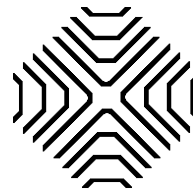


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The parish of  
**St Peter and All Saints**  
Nottingham

*From the Organist & Director of Music*  
**Peter Siepmann** PhD FRCO LRSM

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## Information for singers interested in joining **The Choir of St Peter's Nottingham**



*St Peter's Choir at Wells Cathedral*

St Peter's Church stands in the heart of the city of Nottingham, open seven days a week, offering worship, spiritual guidance, or just peace and quiet amidst the hustle and bustle of Nottingham's busy streets. There is a long-standing choral tradition at St Peter's, developed by musicians such as Vincent Trivett (Organist, 1906-1947) and Kendrick Partington (Organist, 1957-1994). Today, the church choir, which is as renowned for its friendliness and warmth of welcome as it is for its high musical standards, can be heard singing in the parish every Sunday. As well as leading services at St Peter's throughout the year, the choir often sings in churches and cathedrals across the UK and abroad; particularly noteworthy visits of recent years have included those to Paris, Cologne, Riga, Westminster Abbey and many of the UK's major cathedrals. St Peter's employs a professional musician as Organist & Director of Music (since 2007, [Dr Peter Siepmann](#)), and the membership of the choir combines a number of students and recent graduates from the city's two universities with volunteer singers from around the city and county. Though an amateur ensemble, the choir produces what the Nottingham Post has termed an "outstanding standard of music-making", thanks to the commitment and hard work of its members.



## Routine & Commitment

The full choir sings one service each Sunday (either morning or evening, either at St Peter's or at the sister church of All Saints' on Raleigh Street), and rehearses each Friday evening (7-8.30pm). The general monthly routine is as follows:

First Sunday of the month	10.45am	<b>Matins</b> at St Peter's
Second Sunday of the month	10.45am	<i>Sung Eucharist (organ and/or soloist) at St Peter's</i>
	6pm	<b>Evensong</b> at All Saints'
Third Sunday of the month	10.45am	<b>Sung Eucharist</b> at St Peter's
Fourth Sunday of the month	10.45am	<b>Sung Eucharist</b> at St Peter's
	6pm	<i>Compline (small choir) at All Saints'</i>
Fifth Sunday of the month	10.45am	<i>Sung Eucharist (organ and/or soloist or small choir) at St Peter's</i>

In addition to this general routine, there are a number of special services on certain feast days (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, etc.). As well as the parish duties described above, the choir has a long tradition of regular trips to cathedrals both in the UK and abroad, and occasional concert performances too. All singers are heartily encouraged to take full advantage of all of these wonderful opportunities!

Choristers are expected to be able to sing most weekends (term-time only for students), but it is recognised that volunteer singers may not be able to be present 100% of the time, and there is a simple online system for indicating planned absence.



*The Director of Music accompanying Durufle Requiem on Remembrance Sunday*

## Repertoire

The choir tackles a broad variety of music from plainsong and renaissance polyphony to Romantic and contemporary works from across the world. The selection of liturgies described above gives rise to an engaging range of music from the Anglican repertoire (including psalmody). Repertoire for a typical month is shown here:

<b>Matins</b> (first Sunday of the month)	<i>Responses</i> Clucas <i>Te Deum in C</i> Stanford <i>Ubi caritas</i> Gjeilo
<b>Evensong</b> (second Sunday of the month)	<i>Responses</i> Shephard <i>Collegium Regale</i> Howells <i>The Secret of Christ</i> Shephard
<b>Sung Eucharist</b> (third Sunday of the month)	<i>Missa Brevis (K,S,A)</i> Imogen Holst <i>O sacrum convivium</i> Tallis
<b>Sung Eucharist</b> (fourth Sunday of the month)	<i>Mass for four voices (K,S,A)</i> Byrd <i>Teach me, O Lord</i> Byrd

## Vocal Tutor

St Peter's employs a professional Vocal Tutor to work on a one-to-one basis with members of the choir (on a rota basis during Friday evening rehearsals). These carefully tailored sessions are invaluable opportunities to work on vocal technique with an experienced vocal coach.

## Student Choristers

Students have played an important part of the choir for many years, and are warmly welcomed. Students in full-time education are paid a travel allowance for each weekend (Friday + Sunday) that they sing (the allowance equates to the cost of two student rate 24-hour bus tickets, and will be paid termly).

An additional sum of £250 per year will be offered (at point of audition, and subject to half a term's probationary period) to particularly advanced singers able to take on a leadership role within their section, and willing to commit to singing every weekend during term time (with two weekends off – agreed with the Director of Music – each term).

Although cathedral visits and tours, etc. are not covered by either of these arrangements, additional funding is available for such occasions.



*In rehearsal for a concert at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Nottingham*

## Audition Requirements

Prospective singers are invited to join the choir for a Friday rehearsal, followed by a short and informal audition with the Director of Music, who will be looking for the following attributes:

Attribute	Essential/Desirable	Means of assessment
A clear, pleasant tone of voice and a good sense of intonation	E	Singing through a piece of choral repertoire sent to the auditionee a week before their audition
A reasonable ability to project	D	
The ability to learn new music quickly	E	
The ability to respond to advice	E	Some brief work on the prepared piece
Vocal range		Scale exercises
The ability to sing music at sight	D	Singing through an unfamiliar piece (with accompaniment)
A positive and friendly approach	E	A short conversation about choral singing, the appeal of St Peter's Choir, past experience, etc.



*St Peter's Church is a member of the Inclusive Church network, and as such we welcome enquiries from prospective singers regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.*

## Further Information

More about the choir, including recent music lists, recordings, etc. can be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Director of Music is always very pleased to hear from prospective choristers via [email](#).

Or, of course, come along to a service!

