

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

Spring 2014



Welcome

The Annual Bulletin contains a good deal of information about the activities of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, so this newsletter need not repeat what we have been doing. Instead, it will set out what is on the horizon for us and Blackburn Cathedral, for the benefit of which we exist.

The Annual General Meeting

This will be held in the Crypt on Sunday 11 May 2014 at 14.00 hrs with tea and Evensong to follow.

Our guest speaker will be Jake Berry MP and Friend of Blackburn Cathedral who says

"I am looking forward to attending the forthcoming Friends of Blackburn Cathedral AGM on 11th May and meeting as many fellow members as possible.

My thanks go in advance to your Chairman for inviting me to give a short address to the gathering and I hope to talk about my life as an MP and also how my Christian beliefs intertwine with my role in Parliament.

I look forward to seeing you in May."

Of equally great importance at the AGM will be the adoption of a new constitution for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. There have been some changes in the law relating to charities and these have to be addressed in our constitution. A draft accompanies this newsletter and will be put to the meeting for adoption. Please try to attend to ensure that all relevant views are taken into account.

Advent Procession

It was good to see some of the Friends at the Advent Procession reception in Church House on the 1st December last. This has settled into an annual event and provides the opportunity to meet with other Friends in the comfortable surroundings of the Dean's Office and then to enjoy a reserved seat in the Nave of Blackburn Cathedral for a wonderful service with first class music. It was a great pleasure to be able to invite the new Bishop and Mrs Henderson to join us at the reception. The event also provided an opportunity to raise funds

from the sale of the original painting from which last year's Christmas card front was taken, a very generous gift of the artist, Patrick Troughton.

Artist Friends

Patrick, who is not only a Friend, but also on the Council of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, will be holding an exhibition of his work in Blackburn Cathedral in the Autumn. More information will be circulated in due course, but it is anticipated that there will be an event organised as a preview at the start of the exhibition, along the lines of the one which preceded the Creation Embroidery exhibition in early 2013, which those who attended will remember was most enjoyable.



Another generous gift from another Friend, is in the form of signed prints of a watercolour painting by Joyce Wicks. Each one of these, when sold will raise funds for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral. They cost £30 each including a mount but no

frame, and can be obtained from the Cathedral bookshop or email address below for full details. Alongside is a much reduced impression of the artwork.

Lunchtime talks

The lunchtime talks continue to attract good numbers and with the quality of the speakers continuing to be high, perhaps that is no surprise. Many thanks to all who attended the talk in February given on the work of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. It was especially good to see some new faces there. The next talk is on Tuesday 20th May when Mr Peter Holdsworth, retired head of English at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School will talk on the life and times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Future talks planned include topics such as the History of Stonyhurst College; New Zealand, land of fire and ice; and the Pilgrims' route to Santiago de Compostela. Other dates will be notified nearer the time, but the talks take place at 12noon followed by lunch in the crypt: the cost for members is £12.50 and £15 for non members. We are most grateful to Maureen Wood for organising the talks including booking the speakers and arranging the lunch.

Cathedral Development

The Blackburn Cathedral Development will be well under way by the time of the AGM on the 11th May 2014, by which time details of the contribution which we can make to a specific part of the construction or finishing of the project, will be available. We have not made any large grants to the Cathedral over the past year or so, anticipating this development and so have some funds in hand already, but there will be a drive to raise a substantial sum to contribute to the building. Please come to the AGM to learn more about it.

WW1 Anniversary



To mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I Friends of Blackburn Cathedral warmly welcome you on a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum on **Saturday 31st May.**

Departing at **8.00 am** from St Wilfred's School and arriving back at approximately **7.30 pm.**

£30 includes coach travel, chapel service at 11.00 am, exploring the sites and memorials, a tour at Lichfield Cathedral with Evensong at 3.30pm and meeting Friends of Lichfield Cathedral. Lunch is not included but there are plenty of peaceful spaces for picnics or cafes.

Flower Festival

Since the last newsletter, we have been involved in events to raise the profile of Blackburn Cathedral. Two of them involved guidance on flower-arranging and by all accounts were very successful, both in generating funds and in providing interesting and entertaining days out.



When the Blackburn Cathedral Development has been concluded, it is intended to hold a flower festival in the Cathedral. It is not yet possible to indicate when this will take place as the work is in the very early stages, but you will be given ample notice of the timing. Suffice it to say that, after the success of the two events already undertaken, the larger-scale event will be something definitely not to miss.

A booking form for all the events mentioned in this newsletter is enclosed but you can also book via the website www.fobc.info Further information can also be obtained from:

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Email secretary@fobc.info

Please visit the Friends' new website

www.fobc.info