

## St. George's Church Choir.

The Choir sings at the Parish Eucharist (10.15am) and at Sung Evensong (4pm/6.30pm) which take place most weeks with occasional variations, Choral Evensong is sung on the last Sunday in each month.

### The Junior Choir:

The trebles sing at the 10.15am Sunday morning Eucharist, all weddings at which a choir has been requested and at a quite a number of other choral services throughout the year. More often than not the trebles join the adults to sing at Choral Evensong on the last Sunday of each month during term time.

St. George's is fortunate enough to be able to pay each Chorister a small fee each month for their hard work and attendance at Choir practice and Sunday Services.

Our Junior Choristers work towards the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Voice for Life Award Medal Scheme. This enables the juniors to learn how to read music, and all aspects of singing in a church choir.

Since the re-introduction of Children into the Choir in 2012 around 15 Children have held Junior Choristerships at St. George's Church.

### The Adult Choir:

The Adult Choir is made up of approx. 20 singers who provide music at the 10.15am and 4pm/ 6.30pm Sunday Services each week. Most members sing at both Sunday Services whilst some only sing at either the morning Service or Evening Services.

They include Sopranos, Altos/Countertenors, Tenors and Basses who sing a wide variety of music from early plainsong through to modern worship songs.

Over recent years the Church has run a Choral Scholarship scheme thanks to funding from the John Pilling Trust. We have just secured funding for the next couple of years for 4 Choral Scholarships. Previously, Scholars have Come from Stockport Grammar School and Stockport School. Some have gone on to forge careers in Church Music, as Cathedral Lay Clerks and Church Organists, whilst others have begun careers as musicians in Secular Music and musical theatre for example.

Being a member of St. George's Choir offers a wonderful opportunity to sing in the fantastic space that is St. George's Church, Stockport with a friendly and supportive group of like-minded people. Like the Junior Choristers, adult numbers are steadily growing and have been doing so for some time. Over the last 10 years membership of the Choir has doubled from what it was when the previous Director of Music was appointed.

Choristers are proud of their hard work and the choir has always aimed to perform to a high standard and has played a vital part in the Church's history over many years.

It's clear to see, and hear, that the foundation stones are in place for the Choir to take the next step, under the right leadership, to become one of the leading Church Choirs in the surrounding area.

James Hibbert  
Organ Scholar (& Acting Director of Music).

### The Junior Choir are looking for:

Someone who

- ❖ Is entertaining and fun
- ❖ Can help us when we're stuck
- ❖ Is patient, kind and caring
- ❖ Is honest – if we're not doing our best
- ❖ Is happy and not always in a grump
- ❖ Is bubbly, smart and intelligent
- ❖ Always likes to try new things
- ❖ Is understanding
- ❖ Is focussed and gives 100%
- ❖ Might try different instruments to sing to
- ❖ Is experienced and have sung in a choir themselves
- ❖ Is qualified
- ❖ Is inspirational and is interested in us and encouraging
- ❖ Understands everybody
- ❖ Is always on time
- ❖ Does extra curricular and social things out of church
- ❖ Can teach children to play the piano or other instruments
- ❖ Makes us feel comfortable

## The Singing Group

The singing group has been providing a more modern slant to our worship for over 12 years. The group ranges from about 8 to 15 singers, depending on availability. Singers are not auditioned, but have a real enjoyment in singing. Some singers have significant other choral experience, while others have more limited training in music reading and theory and learn more by ear. One or two regular singers also sing in the choir.

The group leads the singing at All Age services which are held on the second Sunday of every month (with the exception of Remembrance weekend). There is a rehearsal on the morning of the service at 9:15am in the choir vestry and all the music for that day is rehearsed then. During the service, the group sits in the first 2/3 pews in the nave and turns round to face the congregation when they are singing. They are not robed.

Musical programming to date has been largely based on Common Praise (melody and harmony books are available) and Sing Praise (melody copies available) with occasional items taken from other resources such as the Source and Songs of Fellowship, together with music from Iona and Taize. The group can sing straightforward harmonies in eg well-known hymns, but in the main, it sings in unison, or with a simple descant or similar. One of the singers currently plays the piano for items which require it, when free to do so. The director of music (or the organist available on the day) usually plays the organ for other items in All Age services.

The singing group also takes part in wider church events – providing informal carols during the Christmas Tree festival and forming the backbone of a team which goes carol singing around the parish shortly before Christmas. In the past, the group has also taken a major lead in musical productions of Jonah and the Whale and Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat which formed part of church festivals. Some members of the group have also appreciated occasional participation in choir events, such as carol services and special Easter services.

The role of musical director of the singing group is vacant from January 2018.

