell Minster

Dear John,

Many thanks for yet another wonderful edition of *Music & More*.

It is always nice to read about the Lincoln College-Blackburn connections, and Canon **Chris Chivers'** visit was one of the highlights of last year - especially in terms of preaching! It was also good to read **Tim Cooke's** latest correspondence (former Asst. Organist of Blackburn) - we were extremely grateful to him for supplying a temporary Allen electronic organ for the College at such short notice.

Congratulations! Additionally, having read OC **Tom Daggett's** e-mail in the magazine, I thought I should check if he has let you know that **he will be Lincoln College's new junior organ scholar.** *[Well done, Tom!]*



Tom will therefore have a vested interest in the installation of the new organ and in the running of the choir over the next two years. He was appointed internally to ensure the position remained with a student within the college community and I'm sure he'll do a superb job.

However, after Tom, one wonders where the next Blackburn Cathedral-Lincoln College connection will come from!

Jonathan

Yes, four of us have been organ scholars at Lincoln: Yourself, Tom, David Cooper and your Editor. And Richard Tanner's Dad and OC Chris Hunwick were undergrads there, and SOC Emily Crewe sang in your Lincoln Chapel choir.



From Dr. Harry Grindle, former DoM, Belfast Cathedral

Dear John,

Thank you for the latest issue of your truly superb publication. It must be the envy of every other cathedral in the land!

It is full of interest and excellent photography and I am sure that everyone at Blackburn Cathedral is deeply grateful to you for undertaking such a Herculean task with such wonderful results. I feel honoured to appear in one of the photos in this edition...even though I have my head to one side for some unaccountable reason!

You must be pleased that the distinguished tradition which you maintained over many years is being so ably maintained by your successors who, I am sure, appreciate the encouragement which you give them.

As I may have mentioned in an earlier communication, I am hoping to publish my memoirs in October.

Renewed thanks and warmest regards,

Harry

Thank you so much, Harry.

Let us know when your memoirs are published! JB

From OC TONY MURPHY in Noo Joisey, USA.

Hi John

Just received the Autumn edition of **M&M**: read it from cover to cover - it really is very well put together and great read.

Alas I will not be able to attend this year's Old Choristers' Reunion, it's even more frustrating this year as I will actually be in the UK over that weekend - but need to prioritize visits to my parents. Mum is not in great health and so I need to make sure I spend quality time with her - there's an outside chance that I may be able to attend the Sunday morning service but Saturday is a write-off!

Our latest news is that we have now received our Green Cards for permanent residence in the US - we were expecting the whole process to take up to 18 months but amazingly they came through in just over 2 months!!



Liz & Tony
by the
Bay Bridge,
San
Francisco

Perhaps Uncle Sam wants the Murphys to stick around!!! Anyway, as a result, we have sold our house in Harpenden and as of last week we moved into our very own home in Montclair, NJ!! Having been renters for the last 4 years it is such a relief to have our own place to call home - and so it looks as though we shall be here indefinitely!



Oliver, Jack & Liz. (Oliver looks exactly like Tony did when he was that age!)

Liz has just had her 5th book published as the illustrator of a children's books - this latest one is in partnership with the Broadway superstar **Bernadette Peters** - I hadn't heard of her before coming here but if you Google her you'll see that she also done a lot of US TV and films. The book is called **Broadway Barks** and made the top 5 of the NY Times bestsellers list - it should be still available on Amazon if you wanted to take a peek. She is now working on a sequel and a Christmas book with Bernadette. *[Bernadette's Website is fantastic! JB]*

I am still with Cadbury's running their HR function for the

Americas, selling lots of gum but missing English chocolate!!! (*HR = Human Resources - used to be known as Personnel.*) My region includes Mexico and Central America so I've started to learn Spanish but I'd forgotten how terrible I was at languages at school - it's very slow progress.

Must sign off now - I hope I can make it to the last day of the Reunion weekend and so hopefully we can catch up further.

Hasta pronto!!!

Tony, Liz, Oliver and Jack

Heartiest congratulations on getting your green cards, Tony & Liz, and for your tremendous successes in business and the creative arts. Wow! Love to Mum: she was such a wonderful choir parent during your years in the choir, Tony. May you all thoroughly enjoy your time in the US - I did! JB.

RE COINCIDENCES

from OC Gordon Fielding

Dear John,

I'll miss the friendship of the BCOCA Reunion this year, but I wish everyone well with much enjoyable singing and dining.

You were mentioning coincidences in your recent publication. I was interested to see **Simon Vivian's** photo with **Richard Tanner**. Simon helps out at the church in Knutsford which I attend, as we are without an organist at present.



He certainly enhances the services with his playing.

I'm off to Peterborough singing the services at the Cathedral on the 29/30th. Last time I went, I overheard a couple mentioning a certain **Paul & Rachel Fielding**. Turned out they were regular worshippers at Blackburn Cathedral. It's a small world!

Best wishes,
Gordon

The Smalley Photographic Exhibition

...opened in the South Transept at the end of August, with contributions from the Accrington Photographic Club, and also, of course, some stunning photos from our OCs.



BCOCA
Chairman
**Stewart
Hopkinson**
helped
SOC **David
Smalley** to
hang our
photos...

...whilst **Alison** did a roaring trade by selling £150 worth of Notelets on the first day!

These notelets are illustrated by photos taken by our Old Choristers: they make wonderful presents!

**Phone David for your set of 12:
01254-812-439**



THE HUNWICK FAMILY IS IN THE NEWS AGAIN!



Phil Hunwick, Father of OCs **Chris and Noel**, was featured in our last edition as one of the long-serving members of the Cathedral Choir: he's notched up 36 years singing a lively and most accurate tenor in our midst – may there be many more.

In August Phil drove your editor to visit OC Chris in his lair in Alnwick Castle, where he is Archivist to the Duke of Northumberland. Alnwick Castle (pronounced *Annik Casss!*) is second only to Windsor Castle (pronounced *Winzuh Car-s!*) in size!



It was at Alnwick Castle that several scenes from *Harry Potter* were filmed – including the scene where he was learning to fly.



Phil and JB tried it at the same spot with our umbrellas, but it didn't work!



After seeing the many sights, including a tour of the fabulous State Apartments – Alnwick has been the home of the Earls and Dukes of Northumberland since 1309 and it goes back even further than that – we walked round the Castle walls, trying to avoid the other visitors who had begun to pour into that historic place, before Chris joined us for a delicious lunch in a new and gracious dining room designed for discerning folk.

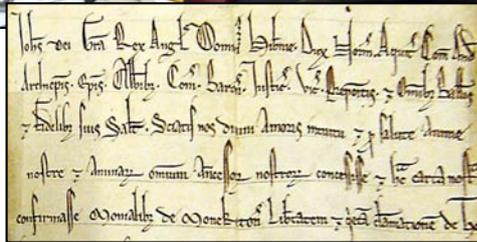
Then, mightily refreshed Chris took us to his own treasure house where he has some **two miles** of archives which go back centuries. They're on three floors, guarded within 9 feet thick castle walls. But many of the documents are in crumbling 19th C. cardboard boxes, so Chris is gradually bringing their care up to date with modern technology. 'You've got a job for life,' commented JB. 'No,' replied Chris, 'this will take at least three lifetimes to ensure that they are preserved for future generations.'



One of the priceless archives he showed us was a document from the time of King John, which pre-dated **Magna Carta** (1215).



In Latin:
John, by the grace of God, King of England...



During those eventful days Chris and Geraldine took us to many places (it is the most lovely and historic part of England which few folk know about), including the Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle. (The late Queen Mother was, of course, of the Bowes-Lyon family and visited this museum many times.) Phil's car number plate was greatly admired!



It was a most memorable and enjoyable and instructive visit.

Thank you, Phil, Chris and Geraldine!

BUT WHAT OF NOEL HUNWICK?

He, too, is doing fabulously well with **INAMO**, his unique new restaurant at 134-136 Wardour Street, London, which has recently received global coverage from newscasts.



Noel wrote to your editor:

Hi John,

Delighted you've got to see the publicity clips about INAMO from TV programmes around the world.

I've also recently done interviews for National Geographic TV, Discovery Channel, Taiwanese TV, one for the Food channel on SKY, and today the Wall St Journal. Think I've done about 30 TV interviews to date - great that the publicity is keeping on going.



We're now looking at setting up another restaurant, alongside licensing our technology for people to use under their own brands elsewhere in the world. We're working on different forms of technology to make our software and hardware offering broader; for instance, we'll soon have a portable version of the tables. We'll be exhibiting at the Restaurant Show in Earl's Court in October. We've pretty much got two businesses at this stage.

I look forward to seeing the fruits of your photographic labours in Alnwick. There's no shortage of beautiful material.

See you soon,
Noel.

Read what **INAMO** is all about:

inamo

Inamo is a pioneering Oriental fusion restaurant and bar where the control of the dining experience is placed firmly in your hands. Their mission is to provide delicious cuisine with charming and timely service in a warm and vibrant atmosphere.

At the core of Inamo is their interactive ordering system.

[Diners place orders from an illustrated food and drinks menu projected on to their table surface. You'll set the mood, discover the local neighbourhood, and can even order a taxi home.](#)



You can change the tablecloth, which is projected along with a photo of the meal that you have ordered, and you can even see the chefs preparing your order! (See p. 26)

But you'll have to book ahead to get in! 020 7851 7051
Oxford Circus tube is 10 minutes' walk away. **'Google' INAMO**

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**Send your news, with JPEG photographs, to
The Editor, Dr John Bertalot,
john@bertalot.org**

We welcomed GREG MORRIS

(our former Assistant Director of Music)

to our Cathedral again in August

to make yet another recording... This time it's devoted to the works of **Kenneth Leighton** (1929-1988), a British composer who started his musical life as a chorister at Wakefield Cathedral (as did **John Scott**, formerly DoM of St. Paul's Cathedral, and now DoM of St. Thomas' Church, Fifth Avenue, NYC). It should be issued in the New Year.



Greg and his family are flourishing. He is very busy as the Associate Organist of the Temple Church in London. 'I recently played six Bach recitals at the Temple Church and also at St. Martin in the Fields,' he said. **Rachel** is back to work - after maternity leave - at the National Society for Epilepsy at Chalfont St. Peter. **Anna** has started school, and **Joseph** is mobile!

Clearly life is very good for the Morris family!

Be Another Coincidence

**E mail from Mr. Martyn Vann,
son of Dr. STANLEY VANN,
former DoM of Peterborough Cathedral**



Dr. Stanley Vann

Dear John,

Dad asked me to thank you for the Autumn 2009 copy of **Music & More**, and for pointing out the Peterborough coincidences on p11. He remembers **Neil Inkley** - also **Jimmy Percival** (one of your former choristers at Northampton) and **Fred Smith** (OC of Blackburn).

