

**A chronological survey of broadcasts from the first in 1926 of**

**BBC CHORAL EVENSONG**

**from choirs of gentlemen and boys**

By

**Colin R. Brownlee**

Archive of Recorded Church Music

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**Please note, this survey is of BBC Choral Evensong broadcasts only, some choirs may have broadcasted earlier with other types of services or recitals**

## CHOIRS FIRST BROADCAST OF BBC CHORAL EVENSONG BY YEAR

Choirs in italics are to clarify information and not their first broadcast.

Year	First broadcast	Notes	Last broadcast	Total at last broadcast
<b>1926 - 1934</b>				
<b>BBC National Service : Weekly on Thursdays : No broadcast music was listed in Radio Times until 1934</b>				
<b>London Westminster Abbey</b>	7 October 1926	Only choir to broadcast until 1934	Ongoing	
<b>1934</b>				
<b>Westminster Abbey continued to broadcast on Thursdays and York Minster commenced broadcasting on Tuesdays</b>				
<b>York Minster</b>	January 16		Ongoing	
	<i>January 16</i>	Radio Times listed broadcast music from York Minster		
	<i>June 7</i>	Radio Times listed broadcast music from Westminster Abbey		
<b>1936</b>				
<b>York Minster on Tuesdays and St Paul's on Wednesdays until 30 August 1939</b>				
<b>London Westminster Abbey</b>	<i>July 2</i>	Broadcasts ceased for the next 14 years due to the dismantling of the organ		
<b>London St Paul's Cathedral</b>	July 8		Ongoing	
<b>1937</b>				
<b>Liverpool Cathedral</b>	April 28	Broadcast once this year due to special service at St Paul's		
<b>Rosslyn Chapel</b>	September 23	Patronal & Dedication Festival	23 Sept 1937	1
<i>All others from St Paul's &amp; York</i>				
<b>1938</b>				
<b>Peterborough Cathedral</b>	May 18	One further broadcast from Peterborough on 25 <sup>th</sup> May due to special services at St Pauls, otherwise all from St Paul's & York	Ongoing	
<b>1939</b>				
<i>All from St Paul's &amp; York</i>				
		Radio Times ceased all programme listing on Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September due to World War II. Anonymous location listings of services were resumed on 28 May 1940		

## 1940

### Broadcast weekly on Tuesdays

*York continued to broadcast until 27 August when Bairstow took offence at comments from the BBC regarding the quality of the choir; Bairstow stopped the choir broadcasting from 27<sup>th</sup> August 1940 until 1949.*

*New College and King's College were the backbone of Choral Evensong broadcasts during the war years.*

*From 28 May 1940 to 24 March 1942 the locations were not identified in Radio Times and would state 'from a College Chapel' or 'from a Western Cathedral' or 'from a Northern Cathedral' etc.*

<b>Bristol Cathedral</b>	April 9		Ongoing
<b>Carlisle Cathedral</b>	March 5	Has not broadcast since 14 November 2001	Ongoing
<b>Oxford New College Chapel</b>	June 11	19? Broadcasts this year	Ongoing
<b>Ripon Cathedral</b>	August 6		Ongoing
<b>Wells Cathedral</b>	December 17		Ongoing

## 1941

*Anonymous locations listed in Radio Times for 1941  
all of*

<b>Cambridge King's College</b>	February 4	9? broadcasts this year	Ongoing
<b>Bedford School Chapel</b>	August 5	Public School chapel choir	26 Aug 1941 4
<b>Durham Cathedral</b>	September 23		Ongoing
<b>Hereford Cathedral</b>	September 2		Ongoing
<b>Lincoln Cathedral</b>	April 22		Ongoing
<i>Oxford New College Chapel</i>		<i>13? Broadcasts this year</i>	

## 1942

*Location listings were resumed on 24 March 1942*

<b>Chester Cathedral</b>	April 14		Ongoing
<b>Chichester Cathedral</b>	December 15		Ongoing
<b>Edinburgh St Mary's Cathedral</b>	June 23	Treble mixed 1976	Ongoing
<b>Edinburgh St Peter's Church</b>	July 7	First church to broadcast : now adult choir	21 July 1942 3
<b>Exeter Cathedral</b>	March 31		Ongoing
<b>Leicester Cathedral</b>	September 1		29 July 1970 20
<b>London St Mark's North Audley Street</b>	August 25		9 Sept 1959 8
<b>Manchester Cathedral</b>	April 28	Treble mixed from 1993	Ongoing
<i>Cambridge King's College Chapel</i>		<i>6 broadcasts this year</i>	
<i>Oxford New College Chapel</i>		<i>18 broadcasts this year</i>	

