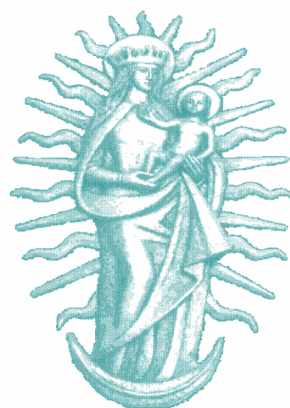


May 2015

forty-eighth annual report



May 2015



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 24 June -
Sunday 26 June
2016
(Preview 23 June 2016)

For further details including sponsorship and
volunteering opportunities contact

email: secretary@fobc.info
Tel: 01772 616193 or 01706 215522
Mobile: 07742 065335

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 K Brooke

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

email: secretary@fobc.info

tel: 01772 616193

mobile: 07742 065335

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 48TH ANNUAL FRIENDS' AGM and
EVENSONG ON SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2015 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
Commencing with Canon Andrew Hindley
and a Cathedral Development update |
| 3.15 pm | Afternoon Tea |
| 4.00 pm | Cathedral Evensong |
| Preacher: | Right Rev Julian Henderson
Bishop of Blackburn |

AGM AGENDA

1. Opening prayers led by the Dean
2. Welcome and apologies
3. Minutes of the 47th AGM 11 May 2014
4. Matters Arising
5. Membership Secretary and Treasurer's report
6. Chairman's report
7. Correspondence
8. Election of Officers, Council members, Trustees,
Solicitor and Auditor
9. Any other business

Summary of the minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral held in the Cathedral crypt on Sunday 11 May 2014 at 2.00 pm.

Present : Judge J Duerden (Chairman), Mrs K Brooke (Secretary) and 27 members

The meeting opened with Prayer led by the Dean

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from 12 members.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 12th May 2013 were approved as a true and correct record.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report. He drew the meeting's attention to a printing error in the Annual Bulletin which referred to the accounts shown there as for the year 2012. They should refer to 2013. Those accounts when referring to membership contained a printing error insofar as the number of members should have been shown as 366 rather than the 336 shown in the report. £164.22 Gift Aid had been received from HMRC for 2012. Payment was awaited for 2013. Total income for 2013 was £11,108.89 and expenditure was £6,732.57 giving a surplus of £4,376.32. Total cash held was £13,006.46. A total of £1,903.80 was allocated to restricted funds for the proposed Flower Festival.

The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Colin Ovenden, the Independent Auditor for his services and asked that it be noted that although Mr Ovenden was a member of the Friends but having 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.

The Accounts were approved by the Annual Meeting.

Membership.

The membership report was presented. It was reported that the total members was 366. Different categories were 78 joint life, 101 single life, 47 joint annual, 78 single annual and 62 corporate. Only one quarter of the annual members however, had paid their subscriptions for the new membership year

Chairman's Report

This was included in the booklet circulated to members. The Chairman expressed his concern about those members who were not renewing their standing order or increasing the subscription due to the Friends. These increases were required because of the increasing costs of servicing members. A tactful letter had been sent but many had not responded with payment and shall cease to receive notification or mail from the Council and shall cease to be members.

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 five officers listed below, agreed to stand for another year: Jeremy Duerden : Chairman, Malcolm Berry : Vice Chairman, Karen Brooke : Secretary, Roger Brickell : Assistant Secretary and Tony Cope : 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.

There were at the time of the meeting three vacancies for ordinary members of Council. Mrs Brenda Carruthers, although she had one year remaining out of her three year term, wished to resign. The number of ordinary Council members had been reduced as part of the revision of the Constitution. Of the four ordinary members whose terms of office had expired only Mr Laurence Wood had agreed to stand again. It was recorded that Mr Andy Bruce, Mrs Rebecca Hudson and Mrs Suzanne Pickering did not wish to be re-elected. It was agreed that Mr Wood be elected for a three year term. Mrs Joy Wilkinson was proposed by the Hon. Secretary and seconded by the Chairman and was elected to serve a term of three years as an ordinary member. There was one vacancy on the Council and this, in accordance with the usual practice, had been offered to the Bishop of Blackburn's wife who had still not decided whether or not to accept the position. Brian Topham, formerly the Hon. Treasurer, volunteered

to sit on Council but did not propose himself and as no member present either proposed him or seconded him, he was not elected. The Chairman expressed his thanks to those who had resigned from Council for their work on behalf of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral.

