



BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Choral Evensong
with
Installation of Honorary Canons

Sunday 8th February 2026

4pm

The Service is sung by
The Cathedral Youth Choir

Directed by
Helen Davies

The Organist is
Nigel Spooner
Associate Organist

The setting for the service is
Brewer in D

The College of Canons

Honorary Canons are appointed to support the Bishop in mission and ministry, through their prayers and participation in the life of the Cathedral Church. They are clergy and lay people who, through their ministry and witness, have served the mission of God with distinction and are called by the Bishop to further the work of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through their association with the Cathedral Church

Today we welcome those who the Bishop has appointed as Honorary and Lay Canons:

Sue Champness who has made a huge contribution to the development of lay ministry across the Diocese.

The Revd David D'Silva who will be Canon for Presence and Engagement, rethinking Church life in the North of Blackburn.

The Revd Munawar Din who has pioneered intercultural ministry in our Diocese and serves as Dean of Global Majority Heritage Ministry.

The Revd Linda Tomkinson whose pioneering work on estates in Blackpool and Preston has had national impact.

The Revd Damian Platt who has contributed so richly to the renewal of parish life and who conceived our groundbreaking Fruitful app.

Order of Service

Processional Hymn

PRAISE MY SOUL



Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven,

who like me his praise should sing?

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our forebears in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.

Praise him! Praise him!

Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.

Praise him! Praise him!

Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise with us the God of grace

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

The Greeting

Please remain standing as the Bishop greets the people:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

The Bishop adds further words of welcome, concluding with these words:

How awesome is this place.

**This is none other than the house of God
and the gate of heaven.**

Please sit.

The Collation

The Chapter Clerk presents the Lay Canon designate to the Bishop saying:

Reverend Father in God, I present to you Susan Joy Champness to be installed as Lay Canon in accordance with the Statutes of this Cathedral Church.

The Lay Canon designate comes and stands before the Bishop.

The Bishop says:

Lay Canons of this our Cathedral Church represent the unity and diversity of the body of the Church people throughout the Diocese. It belongs to the office of Lay Canon, under the guidance of the Bishop and the Dean, to seek to contribute to the corporate life of this Cathedral Church and to promote its mission and service and extend its influence throughout the Diocese and to respond in good faith to such other points as are contained in the relevant Cathedral Statute.

The new Canon kneels before the Bishop.

The Bishop invites the people to pray in silence for a short period after which he says:

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear the prayer we offer for this your servant

and for all your faithful people;
that in her vocation and ministry
she may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Bishop sits and reads the Deed of Collation, the new Lay Canon still kneeling before him.

The Bishop then gives her the Deed and taking his staff, blesses her, saying:

God the Father strengthen you and increase your faith;
God the Son fill you with love and a spirit of service;
God the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth;
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The new Lay Canon stands.

The Bishop then hands her the Mandate saying:

Receive this Mandate, which you must hand to the Interim Dean for
your Installation.

The new Canon returns to her place in the Nave.

The Honorary Canons designate come and stand before the Bishop.

*The Chapter Clerk presents the Honorary Canons designate to the Bishop
saying:*

Reverend Father in God, I present to you Munawar Din, David Paul
D'Silva, Damian Edward Platt and Linda Margaret Tomkinson to be
installed as Honorary Canons in accordance with the Statutes of this
Cathedral Church.

The Bishop says:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, before I Collate Munawar, David, Damian and Linda as Honorary Canons of this Cathedral Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Blackburn, they must make the Declaration of Assent and take the Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience.

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation?

The Declaration of Assent

Standing before the Bishop, the new Canons say:

I, Munawar Din; I, David Paul D'Silva; I, Damian Edward Platt; I, Linda Margaret Tomkinson, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

The Oath of Allegiance

I, Munawar Din; I, David Paul D'Silva; I, Damian Edward Platt; I, Linda Margaret Tomkinson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, his heirs and successors, according to law: So help me God.

The Oath of Canonical Obedience

I, Munawar Din; I, David Paul D'Silva; I, Damian Edward Platt; I, Linda Margaret Tomkinson, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Blackburn and his successors, in all things lawful and honest: So help me God.

The new Canons stand before the Bishop, The Bishop invites the people to pray in silence for a short period after which he says:

Almighty God, who has given you the will to undertake all these things, give you also the strength to perform them; that he may complete that work which he has begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Bishop sits and reads the Deeds of Collation, the new Canons kneeling before him and holding the Deeds with both hands.

