

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

forty-ninth annual report



8th May 2016 at 14.00 hrs.

FRIENDS' TEA

You are warmly invited to join us for tea.

In order to make catering arrangements, please contact the Honorary Secretary if you would like afternoon tea. A payment of £5 will be collected during the afternoon.

Mrs Alison Givens
Honorary Secretary
Friends of Blackburn Cathedral
Church House
BLACKBURN
BB1 5AA

email: secretary@fobc.info
text mobile: 07982 821274.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individual members	£15.00
Joint members	£22.00
Individual life members	£150.00
Joint Life members	£220.00
Corporate members, including School, Parishes etc	£12.00

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 49TH ANNUAL FRIENDS' AGM and EVENSONG ON SUNDAY 8TH MAY 2016 IN THE CRYPT OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral Bookshop will remain open until 3.30 pm

PROGRAMME FOR THE AFTERNOON

- 1.45 pm Gather in the Crypt of the Cathedral
- 2.00 pm Annual General Meeting preceded by a talk by Canon Andrew Hindley about the new look of Blackburn Cathedral.
- 3.15 pm Afternoon Tea
- 4.00 pm Cathedral Evensong: preacher Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn

Annual General Meeting AGENDA

1. Opening prayers.
2. Welcome and apologies
3. Minutes of the 48th AGM 10th May 2015
4. Matters Arising
5. Membership and Treasurer's report
6. Chairman's report
7. Correspondence
8. Election of Officers and Council, Solicitor and Auditor
9. Any other business

Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the **Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Council** held in the Cathedral Crypt on **Sunday 10th May 2015** at 14.00 hours.

Present : Judge J Duerden (Chairman), Mrs K Brooke (Secretary) and 22 members

The meeting opened with a presentation by Canon Hindley on the Cathedral development. He explained how the development emerged from plans created over the last 14 years to the buildings that should all be completed in November this year.

The Chairman thanked Canon Hindley for his enlightening talk.

The annual meeting started with prayers led by the Dean.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr S Brooke, Mrs Joy Wilkinson, Mr and Mrs Givens, Mr and Mrs Andy Bruce, Jonathan Cave, Bishop Alan Chesters, Mrs Mary Cross, Mr and Mrs Thornton, Mr and Mrs Haythornwhite, Philip Johnston, Mrs Lowri Cope, Mr and Mrs Wilson, Mrs Sylvia Hart, Rev & Mrs Wedgeworth, Mrs Brenda Carruthers, Mrs Janet Stockton, Rev and Mrs Haslam and Mrs Betty Stephens

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 11th May 2014 were approved as a true and correct record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report. He referred to the report in the annual news letter. Subscriptions were 25% down on previous years but there was a surplus of income over expense totalling £6,259,29. A good year.

The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Colin Ovenden, the Independent Auditor for his very prompt services and asked that it be noted that although Mr Ovenden was a member of the Friends he had no part in the management or recording of the accounts, the Hon. Treasurer considered this to be appropriate and wished the fact to be recorded once again.

The Accounts were approved by the Annual Meeting.

Membership.

The membership report was presented. 81 members did not renew membership so the total membership was 285, down from the previous 366. Different categories were 78 joint life, 101 single life, 30 joint annual, 42 single annual and 34 corporate.

Chairman's Report

This was included in the booklet circulated to members. He offered the condolences of the Friends to Brian Topham on the loss of his wife.

The Chairman mentioned the apparent Draconian step to terminate membership of those who had not paid membership fees but reminded members that providing newsletters and paying postage was too expensive to continue with.

The main focus of attention now is to raise funds for the fountain as described by Canon Hindley in his presentation. As no signage acknowledging the Friends funding of the toilet on the Cathedral ground floor was permitted it will give great joy to have a "Friends Fountain". We just need to pay for it now. The chairman has written a letter for members to explain this fundraising initiative to all members. In addition to the £10,000 already paid a further £16,000 needed to be raised. Contributions were needed and having an identified object to raise money for is encouraging for any Friends of Cathedral group. The chair referred to the attraction and benefit of the fountain at Chester Cathedral and he believed this fountain would attract people to our Cathedral. The new development would put Blackburn Cathedral on the map and attract people so he believed this to be a worthy cause and encouraged members to dig deep in their pockets in supporting the creation of a fountain and garden in the new Cathedral Garth.

