

Dear parents / carers,

I'm writing to let you know about the **Be a Chorister Day** at Wakefield Cathedral on **Saturday 20 May 2023, 09:30-12:30**. We will be welcoming any and all children who love to sing from year 1 to year 6, regardless of experience or religious background, to try out what it would be like singing in the cathedral choir, and offering them the opportunity to experience first-class tailored vocal tuition and musical training.

Wakefield Cathedral has a wonderful reputation of producing and nurturing musical talents and, whether providing the foundation for children to pursue a career in the world of music or simply offering them the unforgettable experiences that the choir has to offer, we take great pride in supporting our choristers throughout their musical journey. Being a cathedral chorister is, in my view, one of the most valuable experiences a child can have and can open up a huge wealth of opportunities they otherwise might never have had access to, both musical and non-musical.

The cathedral choir has existed for well over 100 years, and has included boy choristers for all of that time. In 1992, Wakefield became the second cathedral in the country to introduce girl choristers, and we now have boys and girls singing services several times a week. In September 2021, we started a new choir aimed at children in school years 2-4, called 'Byrd Song'. This choir provides an excellent opportunity for children to try out singing at the cathedral, whilst also being an important part of the cathedral's music programme in its own right.

On the day, there will be a full programme of activities for children and parents, including meeting with existing choristers, singing in a rehearsal and short service, a tour of the cathedral and also a presentation for parents. There is no charge to attend, but booking in advance is recommended to avoid disappointment; any remaining spaces will be available on the door. Attending the event does not in any way commit you to joining the choir – it's simply an opportunity for your child to try it out and see if it's for them. You can book a place by scanning the QR code, or by following this link:

<https://wakefieldcathedral.churchsuite.com/embed/events/pzy5ewnn>



Here are a few quotations from our current choristers:

I get to learn about and sing beautiful music in our fabulous cathedral with my friends.

Emie, aged 9

The best things are getting to travel (I've been to Sweden with the Choir) and meeting new friends.

Joseph, aged 13

I enjoy getting to know other people, and I like singing with the mix of girls and boys all together and with people that are not just my own age.

Adelaide, aged 9

Do get in touch using the contact details below if you have any further questions. Otherwise make sure to join us on Saturday 20 May for a taste of life in the cathedral choir; learn new things, make new friends and sing your heart out!

James Bowstead
Interim Director of Music

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