

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, STOURBRIDGE

Choir Rules

St Thomas' Church Choir is widely recognised for the quality of its singing. This is a standard we can only maintain and build upon through our professional approach to our important role within the church. There are few choirs which learn and perform as much music week by week as we do, and it is therefore very important that we work as a team.

A sports team wouldn't win many matches if its players were late or didn't turn up! And a choir requires a similarly committed approach to both attendance, punctuality and appearance.

Your support in following these basic rules is very much appreciated.

- **All singers should aim for full attendance at all rehearsals/services detailed on the schedule.**

If you have a genuine reason for absence, you must inform Jon Payne before the start of the month preceding the absence. In the case of illness or dire emergency, please inform Jon Payne as soon as you are aware of a problem. mail@jonpayne.co.uk / 07540 440122.

Music is planned according to the singers who are available on a given day: by sticking to this rule you can help us operate smoothly and avoid leaving us 'high and dry' without enough singers to do the job!

It's also particularly important that parents let me know when boys/girls are going to be absent: we have a duty of care towards and need to guard against the possibility that they might have set out from home – without our knowledge – and not reached church. In cases where boys/girls are absent without reason, a follow-up call will always be made to check on their welfare.

- **The published start time on the schedule is the time we begin rehearsing NOT the time you should arrive. Boys/girls in particular need to arrive in good time to robe and have their music ready for a punctual start.**

Our rehearsals are just long enough to allow adequate time to prepare for services but NOT if people are late! If you miss all or part of the rehearsal, you are not prepared to sing well and it is unfair on those who do turn up on time!

- **Choir 'uniform' is white shirt and choir tie, dark trousers, and black polished shoes for the boys and men; white shirt and choir tie, dark trousers or skirt, and black polished shoes for the girls. NO TRAINERS. NO WHITE SOCKS.**

Though we wear robes for services, our feet are visible! And before and after services, it's important that we're seen to be acting just as professionally as we do during services.