

## Ringling the Changes



Man Playing Bagpipes, from the Luttrell Psalter

It is some time since *CDTCC* reviewed the changes taking place in cathedral choirs. With the introduction of its girls' choir in 1991, Salisbury started a bandwagon rolling. In more recent times, this trend has been less marked. Undoubtedly, cathedrals have begun to take on board some of the burdensome implications of having a second choir. However, while the flood of girls' choirs may have abated, the trickle continues. In the list which follows, those cathedrals (and similar foundations) which continue to maintain only a traditional choir are denoted by the letter **T**. One cathedral has a girls' choir as its main choir, and this is marked with a **G**. Cathedrals which have a girls' choir *in addition* to their traditional choir are denoted by the letters **T/G**. The letter **M** indicates cathedrals with a mixed top line of boys and girls. If there are also men and women in the choir, this is mentioned in a bracketed note. Choirs composed only of men and women are denoted by the letters **MA**.

The strange particularity of cathedrals and their choirs should be noted. While one cathedral's boys sing six times a week, the boys at another cathedral may only sing on Sundays. Likewise, in a cathedral which also has a girls' choir, the girls may sing as often as or even more frequently than the boys, while elsewhere, the girls' choir is simply used to sing at the Sunday communion.

As well as the traditional choir of men and boys and the new cathedral girls' choirs, a number of supplementary choirs take on an additional role, usually of a minor character. These are mentioned in the accompanying notes.

No claim to accuracy or completeness is being made here, since obtaining up-to-the-minute data is a difficult and time-consuming task. A further complicating factor is that changes of one kind or another are constantly in the wind. This list, then, is presented on the basis that imperfect information is better than none at all.

Naturally, however, any corrections or additions will be gratefully received.

**A list of choirs in cathedrals and similar foundations in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Almost all are Anglican foundations, but there are a few Roman Catholic ones as well.**

CATHEDRAL	CHOIR	NOTES
England		
Birmingham:		
(i) Birmingham Cathedral	T/G	
(ii) Birmingham (RC)	T	
Blackburn	T/G	<i>plus</i> youth choir
Bradford	T/G	
Brentwood (R.C.)	T	<i>plus</i> cathedral parish choir
Bristol	T/G	
Bury St Edmunds	T	<i>plus</i> ladies' choir and youth choir
Cambridge:		
(i) King's College	T	
(ii) St John's College	T	
Canterbury	T	
Carlisle	T	<i>plus</i> youth choir
Chelmsford	T	<i>plus</i> "Adult female choral scholars as a secondary resource" (cathedral web site)
Chester	T/G (some female altos)	The girls' choir was "founded to be parallel to the boys' choir" (cathedral web site) <i>plus</i> a voluntary choir of all ages
Chichester	T	
Coventry	T/G	
Derby	T/G	<i>plus</i> adult voluntary choir
Durham	T	
Ely	T	
Exeter	T/G	
Gloucester	T	<i>plus</i> youth choir
Grimsby (St James's)	T/G	
Guildford	T	A girls' choir is planned
Hampton Court (Chapel Royal)	T	
Hereford	T	
Hexham (Hexham Abbey)	T/G	

CATHEDRAL	CHOIR	NOTES
Leeds:		
(i) Parish Church	T	
(ii) St Anne's Cathedral (R.C.)	T/G	<i>plus</i> adult choir
Leicester	T/G	
Lichfield	T	They want to set up a girls' choir but do not have the money.
Liverpool:		
(i) Liverpool Cathedral	T	A girls' choir is planned.
(ii) Liverpool Cathedral (R.C.)	T	<i>plus</i> youth choir and three adult voluntary choirs
London:		
(i) Chapel Royal	T	
(ii) Queen's Chapel of the Savoy	T	
(iii) St Paul's Cathedral	T	
(iv) Southwark	T/G	
(v) Southwark (RC)	T	A girls' choir is planned.
(vi) Temple Church	T	
(vii) Westminster Abbey	T	
(viii) Westminster Cathedral (RC)	T	
Manchester	M	<i>plus</i> voluntary choir
Newcastle	T	
Northampton (R.C.)	M (adults and children)	
Norwich	T/G	
Oxford:		
(i) Christ Church	T	<i>plus</i> mixed adult choir
(ii) Magdalen College	T	
(iii) New College	T	
Peterborough	T/G	
Portsmouth	T	<i>plus</i> voluntary choir
Ripon	T/G	
Rochester	T/G	
Salford (R.C.)	MA	
St Alban's	T/G	<i>plus</i> adult voluntary choir
St Edmundsbury	T/G	<i>plus</i> youth choir and ladies' choir

<b>CATHEDRAL</b>	<b>CHOIR</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Salisbury	T/G	
Sheffield	T/G	
Southwell	T	<i>plus</i> adult voluntary choir
Tewkesbury	T	
Truro	T	
Wakefield	T/G	
Wells	T/G	
Winchester	T/G	
Windsor: (St George's, Windsor Castle)	T	
Worcester	T	<b><i>plus</i> voluntary choir of men and boys</b>
York	T/G	
<b><i>Wales</i></b>		
Bangor	T	
Brecon	M (adults and children)	
Cardiff (R.C.)	T	A girls' choir is planned.
Llandaff	T/G	
Newport	T	
St. Asaph	T/G	
St David's	G (main choir)	<i>plus</i> adult voluntary choir and boys' choir
<b><i>Scotland</i></b>		
Aberdeen	T	
Inverness	T	currently experiencing serious recruitment problems
Cumbræ	None	
Dundee	M (two choirs)	
Edinburgh:		
(i) St Mary's Cathedral	M	
(ii) St Mary's R.C. Cathedral	MA	
Glasgow	MA	
Oban	MA	
Perth	MA	
<b><i>Eire/N. Ireland</i></b>		
Armagh:		
(i) St Patrick's	T	<i>plus</i> voluntary choir

<b>CATHEDRAL</b>	<b>CHOIR</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
(ii) St Patrick's (R.C.)	T	
Belfast	T (with male and female altos)	
Belfast (RC)	T	
Cork	T/G	The girls' choir is described as "a parallel choir" (web site)
Derry/Londonderry:		
(i) St Columb	T	
(ii) R.C. Cathedral	T	
Dublin:		
(i) Christchurch	MA	<i>plus girls' choir</i>
(ii) St. Patrick's	T/G	
(iii) Pro-Cathedral (R.C.)	T ('Palestrina Choir')	
Downpatrick	MA (plus 4 children)	
Killaloe	MA	A children's choir is planned.
Killarney (R.C.)	T	
Limerick	M (adults and children)	