Another coincidence for you - I had only been listening to the Judge canticles (on the Peterborough broadcast evensong) a fortnight or so before reading your article to dad! It was the first time I had heard them for a long time: they deserve more widespread use!

Best wishes, both from me & Dad,
Martyn

Dear Martyn,

How very good to hear from you. I am thrilled that, through Neil Inkley's article, I have made contact with your father again, for I held him in the very highest honour and affection during my six years in his diocese as organist of St. Matthew's, Northampton (1958-64).

I shall send a copy of your e mail to Neil Inkley, with this reply. I know that he will be as thrilled as I am that we have made contact.

Please give your father my very warmest greetings.

Most gratefully,

John

NB: Dr. Vann celebrates his 100th birthday in February!

RUBY WEDDING

It was with great delight that a number of Old Choristers and OC parents were invited to the lovely Leyland home of **DAVID & RUTH DEMACK** at the end of August to celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

(David and Ruth are Hon. OCs because they supported the cathedral choir so very strongly during JB's time as DoM – even sponsoring the printing of the Blackburn Cathedral Chant Book.)



Clockwise: Margaret Rothwell, Geoff Heap, Marilyn Crompton, David & Ruth Demack, David Rothwell, Sheila Heap & Derek Crompton. Just out of the photo was Joan Banks.

Hearza Hooz Hoo:

Geoff and Sheila Heap: parents of OC **William** (who lives in the Isle of Person and who, from his office at Barclays' Bank, advises those with this world's goods what to do with their wealth!)



Joan Banks MBE: Mother of OCs **Peter and Ian.** (Peter is also in High Finance – in London, and Ian is a doctor, married to another doctor and living in Adelaide.)

Keith Banks was, of course one of our most faithful Churchwardens until his sad death a few years ago.

OC David and Margaret Rothwell: David was a chorister at the end of TLD's reign and the beginning of JB's. He's now retired from Pilkington Glass, but recently spent six months advising executive folk in Dubai whether or not their plans to import materials to make trucks were feasible. They weren't – but six months in Dubai isn't bad even if the answer was 'No'!

OC Derek & Marilyn Crompton: Derek was a cathedral chorister at the Demacks' marriage service (which was taken by Provost Robinson) – and is now a long-time tenor. He retired at a very early age, 11 years ago, and spends his time helping failing businesses to become solvent. Marilyn sometimes 'sits' with David Demack on Tax Tribunals, and also regularly helps folk who seek advice at Blackburn's Citizens' Advice Bureau.

David Demack is now a Judge for the Tax and Chancery Chamber of the Upper Tribunal. In his spare time he is a steward at York Minster (for he and Ruth have a flat 'without' the City Wall).

(How many Judges do we have at the cathedral these days – it must be at least half a dozen – two of whom sing in our choirs.)

Ruth is a talented artist – currently illustrating children's books. One of her paintings was recently featured at an art exhibition in aid of the York Minster Appeal.



After the Luncheon, David and Ruth showed us photographs taken at their wedding in the Cathedral. It was August 1969, of course, when the transepts had just been fully restored, the Lantern Tower completed and when our new organ was about to be installed.

The hardboard wall, which had divided the Nave from the Transepts during the 5 years of major restoration, had been taken down, to be replaced by a large plastic sheet. This is probably the only photograph of that sheet. JB remembers seeing the new console being placed on the central altar steps a couple of months' later – what a mouth-watering sight that was!



You can just see the scaffolding, centre right, for the installation of the organ. You'll also notice that Laurence King, our architect, had left the East windows intact – thinking that they would add to the glory of the cathedral. They didn't, so he had them blocked up.

Renewed Congratulations, David and Ruth – and here's to your 50th!

Another Another Coincidence

Not only did David and Ruth Demack celebrate their Ruby Wedding in August, but so did **Edward and Anitra Haythornwhite.**

The Haythornwhites are, of course, very much involved in our Cathedral and its adventurous Music Programme. Both are hard-working members of the Council of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, which involves organizing ushers, opening their lovely Beardwood home for fund-raising events, stuffing envelopes and so very much more.

And to celebrate the event they invited the entire Cathedral congregation to join them for a glass of wine after the Sunday morning Eucharist on August 30th, their exact Wedding day.

Thank you, Edward & Anitra; heartiest congratulations, and here's to your 50th Anniversary.



Our Wednesday Lunchtime Recitals

... got off to a great start on September 2nd when **Philip White-Jones** gave a popular and most tuneful organ recital which included Whitlock's *Five Short Pieces*, and *Scherzo for the White Rabbit* by Nigel Ogden. (Both composers were/are cinema organists – they knew how to write a good tune!)

Philip is Assistant Director of Music at Southwell Minster where our former organ scholar, **Jonathan Turner** is about to take up his new duties as organ scholar...

... except that Jonathan suffered an accident in August when he was taking part in a Lincoln College Vac. project (he was bringing back the shopping at the time – a dangerous occupation!).

So he appeared at Philip's recital supported by crutches. 'I should be OK in about a fortnight,' he said with a smile. A photograph of our two Southwell organists was most certainly called for.

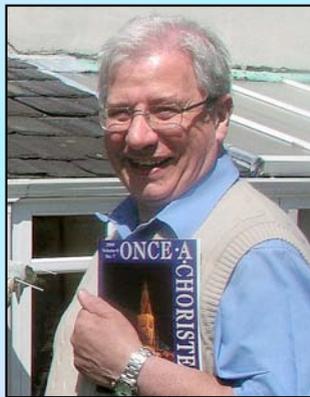


Meanwhile, OC PETER FIELDING...

...was having a hip operation. Peter, the eldest of three musical brothers (the youngest, **Paul** sings in the cathedral choir and his son, **William**, is a chorister) expected to be in hospital for two weeks, but such is the Fielding resilience that he was out in half the time, and feeling great!

'I'll be on crutches for a while,' he said, 'and I can't drive and haven't yet tried to play the piano, but, given time, I'll be just fine.'

Well done, Peter; we're delighted for you.



From Choir Mum, Amanda Snape

20 cathedral folk did the sponsored walk across Morecambe Bay in order to raise funds for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. I took the opportunity to take a photograph of some of our young choristers who took the time for the walk to raise money.



Here are **Hannah Snape, Johanna Lund, Alex Lund, Robert Mitchell** and **Christopher Snape.**

Morecambe Bay looms in the background.

Amanda added: I think the reason I was struggling to get them to smile was because they had just walked 8 miles across the bay in wind, rain and hail and had waded across the estuary in water that, in Christopher's case, had come up to his waist. We must try and do the walk in summer sometime.

Well done, indeed, brave souls, and thank you! 9

Heartiest Congratulations to ALEX BARNES

...who was officially instituted by The Dean as our Assistant Virger on Sunday 6th September.

Alex, (who is also an Old Chorister – from **Gordon Stewart's** reign) has been working faithfully with us since last November, and has shown himself to be a strong member of our exceptionally dedicated Team of Virgers. He also has the build to deal promptly with any trouble-makers! *Read on!*



The following is an extract from a September issue of

The Daily Telegraph

Virger stops sinners

THE Lord moved in a mysterious way when two sinners were collared in a cathedral's grounds.

For the all-seeing eye of a CCTV camera caught Mxxxx Txxxx, 37, committing a sexual act with a male partner. She was spotted by **Alex Barnes**, a Virger of Blackburn Cathedral, as he monitored security screens.

By the power vested in him by a public-address system, he used a voice from above to tell the couple: **"This is a place of God, stop what you are doing immediately! You are being filmed."**

Magistrates heard that Txxxx fled on hearing the voice. She was arrested later and charged with outraging public decency, which she admitted.

Andrew Church-Taylor, defending, said: "The church may welcome sinners but not in these circumstances."

This incident was reported more luridly in The Sun newspaper. Alex has copies if you're interested!

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL



...to the many folk who have generously sent hard cash to help fill the Black Hole which has appeared in our Concerts' Budget (due to one generous Sponsor having 'gone bust' before their £10,000 could be paid).



There were at least three gifts of £500 – and one of £1,500, plus a large gift from a retired Cathedral Director of Music. And there were many more gifts. For these, great or small, we are so very grateful. THANK YOU.

OUR SECOND LUNCHTIME RECITAL

...which was given by our own talented **JAMES DAVY**, featured two world premieres! These were the two prizewinning entries submitted to the Preston and District Organists' Association (which has over 100 members who come from as far away as Cumbria, as well as throughout Blackburn Diocese.)



Stephen Burtonwood being congratulated by James Davy

This was a national competition and James's playing of both pieces certainly made them sound worthy of publication. The first prizewinner, Mr. Christopher Boodle, could not be with us, but the second prizewinner, Mr. Stephen Burtonwood, from Oldham, was. Well done!

What did Richard Tanner do in the Summer?

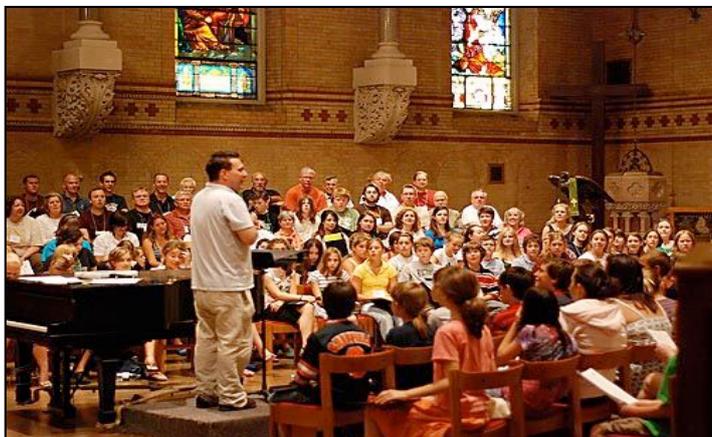
After completing a season's full and adventurous music programme at the Cathedral, ending with a lavish party for his choristers and their parents (see our last issue), he visited friends in New York City and Connecticut, and then led the Royal School of Church Music-in-America's annual course for choristers. (This is the second summer he's done that – well done, Richard!)



...including Stanford's *Mag & Nunc in A* (double choir), Kodaly's *Missa Brevis*, Haydn's *Insanae et Vanae Curae*, Howells' *Jubilate*, and much more, as well as some modern American music, and our own **David Goodenough's** lovely *I will sing with the Spirit*.

It wasn't all work – there were excellent facilities for sport and swimming and time for just enjoying each others' company.

All the services were held in the large pro-Cathedral – and very splendid it was, too, with an enormous organ which Tom Sheehan enjoyed to the full!



