



OUR NEW BISHOP PAGE 11

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Whatta Wedding! Page 20

RICHARD TANNER

Director of Music of Blackburn Cathedral, 1998-2010,
POPPED IN TO SAY 'HI'

by your editor, JB

The front doorbell rang – it was Richard Tanner, looking radiantly healthy, full of energy and, as ever, brimming with inspiration.

Richard was in his first year as Director of Music of the prestigious **Rugby School**. Their website is fascinating:

At least two centuries of Rugby's history are written in the stones and other monuments to tradition that stand around the School Close, where in 1823 a local lad called William Webb Ellis first ran with the ball and invented the game of rugby football.



The players then were more numerous: in 1839, when Queen Adelaide visited the School, it was School House (75) versus The Rest (225). Today, innumerable tourists visit the 'home of the game' and rugby teams from all over the world can be seen training against the distinctive backdrop of Butterfield's Chapel.

JB asked Richard: *'How many music staff do you have at Rugby?'*

'Fifty!'

'Fifty?'

'Fifty!' He paused for a moment then added, 'I have three secretaries, two concert halls, two chapels and four organs!'



'That must keep you busy! How are the family?'

'Pippa is teaching voice nearly fulltime at the school, but she is still able to accept singing engagements throughout the UK. Both our boys are pupils at the school. James, our elder son, has just passed Grade 1 piano and is learning the French Horn. Ben began learning the violin in the New Year.'

'And what about you – apart from your vast responsibilities at Rugby?'

'I still conduct the occasional Daily Service on BBC Radio, and in the summer I'll be directing my fourth major RSCM Course for singers, choirmasters and organists in the USA.'

'You're happy?'

'Very!'

A week later RUTH BOND popped in to see your editor

Keith & Ruth Bond were central to the music-making of our cathedral over 30 years ago. New families who are joining our cathedral's magnificent music programme may not be aware of some of our within-living-memory choir history.

Keith was Cathedral sub organist (he and JB were also Senior Lecturers at the Royal Northern College of Music), and the two Bond daughters were the first female members of the YPC. Both **Angela** and **'Wonka'** (Veronica) are now grandparents – and Ruth was staying with Wonka and her family who live near Clitheroe.

Under Keith's musical leadership and the Bonds' hospitable home in Pleasington, the YPC became the largest it's ever been – of over 30 singers!



The YPC in 1982

'How big is your family now?' JB asked Ruth.

'I've got five great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons. And there are several grandchildren living near Blackburn.'

'And you drove the 270 miles from your home near Saxmundham to stay with Wonka?' remarked JB.

'Yes, I enjoy driving.' *'What about holidays?'*

'Angela and her husband have a house in Nice where I stay occasionally. It's high up over the town and has wonderful views of the sea.'

'What else are you doing these days?'

'Once a week I play the recorder with a few friends from our village in Suffolk – just for the fun of it. Someone recently left me a vast pile of choral music and we have begun to play it through on our recorders.'

'I belong to a painting group, and also to another group which is studying the works of Horace!' *[85 BC-8 BC]*

'In Latin?'

'Yes, but we do have English translations as well!'

JB was somewhat dumbfounded by all this creative activity, and even more so when Ruth texted Wonka to tell her what time she would be returning after our lunch date!



Ruth texting!

It was time to leave.

'Come and see me again soon.'

'Yes, I will,' said Ruth, and she whizzed up the road back to Wonka's.

It was also very good to welcome

... former organ scholar **Tom Daggett** who was with us for Christmas Day – that seems a long time ago!

Tom, who gained a first class honours degree in music when organ scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, is still doing missionary work in the East end of London. (See our last edition for details). But he told your peripatetic photographer that he would soon have some news about his next venture. Watch this space!



Also in the congregation that morning were former chorister **George Nicholson** (1960s vintage, who eluded your photographer) and also **Dr Benedict Holden**, whose parents, **Jim & Audrey**, are stalwart members of our cathedral congregation. Jim was until fairly recently an athletic Churchwarden.

Benedict is Consultant at the Hillingdon Hospital, specializing in HIV treatment, which is an acute and specialist service provider in NW London, close to Heathrow Airport. He also has a clinic at St Mary's Hospital Paddington.



He's seen here after the service with **Bishop John and Eileen Snape**, whom he has known all his life and who at one time was his father's Sunday School teacher!

(Benedict has an excellent taste in ties!)

Graham & Bev Chapelhow were with us that day. **Graham** is a former chorister of our cathedral (from JB's time) and readers of M&M will remember his most moving account of those formative years in our 2012 No 3 edition of M&M.

It was also very good to see **Emily Crewe** again when her parents, **Peter & Virginia** threw a Christmas party. Emily was a member of our Girls' choir and also of the Renaissance Singers.

In her last year with us she became our 'efficiency scholar' before she went up to Oxford Brookes University, when she helped Richard Tanner with the organisation of our rapidly expanding music programme.

Emily is now Concert and Tours' Manager for **The Sixteen** and travels all over the world with them.

'We've recently been to Amsterdam, Vienna, Hong Kong and New Zealand – where I met our former organ scholar **Indra Hughes**. This year we're coming to Blackburn Cathedral again – on 5th October –



and we're also going to Santiago Compostela where we'll sing Mozart's *Requiem Mass*. It's an exciting life!

Emily's brother was there, too. **Adam Crewe** is a former chorister of our cathedral and he now teaches at a Primary School in Carlisle. 'I have a school choir of 40 singers and one of my choristers recently joined Carlisle Cathedral choir. I aim to encourage more of my young singers to join that fine choir, for I remember how much it meant to me to be a chorister at Blackburn Cathedral. It's influenced my whole life.'



The Two Hunwick former Choristers (Chris & Noel) were visiting too

Chris was here with his wife, **Geraldine** and baby daughter, **Miranda**. (*Why 'Miranda'? Because Chris studied 'Greats' at Lincoln College, Oxford – i.e. Greek and Latin, and more – and the word Miranda in Latin means 'Wonderful' as in the Christmas carol: There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia.*

For in this rose contain-ed was Heaven and earth in little space; Res miranda.

Chris, as regular readers of M&M will know, is Archivist at the Duke of Northumberland where the historic documents are stored on three floors in the second largest castle in the UK – the largest being at Windsor.

Chris has recently contributed a chapter to a fascinatingly intellectual book called **Country House Technology**. His contribution is about the 'Hydro-Electric Power at Alnwick Castle'. The first sentence is worth quoting:

In June 1889, not to be outdone by Lord Armstrong at *Craegside*, the sixth Duke of Northumberland had a water turbine installed on the river Aln to the north of Alnwick Castle, near the site of the Abbey Mill, in order to power one hundred electric lamps at the Castle.'



Geraldine has returned, 2/3rd time as Archivist to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne – whilst the two grandfathers, including **Phil Hunwick** – *cathedral tenor choirman and superlative chef*, take it in turns to baby sit when both parents have to be away.

Younger son **Noel** also came for Christmas with his partner, **Emma**. Noel and his business partner have created two headline-hogging restaurants in London called **INAMO**. One is halfway down Wardour Street and the other is just off Piccadilly Circus. These are always full of young people enjoying the delicious cuisine and fabulous décor, and the digital presentation which is unique.



At the *inamo* restaurants the tables turn themselves into computers so that you can see what you want to order (photographs of the meal you're choosing are projected onto the plates before you) and you can also see, via CCTV, the chefs in the high-tech kitchens preparing your meal. If conversation flags (which it never does in such ebullient surroundings) the tables can turn themselves into video games and you can order your taxi also by tabletop!



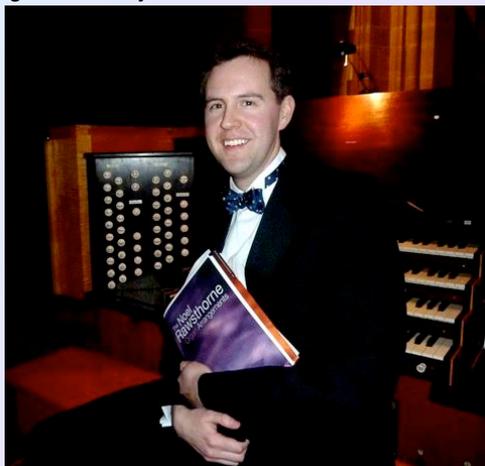
You can walk in for lunches, *but you gotta book for evening meals to be sure of a place* – Online, or phone: 020 7851 7051

Even though it was last year (just!)

...we must feature Director of Music **Samuel Hudson's** amazing New Year's Eve concert in the cathedral.

These New Year's Eve concerts were begun by **Richard Tanner** and they quickly attracted capacity audiences in our hospitable North Transept – not only for the sparkling and good humoured music which was offered by talented musicians (which lasted only an hour so that folk could go to their own New Year's Eve parties) but also because there was free champagne for everyone afterwards!

Samuel has continued this delightful tradition – but this year the organ console was in the Nave (our organ console can be placed almost anywhere in the cathedral except, perhaps, in the tower!) and there was the largest audience for an organ recital for decades.



And what did Samuel give us? It was a programme called *New Year from Vienna* which featured some of the music that could have been played from Vienna's *Musikverein* (Golden Concert-hall) on New Year's Day.

He began with Verdi's *Grand March* on *Aida*, followed by Schubert's *Marche Militaire*, and later Tchaikovsky's *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*.

His hour-long programme (much of which had been arranged for organ by Dr Noel Rawsthorne, former organist of Liverpool Cathedral), ended with Johann Strauss's *Blue Danube* and the *Radetsky March* which had the audience clapping rhythmically in true Viennese style. Samuel created a brilliant atmosphere and we enjoyed every moment.

In his vote of thanks afterwards JB said,

'What a wonderful way to welcome the New Year!

We are so very fortunate to have Sam as our Director of Music for he is multi-talented:

a skilful organist

a sensitive choir trainer

a gifted orchestral conductor

and he's such a delightful person.

Our cathedral has been filled with most lovely, most tuneful, and most exiting foot-tapping and hand-clapping music tonight.'

Great was the applause – and deservedly so.

And we all enjoyed the champagne afterwards!

And if that weren't enough, Samuel gave the first Wednesday lunchtime recital in the New Year – Bach's scintillating *G major Prelude & Fugue*, two spiritual works by Jean Langlais, and ending with two movements from Elgar's fiendishly difficult organ sonata. He made them all sound easy and his registration was so imaginatively colourful.

He attracted one of the largest audiences we have had for a lunchtime recital.

