



Exeter
Cathedral



Information for Chorister Parents 2024-25

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Photos by Emma Solley/Exeter Cathedral



Welcome

Welcome to the community of Exeter Cathedral. Your child is embarking upon a life-changing journey of music-making, friendship, and being at the heart of all that we do at the Cathedral. Your support is vital and much appreciated. Indeed, the experience of being a chorister parent may also be life-changing for you!

This booklet brings together some information about the Cathedral to help you navigate what may appear to be a bewildering new world of clergy and musicians, of ancient services and strange routines. It is in no way an exhaustive guide, and we are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for all you have done to support and bring your child to this point, and thank you in advance for all you will do to support the Cathedral and its choir.

Canon James Mustard, Precentor,
james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk



The Chorister Journey

- Choristers start in September as Probationers for a term, seeing how they take to being a chorister.
- In the following January, they are installed as full-Choristers, receive their white surplice and commit to the chorister journey through the end of Year 8.
- In Years 7 and 8 Choristers take a significant musical lead, mentoring younger Choristers.
- In Year 8, Choristers are invested by the Dean as senior choristers and charged with caring for the younger children.
- At the end of Year 8, there is a final Valedictory service, at which Choristers are presented with gifts as they leave.
- The Old Choristers Association keeps choristers in contact with each other through the annual Old Choristers Day services and dinner on Easter Monday. As former members of the Cathedral foundation, former Choristers are entitled to marry at the Cathedral.

Communication and Information

Mr Noon sends a regular bulletin to Chorister families by email with routine information and any changes to the schedule. He can be contacted at **timothy.noon@exeter-cathedral.org.uk**

Our website is the place to find up to date information about events, service information and general news:

www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Life is a weekly email sent to over 10,000 people. It contains news and information.

To subscribe go to: **bit.ly/cathedral-life**

Please encourage your friends and family to sign up, too!

Cathedral News is a monthly magazine publication, aimed more at the regular, worshipping community. It is distributed in the cathedral, and can be found online at **bit.ly/ec-cathedral-news**

Social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/exetercathedral

Instagram: [@exetercathedral](https://www.instagram.com/exetercathedral)

Twitter/X: [@exetercathedral](https://twitter.com/exetercathedral)

#ExeterCathedral #YourCathedral

Who's Who

The Cathedral is governed by the Dean and Chapter, or the Chapter. Under the Cathedrals Measure 2021, and since 2023, the Chapter is Charity overseen by the UK Charity Commission.

The Bishop:



- Has oversight and care for the Diocese of Exeter (the CofE parishes and chaplaincies in Devon). His seat (*cathedra*) is in the Cathedral, but the responsibility for the running of the Cathedral and its worship falls to the Dean and Chapter.
- The Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison will be installed as 72nd Bishop of Exeter on 2 November 2024.

The Dean and Chapter:

The Chapter consists of executive and non-executive members.



Executive Chapter Members

Jonathan Greener, Dean, Chair of Chapter
Jonathan.greener@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

After a career in industry, Jonathan was ordained in 1991, became Archdeacon of Pontefract in 2003, and then Dean of Wakefield from 2007, until he moved to become the 71st Dean of Exeter in 2017. He is a Governor of the Exeter Cathedral School and a member of the Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust. He and Pamela live on the Cathedral Green.



James Mustard, Canon Precentor

james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

As Precentor, James leads the Department of Liturgy and Music. He studied music here in Exeter, and was a Choral Scholar at the cathedral. Following a career as a freelance

musician, he was ordained in 2005, and has served in the Dioceses of Norwich, London and St Albans, returning to Exeter in 2018. He is a governor of Exeter Cathedral School and a trustee of the Cathedral Music Trust.

