

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 NOW STRANDED IN CANADA

They don't normally have Choral Evensong on weekdays at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral in Edmonton. But then it isn't every day they get an English cathedral choir stranded in their town.

The Rochester Cathedral (UK) Voluntary Choir had just finished a 10-day tour of the Seattle area last Thursday (April 15) and was preparing to fly back to London with Air Canada, routing via Calgary and Edmonton, when their Edmonton-London flight was cancelled on account of the Icelandic volcano eruption and the consequent closure of UK airspace.

They figured that a city like this would probably have an Anglican cathedral, and they soon found All Saints' and contacted the Music Director, Jeremy Spurgeon, to ask if they might offer their musical services in exchange for some food and beds. The answer quickly came back: Yes, and yes. The Rochester choir was invited to join the resident Edmonton Cathedral Choir for the 1100am Sunday Eucharist, after which beds were found for the Rochester party, and a pot-luck supper organised by the host choir for the unexpected visitors.

As a "Thank-You" to our hosts and the whole Cathedral community led by Revd Travis Enright, Vicar, and Jeremy Spurgeon, Music Director, the Rochester Cathedral Voluntary Choir sang Choral Evensong at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral at 6:30pm on Monday 19 April 2010.

Air Canada informed us this morning that some people will be flying home today, and more tomorrow. The rest are wait-listed until further space becomes available, but the situation is changing by the minute.

We want to express our appreciation for the support and assistance of Gillian Blair of the British Consulate-General's office in Vancouver and Rene Comeau of Air Canada over the last couple of days.

END

**For further info contact Douglas Henn-Macrae via All Saints' Cathedral Office: +1 780 428 6323.
RCVC website: www.gundulf.org.uk.**