Election of Officers and Council

It was agreed that the Dean would continue to be President of the Friends and David Frayne, previous Dean/Provost would be a Vice President. Both former Bishops still living, would be patrons. The four officers listed below, agreed to stand for another year: Jeremy Duerden : Chairman, Malcolm Berry : Vice Chairman, Karen Brooke : Secretary and Tony Cope JP : Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary all of whom would serve for a further twelve months. There being no nominations from the meeting for any other person to stand as officers, the existing officers were elected for a term of one year agreed unanimously by those present.

There were at the time of the meeting three vacancies for ordinary members of Council after the resignations of Mrs Joy Wilkinson, Mr Roger Brickell and Mr Patrick Troughton. Mrs Val Edge whose term of office ceases this year is willing to stand again. The Chairman expressed his thanks to those who had resigned from Council for their work on behalf of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. Mr Peter Mather was nominated by the Dean and seconded by the chairman, Canon Andrea Titterington nominated by the Dean and seconded by Mrs Karen Brooke as ordinary council members. One other nominations had been received but as he was not present at the meeting it was agreed that he should be co-opted, pending his agreement, after the meeting.

The Honorary Solicitor, Kate Alsop, would continue in that capacity, following nomination by Tony Cope and seconded by Laurence Wood.

Trustees have been reduced by the new constitution adopted at the 2014 AGM to the main officers and the three longest serving members: David Thornton, Lowri Cope and Laurence Wood.

Auditor's Report

The Auditor, Mr Colin Ovenden, reported that the accounts were in good order and thanked the Hon. Treasurer for his very detailed preparation of the same. He wished to congratulate the treasurer as in 60 years of accounting this was the biggest spread sheet that he had ever seen! He agreed to serve for a further term and his appointment was approved by everyone at the meeting.

Any Other Business

The Dean thanked the Chairman for his services as Chairman reiterating the clear focus of the Friends for the coming year and the need for new members. He calculated that at the current rate of decline in membership we could end up with no FOBC by 2018!

The chair responded by reminding everyone that on 20th June there will be a great opportunity to engage new members at the Countryside Comes to Town Cathedral Summer Fair when it is anticipated that there will be an extra 20,000 to 30,000 people in Blackburn.

Date of Next Annual General Meeting: 8th May 2016 at 14.00 hours, Tea at 15.15 hours, Evensong at 16.00 hours.

The meeting closed at 15.10 hrs

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chinese have a curse, "may you live in interesting times". I am not sure why they say that: perhaps the word 'interesting' loses something in translation from the original language, but my report dwells on the past year in the life of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral which has been, at times, most interesting, and not at any time, a curse.

The biggest event has been the funding of the Friends Fountain in the Cathedral Garth, part of the new development. I am sure that this will not have escaped the notice of members, given the number of times I have mentioned it, both at meetings and in writing, and I promise that I should not have to raise it again, save to rejoice in it, as the response to the appeal for funds was simply overwhelming. I gave fulsome praise to the generosity of members in the September 2015 newsletter, but feel that it will bear repetition. I am well aware of the state of the economy and the length of time it is taking to be restored, but still the Friends have shown that, notwithstanding the still gloomy climate, it is possible to find funding for a good cause otherwise than by the National Lottery.

I shall not tread on the toes of the Hon. Treasurer as to finer detail of the donations which he deals with in his report, save to say that there is a tinge of sadness in respect of one donor, Brenda Caruthers, who sadly died before she could see the result of her contribution. She was a useful and loyal member of Council for some years, and although she had retired from that role before she died, I feel it appropriate to remember her with gratitude in my report.

Another former member who died a little longer ago, is Canon David Galilee whose memory will be preserved tangibly by the Friends owing to a generous bequest in his Will.