It was recorded that the new Honorary Solicitor, Kate Allsop, had prepared the new constitution and was appointed to continue in that capacity.

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 agreed to serve for a further term and his appointment was approved by the meeting.

Any Other Business

Thanks were recorded to Miss Joyce Wicks, a local artist and member of the Friends for her generous gift of signed prints of her watercolour painting of the Corona. These were available in the gift shop.

Concern was expressed about the poor level of bookings for the visit to the National Arboretum and Lichfield Cathedral on 31st May. At the time of the meeting only half the seats on the coach had been booked

Draft Constitution

The Chairman advised the meeting that it had been necessary to revise the Constitution because, amongst other things, the layout of the Accounts as previously prepared, did not comply with the Charities Act 2011 so the constitution had to be amended to bring the Constitution up to date and to make it compliant. The draft of the new Constitution was available on the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral website, and paper copies were handed round for inspection at the meeting. The new constitution deals with the make-up of the Council of Management with the number of ordinary members being reduced to nine from the previous 12, and limiting the number of Trustees to the Officers as well as three ordinary members who would be selected by reference to their length of service, the longest-serving being Trustees until the end of their term in Council.

The meeting adopted the new constitution which will be printed and made available to members on request or via the website at fobc.info/constitution.html

Speaker

Jake Berry, a Friend of Blackburn Cathedral and the Member of Parliament for Rossendale and Darwen, was introduced by the Chairman as someone who has done a great deal of good work for his constituency. Mr Berry spoke about how his faith and Christian principles had influenced his work as an M P, even when, occasionally, it brought him into conflict with the Party Whip, and provided some insight into the workings of Parliament

Thanks

Dean thanked the Chairman for his services as Chairman and for inviting Mr Jake Berry as Speaker.

Date of Next Meeting

10th May 2015 at 14.00 hours, Tea at 15.15 hours, Evensong at 16.00 hours.

The meeting closed at 15.25 hours.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again I am happy to report on a busy year for the Friends. You will recall the change to the constitution which was approved at the AGM in 2014, when the composition of the Council of Management was amended by reducing the number of members. This has allowed a more focused approach by Council, but has in no wise interfered with its operation and effectiveness. It seems to have encouraged greater efficiencies, the slight glitch mentioned below, which was the result of outside influence, being a rare departure from first-class operation. I am very grateful to those members of Council who have given freely of their time and talents to achieve our objectives. If you are interested in serving on Council, please be sure to send your name and the details of your proposer and seconder to the Hon. Secretary not later than the 8th May 2014.

One member who will not be able to continue with his activities in Council in 2015/16 will be Roger Brickell JP who is gradually making the move to his new home in Scotland. He has given good service as assistant Hon. Secretary taking notes and preparing the minutes, which task was taken over by Joy Wilkinson this year as Roger spent more time north of the Border. I am grateful to both of them for their contribution to the workings of Council.

Friends' activities have included the usual annual events such as the Advent Precession reception, but also a well-organised trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in May. I take this opportunity to apologise for the error in the date of the reception: we had not been told that the Procession was not to take place on Advent Sunday

because of another event being held that day, until after we had sent out the autumn newsletter with the details in it. I hope that it did not spoil anyone's enjoyment of the event.

I make a special mention of the trip to the National Memorial Arboretum because of the wonderful experience it afforded to see a moving and nationally-important tribute to those who have died in the service of their Country, and to express my thanks to Val Edge and Felicity Ackroyd for organising it so efficiently. It was a long, but most enjoyable, day out.

Thanks go also to Maureen Wood for her continued organisation of talks and lunches at and away from Blackburn Cathedral. We have been privileged to hear from some very interesting and moving speakers about diverse subjects, as well as a trip to Stonyhurst College for a talk on the history of a fascinating educational establishment. There are few, if any, schools which can boast seven winners of the Victoria Cross amongst their old boys, which is Stonyhurst's proud record. Maureen is working on the programme for the current year, details of which accompany this bulletin, and I commend the series to you. Apart from the interest in the talks, we are given the opportunity to share a meal with other members and to discuss the subject of the talk with its giver and each other as we eat.

We are lucky to have two other members of Council working exceptionally hard for a forthcoming project, brief details of which have been set out in the past. Karen Brooke and Lowri Cope are organising the Flower Festival which will take place at Blackburn Cathedral in June 2016. This will be a major event with national

interest from other churches and flower-arranging clubs with no particular church connection apart from a similar interest in beautification by flower arranging. More details with booking forms will be sent to you later this year or early next year. It promises to be a wonderful occasion, and one definitely not to be missed.

