**Reminder**

Annual subscriptions were due in January 2018.

Please send your cheque to: Mr. Tony Cope, Treasurer

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

Blackburn Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Blackburn. BB1 5AA

Or directly to:

FOBC, Sort Code: 01-00-85, Account Number 04941268

Reference: 2018 Subscription

**Lunchtime Talks**

Bookings direct to Maureen Wood, Tel : 07473 980680

email : alexjwood91@hotmail.com or post to

Larkhill Cottages, 6 Silver Street, Hurst Green,

Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9QE

Cost £12.50 for members, £15 for non-members.

Places must be booked in advance to reserve your Lunch.

**Spring 2018**

**Newsletter**

**Chairman’s Remarks**

Cathedrals have been receiving a lot of attention lately.

Just before Christmas the Department for Communities and Local Government published a report entitled: **Cathedrals and Their Communities: A Report on the Diverse Roles of Cathedrals in Modern England.** It highlighted the vibrancy of Cathedrals and the ways in which they meet the wide range of needs and challenges within their communities. Of our Cathedral it stated:

“Blackburn is a prime example of a cathedral that has gone above and beyond in encouraging local growth. The Dean of the cathedral has developed a unique relationship with local business owners, the BID and council. Together they have successfully redeveloped the city centre area surrounding the cathedral and the cathedral grounds themselves.

The cathedral has been used as the focal point for the brand new ‘Cathedral Quarter’ with shops, a café, restaurants and office space. The quarter is just the first stage in Blackburn’s regeneration with retail opportunities set to expand. Interestingly, the cathedral team remains involved in these projects in an advisory capacity.”

Continued …….

**Don’t forget all the information is on the**

**Friends’ website at :**

**www.fobc.info**



**Alison Givens, Honorary Secretary,**

**Friends of Blackburn Cathedral,**

**71 Studfold, Astley Village, Chorley Lancashire. PR7 1UA**

**email: secretary@fobc.info**

**FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES of the Friends in 2018**

**8th May: Lunchtime Talk by Bishop Philip North** on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2017. Several Friends took part in this pilgrimage and this promises to be a good opportunity to hear about it from the leader and participants.

**3rd July: Lunchtime Talk by Revd Fraser Smith** on “God Works in Strange Ways,” about his experiences as a prison chaplain for 21 years at HMP Garth.

**13th September: Revealing the Hidden Heritage** is the title of the Heritage Lottery Fund project to re-develop the Crypt as an exhibition/conferencing space. This will be an evening where a collection of the treasures held by the Cathedral will be shown and explained. There will be drinks and canapes provided by Café Northcote. Tickets will be £25.

**23rd October: Lunchtime Tour of the Treasures of Stonyhurst College** will enable us to view the extensive collection of artifacts held by the College. As it is Half Term it is possible that lunch will be arranged at a nearby venue, e.g. Three Fishes at Mitton.

**Cathedral Trust – Appeal Fundraising Events**

15th June – Classic Car Day at Browsholme Hall

26th September – Golf Day at Pleasington Golf Club

For more information please contact by email : ann@ashfield.net  or Mobile : 07710 500 802

The **Cathedrals Working Group Report** published on the 18th of January 2018 stated:

“On the very day the first draft of this report was finalised, the latest statistics on cathedrals were published. Average weekday attendances were up yet again, and visitor numbers (including Westminster Abbey) exceeded 10 million in the past year. 16,500 people attended Fresh Expression services and 310,000 young people came to cathedrals through special educational visits, both of which were significant increases on previous years. Cathedrals continued to be centres of civic life, with 1.2 million people reported at 6,000 civic services and events throughout the year. As the Rt Revd John Inge, Bishop of Worcester, and lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings, said in response to these latest statistics: ‘Behind these figures lie stories of worship, learning, exploring faith and spirituality and encountering God at times of joy and despair. Through new forms of worship, bringing people of all faiths and none together, and serving the young and old alike, these amazing places continue to be at the heart of national life.’ On almost any ecclesiastical or missional measure – the five marks of mission, or the quinquennial goals, for instance – cathedrals are leading the way for the rest of the Church.”

Thousands of people come to Blackburn Cathedral each year: for regular or special services including all civic services in Lancashire, for school and other educational visits, for concerts and events (such as the International Women’s Day gathering on the 6th of March 2018 that brought dozens of organisations together and hundreds of women from East Lancashire and beyond). And vitally our Cathedral is a haven of peace, a place of prayer and safety for people to find succour and support.

*Continued …….*

**Introducing The Rev Dr Rowena Pailing, MA (Oxon), PhD (Birmingham) appointed Canon Missioner, Blackburn Cathedral**

**Installation 5th May 2018 at 3 p.m.**

Rev Dr Rowena Pailing has spent the last six years teaching at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield (both Church History and Pastoral Theology).  During this time she has also been responsible for coordinating all placements and making the connections between what ordinands study and how they live out their faith. She maintained an active parish ministry throughout that time.

