

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

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Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music Newsletter No. 10
and

Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association Newsletter No. 19
July, 2004

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MESSIAH

Blackburn Cathedral was packed to the doors on Saturday, 8th May, for a magnificent performance of *Messiah* sung by the Cathedral Choir of men and boys and the Renaissance Singers conducted by **RICHARD TANNER**. There was a galaxy of superb soloists led by our exquisite **Philippa Hyde**, with chorister **Tom Croxson** who excelled in his own recitative solos. They were accompanied by the Northern Chamber Orchestra, and continuos were played by Assistant Director of Music **GREG MORRIS** at the harpsichord and Organ Scholar, **ALEX DAVIES** at the chamber organ.

No words of praise are too high to describe this performance which was thrilling and inspiring. Every credit to Richard and his talented team of singers and musicians for producing such a musical feast.





MESSIAH

Alex Davies playing organ continuo with the combined choirs in full voice behind him.

*Cathedral Choirmen awaiting their turn to sing
Centre:
Dan Prowse, Back,
Stewart Hopkinson with Judge Prowse next to him*



Three of our brilliant soloists: Philippa Hyde (left) and Sarah Jillian Cox, and Tom Croxson



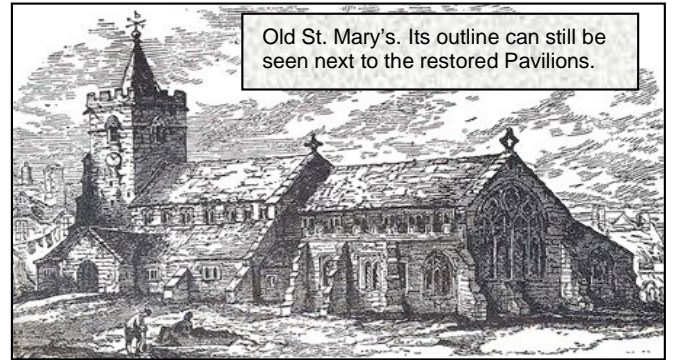
With regard to the questions in your letter, asking about my grandfather, **Tom**, and father, **Harold**, who both sang in the choir of St. John's Blackburn. Both continued in a long tradition of working in the wood trade, either Carpenters or Joiners, although my father Harold was a Woodworking Machinist most of his working life.

Until the beginning of the 20th. cent. all first born males in the Fielding family were named Henry. My Father, **Harold** (who constructed the choir stalls in the Song School, 70 years ago) was the first to break with tradition. If the tradition had continued I would be Henry and **son Robert** would also be Henry! **OC PAUL** has made an effort to keep it going with his son, William Henry.



There has also been a long association with the Cathedral, formerly St. Mary's Parish Church.

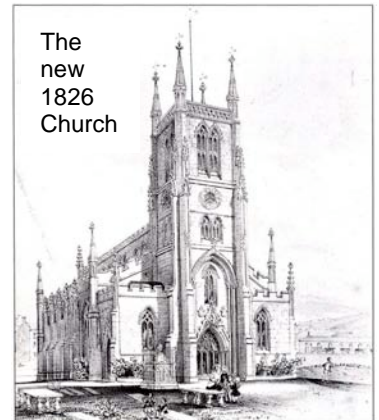
John b. 1770ish was the earliest I found, (was there an older brother called Henry?). He was a Joiner and married Nancy Eccles in the old St. Mary's in 1795.



Old St. Mary's. Its outline can still be seen next to the restored Pavilions.

Next was **Henry** b. 1798, who was a carpenter, married Mary Edge at St. Mary's in 1825.

That must have been one of the last weddings in the old parish church, which was falling down, for the new church (our present cathedral Nave) was consecrated the following year.



The new 1826 Church

There is a family story which says that Mary Edge rode down from Tockholes to St. Mary's on a white horse to be married! Henry applied for a Marriage Bond to the then **Vicar of Blackburn, John William Whittaker**. The text is quite archaic, with phrases like 'being sworn on the Holy Evangelists' etc. Henry actually signed it which was something in those days. Prior to

A Galaxy of Fieldings!

In our last edition we featured photographs of five generations of **FIELDINGS** after the magnificent performance of Brahms' Requiem in which **OC PETER** and son, **JOHN**, accompanied the Renaissance Singers in piano duet.

Peter now reveals that there were not five, but at least **NINE generations of Fieldings** who have lived here during the past few centuries. Can anyone beat that?



Dear John,

What an experience the Brahms was! My contemporary in the cathedral choir, **OC RALPH ROBINSON**, rang me to say he couldn't come. I remember him singing Brahms' 'Ye who now sorrow' so beautifully when he was a lad.

his marriage Henry had served several years in the Navy at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. I still have his large oak chest that he used on board ship!

Then **Henry (II)** b. 1832, Joiner and Carpenter, married Alice Parker at St. John's in 1859,

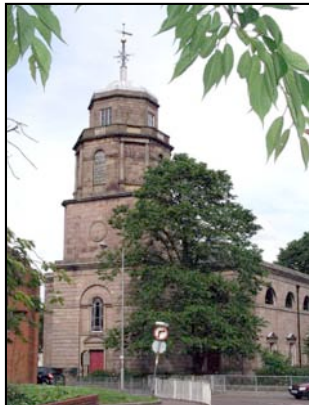
Then **Henry (III)** b. 1859, married Martha Ball at St. Mary's c.1880. He was also a Joiner.

There were three sons of Henry and Alice, besides Henry there was James, and **Tom** my Grandfather, who married Ellen Jane Campbell at St. Michael's in 1893.

Jane's Father was Michael Campbell who was responsible for the opening of a Music Hall adjacent to the Dun Horse Hotel, then at the Darwen St. end of Market Street Lane, opposite the Cathedral. It was called the Alhambra Theatre and was capable of holding up to 2,500 persons. On the opening night (May 3rd. 1880) the artists included Miss Florence Merry, Serio Character and Dancer; Tula, the Mexican Wonder; Miss Lottie Adams, the great skipping rope dancer; Miaco, the Boneless Wonder and the Blackburn Borough Band with the Guide Temperance Band, conducted by Michael Campbell. I don't think the Theatre was a great financial success because Michael appeared in the Bankruptcy Court a few years later!

Most of the Fieldings were born and bred in Morton St. a little street that joined Tontine St. and Kirkham Lane, near Limbrick. When Gordon and myself were young lads we must have passed 9, Morton St. many times, not knowing its historical significance. It was demolished, along with much of old Blackburn, in the 60's. All the Fielding men were either Joiners or Carpenters and worked in a woodyard on the other side of Limbrick, just below where Barbara Castle Way is now.

I think my Grandfather Tom met Janie when they were members of St. Michael's Choir, but perhaps because of his friendship with **Tom Duerden Snr. (TLD's father)** joined St. John's during WW1. **Harold** was in St. John's as a boy when **Dr. Frederick Wood** was in charge and later sang tenor. In the mid twenties he worked in Southport, met Ada and were married at St. John's in 1929. **I was born there in 1930** and **OC GORDON** (BCOCA treasurer) in 1933. We all returned to Blackburn in 1936.



St. John's, Blackburn

Tom Fielding was a lifelong friend of Tom Duerden Snr. and this was probably the reason he spent his remaining life singing in St. John's Choir with a wonderful line up of Basses including both Ferrier brothers, Tom Robinson, Jim Rushton, Will Durham and of course, Tom Duerden Snr.

T.L.D. took over as choirmaster in 1919, soon after he came out of the Navy. Even though the invitation to become Master of the Choristers of Blackburn Cathedral was a position T.L. couldn't refuse, it must have been quite a wrench to leave behind such a flourishing and close knit family at St. John's. The thing that didn't go down too well at St. John's was the fact that T.L. 'extracted' a number of choristers who were familiar with his methods. These included **MY FATHER, TOM ROBINSON, ARTHUR HOWARTH, GEORGE FERRIER** (Kathleen's father) and several boys, including myself.

