

The Courthouse Choir Song

Lyrics Sue Matthews, after F W Moorman
Tune Trad. Arr. Janet Russell

A song I sing o' t' Courthouse Choir
On Tuesday afternoons
In t' room where magistrates would sit
With those who were accused
In Otley town where t' River Wharfe
Goes gently flowing by
And t' ducks are swimming below the bridge
While we sing low and high

*Oh, Ilkley's good for t' moor bar t'at
And Bolton Abbey's great
And Skipton's also got a choir
Who sing on Wednesdays late,
There's Knaresborough, Harrogate and Leeds
Where some folks like to be
But we love singing in Otley best
Our hearts will all agree*

When t' glaciers melted t' valley formed
From Langstrothdale to t' Ouse -
Through Kettlewell, Grassington, Bolton Abbey
And Addingham, Ilkley and on,
And then the land were good for sheep
And later cattle and hay
The Saxons built stone crosses here
Still t' market's on today

Chorus

Well, Otley, it's a famous town
In Wharfedale in the vale
And lots of folk have made it home:
I've heard there's many a tale
Of old Brigantes, Romans, Angles
Saxons, Vikings, monks
And Thomas Chippendale, old Guy Fawkes
Will Turner, Calendar Girls

Chorus

(Slowing) Yes! - we love singing in Otley best
Our hearts will all agree