

Newsletter

August 2018



Diary

4th

5.00pm South Asian Christian Convention and Banquet – for more details contact: Kamran Bhatti on 07948553765

5th

The Cathedral Eucharist and Evensong will be sung by our visiting Choir: **The St Margaret's Singers from Liverpool**

11th

2.00pm Diocesan Mother's Union Mary Sumner Day Celebration Service.

12th

The Cathedral Eucharist and Evensong will be sung by our visiting Choir: **Adamas Voces**

19th

The Cathedral Eucharist and Evensong will be sung by our visiting Choir: **Birkenhead School Choir**

25th

3.30pm Choral Evensong, sung by **Middlesbrough Cathedral Consort**

26th

The Cathedral Eucharist and Evensong will be sung by our visiting Choir: **Middlesbrough Cathedral Consort.**

Lunchtime Recitals

Our programme of Lunchtime recitals will return in September.

Imagining a New Creation

I sat recently with an elderly lady who knew that, as she put it, her 'time to shuffle off was coming' and she asked me to read from the book of Revelation, that familiar passage that is often heard at funerals. I duly obliged and as I read, her face lit up with the hope that she encountered in the words.

I used to find this book quite daunting, disturbing and a bit scary! We come across a world of beasts and angels, and cosmic song with battles and bright cities and the offering of adoration to God who will make all things well. It is not so much about logic and a lot to do with imagination. It's a book that delves deep into some of the most fundamental aspects of our human experience such as life and death, judgement and forgiveness, hope and despair. These are not the most appealing subjects for those of us who like to be in control of life or who neatly package up our faith and our God. As Christopher Rowland writes: "Our quest for order resists flights of fancy. We prefer the prosaic and ordinary. Our imaginations are out of condition. That means that we are often in no fit state to read Revelation with real sympathy." ('Revelation', 1993)

But Revelation is not only a book to disturb our ease; it is also a book of hope: hope for the lonely, frightened, lost, and persecuted. It is for those who feel misunderstood, marginalised, voiceless, and downtrodden.

For Lily in her hospital bed there wasn't any fear in the words and it was far from mundane. In her last days the images encountered, and the thoughts expressed in what she had read enabled her to make some sense of where she was at in her life journey and brought both a peace and a sense of victory to her fragile life and perhaps more widely to a

Looking Forward to Advent and Christmas

Here at the Cathedral we are already beginning to prepare for all the wonderful services and concerts celebrating the coming of our Lord.

This year we are also pleased to welcome two new events to the Cathedral.

Tuesday 11th December 1.45pm, 4.00pm and 7.00pm: *The Snowman and the Bear*, come along and watch a unique performance of the film with a live orchestra. See the Cathedral website for more details and to obtain tickets.

Friday 14th, Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th December at 7.30pm: Blackburn Cathedral Players present: *A Christmas Carol*. Tickets available from 1st October priced at £10 and £5.

sometimes incomprehensible world of brokenness and pain. For this lady the last book of the Bible brought great encouragement and hope. I wonder if perchance, we might see it that way too?

As the prophet Isaiah puts it (in chapter 51) 'so the redeemed of the LORD will return and enter Zion with singing, crowned with unending joy. Joy and gladness will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee.'

Andrew – Canon Pastor

Calling All Thespians.

The Cathedral is delighted to be staging an adaptation of the seasonal favourite, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* between 14th and 16th December 2018. Co-ordinated by Paul Mason and Katie Wlodarczyk under the banner of the **Cathedral Community Players**, anyone interested in taking part in any role, not just acting but stage management, publicity, costumes etc is invited to the inaugural meeting of the Players on Sunday September 23rd at 2 o'clock. At this time there will be a chance to read extracts from the script. Please spread the word, everyone is welcome (from 6 – 106!) because this adaptation means there are parts for all ages and abilities. Put the date in your diary now and watch this space for more exciting news on a regular basis.

Education at the Cathedral

The Education department has had such a busy time this year. So far, since January, 27 school groups (1041 children) have benefitted from the welcome they receive from Blackburn Cathedral. Children enter this beautiful space and the sense of awe and wonder on their faces is priceless. We tell them all about the history of worship and prayer on this site since 596 and the significance of the building's shape, design and features, including the Cathedra (seat of the Bishop).