Did they enjoy Richard's leadership? They certainly did!

This course, held in King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is the largest of its kind in North America, attracting 170 singers of all ages from 10 years and up. The singers come from all across the USA. Richard had 60 girls, 40 boys, 30 teenagers and 20 adults, plus a talented and dedicated staff, including two of the finest organists in the USA – **Mark Laubach**, who was the winner

of the American Guild of Organists competition some years ago, and young **Tom Sheehan**, organ scholar from Trinity Church, Princeton, who played our Blackburn organ when Trinity Choir visited us in 2008. Whatta Team!



Tom & Richard

There were rehearsals and services every day – some rehearsals were for everyone, and others were sectional rehearsals taken by some of the music staff. Richard had chosen some splendid music for them to sing,



And when he returned home the entire Tanner family enjoyed a holiday in Spain. They deserved it!

RICHARD TANNER HAS JUST RECORDED Messiaen's *La Nativité*

This is one of the most difficult pieces in the organ repertoire – but Richard has played it for us at Christmas recitals for several years past – and now it's on CD.



The CD was produced by our own JAMES DAVY and it will be available for purchase on line or at the cathedral very soon!

What does James Davy do on Fridays?

He rides horses.

Your peripatetic reporter visited James one Friday morning at some super stables off the A6, a few miles North of Preston, and found that he and Sarah Turner had just finished mucking out!



Sarah has ridden horses since she was 3, and so James has been learning from her for several months. James's horse is a fine gelding called *Atlantic*. Clearly they get on very well together, despite someone continually clicking his camera.



And after the morning's exercise, Sarah showed me her horse, *Custard*, whom she rides for shows. She's Good!



Then James rode for a full half hour watched intently by Sarah who offered her expert advice in a gentle voice throughout. It was a most impressive 30 minutes, for *Atlantic* responded instantly to James's commands (given through pressure from his legs) – from walk to gentle trot, then almost to gallop. It was fascinating.



We look forward to the time when James and Sarah compete together in shows. Who knows?



Our Old Choristers' 44th Annual Reunion...

...was a great success – thanks, as ever, to meticulous planning by our tireless committee under the chairmanship of **Stewart Hopkinson** and imaginative initiatives by our Senior Old Chorister, **David Smalley**, who had organised a 3-week exhibition of photographs in the South Transept. (See p. 5)



L-R: OCs **Albert Ogden** from Wray near Lancaster, BCOCA Vice Chairman **Eric Bancroft** from Mellor and **Allan Holden** from Horwich near Bolton, were amongst the first OCs to admire the results of David's initiative. (He and **Alison** had almost single-handedly 'manned' the exhibition for those three weeks. Wow! But we are so grateful to our willing volunteers who were able to help.)

The Reunion began with a splendid lunch in the crypt – with tables laid for us – this was new!



OCs Clockwise: The irrepressible **Gordon Shaw**, **Peter Hurst**, Churchwarden **Philip Carr**, **Alison & David Smalley**, BCOCA Secretary **Alec Stuttard** and Treasurer **John Marr**. (They tried to smile, but 'twas difficult when chewing.)



OC **Adrian Wilson** and the **Dean** were being served by ever-helpful **Edwina**, whilst at the far end OC **Jim Hulme** from Manchester awaited his turn.



It was particularly good to welcome a number of younger OCs this year amongst the more seasoned members:

Clockwise: BCOCA Chairman **Stewart Hopkinson**, our youngest-ever SOC-Elect **Emily Crewe**, Secretary-Elect **Heather Starkie**, **Richard Tanner**, very new OC **Barry Hudson-Taylor**, **Kit Dawson** (now at Edinbrrrr University) **Naomi Crewe** (in her final year at St. John's York) and **Sophie Brooke** (just starting at Loughborough U.).

Pink seemed to be the 'in' colour that day.



And it was especially good to welcome OC **Bernard West** who was Efficiency personified and a most valued chairman with TLD, JB & DC. He was also a founder-member of the (now renamed) Renaissance Singers – as was **Constance Heald** (Chapter Clerk of Ely Cathedral) who sat next to him.



Founder-member **Peter Heald** (somehow related to Constance) sat happily next to Son-and-Father duo, **John & Bob Keen** who had come all the way from Nottingham and Wilmslow, respectively. *Thanks!*

(Look at **Peter's story of a Happening in the 1960s – page 15**)

The Dean conducted the BCOCA AGM, as ever, most elegantly and with consummate skill.



L-R: Treasurer **John Marr**, Chairman **Stewart Hopkinson**, The Dean and retiring (after 8 years) Secretary **Alec Stuttard**.

The blend and enthusiasm of old and young choristers was a joy to behold and a joy to hear.



L-R
Three
OC
Tenors:
Peter Heald,
Allan Holden
and
Chaplain
the Revd.
Ian Hollin.



Emily Crewe looked delighted to be elected youngest-ever Senior Old Chorister. (She, like OC Bernard West, is Efficiency personified.)

And our youngest-ever committee member is **Mark Molyneux** – OC of Durham, and now a member of our YPC.



Our boy- and girl-choristers.

The boys all wore white shirts and their cathedral choir ties. Whilst the girls wore a gentle blend of many colours.



The Dean, in his report, immediately put BCOCA's place in the Cathedral into context: 'In psalm 147 we are encouraged to do all to the glory of God. That's why we're here.'

He went on to say that his most profound experience, when he first came to Blackburn, was to communicate every single member of the choir. 'Not many cathedrals can say that!'



After paying tribute to our new Canon, **Sue Penfold**, who spends 20% of her time at the cathedral, and the rest in the diocese, and to SOC **David Smalley** for his skill in money-raising (for the Tsunami Appeal a few years ago, as well as for his photographic exhibition), the Dean said that there was so much going on in our cathedral – much of which is reported in **M&M** which is sent to every cathedral Dean in this country as well as to all their Directors of Music, and to so many others.

'It's always a struggle to balance the budget. That's why we're about to launch a major Appeal for £3.5M – for outreach (sorely needed, especially in Blackburn), for fabric (the cathedral building needs constant care) and for our music programme (in which we stand in awe).' He paid tribute to the dedicated work of **Richard Tanner** who works with so many willing and talented volunteers.

And then we all signed Congratulations cards to our most venerable OCs who joined the cathedral choir over 70 years ago: **Albert Ogden**, **John Highton** and **Ernie Gorner**. And Get Well cards for **Ernie**, for **Stan Stancliffe** in Hants., and for **Peter Fielding** who is recovering well from a hip replacement operation.



Then we all rehearsed for Choral Evensong along with our boy and girl choristers. What a fine sound they made!

The music for Evensong was
Introit: Locus iste Bruckner
Responses: Keith Bond (former Sub Organist)
Canticles: Harwood in Ab
And the Hallelujah Chorus by U No Hoo.



There were thanking ceremonies: (below): SOC David handed BCOCA ties to leavers: **Sophie Brooke**, **Sarah Chew** and Head Boy **Connor Buller**. (Connor would sing for one more Sunday.)

At the end of the service Head Girl **Sarah Chew**, who will be studying music at Cardiff University, was blessed by the Dean. (For more, see p. 28)



We remembered, with thanksgiving, those who had gone on ahead:
OC **David Metcalf**,
Mrs. **Sarah Chew**, Mother of OCs Nigel & Philip,
Jack Bolton,
Father of OC Ivor,
Mrs. **Olive Wilkinson**,
Mother of OCs John & Tom, and
Mrs. **Truda Martineau**,
widow of Bishop Robert.

There were also upgradings in the Girls' choir at that service:

Photographed in the crypt afterwards were L-R

Alison Holmes
(to Deputy Head Girl)
Alex Wood
(to Head Girl) and
Jamie Bett
(to Deputy Head Girl)



Also after the service **John Marr** asked your editor to autograph two of the photographs he had taken (of the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, and of the dome of St. Peter's Rome) which had been exhibited in the Smalley exhibition, and which John M. had bought at more than the advertised price.

Thank you! JB's neighbour, **Bob Loynds**, had generously mounted all these photographs. We are so grateful to him.

And also, after that service, OC Churchwarden **Philip Carr** rehearsed four OCs in their duties for taking the collection at the morrow's BCOCA Eucharist:



L-R: **John Marr, Steve Holmes, Philip Carr, Eric Bancroft and Allan Holden.**



That evening we enjoyed a glorious dinner at the Foxfields Hotel, Billington (near Whalley). This was a new venue for us, and we were made to feel right welcome.

Again, it was very good to see the young OCs well represented:

Kit Dawson caused a sensation when he appeared in full Scottish attire supported by new OC **Sarah Chew**. *What's your tartan?* 'Edinburgh University!'

Michael Carr (L. OC son of OC Phil) was next to **Adam Whittaker** who would celebrate his 18th birthday 4 days later.



Adam Whittaker is in his last year at St. Wilfrid's School and thereafter aims to pursue business studies and entrepreneurship. (*What's that?!*)

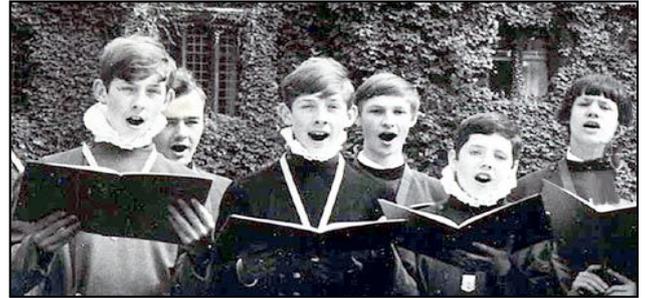
Barry Hudson-Taylor (right) is in his last year at Canon Slade School in Bolton, studying music, geography and double science.

He didn't have a headache when this photo was taken, but told your photographer that he, Barry, enjoyed swishing his abundant locks of hair.



It was very good indeed to see the **Carr twins** there. Churchwarden **Philip** (L) and **Alan**.