The Bishop will present the Deeds to the Canons, with these words:

Receive this cure, your care and ours. Be diligent in taking your part with your brothers and sisters of the College of Canons in the Government of this holy place, that here the word of God may be faithfully preached and the sacraments duly administered; and in all things so uphold the honour and dignity of our Cathedral Church that it may be a true Mother to the Churches of our Bishopric.

The Bishop takes his crozier and blesses them, saying:

God the Father strengthen you and increase your faith;
God the Son fill you with love and a spirit of service;
God the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth;
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rest
upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The new Canons stand and the Bishop hands them their Mandates saying:

Receive these Mandates, which you must hand to the Dean in order
that you may be Installed.

The new Canons return to their places in the Nave.

The Office of Evensong

Please stand.

The Choir sing the Responses:

O Lord, open thou our lips;
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

*Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised*

Please sit for the Psalm and stand for the Gloria.

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen

The First Lesson

(*Proverbs 8.1, 22-31*)

Read by Lubna Munawar

The first lesson is taken from Proverbs Chapter 8.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts
of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of
the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there
were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been
shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet
made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he
established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face
of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established
the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that
the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the
foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his
inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand. The choir sings:

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their
hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed
for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world
without end. Amen.

Please sit.

The Second Lesson

(Luke 12.16-31)

Read by Pete Tomkinson

The second lesson is taken from Luke Chapter 12.

Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’ He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how

much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand. The choir sings:

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen

Please remain standing to say:

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried:
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the Holy Catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Versicles & Responses

The choir sing:

**The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.**

All kneel or sit.

Let us pray.

***Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

The choir sings the Lord's Prayer followed by these responses.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects for Evening Prayer

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image; teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please sit.

Anthem

The choir sings

Bleib bei uns,
denn es will Abend werden,
und der Tag hat sich geneiget.

Abide with us,
for it is toward evening,
and the day has almost decline

Rheinberger

(1839 - 1901)

The Installation

The congregation remains seated.

The new Lay Canon is brought to the Interim Dean by the Canon Missioner of the Cathedral. The Registrar moves to the Dean's stall.

The new Lay Canon presents their Mandate for Installation to the Interim Dean, saying:

Mr Interim Dean, I present to you this Mandate and we pray that you will install and induct me into the appointed stall in this Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin in Blackburn.

The Interim Dean says:

We accept this letter, but first you must make, in the face of this Chapter and of this congregation, the appointed declaration of obedience to the constitution and statutes of this Cathedral Church.

The new Lay Canon makes the Declaration following:

I, Susan Joy Champness do declare that I will be faithful and loyal to this Cathedral Church of Blackburn and the Dean as its head. With the help of God and to the best of my power I will sustain my part in its life and work, recognising that the Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and a centre of worship and mission. I will encourage all members of the Cathedral Foundation in their work and duties. I accept the Constitution and Statutes of this Cathedral and will duly observe them, so help me God.

The Interim Dean, attended by the Canon Missioner, lead the new Lay Canon to their stall in the Sanctuary.

The Interim Dean says to the new Lay Canon:

We, the Interim Dean and Chapter of this Cathedral Church receive you, Susan Joy Champness as Lay Canon in this Cathedral Church

(Here he shall cause the new Lay Canon to sit)

and do hereby install and induct you as Lay Canon in this Cathedral Church,
with all the rights and dignities thereof, in the name of God.

Amen.

The new Honorary Canons are brought to the Dean by the Canon Missioner of the Cathedral.

The new Honorary Canons present their Mandates for Installation to the Interim Dean, saying:

Mr Interim Dean, we present to you these Mandates and we pray that you will install and induct us into the appointed stalls in this Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin in Blackburn.

The Interim Dean says:

We accept these letters, but first you must make, in the face of this Chapter and of this congregation, the appointed declaration of obedience to the constitution and statutes of this Cathedral Church.

The new Honorary Canons make the Declaration following:

I, Munawar Din; I, David Paul D'Silva; I, Damian Edward Platt; I, Linda Margaret Tomkinson, do declare that I will be faithful and loyal to this Cathedral Church of Blackburn and the Dean as its head. With the help of God and to the best of my power I will sustain my part in its life and work, recognising that the Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and a centre of worship and mission. I will encourage all members of the Cathedral Foundation in their work and duties. I accept the Constitution and Statutes of this Cathedral and will duly observe them, so help me God.

