

# THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHEDRAL VOLUNTARY CHOIRS

## NEWSLETTER - October 2015

The 12<sup>th</sup> National Festival took place at Lichfield Cathedral on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Voluntary Choirs taking part:

	Singers
Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir	23
Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir	16
Derby Cathedral Voluntary Choir	15
Chelmsford Cathedral Voluntary Choir	12
Rochester Cathedral Voluntary Choir	7
Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers	5
Carlisle Cathedral Voluntary Choir	4
St Peter's Singers, Exeter	3
Worcester Cathedral Voluntary Choir	<u>2</u>
	87

Music:

Responses: Paul Spicer

Psalms: 23 and 150

Evening Service in C – Charles V. Stanford

Great is the Lord - Edward Elgar

Missa pro Victoria – Tomás Luis de Victoria

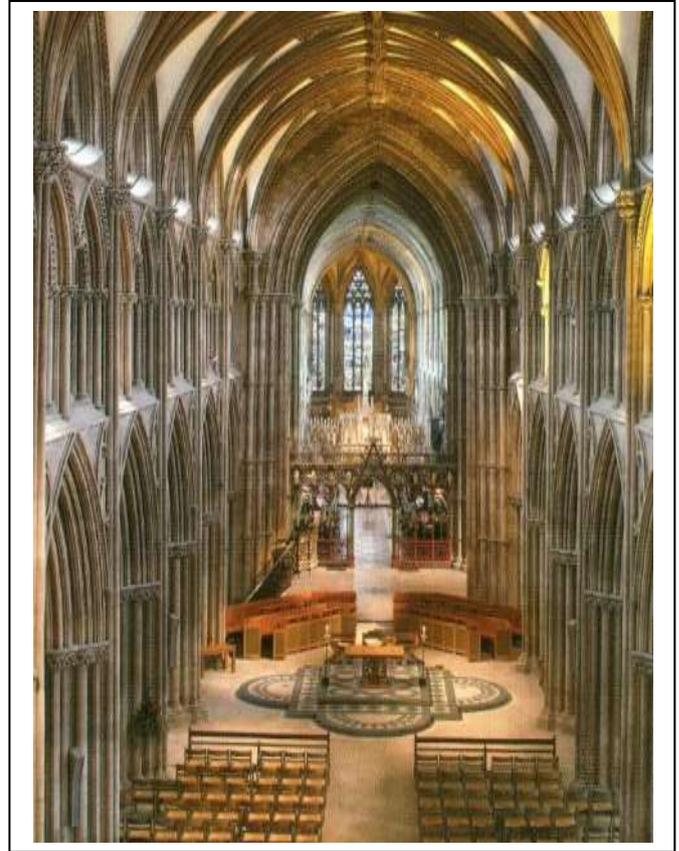
Motet: A Hymn for St Cecilia - Herbert Howells

Voluntaries: Flourish for an Occasion - Harris

Toccatà - Dubois

Organist: Cathy Lamb (joint director of music)

Director: Martyn Rawles (cathedral organist)



Although Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir had not attended any of the previous gatherings, their committee, headed by Megan Barr, organised a most enjoyable weekend with a good choice of music and two splendid cakes! Everyone enjoyed Martyn Rawles' clear direction and Cathy Lamb's sensitive accompaniment and splendid voluntaries. We were welcomed by Canon Dr Anthony Moore, Vice-Dean and Canon for Liturgy & Formation.

An excellent three-course dinner was held in splendid surroundings at the Guildhall. The after-dinner speaker was The Very Reverend Charles Taylor, Dean of Peterborough. Previously he was Canon Residentiary and Precentor of Lichfield Cathedral for twelve years. He was a most amusing entertainer, but it was from Peterborough Cathedral's web-site that the following was gleaned:

*As a boy, he was a chorister at St. Paul's Cathedral in London where he sang at the State Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill and the memorial service for President John F Kennedy. He was ordained at Lichfield Cathedral in 1976. In 1979, Charles was appointed Chaplain of Westminster Abbey, where he met and married his wife, Catherine. They have two children, Rachel and Benedict, and a grandson.*

The three spires of Lichfield Cathedral have been guiding pilgrims along their way for over seven hundred years. Bishop Hedda founded the first cathedral in 700 to house the relics of St Chad (who died in 672) and his Gospel Manuscripts. The nave retains the tall elegant columns and clerestory windows of the thirteenth-century. The altar was replaced in 2003. The organ is mostly by William Hill and has over 5,000 pipes.



