

Date: 22nd April 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

JUST THE TICKET: OVER 140 BRADFORD SCHOOL CHILDREN COME TO THE CATHEDRAL TO SING AS PART OF THEIR ANNUAL GOLDEN TICKET SCHEME



Bradford Cathedral was full for a morning of activities to welcome school children of all backgrounds to learn more about singing in a choir and how to become part of the quality musical education available.

Following six weeks over which the music department at Bradford Cathedral visited 25 schools, over 140 children were picked and rewarded with a golden ticket which invited them to April's very special 'Be A Chorister for a Morning' event.

The department visited up to ten schools a week, across Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds.

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HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.

At each school they ran special inclusive singing workshops with school children in years three and four.

Alex Berry, Director of Music:

“At the workshops we explained about the choir and at the end all the children who have taken part in the workshop get the opportunity to sing to us in small groups, and those who we think are really promising were given a Golden Ticket to take home at the end of school.”



Parents watch as the prospective choristers take part in a service, alongside the current cathedral choir.

The ‘Be a Chorister for the Morning’ event was a huge success with the children enjoying a series of singing workshops and practices, culminating in an example service conducted by Director of Music Alex Berry and led by Canon Paul Maybury. There were also sessions to introduce parents to how the choir works; what it’s like to be a chorister; and what being part of it can mean for their children.

The Very Revd. Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford, said of the event:

“This is an extraordinary response to the Cathedral’s invitation and it’s wonderful to welcome so many children and their families to the cathedral. This evidences an enthusiasm for music in children which churches and cathedrals need to engage with. The children and the parents had such a terrific morning.”

Alex Berry:

“We ran this for the first-time in 2018 and we recruited twenty-one new choristers and all of them have stayed with the choir and are doing really well. It’s a wonderful opportunity and great fun!”

This year’s event was also a great success, including big numbers of sign-ups for the Saturday Singers, a group who meet and rehearse at the weekend with the aim of training them up to become full choristers.

“We have signed up 68 new children to start the Saturday Singers in the summer term. Of the children who have signed up a large proportion come from nine schools that the cathedral music department has never visited before, so this has been a fantastic success for outreach as well as recruitment.”

You can find out more about the work of the music department on the Bradford Cathedral website at <https://www.bradfordcathedral.org/music>

ENDS

Notes for Editors

About Bradford Cathedral

Bradford Cathedral has been a place of worship in Bradford since the first millennium. It is the oldest building in the city and, alongside being a place of worship, hosts events, arts projects and much more. Bradford Cathedral celebrates its centenary in 2019.

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