After a Sunday morning service at St. John's sometime in 1937 I was propelled by my Father into **T.L.'s** presence to ask him if I could join his Choir, and that was the beginning of a lifetime of wonderful musical experiences.

I was admitted on my birthday or thereabouts in 1938. This was the year T.L. was invited to be in charge of music at the Cathedral. I remember during that year going for rehearsals in an upper room of what is now the Diocesan Offices. I remember in particular practising 'Let the Bright Seraphim'.

One of my lasting memories after joining the Cathedral Choir was T.L. sending me to get some copies from St. John's during a Friday night rehearsal. Unfortunately it was the Blackout and I had to go through two graveyards! I could go on and on reliving past-times but two things that do stand out in my mind are the Choir stalls being surrounded by scaffolding and **Provost WILLIAM KAY** placing a radio on the front row of the congregation to listen to Neville Chamberlain's speech in which war was declared on 3rd. Sept. 1939!

Best wishes, Peter

*Peter is the most senior Fielding of those living in this area, and **OC PAUL & Rachel's** son, **William**, aet 3, is the youngest. Thanks for this amazing piece of Blackburnian history. Ed*

OC Bryan Lamb's article on **Bishop Badderley**, the third bishop of Blackburn and hero of World War 1, is still being researched. As soon as it is complete it will appear in our Newsletter. Watch this space!



MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From **Mrs. Dorothy Green**, whose husband **FRED** was such a stalwart member of our choir for many years.

What a fabulous edition of the latest Newsletter. Congratulations on what you have produced. The photos add greatly to the enjoyment.



I can remember the names of a family when on Whalley Road, Wilpshire. We lived next door to **GRENVILLE ROBINSON's** grandparents – a Mr. & Mrs. Harris – so I remember his Mother.

I certainly hope to be able to attend the Reunion on September 25 & 26th.

Dear Dorothy, it will be wonderful to welcome you to our Reunion. Ed

From **OC GODFREY MCGOWAN** in Blackburn (who is often seen carrying trays and helping to serve food in the cathedral's splendid Café-in-the-Crypt.)

You asked about **OC ALEC SIMPSON** in the last Newsletter: He is in the police force, working in Northampton. He has two daughters who have just graduated and a son who is about to start. Alex's wife is a nurse. At the moment they are in Madeira celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary!

Alec: Heartiest congratulations! JB

From the Very Revd. **Richard Fenwick**, Dean of St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport.

Very many thanks for sending the Newsletter. It really is a fine production and I'm astonished at the quality of the photographs.

Just looking through, some of the items bring back memories of some great men. And names like those of **Provost KAY** really do stir reminiscences. It was good to see the reference to **RENNIE SIMPSON**, I knew Rennie when he was at the Abbey – and later up as Chester when he was Archdeacon. He was a man of great distinction, and somebody who did an awful lot of good wherever he went.

I must confess I haven't seen the Cathedral for a few years now, I really do want to see what sort of job they've made of the Lantern.

Anyway, thank you again, and good luck with all that you and the others do for a wonderful musical foundations.

Yours ever,

Richard

Dr. Fenwick is Warden of the Guild of Church Musicians;

Richard T and John B have the honour to serve on its Council.

From **Alto-Organist Andrew Orr**

Some of you may have known I'd applied for another job (still in Blackburn) and I'm pleased (and relieved) to say I got it. Officially I'm now Senior Literacy Development Officer (Children's Services) at the library service. I've already been doing a lot of the work during the interregnum, but I'll now have slightly more responsibility (and pay).

Best wishes, Andrew.

Heartiest congratulations. Ed

From **OC PETER BANKS** in Surrey

John

Hi - hope you are as well as ever, which must be the case, judging by the latest edition of the Newsletter. Can't wait to see the impact of broadband in Mellor !!

Thanks for the reporting of our daughter Evie's christening, but just a "small" factual correction if I may – **DEREK CROMPTON** is Evie's godfather in his own right. We went for 2 godfathers and 2 godmothers, so that Evie had a godfather in the country (Derek), whilst although brother Ian in Australia may be many miles away much of the time, he is very much Uncle and godfather !! And a jolly good pair of OC godfathers they make !!

Thanks and best wishes

Peter, Val and Evie

Whoops – sorree! Ed

From **OC JONATHAN PENDRY** in Scotland

Hi John,

I was a chorister from 1986-1992 and had many happy times in the cathedral choir. I have sort of lost touch with the BCOC having previously attended reunions. I now live in Scotland with my family (1 wife and two children) and would like to receive the newsletter that you compile. If possible can you send it to my mum who will cover any expenditure on my behalf and forward the newsletter, after she has read it!!!

Thanks very much Jonathan Pendry

Done! Great to hear from you. Ed

From **INDRA HUGHES** in New Zealand

Today is 12 weeks to the day since I fell and broke my leg and for the first time I got up and 'walked', in a manner of speaking.

It's been a long haul but am looking forward to being up and about again

Cheers

Indra

Indra- we didn't know that you had broken your leg – Commiserations. But delighted that you're mobile again. Ed

GREG MORRIS'S "SOUNDS INSPIRATIONAL"



Heartiest congratulations to Assistant Director of Music **GREG MORRIS** whose *Music-for-Pentecost* CD received a rave review in the January edition of prestigious magazine **Cathedral Music**.

"The recording really does what it says on the label. The rebuilt Walker by David Wood of Huddersfield is a glorious sight and sound, matched by a generous acoustic and a wonderful building. Who would have thought that you could programme over seventy minutes of music for Pentecost on one CD in a convincing order as if for a live performance? All the music fits the organ's myriad colours admirably, with dazzling execution from Greg Morris. I cannot recommend this disc highly enough. Congratulations Greg and Lammas Records." **Stephen Power**

Copies of this, and other Blackburn Cathedral super CDs are available from the cathedral bookshop, phone 01254-51491.

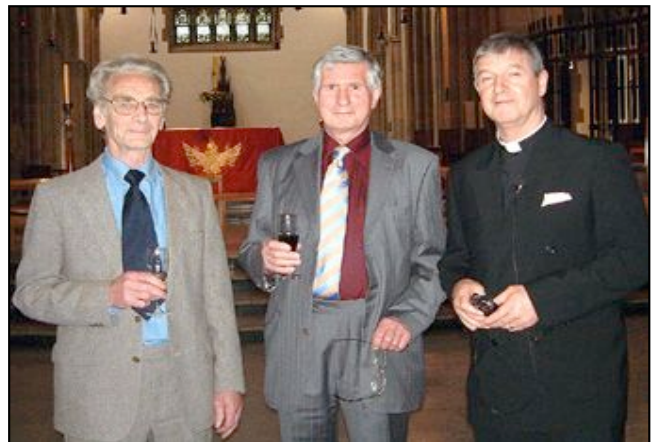
Greg will play Messiaen's glorious Messe de la Pentecote for organ immediately after Choral Evensong (4.00 pm) on Sunday 27th June. Be there!

The visit to the cathedral by the distinguished artist

JOHN HAYWARD

by OC Peter Heald

It is not often that a guest of honour has to work for his supper, but that is what the artist John Hayward did, at a Grand Celebratory Dinner and Exhibition, organised by the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral on Wednesday 12 May 2004.



John Hayward, Keith Walmsley (Outgoing Chairman of the Friends) and Dean Armstrong, (Incoming Chairman of the Friends)

Following sherry in the south transept, where guests were able to see a splendid exhibition of 'work in progress' of four decades ago, John took the floor. What he gave us was not so much a guided tour of his works of art as a revelation and reminder of the excitement of the time. He described, as only he could, the motivations, the inspirations and the manifestations of the conversion of the parish church into truly cathedral proportions.



