

# Feel ready to come home from England

**P**acking to go home is never half as fun, or half as complicated, as pre-trip packing.

When you're packing to go home, it doesn't matter how organized your suitcase is, as long as you can get it closed. If you're clever, you've befriended the people with half-empty suitcases early on, so that they can help you cart your purchases home. You can repay them by letting them use your luggage scale. It's a fair swap.



**Natasha Regehr**  
TRAVELLING

I had expected to be full of melancholy and dismay as this trip to England draws to a close, but I am surprised to find that I feel ready to go home. Sleep deprivation may have something to do with it; for 10 days in

a row I have been anticipating a happy eleven hours of slumber while various wheeled and winged vehicles transport me back to my own bed in Peterborough. A full day of free sleeping is always a draw.

But I think the main reason for my sense of satisfaction is that as a choir, we did what we came here to do, and we did it well. We pulled together some difficult music and sang eight astounding services in a medieval cathedral, and we got

to do most of the other things we had hoped to do while we were here as well. Today a group of us took the train to Scarborough to put our feet in the North Sea and eat greasy fish and chips. Others went to castles, gardens, aquariums and fish spas. Some went to connect with their past by visiting their family's ancestral village, and others went to return the rented cars and bicycles that had been carrying them about on their adventures all week.

It's tempting to say that this was the trip of a lifetime, but I'm not sure I like the sound of that. I prefer to think of it as the first of many such opportunities. Some may say that "it's a small world," but I happen to think it's rather large - and I intend to see the rest of it. I'm hooked.

*Natasha Regehr is a member of the Peterborough Singers, and has been sending updates during the choir's stay in York Minster, U.K.*