

Mellor Church Choir trip to St Paul's Cathedral

Date: Monday 21st February 2022

Rehearsals

Please note that as full attendance as possible for rehearsals from now on is important so that we can be best prepared for the day. We must go to the Cathedral fully musically prepared. The available warm up time in the cathedral 'Choir Practice Room' and rehearsal in the Quire are used merely for fine tuning and getting accustomed to singing in the Cathedral where we will be further apart from each other and further from the organ as well as singing in a hugely bigger acoustic.

Friday 4th 6.30pm Trebles, 7.30pm Full 8.30pm finish

Friday 11th 6.30pm Trebles, 7.30pm Full 8.30pm finish

Sunday 13th 'Dress rehearsal' Choral Evensong. Rehearsal 4.45pm, Evensong 6.30pm – this is a full run of all the music for St Paul's Cathedral (we are there just 8 days later). As full attendance as possible is needed with correct robes at this evensong. Don't forget to take home robes before St. Paul's.

Schedule for the 21st February

06.15 Meet at the bus-turning by the recreation ground in Mellor and load the coach (all robes to be in clearly named suit-carriers please).

06.30 Coach departs

Coach stops at services for breakfast stop

12.00 Arrive St. Paul's, Go to North West Crypt Entrance. clear security (baggage check and signing in for choir), unpack coach, have packed lunch or visit local food shops (Crypt Café still closed).

13.30-14.30 Rehearsal in Choir Practice Room (No food or drink allowed in here)

14.30-15.15 Free time to explore the Cathedral (Organist rehearsal time)

15.15 Robe in cassocks, black shoes, pick up music and be ready seated in the Quire stalls.

Move everything out of Choir Practice Room to the Dean's Aisle – we are not returning
NB it takes 10mins to relocate from Choir Practice Room to the Quire Stalls.

15.30 Rehearsal starts in Quire Stalls robed in cassocks (no surplices). No mobiles.

16.00 Pause for prayers

16.15 Choir rehearses responses with Officiant followed by processional rehearsal with Virgins.

16:25 Choir group photo.

16.30 Quire vacated. Supporters gather under the North side of the dome by 4.40pm to be seated by the Vigils.

16.35 Dean's Aisle / Crypt for toilet and robe. No access to Choir Practice Room.

16.50 Choir line up in silence in the Dean's Aisle facing West waiting for vestry prayer.

17.00 Evensong starts

18.00 Evensong finishes, load coach and depart

Coach stops at service station for dinner stop

23.30 Arrive back in Mellor

Things to bring

Beautifully cleaned and ironed robes in suit-carrier clearly labelled with chorister's name.

Polished black shoes and black socks

Pencil

Money for breakfast/dinner stops on coach.

Packed lunch or money for food in shops around St Paul's.

Book/phone/DVDs for entertainment on the coach (phones off during rehearsals/service)

Music

The music we are singing for the service is:

Leighton responses

Psalm 119 v.129-144 (Soaper, Jones)

Murrill in E

Do not be afraid (Stopford)

The music will be collected together in folders after the Evensong on 13th December and transported on the coach. Please DO NOT take any music separately away now. All music is scanned and available on the members section of the choir website (If you are not a member yet, please visit the site and Oscar or myself will let you on when you apply): www.mellorchurchchoir.co.uk.

St Paul's Cathedral

It is a real privilege for the choir to be invited to lead choral worship in one of the world's greatest churches which is used to host many national occasions. It is especially good that we are visiting when our own Ben Collyer is Organ Scholar. St Paul's Cathedral has been present on its site in one form or another for over 1,400 years. It has been built and rebuilt five times, but its main purpose has always been a place of worship and prayer. Music is an integral part of the worshipping tradition of the cathedral which is led either by the Cathedral's own choir or visiting choirs (like us) from throughout the world.

Congregations, behaviour, guests and reserved seats

Due to its profile and history, the Cathedral usually hosts congregations of many hundreds at a weekday Evensong. Because it is extremely easy to see any activity going on in the quire stalls and around the Cathedral, the Cathedral ask politely that choirs act sensibly and appropriately at all times. Please bring this to the attention of younger choristers especially as we are not used to being so much on display being unusually sited at home at the back of the church. No running, no shouting, no talking/eating/drinking in the stalls etc.

Those guests with reserved seats should make themselves known to the vergers before the service and will be conducted straight to their seats, without needing to queue. Guests should aim to arrive for 16.40. Other guests will be seated with the rest of the congregation.

Dress code

Choir members must wear their security pass badges at all times. For the choir – full robes in best condition with polished black shoes and black socks. It is as important that we look the part as it is that we sing well. Hair should be tidy and out of the way. Any ribbons needed in hair to be white. Please could gentlemen wear a white shirt and tie under their robes. Further cathedral rules: Shoes should be flat or have a small heel of up to one inch. High heels, boots and sandals are not permitted. Bags, water bottles, etc. should never be carried in procession.

Recordings and photographs

Unauthorised audio and video-recording of services and rehearsals in the Cathedral is strictly forbidden. Attempts to film or record a service covertly on a mobile device often prove extremely distracting to choir, clergy and congregation.

Photographs are not allowed to be taken at any time during the service. I will ask when a group photograph may be taken (possibly following the rehearsal in the Quire before the service). The choir will not be allowed to return into the Cathedral following the service – it closes at 6pm. It is suggested

that outside the West end of the cathedral is a good place to meet (covered) or wherever the coach will be picking us up (to be confirmed)

Facilities in the Crypt

There are toilets at the west end of the crypt (opposite shop).

The Cathedral Shop is open until 5pm.

The Crypt Café is open until 5pm and serves tea, coffee, snacks and light meals.

Safeguarding

We have to follow both our own and the Cathedral's safeguarding policies (which I have signed up to).

Any safeguarding concerns must be reported to me as nominated safeguarding lead for the trip straight away. Children will stay in groups during free time in service stations and at the Cathedral.

The Choir Practice Room

The Choir Practice Room is available for rehearsal and robing. Members of the public (including family and friends of the Choir) are not allowed to use this room. In the CPR you will find a water dispenser and ample toilet facilities. There are some very strict rules which we ask you to observe as this space is the private working room of the Cathedral Choir:

i. Please do not bring food or drink into the Choir Practice Room.

ii. Please do not move any furniture.

iii. Please do not touch or move any music, including the library boxes on shelving around the walls.

iv. Please leave the room tidy. A senior member of the choir must check that there is no rubbish left in the room and that everything is as it was when you arrived.

The Cathedral say: "We regret that failure to follow these rules may mean that we will be unable to invite your choir back to sing at St. Paul's."

Looking forward to a great trip.

Best wishes,

Tom Howling

Director of Music, St. Thomas' Church, Mellor.