Gordon & Sheila Shaw, Peter Heald, Joan & Phil Hunwick

John had first become involved with architect **Laurence King** when they worked together on the Chapel at Whalley Abbey. When Laurence was appointed cathedral architect in 1961, charged with finishing the work which had been



Cathedral architect Laurence King in typical pose, with John Hayward

interrupted by the second world war, both were influenced by the post-war liturgical movement, and the completed building is a tribute to the success of their partnership.

The first thing they did (after the entrance porch under the Tower had been redecorated – to show folk what the completed redecoration would look like) – was to dismantle the West gallery (where the 1827 organ originally stood). The 1964 organ (on two high platforms over where the choir now sits) was also removed and stored in crates in the crypt.



The editor, then the newly appointed organist in 1964, tries the temporary 4-rank extension Walker organ – which we had for 5 years – whilst chaos reigned around him!

Some of the new incorporated the old - the Victorian glass, replaced by clear glass to flood the nave with light as never before, was cleaned and redesigned into the magnificent south transept window, with all its symbolism. The lantern tower, was built – the beacon of the Mother Church . . .

Sunburst: one of the eight glorious windows in the Lantern Tower, designed by John Hayward, but now, alas, gone for ever. They flooded the transepts and pillars with an ever changing kaleidoscope of breathtaking colours.



John Hayward watching Tim Reddick constructing the Corona in 1966



the great Corona weighing 4 tons, and suspended with cables, to draw the eye up to the Lantern. Each side has a rough-cut crystal so that the Corona is both a crown of thorns and also a crown of glory;



Christ the Worker being assembled in the Nave in 1965 the 'Working Christ', sited to lead worshippers out of the cathedral into the diocese and the world of industry.

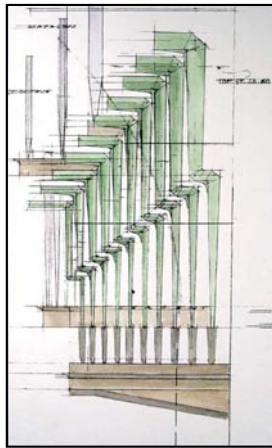
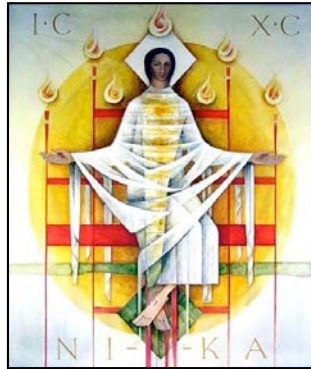
.the six-winged Seraphim –



the unique organ casings, which make a feature of the swell boxes.

These swell boxes can be seen to open and close to make the music louder or softer, (they're usually hidden behind a screen of pipework in most other organs),. . .and much more.

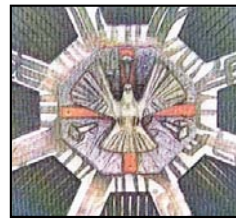
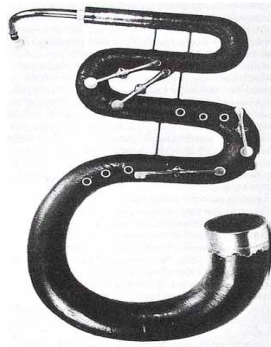
For example, in addition to the artwork in St. Martin's Chapel, John also painted the Icon in the Jesus Chapel. The letters, **IC**, are an abbreviation in Greek, for **JESUS**. **XC** is an abbreviation for **CHRIST**, and **NIKA** means **CONQUERS**, John painted Jesus' robe as a cross between a worker's scapula-apron and the grave clothes of the Risen Christ.



John's design for the Serpent pipes (left) and (right) the pipes having been created in Walker's organ works in Ruislip.



[The editor vividly remembers, when he was living in St. Mary's House in 1967, thinking of the shape of the 17th Century wind instrument, the Serpent, which twists and turns and whose sound was unique – halfway between a Tuba and a Trombone. 'How good it would be if our 32ft Serpent reed pipes could look like that!' John Hayward created this unique design for us and its fame has spread worldwide!]



John brought these memories to life again, describing his inspiration and the work of the blacksmiths and other factors, recalling much of the enthusiasm and energetic dynamism of the time that we well remember, and much we had forgotten.



The window in the South Transept is made from the Victorian windows, which used to be in the Nave. (i.e. a jigsaw puzzle in reverse!) It is not only a **Baptism** window (shedding light upon the font) with the waters of baptism depicted by the central panels of deep blue, but it also represents the **Crucifixion** (the large central cross with blood dripping from its arms), **Resurrection** (the swathes of white, representing the grave clothes). It is also the **Tree of Life**, (the green trunk and branches) with angels' heads, from the Victorian glass in the Nave, being the fruit.

John told us that since his work at Blackburn Cathedral he had received commissions from many churches, including Worksop Priory, Dunstable Priory, Grantham Parish Church, Exeter Cathedral and many others, culminating with the great West window of Sherborne Abbey in 1998, and the North Transept window in Norwich Cathedral in 2001.

. After dinner, too, he continued to answer questions from the eighty-or-so guests



Richard Tanner & Pippa Hyde, Canon Hindley, Sheila Brickell, Greg Morris & Dr. Rachel Thornton

From a personal point of view, the occasion reminded me of the thrill and privilege of being involved in the cathedral at that time of extension and completion. Unfortunately, **John Bertalot** could not be there, but I will never forget our visit to John Hayward's studio nearly 40 years ago, to see his great works in creation. Age has not wearied him, as he continues to embellish with his art buildings erected to the greater glory of God.

Peter Heald.

After his visit **JOHN HAYWARD** wrote a beautiful letter to the editor:

I cannot tell you how pleased I was to have your v. kind letter via **Keith Walmsley** on my arrival at Blackburn Cathedral on Tuesday last. I was sorry you were not able to come to what turned out to be a most enjoyable event – but I do know that you are much sought after – understandably so.

It was a curious feeling to see the Cathedral again, remarkably unchanged after nearly 40 years (except for the Lantern glass of course). What pleased me most perhaps was to find (in spite of my worst fears) that the West End figure still looked convincing – the size astonished me – how did one do these things?



Meeting **Peter Heald** again was a very great pleasure and I wd. like to write to him. He tells me that you made a combination of slides and commentary about the Cathedral – which I wd. love to see if you could bear lending it! [*It's somewhere in my loft! Ed*]

I went to a meeting recently in Sherborne Abbey to discuss putting a West end extension to the existing organ immediately below my new West window. This is to be by **Kenneth Tickell** [*who built Blackburn Cathedral's chamber organ Ed.*] but as well as the present organist, there was an organ adviser who knew the Blackburn organ and whose comment was that it was very difficult to access for tuning!

I understand that some alterations have been made to the Blackburn organ, in particular the addition of a 'Star' stop.



Anyway John, it was lovely to hear from you – I remember your coming to lunch nearly 40 years ago in Surrey with **Peter Heald** and particularly your enthusiasms – which are still clearly there.

John *John Hayward's multi-talented contributions to Blackburn Cathedral can never adequately be over estimated. Ed.*

Your editor asked **BISHOP ALAN CHESTERS** what he and **JENNIE** were doing in their retirement. He wrote a most delightful letter:

Thank you for your note and indeed for the last edition of the BCOCA Newsletter which, as always, was a wonderful compilation of news and comment. We loved having the picture of **Bishop Nicholas's** Consecration and Enthronement. They brought back very happy memories.



