



## Lay Clerks

### Some background information

#### **The Cathedral**

The cathedral stands on the site of a Saxon church in the centre of Wakefield. Evidence of the Saxon building was discovered in 1900 when extensions to the east end of the building were made. In 1090 King William II gave the church and land in Wakefield to Lewes Priory in Sussex and shortly after that a Norman church was built.

The present building was mainly built during the 14th and 15th centuries in the Perpendicular style. The 15th century spire is 247 feet (75 m) tall and is the highest spire in Yorkshire. Up to the 16th century the church was known by the Anglo Saxon All Hallows and after the Reformation changed to All Saints.

The building was restored during the 19th century by George Gilbert Scott, with the stained glass windows being created by Charles Eamer Kempe. In 1888, the Diocese of Wakefield was created and All Saints church became the Cathedral for the new diocese.

In 2013 the diocese of Wakefield ceased to exist and the new diocese of Leeds was formed. Wakefield Cathedral is now one amongst three cathedrals seeking to serve the diocese.

As part of Diocesan strategic development the Dean and Chapter formulated a Strategic Development Plan 2014-19 for Wakefield Cathedral. The following is taken from its introduction:

‘Wakefield Cathedral exists in order to worship God and point others to him. We seek to help people live as disciples of Jesus Christ, and to share his love with the world. We are set in the heart of the city of Wakefield, and endeavor to offer a warm welcome to all who enter or pass by our doors. We have made public our desire that everyone who lives in Wakefield District will come inside at least once a year. We try to give priority to people who are needy or disadvantaged. We hope to be a place of conversation for people of all faiths and none, and a cultural hub in the city centre. And as Mother Church in the Diocese of Leeds, our intention is that everyone in the diocese will feel at home here, whether coming for a major diocesan event, or in a parish group, or on a private visit.’

Following an encouraging two successful bids for Heritage Lottery Funding alongside other funding bids, the Cathedral the cathedral has completed the renewal of the East, West and Crypt areas of the cathedral building alongside an extensive window project. The completion of these two phases of development does not complete the envisaged renewal of the cathedral. A third and final phase, the development of a Northern Extension, is currently under development. This development would see the creation of purpose built music facilities alongside a renewed commercial space and increased storage and user facilities such as toilets.

## **Staffing**

The Dean designate is The Revd Canon Simon Cowling. Canon Tony Macpherson is Sub Dean and Canon Pastor; the Canon Precentor is Canon Leah Vasey-Saunders. The following serve primarily in Diocesan roles, but also as Residentiary Canons: The Canon Librarian, Canon John Lawson, the Canon DDoV, Canon Derek Walmsley, and the Area Dean of Wakefield, The Revd Canon June Lawson and Academic Tutor at St. Hild College Revd Dr Mark Vasey-Saunders are both Priest Vicars.

The lay staff include the Dean's PA (Neil Holland), the Cathedral Events Manager (Roz Cochrane), The cathedral Secretary (Bev Howes) and Gillian Bunn, the Cathedral Outreach Officer.

## **The Music Department**

The Precentor is Head of the Music Department. Currently, the Director of Music and Assistant Director run the department's administration and are responsible for circulating the various schedules and letters that go out to parents and choir personnel.

Thomas Moore is the Director of Music is Director of Music. The Assistant Director of Music is James Bowstead and this post is currently a part-time post.

An Organ Scholar is normally appointed for twelve months to three years. The current Organ Scholar, Phoebe Marsh-Muir, is beginning 'A' Levels this year. Though scholars often are music students at Huddersfield University. The Organ Scholar assists in the departmental administration, and undertakes playing or conducting duties at the request of the Director of Music/Assistant Director of Music.

## **The liturgical tradition**

The Cathedral's pattern of worship has been established over many years, and Wakefield is known for its Catholic tradition. Within that tradition the pattern has gradually evolved and today embraces a wide range of authorised services and includes some experimental worship, an area in which we wish to continue to expand and develop, both for the sake of the Cathedral's mission, and in order to meet Diocesan needs.

The Book of Common Prayer is used for Evensong on weekdays (with the BCP psalms for the day) and on Sundays. On Sundays at the Eucharist at 9:15, Common Worship, Order One (contemporary language) is used with a congregational setting led by one of the Treble lines. At the Eucharist at 11, Common Worship, Order 1 (traditional language) is used. At the latter and at the Great Festivals, (usually Common Worship, Order One (contemporary language)), the musical setting is sung by full choir in Latin, BCP English or modern English.

Incense is used at both Eucharists on Sunday morning, at Festival Eucharists and Solemn Evensongs. Great importance is attached to the careful execution of the liturgy and we are fortunate in our team of dedicated servers, who, with our musicians, make a vital contribution to the effectiveness of the services particularly at the Festivals and during Holy Week, and, indeed the whole year round.

## **The Musical Foundation**

The Parish Church of All Saints became the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Wakefield in 1888. Wakefield Cathedral has developed a splendid tradition of liturgy and music which attracts congregations from a wide area. Wakefield has long had a traditional choir of men and boys. In 1992 we became only the second cathedral in Britain to establish a girls choir.

The Cathedral Choir consists of boys, girls and lay clerks. Whilst none of our lay clerks are women, women have sung alto with the Cathedral Choir and we hope that they will play a part in the future of the lower voices.

