

Dates for your Diary :

50th Anniversary Dinner	15th September 7.00 pm at Café Northcote By Ticket Only
Choral Evensong	25th September 4.00 pm at the Cathedral
Lunch time Talk	26 th September at 12 noon Mr Phil Davenport Olive Harvest tour of Palestine
Advent Reception	4th December 5.00 pm - Venue TBC

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



Friends of Blackburn Cathedral



Summer Newsletter 2017

Celebrating 50 Years of the Friends



Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

In this edition :



1. 50th Anniversary Dinner	Page 3
2. Chairman's Remarks	Page 3
3. A Message from the Dean	Page 5
4. 50 Years of the Friends	Page 7
5. Legacies	Page 10
6. Globe Theatre Trip	Page 13
7. Websites	Page 15
8. Lunch Time Talks	Page 16
9. Treasurer & Membership Report	Page 17
10. Flower Festival - Still "Buzzing"	Page 18
11. Dates and Contact Information	Page 20

As with so many events an award is recognition for all the people who were involved in putting on such a huge event, our sponsors, the floral artists, all 160 volunteer stewards and not least all the people who visited the festival ensuring its success.

The Flower Festival was an amazing achievement for the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral to undertake. Across four days of floral installations with music, a champagne preview, a black tie dinner for the business community and sponsors, a jazz night amongst the flowers and a classical music concert brought people together to experience a warm Christian welcome. Many people are still talking about the Festival and we are sure they will for a long time to come.

*Karen Brooke & Lowri Cope
July 2017*



Karen & Lowri
with their Buzz award

The Flower Festival still BUZZING one year on...

We cannot believe how quickly the first anniversary of the Flower Festival has come around.

It seems like only yesterday that we were rushing about finalising all the arrangements and

anticipating an amazing few days at the Cathedral. There can be no doubt that it was a hugely successful event drawing crowds from far and wide. Many people came to the Cathedral, and indeed Blackburn, for the very first time during those days in June 2017 and were blown away both by the floral installations and the Cathedral itself. Many have since returned to discover more about Lancashire's Cathedral and the town of Blackburn.

Due to the success of the festival in attracting people to Blackburn and Lancashire, we were shortlisted for a Lancashire Tourism Award. This entailed filling in forms and then appearing before a panel of judges. The experience was quite daunting and a little like being called in to see the head teacher at school! However, as finalists we did attend the splendid Awards Dinner, appropriately in 2016 held at the Cathedral.

Blackburn with Darwen business community, the HIVE, organise a spectacular awards ceremony with many categories, to recognise success in various fields of business. The Flower Festival was nominated and shortlisted for the **Buzz Award** – yes, for creating a “buzz” in the town. It was amazing to be considered among other events which are well established and professionally run. This time the Awards Dinner was held at King George's Hall. We turned up in our finery hopeful of carrying off the trophy and to our great delight we did!

Continued

50th Anniversary Dinner

To Celebrate 50 Years of the Friends of
Blackburn Cathedral we are holding an
Anniversary Dinner

on Friday the 15th September 2017 at
Café Northcote — Tickets £50 each

For further information please contact :

Tony Cope – Treasurer

email : treasurer@fobc.info

Telephone : 01706 215522

Or return the enclosed Booking Form

The dinner will be preceded by a joint presentation from Penny Warden, painter of “The Journey” and Sue Phillips who designed “The Resurrection” at last years Flower Festival, which was inspired by Penny's work.



Chairman's Remarks

50 Years!

CONGRATULATIONS! AND THANK YOU!

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral have donated thousands of pounds and, equally importantly, hours and hours of voluntary service to our Cathedral. We give thanks to Members past and present who have made it possible for us to enhance our Cathedral: its life, welcome, worship and buildings. We cannot do that without the support and stewardship of each and every one of you.

Even for people with peripheral and partial connection with the Church, major milestones of life are celebrated in its buildings. Baptisms, weddings and funerals gather families and friends into a Christian community and invite them to acknowledge and worship God. The wider population assumes that their parish church will always be there for these milestones.

Continued

Most assume that “the government” or something as vague as “Church Commissioners” with millions of pounds at their disposal ensure the continuation of these places of worship because “they have always been there.”