How very fortunate we are to have such a talented Director of Music.

Historic photograph!

Chairman **Peter Eastham** recently sent this photo to your editor.

It was probably taken in 1963 – 50 years ago – the year before Thomas Duerden retired as Director of Music and JB succeeded him at the cathedral.

It shows **T. L. Duerden** standing in the Song School doorway with six of his choristers:



*Back row: Colin Hopwood, Colin Young and Peter Eastham
Front row: ? Colin Eastham and Ian Harrison.*

We've lost touch with Colin Hopwood, but readers of M&M will have seen that **Colin Young's** two daughters are studying music at Chetham's School in Manchester and doing great things with their trumpet playing. Colin's younger daughter was a finalist in the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year* in 2012! (See *M&M Sept. 2012, p. 5*)

Ian Harrison studied musical theory with JB at the RNCM and then won an organ scholarship to Durham University. He is now Director of Music of St. Stephen's Church, Bournemouth, where he organizes a super annual music and liturgical festival which is always knee-deep in Cathedral Organists. (See p. 10)

Peter Eastham was the Head of Biology at St Mary's College, Blackburn, for 36 years and he's been Chairman of the Worth Valley Steam Railway in Yorkshire, and still has an executive role in that. (See p. 34 of our last issue)

His younger brother, **Colin Eastham**, has led a most exciting life: he was a National Parks Ranger in the N.E. Lake District for many years. But he'd always been interested in keeping bees and so when an offer came for a job in New Zealand to make Manuka honey (the Manuka bushes only grow on the South Island of NZ) he took it. The honey goes to Japan where it is made into a drug for the treatment of HIV and skin problems.

Then he was offered a job with an Australian Travel Company for students. He was there for 5 years – travelling regularly to Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Then he went off to South America with another travelling company which toured from the very top of that adventurous part of the world to the very bottom and back again – many times.

He's now retired to the Lake District where his daughter lives.

**Colin, come and see us
for we've missed you for the last 50 years!**

**Blackburn Cathedral on the BBC's NEWSROUND
14 January 2013
for a presentation about boys' changing voices**

The BBC presenter was a young lady called **Leah**. She said:



'These choirboys at Blackburn Cathedral have no trouble hitting the high notes.' Two young singers (below) then demonstrated what a treble voice sounds like, and then what a changed voice sounds like, which sounded a full octave lower.



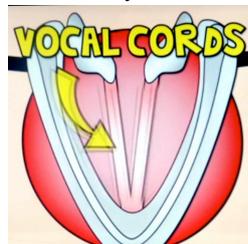
Oliver Fulwell with Ben Fourie singing in treble and changed voices
Oliver's younger brother, Leo, is also a cathedral chorister. Their Mum, Kate, is a member of the Renaissance Singers and their Dad, Daren, is the Chairman of the Cathedral's Music Appeal Committee.
Ben is the son of Gill, who runs our amazing outreach programme.

Leah continued: 'Research based on the voices of 1,000 choristers across the UK has suggested that voices are changing earlier.'



Professor Martin Ashley from Edge Hill University, who carried out the research, said that his father's voice changed at the age of 14, 'but now it's happening to boys as young as 13 or even 12. Some scientists think that it's because boys go to too many fast-food restaurants and eat meat that's got too many hormones in.'

Leah showed, by a diagram, that the vocal cords in the changing voice get longer and so the sounds they produce, by vibrating more slowly, become deeper. (NB the correct spelling of 'cords' – many folk think that they are vocal 'chords'!)



Professor Ashley had paid two visits to our cathedral to carry out tests on our choristers. Here he is two years ago.



The professor said, after his exhaustive research, that there probably is some connection with the fact that children, these days, are bigger than they were a few years ago.

Robert Pollock's voice began changing when he was only 12. Robert is now a member of our YPC.



But **Chris Snape**, also a member of our Young People's Choir, and a lively member of the committee of our Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association, told the interviewer that as his father, Antony, had been a chorister at St Gabriel's Church he had helped Chris through the time of his voice change. (*That's what Dads are for!*)

Antony Snape, when he was a boy, was examined by JB for his Bishop's chorister award – and passed of course. Antony is now a valued member of our men's choir.



Leah noted that our cathedral has a special choir for boys whose voices have changed – our highly motivated YPC – our *Young People's Choir*. 'So they can keep on singing as long as they want!' And, of course, they do!

Our YPC seen here conducted for a service by Shaun Turnbull



CHRIS HUNWICK again!

Former chorister Chris Hunwick (see p. 3) appeared on television in January – in a Channel 4 presentation of **Restoration Man** – a fascinating series showing how some dedicated folk are restoring historic buildings which otherwise would crumble.

This programme dealt with a 400 year-old water mill in Northumberland which a married couple were restoring to turn it into their home. It took over two years of back-breaking work.



But why was Chris brought into this? Because the mill had originally been built by the Duke of Northumberland's ancestor and Chris is, of course, Archivist to the present Duke's enormous estate. Chris had an amazing story to tell when the presenter, George Clarke, visited him in Alnwick Castle. (Alnwick Castle also featured in the first *Harry Potter* film!)



George said: *'Alnwick Castle has been the home of the Dukes of Northumberland for 700 years and it is also the home of incredible archives which are in the care of the archivist, Chris Hunwick. We asked him to look into the history of the old mill and he found a link between it and one of the most infamous events in British history!'*

Chris took the interviewer into his domain in the castle which houses, on three floors, several miles of shelves crammed with irreplaceable archives which go back for centuries.



Chris said, 'In the 17th Century the 9th Earl of Northumberland had put his cousin, Thomas Percy, in charge of Alnwick Castle, because the Earl was living in his London house. And,' said Chris, 'Thomas Percy was one of the key conspirators who had hired a room under the House of Lords where they stored the gunpowder to blow up King James 1st and all his government at the State Opening of Parliament on November 5th 1605! (i.e. *Guy Fawkes and all that – whom we still remember on November 5th with fireworks and a bonfire, and a 'Guy' to burn on it!* For all the conspirators were caught and executed!)



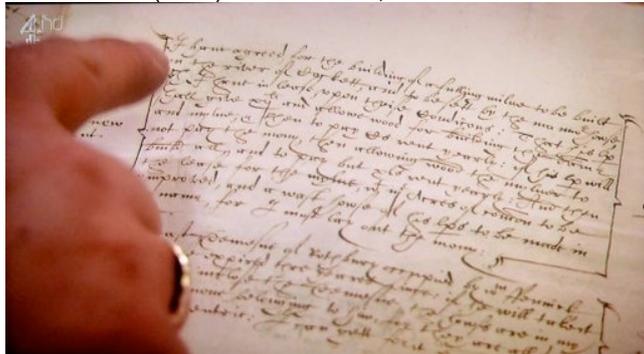
'But,' said Chris again, 'the night before this was due to happen, Thomas Percy called on his cousin, the Earl of Northumberland in his London house, and probably warned him not to attend the Opening of Parliament.'

'As a result of the plot there was a trial and the Earl was thrown into the Tower of London for 17 years and fined £30,000 (worth about £3 million today).



'And so he set about improving his estate in Northumberland to increase his revenue so that he could pay the fine; and mills were critical to that.'

Chris showed the interviewer a document, dated 1608, which gave details of the building of a mill which cost £12 (£1,200 in today's money). This would bring him an annual rent worth £5 (£500). 'It's not much, but it was a start!'



Wow, whatta story! And, of course, as the British love re-living history; the Houses of Parliament are still searched the night before the Monarch opens parliament every November.

Up to fairly recent times this search was carried out in a formal ceremony by the 'Beefeaters' (the Queen's Yeomen Warders of the Tower of London) but as terrorists are again seeking to attack Democracy, today's searches are very thorough indeed, including the use of sniffer dogs!

Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose.

**The more things change
the more they stay the same!**

Creation: a Celebration Exhibition

Our hospitable North Transept was the site in January of a delightful exhibition of delicate embroidery, painting and calligraphy. The artist, Sue Symonds, had formed 42 exquisitely decorated panels which illustrated the account of Creation as described in the first chapter of Genesis.



The panels were displayed in two long lines in our North Transept, with leaflets describing each exquisite panel.



Read more about it in [MUSIC & MORE ONLINE:](http://www.blackburncathedral.com)
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Bishop Alan Chesters



Your editor had the privilege of visiting **Bishop Alan Chesters** at the College of St Barnabas in Surrey – a spacious and gracious clerical retirement home – where he is the ebullient Sub Warden.

(JB was there to give a talk to the distinguished clerical residents about his adventurous musical experiences around the world.)

Seated in the Bishop's study was **Canon Wilfrid Browning**, who was the very first Residentiary Canon at Blackburn in the late 1950s. He later became a Residentiary Canon at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

Also in the photo is the Revd. David Fysh, who is also a resident at St. Barnabas. He had been a student at the RSCM HQ at Addington Palace when JB had directed a choristers' course there last Millennium. It's a small world!

WELCOME

to our new Assistant Curate The Revd. Dr. Mike Kirby

... who was ordained Deacon on Saturday 29th June. His first attendance was at the cathedral the next day.



He is a lecturer in Medical Physics at Liverpool University and he's also a musician, having founded a choir in Manchester which he conducts.

To find out more about our highly gifted Assistant Curate ('Assistant' because he can be with us only at weekends) see **M&M ONLINE**

We were deeply sorry to learn of the death of dear Pat Stuttard



Alec & Pat have been very closely connected with the cathedral for many years. Alec was choir prefect in 1953, and was chosen to sing at the coronation, but was taken ill so was unable to.

Three of their children, Anna, Leah and Simeon, were Blackburn Cathedral choristers, and Alec is the Cathedral's Communications Officer and one-time most faithful choirman.

Pat's service in Blackburn Cathedral was attended by a large congregation: the choir sang David Cooper's *Come, my Way*, and Durufle's *In Paradisum* achingly beautifully. We were all uplifted.

Pat was such a loving and gentle presence amongst us for so many years. We shall miss her terribly. May she rest in peace and may Alec and his family find some consolation in the abounding love which embraces them all, now and in the years to come.

PRAYERS, PLEASE

The Revd. Ian Hollin, who is not only Chaplain of our Blackburn Cathedral Choristers' Association but also this year's Senior Old Chorister, has been making pastoral visits to some of our senior BCCA members, including:



Former choirman **Jack Holland**, who was about to have a major operation,

Dorothy Green, widow of former choirman and churchwarden **Fred Green**, (Dorothy is a nimble 103 !)