The fixing of the time of the Flower Festival is, in part, because of the major works being undertaken at Blackburn Cathedral just now. The works will be complete by the end of this year and the Festival will be an opportunity to show to the rest of the World what beneficial work can be done in a post-industrial town like Blackburn, which has had its fair share of difficulty in the economic downturn of the past few years. Given the objective of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral in the support and beautification of the Cathedral, we are the appropriate body to undertake such an exercise. I am happy to say also, that in Karen and Lowri we have an expert team who have already worked wonders in the preparation of the event especially in the raising of funds for publicity and purchase of infrastructure items. Their reports to Council of progress confirm a high level of success for the event, and I encourage all members to come to it, bringing your family and friends.

In the past I have on occasions mentioned the development of Cathedral Court. Please read the information later in this Bulletin by the Hon. Treasurer, Tony Cope JP, who continues to work wonders with the accounts of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. He leads a very busy professional and personal life but is still able to have interim management accounts available for every Council meeting and the

year's accounts ready within days of the year end. It is comforting to know that he is looking after the funds in such a competent manner. If you need any convincing on this point, next time you see him, ask him what we have in the accounts and he will get out his iPhone and within a minute tell you the balance. I am sure he will be very glad to hear from you in response to the contribution which the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral can make to the development of Cathedral Court. A copy of the accounts for the year to 31st December 2014 is in this Bulletin.

Just as I was putting finishing touches to this report, I heard the sad news of the death of Brenda Topham, the wife of Brian Topham who was for many years a member of Council and latterly the Hon. Treasurer. They were both strong supporters of the Friends and were seen at many of the events. I am sure that those of you who know them will want to join in sending condolences to Brian.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and forthcoming events, and to a prosperous year for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. Please join in as many events and functions as you can, and show your support for that wonderful place, our Cathedral, Blackburn Cathedral.

Jeremy Duerden

LUNCHTIME TALKS

On a cold but sunny day in February we had a trip out to Stonyhurst College. Speaking on three different themes Mr Turner the Head of History at the college, gave a history of the house, the Jesuits and the school. The large number of members who attended heard an informative talk followed by an excellent lunch in the refectory.

The next talk will be on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at 12.00 noon, when Jeremy Duerden will speak on New Zealand - Land of Fire and Ice.

Proposed talks for the future are:-

Tuesday 6th October 2015 when Dr Alice Lobsinger (née Brooke) will talk on the Road to Santiago de Compostela.

Tuesday 16th February 2016 when Raymond Smith will give a talk entitled from "Muck and Music to Stones and Roses."

These dates are provisional but firm details of the date and time will be given in the future when booking forms will be provided. All future events will be in Blackburn Cathedral unless otherwise stated.

Maureen Wood

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Annual Bulletin 2014

FRIENDS OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2014

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral
A Charity to support Blackburn Anglican Cathedral
Registered with the Charity Commission - Number : 1047234

Financial Statement for 2014 **For the period up to 31st December 2014**

Receipts & Payments Account	£	£	Last Year 2013
RECEIPTS			
Subscriptions	1,053.00		1,448.00
Corporate	396.00		397.00
Life	400.00		660.00
Total Subscriptions	1,849.00		2,505.50
Donations	3,920.50		841.93
Gift Aid	655.56		419.27
Xmas Card Sales	66.00		784.00
UK Fundraising	0.00		0.00
Theatre Visit	0.00		206.00
Arbortorum Visit	840.00		0.00
Sundry Income	215.00		260.00
AGM	120.00		105.00
Creation Exhibition	0.00		350.00
Chair Appeal	0.00		1,275.00
Lunches	839.00		5532.5
Interest on Deposit Account	61.83		34.69
Friends & Flowers	30.00		2,846.00
Flower Workshop	0.00		609.00
Concert	137.30		320.00
Sub Total	6,885.19		8,603.39
Total Receipts	8,734.19		11,108.89

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Annual Bulletin 2014

PAYMENTS

Xmas Cards	0.00	1,516.25
Promotional	0.00	0.00
Theatre Visit	0.00	325.00
Arbortorum Visit	737.40	0.00
Administration	937.21	702.60
National Conference	0.00	0.00
AGM Expenses	0.00	22.43
Creation Exhibition	0.00	147.08
Chair Appeal	0.00	1275.00
Lunches	491.00	322.00
Sundry Expenses	299.29	171.01
Friends & Flowers	0.00	1,753.70
Concert	10.00	200.00
Flower Workshop	0.00	297.50
Total Payments	2,474.90	6,732.57
Balance of : Net Receipts/(Payments)	6,259.29	4,376.32