This is magnified in the case of cathedrals. There is much grumbling at the charging of admission fees at some of the oldest and largest cathedrals. Christian places of worship are expected to be open and sustain themselves. It is only very recently that the financial difficulties of some cathedrals have received media attention. These mentions mostly hint at mismanagement by senior staff; another strand of anti-clerical and anti-church coverage.

We know that it is the church community itself that supports parish churches. When the congregation gets too small to support the parish, a Diocese is faced with the heart-rending decision to close a church. Although cathedrals receive some help with the stipends of senior clergy, most of the budget is supplied by congregations, visitors, donations and legacies.

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral celebrates the major milestone of its 50th Anniversary in 2017. A proud history of funding various elements of our Cathedral was summarised in the Spring Newsletter. The Friends continue to work hard to raise much needed finance to ensure that the Cathedral will be “good news for Lancashire” future generations. Please tell your parishes about the rich life of worship and music that takes place at our Cathedral. Invite people to services and concerts. Come to events sponsored by the Friends. We welcome and require more members to take our stewardship forward for the next 50 years.

We would especially invite you to join us in the celebration of the Friends’ 50th Anniversary at the dinner on the 15th of September. The charity’s success is based as much upon fellowship as on raising much needed finance for our Cathedral.

Continued

Treasurer & Membership Report

As we reach the middle of the financial year I am pleased to report a healthy financial position for the Friends.

We currently have a surplus of Income over Expense of just under £3,500 which is largely due to the extremely generous donations of almost £3,000 from our members and this now takes our cash reserves to £23,300. The income generated last year from the Flower Festival and the generous legacies has meant we have, this year to date, contributed £7,835 to the Cathedral.

Unfortunately our annual subscription income continues to fall with just £933 collected this year as against £1,120 last year. If all our annual members paid then we could see a further £735 collected to our charity. It will mean those that have not paid their subscription will be taken off our mailing list in the near future. If you are one of those, a polite reminder will be in this mailing asking you to make your contribution as soon as possible.

As yet I have not made an application for Gift Aid from HMRC from the contributions of 2016 and expect a reasonable amount will be generated once I have made the submission.

Membership.

We welcome new members, Krystyna Adams, Adrian Wilson, Clifford & Carol Fishwick, Rev Malcolm & Anne Deane, Joan Dorich and Mr & Mrs F Robinson. This takes our total to 280. However 35 members have as yet not paid their subscription and 4 have part paid.

I hope the reminder in this newsletter prompts them to bring their subscriptions up to date.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

*Tony Cope
July 2017*

Friends' Lunchtime Talks

Thought the year we hold a number of interesting and fascinating talks on a wide range of topics.

Professor Eric Groves, a naval historian, very kindly stepped in at the last minute for our talk on the 16th May, when 17 members heard an entertaining talk on the contribution made by the Isle of Man Steam Packet boats, during the first and second world wars.

This was followed by lunch in the beautiful setting of the Temple Gallery.

The next talk is on the 26th September at 12 noon in the library, when Mr Phil Davenport will speak on his Olive Harvest tour of Palestine.

Please come and join the Friends and make a booking as below. The charge for members, including lunch, is £12.50 and for non members is £15.00.

e-mail: secretary@fobc.info

Or write to :

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral,
Cathedral Offices,
Blackburn. BB1 5AA

Maureen Wood

You will see in the articles in this newsletter from Val, Felicity, Karen, Lowri, Maureen and Thornton the varied ways in which the Friends join together in creative ways. We welcome Dean Peter Howell-Jones as our new President and look forward to our future collaboration.

*Canon Andrea Titterington
BA, MA, MCIH*

A Message from The Dean

For Siân and myself, the past few months has been a time of mixed emotions, change and discovery. The transition from Chester to Blackburn has happened almost without incident and we are slowly settling into new surroundings and establishing new friendships.

As a Lancashire lad, born and bred, I'm very much enjoying getting to know the county in which I was born and spent the early years of my life. Now as Dean of Lancashire's Cathedral, it is very important to me that our mission and ministry in not constrained by the geography of our location or by the limits of the building itself, but rather to explore how we can work in partnership with the diverse parishes and communities across the diocese to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



When Jesus walked this earth, he offered a simple invitation – follow me. It was an invitation to a new way of living. To join a movement of people through whom God would change the world and in the process of doing so, change us. Throughout two thousand years of history Jesus has never stopped inviting people to follow him and to be changed through that process of following.

