

The Choir of St Peter's Church



St Peter's
Berkhamsted



Could your child
be a **CHORISTER?**



“A wonderful opportunity to learn about music and our great traditions as well as the joy of singing. My son has benefitted enormously.”

- Chorister parent

St Peter's Church is situated at the heart of the Berkhamsted, on the High Street. It is a focal point for the local community and its 85ft tower is a well-known landmark. People have been worshipping here since the 13th century and the church is about to celebrate its 800th anniversary.

There has been a choir singing here for over 100 years; this tradition is carried on today by the new boys and girls who join the choir, promoting the English choral





tradition which is part of our nation's cultural heritage. St Peter's Choir brings cathedral-style music to our town parish church.

Most importantly, the choir exists to lead the people in the worship of God, singing each Sunday morning at 9.30am service, and at a monthly Choral Evensong. The choir also sings at additional services at special times of the year such as Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday.

What does the choir offer?



Being a chorister means becoming part of a musical tradition steeped in history. It is a considerable commitment, but there are great rewards.

Singing at St Peter's provides an excellent musical education: training is given by a team of professional musicians in singing and music theory.





There are also the associated skills that are learned by singing in a choir:

- the ability to concentrate for long periods;
- self-control and self-discipline;
- motivation and teamwork;
- introduction to foreign languages and the understanding of great texts and great music.

These are all things that will enhance a child's overall academic achievement and will enrich them both musically and socially. Children who sing in St Peter's Choir develop skills that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

Many St Peter's choristers have gone on to universities as choral scholars or to study music and several have forged highly successful careers as musicians.



RSCM



St Peter's church choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Junior members of the choir receive musical training through the RSCM's Voice for Life programme, developing their vocal skills, their musical understanding and their knowledge of repertoire, working towards the various RSCM awards.

As well as getting a free musical education, St Peter's choristers also receive a small payment each month which increases as they progress through the choir. They also get paid if they sing at weddings and special services.



What kind of music does the choir sing?



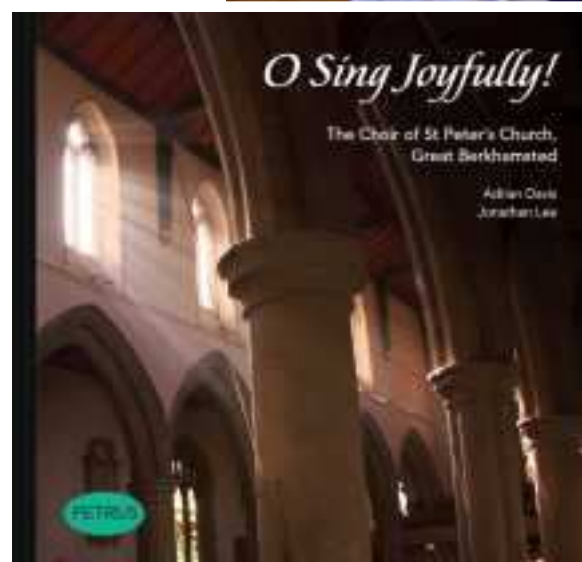
Listen to the choir online:

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/music/choir

www.facebook.com/stpeterschoirberkhamsted/videos

The choir performs a wide range of music spanning over six centuries. Our music draws on the rich Anglican repertoire of hymns, canticles and anthems, including works by composers such as Byrd, Tallis, Palestrina, Elgar, Stainer, Vaughan Williams, Stanford, Howells and Purcell, as well as new compositions.

A CD of the St Peter's Choir is also available for a small donation.



Choir Tours





The choir has made several international tours, singing in cathedrals and churches in Barcelona, Venice, Vienna and Santiago de Compostela.



The more experienced choristers also have the opportunity to sing in some of the UK's top cathedrals, including:

St Paul's, London

Norwich Cathedral

Peterborough Cathedral

Salisbury Cathedral

St George's Chapel,
Windsor

Ely Cathedral

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral

York Minster



In 2016, the choir had the honour of singing in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen during her visit to Berkhamsted. It was a wonderful day that we remember fondly.





Social Events

At least one social event is organised for choristers each term. Recent events have included:

- Fireworks
- Carol singing at The Rex
- BBQ at The Rectory
- Annual party



“My daughter has gained an enormous amount of fun and friendship since joining as well as musical and singing instruction from experts.”

- Chorister parent



"It's great fun singing in the choir. It helps my singing and I like seeing my friends."

- Chorister

“Reading music definitely helps with mental maths and solving logic problems.”

- Chorister



“Choir is really fun. You get to know everyone really well and it’s good being part of a team with adults and professional musicians.”

- Chorister



Adrian Davis, Director of Music, has been the Director of Music at St Peter's Church since 1997. He has been active in Church music all his life – as a chorister, choir director and organist. He was Director of Music at a Grammar school in Devon and at Berkhamsted School. He continues to pursue his professional life as a musician; conducting local choirs and orchestras. He is also a music examiner for the ABRSM.



Jon Lee, Organist, studied at the Junior Academy in London, in Stellenbosch and as an organ scholar at Cambridge University. He now divides his time between playing the organ, editing music, accompanying, directing choirs and producing classical recordings.

St Peter's Choir is open to all, regardless of church membership.

Choristers are drawn from many different backgrounds and attend several local schools. Your child does not need to have any previous musical experience; they just need to be keen to sing, eager to learn, and ready to commit to the busy but rewarding schedule of the choir.

We are looking for children aged 7+ who show an ear for music and good reading ability.



Regular Weekly Schedule

(During Choir Term)

Tuesdays

choristers 17.15-18.15

Fridays

choristers 19.00-20.30

full choir 19.30-20.30

Sundays

Eucharist 9.30-10.30

Evensong (once per month)

Rehearsal 16.30-17.30

Tea break 17.30-18.00

Evensong 18.00-18.45

Want to try out singing?



Each year we run a special Be a Chorister for a Day event to give children aged 7+ a chance to try out singing. It's a fun, informal event designed to help children to enjoy trying something new.

At other times of the year, we invite children to attend a couple of rehearsals. There's no obligation, and children can get a taste of singing in a choir.

After this, if your child would like to join and is accepted, they become a probationer and begin





their training programme. This involves coming to rehearsals on Tuesday and Friday evenings, as well as singing with the choir at the weekly 9.30am Sunday service, a monthly Choral Evensong, and additional services around Christmas and Easter. Depending on age and musical experience, it can take about a year for a probationer to be ready to be admitted as a full chorister.

Interested? Contact us!

Please contact the Director of Music via the church office who is happy to speak to interested parents/carers.

For more information and to learn more about the choir, St Peter's Church, and what we do:

 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

 facebook.com/stpeterschoirberkhamsted

01442 878227



The Parish Church of
St Peter Great Berkhamsted

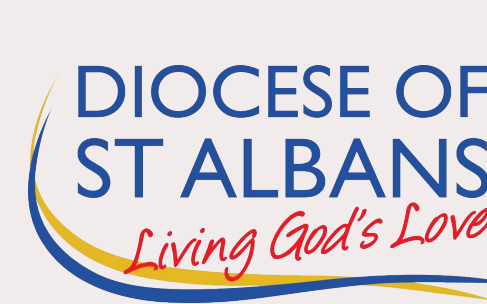
St Peter's Church Great Berkhamsted
Church Lane
BERKHAMSTED
Hertfordshire
HP4 2AX

(+44) (0)1442 878227

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

Registered charity no 1130108

© The Parish of Great Berkhamsted 2020



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND