

SINGING THE GOSPEL IN PICTISH SCOTLAND

Fr. Benedict Hardy O.S.B.

Father Benedict, a Benedictine monk from Pluscarden near Elgin, gave his talk illustrated by a Power Point Presentation and intoned examples directly from the 10th century Gospel Book – the Book of Deer.

He explained that the Gospel texts would have been sung, and despite our ignorance of Pictish Culture and Language we can deduce a lot about the music as it would have been within the broad ambitus of the Gregorian Chant. The Christian Latin Chant started in the 4th century and there is evidence that the Pictish Church was not isolated or disconnected from mainstream European culture. He then went on to illustrate the various genres to which the Gospel texts could have been sung.

Opening of Luke, sung in Gospel tone “C” with modern pronunciation of the Latin.

Matthew Genealogy

Ambrosian Gloria

Tract Qui confidunt – to illustrate an ornate, formulaic Chant of the early period (included in Pluscarden’s Holy Week CD)

Collegerunt – Gallician chant i.e. before the mid 8th Century. (Also on the Holy Week CD)

From Luke ch. 2, sung on the 2nd February – the Presentation in the Temple. (A selection of 5 Antiphons.)

Fr. Benedict also played the Magnificat Antiphon from their CD “A liturgy for St. Columba

Father Benedict has also presented his talk at the Monastic Chant Forum in Douai Abbey, and a report will appear in the Monastic Musicians Magazine.