



## Choral Scholarships at St Gabriel's Church, Newcastle

### 2025–26 Academic Year

We are delighted to announce the introduction of two Choral Scholarships at **St Gabriel's Church, Heaton**, thanks to generous support from the **Cathedral Music Trust's Church Choir Award scheme**. These scholarships offer an exciting opportunity for student or early-career musicians to explore and develop choral leadership, enhance their singing, and engage with a vibrant, community-focused musical life in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Choral Scholarships will run throughout the academic year (from September 2025 to July 2026), with a particular focus on strengthening our weekly worship, mentoring young singers, and supporting our developing junior choral programme.

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## About St Gabriel's

Located in the heart of **Heaton**, St Gabriel's is a place where all people are welcome, and is committed to the **transformative power of music in worship and outreach**. With an expanding music programme that includes a mixed-voice SATB choir, a **Junior Choir**, and a thriving **Choir Club**, the church is becoming a hub for musical activity, drawing in people of all ages and backgrounds. The Church Choir has sung Evensong recently at Durham Cathedral, Newcastle Cathedral and Hexham Abbey, and is directed by Tim Burke, the Director of the Chorus of Royal Northern Sinfonia, who has conducted for Royal Ballet & Opera House, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera and Opera North.

The church building, with its generous acoustic and open, adaptable layout, provides an excellent venue for sacred and secular music alike, and is well connected to both **Newcastle University** and **Northumbria University** via excellent bus and metro links.

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## Purpose and Vision of the Scholarship

These scholarships are designed to:

- **Strengthen the musical life of St Gabriel's** through boosting our regular singing
- **Support and mentor younger singers** in Choir Club and Junior Choir
- Provide **tailored practical experience** for the Choral Scholars as they develop their careers in performance, education, or church music

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## Honorarium

Each Choral Scholar will receive an honorarium of **£2,500** for their participation during the 2025–26 academic year. This is funded by the **Cathedral Music Trust**.

Choral Scholars will commit to approximately **4.5 hours on average per week during choir term time**, covering attendance at services and rehearsals, and assistance with Choir Club and Junior Choir.

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## Duties and Commitments

Choral Scholars will:

- **Sing regularly at weekly Sunday morning services**
- **Sing at twice-monthly Sunday Evensongs**
- **Attend and assist at Choir Club on Thursday afternoons during school term time**
- **Assist the Choir Director in training and mentoring Junior Choir singers**
- **If desired, Choral Scholars can gain experience of rehearsing and directing the Church Choir for services**

Additional opportunities may arise, including concerts, special services, or collaboration with other churches and musicians in the region, for which additional remuneration may be offered.

Scholars will be supervised and supported by the **Choir Director** and will receive **safeguarding training** and a **DBS check** prior to taking up the role.

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## Schedule and Term Dates

The Choral Scholarships will align with the academic year. Scholars will be provided with a **termly schedule** of expected commitments, which will include:

- **Sunday morning services and rehearsals**
- **Twice-monthly Evensong**
- **Weekly Thursday Choir Club sessions**
- **Seasonal or festival services (e.g. Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, etc.)**

Absences should be arranged in advance with the **Choir Director**, who will assist with finding suitable deputies where necessary.

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## Eligibility and Requirements

We welcome applications from:

- Students at **Newcastle University**, **Northumbria University**, or other local institutions
- Early-career singers or musicians looking to gain experience in choral leadership and music education

Applicants should have:

- A **confident singing voice**
- A good level of **sight-singing ability**
- A desire to **mentor and inspire young singers**
- An interest in developing their skills in **choral leadership, education, or liturgical music**

You do not need to be a practicing Christian, the Scholarships are open to people of all faiths and none, but we do ask that you are sensitive to the **liturgical and spiritual context** of the church and committed to working as part of a supportive and inclusive team.

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## To Apply

Applications for the 2025–26 Choral Scholarships will open in **Summer 2025**. To register your interest or receive further details, please email the Choir Director:

singingstgabriel@gmail.com

Applicants will be asked to complete a short form, submit two referees, and attend an **audition and informal interview**, likely to be held in **early September 2025**.

**Tim Burke**

*Choir Director, St Gabriel's Church, Heaton*