Chris Palmer, Canon Treasurer



chris.palmer@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Chris was born in London and brought up in London and the Midlands. Chris read Theology in Oxford, and continued as a graduate student, eventually completing a doctorate on Paul's Understanding of Church Unity. After 18 years

in the Diocese of Southwark, Chris came to Exeter in 2018 as Canon Chancellor. He is taking a major lead on our development project, overseeing the building works.



Cate Edmonds, Canon Steward

cate.edmonds@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Ordained in Winchester in 1994, in 2001 Cate returned to her home city to take up the post of Chaplain at the now Plymouth Marjon University. In 2006, Cate moved from Plymouth to East

Devon, becoming the Diocesan Chaplaincy in Education Adviser. As Canon Steward, Cate works to develop relationships with the wider Diocese; she has a particular responsibility for the cathedral's work with schools and the Cloister Club.



Deborah Parsons, Canon Chancellor

deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Deborah was installed as Canon Chancellor in July 2022. She taught English at Epsom College for twenty years, where she pioneered co-education at 13+ and served on the Senior

Leadership Team. Since 2011, she has been a Team Vicar in Totnes, where she continues half-time. As Chancellor, Deborah has a particular responsibility for pastoral care at the cathedral, and also for Christian nurture.

Non-Executive Memembers of Chapter



Barnabas Hurst-Bannister,

Senior Non-Executive Member

Barnabas had a long career in insurance, from 1975 onwards. He has been a member of the Council of Lloyd's and is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute and past president

of the Insurance Institute of London. He was previously a Governor of Blundell's School. He lives in East Worlington in North Devon.



Jenny Ellis CB

Jenny is a retired Civil Servant and former Chief Executive of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Jenny has been a member of the Cathedral Chapter for the past 6 years, and chairs our HR Committee. She was born and

brought up in Cornwall and chairs the Friends of her "home" parish church in North Cornwall. Jenny is a Governor of Exeter Cathedral School, and chairs its Pastoral Committee.



Giles Frampton

Giles is a retired Chartered Accountant and Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, who chairs the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance, and has been a member of the Cathedral Chapter since 2021. He chairs the Cathedral Finance Committee.

He lives in Christow where his wife Ruth is Rector.



Ian King

Ian grew up in Exeter and currently serves as churchwarden at St Michael and All Angels, Heavitree. He has had a successful career in banking in this country and in Europe and served until last year as Managing Director of

MiraltaBank, Spain. He currently runs his own consultancy business. Ian lives in Stoke Canon on the outskirts of the City.



John Lee OBE DL

John has lived and farmed at Shobrooke, near Crediton all his life, where he is also Churchwarden of St Swithun's Church. He is one of His Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants, a former High Sheriff of Devon, and has been a member

of the Cathedral Council. He chairs the Board of Directors of the Westpoint Centre, and is also Chairman of Mole Avon Trading.



The Venerable Nick Shutt

Nick has been a prebendary of the Cathedral since 2011. Earlier this year he retired after serving five years as Archdeacon on Plymouth. He was previously a solicitor and holds a master's degree in Canon Law. He has particular

expertise in Safeguarding and has been a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Board. He lives in the village of Walkhampton on the western side of Dartmoor.



Mark Yallop

Mark Yallop lives in Stoke Gabriel where he is a member of the Parochial Church Council. A former UK Chief Executive of UBS, he stepped down earlier this year after serving seven years as Chair of the Financial Markets Standards

Board. He has previously served six years as a member of the Bank of England's Prudential Regulatory Committee. Alongside wide-ranging financial expertise, he also brings considerable fundraising experience to the new Chapter.

Musicians



Timothy Noon, Director of Music

timothy.noon@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Timothy was a chorister at Hereford Cathedral. He was Organ Scholar at Christ Church, Oxford where he also read for a degree in music. He has been Organist and Master of the Choristers of

St Davids Cathedral (Wales), Director of Music at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool and Director of Music at Auckland Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Zealand. He returned to the UK to take up the post of Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral in 2016.



Michael Stephens-Jones, Assistant Director of Music

Michael joins us from St Paul's Cathedral where he has been Organ Scholar, after scholarships at Tewkesbury Abbey, Selwyn College, Cambridge, and Guildford Cathedral. He shares with

Timothy Noon the rehearsing of all choristers, and is usually found accompanying services from the organ console.



Adam Field, Organ Scholar

Adam joins us for the academic year 2024-25, having recently completed his degree in Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He assists the Director and Assistant Director of Music in playing the organ and training the choristers.



The Back Row

The adults who sing with the Choristers are known as The Back Row, who sing the Alto, Tenor and Bass lines. It is made up of two groups:

- Six Lay Vicars – older adult professional singers, often with considerable experience in other cathedrals as well as this one. They have careers, often as musicians, that they pursue alongside the Cathedral Choir.
- Six Choral Scholars – younger adult singers, usually combining singing in the Cathedral Choir with full-time study at the University of Exeter, but sometimes pre- or post-University, too.
- The Punctator, currently Matthew Cann, is the convenor of the Back Row is the point of contact between the Precentor and Director of Music and adult singers.

Key Staff



Tom Salmon, Secretary to the Department of Liturgy and Music

liturgy@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Tom studied Theology at the University of Exeter, where he was Organ Scholar of Crediton Parish Church. He is a keen walker and plays the organ

in some Exeter churches on Sundays. He compiles orders of service and printed materials for services, as well as holding the diary for the music department.



Luke Stevenson, Custos

custos@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Born and brought up in Cornwall, Luke came to Exeter to read for a Master's Degree in History. Following a period as Events and Diary Co-ordinator, he became Custos in August 2018.

Luke is responsible for the Virgers, Cleaners and Seamstress and works with these teams, and colleagues across the Cathedral, to ensure the smooth running of all the Cathedral's daily activities.



Catherine Escott, Chief Operating Officer

catherine.escott@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Catherine has been leading the staff of Exeter Cathedral since 2017, following a successful period as Head of Visitor Services. In addition to overseeing the management of Cathedral

staff, Catherine's responsibilities include the delivery of Chapter's strategy and day-to-day co-ordination of operations.

Priest Vicars and Cathedral Deacon

The Priest Vicars and Deacon have pastoral responsibility within the Cathedral, supporting staff and volunteers, and coordinating baptisms, weddings and funerals. They share in leading worship and preaching with the ordained Chapter members.



Prebendary, Nigel Guthrie, Priest Vicar

Prebendary Guthrie was until 2023 vicar of St David's with St Michael's Mount Dinham, Exeter, before which he was Rector of Crediton. He is a keen musician and a chaplain to His Majesty the King.

Photo by the Diocese
of Exeter



Canon Ian Morter, Priest Vicar

ian.morter@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Ian Morter served the Cathedral as Canon Treasurer and Pastor from 2010 until 2017, and was licensed as a Priest Vicar in June 2018.



Prebendary Julian Ould, Priest Vicar

julian.ould@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Julian is a retired priest, Julian has served as Priest Vicar at Exeter Cathedral since 2020. He has been a priest for 38 years, serving in parishes across the country. In 2017 Julian was appointed a Prebendary of the Cathedral.



The Revd Phil Wales, Cathedral Deacon

phil.wales@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Phil studied theology through the Church of England's Common Awards Programme. He is currently Warden of the College of Deacons, taking pastoral responsibility for his fellow

distinctive deacons throughout the Diocese of Exeter. Now retired, Phil was a learning and development specialist working for the Care Quality Commission.



Professor Morwenna Ludlow, Canon Theologian

morwenna.ludlow@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Morwenna is a published historian, theologian and priest, specialising in historical theology.

She is Professor of Christian Theology at the University of Exeter, and as Canon Theologian,

regularly presides and preaches at services in Exeter Cathedral.

