



**Restoration Work
has already begun in our Cathedral, by
John Lambert (N.M.) Ltd.
HISTORICAL
PAINTING & DECORATING
Ecclesiastical - Stately Homes - Monuments
Tel: 01772 647470**

In the early summer **John Lambert** and his team restored the pale blue ceilings in our Nave aisles— for some of the paintwork (which was originally applied 45 years ago by another company) had begun to flake. John is known for his superb craftsmanship. A few years ago John and his fine team had restored the bright golden yellow ceilings in the transepts. (See below)



John had even painted the interior of JB's house 13 years ago, and it's still as good as new!

**Restoring all the aisle ceilings, stage 1:
scraping off the peeling paint**



John had formed a second company which restores historic buildings. He said, "**Lambert Walker** was established in 2004 with the view to providing a first-rate conservation and restoration service to the marketplace.

"The company's origins date back to when Adrian Walker and I first met as apprentices over 20 years ago whilst working on **Blackburn Cathedral** as mason and historical painter respectively," said John. "With a shared passion for preserving historical buildings, we've formed a company that specialises in the conservation and restoration of these magnificent structures."

Superb examples of their restoration work can be seen on their website. For example:

ADLINGTON HALL



The stone roof was taken down and cement rendered panels were removed. New oak timbers were made on site by Lambert Walker joiners, and were carefully fitted to replace old damaged parts of the original frame.

**Restoring the aisle ceilings, stage 2:
treating and smoothing the edges.**



Restoring the aisle ceilings: the first one completed!



It is thanks to the on-going success of our Cathedral Appeal that John Lambert and his team had worked again in our Cathedral. It's very good to begin to see some of the fruit from the dedicated commitment and hard work that our Cathedral Appeal team has been doing. **THANK YOU!**

The Dean's son Rocks before an audience of 130,000!

A popular former member of Blackburn Cathedral fulfilled his childhood dream after winning a global battle of the bands competition to play in front of 130,000 music fans this summer.

Jon Armstrong, 31, who worked at Blackburn Cathedral's Cafe In the Crypt between 2005-2007, and his Indonesian-based band **Gugun Blues Shelter** performed live on the main stage of the Hard Rock Calling Festival in London's Hyde Park in June after hundreds of thousands of fans voted for them in Hard Rock's international competition on the festival's website.

Hundreds of bands battled it out at Hard Rock cafes around the world for a place in the final online vote to decide who would be heading to London to play at the iconic rock festival alongside legends of Rock such as Bon Jovi, Rod Stewart, Adam Ant and the Killers.

Jon's band **Gugun Blues Shelter** booked their place on the plane to London after they were voted runaway winners of the South-East Asia and South America region at the end of April before going head-to-head with the three other regional winners from Europe, America, and central Asia to determine who would win the star prize of sharing the main stage with Jon Bon Jovi on Saturday 25th June.

After a week of campaigning for online votes on Indonesia's TV and Radio stations, the band emerged victorious with another landslide victory and Jon, a former pupil of Scalby School and Scarborough Sixth Form College, admitted he was over the moon when the news came through.

"It's really unbelievable. I keep pinching myself to make sure I'm not hallucinating," said Jon, eldest son of the Dean of Blackburn, The Very Reverend Christopher Armstrong. "Now we just can't wait to get out on to that stage and show all of those fans who we are and what our music sounds like."

Jon moved to Jakarta, Indonesia's capital city, along with his wife **Nyanyak** and two young children, **Toby and Adam**, to pursue his musical career further in 2009 having spent four years living in and around the Preston New Road and Billinge areas of Blackburn.

Jon was actively involved with the Cathedral's community events during his time in Blackburn and was also a governor at Wensley Fold Primary School where his two sons were pupils. His wife Nyanyak – originally from Indonesia's Northern-most city, Banda Aceh – successfully completed open access literacy courses at St. Mary's College, Blackburn and was also involved in the Cathedral's life.

Since his move to Indonesia, an Archipelago made up of more than 17,000 islands, 238 million people and 724 languages and dialects, Jon has concentrated all his efforts into propelling the band into the media spotlight and enhancing its profile both in South-East Asia and internationally.



Jon plays bass in the three-piece band alongside drummer Aditya Wibowo and phenomenal lead guitarist, **Gugun**, who has been labelled 'Indonesia's answer to Jimmy Hendrix' by members

of the South-East Asian music media.

Music has always The band specialises in Electric Blues-Funk and has been highly acclaimed across South-east Asia, rocking shows from Shanghai to Singapore and they are well-known to local music lovers after they played gigs at various venues around Blackburn during their UK tours in 2008 and 2009.

Music has been a big part of the bassist's life and his father, **Dean Christopher Armstrong**, admits, "It all began in the sound-proof basement of St. Martin's Vicarage in Scarborough where I was Vicar. It was one of



JAKARTA

Jono's many enthusiasms, but this one has stuck."

Fluent in the language of Bahasa Indonesia,

Jon himself has become somewhat of a celebrity in his adopted country and is currently the presenter of a daily live music programme on Indonesian TV.

But despite the group's rapid rise to fame, Jon admits that the prospect of playing in front of hundreds of thousands of screaming rock fans still sent the butterflies buzzing in his stomach as the band made its final preparations before going out on stage.

"Playing to a large crowd was such a buzz especially when they started to get into it. We as a band can really



feed off the audience's energy," said the 31-year-old. "We've played in front of pretty big-sized crowds before but this was massive."

This summer's Hard Rock Calling festival celebrated 40 years of the iconic themed restaurant, founded by American friends Peter Morton & Isaac Tigrett in London in 1971. Organisers are expecting up to 50,000 fans per day and past festivals have boasted big name superstars including Aerosmith, Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen and The Police.



For more information on Jon Armstrong and **Gugun Blues Shelter**, visit the band's website at www.blues-shelter.com or you can follow Jon on his Twitter account @nyep_nyep or the band @GBLuesShelter.

Tickets for the festival were on sale online and ranged from £55 to £550!!

Drafted by Simon Armstrong

Wow!!!

ANOTHER ENERGETIC SATURDAY MORNING

Whenever your roving reporter strays into the cathedral, he nearly always finds Something Worthwhile Going On. This was true in early so-called summer (it had been raining every day for several weeks!). The boy-choristers had had their usual morning rehearsal and so had the probationers, but in the cathedral itself there was happily controlled mayhem when 80 children from three schools were rehearsing for a concert, watched by some early-arrival parents.



Conductors were Choral Scholar **Tim Ferguson**, and amateurs **Jeff Borradaile** and **Gill Fourie**.



Meanwhile, in the crypt, Chorister **Elliott Day** was being given theory tuition for his Bishop's Chorister exam by Renaissance Singer **Helen Davies**. They were joined by some of our girl-choristers who were planning a Night Walk that evening (8 miles) in aid of Hospice.

The kitchen counter was groaning happily under a load of most delicious cakes which had been baked by Choir Mums in aid of the Cathedral Choirs' foreign tours fund. Canons' Virger **Jeff Robinson** was sampling some of their produce and found it very good. (*Genesis 1:31*)



L-R: **Carole Finney**, **Rachel Fielding**, **Amanda Snape** & **Sandra Holmes** who raised £185 through their delicious culinarily activity.

The children upstairs came from three Primary Schools: Hippings Methodist in Oswaldtwistle (make sure you pronounce the 'd' and the 't' when you say 'Oswald-twistle'), Sudell in Darwen and St. Nicholas CE in Accrington. Our own **Lantern Voices** (centre left) were easily spotted in their bright orange and yellow T-shirts.



Canon Hindley brought splendid order to the proceedings when he introduced the choirs to their assembled parents. They filled the Nave and clapped loud and long after every song.

Our own cathedral choristers sang, most beautifully, *Pie Jesu* by you-know-who from you-know-what (the setting which starts with just one bar's intro).



When **James Davy** demonstrated the organ to the children, their varied responses were fascinating to see. (He used our rotating *Cymbelstern*, and he also played very loudly!)



It was a most happy and successful morning – musically, educationally, socially and financially!

Smart Blackburn Organist

Having failed to appoint **S. S. Wesley** as the first organist of our new Parish Church in 1826 (which is the Nave of our present Cathedral – see the last edition of M&M – for the Vicar had said that, at the age of 17, Wesley was too young 'to exercise great control over grown up singers who have to be cured of many bad habits'), the Vicar of Blackburn, Dr. Whittaker, appointed **Joseph John Harris**, who must have done a good job because, after only five years here, he went to Manchester Parish Church, which also was to become a Cathedral.



Our 1826 church from Darwen Street in 1840s, just below the present *Postal Order* pub, which until about 20 years ago was our main Post Office (thus its name!).

But our second organist was destined for greater things. He was **HENRY SMART** who was only 19 when he came to us from London – so presumably Harris had cured the choirmen of their bad habits! Smart's father was a music publisher in London, and his uncle, Sir George Smart, was organist of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Smart was a composer who could write a good tune. We all know hymn tunes by him: *Regent Square* – Light's abode, *Misericordia* – Just as I am, *Heathlands* – God of mercy, *Everton* – Son of God, eternal Saviour, and many more. Music historians regard Smart's hymn-tunes as influencing the harmonic structure of subsequent English hymn-tunes, just as Bach's harmonizations did for the German chorale 100 years earlier. That's high praise indeed!



And he also wrote tuneful music for the organ – which was ahead of its time, for he composed really interesting pedal parts. Why were these ahead of their time? Because playing with one's feet had only recently come into vogue in England. (We were several centuries behind the Continent, where enormous organs had many superb pedal stops.) Continental organs were generally splattered over the West walls of their great churches and cathedrals, and were marvels of artistic and mechanical perfection. Here's an extract from Smart's *March in G*:



Even our own new 1826 organ – which had 3 manuals – had only one set of '18 actual Double Open Diapason pipes' from GGG to C, the

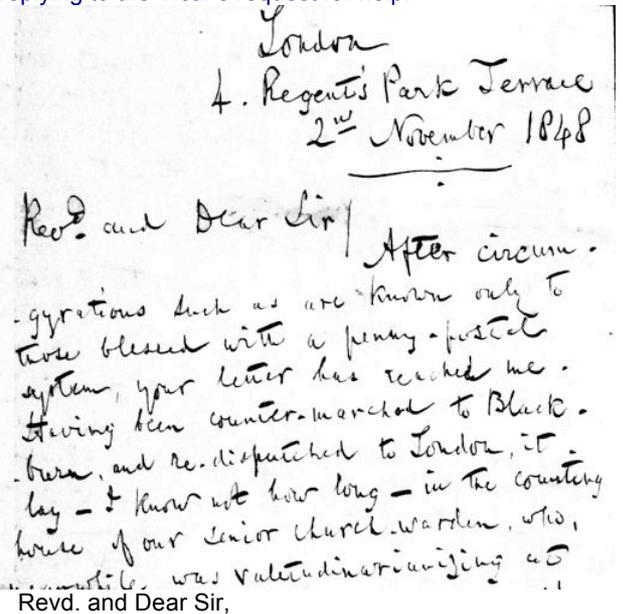
lowest pipe being 24 by 22 inches in diameter. *It must have been very loud indeed!*

But compare that with our present organ which has not one, but *eighteen* separate stops, to be played on a pedal board with not just 18 pedal keys, but 32.

So Smart's work in composing really interesting and demanding music for the feet encouraged English organ builders to begin to build organs with an increasing number of pedal stops, and with more notes as well.

Henry Smart also had a wonderful sense of humour. This is shown in a letter he wrote to the Vicar of Blackburn ten years after he had left us to take up a succession of appointments in London churches. The Vicar of Blackburn had just sacked his organist, William Robinson, who seemed to have had an alcoholic problem, and so he was looking for a new organist and asked Smart for his advice.

Smart wrote in his letter dated 2nd November, 1848, from his home at 4, Regent's Park Terrace, which begins by telling the Vicar, in 1½ pages, why he was so late in replying to the Vicar's request for help:



After circumgyrations such as are known only to those blessed with a penny-postal system, [introduced only eight years earlier] your letter has reached me. Having been counter-marched, and re-dispatched to London, it lay – I know not how long – in the country house of our senior church-warden, who, meanwhile, was valetudinarianizing* at Margate; and he, being returned, could not expedite the matter further than by sending it to his official junior, whom he suspected of a knowledge not possessed by himself – namely of my address.



In one sense, I am the reverse of the man who "awoke one morning and found himself famous"; for I have really believed myself to be almost as well known (and, I trust, fully as well liked) as the National Gallery: whereas the case seems to be that despite the existence of Directories, and a pretty tolerable amount of practice had and enjoyed by the postman at my street door, the "authorities" preferred opening and returning your letter "to the writer, for reasons assigned thereon" to the

comparatively short cut of endeavouring to penetrate my obscurity.

I am truly sorry to hear of the difficulty in which you are placed about an Organist; although, from what I have heard about Robinson, I am not surprised that brain-fever, or any disease to which brandy-and-water could give a helping-hand, should have been its cause. Neither can I deem his loss an irreparable breach in the current of musical art, though to supply his place for your purposes may perhaps, be a temporary difficulty.



On this point, however, I can offer you two suggestions.

Firstly, I have with me an articulated pupil whose organ-playing and general ability I can most strongly commend, whose disposition and conduct are unimpeachable, whose time of bondage will expire soon after Christmas, and who, being a native of Bolton and thither returnable, is of course prepared for a country life. If you could keep the keys of the Blackburn organ for him until the time I have mentioned, I am sure he would in every way suit you.

Much, however, would depend on the prospects held out to him, as to salary and probabilities of professional employment as a teacher. In this particular he would really be a great acquisition to Blackburn and its neighbourhood, as his performance on, and knowledge of, the pianoforte, are of a very superior order. He is quite young and I do not think his expectations would be by any means extravagant.

[Alas, Smart did not give the name of his pupil.]

My second suggestion is that you should offer the situation to Mr. Greaves of Preston; who plays extremely well, is a very quiet, gentlemanly, unobtrusive person, and would, I believe, very gladly undertake the duty.

There is, however, one small impediment.

Some time since, he, Mr. Greaves, was, or fancied himself, much ill-used by the Vicar of Preston; and having, as I suppose, a Baconian habit of reasoning from particulars to universals, took it in dudgeon against the whole church, and joined himself unto Baal-Peor, – namely the Lune Street connexion of Methodists.



Lune Street in Preston is a few hundred yards West of Preston Train Station. The Methodist Church is a fine building halfway down that street on the left.

Now this kind of skin-deep perversion I take to be as easily subdued as it was induced; - but this for your better means of judgment, I give you the pro, and con. of the matter.

Greaves is a good player and a highly respectable man, with but – as I think – just such cob-webs of the Conventicle** about his feet as a single vigorous application of the brush would suffice to clear him from.

Your difficulty has, however, brought me pleasure – that of hearing once more from you, and thus renewing – on paper at least – an intercourse to which I do not cease to look as one of the happiest passages of my life.

Were it not for certain sterling (sic) reasons I should be most strongly tempted by pleasant remembrances to offer myself for your vacant appointment. But I now have four children – to say nothing of contingencies, and though pleasure be, in some respects, less, money is, in all respects, more, – which economically (sic) settles the question.

I and Mrs. Smart were in North Wales this past summer, and have planned to visit the Lakes next year. Should this occur, we shall not fail to take Blackburn in our way for the pleasure of passing a day with you and Mrs. Whittaker, to whom I beg my kindest and most respectful remembrances.

Trusting to hear in reply at your early convenience,
Believe me, Revd. & dear Sir,
very sincerely yours

*valetudinarianizing: Recovering from ill-health.

** Conventicle: A person who enjoys meetings – especially Nonconformist religious ones.

In the end the Vicar appointed Joseph Roiley as organist, who came from St. George's Church in Bolton. He stayed here for ten years.

The Revd. Dr. John William Whitaker was Vicar of Blackburn from 1822 to 1854, and was responsible for the building of the 1826 church, which is now our Cathedral Nave.

We thank the Lancashire Archives Service Manager, Mrs Jacqui Crosby, for her kind permission to reproduce some of the archives of Blackburn Parish Church, ref: PR 3073/2/43 & 44.

From Anjum Anwar MBE

Dialogue Development Officer of Blackburn Cathedral

22 students from Blackburn College, and from John Keble Church, London (where our former Canon Chancellor, Canon Chris Chivers is Vicar) and from Uniting Community Organization based at Accrington Road Community Centre, were recently hosted by the Foreign Office, London.



(See Canon Chris, extreme right)



The young people were given a guided tour of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office followed by a question and answer session.

A senior Foreign Office official was quizzed by the young people on the implication of the UK's foreign policies in the sub-continent and its impact on the local communities.

Questions ranged from why does UK spend such a high percentage of its funds abroad instead of at home; are we too close to the USA's foreign policy?

Anjum Anwar who organized the event said that "it is

important that our young people understand the working of the major organizations which impact our communities." This visit, which was funded by the Foreign Office, was a follow up from the visit to Blackburn recently by Her Excellency



Mrs Frances Guy, the British Ambassador to Lebanon.

Mrs Guy commented, 'Someone travelling with me last week said that she had seen more headscarves in Blackburn than Beirut. That probably says more about where she frequents in Beirut than anything else, but my reaction was pride. Pride that there is space in our diverse society for everyone to express themselves as long as this does not impinge on others' freedoms.'

Cathedral Clergy Rowing

Or FOUR PERSONS IN A BOAT

By our Lakeland Correspondent

If you ever read of the troubles at Lincoln Cathedral in time past, you would know that the sight of canons 'rowing' is no new thing. Our **Dean** and the Canons **Penfold, Hindley and Stockton** have recently been rowing. i.e. They have been wielding oars rather than arguments.



At the first residential staff meeting for six years our Famous Four ventured onto Grasmere. Canon **Sue Penfold**, (*below*) an experienced rower did most of the work and coaching, the **Dean** (*above*) revived the rowing skills he had honed in Durham, Canon **Ian Stockton**, (*way below*) who never succumbed to the rowing bug in his far-off Cambridge days, was a keen beginner and Canon **Andrew Hindley**, once a sailor and placed at the prow, provided necessary balance and advice.



But Canon Hindley seemed more relaxed with the change of crew!

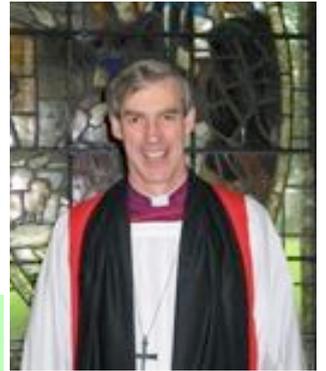


All this was but an hour's recreation in a 48-hour programme, when at Rydal Hall the four clergy gave themselves to reflecting upon their common task.

The programme included prayer, Bible study on the Trinity Sunday readings, listening to each others' vocational stories, discussion of

Advent plans, reflection on questions of role, governance and team development.

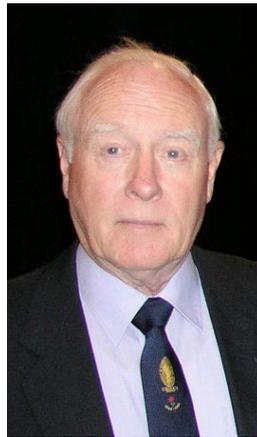
Some time was spent eating and drinking, and on the second evening the Bishop of Carlisle, the **Rt Revd James Newcombe**, joined them for an evening meal, sharing his experience of life as a Residentiary Canon at Chester Cathedral and his ready laughter.



We may suspect that this experience and the rowing were worth the effort.

From OC BRYAN LAMB near Cambridge

Dear John,



Thank you for the latest M&M. It's like getting "Q News" from QEGS, it always brightens my day – two of the more important institutions in my long life. I was interested to read about our new DoM's connection with Swavesey. It is just down the road from here. The dreaded A14.

There is a nice cattery there where Max, my much loved tom cat, goes to sulk when we are away from home. (Like last week, Glyndebourne, *Don Giovanni*, Wow!)

A couple of miles from Swavesey lies Oakington, where 54 years ago

I spent nine terrifying months flying clapped out Vampire 5s in order to get my wings [*in the RAF*] and earn a living. What was once a swish airfield is now a crummy immigration detention centre. What a comedown!

Only a few days now before I beat you to the extra 25 pence a week on the OAP. Seems incredible to be so old. (80 !)

I hope Sam and Rebecca Hudson will be as happy in God's Own Country as we have been in East Anglia these past 34 years.

Yours ever,

Bryan

Mutual birthday greetings, Bryan! JB

OC STEVE HOLMES launches his book "To Infinity and Beyond!"

(see our last edition page 33)

with a signing party in the 'Eanam Wharf'



L-R: OCs John Marr, Phil Wilson, Author Steve Holmes and Stewart Hopkinson.

It's a superly exciting read – get your copy from Amazon!

From Choirman and staff member PHIL HUNWICK

Dear John,

The Cathedral Staff away day in the summer was most enjoyable. It began with staff Eucharist followed by breakfast in the crypt. We then all piled into cars and headed for Lancaster where we had a barge trip (including buffet lunch) over the Lune Aqueduct. After that we drove back to the cathedral via Huntleys for ice cream.

Photos attached.
Best wishes, Phil.



Virgers Mark Pickering and Jeff Robinson in-barged with organ scholar Chris Woodward wedged in between.



Away from it all. (How did Phil Hunwick take this photo? He must have jumped or walked on water!)



James Davy! Wait until the barge appears before you try to board!



All Aboard!



Escapee taunts police by posing in getaway vehicle!



A great time was enjoyed by all: thank you!

We were saddened by the sudden death of FRED DEWHURST

Fred was assistant organist of our cathedral for many years with TLD, continuing to play occasionally during the first few years of JB's tenure here. As a student Fred was organ scholar of Brasenose College, Oxford. His father had been organist of St. Gabriel's Church, and Fred followed his father as organist there for very many years – holding the two positions at the same time – and building up St. Gabriel's choir which enjoyed a proud tradition in Blackburn.



During JB's first years here (from 1964 to the installation of the new organ in 1969) Fred was still our assistant organist (even though he was still organist at St. Gabriel's). He played our temporary 4-rank Walker organ before the Rededication of the redecorated Nave in 1965, and also played that same small organ when we made a couple of live Wednesday afternoon Choral Evensongs.

JB remembers that he had to write out the instructions very clearly for our Provost, who had a lovely voice, was going to present the service, for his memory was not always reliable. Sure

enough, when the office hymn should have been announced, the Provost skipped a line and announced the psalms! Fred immediately closed his hymn book – but JB waved at him – giving the message, 'No! We'll do what we planned!' So Fred quickly re-opened his hymnbook and we sang the office hymn!

A recording of these two services is available - it makes for interesting listening!

In the early days of our fine new 1969 Walker organ, he gave some of our weekday recitals, which he, and all of us, greatly enjoyed.

He was a much-respected master at QEGS. So respected, in fact, that one of our Old Choristers who had been a boy at QEGS said that he couldn't possibly call him 'Fred' – it must be 'Mr. Dewhurst'.

Fred ('Mr. Dewhurst') was a most faithful member of our Old Choristers' Association. He and Margaret were regular attenders at our Annual Reunions when Mr Dewhurst ('Fred') would give a report on his attendance at the National Reunion of Old Choristers in various cathedral up and down the UK. His reports tended to get ever longer the older he got – but that didn't matter!

In more recent years he and Margaret have often been seen in our Café-in-the-Crypt – not least because Margaret has been one of the Café's stalwart helpers.

Fred had a lovely gentle smile. He was a gentle person who loved people – we shall miss him terribly, but thank him for his outstanding years of service to the cathedral and to QEGS.



FRED'S FUNERAL was a most uplifting occasion. There was a large congregation made up of Fred's friends and colleagues from QEGS, from St. Gabriel's Church, many Cathedral Old Choristers and, of course, Fred's extended family headed by Margaret and their two daughters.

James Davy directed the choir of member of the Renaissance Singers and Old Choristers – they sang Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You' which blest us all, and Philippa Hyde sang exquisitely, 'I know that my Redeemer liveth'.

In his address Canon Hindley inspired us with an account of Fred's life: born in 1924, studied at Oxford with C. S. Lewis and J. R. Tolkien, then taught English at QEGS for the rest of his life. He met Margaret when she sang in St. Gabriel's choir. 'I fell in love with his fair hair,' she said. He also assisted Jack Longstaff with QEGS' music. His playing of our organ for QEGS' performance of the St. Matthew Passion inspired at least one OC to take up music as a career. (That OC is now a Doctor of music!)

Fred has been a shining light in our midst – and that light will continue to shine in the hearts of all of us who were privileged to know him.

From David Bruce-Payne

former Director of Music, Birmingham Cathedral,
now living in Dorset

Dear John,

Receiving, as I do, the splendid *Music & More* magazine I really did think that it was high time I put something in the finance box. Hope it helps. [Yes, it does indeed. Thank you, David. JB]

It's always good to hear of the successes at Blackburn with an added interest in that **Ian Pattinson*** was a pupil of mine at Birmingham Conservatoire and he seems to go from strength to strength which is great.

Equally I see and work with **Robert Fielding**** down here in the south. Robert was my assistant organist at St. George's, Edgbaston, during his time in Birmingham and marvellous he was too. He also repaired my Bechstein action superbly! The Fieldings seem to loom large at Blackburn; some family, I gather!



Anyway, all best wishes and bravo to you for making the magazine so truly interesting every time!

Yours,
David

Thank you again, David, for your generous interest in M&M. You won't remember it, but we were contemporaries at Cambridge – you as a chorister at King's and I as organ scholar at Corpus. You must have sung in that historic recording of Choral Evensong conducted by Boris – with Stanford in G, and Paddy's 'My beloved'? JB

* Ian is a former assistant organist at Blackburn, and is now organist of Lancaster Priory. See our last edition, p.31.

** Robert was an early chorister of JB's at Blackburn and is now Director of Music at Wimborne Minster.

From Matthew Owens,

Organist & Master of the Chorists, Wells Cathedral



Dear John

I am delighted that **Samuel Hudson** has been appointed as Blackburn Cathedral's new Director of Music.

Sam was a wonderful colleague for two years at Wells Cathedral and I know that the choirs of Blackburn will enjoy working with him.

I wish the whole Music Foundation at Blackburn all the very best in the latest exciting chapter of musical and liturgical life in that wonderful place.

Matthew

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

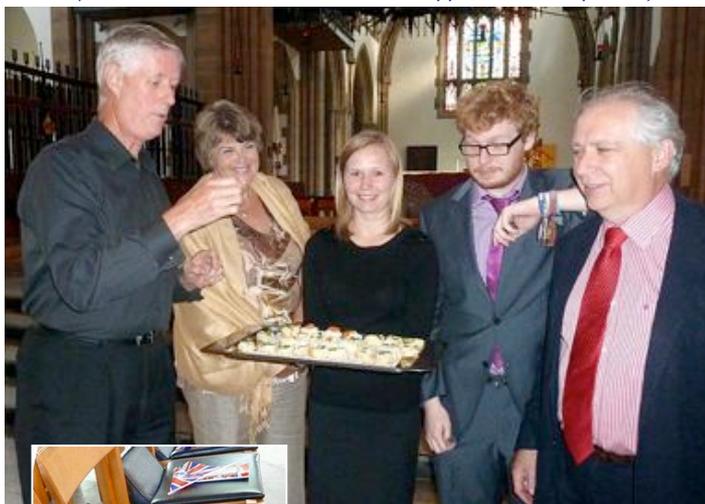
Our Cathedral was filled to overflowing, as ever, when we celebrated the culmination of yet another glorious season of music-making at the beginning of so-called summer. ('The rain it raineth every day', as Shakespeare wrote in *Twelfth Night*.)

James Davy, our interim Director of Music, had drawn up a splendid programme of music to be performed not only by our cathedral choirs and the Northern Chamber Orchestra, but also by four primary school choirs AND a dazzling array of soloists some of whom may never have played with a professional orchestra before! See below!

But again, as ever, before the concert began there was a delightful and delicious reception in the North Transept for Patrons of our Concert series, whose generosity had made the whole evening possible.

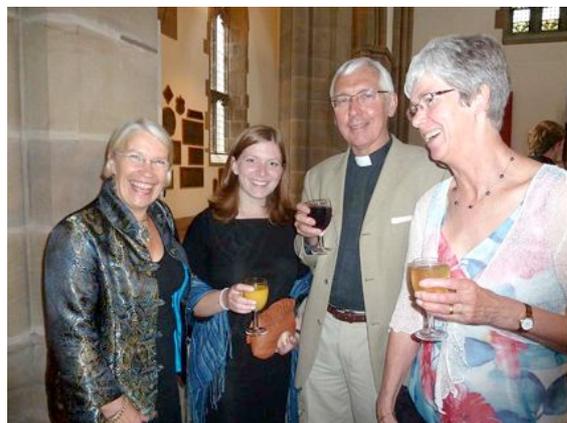


L-R: Penny & Richard Prest, who sponsored tonight's concert, YPC member Joseph Kennedy handing round delicious hors d'oeuvres and Mr & Mrs Ian Swallow. (Ian is a consultant for the cathedral Appeal & Development.)



Jeremy Duerden, Chairman of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, with **Linda Bruce** our Music Administrator, YPC member **Laura Slater**, Old Chorister **Matt Bruce** who is studying music at the University of Westminster, and **Andy Bruce**; the last photo in this article is his, as is our front cover..

Every chair had not only a highly coloured programme of the concert but also a free Union flag to be wove for Land of Hope & Glory.



Mrs Gerry Armstrong with **Inga Mrozek**, a theology student from Braunschweig, our twinned diocese, who is exploring our Cathedral's life and work; and **Canon & Mrs Stockton**



Val Edge, Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Wilfrid's School, between **Philip & Paul Mulloy-Robinson**, with hors d'oeuvres bearer and YPC member, **Charles Forshaw**.

It was very good to see James Davy's parents there who, clearly, are very proud of their son and who were fully equipped to demonstrate their patriotism!



The Cathedral Nave was packed, but lucky late-comers were just able to be squeezed in, thanks to the ministrations of **Malcolm Berry** and **Peter Crewe**.



Yes, the concert was sold out. (See front cover – photo by Andy Bruce)



The concert began with a rousing performance of Parry's *I was very pleased*, when the enormous brass section came into its own: four French horns, three trombones, two trumpets and a tuba in a pear tree.



That, needless to say, got us off to a great start.

Then came two meditative works: Finzi's *Lo, the Full Final Sacrifice* (with orchestral accompaniment) and the slow movement from Mahler's 5th Symphony (made famous as the background music to Visconti's moving film *Death in Venice*).

But the music which had us almost rolling in the aisles was a performance of Leopold Mozart's (or was it Haydn's?) *Toy Symphony*. The unparalleled soloists included not only our Dean and Canon Sacrist, but also our Head Girl and Head Boy, our Music Administrator, our Cathedral Appeal's Director, and the Lady wife of our Lord Lieutenant! We doubt if many of them (any of them?) had ever played solos with a professional orchestra before, but their total commitment to the spirit of the music brought down the house!

Alison Holmes and **Christopher Snape** played toy drum and toy trumpet (they made a great team!):



Louise Hicks was given the awesome responsibility of playing the triangle (so well in tune!) ...

...unlike **Linda Bruce** who played the cuckoo, which wasn't in the same key as the orchestra, it was loud AND it played a perfect 4th instead of a minor 3rd.