Rowena has experience in serving a variety of parishes and contexts. In a diverse, inner urban area of Birmingham she served as a parish priest with particular involvement with different faith communities. During her time there she also taught Patristics and co-ordinated a contextual theology project for Anglican and Methodist ordinands at The Queen’s Foundation.

As a Residentiary Canon of Blackburn Cathedral, the Canon Missioner has the primary responsibility for the faith development and education of the regular congregations, visitors including tourists and wider community, children, and schools. The focus of the role of Canon Missioner is upon maximising the outward facing mission opportunities available to the Cathedral and across the Diocese.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Dr Pailing to Blackburn Cathedral.

And yet, many people in the parishes of Blackburn Diocese have never visited the Cathedral. It isn’t even on their radar. They don’t know what they are missing!

I would ask each of you, as Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, to invite people to visit, to let them know of events they may find of interest, to put the Cathedral on their mental maps.

Share your joy in our Cathedral and encourage your friends to become Friends.

*Canon Andrea Titterington*

*Chairman*

**General Data Protection Regulation**

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) replaces the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC and was designed to harmonize data privacy laws across Europe, to protect and empower all EU citizens’ data privacy and to reshape the way organisations approach data privacy. It comes into force on the 25th of May 2018 and it affects the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral just as it does all other organisations which hold your details such as addresses and phone numbers. Non-compliance can lead to heavy fines.

The information we hold and will continue to hold are names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and we will only use these to keep in contact with you.

We know that as a Friend of Blackburn Cathedral you will want us to stay in touch with you. Therefore, please complete the enclosed form and return it to us by post or submit your response through the website : **www.fobc/info/data protection** or email us your answer the questions on the form.

Your co-operation is much appreciated.

The third and fourth sessions provided opportunities for the delegates to share literature, ideas and to pose questions for discussion and debate. Key messages noted from these sessions included the growing importance of young Friends’ groups in cathedrals and the successful inclusion of the younger members of cathedral communities.

Peterborough Cathedral was a notable example of where this has successfully been implemented and funds have been raised by their ‘Young Friends’. Canterbury Cathedral gave a positive account of prompting the Friends through the dissemination of promotional literature, e.g. leaflets in the Cathedral shop, local museums and tourist information centres. Many Friends groups also have their own noticeboard in prime areas of their cathedrals to display council members, advertise local events and keep their congregations informed.

The Conference Dinner was an excellent conclusion to the main day at which the key speaker, The Lord Bishop of Ely, delivered some interesting ideas centred around a twentieth-century reinvention under the famous ‘Octagon Tower’ of Ely Cathedral. We were all pleased to attend the Eucharist service on Sunday before the long journey back to Blackburn. To commemorate the Reformation, the Eucharist followed the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, which we valued as part of our worship.

We feel we have made firm contacts through this visit to secure future events. We all enjoyed being in Ely so much and would like to share this with you in 2018 at the Cathedral’s Flower Festival. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with the other Cathedral representatives from cities and dioceses, including Bath, Manchester, Canterbury and Peterborough to name just a few. We were both very proud and privileged to represent the Friends of Blackburn. The next National Conference is in 2019 at Peterborough Cathedral.

*Val Edge, Gill Ireland & Felicity Ackroyd*

**Conference of Cathedral Friends’ Groups**

On behalf of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, Val Edge, Gil Ireland and Felicity Ackroyd were delighted to be able to attend the National Conference at Ely Cathedral in October 2017. On the Friday evening, we arrived at 6.30pm in time to join Evensong which included the choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge. We were made to feel extremely welcome by the Friends of Ely and enjoyed meeting delegates from around the country over evening supper.

The programme started with Stephen Borne’s session on the Saturday entitled ‘The Ely Cathedral Survival Kit’. Stephen was previously Director of Cambridge University Press and delivered a clear presentation about ways in which the Cathedral have attempted to attract new audiences, for example the recent Science Festival, musical concerts beyond the classical genre and working with Multi Academy Trusts to increase awareness of the Cathedral around the local area. Ely Cathedral organises and hosts a Flower Festival every five years to bring in a more diverse cross-section from around the country. The next Flower Festival is arranged for 2018 at Ely Cathedral and we all discussed the possibility of a future Friends trip to support this event.

The second session was presented by Talitha Proud from Church House, London which was focused around making the most of digital and social media. She promoted the use Twitter and Instagram to enhance the profile of Friends groups, along with the more traditional websites and Facebook pages. Talitha also suggested using ‘vlogging’ and streaming of live events to draw in new audiences. Some Friends groups have started using ‘Advent Video Diaries’ in the countdown to Christmas, which have had a positive impact in terms of attracting new audiences.

*Continued …….*