Former Choirman **Bernard West**, who is a lively 93, (see p. 12) and **Gordon Shaw** (see next page).

Please support Ian's pastoral work with your prayers. Thank you.

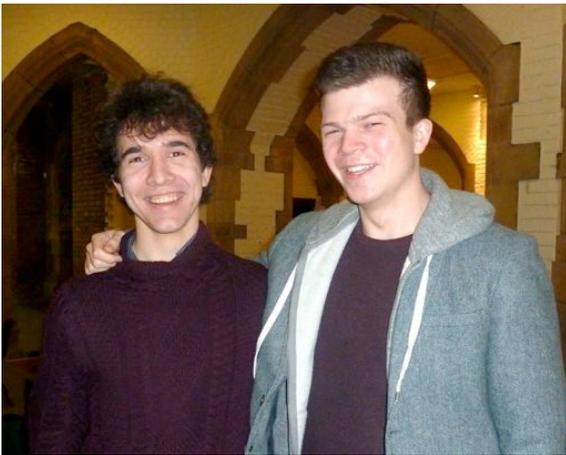
An Appreciation of Gordon Shaw

The Renaissance Singers, founded 48 years ago, gave a special party in the cathedral crypt for **Gordon Shaw** who has been such a stalwart, vigorous, musical, friendly, and outgoingly efficient member, abounding in good humour and energy, for so many years. But he felt that the time had come to retire – but not until the Singers had said an enormous THANK YOU to him and to **Sheila**.

There was a mountain of food, with wines and delicious desserts, and lots of singing.



Alizon Elliott & Gordon, and food!



Special guests came from afar for that evening including former choral scholar **Tim Ferguson** (left) who is studying music at York University, and former organ scholar **Chris Woodward**

who is enjoying his organ scholarship at King's College, London.

There were speeches by the Singers' Chairman, **Alizon Elliott**, the Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson**, and by the Singers' founder, **John Bertalot**. And of course thanks from Gordon, which we all found very moving.

They sang a special psalm to Gordon – and he was given a framed



copy of it by Alizon, plus a framed *THANK YOU*, which we all had signed.



We quote the psalm (unpointed) in full, for it says so well all that could be said on such a memorable and precious evening.

We'd like to thank you, Gordon, for all your work with our choir. You have been our rock, and an amazing stalwart and trooper.

You have done all kinds of jobs, from tour organiser to librarian; You have spent many an hour in the Song School sorting our music.

You have organised tours at many cathedrals all over the country; Arranging room allocations and who was sleeping with whom!

We all remember well your famous dives into the swimming pools, And how you seemed to delight in losing your swimming shorts!

We have enjoyed the parties at your house in the summer, sitting in your conservatory; Eating your homemade biscuits and drinking elderflower champagne.

At many a concert in the crypt you entertained us with songs about your girl friends, Asking, *'Alice, where art thou?'* But especially your rendition of *'Come into the garden, Maud'*.

Gordon, it has been a privilege to have known you, and to have sung with you.

There is only one more thing that we can say; And it comes from the very bottom of our hearts*

Gordon, we love you!



THEN & NOW

After the men & boys' choir had sung the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, choir bass **Stewart Hopkinson** said to JB in the choir vestry, 'It's exactly 40 years ago since you auditioned me for the cathedral choir!' 'That's amazing!' said JB, who was rather taken aback by Stew's keen memory.



'Yes; you asked me to sing the first verse of *There is a green hill.*' 'And you sang *Thur is a green hill*' responded JB, whose memory was returning. 'You didn't want a Lancashire accent,' said Stew, 'so I had to sing *Thair is a green hill.*' 'And then I asked you to sing the last line again, without me giving you the note,' said JB. 'Why did you do that?' 'To see if you could pitch the augmented fifth interval!' 'I did that alright, didn't I?' 'Yes, and that's why you're still singing here forty years' later!'

'But it was exactly 48 years ago on Christmas Eve, when I was head chorister,' chipped in another choir bass, **Phil Wilson** who was standing next to Director of Music **Samuel Hudson**.



'I came into the old choir vestry and said to you, 'Someone's just bashed your car!' 'Yes, I remember that, well,' said JB. 'A young man followed you into the vestry and apologised, for our cars were parked on a slope, one behind the other; he'd started his car in gear and had bashed the back of mine so strongly that my car had bashed the back of the car which was parked in front of me!'

'Did you know who that young man was?' asked Phil. 'Not until the next morning, which was Christmas Day, when **Bishop Charles Claxton** came in, followed by his son who was carrying his father's case. It was the Bishop's son who had been the driver,' said JB, 'and the trouble was that it wasn't his car he'd been driving, but his girl friend's mother's car!' 'Your car was several inches shorter back and front for some months after that, wasn't it?' asked Phil. 'Yes, that made my first Christmas with you most memorable!'

(Phil Wilson's second-hand bookstall in the crypt has been raising money steadily for the cathedral music programme. We are so grateful to him for this munificence which has raised well over £1,000, and we delight in his continued excellent singing with us.)

Our talented organ scholar, **James Kealey**, whose playing is often heard for weekday services, and during the 9.0 am Sunday service every week came into his own during the Epiphany Candlemas service when he led singing of the hymn *Songs of thankfulness and praise.*



This was especially demanding because the choir and congregation were processing from the South Transept back into the Nave, and as this took rather a long time, James had to improvise for several minutes to cover the end of the procession. He did this very well – exploring a number of different keys with enormous confidence.

Well done, James!



And **well done** to Head Chorister **William Fielding** who was presented with the RSCM's **Gold Award** during the RSCM's annual festival in the cathedral.

This Gold Award is the highest honour that the RSCM can give to a chorister, and William thoroughly deserved

it, for his singing and leadership in the boys' choir have been outstanding.

He sang the solo in *Once in Royal David's City* for three years in succession at our annual Nine Lessons and Carols services.

William is seen here weighed down by his five medallions:

Dean's Chorister, Bishop's Chorister, Choir Prefect (solid silver), Dots Bertalot medallion for the longest serving chorister (solid silver) and his Gold Award!

The last head chorister to wear five medallions was probably **Simon Craddock** (prefect 1980). In those days the choristers wore all their hard-earned honours for services, to match those of the Clergy, Choirmen and Directors of Music who also wear their own hard-earned honours for services (i.e. academic hoods).

See **Music & More Supplement No 9** for a full account of that glorious Awards' service – with a complete list of names of our choristers who were honoured.

www.blackburncathedral.com ... **Music**



FIVE BLACKBURNIANS @ EXETER CATHEDRAL!

When the **Cathedral Organists' Conference** met at Exeter Cathedral in May no fewer than five Blackburnian musicians were there to enjoy the privileged fellowship, marvellous music and glorious sunshine.



L-R: **John Bertalot** (Emeritus Blackburn), **James Davy** (Chelmsford), **Richard Tanner** (Rugby School), **Samuel Hudson**, and **James Thomas** (Bury St. Edmunds).

Read all about it in **MUSIC & MORE ONLINE:**
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MORE BLACKBURNIANS @ BOURNEMOUTH!

When former Blackburn chorister **IAN HARRISON** presented his **17th Annual Festival of Music & Worship** in his glorious church of St. Stephen, Bournemouth in May, he welcomed his usual galaxy of cathedral musicians to his thrilling three-day programme. (See *young Ian*, on p.4)



L-R:
Colin Walsh, Organist Laureate of Lincoln Cathedral, our host **Ian Harrison**, and Dr. **Gordon Stewart**, former DoM of Blackburn Cathedral.

Also there were two composers:
 Canon **Anthony Caesar** CVO
 and
 Dr. **Michael Walsh**.

Dr. & Mrs **Roy Massey** may be glimpsed behind Canon Caesar.



And it was so good to see Dr. **Alan and Mrs Tina Thurlow** from Chichester Cathedral there who contributed to the music and the joy.

Those were three most rewarding and happy days. Thank you, Ian!

From Canon Wilfrid Browning, St Barnabas College, Lingfield, Surrey. See page 7

Very pleased to receive yet another brilliantly produced Blackburn **Music & More**, which brings together people and places of the past with their modern successors in such an entertaining and creative dialogue.

I don't know of any cathedral, college, or educational magazine that does it so well. Congratulations.

And we look forward to your visit here on 17th April.
Wilfrid.

From James Davy

Director of Music, Chelmsford Cathedral
 Former Assistant DoM,
 Blackburn Cathedral



Dear John,

I have just received my copy of M&M and have managed to read most of it! It looks like there is more news than ever and tons of colour, journalistic and photographic! It's so good to hear how the musical (and extra-musical) life at Blackburn continues in such excellent and healthy fashion. Long may it continue!

We don't have anything quite so elaborate as M&M here in Chelmsford, so I hope the Blackburn crew knows what excellent publicity you provide.

Life here is very busy, but fulfilling - only three choirs plus a Renaissance Singers-type group - but I'm keeping my hand in on the organ, as well as dealing with all the admin. Huge fun! We've just had voice trials and offered places to 5 boys - this will be an interesting experience for me.

Yours, **James**

We're delighted that all goes so well for you, James, way down South. See front cover and p.20 for James' wedding!

Cathedral Families

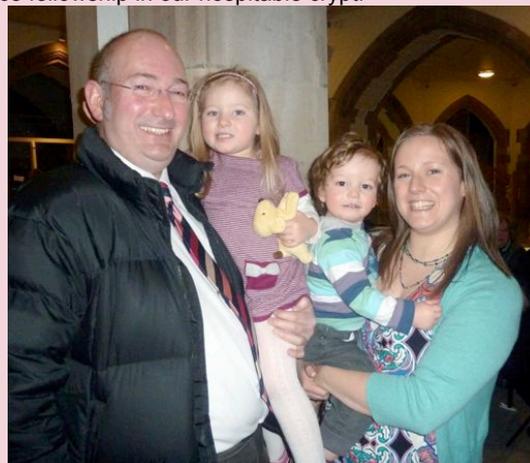
Our heartiest congratulations to Dean's Virger **Mark Pickering** and his wife, **Suzanne**, on the birth of the daughter, **Leah Marie** - on 6th February.



Leah kept very quiet indeed during our morning service on 24th February - clearly she knew that one of her father's responsibilities is to keep order in our cathedral!

And it is our constant delight that **Victoria McCullough** brings her equally well-behaved family to our Sunday morning services. (Whilst her equally well-behaved husband, **Edward**, sings tenor in our cathedral choir!)