Other events organised by the Council for the entertainment and enjoyment of members included the lunchtime talks, more details of which appear in Maureen Wood's report elsewhere in this bulletin. They have been hugely enjoyable, especially Raymond Smith's talk on the conversion of a farm building and some land into a beautiful home and garden. His talk was supported by stunning photography of wonderful views surrounding his home. If he returns to hosting his open

days, I hope that many members will be able to take advantage and visit him. I said at the time of Raymond's talk, that I cannot remember any occasion in Blackburn Cathedral when there has been so much laughter. A joyous and joyful celebration of God's creation!

As usual, we held a reception before the Advent Procession in early December 2015. For the second year running, the Procession was held on the second Sunday of Advent, and gave us the opportunity for Friends to spend social time together and to enjoy the wonderful music which we are privileged to hear at Blackburn. Of course, there is always the hope that existing members will bring their own friends to that event and not let them leave until they have signed up to become Friends. There often is that effect which helps to improve our membership numbers and, of course, income further to benefit the object of the existence of the Friends.

One event which cannot be claimed to have been a total success was a dinner which we organised for members. To allow for the fact that in the dark evenings of winter, many people do not like to venture out after dark, we made it a lunchtime event, but apart from Council members, there was attendance by only a few hardy souls at what was a very pleasant lunch. The Council will be looking at ways of including as many members as possible in events by making them attractive to all of us, as far as possible.

It might not have escaped your notice that the Annual General Meeting at which I am presenting this report is the 49th, and it follows that next year will be special: our Golden Anniversary. Council is planning suitable celebrations, including, I hope, a Gala Dinner in the new facilities at Blackburn Cathedral, and details will be circulated to individuals in due course. On that point, one improvement in the management of affairs in the past year has been the creation of a database of email addresses of members. It shows how information technology is here to stay in that more than a hundred members have an email address. I would very much like to be able to send notices and information to members by that medium and so ask you to email me on chairman@fobc.info or the Hon. Secretary on secretary@fobc.info to confirm that you are content that you should be contacted in that way. The saving in postage costs will be substantial if most members who can do so, communicate by email.

Next year's Annual General Meeting will effect another anniversary. It will be the end of a decade in which I have been Chairman and I have decided that it will then be time to hand over to another person to take us forward. Malcolm Berry who has assisted me as Vice-Chairman throughout, has decided not to continue in the post. As a result, at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, at which I am delivering this report, it will be necessary to elect a new Vice-Chairman. Also, during the year, Karen Brooke who, together with Lowri Cope has been organising the Flower Festival to be held in June 2016, about which more later, has stood down as Hon. Secretary. I filled the slot for a while but have been relieved to have Alison Givens, who is, together with her husband Terry, a lively member of the Friends, volunteer to take on the role fully. She will continue in the office on a co-opted basis until the Annual General Meeting when the meeting will be asked to confirm her appointment. I would like you to give some thought to the vacancies which have arisen and to offer to stand to fill them at the appropriate time. As with every Annual General Meeting, there will be the need to fill vacancies on Council and I urge you to consider applying to stand as a member. This is a vital part of the existence of the Friends without which we would not be half as effective in fulfilling our purpose. I offer heartfelt thanks to all who have served and continue to serve.

Another vacancy which cannot be filled by members, will be created by the resignation of the Dean, the Very Revd Christopher Armstrong on the 1st May 2016, so by the time of the Annual General Meeting on the 8th May, he will have departed. It is appropriate that I should pay tribute to his enormous support of the Friends over many years. When I came onto Council, he had just taken over the Chairmanship and filled that role for a couple of years until I was persuaded to replace him. Since then he has shown great interest in the Society and, until recently, attended Council meetings even though as an *ex officio* member, he was not required to. He will be missed by us all, and I am sure that you will agree in my wishing him bon voyage and exciting times in his new area of work.

Members will remember the special occasion at Blackburn Cathedral in 2010 when the Friends hosted the national conference of Friends of Cathedrals and Greater Churches. At that conference, it was agreed that there should be set up a national committee to act as a conduit between different groups of Friends for the advancement and benefit of all. That should have been properly formed at the next national conference in Worcester in October 2014, but, unhappily, the work done by a working group in the meantime came to nothing. The next such conference was in October 2015 at which the question of a national committee was not raised or concluded, so I fear that it will not now happen. That said, we had a representation at the conference in the form of Canon Val Edge and Felicity Ackroyd whose report is contained at page 16 of the bulletin. As a result of their visit, they have been giving thought to organising a Friends outing to London later in the year, and details of what is proposed are contained immediately below. Please let a Council member, or the Hon Secretary know if you are interested in joining such an adventure. The last trip which they organised to the National Memorial Arboretum was a great success.