It is good to know that my photo/portrait is now in its rightful; place alongside my distinguished predecessor's, even though the angle of the photograph almost looks as if I had a wig. Actually I was glad to see that is was taken in my early months so my 'greyless' hair could be compared with how it looked 14 years later.

It is hard to answer your request in a few words but here goes. We knew it was right to retire and we have been richly blessed in our new surrounding and what I like to think of as the next stage of ministry. Of course it was for me a return to my family roots. My father's family farmed in Cheshire and mother came from Flintshire.

We are well settled in the delightful village of Tarvin (5 miles from Chester) where we are actively involved in the life of the parish; there are two churches where I do take services. In addition to the vicar and myself there is another retired priest and his Non Stipendiary Ministry wife, together with 7 Readers!



Jennie is also active in the W. I. and in the M. U. both here and at Chester Cathedral where she also acts as one of the team welcomers.

We came here because the Bishop of Chester had invited me to serve on the Chapter of the Cathedral but without the responsibility of being a residentiary canon. Since I have never had 'hands on' experience of a Cathedral, let alone a cathedral which attracts huge numbers of visitors I am finding this quite fascinating. As I take my turn on the various rotas it is a great privilege to share in the Cathedral worship with its glorious music as well as helping in other ways.

It was a special joy to be here as the magnificent new Song School (built at a cost of £1.6 million) was opened for use.



Chester Cathedral's large rehearsal room under construction

Since Chester is where 'Scouse' meets he Welsh, it is a convenient place for me to help with some Episcopal duties like Confirmations, not only in Chester Diocese but also in

Liverpool and in St. Asaph. I much enjoy these since no one asks about the Parish Share or complains about the diocese!

There are one or two things I have continued to do from the Blackburn days. I suppose the most important and that which quite often taken me back to Lancashire is the Chairmanship of the Department of the Environment for Farming and Rural Affairs. This enables me to press the Churches' concern for rural communities in the region and nationally, as well as introducing us to a lot of people in Cheshire.

It all sounds a lot but there is much more time to read, to garden and to take holidays. As a result of the most generous farewell gift we received from Blackburn we are shortly hoping to go on a Cruise to St. Petersburg. . The thing I notice most is the fact that almost every evening is free!

We also look forward to the wedding of our son **David** to his fiancée **Kate**. After a period with the Combined Services in the Bicester Garrison, David joins **HMS Illustrious** in June.

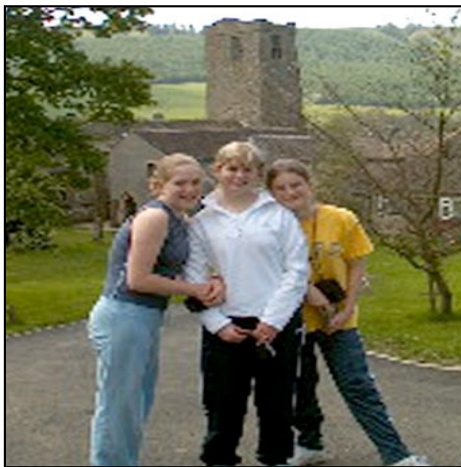


We miss our friends in the Diocese of Blackburn, but we are much enjoying our new life and feel immensely blessed for the Blackburn years, and now for Tarvin and Chester.

With all good wishes from Jennie and me,
Yours, **+Alan C.**

GIRLS' CHOIR ADVENTURE WEEKEND by Head Girl **Emily Crewe** and Organ Scholar **Alex Davies**

On Friday 30th April the Cathedral Girls' Choir left the Cathedral to spend a weekend at Marrick Priory, West Yorkshire. Nervous goodbyes were soon forgotten as **Sophie and Emma Pearson** led the coach party singing and chanting. The winding roads got the better of some of the group so the adaptable Crewe sisters, **Emily and Naomi**, were quickly on hand with plastic bags.



Sophie Brooke, Emma Pearson and Danielle Fiffield at Marrick Priory

The 12th century priory was set in beautiful surroundings on the banks of the river Swale; the ruins have been restored and are now used as a Christian outdoor centre.

On arrival bags were left in dormitories and **the Dean** arrived in time to join us for tea!

After dinner our instructor, Jay introduced himself to squeals of delight from the senior girls (a teenage girl reaction!) and explained our weekend programme. The first evening's activity was a Nightline.



Emily Crewe and Jamie Bett

After changing into "outdoor clothes," (we soon learnt this meant you'd get muddy and probably soaked) we set off for a steep wooded bank where a roped course had been prepared. The idea was to negotiate the course blindfolded by holding the guide rope in one hand and the shoulder of the person in front of you with the other, communication between you both being vital not to fall foul of the numerous obstacles!



Naomi Crewe, Megan Hindle & Harriet Salvesen-Sawh

Emily Crewe (Dizzy!) led the way, the Dean the pillar of stability in the middle, **Greg Morris** making sure no one was left behind, except himself! The ensemble tripped and stumbled around the course with shrieks of laughter as rocks and tree roots appeared as if from nowhere. By the end everybody had stories to tell of unexpected branches and cavernous potholes or a bewildered Dean swaying around all at sea.

We returned to the Priory where the Dean led a very short quiet time in the chapel. We sang a round and had some prayers and then it was bedtime! (We won't mention snoring Mr. Dean!)

The following day was bright and sunny. The Dean left and the rest of us set off to canoeing. With two/three to a canoe, **Emma Pearson and Sophie Brooke** couldn't quite get the hang of steering and had to be rescued many times It was

tremendous fun, although I did seem to spend rather a lot of time in the water!

We returned to the Priory, very soggy, for dinner. **Richard Tanner** joined us at this point ready for the afternoon beck scrambling-another chance to get completely soaked! (Although **Greg and Richard** did go missing whilst we actually beck scrambled and appeared when we returned knowing the Blackburn v United score!)

After walking up the beck, a lot deeper on some of us than others (**Naomi!**), we had some games in the water! Have you ever tried to limbo under a rope being held across water? Well if you haven't you must try it- it was so much fun! Most of the girls (and **Alex**) ended up sitting in the water. Returning down the river there were more squeals as we built human dams-you all sit in a line across the river then when the water builds up behind you, you all stand up!

At the Priory it was definitely time for hot showers and tea. **Richard Tanner and Greg Morris** left us and **Canon Hindley** arrived appropriately enough for our evening activity-circus skills!



Alex Davies & Canon Hindley

We juggled hoops and balls, spun plates, danced and sang (the singing came from the four senior girls who sang at every opportunity through the weekend!) then all the girls stood up in front of everyone and performed their acts – very brave indeed! Then back to the chapel where we had a quiet time again, we talked of the weekend so far, and a hymn and Canon Hindley said a prayer and then it was off to bed!

The Sunday was yet another beautiful day (the sun shines on the righteous?!). Having opted to do climbing and abseiling, everyone had a go and all the girls gave each other encouragement whilst they were climbing. Both Alex and I were impressed how they got on as a team.



Emily Crewe abseiling

We went back to the priory to a Sunday lunch and before we knew it we were loading our bags onto the coach-where had the weekend gone? The weekend was fantastic and the time had flown by. All the girls returned safe and tired!

BLACKBURN IN BOURNEMOUTH

Six members of BCOCA attended the magnificent Festival of Music and Worship in **St. Stephen's Church, Bournemouth** in May.

It was organized by the church's director of music, **OC IAN HARRISON**, who had invited three other 'Old Blackburnians' to take part.



1. DEAN FRAYNE preached a dynamic sermon at High Mass on the Sunday morning (with lots of bells and smells) – which was superbly conducted by the Vicar and a well-drilled team of servers; we felt embraced by such meaningful Liturgy. Ian conducted his choir and orchestra, with chamber organ, in an excellent performance of a Haydn Mass at the West end of the church.

Dean David said that music can carry us to the very Presence of God Himself.

