

BRADFORD
CATHEDRAL

The logo for Bradford Cathedral, featuring a stylized blue outline of a cross or a similar geometric symbol.A photograph of Bradford Cathedral in the background, with a field of yellow daffodils in the foreground. The cathedral is a large stone building with a prominent tower. The daffodils are in full bloom, and the scene is set in a grassy area with a wooden fence in the middle ground.

Choral Scholarships: Application Pack

Bradford Cathedral Choral Scholarships

The Chapter of Bradford Cathedral seeks to appoint an alto Choral Scholar (countertenor/contralto) for the academical year 2018-2019. The scholarship is suited to current university undergraduates, gap year students or to postgraduates who are looking to gain experience of working in a cathedral music department.

Bradford Cathedral and its city

Bradford Cathedral is one of the three seats of the Bishop of Leeds. Dedicated to St Peter, the cathedral building perches on a hill overlooking the city centre of Bradford. The city was once the richest in Europe, due to the proliferation of wool mills, many relics of which can be seen across the city. Whilst the city is now one of the poorest in the UK, it has recently undergone significant regeneration, capitalising on its racial, ethnic and religious diversity.

In 1919, the parish church of St Peter and St Paul was elevated to cathedral status. Bradford Cathedral is proud of its dual identity as parish church and cathedral, and the Dean, the Very Revd Jerry Lepine, also retains the ancient title of Vicar of Bradford. The cathedral's vision is embodied in its three key values: *Hospitality*, *Faithfulness* and *Wholeness*.

Music at Bradford Cathedral

Bradford Cathedral Choir is divided into four constituent parts: two separate treble lines of boys and girls, a back row of voluntary Lay Clerks and paid Choral Scholars, and the Cathedral Consort (a group of auditioned sopranos). In all, the choir counts over fifty members, who together contribute to the singing of five fully choral services at the cathedral each week.

The cathedral choir has established an increasingly good reputation in recent years. The choir tours every six months, usually within the UK, and day trips within and outside the diocese are an additional form of outreach for the choir. A recording of evening canticles was released in December 2013, and the Choir has broadcast programmes for BBC Radio 2 Sunday Half Hour (2012), Radio 4 Sunday Worship (2012), BBC Songs of Praise (2014), BBC Radio Leeds (2015) and Premier Radio (2017). The cathedral sings an annual concert with the European Union Chamber Orchestra, this year offering Schubert's Mass in G.

The music department is overseen by the Revd Canon Paul Maybury, Canon Precentor, who is responsible for all aspects of the worshipping and liturgical life of the cathedral. The department is led by Organist and Director of Music, Alex Berry, who is responsible for the overall provision of music in the cathedral. Jon Payne is the Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music, who takes on the majority of the organ playing at cathedral services. In addition, the music department is currently supported by several part-time employees and volunteers:

- Ann Foster – Choir Administrator
- Helen Austwick – FCM Chorister Tutor
- Music Department Pastoral Assistant – Sam Fletcher

Bradford Cathedral Choral Scholarships

List of duties

The successful candidates will be required to sing to the highest standards for four services per week during choir term-time:

- Sunday Eucharist (rehearsal at 0930)
- Sunday Evensong (rehearsal at 1415)
- Two weekday services (rehearsal at 1630) on Monday and Tuesday

In addition, choral scholars will be required to sing for the following statutory services in the cathedral:

- Carol services throughout December
- Christmas Eve choir concert
- Christmas Eve midnight eucharist
- Christmas Day morning eucharist
- Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 6th March 2019)
- Maundy Thursday (Thursday 18th April 2019)
- Good Friday Three Hours (Friday 19th April 2019)
- Holy Saturday Vigil and Confirmation (Saturday 20th April 2019)
- Civic Service (Saturday 4th May 2019)
- Ascension Day (Thursday 30th May 2019)
- Ordination of Priests (Saturday 29th June 2019)
- Choir Summer Concert (July)

It may be possible to offer occasional singing lessons as part of a choral scholar's continuing professional development.

Person Specification

Essential

- A solid vocal technique and strong sight-reading skills
- The ability to undertake personal preparation
- Prior experience of singing in a choir
- An ambition to improve as a singer
- A willingness to respond to constructive feedback, in the knowledge that a choral scholarship is a developmental post
- An interest in singing in a choir with children and young people from a wide variety of backgrounds, providing them with a unique musical opportunity within the city
- Excellent written communication
- A team player, in sympathy with the aims of a Christian place of worship
- An understanding of the specific needs of a music department made up of professionals and volunteers

Desirable

- An ABRSM or Trinity Guildhall singing diploma, or other further qualification
- Prior experience of singing in a liturgical environment

Bradford Cathedral Choral Scholarships

Terms and conditions

- The choral scholarships are offered for a period of one calendar year (1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019).
- The choral scholars' place of work will be Bradford Cathedral.
- Choral scholars will be required to work for 43 weeks of the year, and will be entitled to take holiday during choir vacation periods.
- The probationary period will be three months.
- Remuneration will be £4,150 per annum, paid monthly in arrears.
- Offer of the scholarship will be subject to the completion of an 'Enhanced' DBS disclosure and the agreement to abide by Bradford Cathedral's safeguarding policy.

Bradford Cathedral takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the cathedral's safeguarding policy. In particular the cathedral expects everyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk, of actual abuse or any other reason to feel concerned, then they should report it immediately - either to their manager (Alexander Berry) or to the safeguarding representative (The Revd Canon Mandy Coutts)

Bradford Cathedral is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

How to apply

- Write a cover letter, detailing your reasons for applying for this position, what you could bring to Bradford Cathedral, and what a choral scholarship could offer you.
- Fill out the attached application form.
- Fill out the attached Church of England Confidential Declaration Form
- Submit the names and contact details of two referees, one of which should be from a musician of professional standing.

Applications will be accepted by email to alex.berry@bradfordcathedral.org at any time in May, June or early July. Alex is very happy to talk to potential candidates informally about the position.

Interviews will take place by appointment.

The interview process

Singing audition: Candidates will be asked to sing an oratorio aria and a contrasting piece. The entire programme should last no longer than 10 minutes. They will also be asked to sing an Anglican chant psalm that will be provided when they arrive at interview. Candidates will then be given range tests and sight-reading.

Formal interview: There will be a formal interview with Alex Berry (Director of Music) and the Revd Canon Paul Maybury (Precentor).