

## **MUSIC & MORE ONLINE: MARCH 2021**

For members, past and present, of **BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHOIRS**  
and for all who relish, treasure and encourage **INSPIRATIONAL CATHEDRAL MUSIC**

Editor: Dr John Bertalot, Organist Emeritus, Blackburn Cathedral

### **BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL**



## **The Joys of Being a Blackburn Cathedral Chorister**

by **Graham Chapelhow**

It was interesting to read in January's M&M an article by **Edward Denham (R)** of his experiences joining Blackburn Cathedral Choir. I was also in the same St Wilfrid's School connection. The Head of Music, **Mr Seymour**, used passionately to put us nervous boys forward for the Friday interviews at the cathedral. Mr Seymour made music enjoyable and interesting, along with my clarinet teacher, Mr Haliwell. Because of my teachers, I eventually passed my music 'O' Level with great pride, all in parallel with my choir



years and time at Blackburn cathedral under **JB**.

My audition was a nervous experience because I was sure that I was out of tune (and maybe still am !), but I was given encouragement by JB. The nerves were accounted for and I felt privileged to be accepted into the establishment and joined the boys in the lower ranks. During my first full practice, I remember being in awe of the deep bass voices and tenors in the stalls behind. They were perfectly and impressively in tune and in time.

I was in the 'Chew, Hopkinson, Marr, and Hodson' Era.

Photos below taken some 40 years later demonstrate the depths of friendships formed in the choir.



L-R: Graham Chapelhow, Nigel & Philip Chew, & Stewart Hopkinson



Mark Hodson taken at John Marr's wedding.

Being in the choir took me on my first trip abroad, which was a tour of **Holland and Germany** and in that same year with school, we went to the **Royal Albert Hall** to sing in front of the **Queen Mother**.



During my trip to Holland, I remember the slow turning blades of the **Dutch windmills**

with canals everywhere in a quite amazingly flat place with not a hill in sight.



My school and Blackburn cathedral choir gave me many happy years in Blackburn. We had an exciting diary with BBC Radio live **Choral Evensongs and TV Songs of Praise** appearances, which gave me focus and a future with the cathedral.



As I worked my way up the ranks, both my height and voice improved on the Cantoris side. I enjoyed the solos and my mum came to hear me for my first solo at a 4.30pm Wednesday boys-only Evensong.

Prefects' Board in the Song School



The Friday night rehearsals were both an evening of practice for the Sunday services but also a social gathering for the boys, because I remember racing through the crypt after the rehearsal to be the first on the snooker table.



The height of my choral singing was my Provost and Bishop's Chorister awards. The late **Provost Jackson** also conducted my wedding to my wife **Beverley** (of now 34 years). At my wedding, I had the privilege of standing between 'Dec and Can' to hear the stereo purity of the boys' choir and how moving their voices sounded.

Following my choir years, I proudly served my apprentice at Accrington and achieved HNC in Engineering on the 'Canberra Bomber', which replaced the

famous 'Mosquito' from WW2.

My late father's words were, 'Serve your time as an engineer son, and you will be a journeyman all your life.'

I then went on to further education in Blackburn College in my 30s to catch up and gain CAD qualifications to link computers to engineering and loved every minute !



Since my teenage years, I have travelled the world as an engineer. I have audited companies in Chongqing China, and trained young Arabs in the sandstorms of the Saudi capital Riyadh.



I've also played the guitar and written songs, one of which was signed by the great **Sir Bobby Charlton** which was composed for the World Cup in

2010.

At the time of the African World Cup I was in Cape town on a defence project for a short while, so I linked music with engineering !

My appreciation of my younger days is attributed to the cathedral, and during my teenage years, I had excellent influences around me, with some of the most enjoyable few years in the choir.

The cathedral is the focus for a lifelong membership we should remember. Indeed, I am currently enjoying my part-time role as **Secretary of the Blackburn Cathedral Choirs' Association, 44 years on - and still with Stew, John Marr and JB.**



NB to all former choristers: **Book the date** of our **Special BCCA Reunion on Zoom: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30 pm** when we shall also celebrate **JB's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!**



# My life as a chorister

by **NOEL HUNWICK**

Younger son of former Choir Tenor **Phil Hunwick**. (See February 2021 M&M)

I joined Blackburn Cathedral Choir at the tender age of 6. Barely able to peek over the stalls, the only visible part of me from the congregation was my unruly mop of blond hair. Unlike my brother **Chris**, who was practically shaving aged 12, testosterone was more of a

stranger to me, and I was only a few months shy of my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before I eventually retired as a treble.

I'll always be extremely grateful to my parents for so wisely encouraging my brother and me to sing from such a young age, and enabling us to begin our choral journeys, which have led to so many wonderful musical experiences, innumerable friends, and, in my case, indirectly to my current career!



Dad & Mum at Chris's Wedding

## I have many fond memories.

My 1<sup>st</sup> Choirmaster, **David Cooper**, who succeeded JB who went to America, teaching us musicality and how to phrase off properly, but also how to build a break of snooker in the Cathedral Games Room, and what best to order at the Exchange Coffee Co! I also keenly remember David's pet hate, the application of any rogue "r" to "Hosanna-rrrin Excelsis", and the day that **Dan Prowse** joined the choir... In his first rehearsal Dan was asked to sing a solo phrase. He did so very beautifully (as he always would), but actually went so far as to apply a rolled "rrrr". We held our breath. "It's OK boys, he didn't know... but next time..." uttered David. It's funny the things one recalls (hope Dan doesn't mind)!

