

Rochester Cathedral Voluntary Choir



DIRECTOR: Douglas Henn-Macrae BA FGMS
61 Downs View Burham ROCHESTER ME1 3RR
e-mail: douglas@gundulf.org.uk

MEDIA – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UK CATHEDRAL CHOIR STRANDED IN USA

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!

They don't normally have Choral Evensong on Fridays at the little Episcopal Church of St Barnabas on Bainbridge Island, just across the water from Seattle in America's Pacific Northwest. But then it isn't every day they get an English cathedral choir stranded in their town.

"Y'all come back and see us again real soon!" said the wonderfully hospitable and generous people of St Barnabas when the Rochester (UK) Cathedral Voluntary Choir left there after singing a Saturday night concert and the Eucharist on Low Sunday morning. Little did they know at the time that the choir would be back a lot sooner than they expected.

The choir was getting up at crack of dawn on Thursday (15 April) to fly home at the end of their 4th tour of the USA when they discovered that their flight home had been cancelled because of the volcanic eruption in Iceland, and they were likely to be stuck in the States for several more days. So the choir's Director, Douglas Henn-Macrae, picked up the phone and called Fr Dennis Tierney, the Rector of St Barnabas: "You remember you said we should all come back and see you again soon...?" Well, they say that the British and the Americans are "two peoples divided by a common language", and that "they think 100 years is a long time and we think 100 miles is a long way", but one thing Americans do brilliantly is hospitality. Within an hour they had beds arranged for all of us for as long as we needed, mostly with the same hosts we had just left a few days earlier. A group went to the grocery store and a pork roast dinner was quickly prepared for 30 people. The following day we sang Evensong for them as a "Thank You".

Saturday morning – 2 days late – the choir finally flew out of Seattle to Calgary and onwards to Edmonton (capital of Alberta, Canada) where we are now stranded again until flights to London resume. This morning (Sunday 18 April) we were invited to sing at All Saints' Episcopal Cathedral in Edmonton and are currently being hosted by families of that congregation and await further news of our onward progress.

END

For further info contact Douglas Henn-Macrae.