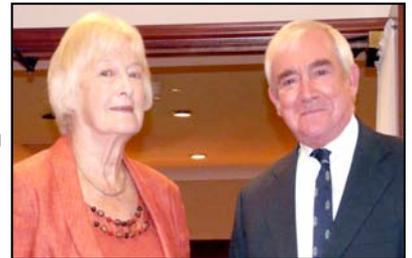
It was nearly impossible to tell them apart even when they were choristers, as this 1971 photo shows:



Back row: **David Rothwell, Ian Harrison & Derek Crompton,**

Front: **The Carr twins** (can you tell which is which?) and young **Ivor Bolton** (who is now Director of the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra. He conducts all over the world – including London Proms!) *Photo taken when JB directed the 2-week RSCM Cathedral Course at Westminster Abbey.*

We were delighted to welcome **Jackie & OC Ralph Robinson** from North Yorkshire. Ralph was a chorister in the mid 1940s along with **Peter & Gordon Fielding, John Highton and Allan Holden.**



Snapped when relaxing before the dinner were three ladies: **Margaret Dewhurst**, wife of OC **Fred Shaw**, wife of OC **Gordon**, and our new BCOCA Secretary, just squeezing into the picture, **Heather Starkie.**





Another happy trio was **Sue Hopkinson**, wife of BCOCA Chairman **Stew**, and **Beverly & Graham Chapelhow**. (Graham is a recently re-found OC who plays in OC The Revd. **Philip Chew's** Christian Hard Rock Band!) It's all happening at BCOCA!

In tip-top form, as ever, both in the Cathedral and also the Dinner, was OC **Steve Holmes**. 'Where's your wife?' 'She's on Mount Kilimanjaro!' he answered. 'What's she doing there?' 'Climbing it!' (as though that's the sort of thing that most wives do!).

'Where did you first meet each other?' We first met at a service station on the Motorway – she'd just climbed Ben Nevis!

'And, of course, you've just ridden your motorbike from the bottom to the top of South America!' 'Yes!' *Life is never dull for the Holmeses!*

Chairman **Stewart Hopkinson** began the Dinner by welcoming us all, and he explained how BCOCA actively helps the Cathedral's music programme – especially financially. That's why we rely on our annual Subs. to be paid on time – and are grateful that so many OCs pay by Standing Orders – many of which are way above the £15 for which we ask. *Thank you!*



Dean Armstrong was, as ever, in great form as he shared his humour with (L-R) **Sarah Turner**, **James Davy**, **Philippa Hyde** and **Richard Tanner**.

And **Geraldine Armstrong** was in similar sparkling form.

At the end of the dinner **John Marr** presented a special bottle and flowers to **Alec** and **Pat Stuttard**, as a thank-you for Alec's fine work as our Secretary for 8 years and for Pat's delightful support.



... he invested **Emily Crewe** as his successor as Senior Old Chorister. *It was a most happy Reunion.*

And after SOC **David** had given a fascinating *This is my Life ... ('I went to school in clogs and in 1947 a man I'd never seen before lifted me up and gave me a hug: he was my father returning from the War!')*



A Recollection of Jack Smethurst

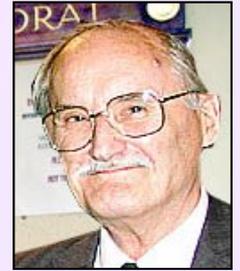
(BCOCA Founder-Member)

by BCOCA Founder-Member Peter Heald



Jack Smethurst

It would be in the late 1960s, when Jack sang bass and I sang tenor in the cathedral choir. Jack was a policeman, and well-known in Blackburn, not least for his sense of humour.



Peter Heald unbearded

Before and after Sunday morning services, one of my jobs was to lock and unlock the door to the choir vestry, a security measure.

Following one service I found the vestry door open, and inside was a rather large man on his way out. I asked if I could help him, and he told me he had come to take his chorister son home. I asked for his son's name, and didn't recognise it, which left me in a bit of a quandary, wondering what to do next, when I heard Jack's warm voice from behind me.

"Hello, Fred," he said. "What are you doing here?"

"Nothing, Mr Smethurst."

"Not like you," Jack laughed. "Come inside and turn out your pockets."

Fred had been through the jackets in the vestry and taken wallets and loose change.

Jack shook his head at him. "Thought you'd given this up, Fred," he said, "and in any case," he picked up one of the wallets, "this is mine, and there's nothing in it. Silly lad. It's the station for you."

He turned to the waiting choir and invited us to retrieve our own properties, while Fred stood quietly by him as Jack disrobed. It was a treat to watch. The big man could easily have made a dash for the door and escaped, but Jack was so completely in control.

Then Jack gave me the number of the police station and asked me to ring for a car for Constable Smethurst at the cathedral, and to send it, not to the west door, but to the 'bus station end of the footpath from outside the crypt door, which I did. And that was that. The incident was over in less than half an hour, no fuss, no bother. Very impressive, and quite exciting, really.

When we next met I asked Jack what would happen to Fred, but he just shrugged and said he didn't know. Then I asked him why he didn't want the police car to collect them from the west door, which would have been more convenient.

"Oh," he said, "I didn't want to embarrass him."

That was Jack.



Whatta great story! Thank you, Peter. There must be many more stories that OCs could tell about the Auld Days. Please send them to JB john@bertalot.org

The Following Sunday...

...at Choral Evensong, we had the honour of welcoming **Dame Mary Tanner** as our guest preacher. (Dame Mary is, of course, the mother of our Director of Music, **Richard Tanner**. But, surprise, surprise, the one person missing from that service was Richard himself! He was attending the wedding of choirman **Phil Wilson** in Cesky Crumlov in the Czech Republic!) Dame Mary is European President of the World Council of Churches so she was an admirable choice to be our guest preacher.

The service was attended by members of the Meissen Commission who were meeting at Whalley Abbey that weekend.

The Meissen Commission is a joint body of the Church of England and the Evangelische Kirche in Germany with the purpose of furthering greater cooperation and unity between the two Churches.

The anthems were sung in German, the lessons were read in English and German and the hymns were sung, simultaneously, in both languages. It was a fascinating experience to hear hymns being sung together bilingually.

Our own Bishop presided at the service, and there were at least two German Bishops amongst the Meissen Commission that evening.



L-R: *Canons Andrew Hindley and Chris Chivers, Dame Mary, Bishop Nicholas, Dean Christopher and Canon Rob Jones, member of the Meissen Commission.*

In her sermon (which was delivered with pristine clarity) Dame Mary said:

'It's always very special when different bits of one's life come together unexpectedly. And my being invited to preach this afternoon is just that for me.

'Blackburn Cathedral has become a second home for me through **Richard** and **Pippa, James** and **Ben**. I've grown to appreciate its liturgy, admire its ministry and mission, its music and art. And the Meissen Commission worshipping in the Cathedral this evening brings together another important part of my life as the Co-Secretary of the Meissen Agreement.



'It brings back memories of reconciliation between our churches, divided at the reformation, and reconciliation between our nations that had fought one another in two great world wars.

'Jesus prayed that his followers would be one as he and the Father are one, not in some clever ecumenical joinery or ambiguous theological agreement, but he prayed that they might be one enfolded together in the life and love of God – 'May they be one in us', so that the world might believe.

'It all began for me in 1983 when I accompanied the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr **Robert Runcie**, on his visit to the two Germanys to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of **Martin Luther**.

'The Archbishop had been deeply moved in Dresden when he thought that these were the same people he had faced in the tanks in 1940 and he said with passionate determination that we must do something to bring our churches closer together.

'So began our trilateral conversation, between the Church of England and the German churches in East and West Germany.

'What had begun as tripartite conversations between churches in

three countries kept apart by an inhuman wall, were celebrated in 1992 between two churches, in two countries and the wall was no more. It was as if we had been taking part for a decade in an unstoppable movement of reconciliation both in the Church and the world. This was marked at a service in Westminster Abbey.

'As our procession moved its way into the Abbey to celebrate the Agreement, the singing ceased at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and into the silence of remembrance, focussed on that tomb, came words of a prayer of thanksgiving for all those who had died in two great World Wars, those on both sides. Here, captured in a moment, was a reminder of the Church's vocation to unity and that integral relationship between the unity of the Church and the unity of God's world.

'May we walk together sustained by God's gifts of Word and Sacraments, the way of dialogue, reconciliation and peace.'

And on the Sunday after that...

...**Canon Michael Taylor** celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priesthood, and a large congregation was there to rejoice with him. He was assisted by **Canon Hindley** and **Mrs. Suzanne Pickering**, wife of **Mark**, our Dean's Virger.



Ruth Taylor read the first lesson, and **Canon Hindley** preached a brilliant sermon which, he said, might sound like Michael's obituary! He traced Michael's career from his early

training as an actor, through his vocation for ministry, to his invitation from Bishop Martineau, when Michael was Vicar of Clayton-le-Moors, to be Canon Sacrist at Blackburn Cathedral. He asked the Bishop if he could think about it for two weeks! We're so glad he said 'Yes!', for the Liturgy, under Michael's direction, was always superb.



And how good it was for us all to rejoice with Michael and his family at a delicious Reception in the Crypt afterwards.

But we were devastated to learn that Ruth had slipped the next day and splintered a vertebra in her back. She and Michael are ever in our prayers.



JB said, as he presented Matthew with his Medal:
Matthew, I have watched your progress in the Cathedral Choir during the past six years with much interest. Therefore it gives me great pleasure to invest you with this Long Service Medal, given by the Cathedral Choir 29 years ago in memory of my Mother, who was Choir Mother not only to the boys but also to the men. I know that you will bring to it much honour.

Well done!
 And then, of course, there were compulsory photographs after the service ...
 ...the entire Adelekan Family, with Canon Hindley and Matthew's brother, Deji ...



And that evening...

... at Choral Evensong there were more upgrading ceremonies:



Mathieu Woodburn, one of our most outstanding soloists, was promoted to Head Chorister.

When the cathedral choir sang in Malta last year it was Mathieu, at a Reception in the British Embassy, who engaged the Belgian Ambassador in conversation in fluent French!

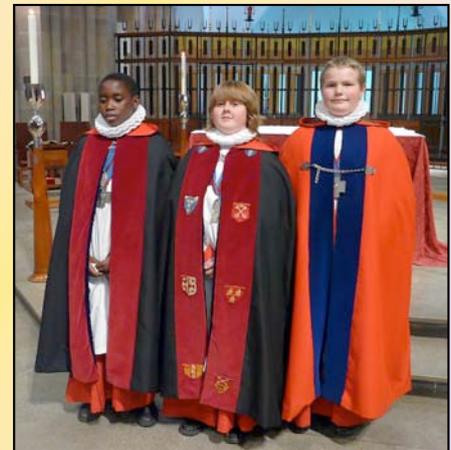


Joseph Kennedy was promoted to Deputy Head Chorister,

and

Matthew Adelekan was awarded the Dots Bertalot Medal as our longest-serving chorister.

... and the three choristers themselves:



Well done, everyone!



Who's this?



My word, how they grow! *It happens to us all!*

It seems like only yesterday that **Connor Buller**, who had been officially thanked by the Dean on September 13th when he retired as Head Chorister to join the YPC, was himself a new boy in our cathedral choir being given 'The Chorister of the Week' award by **Richard Tanner**.





Former Blackburn Organ Scholar Nigel Potts in New York...