I referred above to the Flower Festival which the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral are organising. It promises to be a magnificent spectacle. Karen Brooke and Lowri Cope have spent many hours, amounting to months, working on the planning. Although this is my report for the past year, I feel able to comment on a future event because of the amount of time that has been devoted to making it a success, so I make no apology for advertising it here. It will be coupled with the event organised by Blackburn with Darwen Council 'Countryside comes to Town' which, last year, drew many thousands of people into the town centre, and because of the heavy rain, into Blackburn Cathedral itself, which was an eye-opener for many people who not only had not been inside before, but also did not know that it exists. It will be focussed on the Cathedral Square and the first proper opportunity to show off the amazing new buildings and a centre piece, the Friends Fountain. Of course, the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral will have a notable presence at the event this year. Please read the additional information in this bulletin and consider giving your support on at least one of the days of the Festival, if not more.

As ever, I am most grateful to you as members for your support and pray that it will continue and grow. We have shown how much we can do in fund-raising and organisation and all for the benefit of our beautiful Cathedral.

Jeremy Duerden

Social Activity

Following on from the item mentioned above about the National Conference, the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral are planning a weekend trip in October 2016 to London. To mark the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, we will watch a play at The Globe, followed by a tour of the theatre. It is intended then to head to Southwark Cathedral to meet the Friends there, enjoy a tour of the beautiful cathedral and attend Evensong, before having evening dinner. This trip will include an overnight stay on the Saturday night at a nearby hotel, so that we can also share in the Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral on the Sunday before heading back on the train. Full costings will soon follow but if you would like to register an interest in the trip, Val Edge and Felicity Ackroyd would be very pleased to hear from you. Phone Val on 07791 416383.

Lunchtime talks

Following a very informative talk in October by Dr Alice Lobsinger on walking the road to Santiago de Compostela we were entertained in February by Raymond Smith who gave us a potted family history and the story of how his musical career and garden developed. Both talks were most enjoyable and well attended.

The next talk on Tuesday 17th May is to be given by Mrs Susan Hughes MBE who will speak on her role as recipient researcher and coordinator for the Royal Maundy Service.

Future talks to put in your diary are Tuesday 18th October when Mrs Jean Duerden will give us an insight into her career, "Call the midwife" dealing with the profession in the time after the period in the TV series.

In February 2017 Ms Maggie Nicholson will talk on her life with the United Nations working on Human Rights in the field. In May 2017 Mrs Sheila Shaw will be entertaining us with one of her historical tales: firm dates to be arranged.

The usual arrangements for booking will be e-mail secretary@fobc or write to the Hon. Secretary at Church House BB1 5AA. The cost will remain at £12.50 for members and £15 for non members.

Please come and support the Friends.

Maureen Wood

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

It is with some sadness that I leave the orbit of The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. It has changed in a number of ways under my watch.

When I first arrived in 2001, The Friends' Council was being chaired by Keith Walmsley with Canon David Galilee as the Chapter Rep on the council. Clearly there had been some glory days in their recent past with one particular member of the Council having toured the diocese exciting chapter meetings with a slide-tape presentation about the Cathedral. I also have a number of VHS videos about the Cathedral which related to this period. It had been a very fertile time.

Since then times have changed. The Council - and the Church generally - entered a different phase: one with increasing austerity and consequent distance between parishes and the centre.

As Keith's Council got older I took over the Chairmanship to establish another direction. Keith and his delightful wife Barbara are no longer with us and a new Council has been formed which has been very active in many ways though not perhaps as the Friends' Constitution had imagined! The post-Walmsley Council - now with Jeremy Duerden in the Chair - was a very active bunch which I used for other work besides The Friends' focus. We ran stalls in Church Street during the Christmas Fireworks Display, organised the Morecambe Bay Walk and a host of other initiatives - all of which were good fun, brought some publicity (or was it notoriety!) to The Cathedral and raised a bit of money in the process. As a Council, we enjoyed each other's company and still do.

