

Newsletter

Vestments Appeal

To celebrate the Centenary of both the Diocese and the Cathedral, the Friends are supporting the weaving of a full set of new clergy vestments, commissioned by the Chapter for this significant year.

The vestments will be designed and woven by award winning artist and designer Margo Selby, whose spectacular work many will remember from the *Festival of Making* exhibition in 2024. Margo's designs will weave together the themes of faith, community, unity and the Trinity, reflecting both the heritage and the future of Blackburn Cathedral through colour, pattern and texture.

There will be four sets of vestments, reflecting the four liturgical colours of the Christian calendar. Each set will comprise a chasuble, two dalmatics, and stoles, beautifully crafted to serve in worship and celebration for many years to come.

The total cost of the four new sets will be around £24,000 – a considerable sum. We warmly invite Friends and members of the wider Cathedral community to be part of this inspiring project. Your contribution will help provide vestments that both honour our history and look forward with faith and hope to the next century of Cathedral life.

Donations may be made by cheque or electronic transfer to:

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

Sort Code: 01-00-85

Account Number: 04941268

Please mark your donation "Vestments".

Every gift, large or small, will make a real difference.

Thank you for helping the Friends support this beautiful and lasting expression of faith as we celebrate 100 years of Blackburn Cathedral.



We have a number of Events planned in the coming months :

Christmas Tablescaping with Bill Dixon

Our Creative Designer from the 2026 Flower Festival, will share ideas of how to decorate your Christmas dining table. Commencing at 10.30 am on Tuesday the 9th December 2025 at the Cathedral .

Tickets Members £20, Non Members £22.50 including a light lunch

Book on Eventbrite : www.eventbrite.com/o/friends-of-blackburn-cathedral-119758303761

Centenary Tour with Sue Hall

The Cathedral Archivist, will be conducting a "Journey" round the Cathedral on Tuesday the 27th January 2026 at 2.00pm

Tickets : Members £8, Non Members £10 including refreshments.

Book on Eventbrite : www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blackburn-cathedral-centenary-tour-with-sue-hall-tickets-1895425080439

The Loom and The Light

Our Chairman Paul Mason will be presenting this talk on Sunday the 22nd February 2026 at 12.00 noon immediately following the morning service at the Cathedral

Tickets : Members £8 Non Members £10 including refreshments.

To book direct with us :

Please email : mail@fobc.info or call 01254 449016, stating which event you want to attend.



Margo Selby's Stunning "Breathing Colour" in the Cathedral during the at the 2024 Festival of Making

A Message from our Chairman

Dear Friends, It is with excitement that I introduce myself as the new Chair of The Friends. I have been attending the Cathedral since Gillian and I moved to Blackburn nearly 40 years ago.

During this time, I served in several capacities, including over six years as a member of the Chapter.

I would like to express my thanks on behalf of us all to our outgoing Chair, David Thornton, who stepped down in May after serving for 10 years. During this decade, David guided The Friends with dedication.

My primary aim is to continue developing a strong sense of community while looking to the future. A key facet of this is our new publicity drive.

The committee wishes to increase our visibility, share our story more widely, and welcome new members, thereby enabling us to support the Cathedral still further.

Join the Conversation on Facebook! To help us connect better, please consider joining our Facebook group. It is a great platform to access real-time updates, view photos from our activities, and connect with fellow members.

Mark Your Calendars: Exciting Events Ahead! We have a fantastic season of events planned. These offer an eclectic opportunity for us to connect and for me to meet more of you in person.

Remember, it is your ideas that shape our future. This is your organisation, and your voice is essential. As we plan for the coming year, I invite you to share your feedback and ideas. What do you love about our organisation? What would you like to see more of? How can we better serve our members? Please don't hesitate to send your thoughts directly to me at chairman@fobc.info. I am eager to listen and learn.

Thank you for your trust and your continued dedication to FOBC.

Warmly, Paul Mason, Chair of FOBC

A Message from the Interim Dean

I am delighted to write this short letter in support of The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral as they embark on an exciting new beginning, and I want to invite you to be part of it.

As Interim Dean, I see daily how this Cathedral serves our community — through worship, music, education, and as a place of hospitality and peace for all who come in.

Now, as we enter a fresh chapter, we're actively seeking both established supporters and new members to join us. Whether you've been a loyal Friend for years or are discovering us for the first time, we need you. Your energy, ideas, and support will help shape our future.

Who are we looking for? Everyone!

- Long-standing members of the congregations and wider Cathedral family.
- New attendees wanting to deepen their involvement.
- Those who've moved away but still feel a connection to this sacred place.
- People who simply value heritage, beautiful buildings, and great music.

Being a 'Friend' can mean financial support, volunteering your time, attending events, or simply being present. Every contribution matters.

Maintaining a cathedral requires significant resources, but your support enables essential conservation, vibrant worship, educational programmes and community outreach that extends far beyond the Cathedral buildings.

This is a pivotal moment — a new beginning and I invite you to share in the work and help write the next chapter of the story of 'The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral'.

With my warmest greetings and sincere thanks for all that the Friends do,

Andrew
Canon Andrew Horsfall
Interim Dean of Blackburn

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