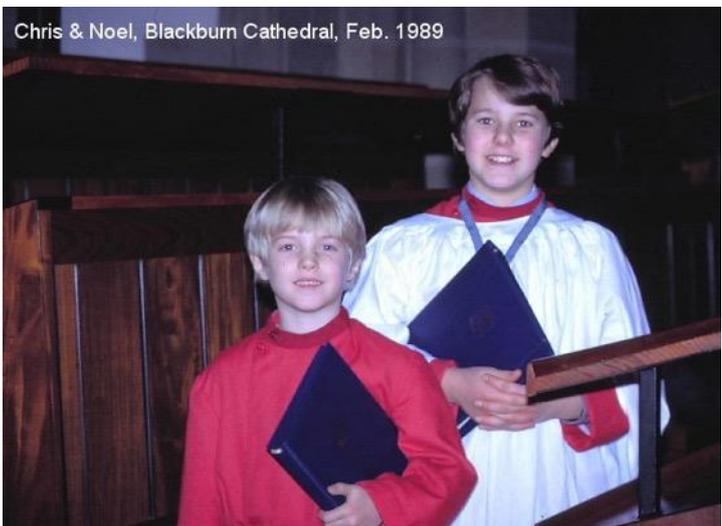


c. 1988 David Cooper rehearsing choirboys - Chris & Noel on left

Above: Noel extreme left, with Chris next to him

It was also always a privilege to hear such magnificent organists as **David Goodenough**, and **James Thomas**. Though of course, being a boy, the main performance on the organ I recall was the Sunday when the **Zimbelstern** became stuck on, and the entire Eucharist was accompanied by a Christmassy jingle of bells.

Also (being a boy) I seem to remember that the organ bench had what appeared to be a clear impression of someone's bum on it, and being told that during a particularly vigorous voluntary the dye from an organist's (who shall remain nameless) new pair of trousers had seeped through and left a lasting memorial. I hope it's still there.



Chris & Noel, Blackburn Cathedral, Feb. 1989

There were highlights such as **Christmas Parties at the Bishop's House** – running down what seemed like endless corridors (especially on our short legs) looking for clues to decipher to win a prize. **The excellent choir tours to Altina, and Holland were some of my first trips abroad,** and I remember the excitement of heading through the **Dartmouth Tunnel** (I found it very impressive at the time – and still), and boarding a ferry with your friends.



There was also lots of football! Sometimes marginally illicitly in the crypt, as a few boys had to wait each week for their Dads to finish the Men's voices section of the Friday rehearsal – don't think we'd get away with that now since the refurbishment! Then, regularly on Saturday mornings after rehearsal on the grass outside the Song School door. We even had a Choir football team organised by chairman **Jim Twigg** (who had two boys in the choir) that doled out punishing victories against other local trebles!

I can clearly visualise the Song School itself, with its particular fragrance (that we trebles were a fundamental part of cultivating)! It was a popular trick for a while to rub one's feet on the carpet of the robing area in order to administer surprisingly powerful static electric shocks to other boys, a practice soon to be forbidden... As for the robes themselves, Mrs Gibson and Mrs Barnes took amazing care of the trebles, and their starched ruffs could hold your head in position better than any neck brace.

I was also very proud to see my name go up on the Prefects' boards in the Practice Room displaying head boys, and the holders of the *Dot's Bertalot* longest serving chorister medal.



There was generally a great camaraderie and loyalty amongst the trebles. I felt looked after by the senior boys when I joined the choir, and tried my best to reciprocate this to the younger lads when I was in the elder position. I remember that we were certain that there was no-one in the whole of Blackburn that would mess with Toby Chippendale, which reassured us all! We also learned an initial sense of professionalism. There was a job to be done to a high standard, and we would make sure that it was.



I was, however, quite an anxious kid at times. I developed a very strong aversion to the idea of singing solos, even making myself feel very nauseous to avoid them. **Gordon Stewart**, who succeeded David Cooper when David was appointed to Norwich Cathedral as Director of Music, was pivotal in assisting me with this.



He helped me understand that **it was OK to feel nervous** – plenty of people do so, and it isn't a shameful thing. Be nervous, feel sick, even go ahead and be sick, that's fine, but why not come with me and sing the solo at the end of it? Because you can do it, and I believe in you!

**Over time this really transformed my confidence levels in the choir and I was privileged to sing many challenging and beautiful solos.**

I particularly remember the choir performing David Cooper's sublime **"Come My Way"** for a live Radio 3 broadcast of Choral Evensong, where the solo treble would be the first thing to be heard on air. I was given a note as the red light came on to indicate 1 minute to go. It flashed, before blinking out. Then I sang, alone and unaccompanied. The mere idea of this would have struck utter petrification into me a few years before!

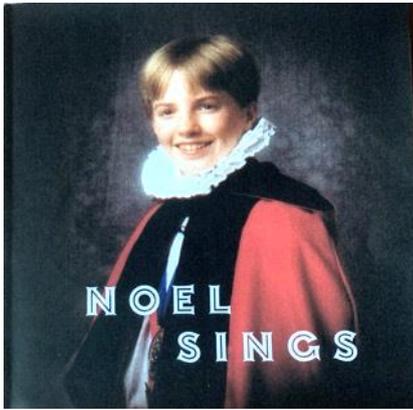


When encountering times of potential anxiety over the intervening years in relation to other matters (e.g. right now – as restaurant businesses such as our two **INAMO Restaurants in London aren't currently in a great position!**), I really believe that having been assisted in processing such difficult feelings as a boy, so that I better understand that I am fortunate enough to know people who care and will help support me, and that **I have the capability to get through**, *has been, and is, invaluable.*

Explore [www.inamo-restaurant.com](http://www.inamo-restaurant.com)