The final phase is the present one. The Friends' efforts are again focussed on the beautification of The Cathedral and especially the new Cathedral Court which will be complete and inhabited by the time you read this. The Cathedral Appeal as well as The Friends are working hard to finance the over-expenditure caused by slippages with the completion of Cathedral Court.

The focus of the Council has thus come almost full circle.

One of the concerns about Cathedral Court is that it must look outwards and serve the town, the diocese and the region as well as our own needs. That too could be said of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. Somehow we have to find ways of reconnecting with the life and generosity of the parishes. That will take strategic work on a number of fronts but I look forward to witnessing its re-development.

Christopher Armstrong: Dean of Blackburn

Report by Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

2015 Income and Expenditure

We are pleased to present the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Accounts for 2015, which once again show an excellent year. Please note the figures in brackets with a “*” are the 2014 amounts for comparison.

With a number of initiatives and fundraising activities this year, we have presented the accounts slightly different to previous years, splitting into three areas; Ordinary Activities, Flower Festival and Special Fundraising.

Ordinary Activities

Our Ordinary Activities can be directly compared with previous years. There was a small decrease in Subscriptions from members but a substantial increase in Donations and in particular two generous legacy donations from the estates of former members for which we are extremely grateful.

The total income from our Ordinary Activities was £12,604.78 (£8,704.19)*. Expenses stayed largely the same giving a surplus of income over expense of £9,677.45 (£6,229.29)*.

Flower Festival

The planned Flower Festival is gathering pace and has attracted considerable interest which has transferred into financial support and by the end of the year the surplus of income over expense was £4,851.00 (£30.00)*. The details of the income and expense for the Flower Festival will be available at the AGM and following the adoption of these accounts, we will publish them on the Friends website.

However it should be noted that we have purchased several items during the year which we have put into capital totalling £5,072.00. Some of these will have a value after the Festival but for some others the value is unknown. The Friends Council agreed that the items where the residual value is unknown they have been written down to a nominal sum of £1, making a charge to the income and expense account £2,749.00. If there is any value in these after the Flower Festival any income raised will therefore be shown as 100% “profit” on any sales in the year they arise.

Special Fundraising

The Special Fundraising was a specific initiative to raise funds for the Friends Fountain which will form part of the landscaped area in the new Cathedral Cloister. This raised £8,077.00 in the year, much of which was Gift Aided, although

we haven't as yet claimed this tax refund from HMRC, which will show in the 2016 accounts.

Summary

In total the three fundraising areas show a Net surplus for the year of £22,605.45 (£6,259.29)*

With this increased level of income the Friends have made further donations to the Cathedral of £16,000.00 (£10,000.00)* towards the Fountain, and £1,000.00 to the development of a new Cathedral Website. If you recall the £10,000 donated in 2014 was initially for the fitting out of the kitchen area to the Dean's new public Dining room, but this has now been moved to fund the Fountain in full, at a cost of £26,000.00.

Our total Assets of Investments and Cash at Bank stands at £14,871.20 (£9,265.75)*. At present we have restricted the legacy donations in the Friends deposit account whilst a specific project is identified.

We would also like to thank our independent examiner Colin Ovenden, for his swift work in completing the inspection following the presentation of the accounts to him in early January. They were duly signed off by him, completing another successful period of the Friends.

Membership

During the year two new Life members joined the Friends however we have sadly seen some members pass away including, but not limited to, Mrs Brenda Carruthers, Mrs Cross, Canon Galilee, Canon Rees & Mrs Goodall. Apology if we haven't mentioned a family member who is no longer with us.

At the end of the year we had 69 Joint Life, 96 Single Life, 30 Joint Annual, 46 Single Annual and 30 Corporate members, making a total of 277, down from the previous years' total of 285.

The Accounts which appear overleaf have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2005 (SORP) under the Charities Act 2011.

