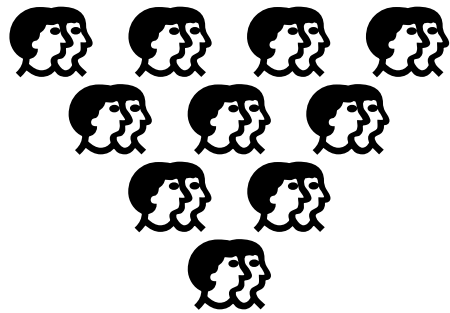


CHORISTERS



at



St. Mary's
Wimbledon

Come and join the
new
Choristers' section of
the
St. Mary's Choir.

You will be part of a smart team of 16 musical boys and girls aged 7 to 13, who love singing, team games and challenges.

Your choir trainer will be Christopher Thomas (St. Mary's Director of Music and an experienced school music teacher), with the help of parents of some of the choristers. The optional Games and Bible study are led by Catherine Parkes (St. Mary's Youth Worker). Also, older choristers teach younger choristers as part of the Chorister Training Scheme. The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM
BENEFITS OF BEING A
CHORISTER?

Along with cathedral and parish choirs up and down the country, choristers receive a sound musical education, experience a great sense of team-work, and learn a profound sense of spirituality.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

The weekly programme will take place on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings during term time.

FRIDAY:

6.00pm Chorister Training

6.15pm Choir Practice (vocal exercises and learning new music)

7.00pm alternate weeks: 'Friday People' Youth Club (age 8 upwards): games and Bible teaching.

SUNDAY:

8.45 Choir Practice

9.30 Parish Eucharist

When you join, you will spend 8 weeks as a probationer. When you are ready for full membership, you will be given a robe in a short ceremony and invited to sing every Sunday at the 9.30 Eucharist as part of the St. Mary's Parish Choir. Older choristers will also sing once a month at the 6.30 Choral Evensong.

CHALLENGES!

You will start on some challenging activities these as soon as you join by working through the 'Voice For Life' training books. The progression will be:

LIGHT BLUE MEDAL

DARK BLUE MEDAL

RED MEDAL

YELLOW MEDAL

**BRONZE AWARD
SILVER AWARD
GOLD AWARD
BISHOP'S CHORISTER**

Medals are worn at all services. You will also have the opportunity to go on outings and Royal School of Church Music events, singing in cathedrals on day/weekend courses.

WOULD I REALLY HAVE TO COME EVERY FRIDAY AND SUNDAY?

In term-time, yes – so if you are away a lot of weekends, this might not be for you yet! Of course, the occasional absence could be negotiated by giving enough notice.

WHEN DO WE GET TIME OFF?

There are no Friday practices during the Summer Holidays, the week after Christmas, the last Friday of Half-term holidays, or during the Easter Holiday. Likewise, the choristers do not sing on the Sundays following any of these.

WHAT ABOUT FRIDAY OR SATURDAY SLEEPOVERS?

You would have to re-arrange these for the school holidays! We would expect you to commit yourself to

doing your best in the choir, which means being fresh and alert, so some sacrifices have to be made!

DO WE GET PAID?

I thought you'd get around to that sooner or later! The answer is 'YES', but not for singing in services. You will be paid for practices only, £1 per occasion, including a 45-minute rehearsal before every service. This means that if you arrive too late for a practice (eg 5 minutes before the end, or 10 minutes before a service) you won't get paid! Bonuses are awarded for excellent attendance (with extra pay for being the first to arrive), and for excellent performance.

WILL WE SING AT WEDDINGS?

You might want to do this, because the pay is very good! But only the most advanced choristers are invited to sing for weddings. There might be as many as 5 a year, mostly on Saturdays.

WHO CAN JOIN?

- **Anyone who has a pleasant voice which they are not afraid for people to hear! and....**
- **who reads well (and can work out long words!) and....**
- **who is alert and keen!**

We welcome boys and girls, both those who have no experience of church so far, and those who already go to church regularly with their parents, and are familiar with some of the prayers and hymns in Sunday School.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Firstly, show this leaflet to your parents. Then fill in the enclosed application form and hand it to any adult member of the choir, or send it to the Parish Office. The Director of Music will then contact you to arrange an audition.

Further information and contact:

**www.stmaryswimbleton.org
christopherthomas21@hotmail.co.uk
parish.office@stmaryswimbleton.org**

CHORISTERS AT ST.MARY'S WIMBLEDON

Application form

Name _____

Name of parent(s) _____

Address _____

POSTCODE: _____

Phone no. _____ mobile: _____

Email: _____

School: _____

Instrument(s) you are learning (put grades): _____

Parental declaration:

I have read and agree to support the principles laid out in the 'Choristers at St.Mary's Wimbledon' leaflet, and I fully support my son's / daughter's application.

Signed: _____