We share the unique message of Jesus' gospel of love and forgiveness with our younger visitors and so many leave with parting words of how much they have loved their experience (staff too!). In addition, there are schools who visit us as part of their termly/annual worship practice and it is a pleasure to be a part of the Christian ethos of the life of our Diocesan schools.

If you want to find out any more about what we do with our school groups, speak to Canon Rowena (missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk) or Sian Howell-Jones (Education Officer: education@blackburncathedral.co.uk).

Nations Bells to ring out together to mark Armistice Centenary

On 11 November 2018, 100 years since Armistice, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, town and cities across the country. Big Ben will also strike at 11am to mark the centenary.

To mark the final year of the First World War centenary commemorations, 1,400 new bell ringers will be recruited in honour of the 1,400 that lost their lives during the First World War.

Church bells across the UK remained restricted throughout the course of the war and only rang freely once Armistice was declared on 11 November 1918.

The campaign to recruit bell ringers, Ringing Remembers, will keep this traditional British art alive in memory of the 1,400 who lost their lives – linking together past and future.

The campaign is being run by the Department of Communities and Local Government in collaboration with Big Ideas Community Interest Company and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Here at Blackburn Cathedral we need to recruit six new members to augment our present band.

Practices take place every Thursday evening from 8pm. to 9.30pm. For further information ring **Ian Fowler (Deputy Ringing Master) on 07484 830542**

Safeguarding Training

The Canon Missioner is running a CI Safeguarding training course on Thursday 13th September 10 – 12 at the Cathedral. Anyone who volunteers at the Cathedral is welcome to attend and find out more about looking after children, vulnerable adults and people within our community. Please contact Gill Fourie on gill.fourie@blackburncathedral.co.uk for more information or to book a place on the course. It's free!! Other dates will be added in the future.

Intercessions

It is good news that the number of people leading intercessions on a Sunday morning is growing. The intercessions are very much intended to be the 'prayers of the people', so at the 10.30 Eucharist we will be trialling having them led from further back in the nave. This is similar to the idea behind our practice of reading the Gospel in the centre of the congregation. If you would like to join the intercessions rota, please speak to one of the clergy.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation preparation will take place in the autumn. If you are interested in being confirmed or would like to know more, please get in touch with Canon Pailing: missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk

Regular Service Times

Sunday:

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.00am Parish Communion

10.30am Cathedral Eucharist

4.00pm Evensong

Weekdays:

Morning Prayer - 8.40am Monday to Friday

Holy Communion - Every day, but times may differ, please see the Cathedral website or weekly bulletin for details.

Evening Prayer/Evensong - 5.15pm Monday to Friday: please see weekly bulletin or music list for details of sung services.

Saturday:

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

3.30pm Evening Prayer

Contacts

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Newsletter

If there is anything you would like us to include, in the diary section or as a small feature, please get in touch either via the cathedral office or by sending an email to info@blackburncathedral.co.uk putting 'newsletter' in the subject line.

Vacancy

A Business Administration Apprentice is required to join our busy office providing front line customer service and administrative support. The successful candidate will be working with a small team across a number of areas of the Cathedral.

The apprentice will work under the direction of the Executive Director and will work across a number of areas supported by the Office Manager, Finance Officer, Shop Manager and Events Coordinator.

For more information, please consult the Cathedral website.

Cathedral Ordinand

We send our prayers, best wishes and congratulations to our new Cathedral Ordinand and former choral scholar Jordan McDermott who has been accepted for ordination training.

Speaking to the Canon Pastor, Jordan said; "I am absolutely delighted and very excited to have been recommended to train for Ordained Ministry within the Church of England. There have been many years of discerning my call, and it is hugely humbling to have the Church affirm what I believe I am called to. I will be reading for Holy Orders at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield for the next three years.

Thank you to all those who have prayed for, and supported me getting to this point, from the Cathedral and beyond. All prayers are welcome for my ongoing training and formation (especially given that I am going to Yorkshire!!)." Jordan McDermott - Blackburn Cathedral Ordinand.