



## CHESTER CATHEDRAL

# **INFORMATION FOR VISITING CHOIRS**

### **Introduction**

The Dean and Chapter of Chester are immensely grateful to all visiting choirs who sing services when the Cathedral Choir is absent. Your contribution ensures that the Opus Dei – our continual offering of worship to God – continues uninterrupted and we hope that your visit to Chester Cathedral is most enjoyable.

This booklet is intended to give you as much information as possible about your visit and should be read carefully. Any further enquiries should be directed to Alexander Lanigan-Palotai, the Cathedral's Sub-Organist, at [alex.lanigan-palotai@chestercathedral.com](mailto:alex.lanigan-palotai@chestercathedral.com).

### **Livestreaming**

Chester Cathedral streams the majority of sung services during choir term-time. Whilst this may not be the case over the summer period, **both sung services on Sundays will still be streamed**. Please be in touch with the Sub-Organist if you have any concerns/questions about the streaming of our services.

### **Booking Procedure**

We will send you this booklet and the Cathedral's Safeguarding Handbook after an initial inquiry. Please complete and return the following forms, which can be found in this booklet's appendices:

- Visiting Choir Booking Form
- Child Protection form

*(N.B. The booking is considered "confirmed" only when we have received these completed forms.)*

We will also send you the repertoire forms for the services that you will be singing.

<b>Form(s) with details of your music <u>must</u> be completed and returned at least <b>FOUR WEEKS BEFORE</b> your visit in order that full details can be printed on the monthly music scheme.</b>
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Upon receipt of the above-mentioned repertoire forms, we will contact you to check all arrangements, to give you details of hymns, once these have been chosen, and to confirm rehearsal times.

## **Repertoire**

This should be both liturgically appropriate and well within the abilities of the choir. It is worth bearing in mind that rehearsal time is limited, and your chosen music should reflect this; it is much better to choose simple music that the choir can sing well, rather than more complex music. The music chosen should – as far as possible - come from the standard Anglican choral repertoire. We reserve the right to request changes of repertoire for any good reason (e.g. duplication by another choir).

Please note that introits are not sung at Chester Cathedral, nor final responses.

Visiting choirs are asked to sing a portion of the psalmody (taken from the Book of Common Prayer) set for each day, as shown in the table below **(please note that on days where multiple psalms are sung, the Gloria is sung at the end of the final psalm):**

<b>Day 1</b>	Psalm 8	<b>Day 17</b>	Psalm 89 (vv 1-19)
<b>Day 2</b>	Psalm 12	<b>Day 18</b>	Psalm 94 (vv 1-1)
<b>Day 3</b>	Psalm 18 (vv 1-19)	<b>Day 19</b>	Psalms 100, 101
<b>Day 4</b>	Psalm 23	<b>Day 20</b>	Psalm 104 (v 24-35)
<b>Day 5</b>	Psalm 27	<b>Day 21</b>	Psalm 106 (vv 1-12)
<b>Day 6</b>	Psalm 32	<b>Day 22</b>	Psalm 108
<b>Day 7</b>	Psalm 37 (vv 1-11)	<b>Day 23</b>	Psalm 114
<b>Day 8</b>	Psalms 42 & 43	<b>Day 24</b>	Psalm 119 (vv 1-16)
<b>Day 9</b>	Psalm 47	<b>Day 25</b>	Psalm 119 (vv 73-88)
<b>Day 10</b>	Psalm 53	<b>Day 26</b>	Psalm 119 (vv 145-160)
<b>Day 11</b>	Psalm 59	<b>Day 27</b>	Psalm 130
<b>Day 12</b>	Psalm 65	<b>Day 28</b>	Psalms 137, 138
<b>Day 13</b>	Psalm 69 (vv 1-12)	<b>Day 29</b>	Psalm 143
<b>Day 14</b>	Psalm 73 (vv 1-14)	<b>Day 30</b>	Psalm 147
<b>Day 15</b>	Psalm 78 (vv 1-17)	<b>Day 31</b>	Psalm 150
<b>Day 16</b>	Psalm 84		

Texts for the psalms can be found at <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/book-common-prayer/psalter>. Visiting Choirs may sing longer portions of the psalms set for each day, but this is at the discretion of the Cathedral Music Department.