Tony Cope
Treasurer

Financial Statement for 2015

For the Period up to :		31 December 2015	Last Year
Receipts & Payments Account		£	£
1. ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			2014
Receipts			
Subscriptions	Annual	994.00	1,053.00
	Corporate	348.00	396.00
	Life	440.00	400.00
Total Subscriptions		1,782.00	1,849.00
Donations		8,518.50	3,920.50
Gift Aid & Interest		547.32	655.56
Xmas Card Sales		72.50	66.00
Theatre Visit		0.00	0.00
Arbortorum Visit		0.00	840.00
Sundry Income		75.00	215.00
AGM		78.00	120.00
Creation Exhibition		0.00	0.00
Lunches		956.19	839.00
Interest on Deposit Account		35.27	61.83
Concert		0.00	137.30
Sub Total		10,282.78	6,855.19
Total Receipts from Ordinary Activities		12,064.78	8,704.19
Payments			
Xmas Cards		0.00	0.00
Promotional		0.00	0.00
Theatre Visit		0.00	0.00
Arbortorum Visit		0.00	737.40
Administrattion		646.89	937.21
National Conference		883.25	0.00
AGM Expenses		0.00	0.00
Creation Exhibition		0.00	0.00
Lunches		451.48	491.00
Sundry Expenses		405.71	299.29
Friends & Flowers		0.00	0.00
Concert		0.00	10.00
Flower Workshop		0.00	0.00
Total Payments for Ordinary Activities		2,387.33	2,474.90
Sub Total : Net Receipts/(Payments)		9,677.45	6,229.29
2. FLOWER FESTIVAL			
Receipts			
Total Flower Festival Income		11,881.71	30.00
Expenses			
Total Flower Festival Expenses		7,030.71	0.00
Sub Total : Net Receipts/(Payments)		4,851.00	30.00
3. SPECIAL FUNDRAISING			
Friends Fountain Appeal - Total		8,077.00	0.00
TOTAL : Net Receipts/(Payments)		22,605.45	6,259.29

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Annual Bulletin 2015-16

Balance Sheet

	Cost	Deprn.	N.B.V.	£	£
Investment Assets :					
Display Boards	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00		0.00
Mechanics F Festi	500.00	500.00	0.00		0.00
F Festival Contair	2,322.00	0.00	2,322.00		2,322.00
F Festival "Urns"	2,250.00	2,249.00	1.00		1.00
Total Investment	6,172.00	3,849.00	2,323.00		2,323.00

Current Assets :

Cash at Bank : 31 December 2015

Nat West Current Account	- Unrestricted		61.40	
	- Restricted	Flower Festival	4,098.09	
		Cathedral Development	0.00	
		Legacy Donation	0.00	4,159.49
CCLA Deposit Account	- Unrestricted		1,025.00	
	- Restricted	Flower Festival	0.00	
		Cathedral Development	0.00	
		Legacy Donation	7,000.00	8,025.00
Paypal Flower Festival Account				363.71
Total Current Assests (Cash in Hand)				12,548.20

TOTAL ASSETS

14,871.20

Represented by :

Opening Bank Balances : 1 January 2015

Nat West Current Account	- Unrestricted		1,027.46	
	- Restricted		0.00	1,027.46
CCLA Deposit Account	- Unrestricted		3,804.49	
	- Restricted	Flower Festival	1,933.80	
		Cathedral Development	2,500.00	8,238.29
Sub Total				9,265.75
Add : Net Receipts/(Payments)				22,605.45
Sub Total				31,871.20
Less :	Grants to the Cathedral			
	Cathedral Development		7,500.00	
	Cathedral Development		8,500.00	
	Cathedral Website Donation		1,000.00	
			-	17,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS				14,871.20

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL



23-26 JUNE 2016

You will already know that as part of the celebrations to mark the opening of the new Cathedral Development, the Friends are staging an ambitious Flower Festival in June this year. As part of this mailing you will find a flyer giving general information and a booking form for the festival and its associated events.