Another of David's memorable sentences was, *'When I was Vicar of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, and also when I was Dean of Blackburn: I said that If the preaching keeps up with the architecture and the music, we'll be doing alright!'* He most certainly did alright!



Liz and David Frayne enjoyed a well-earned sherry in the church after the Sunday morning service, and chatted with members of the large and appreciative congregation.

2. GORDON STEWART gave the celebrity organ recital – which, of course, was brilliant. He did alright, too!

The recital was in memory of Percy Whitlock, who had been organist of this famous church 60 years ago.



Ian Harrison with Gordon Stewart after Gordon's thrilling recital



3. Your Editor composed an *Ave Verum* for Ian's very fine choir, and conducted it twice during those three exciting days.

It was very good indeed to welcome two Old Choristers to the Festival, **ERNIE GORNER** and **GEOFFREY TAYLOR**, who had come all the way from Blackburn to support their OC colleagues.



We appreciated their lively presence so much.

I was most impressed by Ian's conducting at services, concerts and recitals throughout those three packed days. He looked at his choir, his soloists and orchestra all the time, making creative eye contact with each end every musician. He also mouthed the words so clearly when the choir was singing. Highly professional.

Ian brought the Festival to a triumphant conclusion by conducting his church and school choirs, with soloists and orchestra in a moving and exciting performance of Fauré's *Requiem*, and Charpentier's *Te Deum*. The church was packed and Ian received a well-deserved standing ovation.



I was very proud of Ian – for he was a superb Blackburn head chorister 40 years ago with **TLD** and **JB** – and he still looks the same (although his parting is now a little wider!).

**Head Chorister
Ian Harrison,
Christmas, 1965**

Your editor then spent a most happy night with the **Fraynes** in their idyllic country cottage – following in the steps of **RICHARD & PIPPA** who had enjoyed their embracing hospitality only a few months earlier.

I admired the country cottage doors that Dean David had made for the bathroom and spare bedroom, and took David & Liz's photograph the next morning as they stood by his other handiwork – a splendid fence – at the bottom of the garden. 'We call it *Rai Ling*, the Chinese Fence!', said Liz as she and David sheltered from the gentle Dorset rain.



REHEARSAL MUSIC DESKS' LUNCH

What a marvellous lunch we enjoyed at **GORDON & SHEILA SHAW'S** lovely home and garden on Sunday, 23rd May!



**Canon Hindley, and Edward Haythornwhite
(of Time and Tune Music Shop, Preston New Road)**

Their home, perched on the hillside leading to Mellor, commanded fabulous views of the countryside around Blackburn and well over 60 guests tucked in to a suppa meal, with drinks, having paid for the privilege.



**OC
PETER
HURST
with
hostess,
SHEILA
SHAW
enjoying
the
sunshine**

The proceeds went towards the cost of constructing eight new music desks for the cathedrals Song School.

Pauline Keen, Geraldine Armstrong and Sheila Shaw preparing the gargantuan meal!



(Already three generous donors have offered to pay for one desk each – in memory of a loved one! Thank you so much!)



Bill Hemingway and the Dean relaxing after the first course, and OC Eric Bancroft washing up!



This was Senior Old Chorister **BOB KEEN'S** Event; he and **PAULINE** co-hosted the affair – dispensing liquid refreshment, enormous helpings of delicious food and overflowing joy to all and sundry.



David Elliott helping Bob with the bottles

How good it was to see **OC DAVID SHAW** there with his delightful family, enjoying his **Dad's** hospitality.



Greg Morris was there, too, with OC Peter Fielding.

Richard Tanner and very many members of the congregation also enjoyed the food and fun.



The sun shone, the breeze was balmy, and the coffers filled nicely, thanks to generous cathedral folk and to those who had donated 18 prizes for the raffle – ranging from a bottle of Champagne to a pair of salad servers.

Let's do it again – when Gordon and Sheila have recovered, for they and their helpers were heroic!

350th Festival Service of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, St Paul's Cathedral, London, Tuesday, May 18, 2004 by OC Alec Stuttard

A party representing Blackburn Cathedral attended the above celebration and was mightily impressed by the pomp and ceremony of the event. The Blackburn contingent consisted of choir prefects **Joshua Abbott** and **Daniel Grimshaw**, choirmen **GORDON SHAW**, **SIMON GAUNT** (guest) and **ALEC STUTTARD**, music staff **RICHARD TANNER** and **GREG MORRIS**, plus Canon **ANDREW HINDLEY** from the clergy.



Alec Stuttard, Daniel, Grimshaw, Joshua Abbott and Gordon Shaw. basking in St. Paul's sunshine.

The history of the service itself is worthy of explanation. The Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy was founded in the middle of the 17th century by a group of sons of clergymen. They realised that there was a need for charitable help for many members of the clergy who had remained loyal to the monarchy during the period of Cromwell but who were destitute after being deprived of their livings. The first festival service was held in 1655 and there has been a service every year since then, making this the oldest service of its kind in the Anglican Communion.

This year's service was attended by representatives from 40 cathedrals along with the full choirs of St Paul's and Wells cathedrals, making a total of 300 voices in all. It was some sound, believe me!

The event was also attended by the Duchess of Gloucester, representing the Queen, and she was joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury who was the preacher, and the Lord Mayor of the City of London together with the sheriffs, aldermen and 18 other bishops. Over 80 Livery Companies were represented. The procession seemed to go on for ever!



The choir sang four anthems – *Zadok the Priest* (Handel), *Nunc Dimittis in A* (Stanford), *Give Unto the Lord* (Elgar) and *Would You Know Your Lord's Meaning In This?*, composed for the occasion by **Malcolm Archer**, director of music at Wells Cathedral and shortly to become music director at St Paul's. He is, incidentally, a Lancashire man, having been brought up in Lytham.



John Scott, organist and director of music at St Paul's, conducted the first three anthems which were chosen because of their association with past festival services, while **Malcolm Archer** conducted his own new piece. The City of London Sinfonia provided accompaniment for most of the service, backed by **Huw Williams**, sub-organist, at the organ.

It was a momentous and memorable occasion which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us from Blackburn.



The Blackburn contingent enjoy a drink in Stationer's Hall after the service Joshua Abbott, Alec Stuttard, Peter Abbott, Gordon Shaw, Sue Abbott, Julie Grimshaw and Daniel Grimshaw

FOOTNOTE: Of course, everything didn't go quite according to plan. We were all supposed to leave Preston on the 7.13am train to Euston but some of the party (**Canon Hindley**, the two boys and their parents) arrived so early, they decided to catch an earlier train, having been given the go-ahead by Virgin staff on the platform.

Unfortunately, the train manager who came to inspect their tickets somewhere near Rugby, was not impressed – "This is my train," he told them – and was considering throwing them off at the next stop until Canon Hindley used his powers of persuasion to avert the crisis. Perhaps his dog collar had something to do with it...
Heartiest congratulations, all! Ed

MORE OCs' NEWS

ANNA STUTTARD, elder daughter of BCOCA secretary **ALEC & Pat**, has been appointed Director of Publications for the human rights organisation Amnesty International. (*Wow! Ed.*)

Anna, who was a member of the Young People's Choir in the early Eighties at the time of Keith Bond's stewardship, began her career in journalism – like her father. She worked as a reporter at the Blackburn Citizen and moved to the Lancashire Evening Telegraph where she was district reporter for Darwen for two years. She joined the international headquarters

of Amnesty in London in 1991 as the Press Officer and moved to the publications department three years later. Her new role means she is in charge of a budget of several million pounds and responsible for the publication of reports from all over the world and in a number of languages. She says: "It is a terrific challenge but I am enjoying it immensely."

Anna, who attended Bolton School and gained an English degree at Newcastle University, is married to **Andrew Tempest** and they live in Hornsey, north London. They have two daughters, **Tilly**, seven, and **Faye**, three.

