

## The life of the Choir

### *Tours and Trips*

Choristers in the choir have the opportunity to sing in some of the UK's top Cathedrals.

A visit to **Gloucester Cathedral** is planned for August 2018.

In recent years we have sung services at :

**Canterbury Cathedral**

**Worcester Cathedral**

**St George's Chapel, Windsor**

**Bristol Cathedral**

**St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh**

In addition to these week long residences, every other year a Junior Choir Camp is organised; a great bonding experience for all.

### *Days Out*

It is important to socialise just as much as we work. A few times a year, fun day trips will be organised to some of the choristers' favourite places such as bowling or laser quest - we are always open to reasonable suggestions from the Head Choristers!



## Benefits

Being a chorister means becoming part of a musical tradition steeped in history. They are encouraged to offer nothing less than the very best in all things, their musical gifts are cultivated and their sense of responsibility and confidence are nurtured. During their time as Choristers, through discipline and experience they understand the value of commitment and are enriched both musically and socially, benefiting them for the rest of their lives. England cricket team captain Alastair Cook, was once a chorister at St. Paul's Cathedral. Other famous choristers include, Aled Jones and Gareth Gates.

The Parish Church Choir encompasses such a diverse group of ages, all taking part in the same activity. The resulting social and general life skills are irreplaceable.

## Regular Weekly Schedule

(During Choir Term)

### Fridays

Youth Cafe	14.30 - 16:00
Choir School	16:00 - 18:50
Warm Up	16:00
Rehearsal 1	16:15
Dinner/Games	17:15
Rehearsal 2 and Theory	18:00
BREAK	
Full Choir Rehearsal	19:00 - 19:30

### Sundays

#### AM Parish Eucharist

Meet for Chorister Duties	9.30
Eucharist	10:00 - c. 11:15

PM	<b>Choral Evensong</b> : <i>Treble Choristers are expected to attend the monthly Choral Evensong, however they are welcome to attend any other evening service.</i>
	Rehearsal 17:30 - 18:15
	Evensong 18:30 - c. 19:30

*Psallam spiritu et mente*

*I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also*

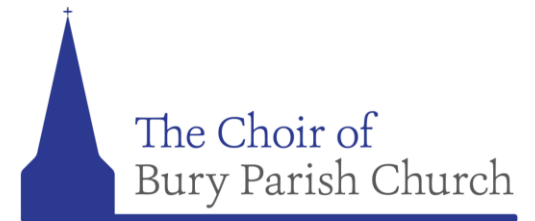
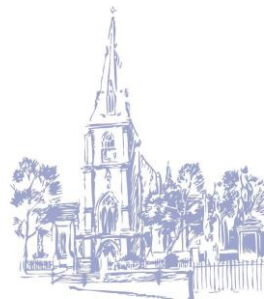
## Director of Music

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## Could your son or daughter be a chorister?



## The Choir

The Choir is one of the finest of its kind in the UK. It is made up of choristers aged between 7 - 16 and adult members. It offers a unique education and a wealth of musical opportunities.

## The Choir School

### *A unique set-up outside of Cathedrals*

The Choir School, launched in 2007, offers the choristers a broad musical education and social experience alongside their singing. It meets on Fridays after school before the Full Choir rehearsal. A hot dinner is always provided, and social time follows this. It gives a friendly, safe and encouraging atmosphere, allowing the choristers to reach their full potential.

### *Education*

#### *Voice production, Musicianship and Life Skills*

Choristers will realise the importance of healthy singing; namely, breathing, support, posture and tone through the group rehearsals and short individual vocal sessions with the Director of Music and support staff. They will develop an understanding of musicianship, progressing through the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Voice for Life scheme. They are also given the opportunity to study for ABRSM Theory of Music exams. On top of being paramount in helping the choristers understand more about the music that they sing, these are fantastic extra-curricular qualifications for them to own.

### *Further Vocal and Instrumental tuition*

The Director of Music is happy to offer further Vocal Training or Theory Assistance at a reasonable rate to members of the choir. Likewise, we are happy to offer Piano and Organ tuition.

VOICE  
for LIFE



## Joining the Choir

### *Who can join?*

We look for boys and girls aged 7 and above who display musical and vocal potential, interest and intelligence. No experience is required - just the ability to get on well with others and respond well to the guidance and training offered to them during their choristership.

### *Audition*

Joining the Choir is by invitation after a short and informal audition involving some simple vocal and rhythmic tests to assess their voice and musicality.

### *Invitation to join*

Having passed this audition the new choristers join as 'Probationers'. There is a one to two month settling period, during which Choristers attend Choir School but not Sunday services. This gives an opportunity for choristers to grow in confidence and to decide if membership of the choir is suitable for them. When the Director of Music is happy that the Probationer is and feels ready, they will be invited to sing with the choir for the Sunday morning Eucharist services.

### *Interested?*

We invite families to attend part of Choir School to observe what the Choir can offer to potential choristers. Parents and choristers alike have to be ready and keen to commit to a demanding but rewarding schedule. To arrange this, please speak to the Director of Music, whose details can be found on the rear of this booklet.



## Pay

There are no charges for joining the Choir School and singing with the choir, and all aspects of the Choir School, including dinner, are provided free of charge. In fact, all choristers are paid 'fees' based on attendance for the Sunday Services and Friday Rehearsals and according to their seniority in the Choir.

All expenses are paid for by the Church which is supported, in part, by trust funds, which are keen to promote the English Choral Tradition.

## Child Welfare

Bury Parish Church has a Child Protection Policy which has been approved by the Church Council. The appointed Child Protection Officer is responsible for the welfare of young people in all Bury Parish Church's organisations. All adults who have direct involvement with the Choir School have been cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Parents and guardians are always welcome to attend any sessions as an observer.

