



Wakefield Cathedral

Christ. Culture. Community.

James Bowstead BA (Oxon) FRCO
Assistant Director of Music

Wakefield Cathedral
Cathedral Centre
8-10 Westmorland Street
Wakefield WF1 1PJ

james.bowstead@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk
01924 373923

Dear parents,

I'm writing to let you know about an exciting opportunity for your son or daughter to join a new choir at Wakefield Cathedral. The cathedral choir has long consisted of boy and girl choristers from various schools in the Wakefield area, together with adults singing the alto, tenor and bass parts. In September this year, we started a new choir for young people in school years 10 to 13, singing all four parts, which is open both to former boy and girl choristers and to other young people in the Wakefield area, ideally with some previous singing experience, but who haven't previously sung at the cathedral.

The level of commitment in this new youth choir is considerably lower than the commitment of being a cathedral chorister. The choir rehearses once a week on Friday evenings after school, from 16:30 to 18:00, and sings Sunday services about once a month, as well as joining together with the cathedral choristers and lay clerks for special services and concerts. As the choir develops and grows, we will be exploring extra opportunities for the group. In November, the choir will be taking part in a workshop and recording session with the Gesualdo Six, a renowned vocal consort (see www.thegesualdosix.co.uk for more information).

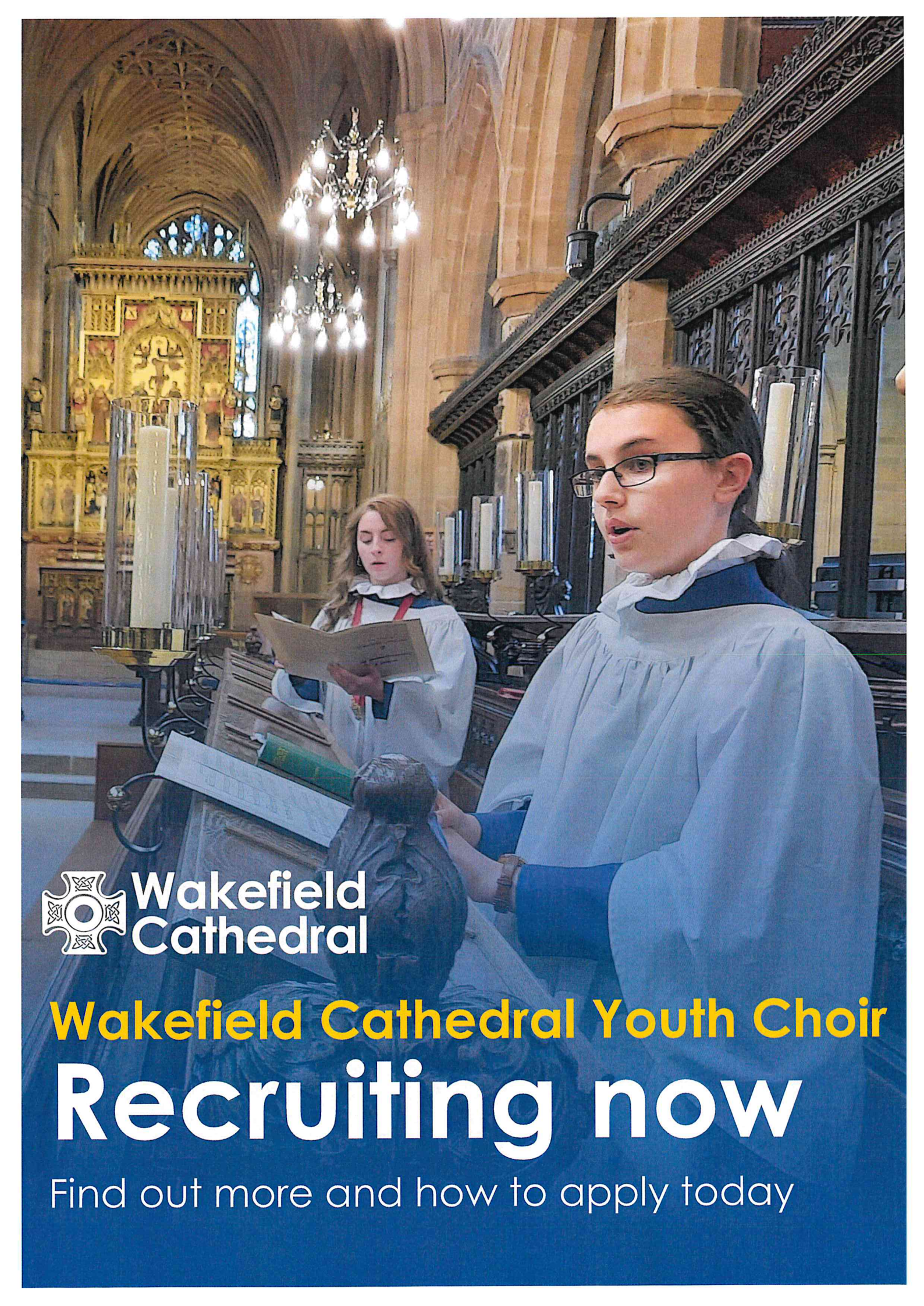
Members of the cathedral choirs get the opportunity to take part in a wide range of experiences they would be unlikely to get elsewhere, including making professional CD recordings, singing for live television and radio broadcasts, and touring throughout the UK and abroad. Past tour locations have included Poland, Sweden and the USA. We hope that the youth choir will be involved in at least some of these additional experiences. In any case, the chance to sing in our beautiful, historic building on a regular basis is a fantastic opportunity in itself, and members will also receive a very high-quality musical education from the cathedral's music staff. The skills of teamwork and commitment that they gain will be useful whatever they go on to do in life, and membership of this choir will look very good on UCAS and job applications. Many successful people in all sorts of careers, from sport to politics, sang in cathedral choirs in their youth.