<b>1943</b>				
<b>Derby Cathedral</b>	January 12		Ongoing	
<b>Public School Chapel : Midland's</b>	March 16	Public School Chapel unnamed	6 Nov 1945	10
<b>Southwell Minster</b>	December 21		Ongoing	
<b>Tenbury St Michael's College</b>	May 4	College closed 1985	24 Jan 1986	17
<b>Truro Cathedral</b>	October 5		Ongoing	
<b>Winchester Cathedral</b>	March 23		Ongoing	
<i>Cambridge King's College Chapel</i>		<i>16 broadcasts this year</i>		
<i>Oxford New College Chapel</i>		<i>12 broadcasts this year</i>		
<b>1944</b>				
<b>Oxford Christ Church Cathedral</b>	January 25	<i>10 broadcasts this year</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Lichfield Cathedral</b>	June 20		Ongoing	
<b>Bath Abbey</b>	November 12		Ongoing	
<i>Cambridge King's College Chapel</i>		<i>7 broadcasts this year</i>		
<b>1945</b>				
<b>Leeds Parish Church</b>	April 17		9 Nov 1988	65
<b>Norwich Cathedral</b>	August 14		Ongoing	
<i>Cambridge King's College Chapel</i>		<i>9 broadcasts this year</i>		
<i>Oxford New College Chapel</i>		<i>8 broadcasts this year</i>		
<b>1946</b>				
<b>Tewkesbury Abbey Choir</b>	October 8	Not to be confused with Choir of the Abbey School or Schola Cantorum	29 October 1946	4
<b>RSCM Cathedral Courses</b>	August 13	These continued yearly		
<b>1947</b>				
<b>Armagh Cathedral</b>	March 18	Last full choir broadcast	13 Feb 1963	5
<b>Cambridge St John's College Chapel</b>	November 4		Ongoing	
<b>London All Saints Margaret Street</b>	April 22	Adult choir from 1968	13 October 1954	3
<b>Salisbury Cathedral</b>	March 11		Ongoing	
<b>Worksop College Chapel</b>	March 25	Public School Chapel	8 July 1952	2

<b>1948</b>				
Blackburn Cathedral	August 31		Ongoing	
Hurstpierpoint College Chapel	December 7	Public School Chapel	7 Dec 1948	1
Lancaster Priory	April 20		20 Jan 1960	19
Southwark Cathedral	December 25		Ongoing	
Wakefield Cathedral	January 6		Ongoing	
<b>1949</b>				
Canterbury Cathedral	October 11		Ongoing	
Llandaff Cathedral	March 1		Ongoing	
London Knightsbridge St Paul's Church	June 7		1 May 1957	6
Newcastle Cathedral	August 26		Ongoing	
Windsor St George's Chapel	November 1		Ongoing	
<i>London Westminster Abbey</i>	<i>December 13</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> broadcast since 1935		
<b>1950</b>				
Birmingham St Philip's Cathedral	January 3		Ongoing	
Ely Cathedral	December 12		Ongoing	
Upholland St Joseph's RC College	June 13	RC School & Seminary	28 June 1967	4
<b>1951</b>				
London Westminster Cathedral	March 13		Ongoing	
Worcester Cathedral	February 13		Ongoing	
<b>1952</b>				
<b>6 Jan to 15 September broadcast on Tuesdays, thereafter changed to Wednesday</b>				
Birmingham St Chad's RC Cathedral	December 2 (Vespers)	Adult choir from 2001	2 Dec 1952	1
Eton College Chapel	June 10	Public School Chapel	Ongoing x3	
Peterborough Cathedral	April 20		Ongoing	
Winchester College Chapel	February 26	Public School Chapel	Ongoing	
<b>1953</b>				
Ardingly College Chapel	June 30	Public School Chapel	27 June 1962	2
Cambridge Jesus College Chapel	March 3		Ongoing	
Canterbury St Edmund's School Chapel	December 9	Public School Chapel	7 Dec 1960	2
Chelmsford Cathedral	March 31		Ongoing	
Lancing College Chapel	March 17	Public School Chapel	25 Oct 1961	3

Rossall School Chapel	July 21	Public School Chapel	July 21	1
<b>1954</b>				
Ushaw St Cuthbert's RC College (Durham)	April 7	RC School & Seminary	20 Dec 1967	6
<b>1955</b>				
Christchurch Priory	August 10		16 Sept 1970	14
Downside RC Abbey (Monks only)	September 28	Public School & Abbey	28 Sept 1955	1
Gloucester Cathedral	May 4		Ongoing	
Hampstead Parish Church	September 7		8 Sept 1976	4
<b>1957</b>				
Belfast St Anne's Cathedral	October 23		14 Dec 1984	26
London Temple Church	March 27		Ongoing	
Londonderry St Columb's Cathedral	October 30		22 June 1966	6
Ashwell Festival Choir	August 25	Mainly choristers from Cambridge colleges	14 Aug 1963	3
<b>1958</b>				
Liverpool Anglican Cathedral	January 1		Ongoing	
Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy	August 28		Ongoing	
<b>1959</b>				
Beverley Minster	January 7		14 Jan 1983	10
Oxford Magdalen College	July 1		Ongoing	
Oxford St John's College Chapel	June 3		3 June 1959	1
<b>1960</b>				
Edinburgh St Mary's RC Cathedral	October 5	Adult choir	3 April 1968	4
Downside Abbey RC School Choir	July 6	Public School & Abbey	6 July 1960	1
Wellington Choir Festival	August 17	Mainly choristers from Cambridge colleges	15 Aug 1962	3
<b>1961</b>				
Boston Parish Church	April 12		20 Sep 1967	5
Rochester Cathedral	August 2		Ongoing	
St Albans Cathedral	July 12		Ongoing	
Guildford Cathedral	October 18		Ongoing	
<b>1962</b>				
Swansea St Mary	February 21		29 Sept 1965	4
Ashbourne St Oswald's Church	September 12		26 July 1967	3
<b>1963</b>				