The Borough Council, the Town and many local organisations have embraced the Festival and we now have Barton Grange Garden Centre as our major sponsor. We hope that you too, as a Friend of Blackburn Cathedral, will add your personal contribution to support this historic event. Ways in which you can do this are outlined below:

- Visit the Festival and encourage your friends and family to come too. Tickets can be bought on-line or by completing and returning the enclosed booking form;
- Organise a group and come together by coach or on the train;
- Attend one or more of the fringe events detailed below:

Wednesday 22 June 2016 : *Exclusive Launch Party*, hosted by Lady Shuttleworth
Enjoy the floral displays before the festival opens to the general public. This evening will also offer a unique opportunity to chat to the design team about their work. Tickets are £30 and include champagne and canapés as well as musical interludes. (Partners receive at least one ticket as part of their sponsorship)

Thursday 23 June 2016 : *Black Tie Dinner*. Be the first to dine formally in the new Cathedral Refectory with catering by Northcote Manor: a first class dining experience with three course meal and welcome drink £75.

Friday 24 June 2016 : *Secret Garden Event*. An unusual evening amongst some of the installations with music and cocktails to make the displays quite magical. Tickets are £7.00 and include a glass of prosecco.

Saturday 25 June 2016 : *Great British Bake-Off* winner Nadiya Hussain will join us during the day.

Saturday 25 June 2016 A small and intimate concert will be given amongst the flowers by the renowned *i Fagiolini*. Tickets are very limited and cost £20.

We would like to thank all our Friends who have already become Partners of the Festival and invite others to join them and enjoy the benefits it brings:

A donation of £500 makes you a Platinum Partner giving you:

- Your name in the Official Flower Festival Brochure as a Platinum Partner
- Priority Booking to all events
- 2 tickets to the Black Tie Dinner
- 2 tickets to the Exclusive Preview Event

- 2 Unlimited Festival Passes for access to the whole festival during daytime opening hours
- 2 Official Festival Brochures

A donation of £250 brings Gold Partner Benefit of:

- Your name in the Official Flower Festival Brochure as a Gold Partner
- Priority Booking to all events
- 2 tickets to the Exclusive Preview Event
- 2 Unlimited Festival Passes for access to the whole festival during daytime opening hours
- 2 Official Festival Brochures

A Silver Partner donation of £100 brings the following benefits:

- Your name in the Official Flower Festival Brochure as a Silver Partner
- Priority Booking to all events
- 1 ticket to the Exclusive Preview Event
- 1 Unlimited Festival Pass for access to the whole festival during daytime opening hours
- 1 Official Festival Brochure

Volunteers

We are anticipating thousands of visitors over the course of the Festival and will rely on the help of many volunteers to welcome and guide them.

If you can spare a minimum of two hours to join a team of stewards and helpers please do get in touch either via email info@blackburncathedralflowerfestival.com or by completing the relevant part of the booking form and we will contact you.

Please visit the dedicated website www.blackburncathedralflowerfestival.com for lots more information, to purchase tickets, for full details of sponsorship packages and for volunteering opportunities.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Festival.

Lowri Cope and Karen Brooke

**Mobile: 07742 065335 | Phone: 01772 616193 | Blackburn Cathedral Flower Festival,
Blackburn Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Blackburn. BB1 5AA
www.blackburncathedralflowerfestival.com**

Friends' National Conference Report

On behalf of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, Val Edge and Felicity Ackroyd were delighted to be able to attend the National Conference at Southwark Cathedral from 2nd to 4th October 2015. They write as follows.

On the Friday evening, after an eventful journey, we arrived at 11.30 p.m. because of cancellations and delays on the train network. We were made to feel extremely welcome despite, unfortunately, missing Compline and evening supper.

The programme started with Morning Prayer and Eucharist in St Andrew's Chapel on the Saturday. The Dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn, made us feel very much included with the other thirty-two delegates from around the country, as did Sarah King, the Chair of the Friends Council at Southwark Cathedral. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with the other Cathedral representatives from cities and dioceses, including Exeter, York, Canterbury, Ely and Peterborough to name just a few. We shared and articulated Blackburn Cathedral's exciting forthcoming projects, for example the Development Plan and the Flower Festival, along with the vision for 2026. As a result, an enthusiastic interest in Blackburn was sparked at the Conference. We were both very proud and privileged to reflect the Friends' Christian commitment to our Cathedral.