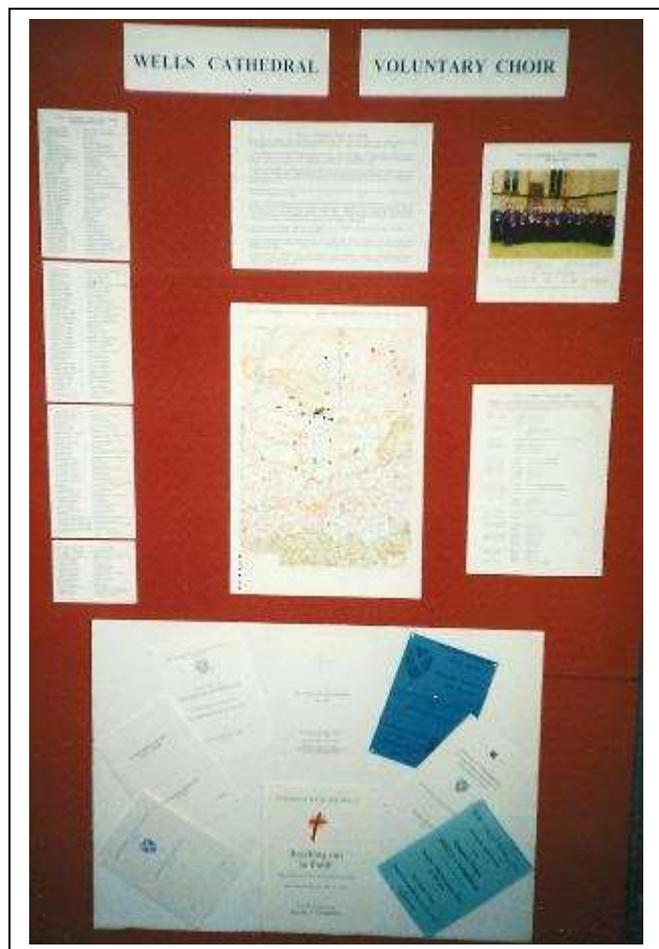
ACVC Festival at Lichfield Cathedral on 18th to 19th July 2015

EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
Name badges for participants	£11.47	Balance B/F from Derby Cathedral	£1,896.00
Celebration Cakes	£80.00	Registration fees	89      £532.00
Cost of refreshments	£13.88	Donation from guest	1      £4.00
Cost of guest speaker at the dinner	£180.00	Payment for dinners	93      £2,325.00
Wines for guests	£40.50		
Hire of Guildhall	£154.80		
Payment to Olive Tree for 97 diners	£2,037.00		
Fee for Fran Ambrose - soloist	£75.00		
Banks Music re Spicer responses	£54.00		
Gift for Cathedral vergers	£6.58		
Flowers for Megan Barr - organiser	£25.00		
Rehearsal fee Martyn Rawles - conductor	£50.00		
Rehearsal fee Cathy Lamb - organist	£50.00		
	£2,778.23		
Surplus to carry forward to Wells	£1,978.77		
	£4,757.00		£4,757.00

The 13<sup>th</sup> Festival will be hosted by Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016. It will be the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the association which took place in Wells in 1996. The original initiative started with a survey of Anglican Cathedrals to ascertain who had voluntary choirs and how they operated. To see how things have changed, a new survey is being conducted and the results will be circulated in the New Year.

As the Festival will be held during the October half term, Wells CVC are scheduled to sing *all* the services that weekend. As well as Saturday Evensong and Sunday Eucharist therefore, there may also be an opportunity for individual CVC singers to join us in singing Matins at 11.30 and possibly Evensong at 3 pm.

At the first Festival in April 1997, participating choirs each had space on display boards to give a flavour of their choir. Next year a similar exhibition will be mounted in the South Cloister (which is greatly changed from 1996) so choirs are asked to think about how they would like to portray themselves. These two photos give an idea of the 1997 display.



As Wells is such a small city, those planning to attend might like to book their accommodation well ahead. The main hotels are quite expensive but there are plenty of bed and breakfast opportunities in and around the city. Travelodge (in Glastonbury) takes bookings 9 months in advance and is cheaper than Premier Inn (also Glastonbury - about 15 minutes' drive). See [www.wellssomerset.com](http://www.wellssomerset.com) for a pdf accommodation guide that can be downloaded.

Guildford will host ACVC on the weekend of 26-27 May 2018. Offers for Autumn 2019 are invited.