

**Blackburn Cathedral  
Choirs' Association's  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Photo Album Part 1  
No talk: just photos**



BCCA Chairman STEWART HOPKINSON welcomes former chorister GAVIN NORRIS who would entertain us after dinner with his Michael Bublé presentation!



Bev & Graham Chapelhow being greeted by Sr. Old Chorister Stephen Holmes. (Graham and Steve were both JB choristers).



The Cathedral Close was packed with funfair stalls that day – which attracted the attention of OC Harvey Finney (now training to become an officer in the Merchant Navy) and his Mum, Carole, our BCCA Secretary.



Our AGM, held in the Chesters Room was efficient – we're solvent!



Canon Andrew Hindley brought us up to date with the progress of the building of the new Cathedral Court, in which he has had the greatest possible involvement, both in planning and carrying out. Watched by Treasurer John Marr, & Holmes and Chapelhow.



Early arrivals were three former choristers of T L Duerden (1939-64): Eric Bancroft, Allan Holden & Peter Crowther. Peter was a fine young bass when JB came to the cathedral in 1964 and so he was a founder-member of the Blackburn Bach Choir (a.k.a. The Renaissance Singers.)



Our Café in the Crypt laid on a supa sandwich lunch. (L) John Marr...



Canons' Virger (and OC) Alex Barnes adds names to an historic choir photo in a display of archives organised by Chaplain and BCCA Archivist the Revd Ian Hollin (far left).



...which enabled former choristers to catch up on their news. L: Tony Murphy had flown from New Jersey to be with us – he's done that for many years – very greatly appreciated. And with Steve Holmes is another most welcome ex JB chorister, Iain Thompson from Cheshire.



With Canon Hindley was Neil Inkley – former chairman of Peterborough Cathedral under the legendary Dr Stanley Vann. Neil is also the super-efficient Secretary / Treasurer of the Blackburn Branch of the Prayer Book Society.

JB was also founder-chairman of the Old Choristers' Association which was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion that weekend.



Steve Holmes took the opportunity to hand out the latest edition of *Music & More* to fellow former choristers.



Then a quick cup of tea to chat with more auld friends:

**Bob Keen** from Cheshire retired from being high-up in banking – a former alto, with both children in the choirs and whose wife, **Pauline**, was a wonderful mainstay of our choral life.



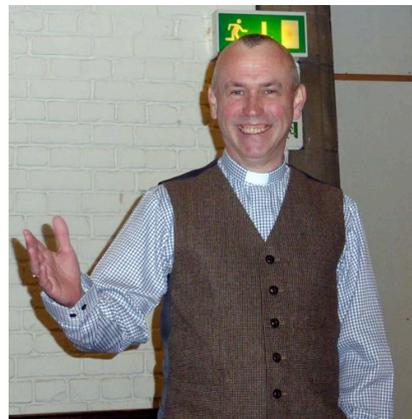
We then trooped upstairs for the rehearsal for Choral Evensong, which would be sung by our boy and girl choristers and former choristers led by DoM **Samuel Hudson** with **Shaun Turnbull** organ.

**Alec Stuttard** – a former TLD chorister and subsequent chairman – also had two children in our choirs.

Alec is now the cathedral's publicity officer.



Cantors Former Choristers



The Revd. **Philip Chew** – who was last year's Sr Old Chorister. Phil and his brother **Nigel** were both JB choristers. He's now Area Dean of half a dozen parishes with unpronounceable names in North Wales. (He speaks Welsh, too, and leads a Christian Rock Band with Graham Chapelhow!)



Decani former choristers

Samuel Hudson generously invited **JB** to conduct his Responses which he'd composed for the cathedral choir some 40 years ago.

It was also very good to welcome former Provost Jackson's youngest daughter, **Lucy!**





Choristers and former choristers immediately after the rehearsal. (Photo by Virger & O.C. Alex Barnes)  
**Samuel Hudson** extreme left.

The music for Choral Evensong was chosen by SOC Steve Holmes in consultation with Samuel Hudson:  
 Introit: *God be in my head*: by Deputy Head Chorister **Seb Roberts** (see photo of service on R)  
 Responses: Bertalot  
 Canticles: Howells *St. Paul*.  
 Anthem: *Greater Love, Ireland*.



During the service, SOC Steve Holmes congratulated three members of the Girls' Choir who were about to graduate to the YPC:  
**Eleanor Tomlin, Annabelle Parkinson and Madeline Noblett**



After the service **Canon Hindley** gave a guided tour of the cathedral which was greatly appreciated.  
 How very good it was to welcome very great friends who had come long distances to be with us that weekend.



At the guided tour, **Constance Heald** greeted former TLD chorister **Bryan Lamb's** daughter, son-in-law and grand-daughter. (All four from near Ely!)

**For Part 2 of our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, see the next M&M online!**