But this only added to the hilarity!



Canon Hindley played the musical rattle with evangelical fervour and élan.

The Dean was wholly committed to playing the Quail. His partner, **Lady Shuttleworth**, Chairman of the Cathedral Council, threw her heart and soul into playing the Nightingale so vigorously that it must have awoken everyone in Berkeley Square.



Gerry Armstrong couldn't contain her enjoyment of her husband's skill on the Quail.



Lord Shuttleworth seemed hardly able to believe what his wife was doing with her Nightingale!



That performance must surely rank as one of the hilariest moments in the history of Blackburn Cathedral!

We all needed a break after that so, as ever, refreshments were served in the North Transept and in the Crypt so that everyone was recharged and strengthened for the second half.

And what a second half it was!

We were privileged to welcome the distinguished and delightful composer **Andrew Carter** and his wife that evening. Andrew's works have been published by Oxford University Press for many years and sung all over the world. He and his wife have made their home in York, so we are especially grateful to them for crossing the border to be with us that night!



Andrew had composed a setting of the *Benedicite* ('O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord') for choirs and orchestra which was in 11 movements. It was captivating! He set music describing how the whole creation should bless the Lord – from angels to flowers, from sun and moon and stars, from badgers and hedgehogs, from butterflies and moths, and even from grannies and granddads – and it was all enchanting.

Afterwards, chairman **Stewart Hopkinson** said, 'When we were singing about the whales in the ocean, we could almost see them swimming amongst the waves. It was terrific!'

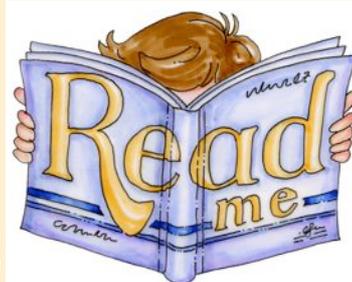
The last two items were the ever-popular *Jerusalem* and *Land of Hope and Glory* when everyone waved their flags with unabashed patriotism and effervescent energy.



It was a marvellous evening – special thanks to **James Davy** for creating the concept and carrying it through with such dexterous panache.

**Letter from a Founder-member (1965) of the Renaissance Singers (Blackburn Bach Choir):
MILDRED SLEIGHT, née Whiteside**

Dear John
What a bumper read the latest **M&M** magazine is! I agree with Professor John Roach (p.11) that you don't have to know the people featured in the articles to enjoy reading it. However, having received the magazine for the last five or six



years, I look forward to hearing what is happening next in the lives of those people whose names appear regularly – it's like waiting for the next episode of a serial!

I was interested to read about **James Davy's** interview with **Vasily Petrenko** in King George's Hall. 'VP' was one of the judges when the Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir (which I still play for occasionally) won the BBC's Radio 3 'Choir of the Year' competition in 2008.



Last night I attended the choir's annual Leavers' Concert when choristers, aged 18 or 19, leave to pursue academic studies. Some of them have clocked up 15 years in the choir. One of our boys has been appointed assistant organist of Beverley Minster! Sixty members of the choir will be giving concerts in Italy this summer – the highlight will be singing Mass at St. Mark's Basilica, Venice!

Lots of Love, **Millie**
How great to hear from you again, Millie. Two other founder-members of the Singers will be attending our BCOCA Annual Reunion in September – Constance Heald from Ely and her twin Dorothy Wade from Preston. JB

Phone hacking!

One of our Old Choristers has told your editor that his e-mail account was recently hacked, which resulted in the sending of unattributed e-mails to those on his address list! Check that your accounts are safe! It's a naughty world out there!



MUSIC & MORE

is supported financially by members of *The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music*, *The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral*, members of our *Cathedral Old Choristers' Association*, *The Cathedral Appeal*, and other generous donors. It is published by Blackburn Cathedral BB1 5AA and printed by

DELMAR PRESS Ltd, Nantwich CW5 5LS



Churchillian Wisdom

**Success is not final,
failure is not fatal;
it is the courage to continue
that counts.**

Choristers: send your news, with JPEG photos, to john@bertalot.org

Garden Party

How fortunate we are to have so many gifted friends in our midst who share not only their talents with us but also, sometimes, their lovely homes.

This was especially true one Sunday in the Spring (when the sun decided to shine all day!), for **Jeremy and Jean Duerden** invited the Cathedral's Renaissance Singers to a delicious luncheon party in the grounds (in the hills) of their exquisite home. (Their back garden goes up and up and up, and from the top one can see three Counties and Jodrell Bank!)



Delicious drinks were served first as we chatted in our summer-wear, then **Jeremy** wielded sharp knives to give us a choice of scrumptious meats, or salmon, with all the trimmings.

Jean Duerden encouraged chorister **William Fielding** to help himself from a table of unimaginably tempting desserts. We really were spoiled for choice.



Alizon Elliott, Renaissance Singers' Chairman, gave presents to our scholars who had enhanced our music-making so enormously this season. (Here's organ scholar **Chris Woodward** receiving his present.)



Ed & Victoria McCullough brought their new baby, **James** (named after James Davy) for us all to see, accompanied by his sister **Lucy**, and admired by **Bill & Eileen Hemingway**.



And it was very good to see our ever-popular American former organ scholar, **Justin Miller**, desserting with **Chris Woodward**. Justin had flown from the USA to see us all.

He has one more year of study at Cleveland Institute of Music, but would then like to return to the UK to play in more English Cathedrals. **Go for it, Justin!**

And the hot sun continued to shine throughout that wholly blissful afternoon.

Thank you, Jeremy and Jean, for your overflowing hospitality!

Oxbridge

It was your editor's privilege, last Millennium, to win organ scholarships to both Oxford and Cambridge. (*How did he do that? That's a long story!*) Some fruit of this double loyalty came into blossom this summer for, within the space of 8 days, he was invited to a Benefactors' Dinner at his Oxford College, (black tie: but he chose to wear his red & white tie from Cambridge instead!), and he was also invited to an informal Benefactors' Luncheon at his Cambridge College!



The Oxford Dinner was to celebrate the opening of the new organ in Lincoln College Chapel by David Goode, from Eton.

It was so very good to be back in that Chapel which was consecrated 300 years to the day before JB was born! It has some of the finest stained glass in Oxford. For example, the East window depicts parallel scenes from the New and Old Testaments – the Resurrection of Jesus being foreshadowed by the story of Jonah who was released from the tummy of the whale after three days!

Readers of *M&M* who have good memories may remember that there are strong connections between Lincoln College and our Cathedral. After JB was there, **Richard Tanner's Father** studied there, followed, some years later, by OC **Chris Hunwick**, then our organ scholars **Jonathan Turner and Tom**

Daggett. Emily Crewe sang in Jonathan's chapel choir during her 3 years at Oxford Brookes. Currently **Andrew Elliott** (son of Renaissance Singers' Chairman **Alizon, & Dave**) is completing his D.Phil at Lincoln College this academic year!

It was also very good to have a photograph of 3 Lincoln-Blackburnians taken



immediately after the recital, standing in front of the organ:

L-R: JB, Tom Daggett & Chris Hunwick

And after having been wined and dined, three of

Lincoln's organ scholars were photographed (*below*) – the oldest (the last time JB had dined in Hall was 57 years ago!) and the almost youngest: **Tom Daggett**, with **Joe Mason** from Abingdon who is the very youngest.



Tom told JB that he and Joe were taking the Chapel Choir to Barcelona the following day – the tour was funded by a most generous former Lincoln

Alum who was the life and soul of that High Table dinner!

The Cambridge Benefactors' Luncheon on the Master's Lawn (in sunshine!) was equally delightful – packed with reunions and 'do you remember...?'

With JB on the **right** (below) is **Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne** (an exact contemporary of JB at Corpus). Brian had spent much of his life ministering in Melanesia and he had preached in our Cathedral in June 2009 before admitting



Canon Chris Chivers as a Companion of the Melanesian Brotherhood.

More History:

On the **left** is JB's guest for that luncheon,

Dr David Holton. David was Head Chorister at St. Matthew's Northampton in 1960 when JB was DoM there. David is now Professor of Modern Greek at Cambridge. (He was very intelligent even in those far-off days!)

Long may Blackburn Cathedral's strong links with Oxbridge continue!

After Tom Daggett returned from his Oxford Chapel Choir tour in Spain, he began work for the contextual theology centre based in the Royal Foundation of St. Katharine, Limehouse, where he is also chapel organist. (*What does that mean, Tom?*)



'I'll be working for creative Christian and Muslim relations – inspired and supported, of course, by **Canon Chris Chivers**.'

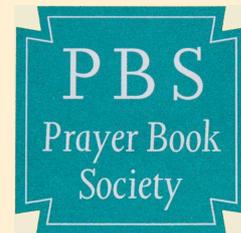
The Centre offers an attractive setting for Meetings, Conferences, Seminars, Receptions, Retreats and Quiet Days in the centre of London between the City and Canary Wharf. It's a hidden urban oasis where people can meet together away from the rush of daily life to discuss, think and plan.

'I'll be organizing communities in a part of London which is very challenging,' added Tom. 'I look forward to it!'

Well done, Tom!

The first choir to purchase copies of JB's newly published Christmas Carol '*The Annunciation*' (mentioned in our last edition, and dedicated to **Marilyn and Derek Crompton**) was the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, closely followed by a choir in Belfast!

Thanks, Canada & N. Ireland!



**'PRAYER BOOK 350'
NEXT YEAR**

19 May 1662

The Act of Uniformity passed

19 May 2012

**The PBS Annual Festival
in Blackburn Cathedral (11.00 am)**

PLAN TO BE THERE!

*Be part of history.
And be part of the ongoing.*

**More details from
Neil Inkley,
01772-821-676**

Plus 3 Minus 4

It was with great joy, towards the end of our Summer season, to welcome three new singers to our Men and Boys' Cathedral Choir:

Mark Molyneux joined the YPC several years ago as a recent Old Chorister from Durham Cathedral. So keen is he that he's recently joined our Men's choir where he is flourishing.



Andrew Sheldon joined the Men's choir after enjoying singing Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Consort on Fridays. (This is an informal choir made up of volunteers who sing here when they can.) Andrew lives in Todmorden with his wife, Jenny and 3-year old daughter, Philippa. He has



been a Primary School teacher, but now he and his wife are property developers.

And on the last Sunday Choral Evensong of this season, the Dean admitted **Leo Fulwell** as a Junior Chorister in our choir.



WELCOME, ALL!

After that final Evensong there was a party in the crypt to say our final farewells to our three choral scholars and organ scholar, who have added so much to our Cathedral's music this season. Their presence has been great success and we are so grateful to those who have financed this new and successful venture.



Canon Hindley voiced our thanks to these four outstanding musicians, to much applause.

L-R: Tom Stockwell (going to Lincoln Cathedral), Chris Woodward (to London University), Canon Hindley, Tim Ferguson (to York University), Dave Young (continuing his studies at Manchester University) and acting Director of Music, James Davy (who, most happily, is staying right here!)

Head Chorister **Christopher Snape**, made presentations to our leaving musicians on behalf of the Boys' choir (he spoke very well), and also to **David Scott-Thomas** our interim acting sub-organist.



James Davy also made a speech, thanking everyone for their practical support during his months in charge since Richard Tanner left us.

And after more vociferous applause, we tucked in to mounds of delicious food prepared by our wonderful choir parents.



THANK YOU, ALL!

Renaissance Singer Janet Goodship

... is keeping herself very busy since she finished teaching at St. Paul's Primary School at Huddlesden.

'I'm now teaching violin for Blackburn with Darwen Music Service,' she told your editor after she and her colleagues had sung at Fred Dewhurst's funeral.

What does that mean?

'It means that the Music Service is encouraging the teaching of practical music-making in our Primary Schools – for complete classes of 4th year pupils.'

How does teaching the violin come into that?

'Well, almost all the 4th years are given one term of vocal training – singing. Then they are given one term of World Music, and finally one term of playing a musical instrument – strings, woodwind, brass and so on'



That sounds most exciting!

'Yes it is! And the instruments are lent free of charge to all the pupils, and so that could lead to some of them wanting to continue with music lessons.' Janet paused for a moment, and added, 'I really love going round to the schools to teach violin; I've been doing it for three years now!'

Congratulations! You look very happy. 'I am!'

IN TRAIN-ING

From Cathedral Choirman **PETER EASTHAM**

Chairman of the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, West Yorkshire



Hello John

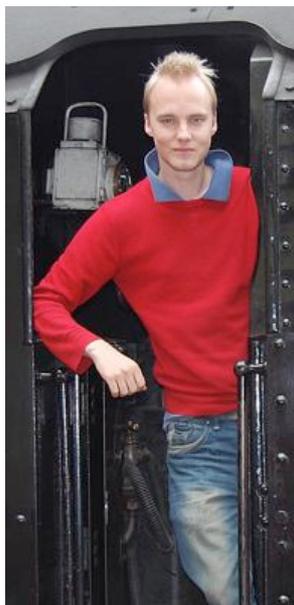
During their year at Blackburn Cathedral, the Choral Scholars enjoyed hospitality from the Gentlemen of the Choir at a variety of venues. One such was a day out on July 12th, on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway in W. Yorkshire, including footplate rides, hosted by yours truly.



Left:
Tim Ferguson
with
Peter
Eastham

Below:
Tim,
and Tom
Stockwell

Lunch was enjoyed in the White Lion Hotel in Haworth village - just across the cobbled street from the Parish Church where the Revd Patrick Brontë was once incumbent, and the Parsonage where his daughters, the Brontë Sisters, wrote many of their novels.



By coincidence, the service steam locomotive that day was the same

one which hauled the re-opening train in August 1968, when the closed branch line had been purchased from British Railways (a first!) with the intention of running steam trains. This happened in the same month that British Railways withdrew their last steam trains from service on the national network-locally at Preston.



The President of the Preservation Society in those far-off days was the renowned railway photographer, the late Rt. Revd. **Eric Treacy**, Lord Bishop of Wakefield, who was enthusiastic and fully supportive of the aims of this novel idea - not least in the House of Lords. Once shovelling coal into the firebox with great gusto, and becoming ever redder in the face, the locomotive crew was concerned that Bishop Eric might be over-doing it and they voiced their concern. His reply was, "If I die now I'll die happy - just put me in

the firebox!".

In fact "Eric", as he was known with great affection and respect by the volunteers, lived to enjoy retirement with his wife Mary in the Lake District, but he did eventually die on Appleby Station.

Yours truly was honoured to represent the Railway at his funeral in Keswick.



In Blackburn Cathedral Choir, in the late 1950s and early 60s, under Master of the Choristers, **Thomas L. Duerden**, Saturday morning boys' practice ran from 9.15 to 10.00 am. *[JB changed it to 8.30-9.30 so that the rest of the day would be freer.]* As soon as our practice ended a number of choirboys would race across the bus station to Blackburn Railway Station to watch the arrival and departure of the one

Manchester-Glasgow express of the day which was routed via Blackburn and the Settle-Carlisle line, and departed Blackburn at 10.19 am.



On one such Saturday morning in 1960, this group was invited by the Press to pose alongside one of the new diesel trains that were replacing the old steam trains on most of the routes out of Blackburn that weekend.

The photo was duly published in the local newspaper under a heading that read something to the effect that the group was "admiring one of Blackburn's new space-age trains"

Allowing for some journalistic licence, at the time we were all probably secretly thinking the contrary and considered the newcomers to be characterless metal boxes - an early lesson in not believing everything one reads in the Press - **Music and More** excepted!

Regards, **Pete**
Pete has been in the cathedral choir since 1958!

Congratulations on your long service with us, Pete, and upon your creative chairmanship of the K & W V Railway!

Our Virgers are Wonderful

Many of our cathedral congregation only see our Virgers on Sundays when they fulfil one of their responsibilities – that of leading clergy and others to and from their seats during services.