At Chester, we follow the Common Worship Additional Weekday 'Pillar' Lectionary at all BCP sung services, which is available online at <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/the-calendar/lect.aspx>.

The Cathedral Choir takes Wednesday as a day off during the week (and Evensong is usually said); visiting choirs may do the same or may sing Evensong then as desired.

The house style at Chester is to list the first names of composers on the music scheme – please include these on your forms.

As mentioned above, it is appreciated if the proposed repertoire is sent to us as early as possible using the repertoire forms – this is in the interest of both parties if any changes need to be made.

## **Preces and Responses**

A member of your choir will be required to sing the Responses at Choral Evensong. The Collects may be sung by your cantor or said by the officiating Minister. (N.B. The first collect is always the one allocated for the previous Sunday. If Evensong falls on a festival or lesser festival, the collect for that day is sung instead.)

## **Sunday Services**

There is a Common Worship Eucharist held in the Nave at 10:30am (marked as the 'Cathedral Eucharist' on service schemes). Choral Evensong on Sundays begins with the General Confession from the Book of Common Prayer (found on page 13 of this booklet). The service then proceeds as a weekday Evensong, with the exception there is a short homily after the anthem, a final hymn (from the New English Hymnal) is sung by the choir and congregation after the prayers. A blessing concludes the service, followed by the organ voluntary.

## **The liturgy at Chester**

For sung services, this follows the liturgy laid down in the Book of Common Prayer (1662) for Evensong, with the exception of the Sunday 10:30am Cathedral Eucharist, which follows Common Worship (a separate service paper for this is produced each Sunday, which can be found on the Cathedral website on the 'Services' page). There are a few additional spoken sections in the Chester liturgy; service sheets are available for all services (with the exception of the 10:30am Sunday Eucharist) from the Vergers. Visiting choirs are requested to give a strong lead in both the spoken and sung parts of the liturgy. Please see the appendices for more details of the service orders.

### **Sung service times:**

**Choral Evensong - Monday to Friday: 5:30pm**  
**(or Choral Eucharist on one major festival per month)**  
**Choral Evensong – Saturday: 4:15pm**

### **Sunday Services:**

**10:30am Choral Eucharist (Common Worship in the Nave)**  
**3pm Choral Evensong (in the Quire)**

## **Upon Arrival**

Please go to the Vestry (in the North Choir Aisle next to the High Altar) to make contact with the Vergers who will give you the code for the Song School and/or Cloister Room doors and will be able to answer any questions. It is also worth arranging a time to rehearse processions with them at this point.

## **Rehearsal Times for the Choir:**

The Song School rehearsal rooms are usually available for rehearsal during your visit, but **these must be booked in advance** as several other groups and organisations also use these venues.

Normal times for rehearsals in the Quire are usually as follows:

Weekday Evensongs	4:30pm to 5:20pm
(Weekday Eucharist)	(4:30pm to 5:20pm)
Saturday Evensong	3:15pm to 4pm
Sunday Mornings	9:30am to 10:15am
Sunday Evensong	2pm to 2:50pm

It is essential that pre-service rehearsals finish promptly at the times listed above.

## **Visiting Choir Organists**

**Visiting choirs must provide their own organist, as the resident Cathedral organists are not available.** The organist who accompanies your choir should be a highly competent player with previous experience of accompanying the Anglican liturgy. They should be of ARCO (diploma) standard or above, even though they may not hold that qualification, and should be familiar with the demands of playing a large and complex cathedral organ such as that at Chester Cathedral.

The organist is requested to play a short voluntary (max. five minutes' duration) after Choral Evensong from Monday to Friday as the Vergers need to start the process of locking up the cathedral soon after the service has ended. A more extended and substantial voluntary is welcome after Choral Evensong on Saturday and Sunday.

Before the Sunday 10:30am Cathedral Eucharist, a voluntary followed by a gentle extemporisation is required from the end of the choir rehearsal until 10:25am; thereafter the organ is silent until the beginning of the first hymn at 10:30am promptly. There are several points in the service that require additional organ music:

- Gospel extemporisations (c.45 seconds) are required after the Gospels at any Eucharist (after the words 'Praise to You, O Christ/Praise be to Thee, O Christ'); the style of these is dictated by the character of the Gospel reading.
- The Offertory hymn may also need extending if the collection has not reached the altar.
- Reflective organ music (either a short piece or extemporisation) may be required after the communion motet if the clergy have not yet returned to the altar.