Chaperones

Our team of volunteer Chaperones attend afternoon rehearsals and all services to ensure that there is someone the Choristers can go to if they feel unwell, and accompany them out of a service if need be. Generally, the Chaperones sit near the door of the rehearsal room, and near the Choristers in services, on the north side of the quire or nave. If a child wishes to see a Chaperone, they can simply go to them. When there are concerts, or all forty Choristers are singing, the regular team of chaperones may be joined by choir parent chaperones.

Exeter Cathedral School and Exeter Cathedral

Exeter Cathedral School (ECS) and Exeter Cathedral, as their names suggest, have a long and deeply-woven history: children at the school have been choristers for around 800 years!

In 2014, the School and Cathedral entered a new relationship as independent institutions with separate governance structures. But, in recognition of the significant and shared history, and of the vital role of the forty chorister-pupils to both the School and Cathedral, the Dean and Precentor are both *ex-officio* Governors with the Chapter nominating other members of the School's Governing Body. A Service Level Agreement, reviewed at least every five years, ensures that the Cathedral and School work together to support each other, and support the Choristers in their daily music-making and ministry.

ECS Staff who are key links to the Cathedral:



Mr James Featherstone, Headmaster

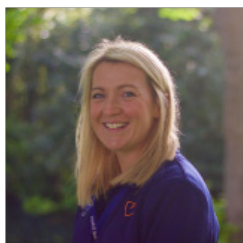
Mr Featherstone meets regularly with Mr Noon and the Precentor to ensure good operational relationships between the Choristers and School. He has overall responsibility for the running of the School, its staff and pupils, the support of the Choristers as pupils.



Miss Tamsin Bullocke, Chorister Tutor

Miss Bullocke ensures the Choristers are represented and supported in school. She will often register the Choristers during morning rehearsals, and accompany them at Chorister Tea. She is a point of contact for Chorister

parents in the School. She assists in the planning and risk-assessment of Chorister activities away from Exeter (eg. Chorister Outreach events).



Mrs Emma Ross, ECS Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Ross has oversight of Safeguarding throughout ECS. She sits on the Cathedral's Safeguarding Management Panel.

School and Cathedral: Chorister Welfare

Pastoral Meetings

During term time, the following people meet weekly to ensure that the School and Cathedral take a joined-up approach to the care of the Choristers:

- Precentor (Chair)
- Director of Music
- Chorister Tutor
- ECS DSL
- Lead Chaperone
- Assistant Director of Music
- Organ Scholar

If there is a pastoral or welfare concern about a chorister, raised by the Cathedral, the School or a parent, or there are any Safeguarding concerns relating to a Chorister, it will be discussed at that meeting, so that care offered is joined-up and consistent across both organisations.

Cathedral Safeguarding Structure

- The Dean has ultimate responsibility for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults across the Cathedral.
- The Venerable Nick Shutt is Safeguarding Lead on Chapter
 - He Chairs the Cathedral's Safeguarding Management Committee, which includes the Precentor, Director of Music, ECS DSL and Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor
- The Precentor has responsibility for the Choir, ensuring all choir directors and adult singers have appropriate training and DBS checks are up to date.
 - The Director of Music has responsibility for the Safeguarding and welfare of choristers during rehearsals and services, or, in his absence, the Assistant Director of Music.
 - Choir Safeguarding procedures are reviewed annually.

Further information about Safeguarding at the Cathedral can be found at **bit.ly/ec-safeguarding**

Promoting a Safer Church

House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people & adults

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

Our Commitments

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Costa Nassaris (Naz)

Role: Cathedral Safeguarding Adviser

Tel: 01392 294929

E-mail: safeguardingenquiry@exeter.anglican.org

Name: Catherine Escott

Role: Chief Operating Officer

Tel: 07914 901254

E-mail: catherine.escott@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Name: Ven. Nick Shutt

Role: Chapter Safeguarding Lead

Tel: 07739 988975

E-mail: nick.shutt@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

If there is immediate risk or danger please contact the police on 999.