... sent an e mail to his many friends and admirers around the world to tell us that he was about to give recitals on two most exciting organs.

The first was to be on the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia – the largest working organ in the world. It's situated in a vast department store – like Selfridges – and recitals are given three times a day during shopping hours!



The second recital would be on the colossal organ in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York. The cathedral has recently reopened after sustaining serious fire damage eight years ago.

The organ boasts a set of fanfare trumpets, under the enormous West Rose window, called the STATE TRUMPETS. (Our Imperial Trumpets are named after them – to give them a British instead of American flavour.)

The State Trumpets are on 50-inch wind pressure and are therefore 8 times as loud as our Imperial Trumpets which are on only six!

From OC CHRIS HUNWICK Archivist at Alnwick Castle See p.6

Dear John,

I'm sure you will be interested to know of a BCOC Coincidence the other weekend. Geraldine and I were attending the Historic Houses Archivists' Group AGM, this year held at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire (home to the Berkeley family for over 800 years, beating even the Percys at Alnwick!).



After the AGM we decided to stay the Saturday night in Gloucester on what turned out to be Heritage Open weekend.

We spotted a poster for an interesting concert of Renaissance Masterpieces from Italy and Iberia, to be performed in St Nicholas Church, Gloucester (a decommissioned church, though not deconsecrated, administered by the Churches Conservation Trust). The performance was being given by the Glevum Consort (Mediaeval Latin for Gloucester)

It was not until we turned up on the door to buy our tickets that we realised that the Consort was led by none other than Blackburn Old Chorister **James Atherton**. Following a wonderful concert, we caught up over a pint of 'Cooper' (an apt local ale for two **David Cooper** OCs of Blackburn), and then heard James and his fellow Lay Clerks the next morning in a spectacular Eucharist at the Cathedral, complete with installation of new organ scholar, choral scholars and lay clerks.

Glevum may well fancy a performance at Blackburn Cathedral if opportunity presents itself, and I recommend going to hear them.

Best regards, **Chris**.



From **James Atherton** (above right, with Chris):

It was a fabulous surprise when **Chris and Geraldine** turned up to hear a concert which my choir, *The Glevum Consort*, were performing in Gloucester. He came to Mass at the Cathedral (Howells' Collegium Regale) the following morning which I hope/think he enjoyed!

Very happily I'm coming to Blackburn on Sunday to sing with the Cathedral Choir for their latest CD!

From Mrs. Margaret Simpson

...Widow of the **Ven.**

Rennie Simpson,
former Precentor of
Blackburn

(during TLD's years)
and then Succentor of
Westminster Abbey.



*Rennie Simpson
with T. L. Duerden
around 1949.*

Dear John,

The **M&M** magazine arrived recently and again I enjoyed reading it so much.

Thank you for sending it – I marvel at the energy and enthusiasm of the Old Choristers' Association.

I was sorry to read of your financial problems and wish I could help...

I also wish you could include an item in the magazine about the **Fielding Dynasty**. When Rennie and I were married in 1948, Rennie had been attached to Blackburn Cathedral. **Mr. Fielding** was in the choir and **Peter** (the eldest son) was also on the back row. His brother **Gordon** was about to join him.

When we moved to St. Paul's Cathedral in 1952 (before going on to Westminster Abbey) the youngest brother, **Paul**, was about to become a chorister.

Forgive the scrawl – I have improved so much after my stroke,

With best wishes as always,

Margaret

Dear Margaret, Thank you so much for your letter. We are delighted that you are feeling better. Keep up the good work!

Yes – Yes – YES !

'When down in the mouth, remember Jonah: he came out all right!' (Thomas Edison, Inventor, 1847-1931)

'My idea of an agreeable person is a person who agrees with me.' (Dr. Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784)

'Children have more need of models than of critics.' (Joseph Joubert, *Frenchman of letters*, 1734-1824)

A Gift to the Music Department!

Edward and Anitra Haythornwhite, who work so strenuously and fruitfully for the cathedral's music programme, have recently added to their generosity by giving a very special upright piano to the Cathedral.



The piano is a Welmar, one of the last pianos to be made by the highly regarded English maker, *Whelpdale, Maxwell and Codd*, who went out of business around 2001/2.

Welmar pianos were often referred to as "The English Bluthner", since they were closely associated with the famous German manufacturer based in Leipzig from the beginning of the last century. The Bluthner piano showroom in Berkeley Square was part of the company and thousands of Bluthner pianos were restored at the factory in Perivale. The Welmar pianos were, right to the end, hand crafted at the factory in Clapham, and this undoubtedly was a major reason for the company's demise, since they could not compete with the mass production techniques of the Far East.

Edward wrote: During our time at our Skipton shop, Time and Tune, we were agents for Welmar pianos, as well as other names manufactured or imported by them such as Broadwood and Zimmermann. This piano was the last of our stock which was unsold when we moved from Skipton and we offered to lend it as a temporary measure when the old Song School grand had to go.



Now that the Song School has its new Weber grand, we are very happy that the Welmar has been moved to the YPC vestry where it will provide many years of service.

We decided to give the piano to the Cathedral as a "thankyou" for the wonderful work of the Music Department and for the pleasure we get from listening to the choirs in weekly services and concerts.

Thank you, Edward and Anitra. We are ever blessed by your presence and enriched by your dedication to all that we do here.

Yet another, very special, CD!

No sooner had Richard Tanner completed his CD of Messiaen's *La Nativité* (see p. 10) than he recorded, with the cathedral choir of men and boys, no fewer than three Masses – by Langlais, Duruflé and Vierne.

The cathedral choir is in tip-top form right now – we have a fine body of men (all volunteers), and the boys have never sounded so good. So, to hear the choir make this CD was a thrilling experience. The recording took four evenings of 3 hours each. Well done, everybody.



After a trial run-through of a part of the Langlais *Gloria*, Richard and James listened to it critically in the sound studio (the Canons' Vestry) along with the engineer, Richard Scott of Champion Records.

This, the CD made by the Girls' Choir, and Richard's *Nativité* will be available very soon.



James's playing was, as ever, thrilling – with our American organ scholar from Princeton, **Justin Miller**, turning pages. James's back view was interesting!

It was very good...

... to see OC **'Woody' Seymour** singing with the cathedral men for the 3-Mass recording. He is, of course, now a lay clerk in the very fine choir of Worcester Cathedral.

'What are you doing apart from singing in that splendid cathedral choir?'

'I'm teaching music up to A level in two schools: a North Worcestershire Comprehensive 11-18, and the Boys' Grammar School at Sutton Coldfield. I love teaching,' he added with a smile, 'and I'm forming choirs at both schools – starting with easy music but aiming for full 4-part singing.'

'How's Worcester Cathedral?'

'It's a great place to be,' he replied enthusiastically. 'We've just sung Bach's *Singet dem Herrn*, and Poulenc's *Mass in G*.'

'For a recording?'

'No, just normal cathedral repertoire!' he answered modestly

Well done, Woody, and well done your DoM, Adrian Lucas.



Our new Mitre-Crowned Flagpole...



... was hoisted into position by a giant crane on Monday, 5th October. It's 18 feet long (see front cover) and topped by a 3 ft. bishop's mitre, carved from oak by Mark Bridges, from Sussex.

This outstanding addition to our cathedral was made possible by a most generous bequest by former Old Chorister, and Churchwarden, **Harold Thorner**, who died just over a year ago.

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

also contributed generously to the cost of our new flagpole.

Canon Andrew Hindley

pointed out the symbolism of the mitre: 'Not only does it proclaim that we are a cathedral,' he said, 'but it is decorated with the Red Rose of Lancashire, and the Cross Keys of the Diocese of Blackburn.'

Canon Sue Penfold

welcomed the mitre on behalf of the Cathedral, before it was hoisted into position to proclaim its message to the diocese.

(Sue's Photo by Alex Barnes)



Also singing for that recording...



... was, of course, Cathedral Choir Tenor, **Phil Hunwick**, whose birthday was later that week.

'How will you celebrate your birthday?'

'I'll be in Java!' he replied unexpectedly.

'Why?'

'I'll be going with a party, led by former QEGS Headmaster, **Philip Johnston**. He organizes historic tours.'

'What'll you see there?'

'Oh, Buddhist temples and volcanoes...'. He paused for a moment, then added, 'I'll be giving a seminar in volcanology for them.'

Volcanology, as you know, is the study of volcanoes, lava, magma, and related geological, geophysical and geochemical phenomena. The term volcanology is derived from Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.

Enjoy a great birthday, Phil!

10 year-old MADELINE NOBLETT...

... won the first prize for singing in the October Fleetwood Music Festival!

Madeline, who is a member of our Girls' Choir, is a pupil at Samlesbury School, and she won top marks for the Solo Singing class for 10 years-old and under.

Her solo was *'Dreams'* by Sangster. Well done, Madeline!



It was also very good...

to welcome **'THE SINGERS'** to Blackburn Cathedral in October.

They are a highly talented group of singers from around Newcastle upon Tyne, which includes OC **Chris Hunwick**, **Andrew Elliott** and his sister, **Rachel** (their mother, **Alison Elliott** is Chairman of the Renaissance Singers). Andrew is completing a PhD at Lincoln College, Oxford - the college which has had strong links with members of Blackburn Cathedral for 56 years! (Chris was there, too. And see their present organ scholar, P.4)

Last year The Singers sang in Cologne Cathedral and their delightful programme here in October included old favourites such as Parsons' *Ave Maria* and Stainer's *How Beautiful*, as well as many contemporary items. Their tone was exquisite. Please come again! **(R) Chris, Rachel & Andrew.**



Where Did All That Time Go?

by Choir Dad, and Choir Alto, James Twigg Sr.

In some ways it only feels a short while ago that **James and Joseph** were in the boys' choir, and yet it is over 17 years since **David Cooper** auditioned James and then Joseph a year later. Pitch, rhythm and repeating melodies – quite formal for a 7 and a 6 year old. I remember at the time thinking how lucky the boys were to have David as their tutor.

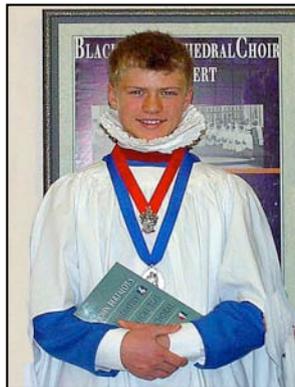


James and Joseph in 1993

David Cooper was a stickler for sensitivity and attention to detail – ideal to set you off in the right direction.

When **Richard Tanner** arrived James was nearing retirement but Joseph was soon promoted to head boy and enjoyed the role Richard gave him.

