

Choir sings at Elgar Festival

MEMBERS of Nantwich Choral Society travelled to Worcester Cathedral on Sunday, October 22, to take part in the first Elgar Choral Festival to be organised by the Elgar foundation.

The foundation includes as one of its aims, the encouragement of an ever-increasing awareness of Edward Elgar's music.

The famous English composer spent a great part of his life in Worcester, having been born in the nearby village of Lower Broadheath.

The festival was a tremendous success, and the cathedral was packed, with some members of the audience sitting on the steps inside. It is planned that it should be held every three years, with the second organised in 1991.

Amongst the pieces presented by the Nantwich singers as their solo item was "Light of the World", which is the final anthem in Elgar's famous oratorio, "The Light of Life" — which had its first performance in Worcester.

The choir also sang from Sir Michael Tippett's unaccompanied

"Songs from the British Isles."

Eight other large choirs, comprising more than 600 singers, from cities all over England and Wales also took part. The invitation for Nantwich Choral Society to participate was a great tribute to the local group, and the town, and once again shows how their reputation in the choral world is spreading — even beyond county boundaries.

Now that this major event has passed, the choir will now concentrate on the three remaining events in the 1988 season, all of which will be held in the lovely cathedral-like setting of Nantwich Parish Church.

These are: November 12, Handel's "Dixit Dominus" and "Nisi Dominus", Pergolesi's "Magnificat" and Bach's Double Violin Concerto; December 3, Handel's "Messiah" — sung in aid of Multiple Sclerosis; December 12, Carols for Choir and Audience.

These events are expected to be well-supported, and anyone wishing to go is advised to get their tickets as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Elgar festival first for choir

NANTWICH Choral Society added their voices in the first Elgar Choral Festival organised by the Elgar Foundation at Worcester Cathedral.

The festival was a tremendous success and the cathedral was packed, with some of the audience sitting on steps inside.

Among the pieces presented by Nantwich were the final anthem in Elgar's oratorio *The Light of Life* which had its first performance in Worcester and Sir Michael Tippett's unaccompanied *Songs from the British Isles*.

Eight other choirs from all over Britain took part. The invitation to Nantwich once again shows how their reputation in the choral world is spreading.

The choir is to concentrate on the three remaining events in its 1988 season to be held in Nantwich Parish Church. These are:

November 12: Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and *Nis Dominus*, Pergolesi's *Magnificat*, Bach's *Double Violin Concerto*.

December 3: Handel's *Messiah* (in aid of Multiple Sclerosis).

December 12: Carols for choir and audience.

Anyone interested in attending should book early to avoid disappointment.

Evening Sentinel Choristers perform at Elgar festival

MORE THAN 70 members of a South Cheshire choir were among the 500 choristers who took part in the first Elgar Choral Festival in Worcester Cathedral.

"We were very honoured and thrilled to be invited to take part," said Mr Cecil Bateman, publicity officer of Nantwich Choral Society.

Eight other large choirs from all over England and Wales took part in this tribute to the great composer who was born in a village near Worcester and spent much of his life in the area.

Among the pieces performed by the Nantwich choir alone was *"Light of the World"* which is the final item in Elgar's *"The Light of Life."*