



## **BECOME A CHORISTER AT St BARNABAS**

You will be part of smart team of musical boys and girls aged 7 to 15, who love singing, team games and challenges. Your choir trainer will be Tom Edwards, Director of Music at St Barnabas and an experienced music teacher and choir trainer. In addition to being taught to sing and work together, choristers will be led through the Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' scheme, with a chance to earn medals and ribbons.

### **WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?**

Choristers rehearse weekly on Friday evenings after drinks and refreshments. We sing on the first Sunday of each month, Easter Day and the carol service in December. We have regular opportunities for socializing together and having fun including an annual summer BBQ!

#### **FRIDAY**

6.00-7.00pm Rehearsal

#### **SUNDAY** *(Usually once a month)*

9.45-10.15am Full Choir Rehearsal

10.30-11.45am Parish Mass

Upon joining, you will start as a probationer. You may be asked to attend a few rehearsals before joining us on Sundays. When you are ready for full membership of the choir, you will be presented with your surplice and invited to sing regularly at the 10.30am Parish Mass as part of the choir.

You may also have the opportunity to join the parish choir on trips to other churches and cathedrals to sing!



### **DO I REALLY HAVE TO COME ON FRIDAYS AND SUNDAYS?**

In term time, yes – our Friday rehearsals are vital, and singing once a month on Sundays allows you to hear the rewards of your hard work! Of course, the occasional absence could be negotiated by giving enough notice.

### **WHEN DO WE GET TIME OFF?**

There are no Friday rehearsals or Sunday services during the Summer holidays, half term, the weeks after Christmas, or during the Easter holiday.

### **DO WE GET PAID?**

Yes! Full choristers receive £1 for each rehearsal they attend and £1 for each service. There are also occasional bonuses for excellent performance, behaviour and attendance. Sometimes choristers sing at weddings and other special occasions.

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

Choristers receive a sound musical education, experience team-work, and learn a profound sense of spirituality. Regular singing can help boost achievement in other areas of life, including school and creative pursuits. Furthermore you will learn a skill which can become a source of enjoyment for life. There may be an opportunity for choristers to begin learning the organ and for instrumental participation.