



FRIENDS OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

As usual, the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral will be in attendance at the **Advent Procession** and you are invited to attend the reception beforehand. It had been hoped that the new building would have been finished by then to allow us to use the public area in the new Deanery, but completion will be just too late for that. Once again, as last year, the reception will take place on the second Sunday in Advent which is the **6th December 2015, at 5.30 pm**. Again, there will be reserved seats for Friends. If you wish to come to the service please indicate on the enclosed booking form. Space is limited at this very popular service, so it will not be possible to bring a host of your friends, but, of course, if they would like to become members of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, they will be entitled to a seat in that capacity.

Please remember to book

The Friends Fountain

I am delighted to report that there has been a wonderful response to the request for donations to the fountain resulting in our being well on the way to reaching the target of £26,000. Please refer to the detail in the report of the Hon. Treasurer below. This result is a resounding endorsement of the generosity of the Friends, who added substantially to the funds already carefully garnered. I have been moved by the way in which people have been able to send a contribution to allow us to achieve this remarkable goal. The individual amounts, however large or small, have shown exceptional generosity. My faith in the members' willingness to provide the funds to make the grant has been fully rewarded and I thank you for making it possible. If you have made a donation, you will find a personal letter of thanks with this newsletter. If you have not been able to send a cheque, having, for example, misplaced the donation form, it is not too late to make a payment. Just in case, I enclose a further copy of the form for those who might still want to contribute.

This newsletter contains details of some forthcoming events, all of which I commend to you to attend. They are set out in the yellow columns for easy reading. The lunchtime talks take place on Tuesdays at 12.00 noon, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the Crypt. The cost is £12.50 for members and £15.00 for guests. That is a small incentive to join as a Friend! From the New Year, the talks will be held in the new building, but the talk on the 6th October will be in the Chesters Room in the Cathedral Undercroft. These are always interesting occasions, with a wide variety of subjects for the talks, and the opportunity for Friends to chat over lunch afterwards.

Council has decided that a lunch in the Autumn would be easier than an evening dinner, so one has been arranged for 15th November 2015 at 1.00 pm for 1.30 to allow members time to get there after worship.

Please support as many of the events as you feel able to do. You are the life and soul of the Society and we need to know that you are enjoying being members.

Jeremy Duerden (Chairman)

More dates!

Lunchtime talks.

On **6th October 2015** Dr Alice Brooke will give a talk "the Road to Compostella" about the pilgrim trail across the north of Spain to Santiago.

On **16th February 2016**, Raymond Smith will give a talk "From Muck and Rock to Stones and Roses" about his beautiful gardens at White Coppice.

On a date to be confirmed in **May 2016**, Susan Hughes will give a talk "Organisation of the Royal Maundy" which will be of interest to any members who were present at Easter 2014.

The Friends will be holding a **lunch** for members on **Sunday 15th November 2015** at the Salmsbury Hotel (formerly the Swallow Hotel). It will cost £15.95 per head and numbers are limited to 30 diners as it will be a private function in its own room.

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place at 2.00 pm on Sunday the **8th May 2016**. Details of the venue will be given in the Annual Bulletin before the meeting.

The **Flower Festival** preparations move on apace. There is a large amount of information together with a booking form enclosed with this newsletter. The dates for your diary are **23rd to 26th June 2016** with a preview day on the **22nd June**.

Hon. Treasurer's report

2015 has so far been a mixed year for the Friends.

Subscriptions are once again lower than in previous years and despite reminders being sent, our membership continues to fall. However the generosity of both Annual and Life Members, who continue to support the Friends, significantly boosts our income.

We have managed to keep our costs to a bare minimum, not having published a Spring Newsletter, leaving our surplus of general income over expense at £4,199.52. Coupled with the income from the Lunches and other fundraising activities, as well as legacy donations and our 2014 Gift Aid tax refund, this has left us in a reasonably healthy position.

Our total surplus for the year to date stands at £9,727.33.

Through previous general fundraising, legacy and ordinary donations, we have been able to contribute a further £7,500.00 to the Cathedral development. That is in addition to the previous £10,000.00 which we donated last year. This £17,500 has now been allocated towards the Friends Fountain for which we have been asked to raise £26,000, leaving £8,500 to find.

The special fundraising appeal towards the Friends Fountain has so far seen £4,792.00 donated and I and believe there is more to come in due course. I will shortly be submitting a claim for the gift aid on these specific donations. So hopefully, together with the tax refund and the further anticipated donations, we will be able to achieve the £26,000.00, although there is still some way to go.

Over the last year we have also hosted a number of fundraising events specifically targeted at raising monies in anticipation of the Flower Festival, a spectacular event to celebrate the Cathedral development, which will take place next year. We have ring fenced these monies, less any expenditure to date, specifically for the Flower Festival.

All together our total reserves of cash and assets stands at £13,764.81. Which concludes my Treasurer's report for the Autumn of 2015.

Tony Cope JP, Hon Treasurer

Please make your booking for any event on the enclosed booking form.

