



BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Chapter's 2017 report to the Annual General Meeting, 15 April 2018

THE CHANGING SCENE

After the momentous changes involved in the opening of Cathedral Court during 2016, the past year has seen many changes of personnel at the Cathedral.

The Bishop presided at the installation in March of the new Dean, the Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones, at a service attended by many representatives of national and regional church and related organisations. He and his wife Sian quickly completed their move into the Dean's town house as its first residents. In September Canon Andrew Horsfall, already a Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral, was appointed to the new part-time post of Canon Pastor. This appointment meets a long-felt need and Canon Horsfall is losing no time in building up a team around him to help with this important task.

In October it was time to bid farewell to Canon Dr Ian Stockton, Canon Chancellor, and his wife Janet, who were retiring after seven years at the Cathedral from Blackburn to Lincoln. They were warmly thanked by Cathedral groups and individuals for their many services to the Cathedral, and especially to its missions of education and hospitality. The Chapter was delighted when approval was given for the appointment of a successor and, after considerable debate, the post was redefined as Canon Missioner. We look forward to the arrival of the Revd Dr Rowena Pailing from her post as Director of Pastoral Studies at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. Ms Joanna Booth, whose work has put educational work on a strong footing for the future, retired, and the Chapter is grateful to Mrs Sian Howell-Jones for taking on the post of part-time Education Officer during the interregnum.

Two stalwarts of the Chapter also retired. Mr Peter Jelley, appointed by the Bishop's Council, was chairman of the Finance Committee and a firm supporter of the Cathedral's musical outreach and many other aspects of Cathedral life. He continues as a trustee of the Blackburn Cathedral Trust. Mrs Jean Duerden, appointed by the Cathedral community, also retired from the Chapter, and her place was taken by Mr Paul Mason. Jean maintains her many close links with the Cathedral, including as the chairman of the Renaissance Singers.

During the year the Church Commissioners agreed to provide some financial support over two years for the vacant post of Administrator. The job description approved by the Chapter was advertised under the title of Executive Director, and Mrs Sharon Grayston was welcomed to the wide-ranging responsibilities of the post in November 2017. Mrs Pauline Rowe continues as Office Manager, skilfully keeping open lines of communication and ensuring that the annual cycle of essential activities is sustained. Mrs Anita Pattinson Bursar, resigned her post at the end of November 2017, and the Cathedral has been fortunate to obtain the services of Mr Adrian Phillips as acting Finance Manager, supported by Mrs Marge Spencer as Finance Officer.

BUILDINGS AND FABRIC

Anyone who thought the dedication of Cathedral Court would mark the end of building works at the Cathedral would have been surprised by the high level of activity since then. Using grants obtained by the Cathedral Architect and Canon Andrew Hindley from the World War I Memorial Fund meant long-term maintenance could continue. The replacement of the stainless steel cladding on the Lantern Tower with lead was completed, as well as repointing with lime-based mortar to the north and south transepts. The West Tower was scaffolded while water penetration and internal condensation were cured, involving the replacement of some stonework and of the copper roof cladding with lead. At the same time the belfry was repainted and the clock regilded.

Plans for the future included detailed discussions about options for the future use of Church House, a debate that continues into 2018. A project to refurbish the Crypt and bring it back into use, entitled *Revealing the Hidden Heritage*, was granted seedcorn funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund to take the work into the development phase. The Caedmon Room was fitted out as the library it was intended to be. A national report, *Cathedrals and Their Communities*, from the Department for Communities and Local Government (September 2017) paid tribute to the work of the Cathedral and the local authority as “a prime example of a cathedral that has gone above and beyond in encouraging local growth”. The Cathedral continues to work with the Diocese and groups across Lancashire to draw on the resources of Cathedral Court for special events and learning occasions. There was however disappointment when a significant problem with the external masonry and parapet copings was identified in the late autumn, and remedial action by the main contractor continues into 2018. Discussions also continue with the insurers for Civic Engineering.

The Chapter continues to be deeply grateful for the dedicated services of Cathedral staff and volunteers throughout the year.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

One of the Dean’s earliest actions on taking up office was to initiate a review of the Cathedral’s Constitution and Statutes, which had remained essentially unchanged since their introduction in 1999. A working party, including the Dean, a Residentiary Canon, the chairman of Council, and two lay members of the Chapter met five times between April and July. By September proposals for revisions were ready for discussion at a joint meeting of the Chapter and the Council and with the Bishop; many of them technical, but also including the formation of a Community Council. By the end of the year the Council had signed off the final revisions and the proposals, after informal discussion with national officers, were submitted for approval. Concurrent national discussions within the Church of England about the governance and management of cathedrals are prefigured in some of the Blackburn recommendations for change.

