

# COME AND SING AT THE MINSTER!

Would you like to sing in the Choir of this ancient Minster Church?

Would you like to be part of great celebrations and County events  
as a chorister?

Would you like to learn about music-making and singing together in  
a cathedral-style choir, performing great pieces each week?

Would you like to be a member of one of the country's 49 all boys'  
choirs?

## AUDITION FOR READING MINSTER CHOIR

HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO BE?

*Our youngest member is 8 years old, and you can start at 10 or 11*

DO I HAVE TO KNOW ALL ABOUT MUSIC?

*Not at all: you will be taught all you need to know during rehearsals.*

WHAT ARE REHEARSALS LIKE?

*Practices are on Wednesdays starting at 5:00 pm and finish at 7:00 pm.  
Probationers will start with shorter practices, until they are secure. There is a  
practice on Sundays at 9:30 am before the service which starts at 11:00 am and  
finishes at 12:10pm*

Each rehearsal will start with a warm-up, which is fun, to help get into a singing  
mood and get rid of the tensions of the day: exercises, games, humming,  
breathing and tuning our voices

Then we start learning the pieces we are going to sing . Both the Master of  
Choristers and the organist are very experienced teachers and can make the  
work fun and rewarding

There is a break for drinks and snacks and a playtime. Parents supervise these on  
a rota basis

WHAT ARE SERVICES LIKE?

*The services are where the Choir is leading the singing and also performing the  
great music for people to listen. And it is a formal occasion. The Choir wear robes,  
and process in and out, so it is a time to concentrate and work as part of a team  
and learn to take responsibility*

## PROGRESS

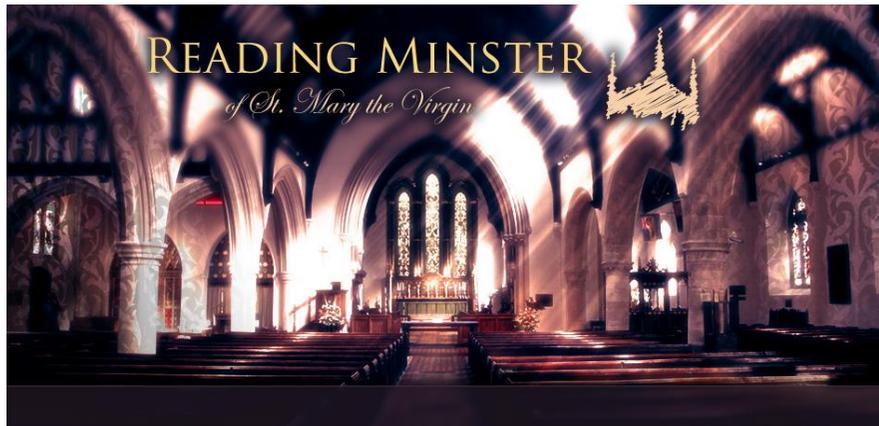
Boys start as Probationers, where they wear a cassock but no surplice, and gradually learn the music, perhaps not singing all of it until they are ready. After a year, boys become “light blue” choristers and wear a surplice and will perhaps sing a solo or lead the choir procession.

Senior boys become “dark blue” choristers and will sing solos, lead and support the younger boys and take responsibilities for music tidying.

## REWARDS

Developing musicianship, life skills, concentration and focus, team work. Choristers find these benefit and support their school progress.

The Minster pays pocket money for each rehearsal and service attended, according to your grade. Each week, the outstanding chorister wins a gold star and extra pay.



INTERESTED?    WOULD LIKE TO TRY?

WE HOPE YOU WILL COME AND SEE US!

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ANDREW STAFFORD

Master of the Choristers

IAN HILLIER

Minster Organist and Master of the Music