**Gordon Stewart** kindly put me forward for **2 TV appearances**, a solo section on BBC *Songs of Praise*, and the part of Brian Borrowmere on **"Hetty Wainthropp Investigates"** (a slightly obnoxious youth in a singing competition – I still insist I wasn't typecast). [These latter programmes are still being repeated on TV **Drama channel 143** every Friday at 8.00pm]

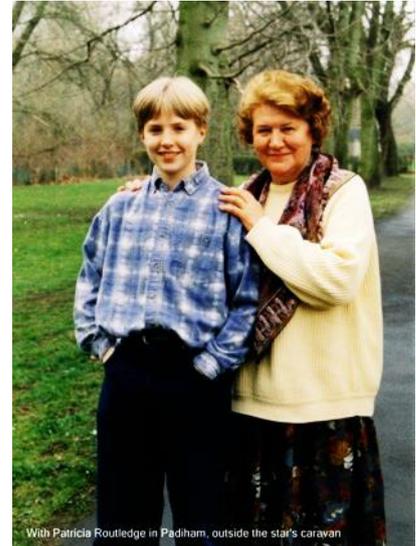


**Gordon** also arranged for an album recording of my solo treble voice - **"Noel Sings"**. The truly amazing jumper I sported on **Songs of Praise**, some "classic" lines from my performance on "Hetty", and the cover photo of "Noel Sings", all provided ample "character building" moments for me, courtesy of kids from school, as well as rich material for my best man at our wedding, and fun for my wife, **Emma**, who takes great joy in sharing these glimpses of my boyhood with those yet to encounter them, especially if they need a laugh. Nonetheless, I am, of course, again hugely grateful to Gordon and the choir to have had these amazing experiences, and memories recorded.

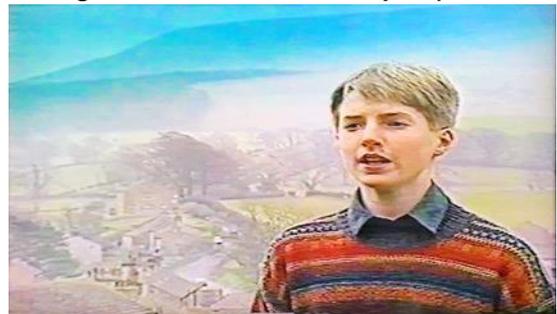
It meant a lot that **my Mum** appeared alongside me in **Hetty Wainthropp** – she was definitely typecast, as my Mum! The Director didn't think that the person cast to play the role looked the part, but turning his gaze round the room said "**she** looks like his Mother!". Turns out "she" was. I'll also always remember going to the BBC canteen for lunch with **Patricia Routledge** (aka



Hetty / Mrs Bucket) and her sidekick **Dominic Monaghan** (later a Hobbit in *Lord of the Rings*), who were both very kind to me, and weirdly getting in a lift with Rod Hull (sans Emu) on our way up there.



The **Songs of Praise** filming in Downham was also notable. I'd tried to dress as "coolly" as I was able at the time (really not very), but unbeknownst to me my Mum had packed a much more "suitable" set of clothes which the Director preferred, including the aforementioned jumper, and I had to get changed in the gent's loo at the pub! I was singing **"Now the Green Blade Riseth"** for an Easter screening, but the filming was taking place on a cold day in January. A **blue filter** was applied to the slate grey skies, multiple daffodils on cocktail sticks were stuck in the ground, and one of the production team was perpetually just off screen trying to chase ducks across the shot – which was a little distracting – as was the Range Rover which nearly hit me on the bridge. Fortunately, the audio had been recorded separately somewhere warmer!



After retiring as a treble, I sang in the Cathedral's Youth Choir, with a really lovely group of people. The only downside being 8.15am rehearsals before Matins on a Sunday, which always seemed (unavoidably) antithetical to a group of predominantly 15- to 18-year-olds (or maybe it was just me?). Then I began to sing tenor amongst the Men of the Choir. This all helped pave the way for me to apply successfully for a **choral scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford**, to read Classics & English. **Noel, extreme R seated**. It was whilst at Magdalen that I met **Danny** with whom I'm now in business, as well as so many other amazing people that I hope (and am sure) will be friends for life. I now



continue to sing in the *Merbecke Choir* at Southwark Cathedral, where Emma and I were married.

I think that one of the first times I've felt "old" was returning to Blackburn, kindly being allowed to sing alongside my Dad for a Christmas Morning service, and realising that I was older than the then Director of Music, **Sam Hudson** (though he was of course significantly taller than I am

– which allowed me to pretend that he was older too).

**Noel** singing alongside his Dad, **Phil**, one Christmas Day with **Jim Twigg** just in the photo.

Perhaps this came as such a shock because whenever I walk



back through the Song School door a significant part of me is transported back into the little mop-headed treble version of me, with a rush of other sensations and memories.

Now that **Emma and I** have a little blond-haired son of our own (**1 year old Theo / Teddy**) I hope that we can help open up opportunities for such meaningful and lasting experiences as the Cathedral Choir for him too. **Thank you to all those who made them possible for me.**

P.S. If you want a copy of "**Noel Sings**" **Derek Crompton** found a shoebox full of vintage audio tapes which are cheaply available. Snap them up, they're going fast (...maybe). Tape deck not included.



## Noah's Ark:

**Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.**

**ONE:** Don't miss the boat.

**TWO:** Remember that we are all in the same boat!

**THREE:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**FOUR:** Stay fit: When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**FIVE:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**SIX:** Build your future on high ground.

**SEVEN:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**EIGHT:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**NINE:** When you're stressed, float awhile.

