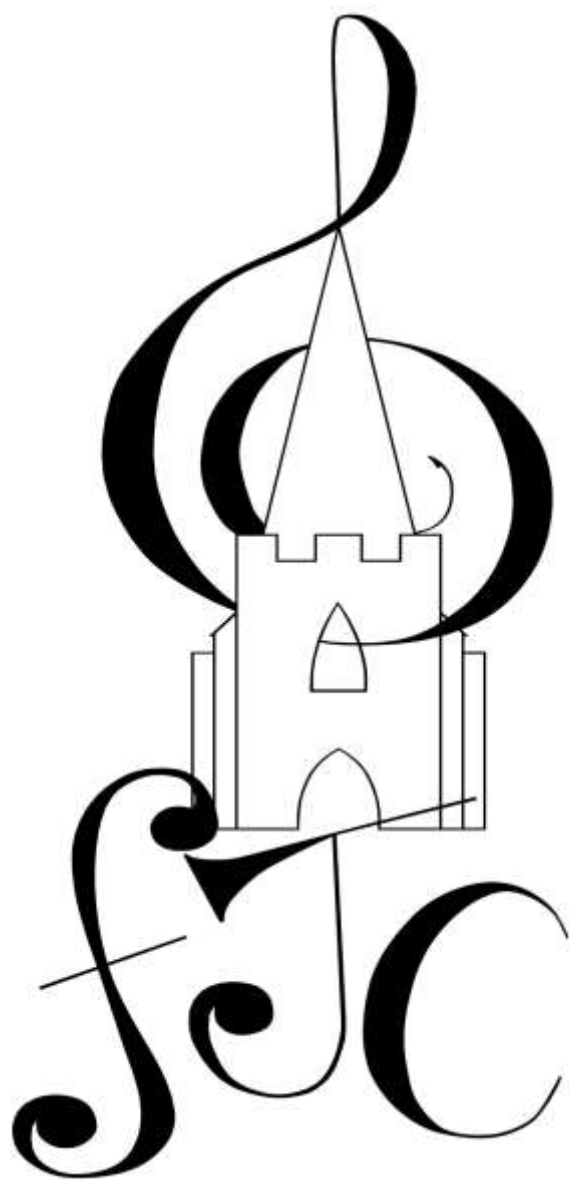


Frenchay Junior Choir



A guide for singers and parents

WELCOME

Welcome to Frenchay Junior Choir and the community of St John the Baptist Church Frenchay. We aim to make your time in the choir as happy and fulfilling as possible. This guide tells you the key things you need to know.

Becoming a member of Frenchay Junior choir brings exciting opportunities and I hope together we can have fun, friendship and enjoyment as we worship together.

JOINING THE CHOIR

Anyone aged 7-11 can join the choir. There are no auditions. All you need is the willingness to sing, learn some new things and attend both rehearsals and services regularly.

There is no membership fee. Music, robes, workbooks and singing coaching will be provided without charge. In return, singers are asked to take part in the worshipping life of our church through singing in services and other special occasions. There are also opportunities for trips and special events some of which raise funds to sustain the choir for the benefit of future members.

REHEARSALS

6:15pm - 7:20pm on Fridays during school term-time. This will include singing coaching through the Voice for Life scheme.

Please bring a water bottle with you in case you need a drink. Parents are welcome to watch the rehearsals.

Services

The main occasion during which FJC members sing at the church gathering is at the 10:30am All-Age Service on the first and third Sundays of each month. Once singers have gained some experience of all-age services, they will be invited to sing with the adult choir for a second 10:30am service each month.

There is a warm-up from 10:00-10:15am for these services. During the year, there are also several events, including:

- Christmas Carols by Candlelight
- Summer Concert

ATTENDANCE

Singers are asked to arrive at least 5-10 minutes before the start time so that rehearsals may begin promptly.

Please come to rehearsal as often as you can, singing for at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of Friday rehearsals and Sunday service performances each term.

ABSENCE

One singer's unanticipated absence can change the balance of a rehearsal or service. Don't underestimate the importance of your individual contribution to the choir.