Continued

In responding to the invitation to become Dean of Blackburn, it is this commitment to follow Jesus that motivates me. I'm very excited about what lies ahead, but recognise that following Jesus for us as a Cathedral community will not always be straightforward. How we balance the competing demands of maintaining a building, ensuring financial stability, encourage faith to grow, engaging in meaningful ways with people of others faiths and none, whilst being agents of change in the community around us, will determine the validity of our commitment to that invitation to follow Jesus.

During the next year, the Cathedral Chapter has an important task in trying to discern an appropriate and deliverable way forward for us as a Cathedral. In preparing the ground, we will be undertaking a self-evaluation exercise to look honestly where we are, what's going well, where we can improve and what additional areas of ministry we need to explore. It's an exciting moment and I look forward to what the future might hold.

I do hope that the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral will continue to play a significant part in what I believe to be a moment of strategic importance in the overall life of our Cathedral, which seek to be Good News for the whole of Lancashire.

With every blessing.

*The Very Reverend Peter Howell-Jones
Dean of Blackburn Cathedral*

On the Sunday morning, due to the sudden closure of Southwark Cathedral, the group chose to spend the Sunday morning worship with Holy Trinity Brompton Church in South Kensington, the place from where the Alpha courses originated, instead of attending the Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral. On the morning of Pentecost and the morning after the attacks, this proved to be an uplifting and thought-provoking service.

On the Sunday evening during the journey back to Blackburn, the group reflected on their weekend spent in London and despite the upset and our emotional feelings towards the events, we were thankful for the times we had shared together during this special weekend. The trip demonstrated a strong bond and a deep care towards each other as Friends of Blackburn Cathedral.

*Val Edge and Felicity Ackroyd
26th June 2017*

Websites

Please don't forget that the Friends have a dedicated website where all the News and information and events planned by us are listed. Please take a moment to look at :

www.fobc.info

Also a reminder about the new look Cathedral website developed by our Flower Festival media partners Square Cactus,

www.blackburncathedral.com

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral visited the beautiful and unique Southwark Cathedral, where the last Friends' National Annual Conference was held in 2015. It was a delight to be invited to the confirmation and baptism service and to witness the thriving community at the Cathedral. Following the service, the Friends had the pleasure of meeting a good number of the Southwark group over a welcoming supper. The meal provided an excellent opportunity to share ideas and possibilities for future developments amongst the Friends within the Cathedral communities.

After the supper at Southwark Cathedral the group then walked a short distance through Borough Market over towards the atmospheric Globe Theatre. The play of Romeo and Juliet proved to be highly entertaining, adhering to the true Montague and Capulet storyline, but throwing in modern day and contemporary twists. We all found the performance truly captivating and extremely well-acted.

Following the evening's performance on Saturday 3rd June, our fun weekend in London was brought to an alarming standstill as we became aware of the shocking terrorist attacks on London Bridge and at Borough Market. The group were deeply saddened to see some of the events unfolding and acted quickly to show care and compassion towards each other, during the aforementioned Shakespeare's 'Summer of Love' season. The Friends of Southwark Cathedral showed much concern towards the group, given that their own Cathedral quickly became part of the huge police investigation.

Indeed, two members of the Friends of Southwark visited the morning after the major incident to express their concern. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Southwark during the difficult and recent weeks. We were very fortunate that nobody was hurt or directly involved with the upsetting events.

Continued

50 Years of the Friends

FOBC 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS A "FRIEND'S" REFLECTIONS

I have been asked, as the longest serving Council Member of the "Friends", to give some personal reflections over my active time involved with the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral.

This goes back to 1996 when the then Vice Chairman of the Friends was Canon David Rees who was also my Parish Vicar at St Mary's Penwortham. He suggested that both my wife Maureen and I might like to become "Friends" and take part and assist in the organization of various social events to raise funds for the Cathedral.