*[A special solo was composed for Joseph for the visit of HRH The Princess Royal in 2000. Richard Tanner invited JB to compose an anthem Thy Word is a Lantern for the rededication of the rebuilt Lantern Tower. He included short solos and a duet in the anthem for Joseph and for his Godfather, **Derek Crompton**, which was timed so that they would sing together as the Princess was processing through the choir. It's been recorded – copies available in the cathedral bookshop.]*



Joseph in 2000

Both boys held the Dots Bertalot Award as prefects and served over 7 years. Early Saturday mornings, choir tours, choir football...



Choir Football 1998: Back Row Paul: Varley, **James Twigg**, Chris West, Edward 'Woody' Seymour, Nick Lord, Matthew Parkington. Front Row: ? , Robert Whalley, **Joseph Twigg**, Danny Hunt, ? , Daniel Grimshaw, ? (The missing names were of 'imported' players)

...BBC broadcasts, big solos and heart thumping moments – even so it all now seems to have passed in an instant.

This year **James** graduated from the University of Leeds with a first in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and last year **Joseph** graduated with a 2.1 in Sociology from Durham University. James graduated later than Joseph after travelling round the world and then creating his own programme of multiple course education!



James & Joseph at their family home near Preston in 2009

If ever anyone was not sure what to do then it has been **James**. First thought was Theology then he gained a place at Oxford where he read Physics for a year and gained a blue for boxing. He fell out of love with Maths and decided that a course in the History of Warfare would be interesting.



The only establishment providing the degree was Hull University. After a year without Maths he decided that a practical subject like engineering would be more satisfying so moved from Hull to Leeds. It is with some relief to his parents that he finished this course having been heard to say more than once that there was a lack of challenging maths!!!



Joseph finished a Master's degree in Business Management in September. This gave him a fourth year in Durham to play University Rugby, take up golf and generally enjoy himself as an active member of Van Mildert College.

Both boys (young men!) still enjoy their music. In James it might be by taking an unsuspecting girlfriend on a trip to Opera North while Joseph is game for anything from solo spots in the college cabaret to guest appearances in Blackburn Cathedral Choir.

Their sister **Jessica** went through the cathedral Sunday school with Mrs. Robb and was a server. She is very busy now doing a degree in medicine.

What next? **Joseph** is in no hurry to commit.

James has always looked for challenges for mind and body. This has led him to be a Royal Marine Reserve. He has been called out by the Ministry of Defence to go to Afghanistan next April. To James it is a duty; to us it is something else.



How proud you must be of your whole family, Jim & Joy, not only what you and they have achieved in years past (greatly to the benefit of the cathedral and to so many others) but also the amazing prospects that lie ahead – as your final sentence so eloquently describes. Thank you, all. JB

Our Music Outreach Project...

... again attracted a full Nave of parents in October, who had come to watch their children sing under the inspiring leadership of **Jeff Borradaile, Gill Fourie** and our own **Joy Fielding**.

Our own Lantern Voices (below L) were joined by pupils from Sabden Primary, Great Harwood Primary and Rishton Methodist schools.



Our own cathedral choristers sang, as ever, inspiringly, and **James Davy** thrilled the boys and girls and parents with his skilful playing on our magnificent organ. It was, as ever, a very good morning. Thank you, MOP!

Guess who came to see us in October!



On Oct. 15 the **Dean** and **Canon Hindley** had a useful 30-minute discussion with **Phil Woolas**, (Minister for the Environment, and MP for Oldham East & Saddleworth), in the Cathedral crypt while the **Prime Minister** was at BBC Radio Lancashire.

Anjum Anwar joined them and the discussion was partly about the Cathedral Quarter Development Plan and partly about the excellent work which **exChange** does towards Community Cohesion.



Photos of Gordon Brown, and Phil Woolas with the Dean and Canon Hindley, by Richard Tanner.

The Minister seemed suitably impressed, even taken aback. He went away with a fist full of literature and further promises to follow up this useful meeting.

Our choristers made yet another CD this autumn to help the Cathedral Appeal which has just been launched.

This recording is different from the other three made very recently – one by the Girls' Choir of songs sung by Kathleen Ferrier, (as announced in our Autumn edition) – one by our Boys and Men of three French Masses (see page 19) – and one by Richard Tanner of a major organ work by Messiaen (see page 10).

This recording was made for backing choral vocals for two tracks that were to be released at the end of October by a young singer called **Demi Holborn**. Demi has her own website <http://www.demiholborn.com/news.php> The songs are *O Holy Night* and *How Great Thou Art*.



Rupert Swarbrick, who is the director of the Cathedral Appeal, tells us that **Sir Harry Cowell**, who is the Managing Director of Production and Music Publisher of **Rive Droite Music**, has agreed that the Blackburn Cathedral Appeal will receive the full royalties of each download at 79p per copy or £1.50 for the two. This is an exciting development for us all. As a first in the UK music business, access to the website from which these downloads will be available via a text.

A significant part of what the Appeal is being asked to fund is revenue, and this recording will raise the profile and help with some operating costs.

By the way, Blackburn Rovers have given us a slot for Demi at half time when they play Liverpool on 5th December in front of a sell-out crowd of 31,000.



Great care was taken by the engineers to get the placing of the microphones just right, and all the choristers had to put on earphones, so that they could hear the music to which they were providing backing. This was a new experience for them, and they found it great fun!



Richard Tanner directed the singing, as ever, with authority and musicianship.



And the whole experience was a great success musically, and, we trust, financially.

During the recording five choristers were taken ill (it was like Haydn's Farewell Symphony!) and more went down with flu the next day!

See page 26 for the launch of this new venture!

Former SOC, DAVID SMALLEY, writes:

I would be most grateful if you could encourage people to do the Talent Scheme and hand in any money they make in an envelope to Linda Bruce or in the Song School post box.

If they could put on the envelope who it is from and what they did, and address it to me, perhaps we could publish the names of those who contribute.

I would like all the money to be in by the end of January 2010 if possible, but nobody would object if another £1,000 came in after that!

Thanks so much.

**14 Branch Rd., Mellor Brook,
BLACKBURN BB2 7NU**

MUSIC & MORE
is currently published every 4 months
during these demanding financial times.
We are ever grateful to those who support us
so generously. **THANK YOU!**

A dynamic trio launches the Cathedral Appeal!



Following many months of planning led by the Appeal **Chairman Gail Stanley** (former High Sheriff), the Appeals Office has now been established. **Rupert Swarbrick**, Appeal Director and **Louise Hicks**, Appeal Administrator, were appointed on 1st October and have taken up residence in Cathedral House.

They are currently at the planning stage of this huge venture and anticipate a formal launch early in the New Year. The team has plenty of original ideas which will come to fruition over a period of years.

Soon to be launched – in time for Christmas – is our own label **wine!** This will be available to buy either by the bottle or by the case. A selection of both red and white will be available and can be ordered from the Appeal Office.

The Appeal page on the Cathedral web site will be updated regularly in order to keep you informed of progress. *Just 'Google' Blackburncathedral*

If you wish to contact the Appeal Office by email:-
rupert.swarbrick@blackburn.anglican.org
Louise.hicks@blackburn.anglican.org

Your support of this project will be much appreciated!

Blackburn Cathedral Appeal...

... proudly supports the release of the download records produced by Sir Harry Cowell, Mission Recordings and Publishing Limited, with all proceeds from the download (£1.50) donated to Blackburn Cathedral Appeal Fund.

Rupert Swarbrick, Blackburn Cathedral Appeal Director, said, "It is a great privilege for me to launch the music download by Demi Holborn featuring Choristers from Blackburn Cathedral."



Demi Holborn performs '**O Holy Night**' and '**How Great Thou Art**' supported by our **Blackburn Cathedral Choristers** (See p. 23). She'll also sing at venues and events across Lancashire and the UK throughout November and December 2009. This includes a performance during the Blackburn Rovers v Liverpool game on December 5th, 2009.

"In partnership with Sir Harry Cowell," added Rupert Swarbrick, "we aim to give supporters of Blackburn Cathedral Appeal the best possible digital music experience."

The Dean of Blackburn, **Christopher Armstrong**, in supporting this initiative, expressed the hope that it would display the flexibility, high standards and sheer fun which characterises music-making at the Cathedral.

We plan to use the latest email technology to draw awareness to the Blackburn Cathedral Appeal, which will be officially launched in 2009.

Download the cathedral's website to get your copy of Demi's great recording.

**Heartiest congratulations to
Canon Chris Chivers and
Mrs. Anjum Anwar MBE**
who have an article about their work
in the Michaelmas edition of



This magazine is sent to ALL Oxford Graduates
around the world.

Building bridges across religious divides

'A priest in a dog collar and a Muslim woman
in a hijab' sounds an odd pairing. But,
together Chris Chivers (Magdalen 1985) and
Anjum Anwar are challenging stereotypes.

Chivers is Canon Chancellor at Blackburn
Cathedral, in a town dubbed the most
segregated in Britain. He arrived in 2005, with
a commitment to interfaith dialogue fired by a
period working with Desmond Tutu on truth
and reconciliation in South Africa. Once in
post, he forged a partnership with Anwar, an
education officer at the Lancashire Council
of Mosques. When the London bombings
on 7 July 2005 blew apart cross-cultural
understanding, they took to the streets to talk
to local people. 'It was a strange sight, but
somehow it got people talking.'

Two years ago, their double act was
formalised when Anwar became dialogue
development officer at the Cathedral, the first
Muslim anywhere to be appointed as cathedral
staff. No fan of 'hotel-style multiculturalism',
in which different communities 'stay in
their own rooms', Chivers has run youth
initiatives with Anwar (who was awarded an
MBE in 2005 for services to the community),
exploring terrorism and social cohesion. One



Photo: Jason Lawton

initiative of which he is particularly proud is a
project in which children from predominantly
white and predominantly Asian schools were
asked to photograph the most important people
and things in their communities. Then both
came together to build an imaginary town.

Chivers' next priority is youth leadership,
a topic of particular concern in a town where
the academically ablest leave for university
and rarely return. 'We have to give all our
young people [irrespective of their academic
attainment] a feeling they are in a community
to which they can make a difference,' he says
simply.

www.blackburncathedral.com

Oxonian Extra

**The next BCOCA Annual Reunion
will be on
Saturday-Sunday
18-19 September 2010.**

Venue for the Dinner to be decided.
But please books these dates now!

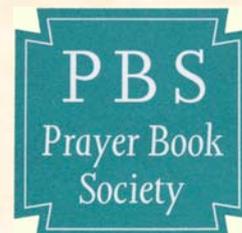
THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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



THREE FORMER BLACKBURN MUSICIANS...