By the way, do you know why they are called 'Virgers'? Because they carry a virge. And what's a virge? A virge is a rod, (Latin virga = staff or rod), which has a weight on the end so that them what carries it can swipe anyone (and everyone) who gets in the way of the important person they're virging.

One must admit that this is a rare occurrence – especially in the meticulously well-ordered services in our cathedral – but one never knows!

But during weekdays (and sometimes on Sundays as well, in between services) our Virgers move chairs and erect staging for special services, concerts and meetings, and afterwards they restore the chairs, dismantle the staging, and generally clear up.

Compare these two photographs, taken within the space of a few days:



T
H
E
D
E
A
N
S
S
O
L
I
D
S
I
L
V
E
R
V
I
R
G
E



The first is of the packed cathedral for the **Last Night of the Proms** (photo by Andy Bruce when standing on a table – see our front cover)

were made for our cathedral way back in 1965 (46 years ago!) when the redecorated and restored Nave was rehallowed in the presence of **HRH Princess Margaret**.

CHOIR FUND-RAISING – by choirmum RACHEL FIELDING

The Choirs were approached by Blackburn with Darwen Council to see if we would like to run a stall to raise funds one Saturday in July - which we did!

Choir parents managed to run a cake stall and a book stall (feeding both stomachs and minds).

During the setting up my **William** and **Leo Fulwell** were interviewed live on **BBC Radio Lancashire**, with William reporting on the choristers' weekly commitments and on recent events in the choir. William then sang a brief extract from *Panis Angelicus* from memory (it's worth noting that he had no idea that any of this would happen!).



Parents involved on the stall were Amanda Snape (with Hannah & Chris), Kate & Daren Fulwell (with Oliver & Leo), Rachel Noblett (with Maddy) and myself (with William & Elizabeth). Many parents also contributed cakes and books.

We were very pleased to raise £180.62.

Well done, all!



Who'd like to contribute to the cost of having some chairs repaired?

Please see **Gail Stanley** or **Louise Hicks** in our Appeal Office.

Thanks.

Cathedral Appeal Office: 01254-50-30-90 ext 234

And continuing thanks to all our Virgers: **Mark, Jeffrey, Alex, and Brian Newton**, for their untiring work which makes our cathedral such a welcoming place for visitors as well for our regular worshippers.

From OC JOHN WILKINSON OBE

John Wilkinson is one of our most active former choristers in his retirement – doing an enormous amount of work in Uganda to benefit those who need help desperately – food, finance and especially education. He seems to have unbounded energy!

**1958 Peter G. Crowther
John C. Wilkinson**

Greetings John, from Old Chorister John Wilkinson in Winchester.

Life seems to have got even busier recently. 'Education Uganda' – the charity I founded here in Hampshire in 2006, is still going well, and I went out there for three weeks last October.

That was a tiring time as I visited 15 schools on evaluation and two teachers' colleges. Upon return, we decided to purchase another 90,000 slates and accompanying



chalk bringing the total to 100,000, giving 60% coverage of children in the schools in the Kasese District. (see web site "www.educationuganda.org") At Easter we sent out four teachers on exchange to partner schools. We now have over 20 twinned schools and four in full partnership.

We welcomed four Ugandan Teachers here in July, and I enclose a picture of them at an induction day with myself at Winchester University.



As a member of the Rotary Club of Winchester, I now chair the International Committee and have attracted the Ugandan High Commissioner to talk to us in February 2012. This is a very busy and successful Club.



I am also chairman of Winchester and District Christian Aid and we are currently planning a Cathedral service with Lorreta Minghella, the national president next June.

Educationally, I am a governor at our local primary school. I'm still singing with the Winchester Cathedral Old Choristers and also with the Winchester Festival Choirs. We performed Haydn's Creation with a choir of over 200 in the Cathedral back in June, and that was a great experience.

Our other news is that Myra has written a textbook on Medical Microbiology and that is due for publication in September.

I hope that you are keeping well and that your enthusiasm for music remains unbounded.

May the richness of God's blessing be with you. **John.**

*John – your energetic activities leave us breathless.
Well done and thank you, indeed. JB*

From OC Dr Simon Daniels

in NewcasslIntyne

I am sorry to hear of the death of **Fred Dewhurst**. Fred was my form master during my 2nd year at QEGS and I can still remember every line of the poem '*Mrs Reece laughs*' by Martin Armstrong because he made us learn it properly ... like they used to in the good old days!!

Hope you are well,

A posse of us are hoping to be at Whalley Abbey BCOCA Reunion this year, though once again the clash with the international athletics calendar means I will have to beat a hasty retreat to Geordie land for the **Great North Run** the next day ... (I am training hard and hoping for a 'PB' = Personal Best.)



Simon



**1978 Simon Daniels
William Heap
Anthony P. Murphy**

Here's the poem that Simon remembers!

Laughter, with us, is no great undertaking,
A sudden wave that breaks and dies in breaking.

Laughter with Mrs. Reece is much less simple:
It germinates, it spreads, dimple by dimple,
From small beginnings, things of easy girth,
To formidable redundancies of mirth.
Clusters of subterranean chuckles rise
And presently the circles of her eyes
Close into slits and all the woman heaves
As a great elm with all its mounds of leaves
Wallows before the storm. From hidden sources
A mustering of blind volcanic forces
Takes her and shakes her till she sobs and gapes.
Then all that load of bottled mirth escapes



In one wild crow, a lifting of huge hands,
And creaking stays, a visage that expands
In scarlet ridge and furrow. Thence collapse,
A hanging head, a feeble hand that flaps
An apron-end to stir an air and waft
A steaming face.
And Mrs. Reece has laughed.

From OC DAVID ROBINSON in Cheshire

Looking forward to joining everyone at the Reunion - singing at Whalley Abbey sounds fabulous. Voice will be a bit rusty. Left the choir at Northwich last September.



Since moving 15 miles further south, the journey has become rather tedious (20 miles to rehearsal and then some for concerts). Jan & I went to Bangor-on-Dee Races a couple of weeks ago for Ladies Day - something a bit different to do - and got **four winners out of seven races**. To top that, **Jan won third prize in Best Dressed contest** (Champagne lunch for two, courtesy of Debenhams, at a race meeting on September 29)!

I also had a flutter on the Grand National and **picked the winner** of that (horse from the McCain stable at Cholmondeley, three miles from here)!

Attached, pic taken at Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse: Jan in her outfit - (I am on the right!).

See you next month.

David

Congratulations, David, on backing so many winners! You've backed a winner with Jan, too!

1964 Peter Eastham
1965 R. Neil Fellows
Ian F. Harrison
David Robinson
1967 Derek Crompton
1968 Bernard Hargreaves



Former Choral Scholar TIM FERGUSON sang at the R.A.H. London Proms!

Tim enjoyed a great summer of singing (after having enjoyed a great year of singing with us at Blackburn). One of his summer highlights was singing with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain at a Prom Concert on BBCTV from the Royal Albert Hall, conducted by the world's most



inspiring conductor, **GUSTAVO DUDAMEL**.

And what a Prom it was: just one work – Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony* which calls for a vast orchestra – which includes timpanists galore (there were two **enormous**

gongs, as well as kettle drums as far as the eye could see), off-stage brass, superb soloists and committed choir.

Why committed? Because not only did the soloists sing from memory, but so did the choir; and Gustavo D. always conducts from memory. (That's one reason why he is so good – he makes eye contact with his musicians all the time, and lives the music with them – rather than just 'directing traffic' which so many other conductors seem to do.)

Tim was just seen, televised in the first shot of the choir, top left.



From Tim Ferguson

John,

Thank you so much for the photos of the Prom, you must have a keen eye! The concert was absolutely incredible - I have never been anywhere with an atmosphere like it.

As for Dudamel, it is clear to see how he has had such an astronomical rise to fame. He manages to combine his tremendous talent and knowledge with his fantastic charisma and character! I can honestly say I have never seen orchestral playing like it, either. It was music the way live music is supposed to be, on the edge! Such aggressive playing.

Like you, I have also recorded the Prom and I am sure I will watch it for many years to come. Thank you so much for your comments.



I very much appreciate all the experiences the Cathedral has given to me this year.

A personal thanks to you, John, for our conversations on such a broad range of musical topics and the pearls of wisdom which you have given me! I feel I have learned so much and I am now ready to throw myself into all forms of music-making at York.

Rest assured I will keep you updated on my projects!

Best wishes,

Tim

PS: We found out that Dudamel is known to his orchestra as "The Dude"!

It was a sensational Prom Concert, Tim. Well done for taking your creative part of it.

When Bishop John of Burnley...

...celebrated the 40th Anniversary of his Priesthood at a special service in the magnificent Church of Holy Trinity, Tarleton, he told us of the strong influence his parents had on his vocation.

His father was a priest. One day his father came home in the pouring rain and was greeted by his wife. 'Why aren't you wearing a mackintosh – or shoes?' she asked. He replied, 'Because I met a man who didn't have either!'



Peterborough Cathedral RSCM Course 2011

Drawing of the cathedral by William Fielding



Choir Prefect **William Fielding** enjoyed the opportunity to sing in the ENORMOUS Peterborough Cathedral for a whole week in the summer – as a member of the course organized by the Royal School of Church Music. It was directed by **Malcolm Archer**, former Director of Music of St. Paul's Cathedral, and now DoM of the Winchester College Quiristers; a celebrated choir which was founded 600 years ago!

Malcolm grew up on the Fylde coast and when he was a teenager in the 1970s JB invited him to give a couple of lunchtime organ recitals at our cathedral. He was very talented then and his talents have steadily increased, for he is recognized as an international composer of church music.

William wrote:

I had been looking forward to attending the RSCM course in Peterborough since Mr Tanner had recommended me to attend before he left Blackburn.



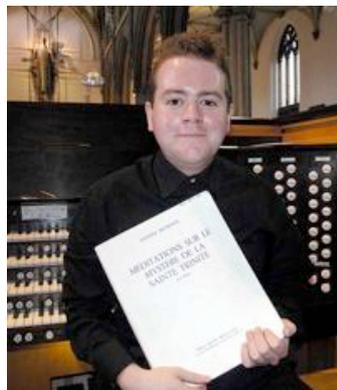
On the first day of the course I was excited yet apprehensive. On arrival at the Peterborough School (where we were to board) we were met by Mr. Roberts, who was the boys' vocal trainer and mentor. Our first rehearsal was very strange as I was singing with boys whom I had only just met and never sung with before (except a couple of trebles from Broughton who had attended an RSCM service in Blackburn Cathedral).

On first meeting **Mr. Archer**, at the small Chapel in the Peterborough school where we were to rehearse, I was unsure to what to expect, but once I got to

know him I found him to be a fabulous chap and amazing conductor.

At our first rehearsal we also met **David Bednall** who was to play the organ for us, he mentioned that he had played at Blackburn and commented that we had a wonderful organ!

Mr. Archer's singing voice was unbelievably high - higher than my (alto) dad's! Mr. Archer could reach a top 'B'. At one rehearsal he sang a top B for us and all the boys gave him a round of applause! Although I was the only Cathedral treble, there were two young men from Llandaff Cathedral.



On entering the Cathedral on the Tuesday for Evensong I was immensely proud to be singing as a chorister, and we, the choir made an

unusual sight with us all in different coloured cassocks!

SCHEDULE

A typical day comprised:-

8.15am	Breakfast
9.00-10.30	Sectional rehearsals (school chapel)
10.30	Break
11.00-12.30	Full practice (school chapel)
1.00	Lunch
2.00-3.30	Free time
3.30	Walk to the Cathedral (about a mile)
4.00	Full rehearsal (in choir stalls)
5.30	Choral Evensong
6.45	Evening meal
7.30-8.30	Full rehearsal
9.30	Lights out

On Friday I was given the opportunity to play the Cathedral organ and I improvised, which was one of the most thrilling moments of my life. It was very loud and rang around and around that enormous building in a most exciting way.



PUNCTUALITY!

On Sunday morning we lined up at 10:28 for the processional hymn for we were to sing in the Nave, (all our other services were in the Quire). I was impressed that we arrived in the Nave stalls at exactly 10.30 and surprised to see that the enormous Nave was almost completely full with congregation!



William can just be seen immediately to the right of Malcolm Archer's shoulder

We sang music by many different composers: Sumson, Batten, MacMillan, Gibbons, Victoria, Brahms and many others.

I was very proud to be asked to sing the treble solo in Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* at Evensong on Sunday and I enjoyed it tremendously. I also enjoyed singing Mr. Archer's setting of the Mass, *Missa Montis Regalis* on the Sunday morning and hope that Mr. Hudson will do it at Blackburn!

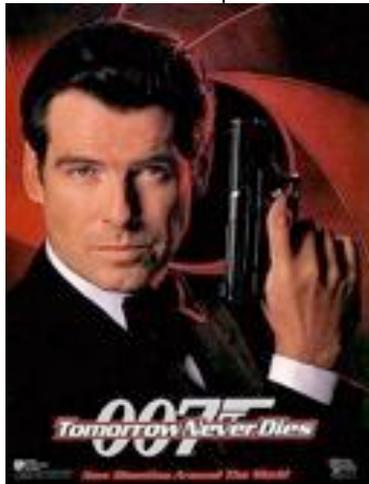
The opportunity to be able to sing in such an amazing Cathedral was one that I'll never forget and thank everyone who has contributed to the experience in any way. I will treasure the memory for the rest of my life.

William's Treble Tutor wrote of him: William has had an excellent course and his musicality and leadership have been outstanding – a natural choice for solos.

Well done, William!

Our 4th Residentiary Canon The Rev Dr Shannon Ledbetter

The Rev Dr Shannon Ledbetter has been appointed as a Residentiary Canon at the Cathedral, working alongside Anjum Anwar in the Cathedral's world-renowned *ExChange* programme, and she will also be Chaplain to Blackburn College.



Our newly appointed Community Canon was once a **James Bond** girl and appeared with Pierce Brosnan wearing a £250,000 PVC dress in the film *Tomorrow Never Dies*.

She was first spotted by a model scout as she was waiting for a bus in London aged 21 and she began to adorn the covers of magazines like *Just 17* and *Good Housekeeping*.

But it was the chance to appear in the Bond film *Tomorrow Never Dies* in 1997 which she remembers most fondly.

"A costume director friend who knew about my background called me and said she had this particular outfit to wear. It turned out to be the PVC dress worth a small fortune. It was certainly a high point for me, exciting and fun. I got quite lucky. The director put me in position for one of the shots and you actually got to see me for a few seconds in the film. All my modelling friends in the 1980s knew I was interested in the church and the joke was that I was part of the God Squad."

PVC dress worth a small fortune. It was certainly a high point for me, exciting and fun. I got quite lucky. The director put me in position for one of the shots and you actually got to see me for a few seconds in the film. All my modelling friends in the 1980s knew I was interested in the church and the joke was that I was part of the God Squad."



Although she enjoyed the experience, Shannon says she was glad to escape what she admits can be a shallow industry. But she hasn't lost everything from those days. Her current telephone number contains the numbers 007!

After leaving modelling she studied theology at the Virginia Seminary in the United States, and at Liverpool where she completed her PhD.

She was ordained in Liverpool in 2003 and was associate priest at a church in West Derby.

Shannon said: "I am delighted to be coming to Blackburn for what will be an exciting and challenging role."

Canon Andrew Hindley said:

"Shannon brings huge experience and a big vision for the already pioneering work being done by both the college and the cathedral in the field of community cohesion in an area where cultures and religions are very diverse."

Ian Clinton,
Principal of
Blackburn
College, said:



"We are delighted by the appointment and see it as extremely important that the Cathedral and Blackburn College work together to enrich the lives of young people."

This post is funded by Blackburn Cathedral Trust in partnership with the Arthur Rank Foundation and Blackburn College.

