

The Vicar and Church Wardens of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ware
Registered Charity No. 1131681



St Mary's Church, Church Street, Ware, SG12 9EH
01920 462539, officestmarys@btinternet.com

Dear Parent or Carer,

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ware has an exciting project to involve young people in its music programme with choristers and scholars. This opportunity to be a part of an historic institution with a traditionally high standard of music is open to any child or young adult presently in Year 3 or above. In addition to the high-quality musical training that they will receive, young singers will develop the skills of discipline, leadership, and community engagement whilst making friends for life across generations. They will earn some pocket money; there is no cost to families. Every young person has an aptitude for music, and no prior musical training is required. All that is needed is a willingness to learn - many chorister parents don't even know their child can sing before they start!

Schedule and Commitment

Choristers' routine commitment will be **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** from 3:45pm (or as soon as possible thereafter) until 5.45pm – we would welcome choristers arriving from 3.30pm for a snack and a drink. On alternate Tuesdays, the choristers will sing at a short evening service at 5pm. Choristers will join our adult choirs on the **first and third Sunday afternoons** each month from 3.15pm (first Sunday) or 4pm (third Sunday) to 6pm (including an Evensong service at 5pm) and **second and fourth Sunday mornings** from 9.15am until 11.15am (including a Eucharist service at 10am). Should any chorister wish to sing at additional Sunday services, they will be more than welcome. Other opportunities will include festival and civic services (such as Remembrance, Christmas and Easter).

Senior Choristers (typically Years 7 and 8) will attend some of the rehearsal with our adult singers on **Fridays** from 6:30pm until 7.30pm with adjustments made to their earlier chorister schedule. Their Tuesday and Sunday commitment will be the same as other choristers.

Scholars (Year 9 and above) would not be required at the chorister commitments above but will instead attend the adult rehearsal on **Fridays** between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

These weekday times are set to work after school. With experience these times may be adjusted to work better for the group. We are open to feedback and collaboration.

For further information on the church, please have a look at the church website (www.stmarysware.org.uk). Please contact Stephen Crookes, the Director of Music, at music@stmarysware.co.uk for additional information or to discuss this further. Do, please, consider giving your child the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful tradition.

We look forward hearing from you.

Should you be interested in enrolling your child into our programme, please complete the following slip and return to the church, or email the information to the Director of Music:

Name of young person: _____ School Year: ____

Name of parent/carers: _____

Contact telephone: _____ Contact email: _____