... were honoured by the new **Archbishop of Westminster** in November who presented them, in company with other distinguished musicians, with honorary Fellowships of the Guild of Church Musicians. The ceremony took place at a special service in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, London, whose ornate ceiling is one of the marvels of Victorian ecclesiastical design.



Close-up view

But before that service, several of us enjoyed a celebratory lunch in OC NOEL HUNWICK's highly successful restaurant, **INAMO**, in Wardour Street (just off Oxford Street).



L-R: **Noel Hunwick**, your Editor, **Richard Tanner**, **Katharine** and **James Thomas**. James was sub-organist at Blackburn Cathedral during **David Cooper's** reign and also taught young Noel the piano. James is now the ebullient Director of Music of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, where he's about to rebuild his organ at a cost of £750,000.

Noel and his business partner opened their restaurant only three years ago, and already it has attracted world-wide attention., for it is at the cutting edge of technology – the table-tops turn themselves into computers so that you can order your meals at the touch of a button AND see a photograph of what you've ordered projected immediately onto your plate! (See p. 7.)

Noel has been interviewed at least 30 times on TV around the world and during our lunch he was presented with a German magazine which featured INAMO on its front cover.

Enquiries about Noel's technology and his many other innovations have come from as far away as the USA, Japan and Dubai.

Book ahead to make sure you can get in! **020 7851 7051**



The service in the Queen's Chapel was very splendid – a full Choral Evensong and a packed congregation who had come to see their musical relatives and friends receive Awards and Honours from the Archbishop.

Many young, and also some older, musicians received GCM certificates following their success in GCM examinations. (The Guild is affiliated with the University of Kent at Canterbury.) And then came the presentation of honorary Awards.



The first, (Hon. Membership) was presented to **Christine Best**, who was Richard Tanner's first choir mistress in Weybridge – before he became a chorister at St. Paul's Cathedral. (See *young Richard's photo*, p.17)

A photograph (taken after the service) was certainly in order.

Then came the Hon Fellowships. It gave your editor special pride that one of the new Hon Fellows was OC **Ian Harrison**, who was a cathedral chorister when JB came to Blackburn in 1964. He later studied with JB at the RNCM. (See page 3)



Behind Ian was the **Very Revd. Dr. Richard Fenwick**, Warden of the Guild, – he was Succentor at St. Paul's when Richard was a chorister there – and **Dr. Mary Archer**, President of the Guild.

After the service there were compulsory photos, one of which was of five of the six Blackburn Cathedral Honorary Fellows of the Guild, taken with the Guild's senior officers. (The sixth was JB's former sub organist **Ronald Frost**, who was unable to be present.)



L-R: **James Thomas** (former Blackburn Sub Organist), **JB** (DoM at Blackburn 1964-82), **Gordon Stewart** (DoM at Blackburn 1995-98), **The Archbishop**, Canon **Joanna Udal**, representing the Archbishop of Canterbury), **Richard Tanner** (Dom at Blackburn since 1998) **Dr. Mary Archer** (President of the Guild) **Ian Harrison** (Old Chorister of Blackburn) and the **Very Revd. Dr. Richard Fenwick**, Warden of the Guild.

But there were two more photos to take.

First, of OC Ian Harrison's parents, who have supported him so creatively throughout his life. (His Dad was a Blackburn Headmaster).

His younger brother **John** (R), was also a



chorister during JB's time. And with them (L) was Dr. **Alan Thurlow**, cathedral organist Emeritus of Chichester who had taken his fabulous cathedral choir many times to sing at Ian's Annual Bournemouth Festival.

And second: One of the other Hon. GCM Fellows (apart from our good friend **Jeremy Suter** from Carlisle Cathedral) was **Richard White MBE**, who had been Headmaster of Polwhele House School, Truro, where the Truro Cathedral choristers are educated, and who was instrumental in starting the Music Outreach Project (see p. 23).

When Richard was a boy he was a chorister in the choir of King's College, Cambridge, at the same time that JB was organ scholar at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. (See page 3)

It was Richard who sang the outstanding solo in the recording of Stanford's *Magnificat* in G, under the direction of **Dr. Boris Ord**. This CD – **Choral Evensong from King's**, is a major classic, for it shows the genius of Dr. Ord, who was instrumental in creating the world-famous Nine Lessons and Carols. No-one could train a choir like Boris, and this CD demonstrates, so thrillingly, the unique inspiration which Boris commanded.



He was a lovable man whose students venerated him, but he had to retire a year after the recording due to tragic debilitating ill health.



What an amazing coincidence it was to have one of Boris's last choristers and one of Boris's last students in the same place at the same time – after 53 years!

← **Richard** told JB that when they were recording the Stanford *Nunc Dimittis* in 1956 they were constantly

interrupted by planes flying over King's Chapel. So Boris, who had served in the RAF during WW II, left the chapel and telephoned the local RAF station demanding that the flights be stopped. They were, and so this classic recording was able to be completed.

Every choirmaster, be you church or cathedral, should own a copy of this CD – every note of which is wholly inspirational. It was re-issued in 1997 by Belart, number 461 4532 10.

Yet more Chorister Awards...

... were made by The Dean to our fine trebles in November.

The **FRED GREEN AWARDS** were given to **Harry Brookes, William Fielding, Aidan Halsall and Christopher Snape.**



Fred was an OC of Blackburn, and Churchwarden for 20 years. His widow, **Dorothy**, still attends the cathedral even though she is approaching her 100th birthday. Fred gave these Awards to Choristers who live outside the old Blackburn Borough.

The **LIVESEY TRUST AWARDS** were give to **Jack Aspinall, Elliott Day, Nicholas Day, Robert Mitchell and Niki Zodhi.**



This Award for Excellence is given to choristers who live within the old Blackburn Borough.

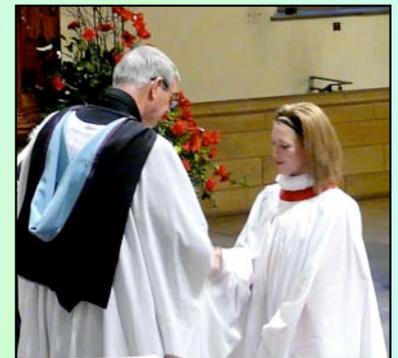
The CHADWICK MEMORIAL PRIZE

is given to an outstanding chorister.
Head Chorister **Matthieu Woodburn** was the winner.



The DEAN DAVID FRAYNE AWARD

is given to an outstanding girl chorister.
Jamie Bett was the winner.



And finally, **The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral** presented, for the first time, two silver goblets to be held for a year, by a boy and a girl chorister. These goblets were donated by **Mrs. Margery Newell** on behalf of herself and her late husband, **Glyn**, who were faithful members of our cathedral congregation. Margery, who now lives in Scotland, is in her 90s. **Thank you!**



L-R: Judge Jeremy Duerden, Chairman of The Friends, worthy recipient Alex Wood, The Dean, and worthy recipient Joseph Kennedy.

And to add to the Awards, after the service Deputy Head Girl **ALISON HOLMES** was the first girl to be awarded the Trophy for Best Chorister of the Week. **Well done, everyone!**

Our Bishop is introduced as a member of the House of Lords

John -

Thanks for the photos of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Blackburn. These are great. May we put them on the web site? [Yes! See pages 30-32.]

On the day of my Introduction to the House of Lords, as I walked to the Bar of the House I looked at the Throne and thought of the Monarchs who had sat there. I also looked around the very full House and saw many familiar faces from the past – which included the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Cabinet Ministers, Forces Chiefs, Captains of Industry, and Trade Union leaders and distinguished academics, doctors, teachers, and many others from all walks of life.



(Who says the House of Lords is NOT representative?!)

I thought too of those who had sat in this House in the past including the former Bishops of Blackburn, and all this made me feel very humble - and thankful.

I know any contribution I make will be minimal and modest, but in the limited amount of time a Northern Bishop can give to the House I look forward to being able to speak up for the Church and make a contribution on behalf of the people I'm honoured to serve in this Diocese and County.

Best! + Nicholas



Bishop Nicholas with his sponsors, the Bishops of Bradford and Chichester.

OLD CHORISTERS' NEWS

Angela Hicks was a member of the Girls' choir and also sang with the Renaissance Singers. She left the choir in September 07 to take a scholarship as St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh where she is a first study singer. She is now in her final year of sixth form and busy applying for a place at music college or university in order to continue with her musical studies.



Angela singing with Stirling University Choral Society at Dunblane Cathedral

Whilst in Edinburgh she has sung with various choral societies at Glenrothes and Stirling University, performed with Nycos at Edinburgh Festival Hall in conjunction with *Ballet Rambert*, and sang at a number of school concerts held in St Marys cathedral and other prestigious venues. In June 2009 she was chosen by the Edinburgh Festival organisers to represent the vocal category of the Festival in the final of the Concerto Competition and Awards Ceremony.

Angela now plays the Scottish folk harp (clarsach) as well as the clarinet and piano. *Well done, Angela!*

From OC Sarah Chew

at the Royal Welsh College of Music in Cardiff

Dear John,

Hope all is well in Lancashire. Life in Cardiff is very good. It is a fantastic City with plenty to do and lots of music happening here.

Cardiff is home to the Welsh National Opera, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, as well as hosting the Cardiff Singer-of-the-World competition, and the Royal Welsh College where I am studying.



In fact I was in Blackburn a few weeks ago with the Royal Welsh College, supporting 2 of its singers in the *Kathleen Ferrier Bursary Competition*, where the UK's top conservatoires send 2 of their best 2nd year students to compete against each other for the £3,000 first prize. I am proud to say that this year's winner was from the Royal Welsh College, beating stiff competition from the Guildhall, the Royal Academy and other London Colleges. It is a very big achievement and it's the second time in 3 years that the Royal Welsh has won.

We are preparing for our first big concert which is *Belshazzar's Feast* by Walton in Cardiff's St. David's Hall.

All in all I'm very busy and happy.

All the best, **Sarah Chew**

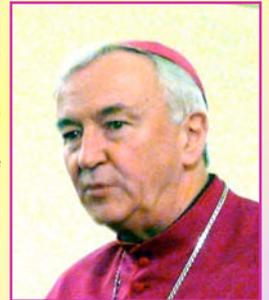
Well done, Sarah. You are clearly doing so well and are in the right place. Congratulations. JB

Canon Chris Chivers

(who is on a 3-month Sabbatical in South Africa)...

...has just published the new **North West Development Agency** report that showcases our work as one of twelve exemplars of the way that different faiths add value to the community.

This was launched in London in mid-October at a reception hosted by the new **Archbishop of Westminster**, the **Most Revd. Vincent Nichols**. There was also a launch at Ambleside in Cumbria.