<b>Coventry Cathedral</b>	June 19		Ongoing	
<b>1964</b>				
<b>Belfast St Bartholomew's Church</b>	February 19		5 June 1968	4
<b>Brecon Cathedral</b>	May 27		8 Sept 1982	9
<b>St Edmundsbury Cathedral</b>	March 5		Ongoing	
<b>1965</b>				
<b>Belfast St George's Church</b>	March 10		11 June 1969	3
<b>Dublin St Patrick's Cathedral</b>	September 15		8 May 1987	13
<b>Ontario St George's Cathedral</b>	August 11	Choir closed 1998	11 Aug 1965	1
<b>Selby Abbey</b>	September 1		1 Sept 1965	1
<b>1966</b>				
<b>Brecon Christ College Chapel</b>	July 20	Public School Chapel	22 May 1968	3
<b>Grimsby St James' Church</b>	June 8		9 Feb 1972	4
<b>Washington National Cathedral</b>	April 27	Treble mixed	14 April 1993	2
<b>1967</b>				
<b>From 4<sup>th</sup> October the BBC Home Service is renamed Radio 4 and broadcasts continue on this new station</b>				
<b>Southport Holy Trinity Church</b>	December 27		27 Dec 1967	1
<b>1968</b>				
<b>Bradford Cathedral</b>	March 20		14 April 1982	13
<b>Portsmouth Cathedral</b>	January 17		Ongoing	
<b>1969</b>				
<b>Hexham Abbey</b>	September 3		30 Oct 1991	2
<b>1970</b>				
From 8 <sup>th</sup> April broadcast on Radio 3, one further broadcast on 15 <sup>th</sup> April then nothing until 1 <sup>st</sup> July. Due to huge protests the regular weekly broadcasts were reinstated from the 1 <sup>st</sup> July.				
<b>Liverpool RC Cathedral</b>	November 4		Ongoing	
<b>1971</b>				
<b>Northampton St Matthew's Church</b>	April 14		14 April 1971	1
First stereo broadcast from Gloucester Cathedral				
<b>1972</b>				
<b>Croydon Parish Church</b>	April 5		5 April 1972	1
<b>1974</b>				
<b>Paisley Abbey</b>	September 4		23 Oct 1991	16

<b>1977</b>				
Warwick St Mary	April 13		25 March 1998	11
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup> Broadcasts moved to Radio 4</b>				
<b>1979</b>				
St Asaph	April 25		25 April 1979	1
<b>1981</b>				
<b>From 11<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1988 : Two different services broadcast weekly on a Wednesday (live) and Friday (recorded)</b>				
<b>1982</b>				
Bradford Choristers	April 14	Not the cathedral choristers	14 April	1
<b>1983</b>				
New York St Thomas Fifth Avenue	June 3		Ongoing	
<b>1988</b>				
<b>From Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January - 9<sup>th</sup> July 1989 at 10.30pm : Two different services broadcast weekly on Wednesday (live) and Sunday (recorded)</b>				
Tewkesbury Choir of the Abbey School	May 18 <sup>th</sup>	(became the Schola Cantorum)	10 Sept 2003	3
<b>1989</b>				
<b>From 12<sup>th</sup> July services return to Wednesday only (live)</b>				
<b>1990</b>				
Exeter Bramdene School Chapel	March 14	Boys' only services	10 June 1992	3
<b>1993</b>				
Salisbury Cathedral Girls	March 24	First broadcast by a Cathedral girls choir (formed 1991)	Ongoing	
Sheffield Cathedral	September 15		Ongoing	
<b>1994</b>				
Cape Town St George's Cathedral	April 6		Ongoing	
<b>2004</b>				
Chapel Royal St James's Palace	January 14	None since 2009		3
<i>Newcastle Cathedral</i>	First since 1957	None since 2006		2
<b>2006</b>				
Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum	September 27		Ongoing	
<b>2011</b>				
Savoy Chapel	26 June 2011		Only broadcast so far	
<i>Eton College Chapel</i>	First since 1952			
<b>2020</b>				
Cardinal Vaughan School Schola Cantorum	First ever state school	Cancelled due to Corona virus, will be re-scheduled		