Having visited the Cathedral on a number of previous occasions including taking part in a BBC "Songs of Praise", my first involvement was to assist the then Chairman Keith Walmsley in arranging and overseeing a 3 day visit by some 38 "Friends" to the West Country including Bristol and the Cathedrals of Bath & Wells, Hereford & Worcester. Having enjoyed it so much, I became involved in the Lantern Appeal and in day trips to Ampleforth Abbey and Helmsley in 1998; a visit to Durham Cathedral in 1999; a 2 day visit to Lichfield & Shrewsbury Cathedral in 2000; and a day visit to Derby in 2001 taking in the Well-Dressings in the Peak District on route. At each Cathedral, we were warmly welcomed by their "Friends" and we have and continue to give a very warm welcome to visiting Cathedral Friends across the whole country.

In 2002, I was approached by the then new Dean Christopher Armstrong if I would consider becoming a Council Member of the Friends. I was subsequently elected at the AGM in 2003 and I realized that one of the prime objectives at that time was to promote the Cathedral. Deaneries were asked to host an event accompanied by Council Members in which the Cathedral's Young Peoples Choir would perform.

Continued

In addition, arrangements were made to invite Deaneries into the Cathedral on a Sunday afternoon for a conducted tour of the Cathedral led by George Kirby and myself and then having afternoon tea in the Crypt before attending evensong at 4pm. Visits to the Tunstall Deanery in 2003, Leyland Deanery in 2004 (to my own Parish of St Mary, Penwortham) and Chorley Deanery in 2006 took place. All were very successful and many barriers were broken down and misconceptions about the Cathedral put to bed.

Social events continued to flourish with visits to Stoneyhurst College in 2007 and Chester Cathedral in 2009. We continued to have dinners in the Crypt – two of the most memorable were firstly the celebratory dinner & exhibition in honour of John Hayward in 2004 and secondly was when Penny Warden was guest of honour at the dinner in 2009 and spoke with passion about her 13 paintings hung around the Cathedral walls depicting “The Journey”.

I arranged, on behalf of the Friends, three sponsored charity Morecambe Bay Walks in 2009, 2010 and 2011 some more successful than others but each of them very memorable for different reasons.

Friends of the various Cathedrals and Abbeys up and down the country have met every other year when one Cathedral hosts usually a two day event. For many years, we have sent representatives to share ideas and consider best practice with fellow “Friends”. In the recent past, Salisbury hosted in 2006, Lincoln in 2008 and we hosted the 2010 National Conference of Cathedral Friends when we were based at Whalley Abbey. Feedback was most positive and we have continued to send representatives to subsequent Conferences where we have renewed old friendships and shared good ideas.

It is impossible to do justice to what the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral have achieved over the last 50 years but there are three which stand out in my mind.

Continued

Visit to the Globe Theatre in London

On Saturday 3rd June a group of twenty one, representing the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, travelled down to London for a special visit to Southwark Cathedral and Shakespeare’s Theatre. The purpose of

the visit was to further develop the links with the Friends group based at Southwark Cathedral and to build on the connections made from the annual conferences. It was also an opportunity to enjoy an evening together at The Globe Theatre following on from the three hundred year anniversary of Shakespeare’s death in 2016. As part of the ‘Summer of Love’ season, the play being shown that weekend in June was the much loved and well-known, Romeo and Juliet.



During the Saturday afternoon, prior to the evening’s performance of Romeo and Juliet, the group were treated to a comprehensive guided tour of The Globe Theatre which helped to put the play, the theatre itself and our experiences in their historical contexts. We learnt that the theatre is a ‘faithful reconstruction’ of the open air playhouse first built in 1599. Our informative tour explored the life of Shakespeare, the London where he lived and some of the key characters and plays he created.



Prior to the evening’s performance of Romeo and Juliet, some members of the group visited St Paul’s Cathedral and at short notice, Joe Kennedy who was recently Verger at Blackburn Cathedral and who is now based at St Paul’s, delivered an excellent and thorough tour of the famous and beautiful building. The group really enjoyed the visit and were extremely appreciative of Joe’s time and insight.

b) maintaining, beautifying, improving and adding to the fabric, fittings, ornaments, monuments, services and music of the Cathedral and maintaining and improving the precincts thereof;

c) providing a means whereby people who have at heart the wellbeing, mission and purpose of the Cathedral can be kept in touch with its life and work and can contribute by prayer to the work of the Cathedral, by personal services in the cause of the Cathedral and its works, and by financial provision of its needs as and when funds are available;

d) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the charity shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law

How Do I leave a Legacy to The Friends?