Visiting organists are requested to play congregational hymns cleanly and clearly in as straightforward a manner as possible, with introductions formed from the first or last two lines of a verse. Musical devices such as 'gathering' notes, excessive registration changes or any forms of re-harmonisation are not required - the ultimate aim is to lead the congregation as clearly and distinctly as possible.

## **Rehearsal Times for Visiting Organists:**

The Cathedral diary is normally very busy with many services, guided tours, educational events, concerts and other events. Practice time at weekends is particularly limited. We try to offer visiting organists as much rehearsal time as we can, and therefore request that visiting organists contact the Sub-Organist **as early as possible** in order to arrange private practice sessions on the cathedral organ. Once these times

have been agreed with the Sub-Organist, they are booked into the Cathedral diary by the Events Manager (which ensures that visiting organists' rehearsal time is not interrupted).

The key to the organ loft may be collected from the Vestry in the Cathedral, and more information about the organ is included at the end of this booklet. It is not possible to arrange organ practice time while the Cathedral is closed to the public, except in exceptional circumstances.

## **General Expectations**

There is a great deal of care in the preparation and presentation of worship at Chester Cathedral. It is important therefore, that visiting choirs not only rehearse their music well, but also give a firm and strong lead in the spoken parts of the service. Extra copies of the order of the service for Evensong are available from the Vestry at the time of your visit. Please brief your choir clearly on the order and content of the services.

Chester Cathedral is now a paperless Cathedral, and as such is not printing orders of service for our Sunday morning Eucharist. These orders of service will instead be on the Cathedral website to be downloaded and followed on a smartphone/tablet during the service. We understand that this may not be ideal for visiting choirs. We will therefore send the order of service to visiting choirs no less than two weeks before their residency so that they can print off copies and prepare the hymns in advance.

People are aided or hindered in their worship by what they hear and also by what they see. We set great importance on the dignified and professional manner in which choirs stand, kneel and walk. One of our Vergers will be able to rehearse the choir in entering and leaving the Cathedral before and after services; please arrange this with the Verger on duty when you arrive. This is especially important for choirs who will be singing the Eucharist, and you will be briefed before the service by the Canon for Worship and Spirituality, or if not available, another member of clergy or a Verger.

**Services begin with a prayer in the Vestibule, where the Clergy and the Choir meet before the service. Please ensure that the Choir is ready and composed in the Vestibule at least five minutes before the service is due to start. At the end of each service the Choir return to the Vestibule, where a closing prayer is said.**

## **Choir Robes**

**Please wear your normal robes or uniform for all services.** Choirs are asked to wear cassocks when rehearsing in the Cathedral, and to walk into the Cathedral for such rehearsals as they would enter for a service. We are happy for non-robed choirs simply to dress smartly.

## **Use of the Song School**

Visiting choirs have the use of the Song School (marked 16 on the Cathedral Plan at the back of this booklet) for rehearsals and for leaving robes and belongings, provided that this is booked in advance. Please do be in touch if you would like to use it as a rehearsal space. A Verger will let you into the Song School upon your arrival. There are kitchen and toilet facilities within the Song School. **We respectfully ask that choir members do not interfere with any materials or music belonging to the Cathedral Choir, and to leave the Song School clean and tidy.**

## **Accommodation**

Choirs that sing for more than one day will need to find appropriate accommodation. It is wise to book this as soon as possible after your booking has been confirmed. Unfortunately the cathedral does not have its own accommodation for choirs, but a list of accommodation venues near the cathedral is included with this booklet.

## **Car Parking**

Car parking on Abbey Square is very limited as most of the spaces belong to local businesses. However, there are four spaces that can be available should you require this (N.B. Only one car parking space is available Monday - Friday). It is very important that you indicate on the Booking Form whether or not you require the spaces (together with the names of the drivers), and we will do our utmost to accommodate you. More information is available on the main booking form.