From OC David Tattersall in NZ

1979 David Tattersall
Iain Thompson

Hi John,

I hope that this finds you well and looking forward to the Old Choristers' Reunion. I have many happy memories of the Old Choristers feeding OC Andrew Shuttleworth and me beer at Whalley Abbey! Unfortunately I am too tied up with my small farm here in New Zealand to make it, but I wish you all another very enjoyable weekend.

Please pass on my warmest regards to everyone, especially to **Bryan Lamb**, and also to my former contemporaries in the Youth Choir. Seems a bit ironic though talking about the YPC in the same week that my baby turned 18!!! Oh how time flies.

If any OCs are coming down here for the Rugby World Cup then they will be made most welcome and can stay with us in Napier and see the wonderful Hawkes Bay - the fruit bowl of New Zealand (ask former Choirman **Betty Parkinson** - she'll fill you in!)

Take good care of yourself John and enjoy the weekend. I will look forward to reading all about it and seeing the wonderful photographs in the next Newsletter.

David Tattersall
David was an outstanding Head Chorister over 30 years ago – and he eventually became a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy. We're very proud of him.



It was very good...

... to meet **Margaret Eccleston** at a recent Mellor Show in the village hall. She married OC **Norman Eccleston** many years ago – Norman was a most faithful treble and then bass in the cathedral choir with **TLD**. And in JB's early years here he became headmaster of Mill Hill School and, with several other faithful TLD Old Choristers, we founded the Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association (**BCOCA**) – that was 46 years ago!

This photo was taken at our first Reunion in 1965



L-R: **Norman Eccleston**, **Frank Hewitt** who was the long-time Secretary of the National FCOCA, **Provost Norman Robinson**, **TLD**, **Bishop Charles Claxton**, **JB**, **Peter Heald** and ?

Norman and Margaret had two children: **Andrew** is now a Wing Commander in the RAF, and daughter **Janet** lives in Mellor. And Margaret has three grandchildren.

How very proud Norman would be of them all!

From former brilliant Assistant Organist

(all our Assistant Organists are brilliant, but some are even more brilliant than others)

DAVID GOODENOUGH,

now Director of Music at
Fettes College, Edinbrrr

Dear John,

I do hope you're well. It's been a while since I've been in touch, so I thought I'd give you a quick update on life in Edinburgh.

Life trundles on at Fettes and the place remains the reason that I get up in the mornings. I'm just back from a week-long tour of Italy with the Chapel Choir. We began in Perugia (with its almost Blackburn-esque cathedral acoustics!) and worked our way north, ending by singing for High Mass in **St. Mark's Basilica** in Venice.



Singing music by Antonio Lotti [1667-1740] in the building for which it was written was a truly uplifting experience. The choir has just released its latest CD, which is selling remarkably well, I must say, and we're thrilled with the way it sounds.

Since I was last in touch, I've taken on an additional responsibility as Organist and Director of Music at **St. Cuthbert's Church**, slap-bang in the middle of Edinburgh city centre.



The building is immense (seating 1000 comfortably) and it also has a fabulous 93-stop, four manual Walker organ which was rebuilt as recently as the late '90s. It's an absolute joy to play and it

has almost made me want to start practising again! It also sits right at the west end of Princes Street gardens and its massive bulk dominates that part of the city centre.

We have just finished a series of recitals during the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** and, with five ever so talented



friends, together we presented the complete Organ Symphonies of Louis Vierne on six consecutive evenings. I kicked things off with the 1st Symphony followed by **Robert Costin**, [*Robert is another former Blackburn Assistant Organist – now Director of Music of Ardingly College, Sussex*], **Chris Nickol**, [*from the highly musical New Kilpatrick Church, Glasgow*], **Nick Wearne** [*organist of Fettes, and sub organist of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh*] and **Simon Nieminski**, [*organist of Edinburgh Metropolitan Cathedral*] and I was delighted when **James Lancelot** agreed to come from **Durham Cathedral** to bring the series to a close with Symphony No. 6.

It was extremely good to see and hear **Robert Costin** play again; He came up to Edinburgh from Sussex and made a cracking good job of the 2nd Symphony for us. We sat putting the world to rights for many hours into the night after his performance, which was great.

In December, I'm looking forward to hearing **Richard Tanner** play *La Nativité* here for us.



The Vierne Team, minus Robert Costin (who had already disappeared off to Spain when this was taken!) following James Lancelot's Vierne Six.

L-R: Chris Nickol, Simon Nieminski, DG, James L, Nick Wearne

I've recently returned from Chester Cathedral, where I have been playing for the recent RSCM adults' summer course, which was being directed by **Matthew Owens** from Wells Cathedral. It's always such a privilege to be asked to do that particular course, so it was great to be asked again this year.



On the Saturday, I bumped into Bbn Old Chorister **Gordon Fielding** in Chester Cathedral Song School (he'd arrived to sing for a wedding), so it was nice to catch up with him, albeit it fairly briefly.

Term's about to kick off again so, once September begins, that will be that until I come up for air at Christmas. Much of my October half term will be spent working in Asia, where I hope to meet up with former Blackburn choirmen **Nigel Speak**, if our schedules will permit it.

Claire, James and Ellie all send their love,
Take care,
David



PS: By the way, I recently played the organ for the **Royal Wedding** (**Zara Philips and Mike Tindall - in front of the entire Royal Family!**) at the Canongate Kirk; and I'm playing a recital in St John the Divine Cathedral, New York, on April 22nd next year (for anyone who happens to find themselves there)!

Wow, David! What fabulous music you are making and creating. What it is to have so much talent AND energy!

I love your 'PS' after-thought. Heartiest congratulations. JB

Before arriving in Blackburn our new Director of Music SAMUEL HUDSON made much music over the summer



My musical journey over the summer began just two days after the end of school term, with a 5-day trip to Prague with my students and colleagues from Haileybury School where I was College Organist. It may have been only 5 days, but they were certainly all long ones! Upon landing at Prague airport (having left school in a coach at 4.30am!) we were driven to our hotel, and within an hour or so were on a walking tour of Prague, even climbing the many, many steps up to the dazzling **St Vitus Cathedral** (and of course down again a little later).



Over the next few days (all of which saw quite fantastic weather), we performed in various venues in and out of Prague, among the best of which were the wonderful **St. Nicholas Church in Prague's Old Square**, and the Colonnades (yes – outdoors!) at

Karlovy Vary, an enchanting spa town an hour or so from the capital.

The repertoire on the tour was wide-ranging – we took the school chamber choir and a jazz band (with all the necessary equipment, some of which wasn't light to carry!), and several of the older students performed some very impressive solo items as well. As for me, I was the accompanist for the choral items (both sacred and secular) and some of the solos, and over all, the concerts were a great success. It was an action-packed few days, but always a joy to visit Prague, which has to be one of my favourite European cities.

But all of this was just a warm-up for the 'main event' of the summer (excluding a move to Blackburn, of course!). One week after arriving back in the UK from Prague, I began a 10-day tour with the choir of **Girton College, Cambridge** – a group I have directed for the last year.



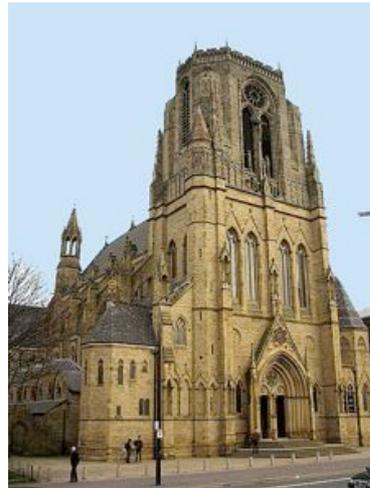
I had been working on this tour for most of the year, and was responsible for the

entire itinerary, from booking all of the concert venues to dealing with the various travel and accommodation requirements. So, if anything were to go wrong, it was to be my fault!

Well, I'm glad to say it all went wonderfully to plan, and a great time was had by all (and that includes two Blackburn Choral scholars from last year – **Dave Young and Tim Ferguson** – who came to deputise for two of my singers!).



We all met in Cambridge and gave our opening concert in Girton Parish Church (the church nearest to our own College Chapel), then the next day saw us travel to



Manchester for a weekend. We performed in Christ Church, Didsbury, Manchester Cathedral, and **the Church of the Holy Name in Manchester** – (opposite the Royal Northern College of Music) – where we received a standing ovation after a short recital which followed Sunday Mass. And then were soon on our way to our main

destination – **France!**

We were based in Angers for 4 days, during which we gave concerts in a range of venues in the area, all of which I'm glad to say were extremely well attended (well, except one!), culminating in a concert in **Nantes Cathedral**. This really was quite fantastic – such a vast building, and surely one of the finest acoustics we had the pleasure of performing in. The final few days saw a brief stay in Paris, finishing the tour off with a Mass at St Sulpice (another thrilling building to sing in!) before catching our Eurostar home.



The programme I had chosen for the tour was entitled '**Sacred Europe**', and was designed to offer a cross-section of sacred choral music from across the continent and across the ages. The exact programme was slightly different every night to give us a little variety, and ranged from 'When David heard' by English Thomas Tomkins to 'Totus tuus' by Polish composer **Henryk**



Mikołaj Górecki (1933-2010). The main repertoire item

was the sublime 'Cantus-Missae' by German composer Josef Rheinberger. This most beautiful of mass settings is for 8-part choir a cappella, and demonstrates Rheinberger's masterful harmonic sense. It really is a wonderful piece – an ultimate fusion of music and text. I daresay it might make an appearance on a music list at Blackburn sometime! I certainly hope so.

Our Eurostar drew into St Pancras in London at 18:59 on Sunday 31st July. **Rebecca and I** (and our cat Sir Alan, of course!) moved out of our house at Haileybury on the morning of the 2nd August. Suffice it to say my input to packing up the house was, unfortunately, negligible!

Samuel Hudson

**WELCOME,
SAMUEL & REBECCA,
and, of course,
Sir Alan!**



**We made it Coast to Coast
and raised over £1,200 for Cancer Research UK!**



We'd welcome even more donations for this most worthy cause, please:

Donations to:
Peter Crewe,
64 Holden Road, Brierfield, BB9 5PR.
THANKS SO MUCH!

Renaissance Singer's Wedding

Colin George McManus and Eleanor (Ellie) Catherine Smith (*Renaissance Singer*) were married by **Canon Hindley** during a Nuptial Mass at Blackburn Cathedral on Friday 5th August which resounded with joyous music:

Clarke, Durufle, Mozart, Haydn's *Little Organ Mass* and Parry's *U No What*,

sung by some of Ellie's friends and colleagues in the Renaissance Singers, conducted by our **James Davy**, who had arranged the last verse of *Blaenwern* for trumpet, organ and choir for Ellie and Colin.

The distinguished organist was our former DoM, **Richard Tanner**. And **Pippa Hyde** rejoiced all hearts by her sparkling performance of *Let the Bright Seraphim*.



Former Chorister **Sarah Chew** sang during an informal reception in the South Transept, and later, after the main reception in the Dunkenhalth, there was a joyful and energetic Ceilidh, led by former choir parent **Peter Crewe's** Ceilidh Band.

This was a wedding ever to be remembered with joy by all who were privileged to be there!

The Cathedral Music Staff were working hard in September to ensure a great beginning to our new season



With Canon Hindley are L-R: Organ Scholar Benedict Todd, Asst. DoM James Davy and DoM Samuel Hudson

CYCLING COAST to COAST for CANCER

Gin Crewe (Renaissance Singer and former choir parent of 3 choristers) and four of her healthy friends wanted to raise money for Cancer Research UK – so they decided to cycle from Coast to Coast in August, from Workington to Tynemouth, and to invite sponsors to sponsor them (for that is what sponsors do – they sponsor!)

Gin writes: We set off from Workington in Cumbria last Saturday, 20th August, 2011 at 11:30, cycling up and down the hills of the Lake District and the Pennines, reaching Tynemouth at 4 o'clock four days later.



*Back: Val Standage, Gin Crewe, Margaret Cannon, Graham Cannon
Front: Phil Standage, Peter Crewe*



Husband Peter provided the much appreciated back-up, driving the vehicle carrying our luggage and finding the all-important lunch stops!

We were blessed with perfect weather; no rain, pleasantly cool and occasionally quite sunny, so we were able to appreciate the stunning views. We all enjoy cycling, but had never done anything like this before, so we are all very proud of our achievement in cycling nearly 140 miles.

We say a big THANK YOU to family and friends who have been so generous in sponsoring us.

Welcome Party for Samuel & Rebecca Hudson and for Organ Scholar Benedict Todd

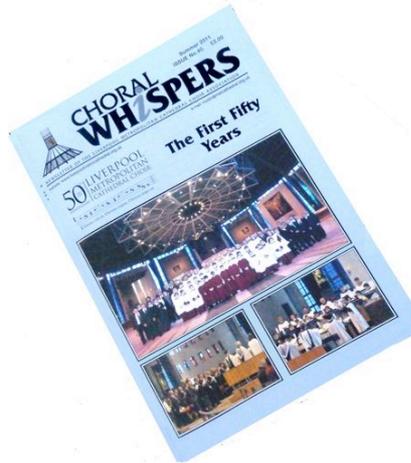
Dave & Alizon Elliott threw open their lovely home in Darwen in early September so that the Renaissance Singers could welcome our new Director of Music and his lovely wife, and also our new Organ Scholar to Blackburn. Your peripatetic photographer (who happened to have founded the Singers 47 years ago) was there to record this most happy event.



And then it was time to eat!
It was indeed a most happy evening – and it didn't rain!
Thank you, Dave & Alizon.

We congratulate Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral for producing yet another stunning edition of their CHORAL WHISPERS

...a 36-page full colour choir magazine which celebrates the founding of their fine cathedral choir exactly 50 years ago. It costs £2. *Previous editions cost only £1 !*



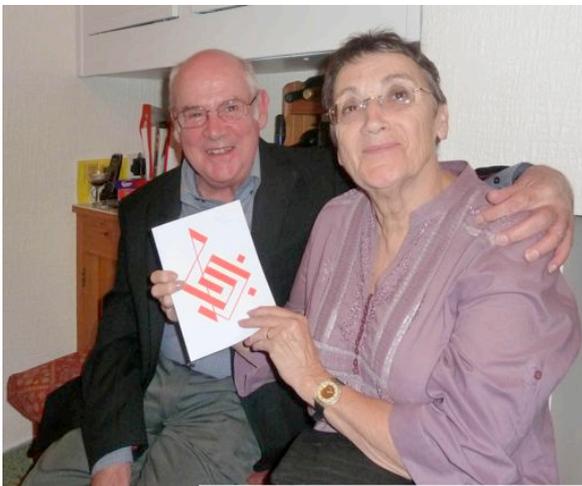
It is filled with reminiscences of past and present choristers – some of whom have developed professional musical careers.

We rejoice that **Terry Duffy**, their first choirmaster and more recently their Director of Music, was honoured by the award of an honorary Fellowship of the Royal School of Church Music. This is richly deserved.

Terry was (and still is) a great friend of Blackburn Cathedral. He was our guest when **FLOR PEETERS**, the distinguished Flemish composer and organist, gave one of the opening recitals on our new organ in 1970. *(NB the date on the photo of in the Song School is a year out!)*



L-R: Flor Peeters, Bert Collop (Managing Director of Walker Organs), Dots Bertalot (Choir Mother), Terry Duffy and JB in JB's studio in St. Mary's House.



The occasion was made doubly joyful, for Renaissance Singer (and Cathedral Old Chorister) **Tony Robison** was there with his wife **Margaret**: they'd recently celebrated their Golden Wedding so we all signed a card with the Singers' Logo emblazoned on

the front.

Malcolm Berry entertained **Rebecca Hudson** with a fund of happy reminiscences.