Helplines

- **NSPCC:** 0808 800 5000
- **Childline:** 0800 1111
- **Stop It Now:** 0808 1000 900
- **NAPAC:** 0808 801 0331
- **Samaritans:** 116 123
- **Family Lives:**
0808 800 2222
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0808 2000 247
- **Respect Phoneline:**
0808 8010 327
- **National Careline:**
0800 0699 784

What's What

Routine

Weekday, term time chorsiter routine

Monday	8:10am drop off for practice		5:30pm Evensong (boys)	6:15pm pick up
Tuesday	8:10am drop off for practice		5:30pm Evensong (girls)	6:15pm pick up
Wednesday	No chorister duties			
Thursday	8:10am drop off for practice		5:30pm Evensong (boys)	6:15pm pick up
Friday	8:10am drop off for practice		5:30pm Evensong (girls)	6:15pm pick up

Drop offs to the West Wing (see map)

Pick ups from Chantry (ECS Main Entry)

Saturday	4:15pm drop off at at the West Wing 5:30pm Evensong 6:15pm pick up from the West Wing
Sunday	8:45am drop off for practice a the west wing 10am Eucharist 11:15am pick up from West Wing 2:45pm drop off at at the West Wing 4pm Evensong 5pm pick up from the West Wing

Sundays and Choir Terms (before Christmas and Easter)

The ECS Chorister Tutor makes contact with parents and carers to arrange day-boarding on Sundays (including lunch) and catering (and accommodation in 2023-24) outside school terms.

The West Wing and Song Schools



This is the building that stands behind the Cathedral (historically, the West Wing of the Bishop's Palace), where Choristers arrive in the mornings, and are collected at weekends (if not boarding). The West Wing Car Park is in front of this building.



Our Song Schools (choir rehearsal rooms, girls' illustrated left, boys' beneath) are on the first floor of this building, as well as the Choir Adult's robing area. Boys' and Girls' loos (for the use of Choristers only during rehearsals and services) are between both rooms.



There is a water fountain for the use of choristers only. The Library and Archive is on the ground floor and meetings

rooms and offices are on the second floor. This area is not open to the public, except by appointment. Access to the West Wing, from both the Cathedral and the West Wing Car Park, is by coded entry or intercom. Parents are very welcome to visit the West Wing, but must make an appointment to do so.

Attending rehearsals

Parents are always welcome to attend rehearsals in the Song Schools. But space in both rooms is limited, so we ask that you ask in advance to attend. Please contact Mr Noon if you would like to attend a rehearsal.

Parking

Parking in Palace Gate is monitored by an automatic number plate recognition system. The School will be able to add your vehicle(s) to the Cathedral's system. There is no charge for this.

If you drive a vehicle into Palace Gate, its registration number must be on our system. Otherwise, you will receive a fine from the parking management company and the cathedral is unable to cover this cost.

If you change your vehicle, you must alert the School and Cathedral so we can change registration details

- Contact Tom Salmon: **liturgy@exeter-cathedral.org.uk** and **reception@exetercs.org**

Weekday Morning Drop-off 8.00-8.10am West Wing Car Park

- We ask you please to "drop and go"
- It is the Diocesan Office car park - their staff arrive at the same time
- Parents must drive with due caution and Choristers must pay attention to their surroundings

Evening Pickup (every day):

- Parents are welcome to park on Palace Gate, outside the School.

Parents may not park in the West Wing car park at any time. This is for dropping off only.

Chorister Phone

The Chorister Phone is held by the Directors of Music during rehearsals and the Chaperones during services.

All Chorister parent numbers are held securely on this phone so you may be contacted easily.

Parents may contact the Chorister Phone to alert us if you are running late. We will use the Chorister Phone to alert you if your child is unwell or, if the Choristers are off site, we will be late returning to the Cathedral.

What if...?

My child is unwell?

