

# ST MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH CHOIRS



## What can singing in St Mary Redcliffe Church Choirs give you?

- Enjoyment
- Friendship
- Free musical education
- Vocal coaching
- Awards
- Pay

Opportunities to take part in:

- CD recordings
- Broadcasts
- Concerts
- Tours



# THE CHOIRS



## CHORAL TRADITIONS

The robed choir of 20 boys and 20 men sings the majority of services. In recent years a Girls Choir has also been established. There are several times per year when the choirs sing together for Festivals.

**St Mary Redcliffe Choir:** 20 boys (aged 8-14) and 20 men (teenagers and adults)

**St Mary Redcliffe Girls Choir** (aged 8-16)

**Redcliffe Chamber Choir** (adults by audition)

**Friends Occasional Choir** (adults voluntary)

## GOOD FUN!

On Friday night after practice, there is a choir club at which the boys can play indoor games or ball games outside under careful supervision. Before practices, especially in the summer months the choristers play games outside on the North churchyard grassed area. Social events include:

- summer barbeque
- pizza evenings
- ten pin bowling
- day trips
- weekend at Centerparcs



## COMMITMENT

For the boys and men choir, it is expected that new choristers will attend only one event each week and this is gradually built up to a fuller commitment:

Boys: Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm  
Boys & Men: Fridays 6.30-8.30pm (plus choir club to 9.15pm)  
Sundays: 9am – 12pm (Sung Eucharist at 9.30am; Choral Mattins at 11.15am)  
5.45-7.45pm (Evensong at 6.30pm)

As the duties are lighter, the girls are expected to attend weekly term time rehearsals.

Girls: Thursdays 4.15-5.45pm  
Girls Services: Occasional Sunday duties, monthly Thursday Evensongs at 5.30pm and concerts.

### Holidays

The pattern of choir holidays is very similar to the school year, although there are some services for the boys, girls and men at Christmas and Easter.

## ENTRY TO THE CHOIRS

There is no formal audition; children are encouraged to come along to a couple of practices to see whether it suits them. After a few weeks there is a simple voice test. Transport to choir - some of the choristers may live near you, so help can be given to make contact with other choir parents for sharing lifts.

Any questions you may have can easily be answered by other choir parents or music staff. The children quickly make new friends in the choir and a happy and safe environment will be found. The church complies with Child Protection guidelines and there is always a second adult present with CRB disclosure to help supervise the children.

## FAITH

Children from the Christian faith, other faiths or no faith are welcome to join the choirs. *Singing in the choirs does not guarantee entry to St Mary Redcliffe & Temple Secondary School.* You are advised to check the admissions procedure at the school by contacting the Admissions Secretary.



## INTERESTED?

Contact Andrew Kirk, Director of Music

12 Colston Parade, Bristol  
Telephone **0117 929 1532**  
email **awkirk\_uk@yahoo.co.uk**

Andrew Kirk has held the full time post of Director of Music & Organist at St Mary Redcliffe since 2003. He also works with schools in encouraging singing. He is chairman of the Bristol & Swindon RSCM and regularly gives organ recitals across the UK.

## WHAT OUR CHORISTERS AND THEIR PARENTS SAY:

"I have made many great friends at this choir, and I will never forget singing in this magnificent church" *Chorister*

"Small or big, timid or boisterous, sane or mad, the choir caters for everyone"  
*Sixth Form chorister*

"When I joined, I experienced so many fun (and funny) moments that now I never want to leave" *Chorister*

"Choir is amazing because you can join without any musical experience and then gain some. It's really great fun!" *Chorister*

"After the service I never fail to feel renewed and revitalised by the music" *University student*

"A fantastic opportunity to learn all about music as well as the joy of singing - something that will clearly stay with our son for life" *Chorister's parent*

"When my son joined St Mary Redcliffe choir he had an average voice - he now sings so beautifully - it brings a tear to my eye." *Chorister's parent*



St Mary Redcliffe Church choirs are affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music