If you think that your son or daughter would be interested in joining this new choir, please contact our Director of Music, Ed Jones: ed.jones@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk. Alternatively, you can fill out the application form at the following link and we will get in touch with you: forms.gle/uLzMQ98snpEhjDEG9. We will be happy to arrange a time to meet you and your son/daughter, and to hear them sing at an informal voice test. Please also do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

With all best wishes,



James Bowstead



**Wakefield
Cathedral**

Wakefield Cathedral Youth Choir
Recruiting now

Find out more and how to apply today

Is joining the choir right for me?

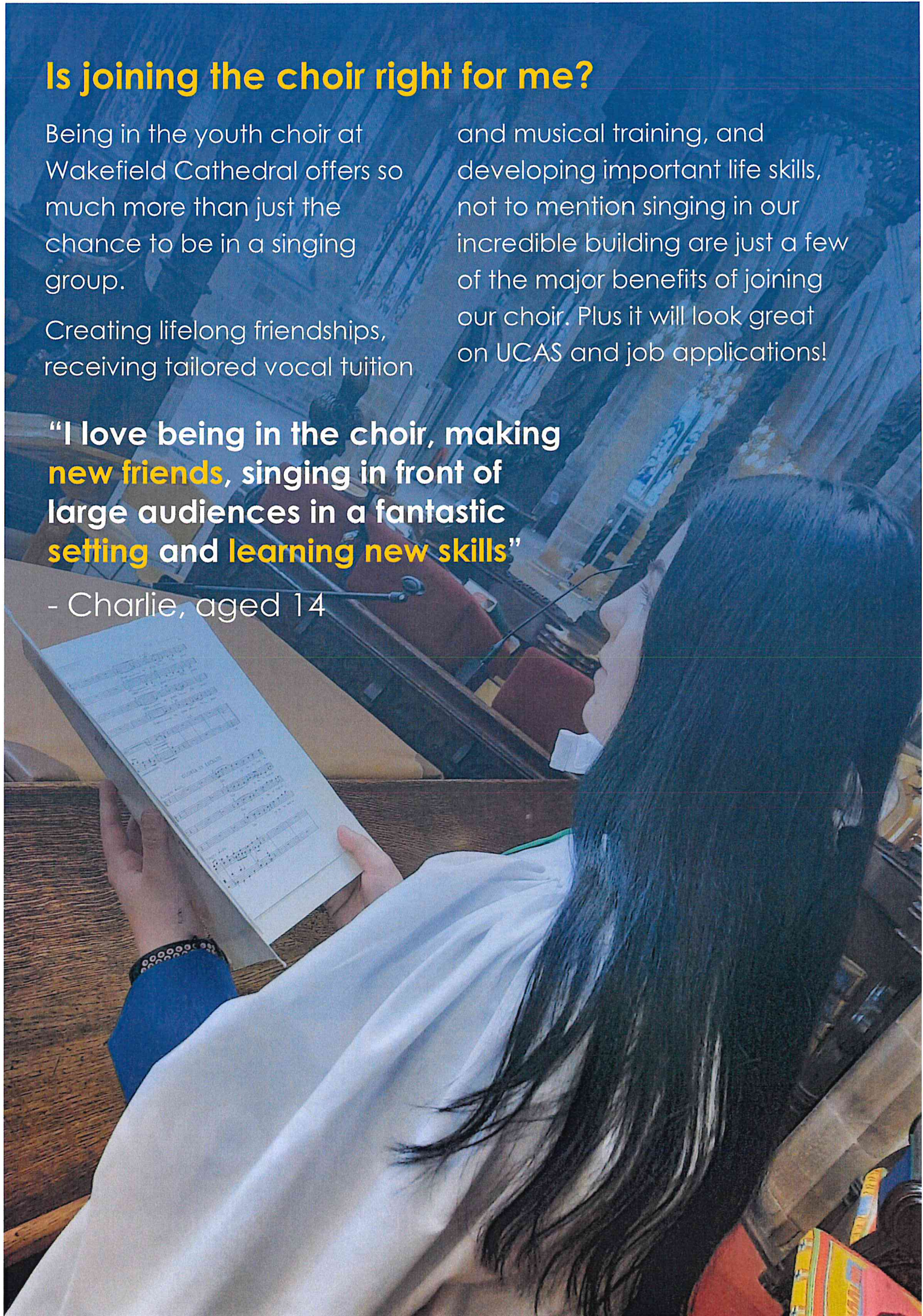
Being in the youth choir at Wakefield Cathedral offers so much more than just the chance to be in a singing group.

Creating lifelong friendships, receiving tailored vocal tuition

and musical training, and developing important life skills, not to mention singing in our incredible building are just a few of the major benefits of joining our choir. Plus it will look great on UCAS and job applications!

“I love being in the choir, making new friends, singing in front of large audiences in a fantastic setting and learning new skills”

- Charlie, aged 14



What are we looking for?

We are looking for young people **aged fourteen to eighteen** (school years ten to thirteen).

Ideally, you will have **some previous singing experience**, but the most important thing is that you showcase an

enthusiastic **approach** to singing and learning.

Religious beliefs are also not a requirement, however young people will be taught about Christian traditions and encouraged to think about their own faith and spirituality.