Please call or text the Chorister Phone, and let the School know by email (please copy your message to Mr Noon):

reception@exetercs.org cc: timothy.noon@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

My child is late?

Please call or text the Chorister Phone and arrive at the West Wing as normal. There is an intercom, and your child can be let into the building after a rehearsal has started.

I'm going to be late for Chorister pickup?

Please call or text the Chorister Phone.

My child needs the loo during a service?

If a child needs to go to the loo, they should make their way to the loo, and a chaperone will accompany them.

My child needs the loo during a rehearsal?

If a child needs to go to the loo, they should ask the Director of Music taking the rehearsal to be excused.

My child is taken ill during a rehearsal or service?

We will call you using the Chorister Phone. Your child may be escorted to the School or you will be asked to collect your child from the Cathedral. A chaperone or member of staff will wait with your child.

My child is unhappy?

Being a Chorister is a huge and challenging commitment. Daily rehearsals, unfamiliar routines, the extended days and the public nature of singing can be overwhelming.

If your child is unhappy, or you feel your child needs some extra support, it is important that you let us know as soon as possible. In order that the School and Cathedral can address this together, it is helpful if you write to both Mr Noon and Miss Bullocke:
timothy.noon@exeter-cathedral.org.uk and **t.bullocke@exetercs.org**

The Cathedral is concerned about my child?

As above, school and cathedral staff will discuss how best to support your child and communicate with you. The advantage of all choristers being pupils of ECS is that we can have a joined-up approach to the care of your children, especially if they are in need of some additional support.

I am unhappy about my child's experience whilst in the care of the Cathedral?

The Cathedral's complaint's procedure may be found at **bit.ly/ec-complaints**. In the first instance, please contact the Cathedral's Chief Executive Officer:
catherine.escott@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

I'd like to share some good news with the Cathedral?

Write to the Precentor, Mr Noon and the Chancellor. We will ensure you are properly congratulated!

james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

timothy.noon@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

I'd like to discuss my child's musical progress in the Choir?

Mr Noon is always happy to make an appointment to discuss a chorister's vocal and musical progress:

timothy.noon@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

My son's voice changes and he is unable to sing the top line?

Each year, one or two of our boy Choristers' career as a treble/soprano is curtailed by the onset of puberty. This can be a sensitive time for a boy keen to see through his Chorister journey. Each child and their vocal development is unique. Mr Noon will work with you and your son to establish the best way for him to conclude his career as a Chorister. Often non-singing boys enjoy participating in services by assisting in the organ loft or the library. But they are under no compulsion to do so. A boy Chorister's scholarship is honoured to the end of Year 8 even if his voice has changed and he is unable to sing.

My child has other commitments and would like to miss a service?

Our Choristers are a talented bunch with a variety of other interests. However, we ask that their Choristership takes priority over other activities. The general rule is that special occasions, a family wedding or funeral, are an acceptable reason to be away. But sporting fixtures or family holidays are not acceptable. If you are in any doubt, please do write to Mr Noon, who must give permission for your child to be absent. ECS does its best to ensure that sporting fixtures do not clash with the Cathedral and Chorister schedule.

My child would like to play a musical instrument?

This is only to be encouraged! The Dean and Chapter, in addition to paying 25% of the day fees at ECS, funds lessons in one musical instrument. This may be used for singing or instrumental lessons. Additional lessons would be classed as a second instrument, and the Dean and Chapter will not pay for this tuition.

Are there social opportunities for the Choristers and their families?

The Cathedral Community Committee organises a lunch for the first Sunday of the academic year, for choir and congregation, **8 September 2024.**

The Cathedral Choir Association organises occasional social events, including a Sports Day on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Day), and other occasional events. Activities and events are laid on in the run-up to Christmas. The Choir Association, Cathedral and School collaborate on providing lunch on Christmas Day for choristers and families, for which there is a modest charge.

Other events, such as quizzes and barbecues may be organised by the Choir Association, both to raise funds and to be sociable!