And **Benedict Todd** (fresh from his graduate studies at Bristol University) avoided talking shop with **Samuel Hudson**.

A truly remarkable morning

Perhaps the most famous man who had served in the Falklands War came to address us one morning in September, in company with other distinguished guests, who spoke about Disability & Hate crimes, and about being 'different'. This most memorable event was organized by **exChange** in partnership with **Woman's Voice**.

The Cathedral was packed to hear **Simon Weston**. The audience included 150 students from Beardwood Humanities College & Blackburn College, and people in wheel chairs, people with crutches, and there was also a blind person with her guide dog.



SIMON WESTON, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, was on the Landing Ship Logistic *Sir Galahad* which was anchored off Fitzroy in the Falklands. The ship was waiting to transfer men and equipment ashore when it was attacked by Argentinean Skyhawk planes. Fierce fires were started on *Sir Galahad*. 49 servicemen were killed, including 39 Welsh Guards, and 115 wounded, many with terrible burns.



Simon Weston before and after he was burnt

Simon Weston himself suffered more than 40 per cent burns to his face and body, and later underwent many excruciating operations to restore his body to something like normal. His courage in going through those horrifying experiences, and his new mission to address meetings and to 'do something' to help others who have experienced traumas, have earned him a well-deserved OBE and untold admiration from all who have heard him.

This event, *Disability and Hate Crime*, was the 2nd of its kind. Last year, the conference looked at Sophie Lancaster's story: how people looking different can be targets of hate crime. Sophie's Mother was among those present.



But before Mr Weston spoke to us, the team was introduced by **Anjum Anwar MBE**.



L-R The Dean, Mrs Sylvia Lancaster (whose daughter had been a victim of a hate crime from which she had died), Simon Weston OBE, Ruby Hussain, Chief Superintendent Robert J. Eastwood, and Anjum Anwar MBE.

Each speaker outlined what they would be saying in their workshops which followed Simon Weston's address. We knew that we were in for a very special morning.

Then Simon Weston spoke to us for about 40 minutes – without a single hesitation or 'er...'. His talk was not only a *tour de force* but also what he said was wholly riveting.

We all listened to every word in utter silence.



And there were many memorable 'one-liners' in his speech:

The effects of conflict last for ever.

It doesn't take bad people to make war; it takes good people who do nothing.

We have lost more men since the Falklands war than those who died during it. 255 died fighting; 3,300 have died since.

People choose to ignore our disabilities instead of doing something to help. If we don't do it, then no-one will.

If you don't stand up when others are persecuted, you're as bad as the people who persecute those who are 'different'.

Too many people say, 'It's nothing to do with me – I don't want to get involved.'

We are all here to make a difference in this world. It wasn't governments that brought down the Berlin Wall, it was people.

We are all different –
that's what helps to build the rich tapestry of life.

There's only one person who can make a difference
in my life, and that is me!

Until you can love yourself wholly
you cannot begin to love others.

Enjoy who you are,
for you have to live with yourself
for the rest of your life.

If you don't do anything, it'll be your turn next;
that I can guarantee.

Together we can achieve anything.

May this day inspire you to begin to make a difference.
Make your voices heard!

Long and loud was the applause which greeted Simon Weston's speech. We were all aware that we were in the presence of an extraordinary man who has triumphed over seemingly impossible odds so that he himself can 'make a difference'.



We then broke up into a number of workshops which were strategically placed around the cathedral



Simon Weston went to the crypt where he did a brisk trade in selling his two books. Everyone wanted to be photographed with him.

Disability Lib
Listen Include Build
Supporting disabled people's organisations to achieve their goals
www.disabilitylib.org.uk
Tel: 0844 800 4331
Mob: 07967 185 752

There were workshops on Disability, Hate Crime, Learning Disabilities, and so much more,

The Workshop on **Hate Crime** in the Jesus Chapel was full.



The students from Beardwood were given a lecture in the Crypt about **Orphans and Disability**, by a representative of Orphans in Need.



The whole morning was recorded by Channel 4 News to be broadcast two days later.



And at the end of the morning we all gathered in the Nave again where a cheque was presented to Maddie Allen's Mother by volunteers from Woman's Voice.

Maddie suffers from an aggressive form of childhood cancer, and unless £250,000 can be raised now, she will soon die.



Maddie suffers from an aggressive form of childhood cancer, and unless £250,000 can be raised now, she will soon die.

Kyrie eleison.

We are most grateful to the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

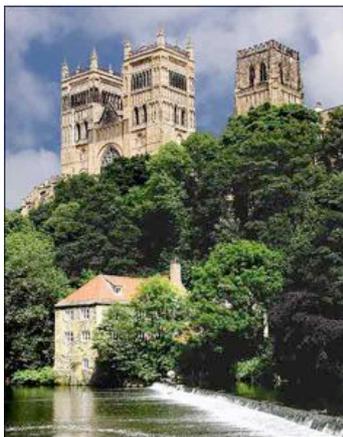


for their financial support of **Music & More**
Thank you!

Durham Friends visit Blackburn

by Jeremy Duerden

On Saturday 10th September, a party of some 30 Friends of Durham Cathedral paid a visit to Blackburn and enjoyed our renowned hospitality. The Friends of Durham Cathedral were established in 1933 to support the then Dean and Chapter in caring for their cathedral, their historic library, their idyllic riverbanks and their magnificent organ. Since then its remit has widened considerably. It now includes the whole of the precincts, cathedral furnishings, education, and much more.



Their visit to us started with a trip round Whalley Abbey under the guidance of one of the 'monks' there and then a tour of Whalley Parish Church. All spoke very enthusiastically about the experience.

Their next stop was the Cathedral Crypt for lunch expertly prepared by **Paul Flowers**, and carefully served by his staff, followed by a guided tour of the Cathedral and its treasures led by **Canon Andrew Hindley**. Again the visitors were full of praise for the food and information provided.

Members of six of the Cathedral's nine choirs then combined to sing Evensong, which with the high standard displayed by all choir members coupled with fine music and the wonderful acoustic of the Cathedral, provided a fitting serene interlude in a very busy day.

I LOVE CHOIR



Thereafter the Blackburn Friends provided cakes with tea in the Crypt where the Chairman was delighted to present to Durham's Chairman, **Dr. Bill Apedaile**, a replica and photograph of the Pax, the symbol of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral in exchange for which, as well as thanks for an excellent day out, an invitation was extended to the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral to make a return visit to Durham. If this can be arranged for 2012, full details will be circulated to all Friends.



Already plans are already in train for the YPC to visit later in the year and for members of the Renaissance Singers to visit next year during the summer holiday period. Such visits can only enhance the work of the Cathedral, and reinforce the bond between the old, Durham, and the new, Blackburn.



It's always sad to say Farewell to a faithful chorister,

but our sadness is turned into joy and thankfulness when we realize how much that chorister has given to our cathedral in her years of dedicated service and outstanding talent.

Such was the case when the Dean bade Farewell to Head Chorister ALISON HOLMES, daughter of an equally dedicated former cathedral Head Chorister. Alison was one of the very first girls to join our new Girls' Choir and her leadership and musicianship have been exceptional.



Alison has won a place at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff, (just around the corner where JB's grandparents lived in Cathedral Rd!) where she will join two other former Blackburn choristers – Sarah Chew and Josh Abbott.



At the same service in September the Dean promoted LAURA SLATER to be Head Chorister. Laura also wears the **Dame Mary Tanner** medallion as the longest-serving girl chorister.



And JESSICA STUDHOLME was created choir Prefect.

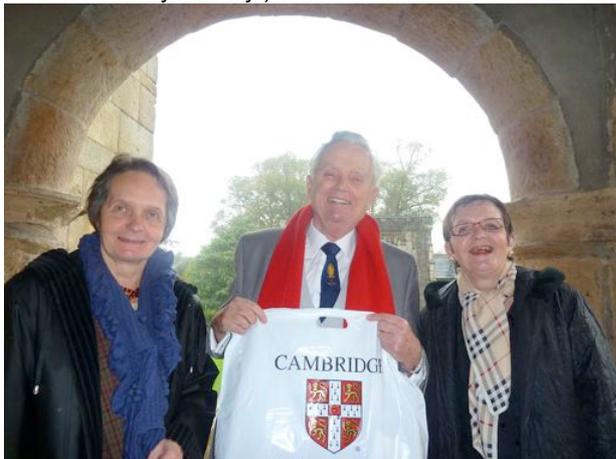
Well done all – and thank you

'It was one of the best Reunions ever!'

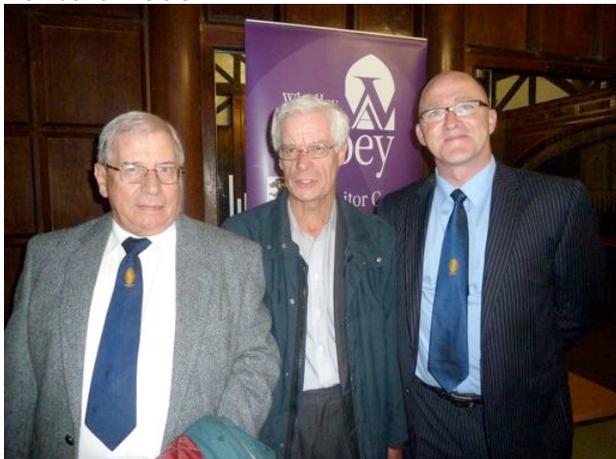
So said many of the Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers who braved the pouring rain to attend our 46th Annual Reunion which began at Whalley Abbey. They had come from all corners of the UK, from the USA and even from Australia!



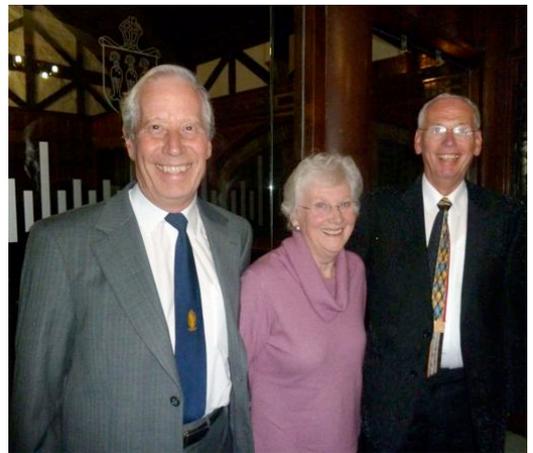
Eric Bancroft from Mellor and **Ernie Gorner** from Settle greeted Chaplain **Ian Hollin** as he arrived with his cardinal-coloured umbrella. On the right were Dr **Simon Daniels** from Newcastle on't Tyne (he'd be rushing off after the annual dinner to take part in the Great North Run on Sunday a.m. – he's very healthy!) and **Allan Holden** from Horwich.



Twins **Dorothy Wade** from Preston and **Constance Heald** from Ely greeted JB with presents to help him celebrate his 80th birthday! Dorothy and Constance were founder members of the (renamed) Renaissance Singers, as was our late and very lamented **Peter Heald** who was also a founder member of BCOCA.



They were quickly followed by brothers **Peter and Paul Fielding**, and BCOCA Chairman **Stewart Hopkinson**, who all seemed fairly dry.



Gordon and Sheila Fielding from Knutsford looked almost sunny standing alongside **David Smalley**.



On the other hand **Nigel Chew** had come fully prepared to sing our Choral Evensong in the pouring rain – but BCOCA Secretary **Sue Hopkinson** looked efficiently prepared for anything.



It was a particular joy to welcome (R) **Edward Denham** from Wales (notice the daffodil), who arrived with BCOCA Treasurer **John Marr**.

Ted, who is on call 24 hours a day as an emergency medical technician, said that one of his calls was to someone who had had a heart attack. Ted noticed that there were pictures of cathedrals on the walls of his house – and it turned out that the patient was our former Virger **Edward Keen**. Happily he recovered!

Edward Keen is a Keen reader of **Music & More**. Greetings, Edward!



Next to arrive were **Dean David & Liz Frayne**, all the way from Dorset. David was celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Priesthood by being with us that weekend and by celebrating and preaching at the Cathedral the next day. Neither of them has changed a hair since their retirement - they are truly fun people and most inspiring.



Incoming Senior Old Chorister **William Heap** from the Isle of Person could be seen at a distance as he arrived through the rain.

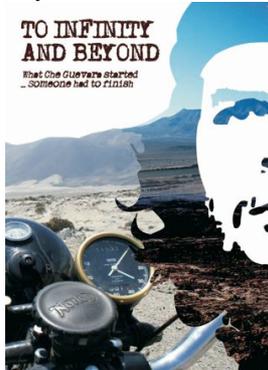


Next to arrive fully brolied were **Ralph and Jackie Robinson** who had, as ever, crossed the dangerous border from Yorkshire to be with us.

Steve Holmes followed, unbrollied but macked.

Steve had recently published his gripping account of riding his Norton 500 Motorcycle 5,000 miles with a friend in South America. It is un-put-down-able, and that's not only the opinion of your editor but also of

countless others, because **To Infinity and Beyond** has also been translated into French and Italian,

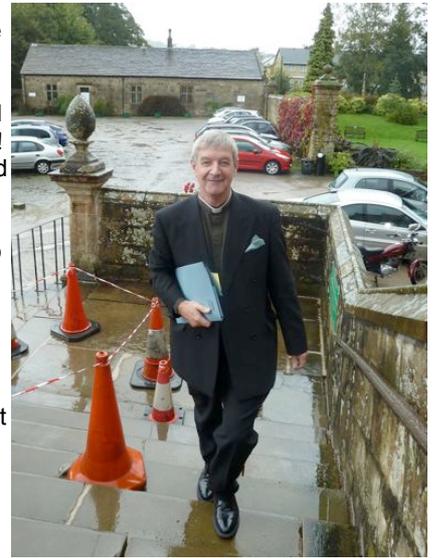


and it's **Number 1 in Amazon's Adventure charts**. Wow! (See p.7)



On Steve's heels came the Dean, unbrollied, unmacked, and wet but smiling! It was very good to welcome **Dean**

Christopher to the start of our Reunion for he had a full afternoon and evening of engagements at the Cathedral. His presence with us was greatly appreciated.



Two generations of Old Choristers were represented by **Mark Molyneux** - who is an OC of Durham Cathedral, but moved to Blackburn half a dozen years ago to join Greg Morris's YPC, and Churchwarden **Philip Carr** who is a JB OC.



John Highton, who is a TLD Old Chorister and most faithful Rotarian, arrived with weather gear which seemed more than adequate for the rainiest rain. He lives in Whalley!

Bob & John Keen, a most faithful father-and-son team (both of JB vintage) looked fit and ready for anything.



They had travelled from Wilmslow and Nottingham, respectively.

(John recently celebrated his 40th birthday. Ah, what it is to be young!)

Coming all the way from Cambridgeshire *in a taxi* was OC **Bryan Lamb**. He was asked to smile for the photograph, but didn't quite make it. Bryan is another Octogenarian and so we especially appreciated the efforts he had taken to be with us. (He would return home the next day by train - changing three times!)

The following week Bryan wrote a super letter of thanks:

Dear John

Thank you for everything you did to make the Reunion so successful. Sorry I wasn't able to sing. Too much strain had been put on the vocal cords chatting up the driver during the three-hour journey!

Although I don't know many of the younger members now, it was truly rewarding to be with my own contemporaries yet again.

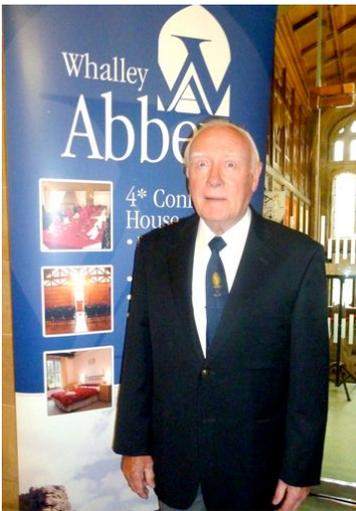
Peter, Gordon, Ralph, Allan

and I have now been friends for around 70 years, which I think is pretty amazing. And mostly due to the Association you founded. We have a great deal to thank you for.