**There is a bollard system in place at the entrance to Abbey Square. Please indicate on the Visiting Choir booking form the registration numbers of cars that require parking in Abbey Square. These will be added to the bollard system, which will lower the bollard automatically when the car approaches.**

## **Coach Parking**

The city centre is, as one would expect in a Roman/medieval city, very cramped. Unfortunately, there is no space in the Cathedral precincts for coach parking, although coaches may drop off choirs directly outside the Cathedral West Front on St Werburgh's Street. The nearest coach park is opposite the racecourse (Little Roodee car park, postcode CHI 1SL) which is a few minutes' drive from the cathedral.

## **More Information**

For more information on Chester Cathedral you can visit our website at:  
**[www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com)**

You will also find useful links to other websites offering information and attractions in Chester and the surrounding areas.

# **APPENDICES**

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## CHESTER CATHEDRAL

12 Abbey Square, Chester, CH1 2HU

[www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com)

Alexander Lanigan-Palotai BA FRCO

Sub-Organist

Direct Line: 01244 500956

E-mail: [alex.lanigan-palotai@chestercathedral.com](mailto:alex.lanigan-palotai@chestercathedral.com)

### BOOKING FORM FOR VISITING CHOIRS

In order for your provisional booking to be confirmed, please complete the details below and return the form to Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (as an attachment to the email address above) as soon as possible.

The form(s) requesting details of your music should be returned to us at least **four weeks before your visit**.

We will contact you with details of the Hymns and Collects for the day once these have been chosen.

For your information, rehearsal times for choirs in the Cathedral are usually as follows:

Monday-Saturday	4:30pm – 5:20pm
Sunday	9:30am – 10:15am and 2pm – 2:50pm

Organists are usually booked in for an hour's practice before these times, with the exception of Sunday mornings.

<b>Name of choir:</b>		
<b>Contact name and address:</b>		
<b>Daytime phone no.</b>	<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Date of visit: Arrival:</b>	<b>Departure:</b>	
<b>Name and contact details of organist:</b>		
<b>Total number in choir:</b>	<b>Adults:</b>	<b>Children:</b>



## CAR PARKING

Car parking in the Cathedral precincts is extremely limited. It is therefore only possible for your choir to park the following number of vehicles:

Monday-Friday **One car only** Saturday and Sunday **Four cars**

*Please note that it is not possible to exceed the above number of parking spaces. Unfortunately, it is not possible to reserve spaces in advance or for them to be guaranteed by the cathedral (though there is plenty of parking in the nearby Crown Plaza multi-storey car park).*

If you require parking spaces please indicate below:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Name of Driver:</b>		<b>Reg. No.</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Name of Driver:</b>		<b>Reg. No.</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Name of Driver:</b>		<b>Reg. No.</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Name of Driver:</b>		<b>Reg. No.</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Name of Driver:</b>		<b>Reg. No.</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Name(s) of Driver(s)</b>		<b>Reg. No(s)</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Name(s) of Driver(s)</b>		<b>Reg. No(s)</b>	

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12 Abbey Square, Chester, CH1 2HU  
[www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com)  
Alexander Lanigan-Palotai BA FRCO  
Sub-Organist  
Direct Line: 01244 500956  
E-mail: alex.palotai@chestercathedral.com



Dear Sir/Madam

## **Re: Safeguarding / Visiting Parties with Children**

At Chester Cathedral, the safety and welfare of children is of paramount importance. We are committed to establishing and maintaining an environment where children are safe and secure.

We do all that we can to ensure that children in the Cathedral are not at risk and that appropriate arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting their welfare. We have adopted and implemented a policy on child protection that conforms to the Child Safeguarding Policy for the Church of England entitled *Protecting All God's Children*.

Below is the relevant extract from Chester Cathedral's Safeguarding Handbook:

### **Guidelines for Visiting Choirs**

Chester Cathedral is committed to safeguarding all those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer. Choirs leading Cathedral Worship that include children, or choirs that will be working directly with children and adults at risk are required to be aware of their Safeguarding responsibilities and confirm that they have their own Safeguarding Policy.

No later than four weeks before a visit all choirs (whether including or working with under 18s or not) must submit:

- a list of all members of the group, including directors and organists
- a signed statement from the leader/organiser stating their familiarity with the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook and confirming that they know of no Safeguarding concerns around members of their group

Choirs including or working with under 18s must in addition confirm:

- that they have their own Safeguarding policy, and send a copy
- that all leaders of the group hold a clear Enhanced DBS check

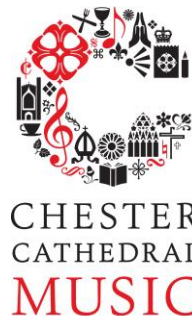
Choirs coming from abroad and including or working with under 18s must confirm that all adults have been carefully recruited using whatever checking arrangements are possible in the country of origin, or, if not, suitable references have been supplied. All choirs of adults not expected to have direct contact with children should confirm that they are familiar with and will comply with Chester Cathedral's Safeguarding Handbook/Policy. Safeguarding Information about Visiting Choirs will be monitored by the Organist and Master of the Choristers/Cathedral Safeguarding Officer.

We would be grateful if you would complete the slip attached and return it to the Sub-Organist via email, or via post at the address above. We are unable to confirm any visits to Chester Cathedral until this slip is received by us, duly completed and signed. If your choir does not include children under the age of eighteen, please let us know and leave the slip blank.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Lanigan-Palotai  
Sub-Organist



## Safeguarding / Visiting Parties with Children

NAME OF CHOIR .....

DATES OF VISIT TO CHESTER CATHEDRAL

.....

I confirm that we have implemented a child safeguarding policy that conforms to that of the Church of England and that all adults in our party with responsibility for children have been through an appropriate vetting process including an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

NAME .....

POSITION HELD .....

DATE .....

## 10:30am Eucharist Gospel Alleluia (not sung in Lent)

Note for organists: please play this Alleluia in a related key to the preceding hymn.



1. The organist plays the Alleluia once, in octaves.
2. The choir and congregation sing the Alleluia once.
3. A cantor from the choir sings the Gospel sentence (found in the service sheet). This is improvised. Please end on the starting note of the Alleluia.
4. The choir and congregation sing the Alleluia again.

## SUNDAY EVENSONG BCP GENERAL CONFESSION

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister, **all kneeling**.*

**ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

*The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest alone, standing:*

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*If no priest be present the person saying the Service shall read the Collect for the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity, that person and the people still kneeling.*

*Then the Minister shall kneel, and say the Lord's Prayer: the people also kneeling, and repeating it with them.*

**OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Set of Responses (choir stands)**

## **Useful Telephone Numbers**

### **Cathedral Contact Details:**

**Alexander Lanigan-Palotai, Sub-Organist** (your main contact)

Telephone: 01244 500956; email: alex.lanigan-palotai@chestercathedral.com

**Canon Rosie Woodall, Canon for Worship and Spirituality & Vice Dean**

Telephone: 01244 500 962; email: rosie.woodall@chestercathedral.com

**Vergers' Office**

Telephone: 01244 500972 (the Vergers' office is your first port of call when you arrive)

**Cathedral Office**

Telephone: 01244 324756

Refectory \*: 01244 500964

Cathedral Shop: 01244 699049

### **General Information**

Chester Tourist Information: 01244 317962

### **Food Outlets**

**\* Monday - Sunday (daily): The Cathedral Refectory serves hot meals and other refreshment throughout the day.**

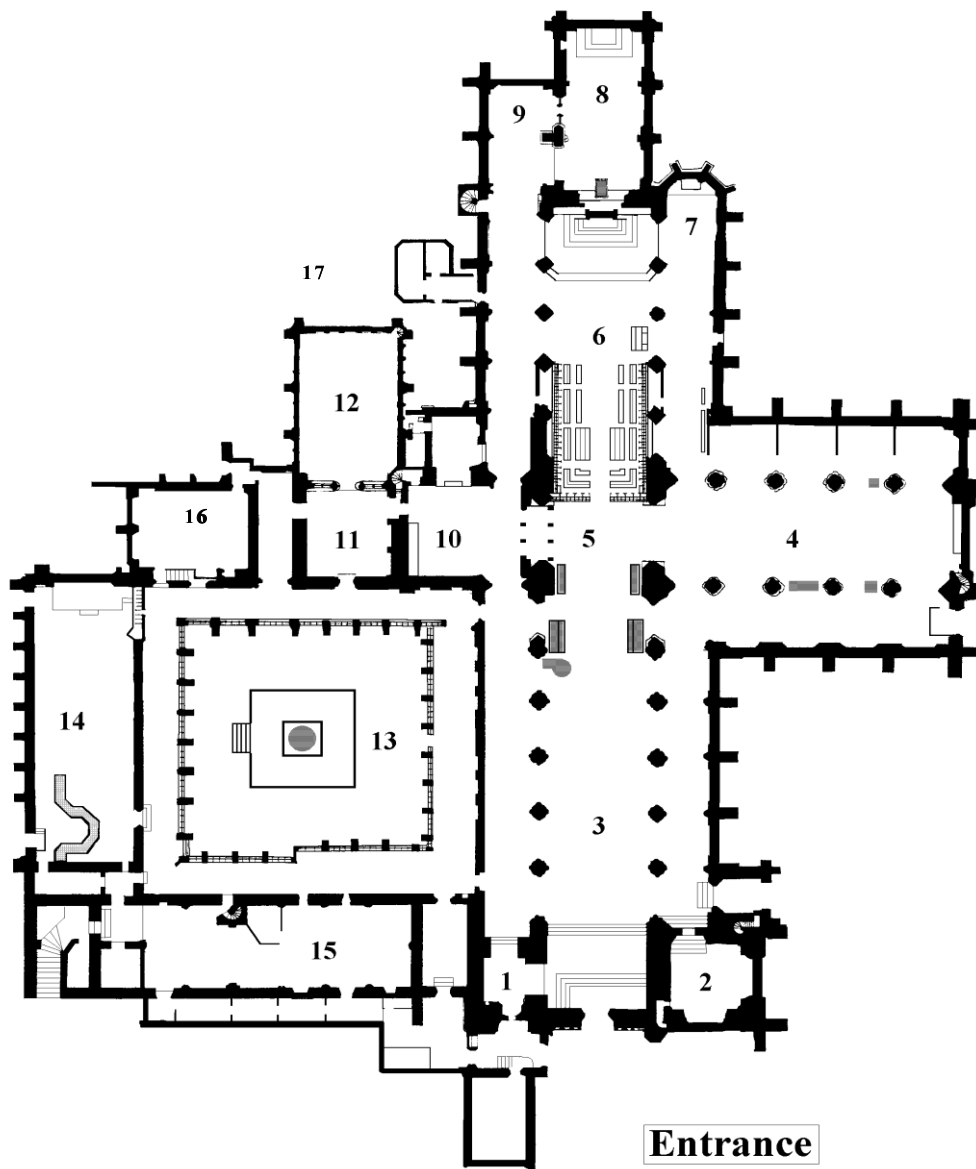
There are a couple of restaurants who take bookings for large groups, and these are:

**Duttons, Godstall Lane, off St Werburgh Street, Chester : 01244 401869**

**Chester Tandoori, Brook Street: 01244 347410**

There are many other restaurants and fast-food outlets in the vicinity of the Cathedral.

## CATHEDRAL PLAN



- |     |                    |     |                      |     |                      |
|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1.  | The Baptistry      | 2.  | The Consistory Court | 3.  | The Nave             |
| 4.  | The South Transept | 5.  | The Tower Crossing   | 6.  | The Quire            |
| 7.  | St Erasmus Chapel  | 8.  | The Lady Chapel      | 9.  | St Werburgh's Chapel |
| 10. | The North Transept | 11. | The Vestibule        | 12. | The Chapter House    |
| 13. | Cloisters & Garth  | 14. | The Refectory        | 15. | The Undercroft       |
| 16. | The Song School    | 17. | Vestry               |     |                      |



## CHESTER CATHEDRAL

### **Information for visiting organists**

Welcome to Chester Cathedral organ. The console **light switch** is located under the right-hand stop jamb and the **blower switches** are on the left of the console. On the panel of six switches beneath the blower buttons, turn on the **top two** for the **action**. (These also control the pedal board light.)

If you require the **Television** system, turn on the middle two switches of the panel. (The bottom two are disconnected.) The **Camera Control Panel** is located in the drawer under the left stop jamb; when switched on, the system automatically flicks through all four cameras until a choice is made. The **Amplification** system is controlled by the 'On/Off' switch at the right hand end of the amplifier. Adjust the volume levels as marked on the unit. Channels 1 and 2 are Quire (left and right), 3 and 4 are Nave (left and right).

Since renovation work in 2019, the Cathedral organ uses a memory card system. When no cards are inserted, the display above the Solo manual should read 'User 1'. Visiting organists are welcome to use this channel, and therefore do not need a separate card. There are 96 levels of generals, as well as 16 independent divisional channels. There is also a sequencer, which allows for nearly 2000 settings. The details of how to use the sequencer will be left on the organ.

Rehearsal time before 10am or between 4 and 5pm on weekdays may be used for practice at normal volume. **Please keep the volume down to a level of mp or softer between these times.**

A few general comments on the organ: Only the strings and soft reeds on the Solo are enclosed. The **Great to Pedal Combination Coupler** is controlled by thumb pistons at both ends of the Great manual rather than a drawstop. ***Visiting choir organists: it is necessary to use the Choir Organ in conjunction with the Great and Swell when accompanying, as the main organ is some distance from the stalls.***

When you have finished, please ensure that everything is switched **off** and the Swell Boxes are left **open**. (The blower buttons marked 'Stop' need to be pressed firmly).

#### **Chamber Organ**

There is a fine four-stop chamber organ in the Quire, built by Robin Jennings in 2019. It is especially suited to accompanying music from the Tudor period. Please be in touch if you would like to use this instrument. We respectfully ask that visiting organists do not move the chamber organ. It will be set up in advance of rehearsals and removed at the end of services by our team of Vergers.

Please call the Sub-Organist on 01244 500956 if there are any problems.

**Thank you – we hope you enjoy playing the organ.**

**Philip Rushforth** Organist and Master of the Choristers  
**Alexander Lanigan-Palotai** Sub-Organist



## CHESTER CATHEDRAL ORGAN SPECIFICATION

The present organ was built by the Chester firm of Charles Whiteley in 1876 (using eight stops from the earlier Gray & Davison instrument of 1844.) The reeds and harmonic flutes were supplied by Cavaillé-Coll of Paris and the oak case was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott. Rebuilds took place in 1910 (by William Hill, during which the reeds were re-voiced and the choir organ moved and enlarged) and in 1969 (by Rushworth & Dreaper). Since 1991 the organ has been in the care of David Wells Ltd. of Liverpool.

### PEDAL ORGAN (North Transept\*)

Double Open Wood	32*
Open Wood	16
Open Diapason	16*
Violone	16
Bourdon	16
Dulciana (from Choir)	16
Principal	8
Violoncello	8
Bass Flute	8
Fifteenth	4
Mixture	IV
Contra Trombone	32*
Trombone	16*
Trumpet	8*
<i>Choir to Pedal</i>	
<i>Great to Pedal</i>	
<i>Swell to Pedal</i>	
<i>Solo to Pedal</i>	

### SWELL ORGAN (enclosed)

Open Diapason	8
Salicional	8
Vox Angelica	8
Stopped Diapason	8
Principal	4
Suabe Flute	4
Fifteenth	2
Mixture	IV
Sharp Mixture	III
Double Trumpet	16
Bassoon	16
Trumpet	8
Horn	8
Oboe	8
Clarion	4
<i>Tremulant</i>	
<i>Octave</i>	

### CHOIR ORGAN (in Quire)

Double Dulciana	16
Open Diapason	8
Viola	8
Dulciana	8
Stopped Diapason	8
Principal	4
Gemshorn	4
Stopped Flute	4
Fifteenth	2^
Piccolo	2
Mixture	III
Clarinet	8
<i>Swell to Choir</i>	
<i>Solo to Choir</i>	
<i>Great to Choir</i>	

### SOLO ORGAN (some stops enclosed\*)

Viola	8*
Celeste	8*
Bourdon	8
Koppelflöte	4
Nazard	2 2/3
Blockflöte	2
Tierce	1 3/5
Larigot	1 1/3
Cymbel	II
Vox Humana	8*
Schalmei	8*
<i>Tremulant</i>	
Tuba	8
Zymbelstern (via piston)	
<i>Sub octave</i>	
<i>Octave</i>	
<i>Unison off</i>	

## GREAT ORGAN

Double Diapason	16^
Open Diapason I	8
Open Diapason II	8
Open Diapason III	8
Flute à Pavillon	8
Hohlflöte	8
Gedeckt	8^
Octave	4
Principal	4
Harmonic Flute	4
Fifteenth	2
Open Flute	2
Tierce	1 3/5^
Mixture	V
Sharp Mixture	III
Contra Posaune	16
Trumpet	8
Clarion	4
<i>Choir to Great</i>	
<i>Swell to Great</i>	
<i>Solo to Great</i>	

## ACCESSORIES

Sequencer  
General crescendo pedal  
  
Electric action throughout

^stops incorrectly marked on stop labels

## **Song School Organ**

A two manual, electric action, extension organ, built by Wood of Huddersfield.