This report is already influencing Government thinking on the value of faiths in service delivery of key areas in our national life.

It follows the fact that we were also named as exemplars last year in the Government interfaith strategy: face to face and side by side. So the work is having its considerable impact in the corridors of power as well as on the ground. *Well done!*

A mind-blowing day

'I felt as though my brains were coming out of my ears,' commented one lady after attending the discussion day on science, art and faith in Blackburn Cathedral in November.

The day came from an idea by Canon Brenda Harding, Associate Director of Ministry in the Diocese, and Professor John Rodwell, under the title *Creativity and Freedom*. An enthralled audience listened to presentations made by five distinguished scientists, artists and clergy who challenged us with every inspiring word they spoke.



Canon Sue Penfold, Director of Ministry, welcomed artist Penny Warden during coffee in the crypt before the day began.

He concluded by saying that the end part of the grain, when working with wood, is always the most difficult to work. Christ appears where life is difficult, so let us be aware of Him when we work the end part of the grain in our own lives.



Penny Warden, who had created our fifteen Stations of the Cross, called *The Journey*, said that to view religious art within a sacred building, such as at Blackburn Cathedral, deepens the viewers' response.



She took risks when painting *The Journey* – sometimes making a bold brush stroke across a painting to create an air of instability. She aims at images which are creatively spiritual – the images of Jesus at Blackburn sought to express both the human and the Divine aspects of Christ, so that the viewer does not ask, 'Who is it?' but, 'Who am I?'



Our chairman for the presentations was Jonathan Cave, deputy Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, who not only introduced each speaker, but also tried to summarize, briefly, what they had said (an almost impossible task as each gave us so much to think about).

He then invited questions from the audience – which were both searching and highly intelligent.

Our first speaker was the Revd. Canon Professor John Rodwell, who is an ecologist and a professor at Lancaster University as well as a research fellow at Manchester University.



He revealed to us the enormous breadth of nature. For example, there are 5,000 types of figs, and each type has its own fig wasp which fertilizes it. This is extraordinary, for it demonstrates the mutual dependence between plants and animals. 'You don't have to be religious to wonder at the natural world,' he said. 'But God must have an inordinate interest in beetles,' he added, 'for there are about 350,000 species! And there are 200 million insects for each one of us!'

He spoke so fluently and so easily: it was a fascinating experience to listen to him as facts, figures, humour and stories tumbled forth from his erudite lips.

'Nature is not able, consciously, to praise God,' he concluded, 'so we must do it for the rest of creation. *O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord...*'



After we had been given a few moments to recover from Professor Rodwell's address, the Revd. Graham Rouse, priest and woodworker, spoke to us. Not only is he skilled in working with wood (we were able to see and handle some of his exquisite work) but he also plays the piano and trombone.

He's involved with three churches in Blackpool in the *Boathouse Project*, which encourages young deprived adults to return to education through working with wood.

The message of his talk was that we should always work with the grain in all we do, rather than against it. For when we work 'with the grain' (i.e. with situations and people, instead of despite of them) this gives us the freedom to be creative – and happily surprised by the fruits of our labours.

And after a convivial lunch in the crypt when we enjoyed getting to know one another, we were ready for the Dean of Chester, the Very Revd. Professor Gordon McPhate, to address us.



At least we thought we were ready, but Dean McPhate's talk on *Creativity and Freedom in the Human Body*, was so erudite that we were stunned. Dean McPhate was a pathologist at Guy's Hospital in London; he is a consultant at many hospitals now and is professor of Science and Religion at the University of Chester. He talked about the flow of blood to and from the heart – of genes and genomes – of DNA and the sexual predisposition of humans. In analyzing human behaviour he asked if it were inherited or due to upbringing. 'Nature and nurture determine who we are.'

(But there was so very much more to his talk than this. Our minds reeled from the onslaught of facts and figures that he presented to us.)



The final address was given by Hermione Roff (whose husband, Canon John Roff, was in the audience). She talked about her own poems. which were inspired and so perceptive about human behaviour. 'Language fails us when we try to describe an infinite God,' she said. 'The creative poem, like painting, is dependent upon the creative response of the listener and observer. But music and poetry need to have enough room for us to enter into them wholly.'

Thank you, Canon Sue, for arranging such an outstanding day. Let's have another – when we've recovered from this one!

A day we shall ever remember

... for we were visited by His Grace, the **Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr. Rowan Williams** spent several days in the diocese, and he ended his tour by preaching at a special service in Blackburn Cathedral – which was packed – every seat was taken in the Nave and both Transepts and the choirstalls were overflowing.



The congregation was headed by the **Lord Lieutenant and Lady Shuttleworth, the High Sheriff Mrs. Susie Reynolds, the Rt. Hon. Jack Straw** – Blackburn's MP – who sat with Mrs Reade, and, on the other side, sat the **Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn.**



Preparations had been meticulously made by our dedicated team of Virgers, and the service had been rehearsed, equally meticulously, by our Canon Sacrist, **Andrew Hindley** – to ensure that everything, **EVERYTHING**, ran smoothly. This included preparations for a super luncheon in the crypt after the service (for VIPs). Nothing had been left to chance.



New robes were worn for the first time by our choirgirls, (matching those of the boys), who joined with our boy choristers and choirmen to provide a splendid choir for a uniquely splendid occasion.

Choirmum **Amanda Snape** helps her daughter, **Hannah**, with her new robes.

The choir of men, boys and girls, lined up in the North Transept as the Dean welcomed everyone ...



...and the Bishop, and Archbishop led by his Primatial Cross of Canterbury, were also ready for the service to begin.



The service was led by our **Bishop Nicholas**, supported by the Bishops of Burnley and Lancaster, and the Archdeacons of Blackburn and Lancaster.



The Bishop wore his exquisite diocesan chasuble, on which are depicted 120 diocesan churches. It had been embroidered by Mrs. **Jo Ratcliff**, from Ribchester, for **Bishop Alan** to wear when the former Archbishop of Canterbury came to Blackburn in 1996 to celebrate the 1400th anniversary of the founding of the first church on this site.

The Archbishop's sermon, which was an exposition of the Gospel for the day (from Matthew, where Jesus, before his ascension, commissioned his disciples to 'make disciples of all nations'), was delivered without notes, and was crystal clear to all of us. His attentive congregation were riveted by what he had to say.

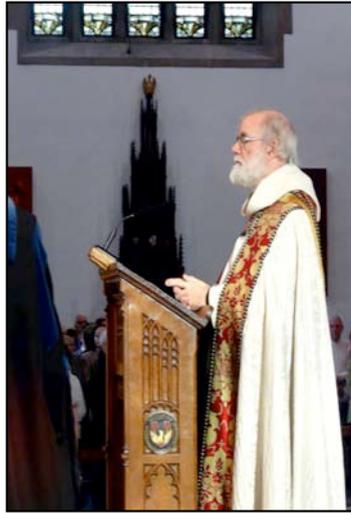
'Jesus said, "Go and make disciples" – not go and recruit numbers to increase the size of your congregation, but make learners (for that is what the word *disciple* means), make companions of all nations.

'This is an achievable task when approached in gratitude and joy.

"Come and learn from Me," said Jesus; "I want you to live your life fully, which you will do if you keep company with Me from day to day." Go, therefore, for He is with us always.'

The music, conducted by **Richard Tanner**, was also first class. It was a happy mixture of congregational music (such as a responsorial setting of the *Gloria*) and ambitious choral settings (such as Vierne's setting of the *Sanctus*, *Benedictus* and *Agnus Dei*, which the boys and men had recently recorded – see p. 19).

James Davy had composed a special anthem for the occasion – *The Message of the Cross* – which he conducted during the administration of communion with his usual flair and dedication.



The Archbishop and Mr. Straw made an early point, stressing the importance that of those of Faith (whatever Faith) should share their faith with others, for this would be of mutual benefit to everyone.

Mr. Straw, for example, regretted that the Christmas cards for members of Parliament had *Season's Greetings* inscribed in most of them, instead of *Christmas Greetings*. Those of other Faiths were happy to share the joy of their Festivals with Christians; why should Christians think that it would be offensive to share their faith with others? Diversity is enriching.

Both Dr. Williams and Mr. Straw would like to welcome women bishops, but Dr. Williams made the point that those who are opposed to this have strong reasons for so doing.

At the end of this lively session the Dean chose three questions from children, one of which was from a 13-year old girl. 'I am being confirmed this month; what is the next stage after Confirmation?' The Archbishop immediately replied, 'The next stage after Confirmation is the rest of your life!' This was greeted by delighted applause from everyone.

Then a presentation was made to St. Leonard's Padiham, which had qualified to be the 50th Child Friendly church in our diocese. They were greeted by much applause.



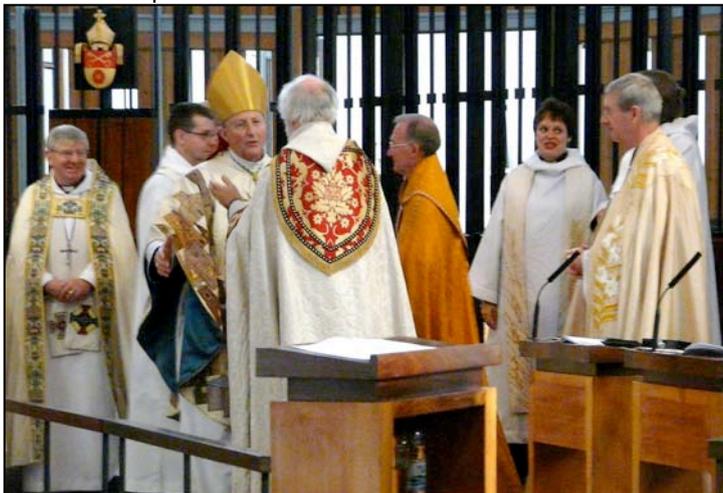
And finally, Bishop Nicholas prayed for Dr. Williams, whose heavy responsibilities were almost more than any one person could bear.

One member of the congregation said that she prayed for the Archbishop every day. May this be true for many of us.

Canon Andrew Hindley
leading the prayers with
Honorary Ecumenical Canon Kevin Kenny from Pleasington Priory.



It was moving to see Bishop Nicholas exchanging the Peace with the Archbishop.



And when the service was ended, and after the Archbishop had greeted, informally, many members of the congregation, there was a question and answer session with the Archbishop and Mr. Straw, chaired by Bishop Nicholas, with the Dean reading out some of the many questions that had been submitted.

We were richly blessed by the Archbishop's uplifting and deeply spiritual presence with us that day. **Hallelujah!**

(One more photo of the Archbishop – back cover.)