Hope all is well. Must get on with the ironing!

Thanks again for everything.

Ever,
Bryan



A delicious light lunch was served, and conversation flourished.



But an extra table had to be laid as more folk seemed to have turned up than had booked. The Abbey staff were terrific and took it all in their stride.



Lean and hungry looks were quickly satisfied. (For happier photos of **Peter Fielding** from Ramsbottom and **David Robinson** from Cheshire - both of whom had booked - see pp 29 & 19 !)

It was a special joy to welcome (L) **Iain Thompson** from Cheshire and **Tony Murphy** from New Jersey, USA (!), for both were outstanding prefects during JB's time and he had taken them, on separate occasions, to choir courses which he directed in Canada and the USA.



Iain is Group Interface and Energy Coordinator for Shell Chemicals at Ellesmere Port and also Chairman of the Vale Royal Singers – a choir of some 24 voices, who are preparing Rutter's *Requiem*, and Carter's *Benedicite* (which was also performed at our **Last Night**, see p. 12).

Tony had made the journey across the Pond especially to be with us for that memorable weekend. Thanks for such outstanding dedication to us all cannot adequately be put into words.



Tony's wife, Liz used to illustrate books but she is now into interior design, and they have two sons – Oliver (16) whom Tony takes into Princeton once a week to play soccer, and Jack (14) who plays the guitar and wants to become an architect.



Tony was at Cadbury's, but since they were taken over, he's now 'Human Resources' at Kraft's!



One Old Chorister (was it Allan Holden or Ralph Robinson?) showed JB a photo taken at our 1970 Reunion at Whalley Abbey – 41 years ago!

Standing: John Wilkinson, Ralph Robinson,?, Peter Fielding, Bryan Lamb, Allan Holden, Stanley Hitchen (our first SOC in 1969), Bert Brown, JB, Fred Dewhurst and Canon Geoffrey Williams.

Squatting: Norman Eccleston Founder Secretary, Young Derek Crompton and new Assistant Organist Ronald Frost. *Wow!*

Then came our Annual Meeting, chaired by the Dean.



The Dean is very good at chairing meetings. (The Dean is very good at being a Dean!) Apologies for absence were received especially from OC **Alec Stuttard** who was unwell, and apologies also from as far away as California.

There was a lot of business to get through – our distinguished outgoing Senior Old Chorister, **Phil Wilson**, spoke about his year of office – he had added great dignity to being SOC – whenever he was present at a chorister's Valediction one always felt that this was an important occasion for everyone. He was, incidentally, JB's very first Head Chorister in 1964!

But the business which needed a lot of discussion concerned the revision of the rules of BCOCA and, because we were already 15 minutes over time, it was agreed that this should be delegated to the committee who would report back.



The new committee (apart from the officers who were all re-elected) is **Mark Molyneux, Eric Bancroft, Nigel Chew, Steve Holmes and Allan Holden**. And our new SOC is **William Heap** from the Isle of Person.

As we made our way downstairs to Whalley Abbey Chapel, it was an especial joy to welcome three outstanding former JB choristers who have all 'made good'.



L-R: **Peter Banks**, from Surrey, is Chief Financial Officer for *Save The Children UK*.

The Revd. **Philip Chew** (Nigel's younger brother) is Area Dean in Wales, responsible for over a dozen churches, as well as for his own four parishes. He still leads a Christian Punk Rock group – 'The Welsh seem to like it', he said!

And Dr. **Ian Banks**, brother of Peter, who is an anaesthetist in Australia, as is his wife. He had come to the UK for a medical conference in Scotland, nevertheless he had set aside two days to be with us, and that was appreciated by us all so very much!

Then came the rehearsal for Evensong – in the small, but lovely chapel of Whalley Abbey. (We had hoped to sing the service in the Abbey ruins, but the rain ruined that idea!)

Your editor was thrilled to lead this creative hour for the singing was superb. Everything was, of course, unaccompanied, and we were honoured to have **Rachel Fielding** (double choir mum, choir wife, OC of the YPC, member of the Renaissance Singers and more) as our cantor for Walford Davies's chant for psalms 67, 121 and 122. The tenor cantor was the Revd. **Philip Chew**.

(It made a change from Punk Rock!)

The canticles were sung to metrical versions ('*Tell out my soul*', and '*Faithful vigil ended*') and the anthem was a special canonic setting of '*When, in our music*' which JB had



composed in honour of Phil Wilson. It was so good to welcome the lady twins who sang along with Rachel.

The service was led by our BCOCA Chaplain, the Revd. **Ian Hollin** who had played a major part in planning the service. He had recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of his Priesthood. Heartiest congratulations!

In our prayers we remembered, with love and thanksgiving, the lives of **Margaret Simpson**, widow of Rennie – who was Precentor both of Blackburn and Westminster Abbey (he took part in Princess Margaret's wedding), **Fred Dewhurst**, who was sub organist at Blackburn both during TLD's and also JB's early years here, **Jennie Chesters**, wife of Bishop Alan, and **Kate Inkley**, wife of OC Neil.

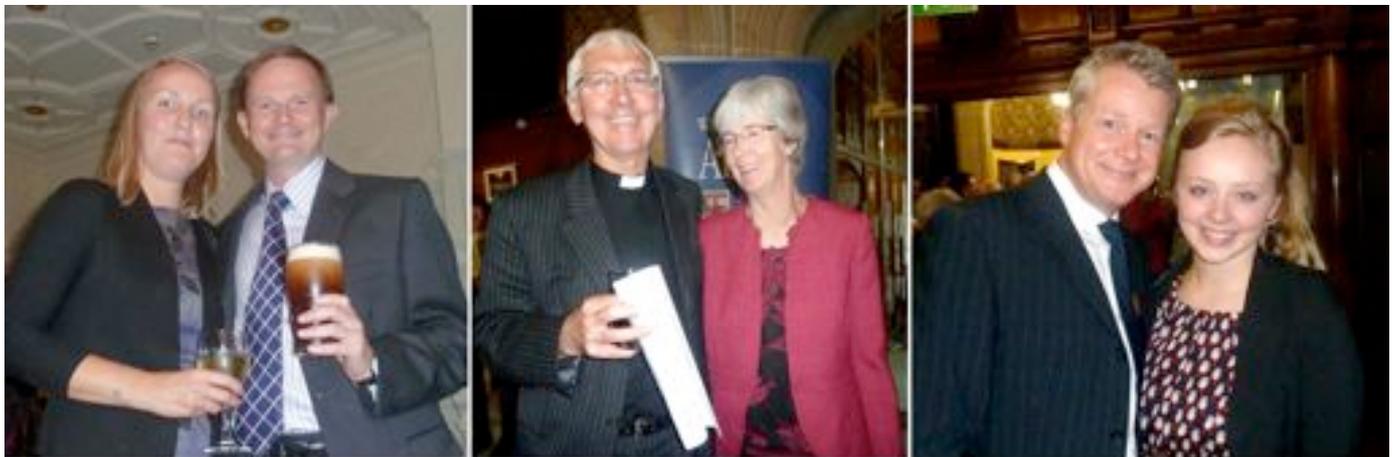
Dean David Frayne read the second lesson and gave the Blessing.

How good it was for our two distinguished clergy to meet the parents of our new Senior Old Chorister afterwards!

L-R Ian Hollin, Geoff & Sheila Heap and Dean David.



There were more photos after the service, including: **Albert and Mary Ogdin** from Lancaster. Albert had joined the cathedral choir in 1936 (Wow indeed!) and so he knew all the organists of Blackburn Cathedral!



Apologies for not photographing the Chapelhows, who arrived halfway through dinner.



But that same evening...

... in the Cathedral, the Royal British Legion celebrated their 90th Anniversary with impressive banners in procession, with the Band of the King's Division from Preston, directed by **Captain James Marshall**, which played rousing music, with soloists and with some of our cathedral choirs.

The evening was hosted by Radio Lancashire's **Sally Naden**, and **Canon Andrew Hindley** set the reflective tone of the readings with a moving recitation of "In Flanders Fields".

Formed in May 1921, to provide for the needs of service personnel returning from the horrors of the trenches, the Legion has continued to go from strength to strength and currently spends £200,000 each day on the welfare of servicemen and their families.



The music moved from the fun of the medley of war songs from "Run Rabbit Run" and the theme from "Dads Army", to poignant pieces such as "Amazing Grace" and "Nimrod". And soloists sang "Abide With Me", and "I vow to Thee My Country".



for Peace"
& Ireland's
"Greater Love".

The evening also saw the concert debut at Blackburn Cathedral of our new Director of Music, **Samuel Hudson**, who led the Blackburn Cathedral Choir and Blackburn Cathedral Girls' Choir in several anthems which included **James Davy's** composition "And They Shall Beat Their Swords Into Ploughshares", **Richard Tanner's** "A Prayer



Fittingly the concert culminated with an Act of Remembrance which was led by **Dean Christopher Armstrong** before closing with choruses of "Jerusalem" and "Land of Hope and Glory" led by the band and choirs with patriotic flag waving by the large audience.



It was a wonderfully reflective yet thoroughly enjoyable evening.

(From **Amanda Snape**, including photographs)

Yes, it was one of the best Reunions ever!

Old Choristers' Reunion photos on Page 33:
Mark Molyneux organized the group photo before the dinner.
Well done, Mark!

Large group photo: Ladies, seated: Pauline Keen, Rachel Fielding, Margaret Dewhurst, Constance Heald, Mary Ogden and Dorothy Wade.

2nd row photos:
Carrie-Ann Thompson also took some photos – but relaxed for a moment when Iain felt thirsty!

It was very good to welcome **Canon Ian Stockton** and his wife **Janet** to their first BCOCA Reunion.

Our new SOC, **William Heap** had brought his elder daughter with him.

3rd row photos
JB's 80th balloon.
Choir colleagues of long ago: **Tony Murphy and Will Heap**.
Sue Carr (wife of Churchwarden **OC Philip**) with son **OC Michael**
Phil Wilson passing his baton to new SOC **William Heap**.

In his speech accepting the role of Senior Old Chorister, **William Heap** paid tribute to his years as a boy in the cathedral choir. 'It was one of the strongest influences for good in my whole life.' **Thank you, William.**



Whatta wonderful day!
Thank you, all!

The next morning...

...Dean **DAVID FRAYNE** Celebrated communion at the early service in the Cathedral to mark the 50th anniversary of his Priesthood. Afterwards he wrote this gracious Thank-you letter:



Dear John,
Very many thanks for your part in the warmest of welcomes that Blackburn gave to Liz and me at the [BCOCA] weekend. The BCOCA events were as enthusiastic as ever (if not more so!) and the Sunday worship and gatherings afterwards were 'memorable'.

Cathedral music continues to inspire and uplift us. Sam Hudson is a 'good find'. My 50th Anniversary of Priesting was 'totally memorable'.

Good wishes for your Birthday Evensong on the following Sunday.

With our love and thanks again.

Yours ever,
David

One of the best Reunions ever, continued!

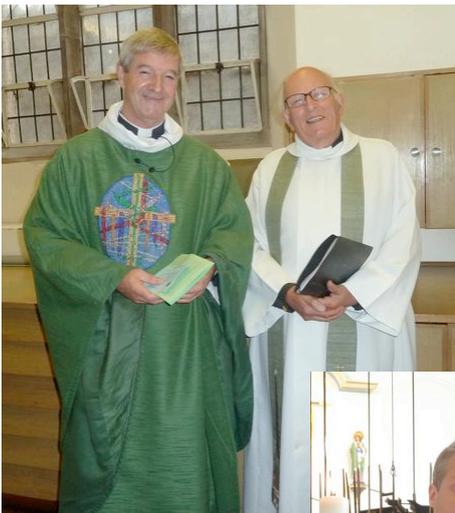
After Dean David had celebrated at the earlier service at the Cathedral, the Old Choristers, who had celebrated in their own way the previous day at Whalley Abbey, arrived at the Cathedral on the Sunday morning promptly at 9.45 to rehearse their communion anthem with **James Davy** in the YPC Vestry whilst **Samuel Hudson** was rehearsing the men and boys in the Song School. (The choir men combined with the OCs 30 minutes later to rehearse RVW'S *Let us now praise famous men.*)



L-R James Davy with David Smalley, Peter Fielding, Eric Bancroft, Allan Holden, and Gordon Fielding.



Tony Murphy (USA), Edward Denham (Wales), Peter Banks (Surrey), William Heap (Isle of Man), Ian Banks (Australia) & John Marr (Mellor)



How good it was to see our **two Deans** together before the 10.30 Eucharist! One can tell from their body language that they were in harmony.

Senior Old Chorister **William Heap** read the first lesson,



Dean **David** preached the sermon (many requests were made afterwards for a copy!)



Chorumum / Choirwife / YPC Old Chorister and Renaissance Singer **Rachel Fielding** led the prayers as Sub Deacon. *What energy, what talent!*



How good it was to see the Offertory presented by **William Heap & Tony Murphy** – for they were such good friends when they were choristers and teenagers in the choir. They now live with their families overseas – William in the Isle of Person, and Tony in Noo Joisey.

And faithful OCs took the collection.



L-R: David Smalley, Allan Holden, Edward Denham & Eric Bancroft

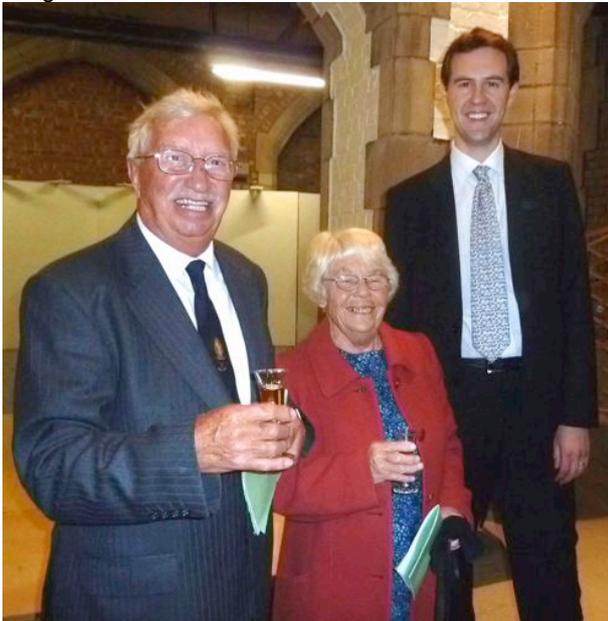
It was moving to see the OCs singing alongside the Choirmen for the Communion anthem, under the direction of **Samuel Hudson** – for many were the smiles of recognition between OCs and some present choirmen which dissolved the years since they sang together in the cathedral choir as boys.



It was a fine, FINE service, and afterwards there was a joyful sherry Reception in the Crypt, presided over by choirmen **Derek Crompton** and **Philip Hunwick**.



And if that mighty spirit of Reunion weren't enough, **Samuel Hudson**, our new Director of Music, met **Albert & Mary Ogdén**. Albert had joined the Cathedral Choir in 1936 and is possibly the only Old Chorister who has sung under all the Directors of Music of Blackburn Cathedral, for he sang the Communion anthem under Samuel's direction that morning!



H
A
L
L
E
L
L
U
J
A
H

And that evening...

... there was a golden celebration in the Cathedral Crypt when **GORDON & SHEILA SHAW** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary!



They were surrounded by relations (they have two sons and a daughter and eight grand-daughters) and so very many friends and who rejoiced, who sang, who played and who relished a delicious supper prepared by Paul Flowers and his staff.

