

St Stephens Church

South Dulwich



Sponsor a Chorister

Why?

Our children's choir is thriving – we currently have 36 children participating and regularly have new members joining. They meet to sing every Tuesday evening, and we have more than 15 singing at our Sunday services. We support our choristers with professional instruction, live and recorded performances, the music sheets, surplices, occasional refreshments and a small amount of pocket money. We also participate in the Voices for Life programme which enables individual choristers to gain personal qualifications through the Ribbon and Medal scheme as they complete modules testing both musical and Christian knowledge.

We are determined to ensure that every child in our neighbourhood should have this opportunity, regardless of their personal circumstances. Indeed, many of our choristers come from local state schools with little or no musical offerings. For this reason, we are committed to ensuring that participation in our children's choir remains free. Nevertheless, this comprehensive, year-round programme of activity means that the average cost for us for each chorister is c.£200 per annum. Sponsorship will help us to fund and grow these activities, at a time when St Stephen's as a whole is financially challenged.

What are we asking for?

We are asking people to make a donation towards the sponsorship of one or more choristers, either for this year or on a rolling basis (in addition to any regular giving to St Stephen's). 100% of your contributions will go towards our funding of the children's choir activities. Any donation is welcome, however small. Please complete and return the form overleaf.

What is planned for 2025?

We are excited about our programme for 2025, which will give our choristers lots of opportunities to showcase their talent, including starring roles at our major festivals, especially our services at Easter and Christmas. They will also lead our Choral Evensong once or twice a year, when we will be encouraging all our sponsors to attend and to meet the choristers and the rest of our music team.

Is it worth it?

The benefits of singing in choirs are now well recognised. To give one concrete example, Sir Alastair Cook, former England cricket captain has said that being a

chorister “... instilled a lot of discipline in me. My five years at St Paul’s played a huge part in the person and the cricketer I have become. My dad reckons my time there is the only reason I have got so far in cricket.” More generally, music is proven to have significant benefits for children’s mental health and social skills.

In addition, all of our choristers receive religious and liturgical instruction, so they are set up to make a great contribution to future Anglican congregations.

Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Please tick if you are happy for us to print your name in church publications and online. If not ticked, your name will remain anonymous.

I agree to donate £____.____ towards the St Stephen’s choristers, as follows:

- ☐ I have transferred my donation to St Stephens South Dulwich General Account, sort code 51-50-02, Acc No: 26888378, ref: _____
- ☐ I have set up a standing order in favour of the St Stephens South Dulwich General Account, sort code 51-50-02, Acc No: 26888378, ref: _____, for _____ payments of £____.____ each.
- ☐ I have made payment via SumUp today/on _____
- ☐ I enclose a cash donation

Gift Aid Declaration

As we are a charity, if you are a taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift to us by using Gift Aid and, if you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you can claim additional tax relief on your self-assessment tax return.

Please treat all gifts of money that I make today and in the future to St Stephen’s South Dulwich as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return the form to one of the church wardens, vicar or sidespersons

Data protection statement

St Stephen’s South Dulwich PCC will collect, process and hold personal information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, to support our fundraising activities. Personal data will not be shared with other organisations. If you do not wish to receive updates or other communications from us, please let us know.