

Morland Choristers' Camp 2026

This year, Morecambe Parish Church sent a 'bumper crop' of twelve young people to Camp, ranging in age from 9 to 16 years old.

The seven members of the full choir were joined by five members of our new Junior Choir, who had just completed their first year of singing with us and received their surplices.



Morecambe Parish Church has had a long and happy association with Morland Choristers' Camp. Nine of this year's adult staff or volunteers at Camp were current or former members of MPC, and our Director of Music is also a Trustee of the Camp.

In return, many current and former members of Camp have supported music-making at Morecambe Parish Church by making the trip (sometimes from far afield!) to play, sing, conduct or preach at special services, concerts and other events. Some have even chosen to make Morecambe their permanent church home, and now sing with the choir regularly.

Our Parish has a Church Urban Fund deprivation rating of 242, placing us in the 2% most deprived Parishes in the country. 56% of children here grow up in child poverty. We work hard to raise the money to send children to Camp through fundraising and family contributions. We are so grateful for the generous donations from church members, the wider community and the Ripley Trust.





The Camp sang services of Compline, Eucharist and a Thanksgiving service at Morland Church, and Choral Evensong at Carlisle Cathedral, at which the Camp choir was augmented with alumni singers. The repertoire included music by Charles Villiers Stanford, Bernard Rose and Peter Nardone as well as contemporary composers Lucy Walker and Karine Polwart.

My favourite piece was *For lo, I raise up*. It sounded great! - Michael (9)

The theme for the concert was dogs and wolves, featuring a cantata of Little Red Riding Hood, and plenty of canine, lupine and lunar songs.

Dancing in the moonlight was just divine; you could properly boogie to it. - Annabelle (13)



Of course, there was also plenty of time for fun in the beautiful surroundings of the Eden Valley. Activities included a World Cup wide game, painting, badminton, and even welly-wanging!

It was the first time I've ever played croquet or been dam building. - Isaac (9)

Being in teams for activities, meals and overnight helped our young people to grow in confidence and independence, and to develop interpersonal and leadership skills.

When you're with someone for a week, there will probably be an argument! But I learned how to deal with them. - Lexi (11)

Due to my Autism and ADHD I struggle to read, write and sometimes concentrate. I was worried that this would affect my time at Camp, but everyone was great and helped me. I felt safe and included at all times, which is something that is very important to me. - Benjamin (10)





The Camp draws young people from all over England and internationally. This gave our choristers the opportunity to broaden their horizons and mix with people from different backgrounds and cultures. They felt encouraged by meeting other young people who also go to church and enjoy choral singing.

I'm still in contact with lots of the friends I made.
- Lexi (11)

It was nice to spend time with lots of other people who also believe in God. - Isaac (9)

There were lots of opportunities for our young people to explore and deepen their faith, from leading Grace at the start of meals to taking part in prayer activities each evening. They were able to experience worship in a range of styles, including Common Worship, BCP and Celtic liturgies, as well as informal worship opportunities.

I liked the reflections in the morning. It was the main part of the day when everyone wasn't tired, so we were able to listen. - Hannah (16)

The Compline service on Wednesday night really helped me feel more connected with God and with other people.
- Cayden (15)



Several of our choristers sang solos, led prayers, read Scripture readings in church, made speeches and took a leading role in sporting activities. For all of them, singing in a larger choir allowed them to experience new repertoire and to develop their musicality. Being at Camp equipped them with skills for life, and increased their confidence and enthusiasm for choral singing.

I learned how to sing and move at the same time!
- Annabelle (13)

I enjoyed singing harmonies, and I got better at singing Second Soprano. That's something I can bring back to MPC choir. - Hannah (16)

We know that Morecambe Parish Church and Morland Choristers' Camp change lives! Many of our former choristers have gone on to study music at university or conservatoire, or have pursued careers in composing, performing, conducting, music tech and education. Others have continued to support the church and choir by singing, serving or in pastoral care - or by becoming a parent to the next generation of choristers! We were especially proud that two of our adult choristers, Sarah Whyte and Gabe Cooper, were awarded the Anthony Shaw cup for Pastoral Care at this year's Camp.



Our young people are not just the future of the Church, but its present.
We know that they will go on to do amazing things in the future,
because we see them doing amazing things now!
Thank you for helping them to learn, grow and have fun together
as they seek to worship God, serve their community and live faithfully.

