

Friday 20th January 2012

NEWSLETTER

Welcome

It's a real joy to welcome our new young singers (and their parents) to the choir. I'd like to invite parents of both existing and new singers to a meeting on **Tuesday 31st January at 6.45pm** (before the juniors' choir practice). This will be a chance to meet the members of the music department team, find out more about how the choir works, and for us to answer any questions you may have. Do come along if at all possible as it's a useful way to share important information with you.

Choir Schedule

The welcome addition of so many girls to the choir means that we will need to be flexible in how things work for the first couple of months. The plan is:

- For the remainder of January – boys and men to follow the schedule issued at the start of term. Girls to come along on Tuesday nights only from 6.45pm to 8.15pm.
- February – everyone to follow the attached schedule, which kicks in on Tuesday 31st January.
- March onwards – we will then move over to a new routine where the girls sing for services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, attending Tuesday and Friday choir practices every week (during term-time). Boys and men will sing for the other services.

During this time of change, please do look at your schedule carefully week by week until we're all settled into the new routine.

Joint Choral Evensong – Sunday 12th February

This year's joint Choral Evensong will take place at St Mary's, Kingswinford on Sunday 12th February (details on schedule). Parents – please drop off boys and girls at St Mary's (not St Thomas') in good time for a 4.30pm start. If you'd like to come to the service, it's at 6.30pm, and please collect your children from St Mary's at 7.30pm.

Admin/housekeeping

1. For new singers – the code to the song room door is C1735. 2. The song room is quite a small space so we ask that parents wait outside the song room door to collect children after practices/services – if it's a cold night, you're welcome to wait in the porch area. 3. Please collect children on time: I often have to go on to other meetings/commitments after choir, and having to wait for parents to arrive wreaks havoc with my schedule! 4. Please give me a ring/text on 07540 440122 if your child is unable to attend for any reason – just so we know they're safe and haven't got lost between home and church! 5. The members section of our website (www.stthomaschurchmusic.com/members) has lots of useful information for parents and is kept up to date: do have a look at this if you can.

I'm really looking forward to a wonderful term – the first service for the girls will be on Sunday 5th February (details on schedule) – do come along to that if you can as it will be the occasion on which we formally welcome the girls to the choir and to St Thomas' Church.

From the Director of Music: Jon Payne
The Wardens, Widney Lane, Solihull, B91 3JY
Tel 07540 440122 Email mail@jonpayne.co.uk
www.stthomaschurchmusic.com