Well done Anna, and well done proud parents! Ed.



Daughter Matilda (7) & Anna



MATTHEW OGLESBY has started as a tenor in the Cathedral Choir.
(We now have *eight* tenors in the choir! A record?)

*Welcome!
Ed*

GENEROUS GIFT OF MUSIC



OC PETER HURST has sent a cheque for the music he has bought in memory of his parents, **Bert & Madge Hurst** and as a thanksgiving for his time in the choir. We are most grateful. We shall put stickers in front of each copy of Stanford in C (our present copies are falling to bits) and Wesley in E., thanking Peter for this most generous gift.

THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY (PBS)...

... Lancashire Branch, held its annual meeting in the cathedral in June. The place was keen-deep in Lords and their Ladies – including their president, **Lord Clitheroe**, and **Lord Lloyd** (a high court judge), who was the main speaker – the two Lords had been to school together!



Another Judge, former choir-parent **Brian Duckworth** was also there in his capacity as a Vice President of the PBS.

But presiding from the secretary's chair was BCOCA member **NEIL INKLEY**, who was, as ever, efficiency personified.



Not only did the PBS members meet well and eat well (thanks to our fabulous cathedral caterers led by **Sara Swinburne**) but they also worshipped well, thanks to **OC ANTHONY TATTERSALL** and his fabulous choir, **Octavius** – 9 (sic) hand-picked singers – who include not only **Kerry Tattersall** who is 'expecting momentarily' (as the Yanks would say) but also **Marilyn Crompton**, who also just made it, because she and **Derek** were flying to France the next day to stay with **OC NIGEL SPEAK**.

The music was ambitious (on only one rehearsal) Stanford in C & F, Brahms' *How Lovely*, Wood in D, and *Blessed be*. Tatt had generously invited your editor to play the organ for those services (**Canon Taylor** led Choral Evensong most beautifully.) **JB** was mighty proud of his former chorister whose sense of humour was as infectious as his musicianship. Many were the words of appreciation spoken by members of the large congregation after the two services.

BLACKBURNIAN CDs continue to receive rave notices in the international music press:

In the June edition of in the American Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians **DAVID BRIGGS CD** recorded in Blackburn Cathedral called "**SOUNDS FRENCH**" the reviewer wrote: 'David Briggs is one of the most outstanding organists and composers active today! Briggs is [also] a true master of improvisation. The playing is simply dazzling throughout.'

And of Old Chorister **NIGEL POTTS'** recording made in Detroit called '**So Mote it Be**', he wrote: '*Nigel's recording is simply an aural delight. He mixes the virtuosic with the understated . . . brilliant . . . good fun.*'

Letter from Senior Old Chorister BOB KEEN.

I must say that I've had a couple of attempts at devising the crossword. I'd never tried it before and wasn't sure how to go about it. The first attempt which was for the last issue tied me up in knots and I discarded it. This second attempt was much better although it got progressively more difficult as it developed. I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and only hope that some of your clever readers don't pick up inaccuracies with it because I haven't tested it on anyone else.

In July I'm off to see my sister in Yoxall where she is Parish Priest (with three other parishes). She's 60 and as there are 5 others in the family have "BIG O" birthdays this year (30, 40, 50,

60, 70 & 80), I'm arranging to ring a quarter peel at Yoxall before the party as a surprise for the birthday boys and girls.

I'll be joined by another sister and a niece who are both ringers and we're getting assistance from 3 ringers from Yoxall to make up the numbers. The only problem is that nobody wants to conduct it, and so it has been left to me to have a crash course in this activity beforehand and to call it myself.



I've never "called" any ringing before so hope that my concentration is good enough and that I get all the calls exactly in the right places otherwise it will fall apart. On 6 bells, there are 720 possible changes and for a quarter peel a minimum of 1260 changes is required. That means that we need to ring a full extent of 720 and then another 540. In each section no change may be repeated and so it is vital that it is called accurately otherwise repetitions are likely to occur which disqualifies it as a quarter peel. The whole thing will take about 45/50 minutes.

Regards. Bob

THE NEW SERIES OF WEDNESDAY POPULAR LUCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS

starts on Wednesday, 15th September at 1.00 pm.

It will be given by

DEREK CROMPTON (Tenor – of course)

&

JOHN BERTALOT (Organ – of course)



"Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few."
(Winston Churchill, 1940)

On this day JB celebrates (?) his 73rd birthday and it's also the 64th anniversary of the

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

So the music will be wildly popular, including:

Pomp & Circumstance No. 1 Elgar

RAF March Past – Walford Davies

Dam Busters' March

Spitfire Prelude – William Walton

'For the Fallen' – Mark Blatchley

Sea Pictures – Elgar, and much more.

A delicious lunch is served in the crypt. Please come!

THE NEXT OLD CHORISTERS' ANNUAL REUNION

Saturday- Sunday, September 25-26

Our next Reunion will be even more special than usual, because will be **exactly 40 years to the day** since **JB** first came to the cathedral as successor to **TLD**.

RICHARD TANNER has generously invited **JB** to conduct the music for Choral Evensong on the Saturday – Senior Old Chorister **BOB KEEN** has chosen the music – and there'll be a super lunch and dinner that day – with in-house entertainment after the dinner.

PAUL & RACHEL FIELDING will be organising an Exhibition of Cathedral Music Archives for the Reunion. OCs, and others, who have photos or letters or whatever which relate to the cathedral music of yesteryear are asked to contact them, please.

Phone: 01254-249-085



Archive: TLD in 1939

Right these dates in your diary write now (25-26 September) for we long to see you here – and especially JB's Old Choristers who may not have experienced one of these super Reunions recently.

Come one, come all!

For more details, phone Gordon Shaw: 01254-81-35-86

OLYMPIC SINGING LED BY GORDON STEWART!

Former Blackburn Cathedral Organist **GORDON STEWART** has just sent the Editor an e mail with an exciting photograph attached. In June he recorded the TV Songs of Praise broadcast in Greece, to celebrate the Olympic Games.



'It was one of the most exciting experiences of my life,' he told your editor. 'The biggest problem was the heat because we sang in the open air, so there were frequent breaks for water and shade!'

Be sure to watch – it's on Sunday, 8th August on BBC 1 TV

OUR FABULOUS GERMAN TOUR!

Fascinating accounts of this amazing tour by members of the cathedral choir and their supporting fan club.

1. From **ARTHUR GELDARD (10) Senior Choirboy**

'A chorister's first choir tour'



Germany was a whole new experience for me. I have never been on a singing tour before so it was really exciting. My host family was Constantine, Anna and their two parents. They were really nice. Anna looked after **Adam Whit-**

taker and myself for two days while her parents and brother were away, but on the third day we had all of them. I tried food that I would not have tried in England like spinach ravioli. We played German Monopoly and I learnt how to count to 19 in German.

Both concerts in Braunschweig and Berlin I enjoyed thoroughly despite being sick in front of the altar before the concert at Berlin Cathedral. **Canon Hindley** and **Mr. Bruce** kindly mopped up and I didn't get any on my choir tour tee-shirt!



On our day off in Braunschweig we all went on a boat trip 'round the canal on pedalos.

My group was my **Dad, Joshua Abbott, Phillip Rowbottom** and me. Our pedalo was good at steering but very slow compared to **Mr. Davis's**, the organ scholar and his girlfriend in their canoe!

On our day off in Berlin we went to the zoo and an aquarium. It was brilliant and I took lots of photos of the amazing animals.

In the Braunschweig service I felt a bit homesick but I sang my heart out and the feeling went away. My favourite piece was 'I was glad' by Parry because it sounds brilliant and I like strong pieces more than quiet, soft pieces. We sung this at both concerts so I was really pleased.