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Annual Bulletin 2014

Balance Sheet

	Cost	Deprn.	N.B.V.	£	£
Investment Assets :					
Display Boards	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00		0.00
Flower Festival	500.00	500.00	0.00		0.00
Total Investment Assets					<u>0.00</u>

Current Assets :

Cash at Bank : 31st December 2014

Nat West Current Account – Unrestricted	1,027.46	
– Restricted	0.00	
		<u>1,027.46</u>
CCLA Deposit Account – Unrestricted	3,804.49	
– Restricted Flower Festival	1,933.80	
– Restricted Cathedral Development	2,500.00	
		<u>8,238.29</u>

Total Assets

9,265.75

Represented by :

Opening Bank Balance: 1st January 2014

Nat West Current Account – Unrestricted	680.00	
– Restricted	0.00	
		<u>680.00</u>
CCLA Deposit Account – Unrestricted	10,422.66	
– Restricted Flower Festival	1,903.80	
		<u>12,326.46</u>

Add: Net Receipts/(Payments) 6,259.29

Sub Total 19,265.75

Less : Grants to the Cathedral
Cathedral Development 10,000.00

Total Assets

9,265.75

TREASURER and MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Accounts

2014 was another successful one for the Friends with a surplus of income over expense totalling £6,259.29 through subscriptions and fundraising activities, making our total reserves £9,265.75. We made just one grant to the Cathedral of £10,000 towards the Cathedral Development. At present this has been allocated to the Kitchen of the new public area of the Deans entertaining suite but may in due course be moved to fund the garden and fountains in the Cathedral court.

As last year within the Reserves there is a restricted amount of £1,933.80 to help and assist the planned Flower Festival which will take place in 2016. In addition, following specific pledges, we have reserved a further, gift aided, sum of £2,500.00 towards the Cathedral Development.

The Gift Aid for the year was £655.56 and the claim for 2014 will be submitted shortly.

Disappointingly, despite our best efforts, income from subscriptions fell by over 25% to £1,849.00 from the previous year's total of £2,505.50. Fortunately donations have been very generous and have helped us towards our healthy surplus this year.

I take this opportunity of thanking our independent examiner Colin Ovenden, for his swift work in completing the inspection following my presentation of the accounts to him in early January. They were signed off by him on the 15th January this year, completing another successful period of the Friends.

Membership

Last year the Council to the Friends agreed that those who hadn't paid their subscriptions by the time the autumn 2014 newsletter was due to be published, should be taken from our list of members.

By then 11 members had part paid their subscription and for the present we have left them on our database but not sent any newsletters or invitations, and of those who have not paid there are 28 Corporate members, 36 Single Annual and 17 Joint Annual making a total of 81 members who have not renewed their membership in 2014 or prior.

This now leaves us with 78 Joint Life, 101 Single Life, 30 Joint Annual, 42 Single Annual and 34 Corporate members, making a total of 285, down from the previous 366. This includes the 11 who have part paid. We have also been notified of some members who are no longer with us and passed away some time ago.

Tony Cope
Treasurer

LIST OF OFFICERS

Patrons: The Rt Rev Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn.
 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 J Duerden
Vice Chairman	Mr M Berry
Secretary	Mrs K Brooke
Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Mr A Cope JP

Members

Retire 2015	Mrs V Edge	Retire 2016	Miss F Ackroyd
	Mr P Troughton		Mrs L Cope
	Vacancy		Mr D Thornton
			Mrs M Wood

Retire 2017	Mrs J Wilkinson (Minute Secretary)
	Mr L Wood
	Vacancy

Bishop's Council Representative	Mrs M Berry
Cathedral Chapter Representative	Reverend Canon Dr Ian Stockton
Independent Examiner	Mr Colin J Ovenden MBE, OstJ, FCIB
Honorary Solicitor	Ms Kate Allsop

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

Useful Contact Information :

Website :

fobc.info

Chairman :

Judge Jeremy Duerden
e-mail : chairman@fobc.info

Honorary Secretary :

Mrs Karen Brooke
e-mail : secretary@fobc.info
Telephone : 01772 616193
Mobile : 07742065335

Treasurer & Membership :

Mr Tony Cope JP
e-mail : treasurer@fobc.info