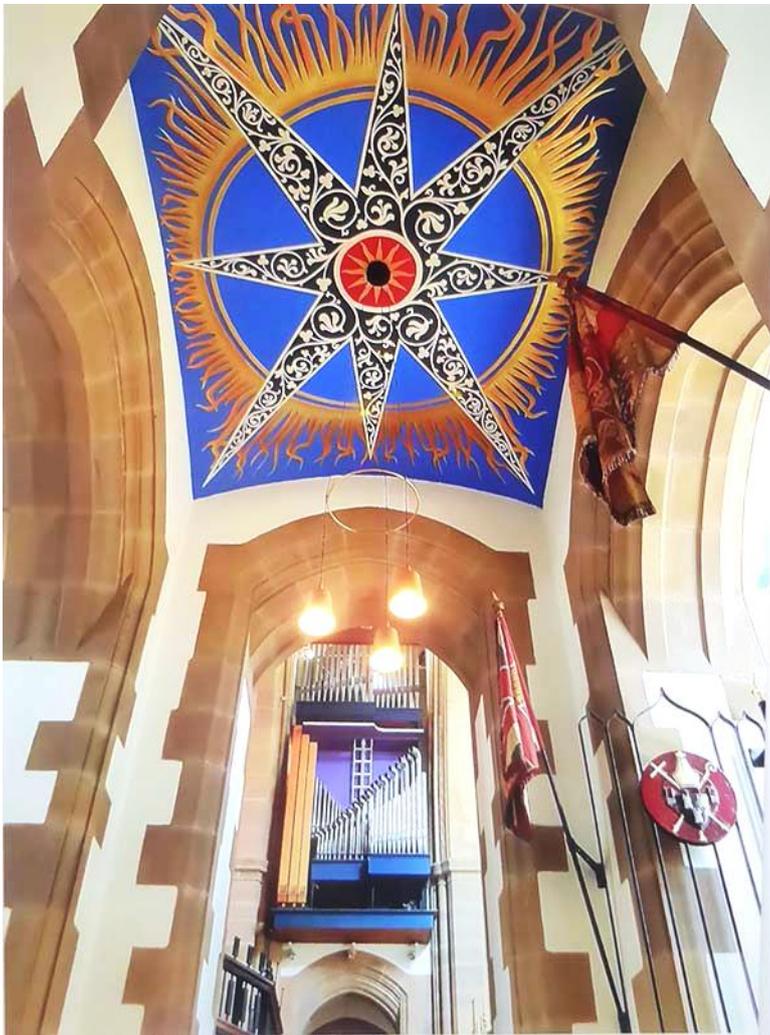
**TEN:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**ELEVEN:** **No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.**



(With thanks to **Margery Howarth** – founder member of the Renaissance Singers)

**Please pass this on to people who need to be blessed.**



Enjoy this unusual photo of the cathedral by **RAYMOND SMITH** – taken outside the War Memorial Chapel and looking towards the North chancel organ case.

The design for this ceiling painting (one of four at the four corners of the Lantern Tower) was created by **JOHN HAYWARD**, who also designed **CHRIST THE WORKER** on the West wall of the Nave: the glorious **WINDOW** in our South Transept, our **ORGAN CASES**, the four **SERAPHIM** supporting the Lantern Tower, the **CORONA** over the central altar, and the **ICON** of Jesus in the Jesus Chapel.

This was painted in 1968 - you will agree that it still looks new!



And here are stunning photos taken by **BRIAN NEWTON** of some of the pristinely polished pipes in our small organ.

Most of these pipes are usually hidden behind a grill – but Brian happened to be in the cathedral when this organ was being tuned, so the grill had been removed.

But these photos (*what super sharp focus!*) demonstrate the exquisite precision with which organs are created – not only for small organs, but also for our great 4-manual – when everything, everything, must work with total accuracy to a split second – or even faster – ALL the time!



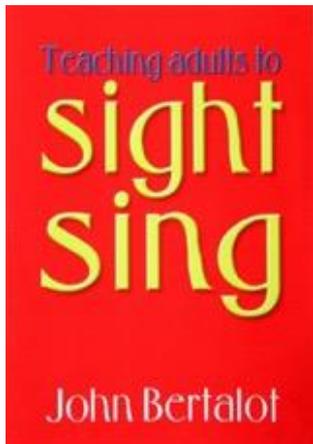
Stopped Diapason 8  
Principal 4  
Chimney Flute 4  
Fifteenth 2

Commissioned by Richard Tanner  
Built by Kenneth Tickell  
December 2001

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC,  
**HUGH MORRIS,**

after JB had sent him a copy of our February *Music & More*

Dear John,  
How nice to hear from you. Thanks for sending 'Music and More' across – I haven't seen one for a while.



I was a one of those little coincidences: yesterday, the copy I had ordered of your *Teaching adults to sight sing* arrived in the post. I've been doing lots of thinking about how we embed skills teaching into our activity – and sight singing is something I, as you, are passionate about! Perhaps it would be possible to have a chat about that sometime. In the meantime, All best wishes  
Hugh

JB replied:

Thanks so much for your positive response to my e mail, Hugh.



Yes, I had a passion for teaching children and adults to be able to sight-sing and exercised it successfully on both sides of the Atlantic.

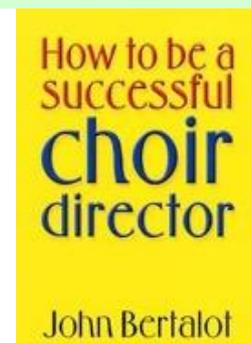


I was amazed that the Cathedral Organists' Association invited me to lead *two* workshops for them - at Carlisle Cathedral and also Exeter Cathedral - on how I taught children to sight-sing. And John Scott invited me to lead a similar workshop at St. Paul's for the Asst. COA.

