

### **Who we are**

The choristers are a lively group from several different schools in the local area and generally range in age from 7 – 16. We are currently recruiting new members, after the recent appointment of a new Director of Music.

### **What we do**

The main role of the junior choir, often alongside the adult choir, is to lead the congregation when singing hymns and other parts of the service, but it regularly performs items alone; the style of music performed is incredibly wide and ranges from medieval music through to the present day.

### **When we do it**

To achieve a good standard and to ensure the choir sounds at its best, we have a rehearsal each week and before each service (a biscuit and drink are provided before our services). The outline is currently as follows (visit our website for fuller details):

**Friday** 6:45pm – 7:50pm Practice

**Sunday** 9:30am                      Practice  
                  10am                      Service (around 60 min)

We aim to sing a choral evening service once a month, on the 1st Sunday of each month:

**Sunday** 4:50pm                      Practice  
                  6pm                              Service (around 50 min)

### **Training and Education**

The Priory Church offers musical training of a high standard – our Director of Music trained as a singer and organist at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Music in London, and is a highly-regarded singer, organist and choir-trainer. All senior staff, with responsibility for children and young adults at the Priory Church are DBS checked.

A chorister initially enters the choir as a probationer, attending Fridays and Sunday mornings and after a few months of training will be made up to a full chorister when he or she will receive a white surplice. From this point on, there is a structured training scheme, which enables the chorister to develop further musically and vocally, picking up various awards along the way.

As well as singing, theory and musicianship, there are several associated skills which are developed through membership of the choir: self-control and self-discipline, motivation and concentration, teamwork and social awareness.

These skills can help children in their school work and social lives and in later life, through college or university, and in the wider world.

### **Social Scene**

As well as singing together, choristers can enjoy trips and activities including ten-pin bowling, the cinema and choir parties. Trips away are often music based and includes visits to other churches and cathedrals to sing services and to give recitals and concerts.

### **Money Matters**

Choristers receive a small amount of choir pay at the end of each term. The amount received is based on attendance and seniority. There are separate fees for special services such as weddings.

### **Thinking about joining us?**

The Director of Music will visit schools at least once a year but welcomes enquiries throughout the year. There will be a short, painless meeting with the Director of Music when potential choristers, accompanied by their parent or carer, will be asked to sing a hymn or song of their choice and be asked to read a short passage of text. We are looking for boys and girls who are enthusiastic about music and who have an eagerness to learn. We don't expect anyone to come to us with a fantastic voice – that takes time and comes with practice and the training we provide!