You will need to specifically refer to the charity in your Will. The details you will need are the name of the charity; The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, the Charity Number which is 1047234, and the registered address (below).

If you or your solicitor needs any further information, you can contact the secretary on secretary@fobc.info or 07982 821 274, or write to Friends of Blackburn Cathedral:

Blackburn Cathedral
Cathedral Close
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5AA

*Kate Carlen
Solicitor to the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral*

Firstly, the tremendous service over 40 years of Keith Walmsley to the “Friends” so ably supported by his wife Barbara. Keith was instrumental in the formation of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral some 50 years ago. He was the founding Secretary for 25 years and then the Chairman for a further 11 years before retiring from office but remained a Council member for a further three years. His organizational skills were superb and I learnt a lot from him. We really owe him and his wife Barbara a debt of gratitude for everything they did.

The second relates to the developments at the Cathedral and the “Friends” involvement in both in time, use of talents and financial support. The provision of the Fountain in the Cathedral gardens and cloisters being the most visual.

The last relates to the very successful Cathedral Flower Festival held in June 2016, the brainchild of two of our Council members Lowri Cope and Karen Brooke who were ably supported by their respective husbands. It was two years in the making with Lowri and Karen being involved almost full time in touring the Country acquiring artefacts and information about Cathedral Flower Festivals held elsewhere all in a voluntary capacity with minimal cost to the “Friends”. This was followed by considerable efforts in acquiring sponsorship and promoting the Festival. Everybody said that this could not be done by volunteers as at other Cathedral flower festivals, professional paid events’ organizers had been employed. Well Lowri and Karen have proved them all wrong. Their efforts have been recognized and the spin offs for the Cathedral have and continue to be significant and have put the Cathedral on the map.

Everything is now so positive as we move forward in supporting the Cathedral in the future.

*David Thornton
July 2017*

Legacies

What is a Legacy?

Leaving money to charity in your Will as a gift is called a 'legacy' and is the foundation for many charities being able to continue their work.

You don't have to be rich or famous to leave a gift to a charity in your Will. You can leave as large, or small amount as you like.

Of 35% of people who say they are willing to give a gift in their Will to a charity, only about 6.3% do. If you were to make a charitable gift in your Will, this would really make a difference.

There are three main types of legacy;

- A sum of money (e.g. £100) called a pecuniary legacy
- A gift of an item (e.g. A painting, stocks or shares) called a specific legacy
- A residuary gift - what remains of the donor's estate after debts, expenses, pecuniary and specific legacies have been paid out

It is also possible to leave a legacy for a specific purpose in a Will such as a specific project or activity, which could be placed in a Trust.

Do I pay tax on a Legacy?

No; and legacies which are given to charity could reduce the amount of inheritance tax which would otherwise be payable. The threshold for payment of inheritance tax changes from time to time, and the laws of inheritance tax are complex. It is strongly recommended you seek legal advice should payment of inheritance tax be relevant to your estate.

Continued

What if I don't have a Will?

It is easy to find a solicitor or will writer to help advise you, and they often will provide a fixed quote. A Will ensures your property and possessions are left to those you love, in the way you would like, and not relying on the laws of intestacy.

Having a Will can make things easier for your loved ones you leave behind. It can also plan for tax purposes, the best way to deal with your assets, and can create trusts as may be required.

As a Will is a formal legal document it must comply with certain legal requirements to be valid.

You can write your own will, however it is possible that a minor omission may invalidate the document or parts of it. It is strongly recommended you have any Will you have drafted checked by a professional.

What if I already have a Will?

It may be appropriate in some circumstances to make simple changes or add to your Will by way of a document called a 'codicil'. In this way, additional gifts including legacies can be inserted into a Will. There are legal formalities for a codicil in the same way as a Will, and it is therefore advisable for this to be completed by a solicitor or will-writer.

Why should I consider leaving a Legacy to The Friends?

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral would be incredibly grateful if you wish to remember them in your Will, to help them continue the good work of enhancing the fabric of the building of the Cathedral, as well as being ambassadors and fund-raisers.

In leaving a legacy for the Friends, you would be helping the charity to fulfil its aims and objects, which are:

- a) arousing, stimulating and maintaining public interest in the Cathedral;

Continued