And it's so easy and wholly effective if one proceeds in tiny steps.

Unlike many choirmasters I trained my kids to think during rehearsals. So instead of telling them what was wrong (as many brethren do - all the time), I asked them, and thus they took pride in having spotted what was needed, which meant that they were doubly certain to get it 100% right on Sunday. **And it's FUN!** (See the smiles

*on the children's faces above – at the Exeter workshop.)*



Thanks for getting my book on Sight singing for Adults. Do let me know what you think of it. (Teaching adults is much, *much* slower than for children, as you know, for we adults are set in our ways.)

Happy to chat at any time,  
and with renewed congratulations on your own dynamic leadership of the RSCM,

Warmly

John B

**PASS THE SALT and the PEPPER**

These are fun items - no music but rather clever!



Thanks to former choir parent **Krystyna Saville** for sending them.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBUho6v4a7s&t=50s>



## A former Blackburn Choral Scholar is now A Cathedral Director of Music

Many of us will remember **GREGORY TRELOAR** who was Choral Scholar here only 3 years ago – a wonderful tenor and also a committed Roman Catholic ... for every Sunday, having sung two morning services at Blackburn, he *always* went to his RC church for Mass.

This is the press release about Greg was issued by **Nottingham Catholic Cathedral**:



### **GREGORY TRELOAR BMUS (HONS) MA** Director of Music

Gregory studied music at Canterbury Christ Church University where he held the Chapel Choir Conducting Scholarship for two years. During which time he received mentoring and tuition from Christopher Gower, David Flood, Patrick Russill and David Allinson. Alongside his study he was a deputy Lay Clerk for Canterbury Cathedral and graduated from CCCU with awards for highest degree, highest performance mark, and the Elizabeth Vogan Award for Singing.

He went on to study a Masters in English Church Music under Jonathan Wainwright at the University of York which he completed alongside **a choral scholarship at Blackburn Cathedral**. During this time, he specialised in English Catholic music of the 20th century, particularly the liturgical and musical influences of Sir Richard Runciman Terry and Dom Gregory Murray OSB.

#### **Greg wrote to JB:**

“It has been odd starting in lockdown and then being put back into lockdown but it is a great place to work with lots of potential when all the restrictions ease.”

“The scholarship at Blackburn 2018-2019 certainly provided a great foundation for the work here at Nottingham, especially through the **Sing Together** outreach programme which the Diocese are seeking to implement in the coming year. You may be pleased to know we have some Bertalot in the Cathedral Library.”

Following his scholarship at Blackburn Gregory became a Choral Scholar at Norwich Cathedral where he also spent the lockdown enjoying the very 'fine city' and taking up running. Away from music he enjoys spending time in the country on bike or foot, and woodworking.

### NOTTINGHAM CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL



**Raymond Smith writes:** “Gregory was 2018-19 scholar along with Harvey and Eugene, he was outstanding at the scholars’ final lunchtime concert, and conducted the **Renaissance Singers** when they sang Bruckner’s *Christus factus est*.”

2018 photo of **Greg Treloar, Harvey Stansfield & Eugene Chan** at JB’s prior to a scholars’ dinner at the Millstone!



### From JB to CLARA SLATER (Students' Representative on the Choirs' Committee):

May you be finding that academic life is now a little more rewarding... my heart bleeds for all current students, for their collegiate lives are so very different from those experienced, even a short time ago, by your near contemporaries.



### From Clara, who is studying geography at Bristol University:

Things aren't too shabby. Although it is all online, college work is picking up somewhat and I'm finally getting back into the swing of academic reading once more. I believe I have baited some of my contemporaries into contributing to M&M and hopefully a few of them will be contacting you in the very near future! **Yes...here are the first two, thanks:**

### From Eleanor Tomlin

Hi John!

I've heard that you'd like to hear about lockdown from a young person's perspective so I'm hoping at the age of 21 I'd still fit that category.... here goes:



I'm Ellie (or Eleanor) and after starting in the girls' choir under Mr Hudson when I was 12 I eventually graduated to the YPC. I've had a great time singing at Blackburn Cathedral, and sung in many memorable occasions including for **her Majesty's visit in 2014 for the Royal Maundy** and I have made many friends **who still form my closest friends today**. When I am back home during the holidays I enjoy singing again with my new friends in the YPC.

**Ellie playing the piano at a Girls' Choir concert in 2014**



When coronavirus first became an issue I was on my year abroad as **an English Language assistant in two French secondary schools**. This was early March, when the English news was still stating that Covid was nothing more than the flu and the herd immunity strategy would be just fine, so I was slightly confused why my European flatmates were so worried. President Macron shut the schools on the Thursday night and the following day was probably **one of the most stressful days of my life to date**, working out how I would get home from Auxerre to Darwen whilst not breaking the bank (flights from Paris were already mounting to £400+), as well as trying to fit as much into a hand-luggage suitcase as I could! Luckily my German friend drove me to Luxembourg airport on her way home, so I was able to find a pretty cheap flight back to London Stanstead and, via a ghost-

like Euston, got my way home.

Like many of us life then became a bizarre mix of daily walks, PE with Joe Wicks, constant comfort baking and zoom quizzes. I am so thankful for the beautiful scenery which we have in Lancashire and when it was safe to do so even squeezed in a few Wainwright fells in Cumbria and summer BBQs in my group of 6! During the first lockdown I celebrated my **21<sup>st</sup> birthday** which was marked in style by my church choir (St Cuthbert's, Darwen) surprising me with a rendition of "Happy Birthday" in my street, much to the amusement of my neighbours! Also another YPC chorister, **Bridget Higginson**, put together a surprise video full of wishes from all my friends and family, which still makes me cry!