The first session on Saturday was a superb presentation delivered by Neil Constable, the Chief Executive of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and Colin Mackenzie-Blackman, the Head of Revenue Fundraising. This provoked many ideas which could be implemented or discussed at Blackburn. These are outlined below:

- Youth Schemes for Friends to encourage fundraising from younger members of the Cathedral community.
- Levels of donations, e.g. bronze, silver, gold, platinum etc to provide more choice and to acknowledge donors.
- To add a more personal touch to the membership in order to encourage retention, e.g. contacting Friends by 'phone or email, particularly as a reminder when subscriptions are imminent.
- Introduce a Volunteers' Code of Conduct for new members outlining roles for clarity.
- Develop advertisement strategies to promote recruitment, e.g. toilet advertising and finishing Cathedral tours by the Friends' Welcome Desk.

The following session presented by Bruce Crawford (representative from CCLA) and Claire Attenborough (from EIG) focused on Insurance and Finance. The copies attached offer some useful and current guidance on insurance, risk assessments and safeguarding. Although, not the most exciting session at the Conference, this did make us more aware

of the responsibility we take on when organising church events, including future possible trips and visits.

In the afternoon Sarah King delivered an interesting presentation based on the Structure and Association of English Cathedrals. This provided a good forum to hear new ideas and to share good practice. The key points derived from this are as follows:

- To design a comprehensive Development Plan for the Friends, detailing how the charity operates, who is responsible, targets and clear success criteria - and that this is reviewed and moderated annually.
- To follow the guidance offered by the Charity Commission, accessed through the website.

We both felt that this is well established at Blackburn Cathedral and felt confident that we are correctly following these procedures.

The Choral Evensong and evening dinner were a fabulous opportunity to network further and share ideas. Indeed, the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral were encouraged to visit Southwark and similarly, we encouraged others to take a trip to Blackburn.

We both enjoyed attending the Holy Communion and Friends' Lunch on Sunday. Before returning we visited the Globe Theatre and could see that this would provide an exciting venue for an event for the Friends: watch a Shakespeare play, combined with a guided tour by the Chief Executive, Neil Constable and then join the Friends of Southwark for Evensong and supper. We feel we have made firm contacts through this visit to secure future events. We both enjoyed being in Southwark and London so much and would like to share this with you in 2016.

Friends Conference Prayer

*Gracious God
your Son called his disciples friends
and gave up his life for them.
Inspire with your Holy Spirit
those who are Friends of our Cathedrals and Churches
that in our service of your church on earth
we may be instruments of the building of your kingdom
in which all people will know themselves to be of one family
united by friendship and grounded in the faith
of Jesus Christ our friend and brother.
Amen.*

LIST OF OFFICERS

Patrons: The Rt Rev Nicholas Reade, The Lord Bishop of Blackburn
Emeritus
The Rt Rev Alan Chesters, The Lord Bishop Emeritus
President: The Very Rev Christopher J Armstrong, The Dean of Blackburn
Vice President: The Dean Emeritus David Frayne

Council (Trustees)

Chairman	Judge Jeremy Duerden
Vice Chairman	vacant
Secretary	Alison Givens
Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Anthony Cope JP

Members:

Retire 2016	Felicity Ackroyd Lowri Cope David Thornton Maureen Wood
Retire 2017	Laurence Wood
Retire 2018	Val Edge Raymond Smith Peter Mather Canon Andrea Titterington

Bishop's Council Representative	Margot Berry
Cathedral Chapter Representative	Reverend Canon Dr Ian Stockton
Independent Examiner	Colin J Ovenden MBE, OstJ, FCIB
Solicitor	Kate Alsop

THE PRAYER OF THE FRIENDS OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Heavenly Father,

We give thanks for the daily
worship and witness of our Cathedral Church;
for the faith of those past and present
whom you have blessed
through prayer and fellowship
and in bread and wine.

We ask that you will
guide and bless us, our Bishop
and the people of this Diocese
that we may grow in faith and love to
become a holy people.

So enliven us by your Spirit
that we may bear your healing love
to those who are full of joy and faith
as well as to those who are bewildered and broken.
And as we remember how Mary bore your blessed Son

into the world,
so may we make Him known to others
for the fulfilment of our lives
and the healing of the nations.

Amen