We have financial concerns?

We appreciate that a choristership is a huge commitment of time and money. The Dean and Chapter supports 25% of the cost of tuition at ECS. If you have concerns about funding school fees, it is vital that you contact Steven Webber at the School as soon as possible. The sooner he knows about your situation, the sooner we can try to help: **s.webber@exetercs.org**



Photo by Martin Stubbings

Our Ministry to You and Your Family

You will be spending a lot of time in and around the Cathedral, much of it in worship. Parents are welcome at all of our services, whether or not the choir is singing. We appreciate that chorister parents come from a wide range of backgrounds and faith traditions, or none. We hope you find the experience of being part of this community enriching, and you are welcome to become involved in our wider community and activities.

Cloister Club

Cloister Club meets in term time on Sundays 10am-10.45am, during part of the main Sunday morning service. If you have children who are not choristers, they are welcome to join Cloister Club for activities based around that morning's readings.

Cloister Club is overseen by Kathryn Timms with support from volunteers:

kathryn.timms@exeter-cathedral.org.uk



Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation

All who attend regular worship, and their children, are welcome to be Baptized and Confirmed at the Cathedral. Baptisms may take place during Sunday services, or as a stand-alone-service at other times. Confirmation is offered to children in Year 7 and above at one of two Confirmation services each year. Confirmation classes are run each year as advertised.

The next Confirmation services are on Sunday 24 November 2024 and 11 May 2025 at 10am. Choristers in years 7 and 8 are encouraged to be confirmed, siblings and other family members may also be Confirmed. If you would like to know more about Confirmation, do contact [**james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk**](mailto:james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

If you would like to arrange a baptism, please contact:
[**liturgy@exeter-cathedral.org.uk**](mailto:liturgy@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

Children (including Choristers) in Years 3 to 6 may be admitted to Holy Communion if they are, or plan to be, baptised. This follows a short course of preparation.

Adults or children (including choristers) of another denomination (eg. Methodist or Roman Catholic), are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Cathedral if they receive communion in their home church.

Spiritual enquiry and learning

Courses and occasional classes run throughout the year, and all parents are welcome to join in them. All of the clergy will be happy to discuss matters of faith or religion with you. Information will be in our weekly service booklets, online and in the Cathedral Life newsletter.

“Open House”

The Precentor has an “open house” for parents who would like to ask questions about faith, worship, religion, music (or any general discussion!).

Pastoral and Spiritual Care and Reporting Concerns

Chorister families are part of our Community. We are available for pastoral care. The Precentor has pastoral responsibility for the Choir and its families and there is an additional Pastoral Care Team, whom you are free to contact. Details are below:

I'd like to talk to someone. Who do I approach?

- The Precentor **james.mustard@exeter-cathedral.org.uk** or
- The Chancellor **deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk**

I'd like someone to be prayed for in the Cathedral

- Our prayer list is updated weekly by Canon Morter. A printed list is in all our orders of service. You may ask for someone to be prayed for without them going in print.
- In all cases, please contact **ian.morter@exeter-cathedral.org.uk**

Can I speak to someone in confidence?

- All of the clergy may be spoken to in confidence. In the first instance, and if it feels appropriate, it is best to go to the Precentor or Chancellor.

I'm concerned about something or someone at the Cathedral. To whom do I go?

- If it is a Safeguarding Concern (possible abuse or neglect or a child or vulnerable adult), go to any member of the clergy, or contact the Safeguarding Advisor on 01392 294969. If it is an urgent concern, call the Police on 999.
- If it is another concern (eg. Bullying, Harassment, Discrimination) you may use the complaints procedure: bit.ly/ec-complaints

Getting involved

The Cathedral has many opportunities for you to be more involved. Chorister Parents have been, and are:

- Tour guides
- Sidesmen (welcoming to services)
- Stewards for concerts and events
- Servers (assisting at services)
- Chaperones (parents assist at larger services or concerts)

To find out more about volunteering at the Cathedral, and contacts, please see this webpage:

bit.ly/ec-volunteering and contact
volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Choir Tours

The Choir aims to go on tour every other year, taking girl and boy Choristers from years 7 and 8. The Dean & Chapter Choir Tours Fund covers the cost of the tour but it relies upon fundraising by the Choir Association and others.