I feel lucky to have been on this tour and will always remember it.

Arthur Geldard (Senior Choir boy, aged 10)

**2 From choir parent DENISE SANDERSON.
'Looking after the boys'**

Accompanying 20 boys aged between 8 and 14 year old on tour is something of a busman's holiday for a teacher. There were several adults who all pulled together to help with the various thrills and spills but credit must go to the prefects who helped to look after the others in a caring and responsible way.



They were soon seated on the plane and we had a pleasant flight prior to another long but relatively peaceful drive to Braunschweig.



The boys arrived at the Cathedral early on Saturday morning looking both excited and anxious. They were fantastic on the long coach journey to Bristol airport, playing games and exchanging places to talk to their various friends.

Once there the boys were dispatched to German family homes, mainly in twos, looking as though they needed some reassurance but the hosts were so welcoming that they all went happily.



Morning service with the Braunschweig Youth Choir and us, and Canon Hindley in the foreground, with the Dean of Braunschweig in a splendid ruff!

The following day was busy with a morning service and evening concert, a visit to a medieval market, lunch and afternoon tea. They didn't settle to work too quickly because they had so much to tell each other about the houses they were staying at.

Monday was the reward for their hard work, the boys spent the day with their families in the morning and met up in the afternoon for turns on pedalos followed by a farewell party.

Tuesday brought with it an easy journey to Berlin which is when the fun started. The boys shared rooms with 4 - 6 beds. The oldest 4 prefects were put in charge of a room each and unashamedly bribed to make their room the best. Inevitably we had knock-a-door run, hide the teddy and who can stay up the longest but not until after they had had a late lunch at McDonald's and given a stunning performance in the Cathedral.



To let off steam, whilst the robes were being packed up, they went over to the park where several boys cooled down in the spray from the fountain!

The next day saw the boys on a sightseeing tour then the younger boys had a great time at the world famous zoo and the older ones spent their parents' hard earned cash in the shops.

On the final day some patriotic singing accompanied a short journey to Berlin airport and the rest of the journey got steadily quieter as the boys got nearer home and started to flag.

All the boys were a pleasure to take, wore their choir t-shirts with pride and were a credit to the Cathedral.

Denise Sanderson

**3. From new choir parent DAWN FORSHAW
'A survivor's tale!'**



It was with considerable trepidation that I arrived shortly after 7am on the morning of Saturday May 29th. Had I really volunteered to give up my hard earned half term break to help supervise a group of 20 boys-including a number of adolescents? Close friends had been heard to question my sanity! With travel sick pills at the ready for the bus journey to Bristol! (don't ask me, ask the

organiser!!) I put on my brave face and resigned myself to just surviving the next five nights.

Looking back my abiding memories will be:

A great feeling of camaraderie between all members of the tour party; adults, young adults and children alike.



***Camaraderie between parents and choirmen.
The Survivors' late night party.***

Complete awe at the ability of the music staff to perform to such a high standard, even when things had not gone quite to plan!

Total amazement at the ability of the choir to focus on the job to be done at the crucial times.

Immense gratitude for the incredible hospitality of our German hosts.

Huge respect and admiration for the patience and counselling skills demonstrated by many of the parent helpers.

***Geraldine
Armstrong and
Bradley Grimshaw***



I would not be wholly truthful if I said that I felt rested after the event, but I definitely feel refreshed, proud to have survived my initiation as a choir parent on tour, and happy in the knowledge that I have made a new set of friends, who are at least as mad as me, with whom I hope to share many more tours in the future.

Dawn Forshaw

**4 From Choir wife
SHEILA SHAW
'Hosts of Hosts -
Braunschweig 2004'**



My first time in Germany and the truly wonderful people we met was a most rewarding and memor-able experience.

Hans und Ulla Ebbecke and their teenage children

Janna and Marten opened their hearts and their home to two people they had never met before and who did not speak their language. A hug goes a long way and our efforts to learn a few phrases were appreciated, but not as much as our appreciation of their fluent English.



***Edward
Sanderson
(R)
conversing
happily
with a
German boy.***

Were our German host families daunted? not a bit of it, more families wanted to be hosts than we had visitors on the trip.

What makes this generosity possible? Is it a mutual love of music, our ancient historical links, the generosity of the human spirit, the endless capacity for forgiveness, or is it our Christian heritage that speaks across many boundaries and makes all things possible?

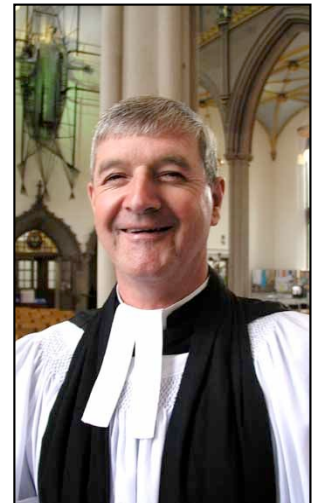
Certainly, the best moment for me was the link made with Ulla's mother aged 84. From the moment we met on our way to Church and Communion, she held my hand, she didn't speak any English, but the tears in her eyes as we said *Auf weidersein*, were worth as much as any European Treaty

Danke, to all the Braunschweig host families and all who made the visit possible.

Sheila Shaw Camp Follower

**5 From DEAN CHRISTOPHER ARMSTRONG
'My first choir tour'**

This was my first tour with the Cathedral Choir and it was a great privilege for **Geraldine** and me to be invited to participate. Part of the business was to start some negotiations about a formal link with Braunschweig Cathedral so I didn't feel superfluous all the time! Indeed, such was the social nature of the tour that there was much harmony both on and off the platform which can only be good pastorally and all are to be congratulated upon that.



I guess foreign tours by any group bring inevitable extra tensions especially when arrangements - which were excellent - are made at arms-length. In spite of this, the performances by the choir were superb. In Braunschweig Cathedral in particular, where we were invited to take part in the Liturgy, the choir used every aspect of that beautiful building to enhance their singing.



**Concert at
Braunschweig
Cathedral
(top)
at East end,
and
at the West
end.**



The Bishop of Braunschweig was present and preached (he was also present for the afternoon concert) and I know that his conviction to link the two cathedrals - provoked by his experience of the Advent Carols last year - was confirmed by the choir's performance. It just goes to show that good music can clear a path for exciting theology.



The Archdeacon of Lancaster (L) who translated for us with the Dean of Berlin, and the Dean of Blackburn.



Presenting a memento to the Dean of Braunschweig, with the help of the Archdeacon.

There was a down-side to the tour. On the afternoon of the river trio, the possibility of alternative transport by canoe presented itself to **Judge James**.

Never one to miss out on strenuous activity, Geraldine was not far behind with a somewhat reluctant dean dragging his heels.



Well the first ten minutes was great fun, avoiding the torpedo intentions of those on pedalos, but after two hours my back started to revolt and has been revolting ever since. However, every cloud has a silver lining. Such serious injury meant that I was let off bag-carrying all round Berlin during our extended stay!

It was a splendid tour. Thanks so much to our singers, our musicians and **Canon Sacrist** who did so much behind the scenes to make it seamless; to our very generous hosts and to the parents who worked and played very hard indeed!

The boys resting before a concert in Berlin supervised by Canon Hindley



6. From Head Chorister ALASDAIR GRISHAKOW 'My last tour as a treble'

Flying from Bristol Airport 21 boys, the choir mascot (**Mrs Eunice Marsden**) and 8 over-excited parents set off to Germany. The journey was pretty uneventful except for one senior chorister asking "Are we nearly there" too many times (I can't imagine who that was!).



We were met in Germany by Peter (sorry I don't know his other name) who took us to Braunschweig. He pointed out places of interest to us on the coach journey as we went along and told us of his Cathedral which he was very proud of. We arrived quite late and were quickly whisked away by our wonderful hosts. The adults went to the hotel to rest (I am sure I have heard rumours to the contrary but this is only gossip!).

The next morning we sang the Eucharist Service at the Cathedral, the building is very beautiful and the acoustics are wonderful.

The service was great and the music sung by our goodselves, was as always excellent. The evening concert was a great success and the audience were very appreciative

The next morning was spent with our host family which was good. Our hosts took **Paul Abbot, Daniel and Bradley Grimshaw and me** to Volkswagen Theme Park. There was lots to do and you could design your own car from the computer system they had.

The afternoon was spent messing about in boats on the river. Some people were very wet, **Edward Sanderson** lost his jumper in the river and had to fish it out but it was a great way to unwind. We followed this with a farewell party at the song school in Braunschweig before leaving with our hosts. This was a great get together and we were sorry to leave the host families who had been so kind to us.

The journey to Berlin was unexciting but the same boy still kept asking if we were there yet. Singing was in order and we, as boys, did the usual thing and annoyed most of the adults.

older boys spent some time shopping (and other things) which was great.

As always the tour was a way of getting to know each other, usually we are so busy that we do not get the time in practices and spending some time bonding is important. To me the tour was a great success. May there be many more to come.

Thank you to **Mr. Tanner, Mr. Morris, Mr. Davies** and all the other people who made the trip to Germany a good one.

Alasdair Grishakow

Below: Our Concert in Berlin



Pippa and James at the Brandenburg Gate



Berlin Cathedral was the quote everyone as we walked into the doors "WOW". We were met by the people there who treated us to some food and drinks. **Mrs. Tanner** met us there and **James Tanner** sang his first time in the choir.



Berlin Cathedral with Sheila & Gordon Shaw, and Joan Hunwick. (Phil was behind the camera!)

The concert in the Cathedral was superb and I think everyone liked it.

The next day was a free day, we had a tour of Berlin by coach and saw the sights. The younger ones got off at the zoo and the

Greg Morris playing the massive organ in Berlin Cathedral assisted by Alex Davies!



**7 From Choir Parent SHARON GRISHAKOW
Head Chorister's Mother**



The journey to Germany was pretty quiet, the boys behaved exceptionally well and were a credit to themselves and others, one Head Chorister drove everyone round the bend with "Are we nearly there yet?" We were met at the airport and taken by coach to Braunschweig

On the way **Peter** gave us a "potted" history lesson according to his views

And pointed out some places of interest such a Checkpoint Charlie. He spoke of his Cathedral and how lovely it was - he wasn't far wrong. It is a beautiful building, well worth the visit.

The tour guide in Berlin can speak at a rate that I have never known in my life. Fast - was not the word and I am sure she reached a top C at one point!

The whole tour went extremely well, but the highlights were for me the friendship shown by the gentlemen of the choir (and their wives and partners), which we, as parents don't experience often, due to the pressure of choir practices and home lives.

Alasdair has been in choir for many years and this is the first time I really got to know the men on a social basis. The parents were a great bunch (thanks a lot to them - I am now a recovering alcoholic) but the unusual easiness of socialising with the parents and the choir men was memorable. Thank you to you all for :

1. Introducing me to the German nightlife.
2. Showing me how a good time can be had
3. Making me laugh uncontrollably on several occasions
4. And most of all for being great people.

To any parents thinking going on future tours - do so. This is the time that you meet a great bunch of people and make lovely new friendships. You also have a wonderful time with the boys and the memories you will return with will live with you for ever.

Sharon Grishakow

8. From RICHARD TANNER – Director of Music:



The Cathedral Choir's tour to Germany was a tremendous success. The boys and men excelled themselves, giving fine performances at the Mass and concert on Pentecost Sunday at Braunschweig Cathedral and at a concert in Berlin Cathedral.

One of the purposes of the visit was to start an official link with the Cathedral in Braunschweig. From a musical point of view, it was wonderful to spend some time with **Gerd-Peter**



Münden, the Director of Music, finding out about their exciting music programme which involves a huge number of people.

I felt honored to direct the combined Braunschweig Cathedral Youth Choir and Blackburn Cathedral choir singing Rutter's "The Lord Bless you and keep you" at the end of the Mass, accompanied by Gerd-Peter. At some point in the future, I hope to spend a week or so with Gerd-Peter experiencing the running of the music programme at Braunschweig and Gerd-Peter hopes to visit us in Blackburn to see what we do.

It was also good to meet **Tobias Brommann**, the Director of Music at Berlin Cathedral (they are twinned with St Paul's Cathedral, London!). I attended the evening service (in between our rehearsal and concert) at Berlin Cathedral, along with **Greg Morris**, and heard Tobias playing the mighty organ. **A big thank you to Greg for his wonderful playing throughout the trip.**

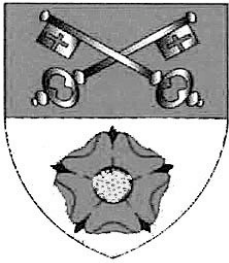
The organ in Berlin is a very large instrument with a console that is exceptionally difficult to negotiate. Greg did a fantastic job accompanying and playing solos on this organ and also on the instrument in Braunschweig where he not only had very little time to prepare for the service but also was faced with the challenge of accompanying a choir that was at the other end of a very long Nave. A further big thank you to Greg for taking on the majority of the organisation for the tour, making the tour so much less stressful for me.

I was so pleased that so many of our choir men and parents were able to be with us on this tour. I don't think that I can remember a better atmosphere amongst the adults on a choir tour. We had such fun! **Denise Sanderson** and her team of chorister supervisors were amazing and I'm grateful to Linda Bruce for making sure that the singers looked so good in their robes - including a brand new set of ruffs.

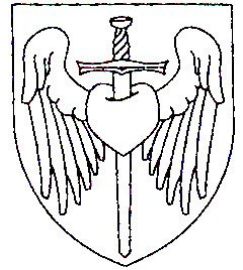
Our clergy team - **The Dean, Canon Hindley and The Venerable Colin Williams** (Archdeacon of Lancaster) - added much to the success of the trip. The Archdeacon, being a fluent German speaker, expertly compered our concerts and acted as interpreter at official functions. Canon Hindley, as usual, was of immense help in so many ways. He even helped lead a lively children's service in Braunschweig Cathedral on Whit Monday, speaking in German - highly impressive and brave for somebody who has never even learnt the language! **The Dean** demonstrated that he is an exceptionally fine ambassador for the Cathedral and it was so good to witness him lead the beginnings of dialogue between our Cathedrals at an official meeting following the service on Sunday morning.

I would like to say a final "thank you" to our sponsors, The Professional Footballers' Association and VEKA Plc, without whom the tour would have been far more difficult to embark on.

Richard Tanner



Blackburn Cathedral Choir Concert,
Berlin Cathedral,
Tuesday, 1st June, 2004



Back: Alex Davies, Philip Wilson, Stewart Hopkinson, Edward Seymour,
Edward McCullough, Adam Crewe, Tim Dallosso.

Row 3: Greg Morris, Daniel Adams, James Prowse, Philip Hunwick, Andrew Orr,
Peter Eastham, Andy Jump, Simon Gaunt, Gordon Shaw, Richard Tanner.

Row 2: Arthur Geldard, Sean Wilson, Tom Croxson, Joshua Abbott, Alasdair Grishakow,
Phillip Rowbottom, Daniel Grimshaw, Michael Carr, Matthew Bruce, Paul Abbott.

Front: Peter Syme, Alex Lund, Adam Whittaker, Barry Hudson-Taylor, Charles Forshaw,
Edward Sanderson, Ross Downs, Alex Wilson, Daniel Hallows, Bradley Grimshaw.