Fast forward to September and I moved back down to Canterbury to start my final year studying **French and Religious Studies** at the **University of Kent** and awaited my promised 'blended-learning' timetable. This came in the form of one in-person translation seminar - one hour a term is better than none right?!... I had a lovely few weeks down south going kayaking, presenting radio shows, singing in the university chamber choir, singing with my other church choir and even squeezing in singing evensong at Canterbury Cathedral during October half term. Alas this all stopped when the November lockdown was announced.



### Royal Mail

I found a Christmas job in the **Royal Mail Sorting Office in Preston** starting in November so travelled back home then. Due to the volume of post they kept some of us on after Christmas and, as I worked night shifts, this has been a good little money earner! I've left the night shifts for now as re-starting the university term and working nights all got a bit too much. I've been at home since the end of November and now **the University has declared it will stay closed** until at least the start of March (although I suspect a little longer). I've realised that it's unlikely that I will get anymore in person teaching but I'm still holding out for some form of graduation ceremony, not least because it would take place in **Canterbury Cathedral!** Since November, singing in the YPC has kept me going. It was so lovely also to be able to sing two carol services and the music selected by **Helen Davies** - incredible! We've also been able to wear purple robes for the first time!!!!

**In a crazy world, singing in a cathedral in which I grew up and listening to the Christmas story we know so well, brought peace and comfort to me and made it feel like a somewhat normal festive period.** We've also done some zoom calls with YPC which has given us a chance to socialise and get to know each other more and I can't wait till we are able to sing again.

There you have it - coronavirus from a young person's perspective! **Please continue to take care of yourselves** and check in on friends during this tough lockdown.

With my best wishes for a better 2021,

**Ellie** 😊

# Take Care

From former chorister and choral scholar **DAISY-BELLE DUMSDAY**

Hello Dr Bertalot,

I just thought I would get in touch to give you a little update of my life during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, I lost most of my income as a freelancer during the first lockdown and, sadly, there is still no view of when it will pick back up.

I am still teaching my private singing pupils via Skype, so that keeps the music alive for me, but I do wish there was more music in my life at the moment.

I have been lucky enough to get a job with a **mental health charity**, helping people in crisis to build coping skills and resilience. It is a rewarding job, but it is hard work and can be exhausting.

I have been working from home and shielding for almost a year, now. I am lucky to have so many wonderful friends to talk to and keep me motivated. **Gill Fourie** has been setting walking challenges to keep myself and a number of other people feeling positive.



In happier news, I welcomed a new family member in September 2020. **My puppy, Rory!** He is a Shetland Sheepdog and a bundle of energy and fun. As you can see, he has been enjoying the snow.

I will begin my Certificate in Professional Marketing at the end of February, so I am trying to get my mind back into "student mode", which is easier said than done! It is a subject I have always found very interesting, so I am excited to get started!

I hope you are managing to keep busy and positive through all of this.

Best regards,

Daisy

**From Raymond Smith**

I had my vaccination at the Cathedral last night; there was a huge queue winding round the nave and the North transept. The Dean allowed everyone to queue indoors after the weekend when people had been standing outside.

I found it very emotional when I finally arrived in the Crypt after nearly 2 hours, the staff there were so lovely. I always say that there's always something good comes out of something bad and the rental the Cathedral will receive will be a huge help to the dire state of its finances.



JB added that his next door neighbours also had to wait two hours for their vaccinations – but that they appreciated waiting inside the lovely Nave.

(It was their first visit!)

**But now there is no waiting and 1,000 folk are vaccinated daily.**

**Photos: BBCTV News. Look North**



**Congratulations to our former organ scholar HARVEY STANSFIELD (now organ scholar at Coventry Cathedral) who has just passed the playing section of the ARCO (first time!) and looks forward to taking the paperwork in the early summer. Also, he's now been given a digital organ on which to practise in his College room – so it's all PLUS PLUS for Harvey!**



**Leeds Cathedral . . .  
 We don't do outreach!**



There was a gripping article in the February edition of **Cathedral Voice** by **BEN SAUNDERS** the Director of Music of Leeds RC Cathedral (*Ben was our Assistant Director of Music in the late 1990s*) concerning the problems that many Anglican Cathedrals have with recruitment of trebles (Girls and Boys) to their music programmes.

Ben said that Leeds has no problems in that respect for, currently, they have **4,560 children** in their singing programmes. Leeds Cathedral has six children's choirs and a further 12 in Wakefield, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Pontefract – who had all been auditioned in their RC Schools' Singing Programme.

**The RC Diocese of Leeds is internationally known for its creative children's programmes – and we are mighty proud that BEN SAUNDERS is there, with his dedicated staff, to head it up.**

**From former choir parent BRIAN WHITTLE in Barrowford:**

"To continue the naval theme [re a former cathedral chorister, now Third Officer **HARVEY FINNEY's** appearance in Canon Wedgeworth's Newsletter of 22 January] I enclose a copy of **DAVID, my eldest son (R)**, passing out at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, before The Princess Royal.



(When David first got to Dartmouth for his training he was straightway recruited into the College Choir!)

"He joined the Cathedral Choir from St. Peter's Burnley and was singing for about 5 years, becoming a Bishop's Chorister (for excellence) and Provost's chorister (for long and faithful service) under JB. After the boys' choir he sang

with the YPC with Keith Bond [who had been an army captain during his National Service, studying Russian]. David's elder sister **Alison** also sang with the YPC. David still has a good alto voice.