## Handbells

The St George's handbells were made by the Whitechapel foundry shortly after the tower bells were cast, and comprise four chromatic octaves (49 bells). The handbell group was formed after the bells were re-discovered in the bell tower, where they had been neglected and forgotten about for many years.

The bells have now been renovated and the group plays at Taize services and occasionally at other services, in addition to making an annual appearance at the Christmas Tree festival and at the Christmas carol service. In addition, the group has played for local Trefoil and other church groups.

The group presently comprises 12 players (including two under-18s). The group does not presently meet on a regular day or time, but works out rehearsal times for each project.

The majority of the repertoire involves simple colour coded folk songs and carols on 12 bells in a diatonic scale for six players with two bells in hand. It remains our ambition to grow the group, which would allow us to attempt more complex repertoire involving two or three octaves, with players taking charge of three or four bells to include accidentals, which is presently possible only on an occasional basis. A greater range of repertoire would also increase the possibilities for performance.

## Taize Services at St. George's Stockport

These occasional services have been occurring during the last ten years and take place at 6.30pm or 4.00pm depending on the time of year. They replace Evensong that day. Currently there are 4 services planned for this year including Remembrance, and Monday of Holy Week. We use the space at the front of the Church around the Nave altar.

The service is in the Taize style using chants, readings, and prayers. It is a quiet reflective service. The whole service is presented on paper for everyone present, with the music (SATB as piano score) included and also a designated time of ten minutes of silence. The congregation are invited to sing as they wish or sit and reflect. There is an opportunity to light a candle during one of the chants. A member of the clergy team is always present. The Lord's Prayer is always included but there is no statement of faith and no sermon.

The service usually begins with some music from the handbell group. They also play a quiet chant or hymn during the service.

A group of 4 instrumentalists from the congregation lead the vocal chants by playing the piano, violin, viola and recorder. They also sing. Other instrumentalists have been involved and are welcome. The DOM is welcome to be part of this service through planning and or performance.

The readings are sourced from the Taize Prayer for the Day and the chants are selected to support these.

Janet Neilson November 2017

## St George's Stockport – Specification of the present organ

### Great

1.	Bourdon	16'
2.	Open Diapason I	8'
3.	Open Diapason II	8'
4.	Stopped Diapason	8'
5.	Octave	4'
6.	Harmonic Flute	4'
7.	Twelfth	2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> '
8.	Fifteenth	2'
9.	Blockflute	2'
10.	Sesquialtera	II
11.	Mixture	IV
12.	Posaune	8'
13.	Clarion	4'

i	Great Reed Sub-Octave
ii	Choir to Great
iii	Swell to Great
iv	Great & Pedal combined

### Swell (enclosed)

14.	Bourdon	16'
15.	Open Diapason	8'
16.	Salicional	8'
17.	Voix Celeste	8'
18.	Stopped Diapason	8'
19.	Principal	4'
20.	Flute	4'
21.	Fifteenth	2'
22.	Mixture	III
23.	Double Trumpet	16'
24.	Cornocean	8'
25.	Oboe	8'
26.	Vox Humana	8'
27.	Clarion	4'

v	Tremulant
vi	Octave

Electro pneumatic action  
 Drawstop console  
 Re-settable combination thumb and foot pistons  
 Manual compass 61 notes  
 Pedal compass 30 notes

### Choir (enclosed)

28.	Stopped Diapason	8'
29.	Principal	4'
30.	Lieblich Flute	4'
31.	Nazard	2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> '
32.	Flautino	2'
33.	Tierce	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>5</sub> '
34.	Larigot	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub> '
35.	Krummhorn	8'
36.	Tuba (unenclosed) (D)	8'

vii	Tremulant
viii	Swell to Choir

### Pedal

37.	Double Open Diapason (A)	32'
38.	Open Diapason (A)	16'
39.	Violone	16'
40.	Bourdon (B)	16'
41.	Principal (A)	8'
42.	Octave	8'
43.	Flute (B)	8'
44.	Prestant (A)	4'
45.	Octave Flute (B)	4'
46.	Twenty-second	2'
47.	Mixture	III
48.	Contra Trombone (C)	32'
49.	Ophicleide (D)	16'
50.	Trombone (C)	16'
51.	Tuba (from Choir) (D)	8'
52.	Trumpet (C)	8'
53.	Clarion (C)	4'

ix	Choir to Pedal
x	Great to Pedal
xi	Swell to Pedal

### Pedal extensions:

(A)	Open Diapason rank
(B)	Bourdon / Flute rank
(C)	Trombone / Trumpet rank
(D)	Ophicleide / Tuba rank