

75 YEARS OF BBC CHORAL EVENSONG

1926 - 2000

**A survey of broadcast by choirs of gentlemen and boys
singing in the English Cathedral tradition**

By

Colin R. Brownlee

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Please note, this survey is of BBC Choral Evensong broadcasts only, some choirs may have broadcasted earlier than the date stated here 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
1926 - 1934					
BBC National Service : Weekly on Thursdays : No broadcast music was listed in Radio Times until 1934					
London Westminster Abbey	7 October 1926		Only choir to broadcast until 1934	Ongoing	
1934					
Westminster Abbey continued to broadcast on Thursdays and York Minster commenced broadcasting on Tuesdays					
York Minster	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		
1936					
York Minster on Tuesdays and St Paul's on Wednesdays until 30 August 1939					
London Westminster Abbey	<i>July 2</i>	Broadcasts ceased for the next 14 years due to the dismantling of the organ			
London St Paul's Cathedral	July 8			Ongoing	
1937					
Liverpool Cathedral	April 28		Broadcast once this year due to special service at St Paul's		
Rosslyn Chapel	September 23		Patronal & Dedication Festival	23 Sept 1937	1
<i>All others from St Paul's & York</i>					
1938					
Peterborough Cathedral	May 18		One further broadcast from Peterborough on 25 th May due to special services at St Pauls, otherwise all from St Paul's & York	Ongoing	
1939					
<i>All from St Paul's & York</i>			Radio Times ceased all programme listing on Sunday 3 rd 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 27th 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.

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

1941

Anonymous locations listed in Radio Times for all of 1941

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

1942

Location listings were resumed on 24 March 1942

Chester Cathedral	April 14		Ongoing
Chichester Cathedral	December 15		Ongoing
Edinburgh St Mary's Cathedral	June 23	Treble mixed 1976	Ongoing
Edinburgh St Peter's Church	July 7	First church to broadcast : now adult choir	21 July 1942 3
Exeter Cathedral	March 31		Ongoing
Leicester Cathedral	September 1		29 July 1970 20
London St Mark's North Audley Street	August 25		9 Sept 1959 8
Manchester Cathedral	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>	

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

1948					
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	
1949					
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	
London Westminster Abbey	December 13	1 st broadcast since 1935			
1950					
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
1951					
London Westminster Cathedral	March 13			Ongoing	
Worcester Cathedral	February 13			Ongoing	
1952					
6 Jan to 15 September broadcast on Tuesdays, thereafter changed to Wednesday					
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		17 June 1952	2
Peterborough Cathedral	April 20			Ongoing	
Winchester College Chapel	February 26	Public School Chapel		Ongoing	
1953					
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		2 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

1954				
Ushaw St Cuthbert's RC College (Durham)	April 7	RC School & Seminary	20 Dec 1967	6
Ware St Edmund's RC College Chapel	February 17	Public School Chapel	21 Feb 1968	3
1955				
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
1957				
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
1958				
Liverpool Anglican Cathedral	January 1		Ongoing	
Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy	August 28		Ongoing	
1959				
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
1960				
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
1961				
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	
1962				
Ashbourne St Oswald's Church	September 12		26 July 1967	3
1963				
Coventry Cathedral	June 19		Ongoing	

1964				
Belfast St Bartholomew's Church	February 19		5 June 1968	4
Brecon Cathedral	May 27		8 Sept 1982	9
St Edmundsbury Cathedral	March 5		Ongoing	
1965				
Belfast St George's Church	March 10		11 June 1969	3
Dublin St Patrick's Cathedral	September 15		8 May 1987	13
Ontario St George's Cathedral	August 11	Choir closed 1998	11 Aug 1965	1
Selby Abbey	September 1		1 Sept 1965	1
1966				
Brecon Christ College Chapel	July 20	Public School Chapel	22 May 1968	3
Grimsby St James' Church	June 8		9 Feb 1972	4
Washington National Cathedral	April 27	Treble mixed	14 April 1993	2
1967				
From 4 th October the BBC Home Service is renamed Radio 4 and broadcasts continue on this new station				
Chapel Royal Tower of London	July 5		30 Feb 1972	2
Stockport Holy Trinity Church	December 27		27 Dec 1967	1
1968				
Bradford Cathedral	March 20		14 April 1982	13
Portsmouth Cathedral	January 17		Ongoing	
1969				
Hexham Abbey	September 3		30 Oct 1991	2
1970				
From 8 th April broadcast on Radio 3, one further broadcast on 15 th April then nothing until 1 st July. Due to huge protests the regular weekly broadcasts were reinstated from the 1 st July.				
Liverpool RC Cathedral	November 4		Ongoing	
1971				
Northampton St Matthew's Church	April 14		14 April 1971	1
First stereo broadcast from Gloucester Cathedral				
1972				
Croydon Parish Church	April 5		5 April 1972	1
1973				
London St Margaret's Westminster	September 5		5 Sept 1973	1

1974					
Paisley Abbey	September 4			23 Oct 1991	16
1977					
Warwick St Mary	April 13			25 March 1998	11
October 5th Broadcasts moved to Radio 4					
1979					
St Asaph	April 25			25 April 1979	1
1981					
From 11th September to 1st January 1988 : Two different services broadcast weekly on a Wednesday (live) and Friday (recorded)					
1983					
New York St Thomas Fifth Avenue	June 3			Ongoing	
1988					
From Sunday 10th January - 9th July 1989 at 10.30pm : Two different services broadcast weekly on Wednesday (live) and Sunday (recorded)					
Tewkesbury Choir of the Abbey School	May 18th		Choir now Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum	Ongoing	
1989					
From 12th July services return to Wednesday only (live)					
1990					
Exeter Bramdene School Chapel	March 14		Boys' only services	10 June 1992	3
1993					
Salisbury Cathedral Girls	March 24		First broadcast by a Cathedral girls choir (formed 1991)	Ongoing	
Sheffield Cathedral	September 15			Ongoing	
1994					
Cape Town St George's Cathedral	April 6			Ongoing	