

# ST. MARY'S, SANDERSTEAD CHOIR INFORMATION



## Music at St. Mary's:

The church has a very able and enthusiastic robed SATB choir who perform music covering a variety of musical styles from Renaissance Polyphony to the present day. The choir sing each week for the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist and on the last Sunday of every month for Choral Evensong. They also sing at many of the significant services throughout the church year and the occasional weddings. The choir is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music and members are encouraged to work through the RSCM 'Voice for Life' workbooks to achieve the relevant medal and ribbon at the end.

A typical Choral Eucharist will contain five hymns, often with descants. The choir also sing an anthem and a mass setting, which is normally congregational. Once every month the choir lead Choral Evensong and this service includes an introit, canticles, psalm, responses and two hymns. The choir often sing at St. James, Riddlesdown, our sister church, for larger services.

St. Mary's is a wonderful place to sing. The church has a fine twenty-five stop two manual Rushworth and Dreaper pipe organ that was installed in 1935. Positioned in the South chancel with the console opposite, the organ is used for the majority of services and has around 750 pipes. There is also a grand piano and a large library of choral music.

Each member of the choir is expected to be present at all rehearsals and services, which may fall outside of term time including major Feast Days (Advent and Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, Ascension Day etc.). This includes Christmas Morning, Easter Sunday Morning etc. Full attendance is expected at choral evensong. The choir summer break runs throughout August.

## Typical Weekly Timetable:

### **Friday:**

19:10-19:30 - Voice for Life

19:30-20:00 - Younger-member Choir Practice

20:00-21:00 - Choir Practice - full practice

### **Sunday:**

09:15-09:30 - Choir Rehearsal followed by 09:45-11:00 Choral Eucharist

### **Last Sunday of each month (except July, August and December):**

17:15-18:15 - Choir Rehearsal followed by 18:30-19:15 Choral Evensong



## Person Specification:

Singing with the choir provides excellent training (and a free musical education!) for those who are looking to improve their abilities as a choral singer. Previous experience of church music is desirable but not essential. Good self-management and time keeping is necessary. Above all, a passion for high standards of music making and choral singing is crucial. Adults of any vocal part are welcome to join the choir. The choir is especially keen to recruit children, above the age of 8, to join as a treble. Reasons to become a treble at St. Mary's include:

**1.) EDUCATION** - As well as free musical training, there is evidence to suggest that your school work benefits as a result. You develop and mature on a personal level, develop leadership skills and grow in self-confidence whilst contributing to the team.

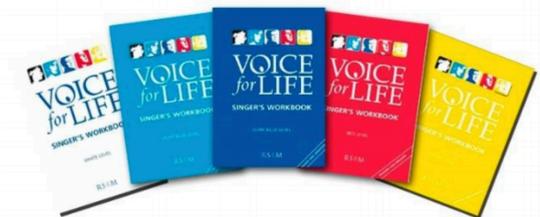
**2.) ACHIEVEMENT** - You will be part of one of the largest church choirs in the area.

**3.) THE ENJOYMENT OF SINGING** - The choir provides an excellent chance for you to use your voice and to constantly improve it.

**4.) TRADITION** - As a member of a church choir, you are part of a tradition that spans many centuries. You will enjoy learning a wide repertoire of music composed from the 1300s to the present day.

**5.) FRIENDSHIP** - The choir is a chance to make long lasting friends.

**6.) QUALIFICATIONS & AWARDS** - You will receive free training towards examinations for nationally recognised singing awards from the



Royal School of Church Music.

**7.) BIG OCCASIONS** - be part of the many large services at which the choir play a prominent role.

**8.) ACTIVITIES** - Quite apart from singing, there are opportunities to take part in other activities together as part of the church youth club, Chrome.

**9.) PAYMENT** - Younger members of the choir are paid £5 each week (Friday and Sunday) they attend.

More information:

For more information contact the Director of Music, David Thomas:

**Email:** david.thomas096@gmail.com

**Telephone:** 07909 975846

**Church Address:** St Mary's Church, Purley Oaks Road,  
Sanderstead, Surrey. CR2 0NR.



<https://stmarysanderstead.org.uk/choir/>

<https://stjamesriddlesdown.org>

<http://davidthomasorganist.co.uk>

## Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults:

All relevant provisions and procedures will be in force which relate to child protection and vulnerable adults. St Mary's follows the diocesan guidelines for being a safe church and a copy of the policy is available on our website. All group leaders at St. Mary's are DBS cleared.

## Attached Form:

For children joining the choir, please complete the attached form and bring it along to the first rehearsal.



Agreement of a Parent/Guardian (if applicable):

As a parent/guardian of a choir member:

- 1) I support their commitment to the above terms. I understand that the choir must be given full priority over other commitments. I will give plenty of notice of any planned absence and understand that full attendance is expected at choral evensong on the last Sunday of each month.
- 2) I take full responsibility for making my own private arrangements for my child's transport to and from the church.
- 3) I consent to the administration of first aid or other appropriate medical treatment should the need arise.
- 4) I am aware that photographs, videos and recordings may be taken of the choir during rehearsals, services and concerts. I agree to these being used for publicity purposes (such as the church magazine 'Engage' and website) and consent to my child featuring.
- 5) I will make the group leader aware of any relevant medical conditions or other relevant information relating to my child. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed (Parent/Guardian):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