Here they are on 24th February, enjoying the post-morning service fellowship in our hospitable crypt.



Lucy is 3 and **James** is 2.

We didn't ask the ages of their parents!

The next Bishop of Blackburn will be JULIAN HENDERSON

Our **Bishop-elect** and his wife, **Heather**, were greeted by prolonged applause from the cathedral and diocesan staff as they walked into our cathedral on Friday 1st March – just 90 minutes after the official announcement of his appointment had been made from Downing Street. (See front cover)



They were welcomed at the West door by **The Dean, Bishops John of Burnley and Geoff of Lancaster**, and our **two Archdeacons**.

Julian Henderson is currently Archdeacon of Dorking in Surrey. He was born in 1954 and educated at Keble College, Oxford. He is currently chair of the Church of England General Synod Business Committee, and supports The Limsfield Trust which works to provide **fun activity holidays** for young people from all backgrounds across the UK.



Bishop John welcomed Archdeacon and Mrs Henderson on behalf of us all, and then Archdeacon Henderson spoke briefly, to say how humbled he was to be nominated as the next Bishop of Blackburn.

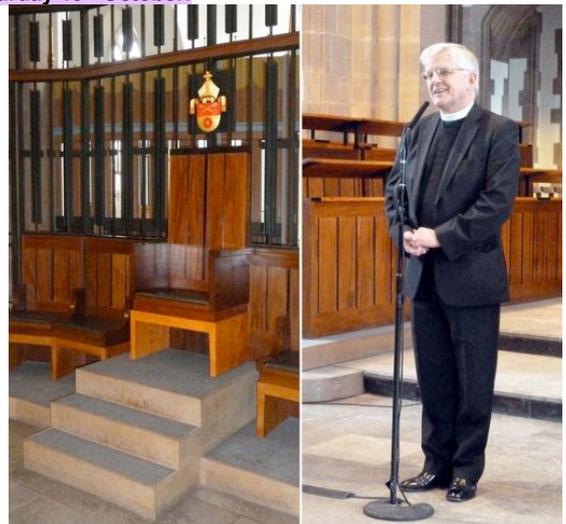


After the Dean had welcomed the Venerable and Mrs Henderson, Bishop Geoff prayed for them both, supported by the praying hands of clergy and members of the staff. This was indeed most moving.

Bishop John then invited us all to gather around the Bishop-elect and Mrs Henderson – and a spirit of joy, which our new Bishop had so evidently brought with him, pervaded the whole assembly.



When will our new Bishop be enthroned? Well, he has to be consecrated as a bishop first, and this will happen in York Minster on October 10th. **His Enthronement at Blackburn will be on Saturday 19th October.**



Archdeacon Henderson was interviewed later that evening on the **BBC's North West Tonight**. He said that he wants to stand up for the disadvantaged. 'I want to be a champion and a spokesperson for those who don't have a voice.'



When questioned about women priests he said, 'I would be very happy to ordain women priests and deacons and would be privileged to do so.' He went on to say, 'I am in favour of women bishops but I want to make sure that there is a place in the Church of England for those who can't accept that development.'

'Rushing things can mean that sometimes we make mistakes, so there is a place for caution. But I don't think that the country will allow the Church of England to hang around too long before we do something about it.'

Archdeacon and Mrs Henderson have two grown-up children, **Susannah, 27** and **Jamie 25**. He enjoys gardening, DIY, walking, reading, tennis and cycling.

AN EVENING OF MUSIC & MAGIC... was held in the historic home, near Ribchester, of Andrew & Catherine Penny.

It had been arranged by **Stewart Whillis**, President-Elect of Preston and District Organists' Association, in aid of our **Song School Appeal**.
Stewart knows all the right people, so it was a major success!

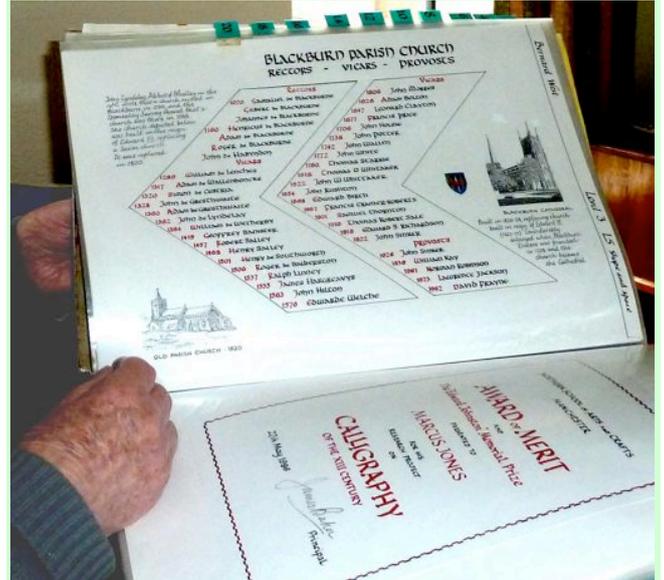


Read all about it in **MUSIC & MORE ONLINE:**
www.blackburncathedral.com ...
music ... Music&More online No 11



(Note to choirmasters from JB: Don't ask what your choirmen get up to during sermons; it's best not to know!)

Bernard also showed us examples of his former hobby, which was *calligraphy*. There were endless pages of exquisite lettering, including this list of the Rectors, Vicars, and Provosts of Blackburn, from Gamaliel de Blackburne in 1070 to David Frayne in 1992. Whatta man!



By the way, when the Revd. Ian collected JB in his new car to visit Bernard, Ian's built-in Sat Nav, responding to Bernard's postcode, told us that Bernard lived either in Blackburn or in Vatican City! We chose the former – it was nearer!

FORMER CHOIRMAN BERNARD WEST

When BCCA Chaplain the Revd. Ian Hollin and your editor visited Bernard West in May, we were not prepared for the ebullience of the welcome that awaited us from sprightly 93-year old Bernard!



He was a most dedicated cathedral choirman from 1955-1995 – singing alto (when his son, John, joined the cathedral choir) – and then descending to bass a few years later.

1957 John L. West
1958 Peter G. Crowther

Bernard now lives by himself, but he keeps his house in Blackburn spick and span, even though mobility is a problem. He goes shopping once a week (by taxi) and is in regular touch with his two sons (John and Alan) through whom he is now a proud great-grandfather!

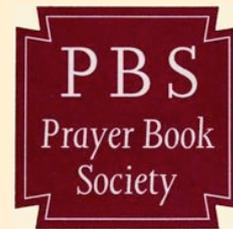
Bernard was an amazing man, and still is. His sense of humour is infectious. He told us that he'd been a gunner in WW2, but these days he's 'gunner do this and gunner do that'!

He was in charge of supplies at Blackburn's Royal Hospital, and was the (most meticulous) founder-secretary & treasurer of the Blackburn Bach Choir (now, *Renaissance Singers*) way back in 1965.

He showed us what he used to do during sermons at the cathedral. He'd matched names of (real) compositions with names of (real) composers so that they formed unlikely alliances. Such as:

Down among the dead men
From the rising of the sun
How beauteous are the feet
I dare not ask a kiss
I gotta car
I will smite them in pieces
In the bleak midwinter
Now that the sun hath veiled its light
Old Macdonald had a farm
Polly, put the kettle on
Peace, perfect peace
Que Sera, Sera
Sur le pont d'Avignon
There is a green hill

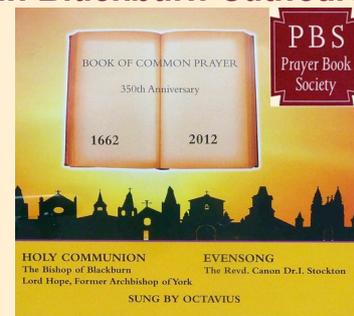
Charles Coffin
Michael East
Robert Schumarr
S. Hyman
T. Ford
John Blow
Ronald Frost
Harold Darke
A. M. Bridge
Herbert Brewer
Arthur Bliss
John Wilbye
Joseph Bridge
C. Monteverdi



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We are delighted to hear that **Benedict Todd** our 2011-2012 organ scholar...



... has just successfully completed his examination for the Associateship of the Royal College of Organists, (ARCO).

This is a major milestone for Benedict, even though he is already a Master of Music of Bristol University, where he is now studying for his doctorate.

Benedict is not only a fine organist but, during his year with us, he showed himself talented as a composer and also as an exceptionally gifted choral conductor. He will go far!

Heartiest congratulations, Benedict!

See page 18 for more news of Benedict!

And heartiest congratulations to our 2012-2013 organ scholar **James Kealey**

... who not only gave a stunning lunchtime recital in February (which concluded with a brilliant performance of the Finale from Vierne's 3rd Symphonie) but also, on that day, it was announced that he has been nominated as Organ Scholar-Elect at Royal Holloway, University of London, where he will read music.

And if that weren't enough, on 1st March he was asked, at only an hour's notice, to give a recital on the Father Willis tracker organ in **St. George's Church, Preston**, because their recitalist had been delayed in his journey from London!

And if THAT weren't enough, the following week James gave an organ recital in **Chester Cathedral**, and later in **Newcastle Cathedral!**

Well done, James!



Ideas for Social Events?

The Dean's wife, **Geraldine Armstrong**, was in good form when she chaired a meeting of the cathedral congregation after the 10.30 service on Sunday 3rd March.



She stimulated us to come forward with ideas for social events which would bring new people to the cathedral. She listed some of the organisations which flourish here:

The Men's choir, the Boys' choir, the Girls' choir, the YPC, the Renaissance Singers, the Sunday School, the Servers, the Sidesmen, the Bell Ringers, the Walking group, the Mothers' Union, the Friends...

Then she listed some of the successful activities we have enjoyed recently:

A harvest hotpot, a champagne breakfast after the very early morning service on Easter Day, a Beetle Drive, a Ceilidh, a Treasure Hunt, A Barge Trip, a Cathedral Dinner, two Theatre outings...

'Now, what ideas have you got?' she challenged us.

Ideas from the floor included: a kite-making competition, a Casino night (all profits to the cathedral!), a Race meeting (what sort?), a NAAFI night when we all dress up in 1940's clothes... (the Dean thought that the suggestion was for a 'Nappy' night! No!)

'We're looking for low-cost involvement to show folk that we are a friendly cathedral,' concluded Gerry. 'Send your ideas to me, c/o the cathedral office. We have only three major activities per year – so they have to be good!'

The Cathedral Handbell Ringers...

...are a keen group. They meet weekly to make music behind closed doors in the Sacristy under the direction of **Ruth Watton**, who is a music teacher.



L-R: **Ruth Watton**, **Alma Nichols** (retired deputy head teacher), **Zillah Griffin**, **Rowena Hargreaves** (retired junior school teacher) **Carol Fishwick** (former legal secretary), **Janet Stockton** (who joins in everything and also is closely related to the Canon Chancellor) and – away – **Gary Wignall** (who seems to have held every lay post in the cathedral except Organist (See our last issue).

May it be that our talented musicians might play to us some day? We'd love to hear you.

It was a joy to welcome...

... friends from our twinned diocese of Braunschweig in March, when the Dean of Braunschweig, **Domprediger Joachim Hempel**, preached the sermon on Mothering Sunday. He said:

On this Mothering Sunday we remember that Jesus was born as a baby – as were we all. We have a long history in our cathedral – the main altar was dedicated in 1188 and there were representatives from England there on that occasion.

We are all God's children and, as we heard in today's Epistle, we are 'God's chosen ones, holy and beloved'. God can only act through us, his chosen ones. Praise the Lord for what he has done for us: Christ was born, crucified and is risen from the dead, for us!



Our twelve excellent choristers (who were shortly to be joined by some newly-trained probationers) may well have looked at Dean Hempel's ruff with envy!

BARBARA WALMSLEY'S FUNERAL...

...was one of the most lovely and moving services we have ever attended; Barbara had died very suddenly shortly after her 80th birthday, which had been celebrated in due style in the crypt after a Sunday morning service, and her death had challenged us all to think about our own mortality.

The Cathedral Nave was packed for Barbara's funeral on 5th March – not only was the centre Nave full, but the overflow onto the side aisles was full too. There was a Cross and candles and incense; there was a fine choir conducted by Samuel Hudson, and the Dean with Canon Hindley and Canon Stockton led the service most beautifully.

Barbara's sons, **Paul** and **Michael** (who had been cathedral choristers during JB's time) and some of her grandchildren, carried Barbara into the cathedral. We sang *Praise, my soul*, which had been sung at **Keith and Barbara's** wedding in 1954.

The Dean welcomed us with the words: 'It is a shock to us all that we should meet at this time and in this way, for Barbara has had an electric effect upon us all in this place for very many years.'

Paul Walmsley, who is a doctor in Kentucky, gave a beautiful address. He said, 'My mother loved music; she took us to Hallé concerts in Manchester with a Chinese meal afterwards. She was the life and soul of parties; she was both colourful and outrageous, and she was never a wallflower.'



'She loved her Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, and she loved the *Jubilate*.

'Above all, she loved her children and her grandchildren.'

After Paul had spoken (he'd acquired a gentle American accent since leaving these shores!) Barbara's grandson, **Andrew Griffiths**, spoke with gentle humour; many were ripples of laughter from the congregation as he said, 'My grandmother loved correcting people, and she had stories about every one of you here today!'

Then the choir sang Barbara's favourite *Jubilate* to a setting by Stanford. The music for this service was outstandingly beautiful.

Then it was **Canon Hindley's** turn to speak to us. He is always very good at this for, through his words, we learn to appreciate even more the soul who has left us. 'What can I say about Barbara that formed her into the person that she really was? A person who was always in charge. She was a school monitor at the age of 9, and later became head girl. She could have been a 'Bond' girl!

'It was through Paul and Michael joining the cathedral choir that Barbara and Keith were drawn into our fellowship. Barbara joined so many organisations and Keith became Chairman of the Cathedral Friends.

'But it is in the lives of her family that her life lives on. And for this, Barbara, we will never forget you.'

The most moving part of the service came near the end when the choir sang Rutter's *The Lord bless you and keep you*, as the Dean sprinkled

holy water upon Barbara's coffin, and entrusted her soul into the hands of God.

Her sons and grandsons carried Barbara out of the cathedral which she had loved and served so dynamically for over 40 years, as Shaun Turnbull played Percy Grainger's *Country Gardens* which she had often sung to her grandchildren.

And after the service there was a reception in the crypt...



...where JB had the pleasure of meeting again **Michael Walmsley** – 40 years after he left the choir. Michael is now a headmaster in Charnock Richard. And he also met Michael's twin, **Susanne**, who said to JB (rather in the manner of her mother, who could be somewhat confrontational!), 'You wouldn't let me join the cathedral choir!' JB apologised and said that one of the reasons was that we didn't have a girls' choir in those days!



And then, as JB was leaving, Paul brought another fellow chorister to meet him, **Nigel Ray** who lives in Lyme Regis. JB remembered Nigel and his brother David so well. Nigel said to JB, 'My brother was a Prefect, but I wasn't!' These things do matter, and so JB had to apologise again – but it was a real delight to meet these former choristers after such a time.

1969	Allan Carr
	Paul Walmsley
1970	Philip Carr
1971	Ivor Bolton
	Peter Holroyd
	David Ray

And, of course, one of their contemporaries in the cathedral choir, **Philip Carr**, was on duty for that service – for he is a Churchwarden!

Our heartiest congratulations to Canon ANDREW HINDLEY

...who, on Mothering Sunday, celebrated his 17th anniversary as Canon Sacrist of our Cathedral.



Canon Hindley is the longest serving member of our clerical staff and his hard work and strong influence can be seen and felt throughout our cathedral.

Not only does he ensure that all our services are meticulously prepared (not only liturgically but also musically), but he has been (and continues to be) instrumental in raising appreciable sums of money to keep our cathedral in good repair. He also led the successful appeal for £300,000 for the rebuilding of our magnificent cathedral organ 13 years ago.

And he is a sure friend to us all.

Thank you, Andrew!

From former choir baritone FRANK HARE who lives in an exquisite half-timbered house near Malvern

My dear John

It is always good to get your great **M&M** magazine - so colourful and easy to read.

Thank you for your kind and complimentary comments about me. Alas one inaccuracy: I am still working for my magazine as it is fee earning [unlike M&M]. Next year 2014, I will have been working



60 years!!!!

I have however stepped down from my post as Chairman (and Founder) of the *Cradley Sports Club* and have been elevated to President!! I am now steering through the ground development scheme for the club which will give this community (the largest village in Herefordshire) proper pitches and changing rooms with a winter training facility with floodlights. Around £500,000 !!!

It's wonderful to read about Blackburn and all of the good works done there. It gives me the feeling of a "warm blanket " viewing such activities.

Spoke with **Bob Keen** after reading your articles about his bad luck on the health front. He sounded in good form. Son John up-dated me when things looked bleak.

My wife Chris is in the USA with her sister visiting son Dom and his wonderful wife Susan and their three boys!! You met Dom when he was a lively youth. Now a successful businessman with Accenture based in Atlanta. His wife works for him as that is where they met. It's a three-year contract with Coca Cola. I've been twice in the last 18 months too.



That's it for now. Back to the computer --- hey ho!!
Warmest regards.

Frank

My dear Frank: How marvellous to hear from you, for you still have many friends here who remember you so fondly as one of our leading choirmen.

I seem to remember that during sermons you took your shoes off to relax; but on one occasion, when the sermon ended, you couldn't find them - your colleagues (probably the tenors!) had hidden them and only returned them just in time to recess with the choir - otherwise it would have been Hare in socks!

Does that sort of thing happen these days? Best not to ask!

SAMUEL HUDSON interviews international violinist VALERIY SOKOLOV

The Classics Series at King George's Hall in Blackburn is a cultural gem of our community - five times a year we have an exciting opportunity to hear the UK's top professional orchestras performing a wide variety of music in our own town.

The series is dominated by Manchester's famous orchestra, the Hallé, which often performs with leading international conductors and soloists.

This was very much the case on Saturday 9th March 2013, when Cathedral Organist and Director of Music Samuel Hudson was privileged to lead a pre-concert talk with solo violinist Valeriy Sokolov.



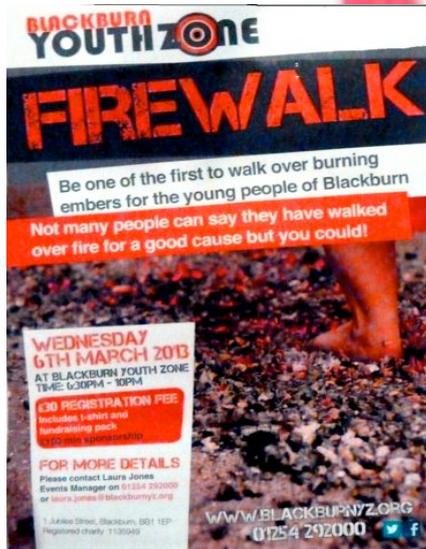
Samuel writes: Still only in his mid-20s, Sokolov is a rising star of international proportions, and already has an impressive collection of solo appearances under his belt, many with some of the world's most famous orchestras and conductors.

In a mere 25 minutes, Valeriy Sokolov gave his audience a fascinating insight into his life as a young performer, and also demonstrated his most humble approach to his work.

He is clearly devoted to his art and to his continuing studies, and though he has already achieved so much, he gave us a strong sense of how much more he has to give.

He told us too of his admiration for The Hallé, and for composer Samuel Barber, whose violin concerto he was performing that evening on his magnificent Stradivarius. His career will no doubt be an exciting one, and we hope to be able to welcome him back to the stage of King George's Hall in the future!

Was it an evening from hell?



Our intrepid Dean, never one to flinch from a challenge, joined 40 other daring volunteers on Friday, March 8th to walk across three metres of scorching hot coals which had been heated to 500C by fiery logs. They'd been burning for fully two hours before the event took place.

Strobe lights and Youth music filled the chilly air. Your peripatetic photographer confesses that, after he'd taken a photograph of the burning logs – long before the walkers had appeared – he turned tail and got out of

there fast. It was not a pretty sight!



Dean Christopher wrote, after he'd cooled down:

The Firewalk was an interesting experience. *[You can say that again!]* I felt that I should do it to give public support to the Youth Zone, our partners and near neighbours. It is a wonderful resource for the town and needs support. I also thought that walking on hot coals was not inappropriate for a dean in Lent. (After all, most deans do it all the time!!)

Photograph © Lancashire Telegraph

After considerable syking up – during which I learned that the fire would be 500 degrees, five times hotter than a boiling kettle! – 41 of us filed out in front of a considerable and noisy crowd to walk through the fire, one by one. It was not a comfortable sensation and I have tender feet anyway so I didn't repeat it, though many of my fellow firewalkers did.



That evening one foot in particular was very tender and Geraldine swore there were blisters on the feet, but all was comfortable the next morning.

I'm glad to have taken part and the help of the Lancashire Telegraph cannot be underestimated in bringing the event to wider attention.

The organizers think the evening will have raised about £5000.

Two days' later the Dean was back to normal!

On the first Maundy Thursday Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an act of humility.



Dean Christopher Armstrong, in an updated act of humility, cleaned customers' shoes in Blackburn Market on Maundy Thursday 2013.

He told your editor that he planned to be there from 1.00 pm until 2.30 – but so many people wanted to have their shoes cleaned by him, that he continued cleaning shoes until 3.00 pm!



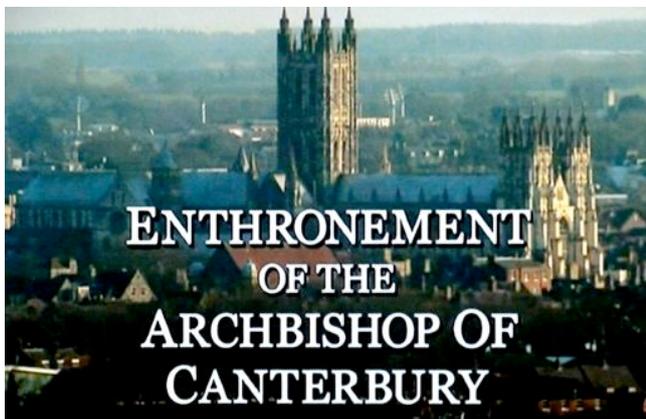
A press photographer was there to record the scene.

'I enjoyed talking with the people who came to me,' said the Dean, 'for, in way, that's what it was all about.'

M&M is supported by so many generous folk. *Thank you!*

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I was there! by Dean Christopher Armstrong

Tickets were in short supply for the Enthronement of **Justin Welby, 105th Archbishop of Canterbury**. I was fortunate. All the deans of England were invited and most of them turned up. (Such was the demand for tickets that wives were not invited, so Geraldine was disappointed!)

Canterbury is a long way down the country but with careful planning I managed to get there and back in one day with time to spare. Having worked in the Diocese of Canterbury as a curate I knew the territory and a few folk there so it was like going home really – to the Cathedral in which I was ordained.

Having met some friends at the station, we enjoyed a sandwich lunch together on the outskirts of the city centre then followed the throngs as we headed for The Cathedral. A noisy demonstration about the Government cuts was being conducted at the South Gate, presumably where **David Cameron** was to pass a little later. The crush was exaggerated by security checks just inside the gate when all were frisked and seriously warned about using phones in the Cathedral.

Camera crews were everywhere but the marshals were excellent and I soon found my way to The Crypt where all the visiting clergy were robing: bishops in one corner, deans in another, ecumenical guests (including **Bp. Friedrich of Braunschweig**) in the centre together with representatives from religious orders. We had to be robed and ready to process an hour before the service began and as the time approached, a great hush fell over The Crypt, even from the Bishops' corner.

There were some familiar staff faces too: the Head Verger from Liverpool Cathedral marshalled us; the Senior Verger from York was looking after his archbishop. Luckily the day was fine and the processions snaked around the cloisters and into the Great West Doors to the sound of the Choir singing on the steps at The Crossing.

We took our seats just in front of the Nave altar with the Chapter of Durham (the sending diocese) just in front of us. As is usual on these occasions, we stood up for particular processions with the required gentle bow to the **Prince of Wales & Duchess of Cornwall** as they were conducted to their seats in The Choir.

The Archbishop duly arrived in great splendour, accompanied by the Residentiary Chapter of Canterbury who met him for that striking exchange at the West Door, when Archbishop Justin explained himself to be a pilgrim and seeker after truth.



ARCHBISHOP ENTHRONEMENT
Pope Francis sent message of congratulation

The service then got underway with a variety of music including a beautiful hymn composed by **Robert Willis**, the **Dean of Canterbury**.



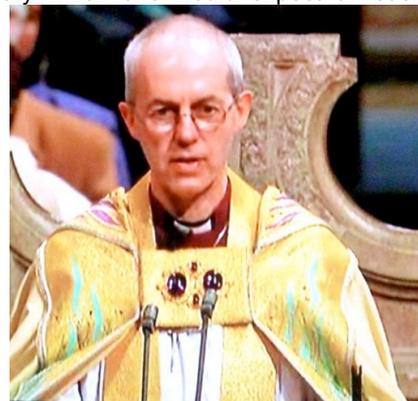
There were some rousing hymns from the evangelical canon, as could be expected, and one from a foreign country which did not really take off. The Choir (14 boys and as many men) did extraordinarily well to master such a variety of music, though the sight of one Choirman banging a tambourine was remarkable!



I was impressed by the Archbishop's Sermon. It had that great sweep of history which one would expect on such occasions.

It raised some humour in parts and at others was blunt and direct. I felt that it was as broad as **Rowan Williams'** sermon was profound 10 years ago.

The service was almost two hours in length so I could not stop for tea but rushed off to catch my train connections up the country with positive thoughts for the future, and gratitude that I could represent the Cathedral community here in Blackburn.



For more on the Enthronement, see **M&M Online No. 12** on the Cathedral's music website www.blackburncathedral.com

From former chorister Dr. PAUL WALMSLEY in Kentucky. (See page 14)

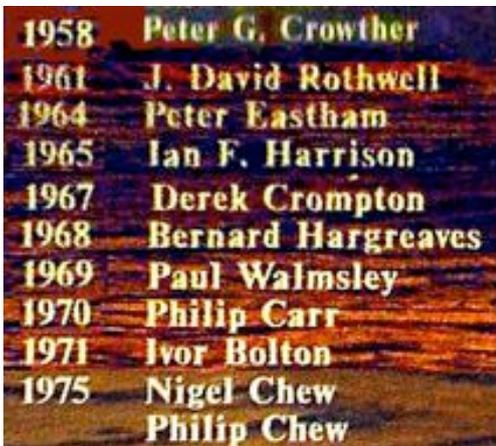


JB,
Have greatly enjoyed **M & M!** I got online and couldn't find where to donate to join!!!! Please enlighten (so very British to be so coy!).

I had thought of doing the Grand Patron thing but think I'll do two regular patrons and have you enroll my brother **Michael**. I could just send you a cheque snail mail but there must be a quicker way! (See below!)

Also was thinking of doing some sort of a choirboy scholarship in the name of Mum

(Barbara).



As I looked through the magazine I got reminded me of so many great memories ...

Derek Crompton and **Ian Harrison** were like gods to us young boys ... **Peter Eastham** also. **David Rothwell** and **Peter Crowther** were already men!

I can remember being moved by **Derek Crompton** singing "O for the wings of a dove" (and later hearing the **Ivor Novello** recording

which didn't sound half as good!). Then there's the **Chews** and the now famous **Ivor Bolton!** (and the less famous **Smethurst** lad who later joined the Marines but was too tough for them!).



Cathedral to remember and honour their comrades.]

Memories: I passed out in the 1966 Somme day Service:

[The Battle of the Somme in WW1 was the bloodiest battle of that war; it lasted two years – the casualties reached one million, and those who survived came annually to Blackburn



It was the 50th anniversary - July 1st - and was so very solemn and emotional. I can truly say I've been through dissecting rooms, autopsies and surgeries for the last 40 years of my life and never passed out since! I guess the fascination with the military and their sacrifices never left me. (I had a stint in the Reserves with a Marine Corps combat surgical team in Africa and Iraq).

Bernard Hargreaves! I could never remember his name. But he was the kid who humiliated me outside the Cathedral Close on my way to Evensong - he stole my QEGS cap (which we first-formers were forced to wear) and threw it around to his St Wilfrid's mates (who didn't have to wear caps). I got so mad I charged like a wounded bull. It worked somehow, and I got my cap back!

Maybe that's what made me take up Rugby a few years later. Funny he should be in USA. I should visit him when he's next in California (October).

It was great to see another choir contemporary, **Philip Carr**, at mum's



funeral.

I can remember **Tommy Duerden's** funeral when we sang **Croft's** Burial service. Very moving. Mum's funeral was wonderful, but I did miss the awe inspiring and timeless words of the C of E burial rites.

My dear Paul: This is so wonderful of you – your memories of the cathedral choir of 40 years ago, and so many illustrious names – singers who are still with us in the choir – or who, like you, have moved to the USA.

It's so very generous of you to become a Patron of the Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association, and to include brother **Michael**, for this will enable BCCA to help, financially, some of the present trebles in the cathedral choir. I look forward to discussing this with you.

Thanks indeed, Paul! This is very greatly appreciated. JB

How to become a Patron? Send an e-mail to the Secretary of BCCA, Amanda Snape, and she'll send the necessary form! snapeamanda@yahoo.co.uk Thanks!

Follow-up to Paul Walmsley's letter from Bernard Hargeaves in California!

Hello JB,

Hope this letter finds you fit and well. Thank you for the recent honorable mention in the recent edition of the M&M magazine. As always, very interesting and entertaining updates from around the globe!

In answer to your question, yes, I do remember **Paul Walmsley** and it sounds like he definitely has not forgotten me! Let's hope I am never in need of medical attention, while visiting Kentucky :). Reflecting back on his story, it sounds like myself and a few other St Wilfrid's boys were pretty mean to him on that occasion. However, I do recollect the boyhood "prank" of pinching caps off of the heads of 1st year QEGS' boys and also berets off the 1st - 3rd year Convent girls around that time period. Obviously, this all came to a head shortly thereafter, no pun intended, once the headmaster (Mr. Ratcliffe) and the head mistress (Miss Brown) of St. Wilfrid's received a letter from one very upset parent about the very same subject, which was read out to the whole school assembly one morning at the end of our usual morning prayer service. Fortunately, I was not involved in this episode and was thankful not to receive "six of the best" for this schoolboy prank on this occasion.

Looking back, I obviously owe Paul an apology. However, I am glad to hear it may have inspired him to take up Rugby later on at QEGS. I would be happy to apologize to him in person during his next planned trip to California in October. I would like to extend an open invitation to him to stop by our home and visit, or even stay over for a couple of days, if he is in the neighborhood (I'm located 50 miles from Los Angeles, or 60 miles from San Diego) and I and my wife (Janet) are pretty hospitable. It would be nice to meet up again after all these years.

