

Volunteer Role Profile: Choir Chaperones

About Bath Abbey

Bath Abbey has been a site of Christian worship in the heart of the City of Bath for over 1,000 years. It is an active Parish Church holding over 1,000 services a year. Three different churches have stood on the site: a Saxon monastery, a Norman Cathedral, and the present Medieval Abbey. Edgar, the first King of all England, was crowned at the Abbey in Bath in 973. The Abbey continues to be a significant site, visited by almost 500,000 people a year.

The Abbey is entering an exciting new phase, as its Footprint project draws to a close. Footprint has repaired and conserved the Abbey's nationally-significant floor; installed eco-friendly underfloor heating using hot water from the Roman Baths; created new interpretation for people to discover more about the Abbey; and created new spaces for schools and local children to take part in learning and choral music at the Abbey.

About this role

Choir Chaperone volunteers at the Bath Abbey support the work of the Music Department by welcoming, accompanying and safeguarding the children in the boys' and girls' choirs.

Choirs meet regularly during term time – rehearsing twice a week after school for attendance at Sunday services.

There will be additional opportunities to lend a hand, for example when our children's choirs take part in recitals and concerts both at Bath Abbey and 'on tour'.

Key activities for this role:

- Helping to prepare and set up for rehearsal, and to help tidy away afterwards.
- Providing a warm and friendly welcome to all the children of the choirs. Helping them to understand what is happening when they arrive. Doing this confidently and competently. Supervising robing for services.
- Being on hand during rehearsals to help Director of Music manage welfare and safeguarding.
- To do all of the above with a strong understanding of Safeguarding considerations, to adhere to best practice at all times.
- Keeping up to date with what is happening in the Abbey and attending training and occasional reviews as required.
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This role would suit people with the following characteristics/skills:

- Friendly, helpful, with a welcoming smile. Able to engage with children from all walks of life with confidence and politeness.
- Happy to work as part of a small, supportive team.
- Can pick up ideas quickly, carry out instructions confidently and help to make quick changes to plans if needed.
- Are open to give and receive feedback from the role supervisor



What we offer our volunteers:

- A beautiful and tranquil place to be a part of, in a bustling heritage city. There will always be something new to experience and discover.
- A supportive and friendly team to work with, a chance to make new friends.
- A sense of 'a task well done' as you go home for the day. You will have helped us to carry out our work/mission, as well as maintaining the strong Abbey tradition of music for future generations.
- Regular newsletters and updates.
- All staff and volunteers receive a 10% discount on items for sale in the Abbey Shop. Your induction includes an optional free Tower Tour.
- You will be part of a caring and dynamic organisation at a time of exciting change with the HLF funded 'Footprint' project. You will be part of a larger community of Abbey Volunteers and will be included in training, participation and social events.

Time commitment:

We would ask you to volunteer on a regular basis so the children come to know you as a familiar face. Minimum of twice a fortnight.

Each weekday session lasts for approximately 2 hours; Sunday supervision up to 3 hours depending on morning or evensong rota.

There is also the opportunity to chaperone on one -off events, trips and socials.

Application procedure:

Application form; informal interview; two character references; DBS check and safeguarding training. Will be opportunities for enhancement training e.g First Aid

Role supervisor: Mary Horner, Music Support

For further information, or to discuss your interest in this role, please contact:

Volunteer Officer – volunteer@bathabbey.org

