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**The Choir of St. Edwards**

The choir of St. Edwards has enjoyed many successful years of singing Anglican church music to a very high standard locally and further afield. Notable highlights have included singing at St. Paul’s and Hereford Cathedrals and putting on various concerts at the church. The best work is achieved

through good ethics, musicianship and passing on our traditions.

We would like to invite you to join our choir and to be part of a long-term development plan working in partnership with our local schools.

**Why Sing Or Make Music?**

Because we enjoy it and it’s fun. There are lots of benefits to singing and making music. Expression is one of the fundamental aspects of being human and music is an international language. Singing in a choir can develop your musicianship, reading and singing skills and aural ability. It enables us to be part of a team singing various styles of music in different settings. It brings together like-minded people where friendship can be made.

**Being a Chorister at St. Edwards**

A chorister is a member of a choir. In essence, the role of a church choir is to lead congregations with music that enhance worship, which includes singing works that are written for choir only as well leading congregational singing. Just as any good leader in other areas of life, one should set a good example and provide encouragement to others. The dynamics of a choir will inevitably involve team work as well as contributions from each individual singer, good manners, punctuality, and a commitment to quality singing, amongst others.

**Rehearsals and Services**

Regular Choir (Boys, Girls and Adults)

Rehearsals take place only during term time. The Choir will sing for Sunday and special services throughout the year, except for August.

* Friday: 6.15pm – 7.15pm (Choristers only). You will be advised of any occasional adult/full choir rehearsals at 7.30pm.
* Sunday: 9.15am (Rehearsal for 10am service)
* Sunday: 5pm (Once a month, before 6.30pm Choral Evensong.)

All Age Choir

For those who would like to try out the choir on Sunday mornings or want to sing with a church choir with a lesser commitment, you are welcome to join the choir for our All Age Service. Normally on the 2nd Sunday of every month, it starts at 10am with rehearsal at 9.15am. Instrumentalists and singers will provide postludes in various styles at the end of this service.

Adult Singers

Adults are welcome to join the regular choir and/or the All Age choir. We are looking for singers in all voice parts, soprano, alto, tenor and bass. (SATB)

**Voice for Life**

In St Edward’s Choir, we use the RSCM’s Voice for Life programme to teach and train young choristers free of charge, accompanied by a Cathedral style reward/award system. Rewards and awards are offered to committed choristers until they finish 6th Form or enter Higher Education.

Through the RSCM Voice for Life tutor books, choristers can begin to learn different aspects of musical theory and develop their reading and singing ability.

*RSCM assessments* are not obligatory, but it can be a good incentive or goal for some individuals. When a chorister is ready, such assessments are paid for by the church, whilst parents will pay for the medal after a successful exam.

Two *Librarians* are chosen every term to help with organising sheet music before and after services.

*Extra points* can be awarded upon weekly achievements such as singing particularly well at services, helping out at sessions or after services, etc.

Three *Extra awards* are given annually at the end of each term. Most attendance (on time), Most improved (separate for Boy/Girl).

*Head Chorister and Head Boy/Girl* are chosen upon merit after demonstrating a consistently good standard of work and reliability. Holders of the positions should be a good influence and role model for choristers in sessions and services (e.g. helping young choristers to learn music in rehearsals and helping them to navigate the music during services).

Adults who join the choir are also welcome to use the Voice for Life program to improve their musical knowledge and singing.

**Attendance/Commitment/Communication**

There is a general expectation that members of the choir, including choristers, will attend rehearsals and services. The choir will not function well if singers come and go as and when they wish. Much like a football team, being a member of the Choir requires different aspects of teamwork and every singer will contribute to the overall standard of the Choir in various ways.

For choristers in primary schools, they must be accompanied by their own parent/guardian to and from the church where rehearsals and services take place. Choristers in secondary school can travel to and from the rehearsals/services without parental accompaniment, but only with prior notice from the parent/guardian to the Director of Music.

When there is an absence, it is important that the parent/guardian informs the Director of Music with advance notice. Advance notice means notifying the absence as soon as possible when it is known, and not just before the rehearsal/service when the chorister is absent.

Once choristers have signed in, they are not allowed to leave the session/service without prior arrangements made by the parent/guardian.

**Safeguarding**

In order to provide a safe place for children, our music staff are DBS checked and have undergone Safeguarding training in accordance with the regulations set by the Diocese of Chelmsford. At each rehearsal and service, there will be at least two members of DBS checked adults with the choir, of whom at least one being a trained member of the music staff. A trained choir chaperone will assist the music staff on Friday sessions. Safeguarding officers are also in place at the church. For any concern or further information, please refer to the Safeguarding Notice Board by the Children’s Corner or contact one of our Parish Safeguarding Officers.

**Our Goals**

Through using the Voice of Life training alongside our own programme, we aim to provide choristers and singers with the opportunity to learn about music and sing in various styles. By following the training and being a good team player one can learn many applicable life skills and discipline. Above all, we want singers to enjoy singing, making good music and memories which they will take with them throughout their lives.

**Contact Details**

For enrolment, queries or further information, please contact the Director of Music: [music@stedwardsromford.com](mailto:music@stedwardsromford.com)

For an application form, please go to:

[www.stedwardsromford.com](http://www.stedwardsromford.com)