The Interim Dean, attended by the Canon Missioner, leads the new Honorary Canons to their stall in the Sanctuary.

The Interim Dean says to the new Honorary Canons:

I, Andrew Horsfall, Interim Dean of Blackburn do herby induct and install you Munawar Din into the Canonry of Crostona in this Cathedral Church, with all the rights and dignities thereof, in the name of God. **Amen.**

I, Andrew Horsfall, Interim Dean of Blackburn do herby induct and install you David Paul D' Silva into the Canonry of Elvetham in this Cathedral Church, with all the rights and dignities thereof, in the name of God. **Amen.**

I, Andrew Horsfall, Interim Dean of Blackburn do herby induct and install you Damian Edward Platt into the Canonry of Kyrkham in this Cathedral Church, with all the rights and dignities thereof, in the name of God. **Amen.**

I, Andrew Horsfall, Interim Dean of Blackburn do hereby induct and install you Linda Margaret Tomkinson into the Canony of Waletune in this Cathedral Church, with all the rights and dignities thereof, in the name of God. **Amen.**

The Interim Dean says:

God keep you in his care;
Christ win you and save you;
the Holy Spirit guide you in the paths
of truth and love always. **Amen.**

The congregation and new Canons remain seated; members of the Chapter and the College of Canons stand.

The Interim Dean addresses members of the Foundation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
let us greet our new colleagues and welcome them
to the College of Canons of this Cathedral Church.

members of the Chapter and the College of Canons reply:

**In the name of the Lord,
we welcome you.**

All applaud. The Interim Dean and Canon Missioner return to their stalls.

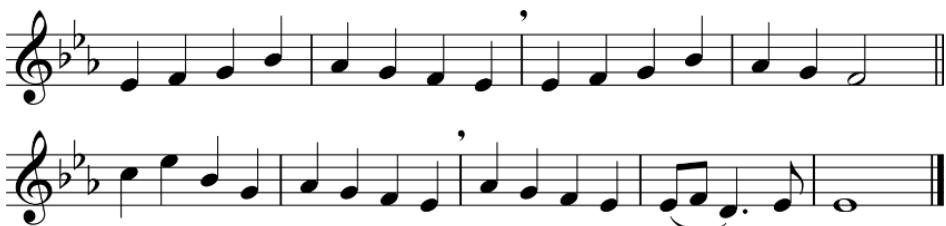
The new Canons stand, and the Bishop says:

Peace be upon this College of Canons
and upon you who are members of it.
Peace be upon this Cathedral Church
and upon all who love and serve it.
Peace be upon this Diocese and upon all who in love serve
it. And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Please stand to sing:

Hymn

SERVANT SONG



Brother, Sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Sister, brother let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard b. 1953

Please sit.

The Address

The Bishop of Burnley

The Intercessions

All kneel or sit.

The Archdeacon of Blackburn

Let us pray with thanksgiving for the Church and the world,
and especially for the life and work of this Cathedral.

For the Church universal,
of which this building is a visible symbol:
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For this place,
where we may be still and know that you are God:
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For Philip our Bishop, Jill and Joe his Suffragans;
and Andrew our Interim Dean;
for the fellowship of the College of Canons,
and especially for Sue, Munawar, David, Damian and Linda installed today;
and for all their families, schools, parishes and all who support them:
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For those who worship in this place,
and for all who share and support our common life:
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For your blessings in the past,
and for a vision of the future:
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For this Diocese of Blackburn,
especially for the institutions, parishes and congregations and ministries
represented here today:

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For those who support the impoverished, the prisoner and the outcast,
and those who are suffering in the current financial crisis.

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For our homes and families,
and for the gifts of love and friendship:

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For our fellowship with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
And all your saints:

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

We say together the Centenary Prayer:

**Heavenly Father in our Centenary Year we rededicate ourselves
and our Diocese to you. Send the Holy Spirit to give us
confidence in our witness, generosity in our service and love for
our neighbours that your church may be renewed and may
come home to you through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Offertory Hymn

Please stand to sing the hymn, during which a collection is taken and presented.

Woodlands



Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.

Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926

The Blessing

The Bishop of Blackburn

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All stand as the processions leaves the Cathedral, and as the Organist plays

The Organ Voluntary

Fanfare

(Whitlock 1903 – 1946)

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