What are the commitments?

One rehearsal most weeks on Friday evenings, alongside two or three Sundays each term, and occasional extra duties.

The timetable runs mostly through **term time only** with the exception of extra duties for special services/concerts and in the run up to **Easter** and **Christmas**.

What are the costs?

Nothing!

There is no cost associated to joining the choir and tours and trips are even often **subsidised** through fundraising and financial support.



“Since joining the choir my son has really grown in confidence. I am so proud of all he has achieved”

Next Steps...

You now know what it takes to join the cathedral youth choir, now it's time to apply.

You are welcome to **arrange a meeting** to discuss joining the choir at any time during the year.

Please contact our Director of Music who will be happy to speak to interested parents/

carers and to hear potential singers, offering an informal voice test to get things started.

To apply or for further information please call **01924 373923** or email **ed.jones@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

“There has been a choir at Wakefield Cathedral for centuries, proudly carrying our tradition of musical excellence and holding a fine reputation both in this country and internationally.

“Whether you are looking for your first steps into a music setting or have great ambitions for a musical future, all are welcome to apply to be a part of our wonderful cathedral choir.

“We hope you to hear from you soon.”

- Ed Jones, Director of Music



Wakefield Cathedral, Northgate,
Wakefield, WF1 1HG

wakefieldcathedral.org.uk

01924 373923