Upper manual: 8,8, 4,4, 2 2/3, 2      Lower manual: 8, 8, 8, 4, 4, 2 2/3, 2, Mixture

Pedal: 16, 8, 4, 4

Visiting choir organists are welcome to rehearse on the Song School organ by prior arrangement.



## CHESTER CATHEDRAL

### **ORDERS OF SERVICE**

Musical items are marked in **bold**. Nothing is announced unless otherwise indicated. These orders are intended as a guide only, and any additional or different information given by the clergy or Vergers takes precedence over the notes below.

#### **The Cathedral Eucharist on Sunday**

The Choir lines up five minutes before the service in the Vestibule while a quiet **organ voluntary** is played, followed by an appropriate **improvisation** until 10:25am. A vestry prayer is said, and they process through the Cloisters to the West End.

**Hymn** - During this hymn the choir process into the Nave choir stalls.

Welcome and opening sentences from the clergy

Prayers of Penitence

**Kyrie** (*only sung in Lent and Advent*)

Absolution

**Gloria** (*not sung in Lent and Advent*)

Collect and first reading

**Gradual hymn**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Gospel, ending with **improvisation**

Sermon, Creed, and intercessions

The Peace

**Offertory Hymn** (this may need extending to cover the Offertory)

Eucharistic Prayer

**Sanctus**

Eucharistic prayer continues, ending with the Lord's Prayer and responses

**Agnus Dei**

Communion – the choir receives communion from the stalls

**Communion motet**

Post-communion prayer

**Final Hymn**

Blessing

**Organ voluntary** while choir processes to the vestibule, via the west end and cloisters for the dismissal.

## **Evensong on a weekday or Saturday**

The Choir lines up five minutes before the service in the Vestibule while a quiet **organ voluntary** is played, followed by an appropriate **improvisation** to cover the Choir's procession into the stalls. A vestry prayer is said, and the Choir process through the North Transept, under the organ and into the choir stalls.

### **Preces**

**Hymn** (announced – feast days Saturdays only)

Welcome and opening sentences from the clergy

**Psalm(s)** (announced; the Gloria is sung only at the end of the final psalm.)

Old Testament Lesson

### **Magnificat**

New Testament Lesson

### **Nunc Dimittis**

Creed (choir remains standing and faces east for this)

### **Responses and collects**

**Anthem** (announced)

Prayers, concluding with the Grace

**Organ voluntary** while the choir processes back to the Vestibule for a vestry prayer and dismissal.

## **Evensong on a Sunday**

The Choir lines up five minutes before the service in the Vestibule while a quiet **organ voluntary** is played, followed by an appropriate **improvisation** to cover the Choir's procession into the stalls. A vestry prayer is said, and the Choir process through the North Transept, under the organ and into the choir stalls.

BCP General Confession, ending with the Lord's Prayer

### **Preces**

Welcome

Opening sentences from the clergy

**Hymn** (announced)

**Psalm(s)** (announced; the Gloria is sung only at the end of the final psalm.)

Old Testament Lesson

### **Magnificat**

New Testament Lesson

### **Nunc Dimittis**

Creed (choir remains standing and faces east for this)

### **Responses and collects**

**Anthem** (announced)

Homily

Prayers

**Hymn** (announced)

**Blessing** by the clergy at the High Altar.

**Organ voluntary** while the choir processes back to the Vestibule for a vestry prayer and dismissal.

**Thank you for taking the time to read these notes – we hope that you have a very enjoyable visit here. In the event of any further queries, please contact the Sub-Organist.**

**Chester Cathedral Visiting Choirs Booklet**

**Revised, expanded, and updated September 2024**

Alexander Lanigan-Palotai, Sub-Organist