The Safeguarding Management Group had a busy year under the chairmanship of Canon Stockton, supported by Judge James Prowse from the Chapter and by Ms Sharon Hassall, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Work on the suite of policies is now complete, although further updates will appear during 2018. Fifty-five Cathedral colleagues received training on five courses, resulting in a marked culture change towards training and to an understanding of safeguarding as everyone’s responsibility. Ms Gill Fourie has set up a

training recording system to streamline updating and information flows, and the Safeguarding Coordinators, Mrs Denise Sanderson and Mr Stewart Hopkinson, have completed seven risk assessments. The group has been strengthened by the inclusion of Mrs Sharon Grayston and by the regular attendance of the Dean.

WORSHIP AND THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

The Cathedral's Music Department, under Mr Samuel Hudson as Director of Music, continued to enjoy its duties and opportunities at the Cathedral and more widely. In July 2017 the boys, girls and men embarked on a tour to Normandy and took part in a festival, *Les musicales de Cormeilles*, and there were visits in both directions to and from Braunschweig Cathedral during the year. The Renaissance Singers memorably tackled Tallis' *Spem in alium* and collaborated with English Touring Opera on Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. Music outreach continued to be of high importance and the Sing Together project reached over ninety schools during 2017, with a higher target already set for 2018. Mr Christopher Jones continued for a second year as Organ Scholar, and took on the role of Liturgy Administrator, following the retirement of Mrs Lynne Trudgill who had been in the role for 13 years. Mr Stephen Crookes joined as Music Scholar. The two of them also ran the choir at St Cuthbert's Darwen, a church where Cathedral musicians have previously operated and one with a strong musical tradition. We continue to be grateful for the outstanding contribution that music makes to the Cathedral congregations and to the realisation of its mission.

The Sunday School has been jointly coordinated by two teachers, Ms Ruth Watton and Ms Diane Warner, with a stable team of four teachers and four assistants, and between four and eight children each week. There has been a move to use Diocesan learning materials, available online, and the school members have joined the Lantern Voices on occasions such as Christmas and Pentecost. A newsletter has been launched to keep parents and congregations informed about the school, and the school seeks to encourage more regular attendance and to increase numbers.

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, under the chairmanship of Canon Andrea Titterington, celebrated its 50th anniversary during 2017, giving an opportunity to pause and reflect on the many contributions the Friends have made to the Cathedral fabric and in support of the Cathedral's life of worship and service since their foundation. There was a special dinner to mark the anniversary that featured a talk by Penny Warden on her paintings in the Cathedral, entitled *The Journey*. Lunchtime talks continued to be held, and in June a group of the Friends visited Southwark Cathedral and the nearby Globe Theatre. Some Friends also made their way to St Paul's Cathedral, where they had the pleasure of being shown round by Mr Joe Kennedy, recently a verger at Blackburn. To their shock, the group became caught up with the weekend's tragic events at London Bridge and at Borough Market, and have been glad to maintain contact with the Friends of Southwark Cathedral in succeeding months.

The bell ringers had an active year under their Master, Raymond Hutchings. Four learners made good progress, branch meetings were well attended, and regular ten-bell practices well supported. Attendance for Sunday ringing continued as strongly as it had in 2016, and the band rang for two weddings and in several competitions, both as a branch team and with the Lancashire Association. There were seven quarter peals and two full peals, and

special occasions included the funeral service for Lord Taylor of Blackburn, the welcome to the new Dean, the anniversary of the Friends, and for the ordinations of Deacons and Vicars.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP, 2017

The Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones, Dean and Chairman (March 2017 onwards)

The Rt Revd Philip North, Bishop of Burnley

The Revd Canon Andrew Hindley, Canon Sacrist

The Revd Canon Dr Ian Stockton (to October 2017)

The Revd Canon Andrew Horsfall, Residentiary Canon

The Revd Andrew Sage, College of Canons

Mrs Jean Duerden, Cathedral Community (part year)

Mr Paul Mason, Cathedral Community (part year)

Judge James Prowse, Cathedral Community

Mr Peter Jelley, Bishop's Council (part year)

Mr Keith Roberts, Bishop's Council

Ms Kate Thompson, Bishop's Appointee

Mrs Marion McClintock, Bishop's Appointee