"He became a seaman officer with trips round the world... and came back to serve on HMS Hecate, a hydrography\* ship in the South Atlantic between Africa and America; then finally came back to serve on **HMS Active (R)** – a type of 21 Frigate serving with NATO in the Baltic and Atlantic, with a final trip as guard ship in the West Indies and America.



"After leaving the Navy he retrained at Myerscough as a landscape architect which he practised for some years with his own business

"Finally he retrained as a teacher with a BSc. from Durham, then taught A level geography at Notre Dame College, Norwich." **Well done, David – 3 careers! JB**

**A more recent photo of David and Brian Whittle.**

**hydrography\* the science of surveying and charting seas...**



**Becoming commissioned seems to be one of the positive outcomes from singing in cathedral choirs.**

**David Tattersall** (one of JB's outstanding Head Choristers - *right*), became a Lt. Commander in the Royal Navy.



**Richard Grimshaw** (*left*, another of JB's outstanding choristers) became a Wing Commander in the RAF. (He may be a Group Captain, or more, by now!)

Richard wrote (for *Music & More* in 2004): **Looking back, I have employed quite a bit of what I learnt in the choir and it has stood me in good stead. It has also left me with some very enjoyable memories of times spent with some good friends, I hope you, JB, have had an interesting time, too!**



And, crossing the Atlantic, one of the former choristers of Trinity Church, Princeton, NJ, *before JB became Director of Music in 1983*, became a four-star General: 'Stormin Norman' - **Norman Schwarzkopf Jr.** who led *Operation Desert Storm* which defeated Saddam Hussein in 1990.



Several members of JB's Princeton choirs became commissioned, and several of the adults already had been. One adult was a University professor and at least two of JB's choristers became full professors and, happily, still keep in touch with him.

**But see the next page – 'NEVER FORGET' – for not everyone is called to become an officer – there are other ambitions. One person can make a difference in this world.**

## NEVER FORGET...

Never forget that you are one of a kind.  
Never forget that if there weren't any need for you in all your uniqueness to be on this earth, you wouldn't be here in the first place.  
And never forget, no matter how overwhelming life's challenges and problems seem to be, that one person can make a difference in the world.  
In fact, it is always because of one person that all the changes that matter in the world came about.



So, be that one person.

*R. Buckminster Fuller, American, 1895-1983  
Inventor of the geodesic dome*

Always believe that something wonderful is going to happen. Even with all the ups and downs, never take a day for granted. Smile, cherish the little things and remember to hug the ones you really love.



**FROM RUTH BOND again** - (still in living in Suffolk)

My dear John,

I thoroughly enjoyed the last issue of M & M but was somewhat alarmed at the description of me as a rather decayed intellectual! Sadly most of those pastimes have fallen by the wayside, some through illness and/or old age (mine and others). However I do still enjoy painting, even if it has to be in solitary confinement at home in my bubble/igloo. For years I attended an art class which I thoroughly enjoyed but it did rather spoil the enjoyment when we were allowed to sit only one at each table, all facing the same way and wearing masks at all times. So I decided that the time had come to call it a day.

I did have a quiet laugh at your translation of my great great grandson's name (incidentally I now have two great great grandsons). The first is named ALFIE and the second RALPH - no idea where the names came from. And I do live in Suffolk... This is only to keep the records straight with no ulterior motive!

I do hope that you are keeping well - I know that you keep yourself very well occupied with the so successful M & M and doubtless other musical or intellectual pursuits, but like everyone else you must wish to get out and see people again.

We have had about four or five inches of snow but at the moment the sun is shining so things may improve.

With much love, Ruth

My dear Ruth,

How wonderful to hear from you again! Thank you so very much for writing and for correcting my errors [in last month's M&M] - so gently! I do apologise: on the phone I misheard your spelling of ALFIE's name - mistaking the **F** for an **S**.

I'll include your latest letter in our next M&M (March) which is already filling up nicely.

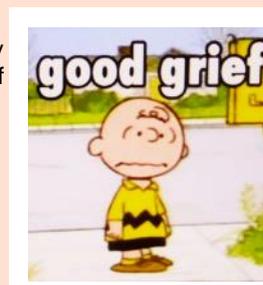
**Heartiest congratulations on your TWO Great, Great Grandsons! Where do you find the energy?!**

Am watching the Australian Open Tennis at the moment - live from Melbourne. Somehow they have not only players but also a LIVE AUDIENCE - as in the auld days. It brightens one's spirits enormously to experience life as it used to be!

Much love and continued best wishes for health and strength - and for your spirit of lively humour.

Ever

John



**Yes, present and former choristers!**

We need to hear how you are coping with the Covid crisis - your family news, your musical news, and MORE, please!

**With photos**

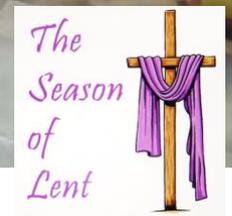
to

[John.beralot@gmail.com](mailto:John.beralot@gmail.com)