JB, on a more serious note, sorry to hear about the passing of Paul's mother. Furthermore, my latest news is that I'm planning a trip back to Blackburn soon. My younger brother Russell, you will remember him too, has been in Blackburn Royal Infirmary for the past couple of weeks. He had one foot amputated around Christmas time (due to his type 1 diabetes problems) and now they are trying to save his second foot (he has had angioplasty performed on his leg and has lost one toe so far).

My mum and brothers (Stephen and Allan) have been keeping me updated on Russell's progress, which has been mainly pain and suffering over the past two weeks. So, it doesn't sound too good at the moment and it will be a slow process of recovery for him. I'm hoping he will start to feel a bit better this week and will be back home in his flat on Preston New Road by the time I arrive in Blackburn, a couple of weeks from now.

Take care and hope to see you soon,
Best regards, **Bernard**

The Best Crypt Concert Ever!

When the Renaissance Singers, conducted by **Shaun Turnbull**, gave their May concert in the crypt, they were in superb form. **Samuel Hudson** was the effervescent MC – and he shared the skilled accompanying with organ scholar **James Kealey** on our very well-tuned piano.

There were soloists galore, food galore, fellowship galore – and all for only £10.



Read all about it in **MUSIC & MORE ONLINE No. 15:**
www.blackburncathedral.com ... music ... Music&More online

From Bell-ringer GARY WIGNALL

Dear John,

You might like this for your next edition of **Music & More!**

There has been a tradition established with our last **Bishop Nicolas** for his annual visit on Easter Sunday morning to the Cathedral Belfry. We communicated this to our new bishop-designate who has responded in the affirmative.

Bishop Stewart Cross began this tradition as he was a Ringer himself.

Best regards,

Gary



Easter Sunday 31 March 2013 Bell Ringers at Blackburn Cathedral
 From left: Ray Hutchings (RM), Bruce Kitchin, Bishop John Goddard (Acting Bishop of Blackburn), Ian Fowler, Brenda Wilson, Gary Wignall and Beate von Bremen

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHOIRS' ASSOCIATION 49th Annual Reunion!

Saturday-Sunday, 14-15th September

If you haven't received your invitation, please contact

snapemanda@yahoo.co.uk

The Dean raises spirits!

A Very Reverend barman was found at Whalley Abbey during the recent visit of colleagues from our twinned cathedral of Braunschweiger Dom.

During their weekend our German guests were exploring with a few people from our Cathedral "The Cloister Today." The programme organised by **Canon Stockton** included a presentation by **Canon Hindley**



about Blackburn Cathedral developments, discussions with representatives of Blackburn Mall and Market, a session with **Canon John Rothwell** on 'Heimat and Belonging', a presentation at Chester Cathedral about its site and mission and a Halle Concert at King George's Hall.

The tour of Whalley Abbey was reserved for the coldest part of the weekend. (It was very cold!)



Since monks sometimes brewed and served beer, the **Dean of Blackburn**, intent on showing his versatility and his commitment to generous hospitality became an impromptu barman, and said, "The drinks are on me."

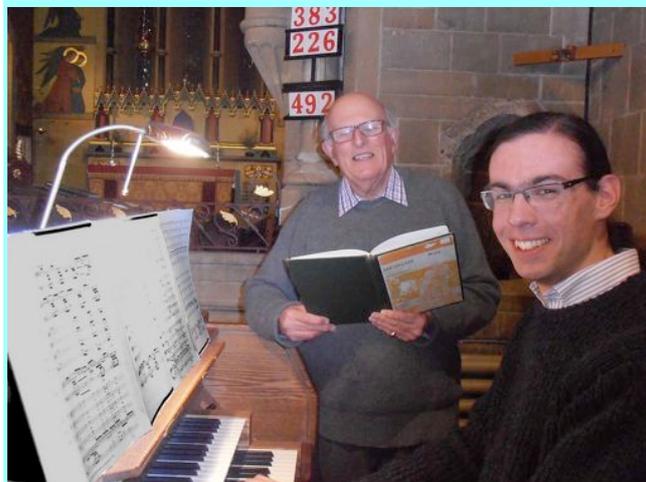
Soon afterwards he was replaced by a regular member of staff.

[Why? Didn't he have enough 'pull'? Ed!]

From Dean David Frayne in North Somerset

John

A completely unexpected meeting-up last night - Wednesday in Holy Week. Liz and I joined in a "Come and Sing Messiah - parts 2 and 3 here in Clevedon. Who should be at the organ? **Benedict Todd**, who you will know was Organ Scholar after our time, but who we had the pleasure of meeting when we came back to Blackburn for my 50th Anniversary of Priesting in September 2011. A quick trip home to get the camera provides the pictorial evidence!



It was good to know that Benedict is enjoying working for his PhD through the Music Department at Bristol University. Meanwhile, Liz & I are enjoying Clevedon and have found ourselves as founder-members of a new Clevedon Chamber Choir!

"**Music and More**" is always more than welcome when it arrives - keep going!

With our love

David

Whatta Wedding that was!

When **James Davy** married **Sarah Turner** in April they (and their parents) had planned an unforgettable day for us all. (See front cover)

The cathedral Nave was packed with guests – many of the men in formal dress and the ladies sporting enormous (and very graceful!) hats.

There were organists everywhere for, of course, James was the still fairly new Director of Music of Chelmsford Cathedral, having served half a dozen most creative years at Blackburn as Assistant Director of Music. And Sarah also comes from a musical family – her mother, **Gillian**, teaches music at St Gabriel's School, and her brother, **Jonathan**, was organ scholar at Blackburn and then at Lincoln College, Oxford.

And so, before the service, Jonathon played the organ as did **David Scott-Thomas** – a former assistant here at Blackburn. And for the service itself we had none other than **Philip Rushforth**, Organist and Director of Music of Chester Cathedral who was James' first organ teacher.

The bride (whose wedding dress rivalled that of the Duchess of Cambridge!) processed in, on her father's arm, to the rousing strains of John Stanley's



Trumpet Tune, played by a real trumpet! Everything about that ever-to-be-remembered service was finely tuned in every way – everyone knew what to do and when to do it, and everything was done superbly.

Samuel Hudson conducted the combined cathedral choirs of men and boys, and girls, who sang a massive programme of music: Vierne's Mass with our organ blasting away with 32ft reeds as Vierne intended, Walton's *Set me as a seal*, Hadley's *My beloved spake*, Bairstow's *I sat down* and Healey Willan's *Rise up my love*. (That was a happy juxtaposition of anthems – for, after sitting down, one must rise up!)

After the vows had been exchanged, a fair proportion of the congregation arose – what was happening? – Oh, yes – they were the **Renaissance Singers** who sang Gibbons' *O clap your hands*, and a lovely setting of *'This Marriage'* by Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)



Canon Andrew Hindley conducted the service with his usual exceptional pastoral loving care, and there were hymns for us all to sing – which we did with a will!

Philip Rushforth played Mr & Mrs James Davy, their parents and their bridesmaids, down the Nave as we all applauded to the thrill of yet more Vierne – the *Final* from his *Symphonie 1*.



The service lasted nearly two hours – but the celebrations had only just begun, for we all assembled in the South Transept where refreshments were awaiting us, and Choir Virger **Alex Barnes** hoisted himself high up on the cathedral's people-lifter to take a photograph of us all down below.

Richard and Pippa Tanner were there to provide graceful music, and it was good to see former organ scholar **Justin Miller** there, too, who is currently organ scholar at St. Albans Abbey.

And then many of us were privileged to be invited to join the wedding party at a magnificent Reception at Eaves Hall – some 30 minutes away – as the sun shone and the joy continued to pervade every lively conversation.



The Wedding Breakfast began around 4.00 pm – what a

magnificent occasion that was. (Eaves Hall is strongly recommended if you want to do things in style!)

There were speeches, there was laughter, there was abounding effervescent elation – and then, after the cutting of the cake, there was dancing to **Peter Crewe's ceilidh band** (which had recently played in Windsor Castle – in the dungeons!)



Heartiest congratulations and thanks, dear James and Sarah; may your lives together increase in joy and love – for you have indeed blessed us all so richly.

Former Chorister runs the London Marathon!



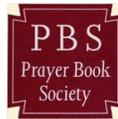
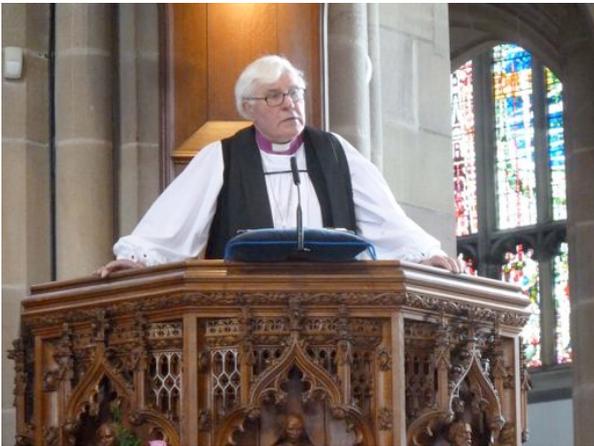
William Heap (who was a choir Prefect in 1978 in lives in the Isle of Person) took part in the enormous London Marathon in April – and raised £2,500 in sponsorship for the Douglas, Isle of Man, Hospice.

Well done, Will. Some of his sponsors were former choir members: if more former choristers had known of Will's feat we gather that he'd have raised even more!

To celebrate his triumph he took his wife, **Janet**, the following weekend, travelling by Eurostar, for two nights in Paris !

PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY FESTIVAL

When the Blackburn Branch of the Prayer Book Society held its annual festival in Blackburn Cathedral on 27th April, their guest of honour was the **Right Reverend Robert Hardy**, former Bishop of Lincoln.



In his sermon Bishop Hardy praised the work that Archbishop Thomas Cranmer had done 400 years ago to create a new prayer book following King Henry VIII's break from Rome. 'It was an all or nothing situation,' said Bishop Hardy, 'for the new rite of worship was in English rather than Latin, so that everyone could understand what was being said, and also the Archbishop had reduced the pile of books which priests had to use to find out what they should be saying, into just one book. And that is the Book of Common Prayer which we have today, and which we are using in this morning's service.'



The celebrant for the Eucharist was the **Venerable Michael Everitt**,

Archdeacon of Lancaster, and the choir was **Octavius** - a group of 12 highly skilled volunteer singers who were directed by cathedral choirman **Anthony Tattersall**.