Their guests showed their love for Sheila and Gordon, whose joyful, energetic devotion to all who have the privilege of knowing them has blessed us all, by contributing some £2,000 for musical education for young people.

Heartiest congratulations, and thank you, Sheila and Gordon

THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY

...the Dean, Canons and Directors of Music had most generously invited JB to conduct the Cathedral Choir for Choral Evensong to celebrate his 80th birthday. No words can adequately express JB's thanks for this privilege, for some of the choirmen had been leading boys (and men) during JB's tenure as Director of Music, 1964-82.



It was made doubly joyful by the presence of so many friends in the congregation (one had come all the way from Hampshire) and by the presence of Old Chorister **Peter Crowther JP** and his wife

Jean. JB had known Peter since Peter was a treble on the RSCM Cathedral Course at Chichester Cathedral over 50 years ago; what a joy it was to see him as a bass in the cathedral choir when JB became Director of Music here in 1964. Peter was also a founder member of the (re-named) Renaissance Singers. **MORE HALLELUJAHS!**



Walking *in* the Water for the Cathedral
 photos and article by *Choirum* and Choirwife **Amanda Snape**



Members of the Blackburn Cathedral community, sporting specially designed T-shirts, assembled in Arnside on a damp drizzly Saturday afternoon wondering how we were to cross Morecambe Bay for a sponsored walk of around 8 miles, when the horizon was obliterated by thick mist. This was a Diocesan event, which the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral had helped to facilitate.



Amanda, Christopher & Hannah Snape, T-shirted

However, as we awaited the arrival of the Queen's guide, the celebrated **Cedric Robinson MBE**, the clouds lifted and we were bathed in sunshine.

The scene was also brightened by the presence of certain clergy members in fancy dress:-



Father Timothy Lipscombe dressed as a pirate, **Dean Christopher** wearing a golden crown and **Bishop Geoff** wearing an inflated headdress /

buoyancy-aid which may have been required to cross the thigh-deep river channel encountered toward the end of the walk.



Water, water everywhere!



The Revd Colin Penfold and Canon Susan Penfold

We all arrived at Kents Bank safely around 7pm, some 4 hours after departing, and we enjoyed a most welcome cup of tea and a biscuit at a local hotel.



The Cathedral Appeal greatly benefitted from these stalwart and thoroughly wet walkers. Thank you!

9/11 was remembered



...at a special Choral Evensong on September 11th when members of Blackburn's Fire Brigade formed a Guard of Honour outside the West door of the Cathedral.

We mourned the loss of so many lives on that terrible day exactly ten years ago.

We also mourned the loss

... of a brave Royal Marine from Blackburn – David Fairbrother – who was killed in Helmand Province Afghanistan on Sept. 19th. The Cathedral was packed by a congregation of 1,200, which included Blackburn's MP, The Rt Hon Jack Straw.

Many people, who were unable to get into the Cathedral, watched as the Cortège entered the Cathedral Close, past the Guard of Honour, with arms reversed, made up of colleagues from Marine Fairbrother's Regiment.



Members of David's family spoke movingly in the service of their loss, but also of their pride in his service to his country, as did his Commanding Officer, and Dean Armstrong.

David Fairbrother was a hero to all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Photos from BBCTV and Granada TV

2 New Cathedral CDs

JB's '80th Birthday' Choral Evensong
 sung by Blackburn Cathedral Choir
 with James Davy, Organ
 Conducted by John Beralot
 Recorded by Anthony Tattersall



Te lucis ante terminum	Tallis
Ferial Responses	Beralot
Office Hymn & Psalm	
Canticles in B flat	Stanford
Lessons read by Canon Stockton & The Dean	
Abide with me	arr. Beralot
Sermon	Canon Hindley
Light's Abode	arr. and played by JB
Fantasia in G Minor – J. S. Bach	played by JB



HISTORIC BBC BROADCAST:
CHORAL EVENSONG
for EASTER
2nd April 1975

Blackburn Cathedral Choir
Keith Bond – Organ
Conducted by John Beralot
CD mastered by Philip Hunwick

This Joyful Eastertide	arr. Beralot
Easter Festal Responses (JB)	Cantor, Frank Hare
O Clap Your Hands	Vaughan Williams
Canticles in G	Herbert Sumson
Lessons read by Canon Ruffle & Provost Jackson	
Christ the Lord is Risen	William Mathias
Postlude: Alleluias	Simon Preston

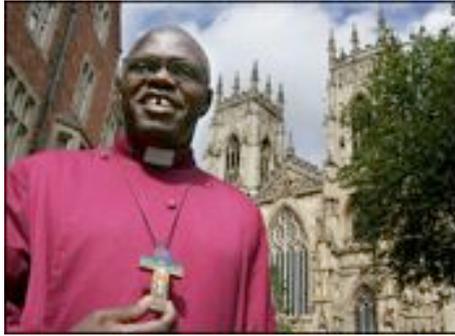
CDs £10 each – towards BCOCA
Order initially from john@beralot.org
 £2 will be deducted for burning each CD, printing the insert and mailing.
 Cheques to **BCOCA**
 c/o Beralot, Cathedral Close, Blackburn BB1 5AA
Give your name and mailing address when ordering on line

Other Blackburn CDs may be reordered, on the same terms:

- 1 T. L. Duerden's Blackburn Cathedral Choirs, 1948 & 1962.
- 2 **O Glorious Serpent:** Blackburn Cathedral Choir and Blackburn Bach Choir, 1974.
- 3 The Renaissance Singers' 40th Anniversary Concert, 19th November 2005.

The Lord Archbishop of York...

... the Most Reverend and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, came to our Diocese for two hectic days in October, visiting Heysham, Lancaster, Blackburn, BAE Systems at Samlesbury, Pendle Faith Centre in Burnley County Hall in Preston and more.



Our Cathedral was packed for a special service at which the Archbishop preached. An overflow congregation filled all the seats in the Jesus Chapel, and folk were even standing throughout by the West door!

Samuel Hudson rehearsed the Renaissance Singers, who were that evening's choir, in music by Dr Francis Jackson (the Mass he composed for Blackburn Cathedral) and anthems by Richard Lloyd and JB.



The clergy were magnificently robed in new vestments...

L-R: Diocesan Registrar, Bishops of Burnley & Lancaster, and the Archdeacon of Lancaster.



...then everything was ready for a glorious evening of worship led by Bishop Nicholas from his cathedra.



Residentiary Canons Penfold, Stockton & Hindley.



The Archbishop preached for about half an hour – but he laced his teaching with touches of humour and on several occasions he invited the congregation to participate.

His sermon was based on Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (John, chapter 17). There were many memorable one-liners:

This is Jesus' private, intimate prayer to his Father – which we are privileged to overhear.

As the Father had given the Disciples to Jesus, 'So let everyone say out loud: **I am the Father's gift to Jesus!**' (Which we did! That made us all sit up!)

Everyone say, **Jesus is glorified in me!** (We did!)

Everyone turn to the person on your right and on your left, and say, **I could not live without you!** (We did!)

When you wake up in the morning, say "Good morning, God!" (Some of us do!)

In Yorkshire we have a Yorkshire Bible called *Ee, by Gum!* So come on, Lancashire, when are you going to have your own Bible?

And because this service commemorated William Tyndale, 1494-1536, who sought to bring the Bible in English to the people of England, (which resulted, eventually, in the printing of the Authorised Version in 1611 which we celebrate this year), the Archbishop gave us a memorable aphorism:

**This Book will keep you from sin:
sin will keep you from this Book.**

The Archbishop concluded with a humorous challenge:
'If you forget any of this, I'll be back!'



At the Peace, it was moving to see Bishop Nicholas exchanging Peace with Ecumenical Canon Kevin Kenny from Pleasington Priory, and with our other honorary Canons.

Bishop Nicholas celebrated (see *back cover*) assisted by the Archbishop and the Bishops of Burnley and Lancaster. See *p.44*



Whilst the Renaissance Singers, conducted by Samuel Hudson, sang the two communion motets from the ambulatory, (JB's *Ave Verum Corpus*, which he composed for OC Ian Harrison's Bournemouth Festival 5 years ago, and Richard Lloyd's *View me, Lord*) ...



... the Archbishop and Bishop Nicholas gave Communion to those seated in the Nave, whilst other Stations were held in the Transepts, Aisles and Jesus Chapel.



Our splendid team of musicians gave a great lead throughout and the congregational singing was almost deafening! James' Postlude was, of course, Widor's *Marche Pontificale!*



At the end of that glorious service our legal, civic and clerical VIPs lined up for a memorable photograph!



Three days later there was yet another splendid service:

The Revd Dr Shannon Ledbetter

was Installed and Collated as Community Canon of Blackburn Cathedral

See page 21

The Cathedral Choir rehearsed meticulously, as ever, under the direction of Samuel Hudson. The music for that special Choral Evensong was *Brewer in D*, and Haydn's *The Heavens are telling*.



At the start of the service Dr Shannon (not yet a Canon) was placed in the front row of the congregation, in front of our Mayor, with two of Shannon's Godchildren immediately behind.



It was moving to see Shannon's Godchildren leading some of the prayers at the Intercessions, assisted by **Anjum Anwar MBE**, for Shannon will be working with Anjum for *exChange* and she'll be Chaplain to Blackburn College.



And so the service ended – but not before a compulsory photograph was taken of **Canon Shannon with Bishop Nicholas**.



She was then called forward to be Collated by the Bishop, and to make her Canonical Oath of Obedience to him. (The Dean, in his thoughtful and erudite sermon, made joyful reference to Shannon's high heels!)

And then, after the anthem – *by the way, one of the soloists was choirman **Phil Hunwick**. He had just celebrated a Significant Birthday and was waiting to hear if he had become a Grandfather!* –



Canon Shannon was installed by the Dean with due and graceful ceremony.



And, of course, there was a delicious Reception in the Crypt after the service when Canon Shannon's friends and former colleagues from Liverpool (see p. 21) and her new friends and colleagues from Blackburn were able to meet each other.

WELCOME, CANON SHANNON!

**OUR THREE NEW CHORAL SCHOLARS
are all graduates,
AS IS OUR ORGAN SCHOLAR**



CHRIS TRENHOLME

Was born in Cambridge (what a splendid choice!)
He moved to Halifax aged 6 (what an adventurous spirit!)
School: Bradford Grammar School (moving ever Northwards)
culminating at Edinburgh University where he graduated with a degree in Maths & Music.
He plays the Clarinet and Piano, and would like to learn the organ.
Chris is thinking about becoming a professional singer.
(His experienced colleagues in the Cathedral Choir think he's got a great voice.)

JAMIE WHITE

Was born in Epsom (Forsyte country) and attended school there.
At Sheffield University he graduated with honours in Germanic Studies and Japanese.
He taught English in Germany for a year and was a choral scholar at St. Matthew's Church, Sheffield, also for a year.
He speaks German, Dutch, Japanese (日本), French, Latin and Mandarin, Cantonese and Greek (Ελληνικά), and a smattering of Luxembourgish.
i.e. when it comes to saying the Lord's Prayer 'in our own language' on Sunday mornings, Jamie has an embarrassment of choice!



JAMES GIDDINGS

Was born in Solihull.
Read Music at Nottingham University, specializing in Baroque music. He plays the Viol, Recorder and Baroque Flute.
He trained as a music teacher in Bath Spa, and then he ran a field kitchen in Worcestershire which hosts a social and environmental conference.
He then built a house with straw bales at Lammas Eco Village in Pembrokeshire.
James, like so many of our choral and organ scholars, is multi-talented!



Our organ scholar



BENEDICT TODD was featured in the last edition of M&M, but just to remind readers:
He hails from East Anglia, and attended the King's School, Ely. For his last three years there he sang in Ely Cathedral Choir. He has recently graduated with a BA in Music from Bristol University and he directed the University Church Choir.
He has already shown himself to be a first class organist here at Blackburn, and a great member of our very strong music leadership team.

Welcome, Chris, Jamie, James and Benedict!

FORTHCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

Saturday, 12th November, 7.30

From Bach



to Bertalot!

**A special concert sung by
The Renaissance Singers
directed by
Samuel Hudson**

*to mark the choir's founder's 80th birthday!
(Your editor has been given no details of this concert – it's supposed to be a surprise – but he was told to be there!)*



Please join him for this unique occasion

Saturday, 27th November, 6.30

**Advent Processions
by Candlelight
with Three Cathedral Choirs**



Saturday, 10th December, 7.00



**The Choirs of Blackburn Cathedral
the Northern Chamber Orchestra
Conducted by Samuel Hudson**



**Friday,
23
December
7.30**

**NINE
LESSONS
& CAROLS**

JAMES DAVY'S NEW HOME



... is probably nearly 200 years old. Historic indeed! Steep stone steps lead up to the front door, and very steep stone steps lead down to the centrally heated basement. It is very cozy. James would have an unparalleled view right across Blackburn and far beyond – if it weren't for the luxuriant trees on the other side of the road! But he should be able to peer through their unleafed branches in the winter.

IT IS QUITE EXTRAORDINARY...

...how much music is being created in our cathedral! Your editor popped into the Cathedral one Thursday evening, and found THREE choirs in full voice all at the same time:



THE SCHOLAR CANTORUM (young men under the direction of JAMES DAVY)

who were rehearsing for Choral Evensong that day.

LANTERN VOICES

(young children who enjoy action songs, under the direction of GILL FOURIE, who were singing in the YPC vestry).



And **THE GIRLS' CHOIR** who were rehearsing in the Song School for forthcoming services under the direction of SAMUEL HUDSON.

But there was more.

For after the girls had enjoyed a short (and very well deserved) break half a dozen new girls came, with their parents, to sing with the senior girls to see if they would like to join us. Judging from their smiles, and from the interest shown by the parents, the answer must be YES!



And, of course, later that evening **THE RENAISSANCE SINGERS** had their regular two-hour rehearsal, under the direction of SAMUEL HUDSON, for their November 12th Concert. **And all our singers are volunteers!**

Friends of

Blackburn
Cathedral



The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, as well as actively supporting the concerts and services advertised on p. 42, and so much more, also organised a splendid light luncheon in October entitled: **Food for Thought**, which was addressed by Cathedral Lay-Canon **Jimmy Armfield**, who was a very famous footballer, (his talk was called, 'A Lifetime in Football') and also organist of his local church in Blackpool. It was a delicious occasion for us all.

The Guest of Honour at **The Friends Annual Dinner, Saturday 19 November** will be the **Very Reverend The Dean of York**.

Closing date for booking: Nov.4.

Contact Mrs Karen Brooke

fobc@btinternet.com

And on January 9th many of us will be going to the Exchange Theatre in Manchester to see

You can't take it with you.

JOIN THE FRIENDS – we're a great group AND we help our Cathedral in so many ways!

Contact Mrs Karen Brooke

fobc@btinternet.com

HOW TO OBTAIN TICKETS

for forthcoming concerts

Nov 12th Renaissance Singers – £10

"Bach to Bertalot"

phone: 01254-503082

Dec 10th Christmas Spectacular

www.blackburncathedral.co.uk

or 08448-471-664

NB Tickets are **not** required for **Services** –but you should get to the Cathedral early to ensure a good seat.

There's **NO** parking in the Cathedral Close

A Message to Music & More from His Grace, The Lord Archbishop of York

'It was great to see what the church is doing in the Diocese of Blackburn and I was made to feel so welcome.

'I was really uplifted by the services at the Cathedral; the Eucharist and the Children's service. It was wonderful to see the Cathedral packed and such fantastic singing. Such joy; such vibrancy; so full of life.

'I pray that the Diocese continues the good work that it is doing and continues to gather people together to celebrate in the way that I experienced.' (photo over)



Bishop Nicholas with the Archbishop of York

