

Association of Cathedral Voluntary Choirs Festival



ACVC Choirs at practice - 6 May 2006

Over the weekend of 6th and 7th of May, Peterborough Cathedral played host to a major gathering of representatives of cathedral voluntary choirs from many parts of the country. In all about 120 singers, representing ten cathedrals - Peterborough, Rochester, Guildford, Worcester, Chelmsford, Wells, Southwell, Hereford, Derby and Peterborough combined to sing the Cathedral services during the 2006 Festival weekend.

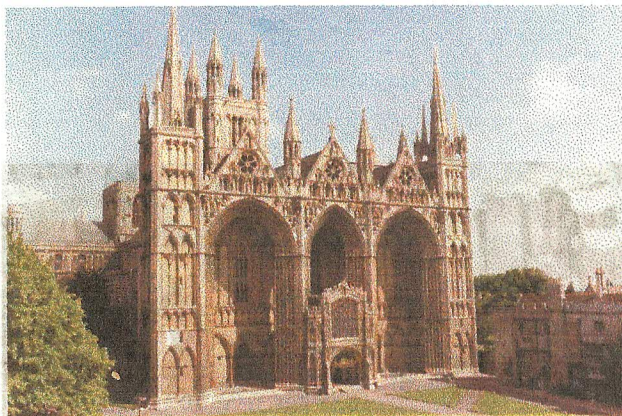
The event took place under the auspices of the Association of Cathedral Voluntary Choirs, of which the Peterborough Cathedral Voluntary Choir has been a member since its inception. The Association is a loose federation of choirs which are called upon to deputise, at holiday periods and the like, for the professional musicians who, in Peterborough as in all of the major cathedrals of England, provide the daily offerings of music throughout the year, drawing on a repertoire from more than a millennium. Thus they help to maintain the continuity of a centuries-old tradition, and to a standard, without any parallel or equal in the world. On other occasions - at major festivals or for concerts - cathedral voluntary choirs may be called upon to augment the professional musicians.

On Saturday 6th May Festival Choral Evensong, was sung by the combined choirs to music by Vaughan Williams, Dyson and Smith, and opened with an introit composed by Barry Ferguson, who many Peterborians will remember as a former Assistant Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral.

Festival Eucharist on Sunday 7th was sung to Dvorak's Mass in D. The Communion motet was a seven-part setting by the late-sixteenth century German composer Hans Leo Hassler.

The ACVC website can be found at <http://www.acvc.org.uk>

The most beautiful Norman Cathedral in England



The Cathedral Church in Peterborough is dedicated to St Peter, St Paul and St Andrew.

A monastic church was founded here by King Peada in 655 AD, destroyed by the Danes in 870, rebuilt as part of a Benedictine Abbey and re-consecrated in 972, burned down in an accidental fire in 1116 and rebuilt in its present form between 1118 and 1238. The porch was added about 1380, the eastern extension around 1500 and the central tower was re-built in the mid 1300's and again in the 1880's. In 1539 the monastery was closed by Henry VIII, but 18 months later in 1541, the church became the Cathedral of the new Diocese of Peterborough, with the last abbot as the new bishop, and Peterborough became a city.

In the Civil War much damage was done to the Cathedral by Cromwell's troops, and the Lady Chapel, Chapter House and Cloister were destroyed; only fragments of the stained glass windows were saved and these were later pieced together to form the apse windows. The choir stalls, bishop's throne, marble floor and high altar were all created by the Victorian architect Pearson after the tower had been re-built.

In the 1960's new figures were added to the West Front and in the 1970's the spectacular hanging cross was added to the Nave. Since the disastrous fire of November 2001 a massive cleaning and restoration programme has been undertaken, but there is still an

http://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/Home_Main.htm

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