**Thanx!**

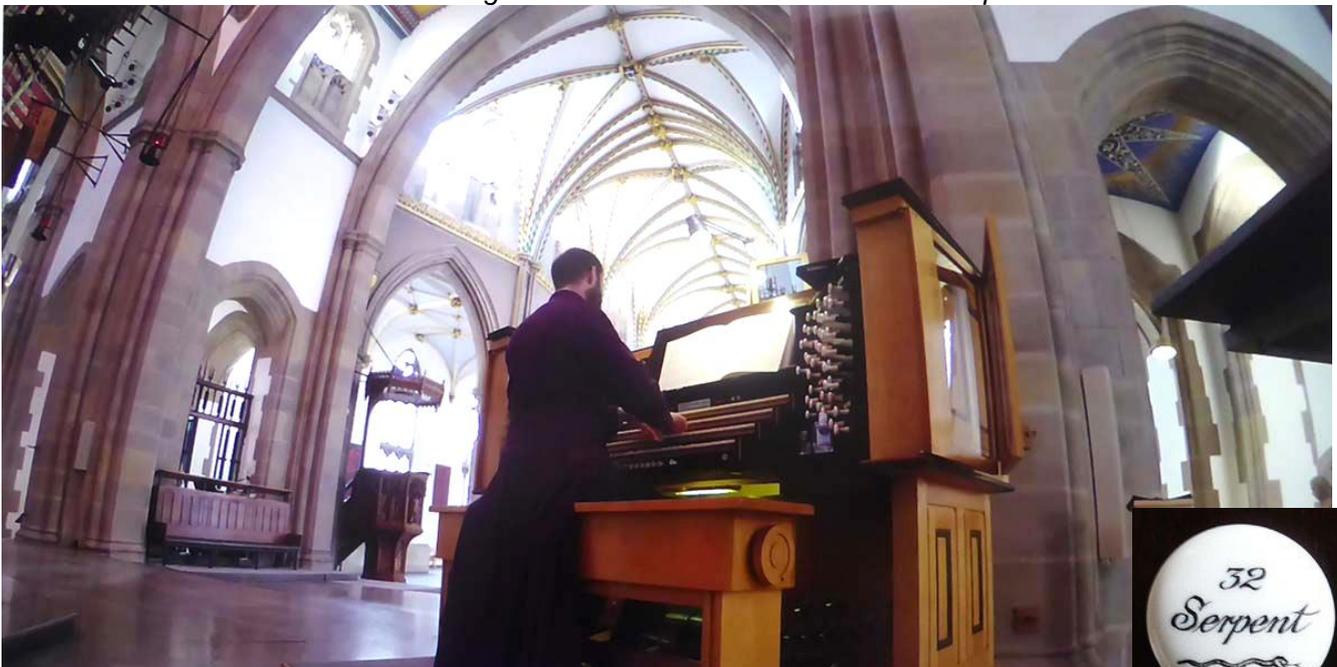
## TWO GLORIOUS BLACKBURN MUSIC VIDEOS for the Lenten Season

1. **Our 'Cathedra Voices'** so called because they sing by the BISHOP'S THRONE (called **Cathedra**)  
L-R: **Matthew Baldwin** (Bass Choral Scholar) **Bex Weaver** (alto: Events' Co-ordinator at King George's Hall) **Michael Hillesdon** (Tenor Choral Scholar), **Angela Hicks** (former Blackburn chorister and now international soloist) **Ed McCullough** (Cathedral Choir Tenor)  
**singing 'Miserere Mei', by William Byrd**



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tzq7zhkogtb8axq/Miserere%20Byrd.mp4?dl=0>

2. **Our Director of Music, John Robinson**  
**playing Kyrie, Gott heilliger Geist by J.S. Bach** (the chorale theme is in slow notes in the pedals)  
Note our **glorious Serpent** in the pedals near the end –  
sounding an octave lower than bottom C on the piano.



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/m3scalmk6acm7sx/Kyrie%2C%20Gott%20heilliger%20Geist%20BWV%20671%20.mp4?dl=0>



From our Director of Music: JOHN ROBINSON

“March 17th we will bring the trebles back in to rehearsals and sing Sunday mornings [from 21<sup>st</sup> March] until Easter after that, and hope to return to the full choir after Easter.”

And here's the latest photograph of URSULA ROBINSON



From the Dean's Pastoral Letter, 27 Feb. 2021

**Palm Sunday 28 March**

Worship in the Cathedral at 9.00am and 10.30am  
There will also be online worship at 9.00am with *Cathedra Voices* including Sung Passion

**Monday to Friday of Holy Week 29-31 March**

During Holy Week Morning Prayer will include a two minute reflection and streamed on YouTube at about 9.30am  
Evening Prayer by Zoom as normal. Login details are available from [precentor@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:precentor@blackburncathedral.co.uk)

**Maundy Thursday 1 April**

8.00pm-9.00pm Eucharistic service in the Cathedral with *Cathedra Voices*. (no foot washing) followed by optional Watch until 10.00pm  
8.00pm Online worship with *Cathedra Voices*.

**Good Friday 2 April**

The Cathedral will be open from 12 noon to 2.00pm for private prayer. From 2.00pm - 3.00pm a one-hour Liturgy of Good Friday with Sung Passion Reproaches and intercession.  
Online worship with *Cathedra Voices* from 2.00pm.

**Holy Saturday 3 April: Vigil, Service of Light and Eucharist**

From 6.00pm Vigil Service of readings will be available on line. Lasts an hour, 8.00pm - 9.00pm a Service of Light with Eucharist sung by the *Girl Choristers*. This service will start outside and move in to the Cathedral for Easter Gospel and Liturgy of the Eucharist.  
The whole service will be celebrated standing .

It will be possible to buy a paschal candle for use at home during Eastertide. Candles will need to be pre-ordered online collecting from the Cathedral before Easter. Either light the candle at home for the first time on Holy Saturday evening during the service of Light either at home or bring your candle to the service outside the cathedral. Approximate cost for candle £8.00.

**Easter Day 4 April**

Worship in the Cathedral at 9.00am and 10.30am at which Bishop Julian will preside and preach – *Boys' voices*.  
9.00am Online worship with *Cathedra Voices*.