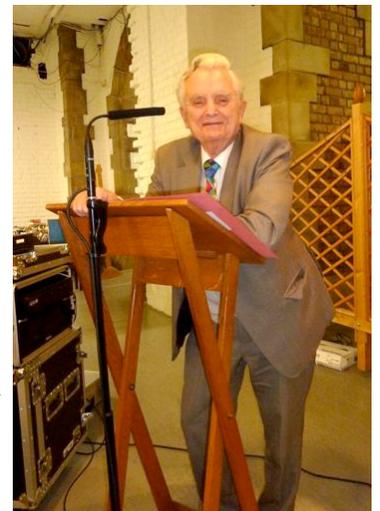


After a splendid lunch in the cathedral crypt we bade farewell to our President, **Judge Brian Duckworth**, who was retiring through ill health, and we welcomed our new President, His Honour **Judge Edward Slinger**, from Preston.



The Chairman of our PBS Branch, the Revd. **Alan Reid**, and our Secretary/Treasurer, Mr **Neil Inkley**, told us that we were the most successful branch of the PBS in this country – long may it be so!

Dr John Bertalot, cathedral organist emeritus, gave a talk on psalms in his life, illustrated by recordings of choirs he had conducted in Westminster Abbey. The audience was most attentive!



The day ended with a glorious Choral Evensong sung by **Octavius**, most musically accompanied by **Samuel Hudson**, the Director of Music of Blackburn Cathedral.

How the 12 voices of **Octavius** were able to sing the 8-part, double choir setting of the Evening Canticles by Dr Gray in F minor, we shall never know. But they did it and it was a triumph!

It was a most successful and memorable day for us all.

The wonderfully transformed Cathedral Song School

will be officially opened on SUNDAY 15th September at 11.45 am.

This coincides with the 49th Annual Reunion Weekend of Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association (BCCA)!

We are so grateful for most munificent gifts amounting to £200,000 from many generous benefactors. Thank you indeed!



VESTRY BEFORE THE WORK BEGAN with Organ Scholar James Kealey

(Below) VESTRY WITH WORK IN PROGRESS with Canon Hindley



The new mezzanine floor to house the choirs' vast music library will give room for toilets to be installed.

The new robing cupboards will be in the passageway and there will be automatic air ducts to vestry and Song School.

The last major restoration work was done 39 years ago by choirmen **David Rothwell** and **Derek Crompton** to designs by JB. It included coloured tiled floors (with the cathedral coat of arms on the floor of the practice room) and a wall to divide the new choir library from the vestry.



And JB commented, 'Thank you, Mr. Brown!'

We'd asked the organ virtuoso **Daniel Chorzempa** (who was giving a recital here the next day) to declare the new Song School open. The formal exchange of words on that occasion are remembered by all who were present:

Senior chairman **James Smith** made the formal request to **Daniel Chorzempa**: 'I ask Mr Chorzinsky to open the Song School.'

This defaced archival poster from 1976 was discovered 'midst the turning out of the Vestry and Song School.

The Blackburn Bach Choir (now *The Renaissance Singers*) regularly attracted capacity audiences for their annual carol concerts in King George's Hall.

My word, what memories!



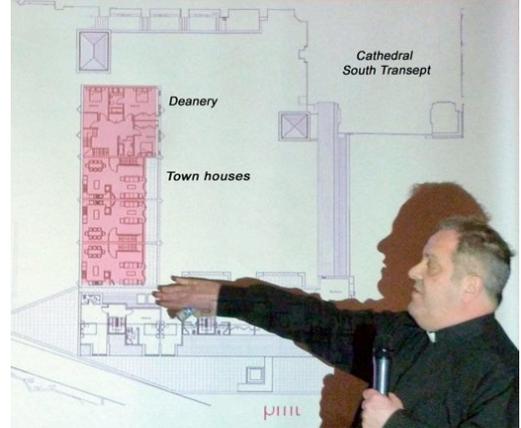
FORMER CHORISTERS be sure to attend our **49th Annual Reunion on 14-15 September** and join in the celebrations for the transformation of our Song School.

Contact snapeamanda@yahoo.co.uk if you haven't received your invitation!

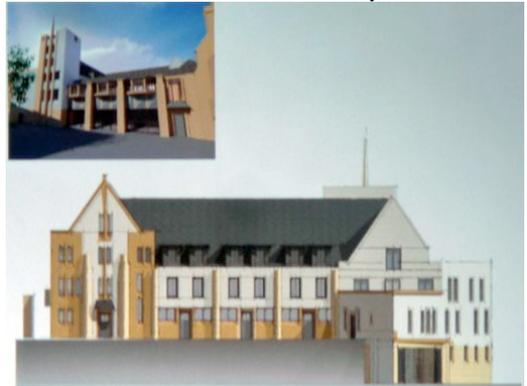


Construction for Transformation!

During the Cathedral's Annual Meeting in April **Canon Andrew Hindley** gave a fascinating presentation of the major construction work which is about to transform our Cathedral Close. (He's been working on this for the last decade!)



There will be a splendid Deanery (with an upper self-contained flat for visiting dignitaries); three fine town houses for two Residentiary Canons and the Director of Music; spacious apartments for the Assistant Director of Music and our hard-working Virgers; six bed-sits for choral scholars and organ scholars; a library, new cathedral offices and the first cloister to be built in an English Cathedral Close for several hundred years.



There will be an underground car park and a 60-room hotel. The whole atmosphere of our Cathedral Close will radiate joy and peace for everyone to savour.

The present boulevard will also be transformed (the bus station will be moved to Penny Street) and it will include a stunning modern office block and open access to the cathedral for all.



There will be major disruption for 20 months, but it will prove very worthwhile! So, be prepared!

For more details of this exciting immanent major construction, see **music & Mote online No. 16** www.blackburncathedral.com ... Music

Blackburn Cathedral was televised on Pentecost Sunday Morning!

What an amazing experience it was! BBC TV vans occupied many spaces in the Cathedral



Close for a full week beforehand, and the planning by the Cathedral staff and the BBC had been going on for nine months. The result was, so we were told, one of the best that had ever been televised!

On the afternoon before, inside the cathedral, TV cameras seemed to be everywhere. It was fascinating to see that each camera had its own 'script' – telling the skilful cameramen and their assistants where they should be and what they should portray at every moment.



That evening the lights were turned on for the dress rehearsal.

The nave pillars were bathed in Pentecostal-red lights and the walls in mauve, whilst two churchwardens, Philip Carr and Stuart Rothwell, stood by to rehearse their important part in the service (ushering the communicants) so that everything ran silky-smooth.



Regular members of our congregation came to rehearse their own part, and to help those who would lead the liturgy, the processions and the music were fully integrated. The service was timed to last for exactly 58 minutes!

Regular members of our congregation came to rehearse their own part, and to help those who would lead the liturgy, the processions and the music were fully integrated. The service was timed to last for exactly 58 minutes!

And so dawned that ever-to-be-remembered Sunday morning.

Samuel Hudson rehearsed the large congregation so that they would sing the hymns joyfully – keeping their heads up but not looking at the cameras.



Shaun Turnbull, who played brilliantly for the service, had his own private TV camera to capture his playing close-up.

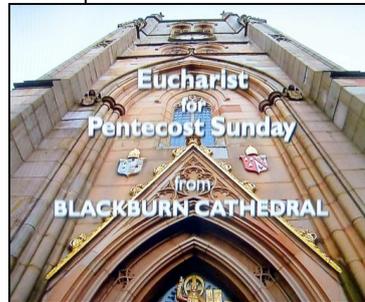


(The camera crews had borrowed our choir cassocks for the service!)



David Wood, who had rebuilt our organ 13 years ago, was on hand to ensure that it was in the finest working order, so he enjoyed a final cup of tea with Charlotte Wells in the Crypt before going upstairs on stand-by.

The flower arrangements were the finest possible.



We were ready for the off!

Read all about it, with lots of photographs, in Music & More onLine No. 17
www.blackburncathedral.com



That night the Virgers had to remove all the chairs in the Nave for a piano recital which would be tele-recorded the next morning. **Thank you!**

And then they had to put them all back that afternoon for two Songs of Praise TV recordings!

Be sure to watch the two Songs of Praise on BBCTV. The first is on Sunday 1st September and the second on Sunday 5th January 2014.

Cathedral Embroiderers

Canon Hindley sent this splendid photograph of our Cathedral Embroiderers who, he said, have been repairing the 1965 Rehallowing Copes which had almost become unusable through constant wear for 48 years. They lavished such loving care on them that they are now 'serviceable' for many years to come.

Thank you, ladies!

Standing: Sue Hughes, Irene Belshaw & Nan Clough. Seated: Elizabeth Johnson



60th Anniversary of The Coronation



Blackburn Cathedral celebrated this exceptional event, 60 years to the day (on June 2nd 2013), with a splendid service of Choral Evensong, attended by the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Shuttleworth ...



... and also by many who had been honoured by Her Majesty for their outstanding service to the nation, including our own **Betty Parkinson, MBE**, former choir mother and dedicated member of our congregation.



Indeed, one of our own Blackburn Choristers had sung at the Coronation in

1953 when **Thomas L. Duerden** was Master of the Choristers: **Stanley Roorcroft**, seen here wearing his coronation medal.

1953 Stanley Roorcroft

Read all about our 60th Anniversary Coronation Service, with lots of photographs, in **Music & More online No. 18**
www.blackburncathedral.com or Google: bertalot.org

Look online to see a host of photographs of **LOUISA STIRLAND**, our *BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year*, as she sang all over the country, was televised and broadcast, and met so many famous folk, all of whom



complimented her on her outstanding singing.

Music & More online
www.blackburncathedral.com ... Music

Our Last Night of the Proms is OnLine too ... and more!

And look online to see photographs of our cathedral choir as they toured Belgium this summer



Music & More online
www.blackburncathedral.com ... Music

Present and former choristers: send your news, *with jpeg photographs*, to john@bertalot.org for inclusion in the next M&M, which will be published early in 2014.



John Bertalot's **10 Variations and Toccata for Pedals only** was published in July by **ENCORE PUBLICATIONS**. Originally composed (on Henry Smart's tune for *Light's Abode*) for the opening of our brand new organ in December 1969, its revised version was premiered by **Dr Roy Massey** in **Hereford Cathedral** for his 75th birthday recital!

He subsequently played the Variations at **Reading Town Hall**, **Christ Church Priory** and **Hull City Hall**! Thank you, Roy!



You'll find it so EASY...
... to enjoy JB's Blog on Google: bertalot.org
32 articles on choir-training, M&M ONLINE, M&M Newsletters from 2003 and MUCH MORE!