



# Choral Scholar

Application Pack 2026



# The Parish Church



**St Paul's is a thriving parish and civic church set in the heart of Bedford town centre. The church plays a threefold role within the community: as the Civic and County Church of Bedfordshire; as a centre of worship and prayer for its congregation; and as a focus of ministry to those visiting Bedford town centre and those living in its own parish.**

**We are an inclusive church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful and which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation.**

## Music

Saint Paul's Parish Church has a rich history of music dating back many years. The choir, made up of volunteers, sings regularly at the Sunday Eucharist alongside additional services such as evensong, major feast days and civic services for the town, county and borough.

The church also hosts regular recitals and concerts, and a major draw is the longstanding Tuesday lunchtime recital series as well as monthly Saturday organ recitals, both of which host musicians from across the United Kingdom.

The Music Department is currently looking to develop its choir and becoming a choral scholar is an educational and enjoyable way to be part of the church's musical history.

# About the scholarship

St Paul's is offering eight choral scholarships for all voice types, perfect for someone who wants to grow their singing skills and become a more confident musician.

Open to students studying in school years 10–13 and undergraduate degree students, this is a chance to be part of a welcoming choir and community while exploring a wide range of choral music. This scholarship is designed to give performance and educational experience to young musicians who love singing and want to push themselves further with regular performance opportunities. It is also a perfect opportunity to develop your abilities in a choral setting should you be thinking about applying for a university scholarship in the future.

We are committed to supporting all Choral Scholars in their musical development. This includes guidance on vocal technique, ensemble singing, and performance skills, delivered within a structured and encouraging environment. Scholars will have the opportunity to build confidence, develop musicianship, and gain valuable experience in a choral setting.

As a Choral Scholar you will sing regularly at Sunday services with additional services at the major festivals including Christmas and Easter. You will also take part in extra services throughout the year including the Advent Carol Service, Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day, as well as civic services such as the High Sheriff's Justice Service.

**The position offers an honorarium of £250 per term**

## Description

<b>Key Purpose</b>	To assist in the worship of Christian life at the church by singing in regular services. This also includes attending regular and necessary rehearsals.
<b>Location</b>	St Pauls Church, Bedford
<b>Main Duties</b>	To prepare for and sing at services as part of the church's schedule. This will be a minimum of three Friday evening rehearsals (6-7pm) and three Sunday Eucharist (10:15am) services per month. To sing in any additional services within the church calendar, as agreed with the Director of Music, such as Ash Wednesday and the Christmas Carol Service.

## Who is this for?

The scholarship is for those who demonstrate a good level of ability and experience as a singer. They would also be comfortable reading music notation. Successful applicants must be capable of singing Sunday choral services three times a month. Experience of singing choral music is desirable but not essential for this role.

Successful applicants must be organised and have an ability to work collaboratively with other members of the Music Department. They will also be keen to learn new repertoire and develop their singing abilities.

Whilst you do not have to be a Christian to be a Choral Scholar, we do ask that you are sympathetic to the Christian faith.

## How to apply

The application form is at [www.stpaulschurchbedford.org/choralscholarship](http://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org/choralscholarship). Please return completed application forms to Adam Wright, Director of Music, at [music@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk](mailto:music@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk).

If you have any questions or would like a conversation about the scholarship, please do feel free to email.

Applicants who are invited for audition will be asked to perform a piece of their choosing, a short aural test and a sight-reading exercise.

## Safeguarding

St Paul's Church is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community. We work to:

- Promote a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others