The boys (aged 8-13) and girls (aged 8-18) attend a variety of local schools, among them the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield Girl High School (WGHS), Silcoates and others. They receive pocket money for their services, which increases as the choristers progress through the choir. For choristers at QEGS and the WGHS there is a contribution to the school fees. The connection of the Wakefield Grammar School Foundation to the Cathedral is informal, but its status is recognised by associate membership of the Choir Schools Association.

There are ten Lay Clerks, who regularly sing on Thursdays and Sundays, and a number of deputies, who can be called upon at need. The lay clerks in some cases travel vast distances, showing their great commitment to the musical worship and liturgy for which the Cathedral is well known.

Boys sing Evensong normally on Tuesdays, Girls on Wednesdays, and one of the Treble lines with the lay clerks on Thursdays. There is a pattern of duties for Sundays, a treble line (usually girls) at 9:15, a treble line (usually boys) and lay clerks at 11, and again a treble line and lay clerks at Evensong. Occasionally the boys and girls take part in the same service (e.g Christmas carol services, joint celebratory services like the Patronal Festival, and others). We are careful to ensure that the girls as well as the boys have opportunities to sing at the major services. When the Assistant Director of Music has been directing the Girl Choristers the Director of Music has normally accompanied these services.

All singers occasionally sing extra services (diocesan/civic) and for Festivals, and at the Occasional Offices.

The Director of Music has on occasions formed a voluntary adult choir who undertake the Sunday morning and Evensong duties, perhaps four times a year when the Cathedral Choir is on holiday, these opportunities are often extended to the Lay Clerks but are not compulsory.

## **The organ**

The present organ was constructed in three stages: 1905 – Abbot and Smith; 1951 – John Compton; 1985 – Wood of Huddersfield.

The action is electro-pneumatic. Unusually, all the pipework except the Choir Organ and the Tuba is enclosed in swell boxes. Compton's work was based on the use of unit chests of the sort pioneered by Robert Hope-Jones. At Wakefield, the Great, Solo, Bombarde and Pedal divisions retain these unit chests, one for each rank, with substantial extension. The Swell and Choir divisions are on conventional chests, without extension. Wind pressures are relatively high, especially for the Great and Solo reeds - approximately 10" and 15" respectively. The Pedal 'Contrabass' - also on high pressure - is in fact a 'Diaphone' with wooden tubes. The large number of low-pitched stops reflects the particular acoustic of Wakefield Cathedral, where the lower pitches do not carry well through the building. This is particularly true when there is a large

congregation. We often feel it sounds better in the building than its designs suggests it should! This is largely due to the sensitive rebuilding by Mr David Wood in 1985.

### **Pattern of services**

#### **Sunday service times**

08.00 am Holy Communion (said)

09.15 am Sung Eucharist & Junior Church - contemporary language

11.00 am Sung Eucharist - traditional language

4pm Choral Evensong (All Saints' Day to Easter Day)

4.30 pm Eucharist at the Chantry Chapel of St Mary-on-the-Bridge (1st Sunday in the month only)

6.30 pm Choral Evensong (Low Sunday to Last Sunday after Trinity)

#### **Monday to Saturday service times**

08.00 am Morning Liturgy

10.30 am Eucharist (Wednesday & Saturday)

12.30 pm Eucharist (Monday & Friday)

12.30 pm Prayers for Peace (Thursday)

3.30 pm Evening Prayer (Saturday)

4.30 pm Evening Prayer (Monday & Friday)

5.00 pm Evensong - Boys' Voices (Tuesday)

6.00 pm Evensong - Girls' Voices (Wednesday)

6.30 pm Evensong – Boys'/Girls' and Lay Clerks (Thursday)

The pattern of services varies from time to time, and has to be adapted to take account of special duties or engagements, but the Dean and Chapter attach importance to the maintenance of this routine as far as possible.

Special services are principally those of the liturgical year. The choir takes a leading part in processional or carol services: Advent Sunday, a Celebration of Christmas and Epiphanytide. There are Sung Eucharists on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day, Corpus Christi, Michaelmas and All Souls. We keep a full Holy Week, including a programme of Passiontide Music on Palm Sunday afternoon. The Cathedral Choir is involved in singing at diocesan services and on some civic occasions.

This list is not exhaustive, and the precise deployment of the Cathedral Choir is something that is kept under regular review as a subject for discussion between the clergy and the musicians.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

The boys, girls and Lay Clerks undertake a full programme of services, broadcasts, concerts and recordings.

We are keen to encourage parish concerts or Choral Evensongs (one each term), as a means of strengthening the links between the Cathedral and the Diocese. Annual choir tours take place, for which funding has to be raised or found by the Wakefield Cathedral Choir Association and chorister parents.

### **Further information**

For any further information, or an informal conversation about the role, please contact the Director of Music on 01924 373923 or at [tom.moore@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:tom.moore@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk)

### **Application**

Completed application forms should be returned to Neil Holland, Office Manager and Dean's PA. Applications will be welcome by email to: [neil.holland@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:neil.holland@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk) or by post to: Cathedral Centre, 8-10 Westmorland Street, Wakefield WF1 1PJ.