

Sing unto the Lord a new song!

The Choral Foundation project at St Paul's

Music: at the heart of our faith

For centuries, parish churches like ours have placed music at the heart of worship. The Anglican choral tradition is one of the Church's greatest gifts: a living inheritance that enriches our liturgy, deepens our prayer, and draws people of all ages into the worship of God.

The St Paul's Choral Foundation is being created to sustain and develop this tradition in our church. Through the generosity of parishioners and friends, and with support from outside bodies, we are seeking to provide opportunities for children and young people to receive high-quality musical training while serving the Church through regular worship.



Singing for the soul

The Christian faith has always found expression in song. From the Psalms of the Old Testament to the hymns and canticles of the Church, music enables us to pray, praise, and reflect in ways that words alone often cannot.

For young singers especially, participation in a church choir offers:

- a deeper engagement with Scripture, liturgy, and the Christian year
- a sense of belonging within the worshipping community
- opportunities for discipline, commitment, and service
- experience of beauty as a pathway to encountering God
- confidence in public participation and leadership in worship
- life skills such as musical literacy, concentration, teamwork, confidence and self-discipline
- lifelong habits of prayer and reflection through sacred music

When young people sing regularly in church, they do more than perform music: they become active participants in the worship and mission of the Church.

Investing in the future of the parish

A thriving choir is not just a musical asset, existing for its own sake. It is a vital part of parish life.

By encouraging children and young people to sing, we:

Strengthen worship

Young voices bring vitality, reverence, and excellence to our services. They help maintain the rich tradition of Anglican worship while ensuring that it remains alive for future generations.

Build Christian community

Choir membership creates friendships across ages and backgrounds, bringing together children, parents, volunteers, and congregation members in a shared purpose.

Develop future leaders

Many clergy, churchwardens, organists, and committed lay members first discovered their vocation through church music. Today's choristers are often tomorrow's leaders.

Ensure long-term sustainability

A choir that regularly welcomes and trains young singers develops a strong pipeline of future musicians and committed Christians. Investment in young people is an investment in the future health of the parish itself.

Reaching beyond the Church doors

A church choir can provide one of the most effective points of contact between the parish and the wider community, welcoming families who may not otherwise have a connection with church life.

What the Choral Foundation Supports

Contributions to the Choral Foundation Fund help provide:

- music education and singing lessons – we aim to provide singing lessons for six children at a time
- recruitment and outreach activities
- scholarships and assistance for young singers
- support with events like singing in cathedrals

Become a Choir Godparent

To kick-start our Choral Foundation Fund, we are establishing a Choir Godparent scheme.

For £10 per month, members of the congregation and friends of the parish can become a Choir Godparent.

As a Choir Godparent, you will:

- help provide musical and spiritual formation for young singers
- support the continuing excellence of worship at St Paul's
- encourage the next generation of church musicians and leaders
- share in the growth and success of the choir's ministry

Just as a godparent encourages a young Christian in faith, Choir Godparents will help to nurture the musical and spiritual life of our choristers. Choir Godparents will be remembered in the prayers of the choir and kept informed about the progress of the Choral Foundation and its young singers.

We believe that beautiful music, offered to the glory of God, has the power to transform lives, enrich worship and strengthen the Church. By becoming a Choir Godparent, you can help ensure that the Anglican choral tradition continues to flourish at St Paul's for generations to come.

Are you interested in becoming a Choir Godparent or in finding out more? If so, please email Fr Sam at rector@spauls.co.uk or Louise Turner at louise_turner71@hotmail.com