Cathedral Choir Association

The Cathedral Choir Association exists to work with the Dean & Chapter of Exeter Cathedral and its employees and Exeter Cathedral School to promote the interests of those children who are Choristers (including Probationary Choristers) of Exeter Cathedral, and to encourage the corporate life of the whole choir, including the Chorister parents.

These objects are furthered by

- Enrichment of the Choristers' experience (i.e. "treats" or gifts).
- The organisation of social and other functions to encourage fellowship within and between choir members.
- The raising of funds for expenditure on projects nominated by the Association, the Chapter, the Department of Liturgy and Music (e.g. tours) and approved by a meeting of the Association.

There is an Annual Meeting of the Association (not less than two weeks notice in writing is given to members). The meeting is convened and Chaired by the member of Chapter (usually the Canon Precentor) with designated responsibility for the Cathedral Choir Association, or, in his or her absence, by a deputy appointed by the Dean. The Honorary Secretary of the Association shall maintain a list of all members eligible to attend.

The business of the annual meeting shall be:

- To receive any reports from the Chapter or Department of Liturgy and Music regarding the business of the Association.

- To receive a statement of the Association's finances from the Dean and Chapter.
- To carry out elections in accordance with this Constitution.

Association Events:

- Holy Saturday Sports (the day before Easter Day!)
 - This is held in memory of a former chorister.
 - It takes place at the Exe Bridges Sports Centre and is sometimes followed with a Bring-And-Share picnic lunch.
- Occasional Lunches - after Installations or at the end of the year.
- Christmas Day Lunch - held in Exeter Cathedral School and subsidised by the school and Cathedral.

Fundraising:

- The profit of one pre-Christmas Concert goes to the Choir Association fund.
- The profit from the January/February Candlelight concert (2025 date tbc) goes to the tour fund.

Other fundraising events recently organised by the Association:

- A Pub Quiz in the Nave was a great innovation in 2024!
- Parents hosted a Cèilidh in 2023 in aid of the Choir Tour Fund.

Gifts:

- The association organises gifts for leaving choristers and occasional gifts for other people connected with the Choristers.

Membership

The Members of the Exeter Cathedral Choir Association are:

- Parents with the benefit of Parental Responsibility and the appointed legally recognised caregivers of current Choristers.
- Current adult members of the choir (Choral Scholars and Lay Vicars).

- Such membership shall commence on the entry of the child concerned or adult member to the Cathedral Choir and shall lapse at the AGM following the end of the child's Choristership or an adult's scholarship or appointment [ie when s/he leaves the choir], and these said members will be eligible to attend the said AGM.

The members of the Cathedral Chapter, the Cathedral Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, Organ Scholar, and a nominated representative of the Chorister Chaperone Team are *ex-officio* members of the Association, as are the Cathedral School Head, and one other nominated member of the Cathedral School Staff (normally the Chorister Tutor).

The Committee

The committee meets approximately every month, at 8.15am after morning drop-off.

The Association's meetings are chaired by the Canon Precentor.

- Honorary Secretary
- Member with responsibility for Financial Liaison with Dean and Chapter
- Four further Members (one of whom should be an adult singer in the choir), leading on social events, fundraising and planning.

Communication

The Choir Association maintains a Telegram group (the app can be downloaded from the app store). The Committee Secretary will add you to the group if you wish. Social events and urgent updates are circulated to this group. To be added to this group please email Sydney Nash, Choir Association Secretary:

cas@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Map of Exeter Cathedral