Parents/guardians, please contact the Junior Choir Trainer in advance if you know you will be away, and mark "AWAY" in the signing-in register. In the event of falling ill on the day, please notify the choir leader directly.

WEDDINGS

Couples who are getting married may ask for the Junior and Adult Choirs to sing at their wedding. When this happens, singers who have passed the Voice for Life White level and met the minimum attendance level will be invited to sing.

A small fee will be paid to choristers, based on each singer's progression through the Voice for Life scheme.

MUSIC

All music will be provided to you on loan. Please return it when asked, or when you leave the choir.

DRESS

For services on the 1st Sunday of each month please wear a choir T-shirt (which you may purchase) with black trousers and smart black shoes. Jewellery should be discreet, necklaces should be avoided, and long hair should be tied back.

On cold days (particularly during winter months), we recommend wearing another T-shirt underneath the choir T-shirt.

For other services we will provide a choir robe to wear, and once singers have passed the White Level of "Voice for Life" a surplice will be presented. RSCM "Voice for Life" ribbons may be worn where the relevant tests have been passed. All these items will be issued on loan, and they should be returned when you leave the choir. If you grow too big for the robe, it will be exchanged for a larger size. Please wear smart black shoes with your robe.

HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

We want the choir to be fulfilling, friendly and fun! To make this happen we ask each other to:

- Arrive on time for all rehearsals and services prepared to give your best
- Listen to the Junior Choir Trainer and Director of Music, following all instructions.
- Avoid talking to each other during rehearsals and Services
- Take care of our own and others, property

- Treat everyone with respect
- Avoid eating or chewing during rehearsals and services
- Keep mobile phones switched off during rehearsals and services
- Ask for help if you or other singers near you are finding anything difficult
- Tell the Junior Choir Trainer or Director of Music if you have any concerns

SAFEGUARDING

Frenchay Junior Choir is committed to safeguarding and the wellbeing of all singers. A copy of the Frenchay Church Safeguarding Policy and Procedures can be found on the church website.

Parents/Guardians, to help us look after your children, please ensure that you:

- Sign-in/out your child before/after each rehearsal and service
- Tell the Junior Choir Trainer if your emergency contact details change
- Tell the Junior Choir Trainer if your child's medical conditions change
- Reconfirm your emergency contact and medical condition information annually at the start of each academic year
- Complete the Photographs permission slip (on joining the choir)
- Return permission slips for special events when necessary

PARKING

Parking space is limited at the church on Sundays, and so we ask parents/guardians to park outside the church grounds to allow the spaces near the door to be used by the disabled.

For Friday rehearsals, please take care with both parking and walking from the church door to the car when collecting children, as adult choir members may be arriving for their rehearsal.

PROMOTION TO SENIOR CHORISTER

As members of Frenchay Junior Choir grow in skill and experience they will be invited to gain promotion to Senior Chorister. This will typically occur at around age 11, with the precise timing being discussed between the Junior Choir Trainer, Director of Music and parents/guardians.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Further information on both Frenchay Junior Choir and Frenchay Adult choir is available on the church website at: www.frenchaychurch.org.uk

The choir is also on Facebook (Frenchay Church Choirs) and Twitter (@Frenchaychoir). Please follow us!

Both the website and Facebook page include details of rehearsal and service rotas, special events, and the latest music lists.

CHOIR SUPPORT GROUP

A Choir Support Group consisting of Parent Representatives and Voice Part Representatives from the adult choir assists with the running of the music programme. This group meets 3 times per year, and Parent Representatives serve for a 2-year term. Nominations are sought towards the end of the summer term in preparation for the next academic year.

KEY CONTACTS

Junior Choir Trainer: fjc@frenchaychurch.org.uk

Director of Music: music@frenchaychurch.org.uk

Safeguarding Coordinator: Ed Allingham
safeguarding@frenchaychurch.org.uk

Rector: Rev Charles Sugden
revcharles@frenchaychurch.org.uk

www.frenchaychurch.org.uk