

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your children had a lovely summer and are looking forward, as I am, to another exciting term of LCC ahead! We start this Wednesday 3rd September at the usual time of 5-6pm. Please have a look at the calendar (<http://loughchoir.co.uk/calendar>) for rehearsals and performances this term. Especially note some exciting performances opportunities coming up such as singing live on BBC Radio Leicester for 'Sing Christmas' with the Leicester Cathedral Chorister and children from the *DioSing!* project, appearing in a number carol services and taking part in the RSCM festival again this year.

New Membership Guide

Over the summer we have been reviewing how the choir operates. This has given rise to a new membership guide for the choir. The new guide is a substantial revision on the old one and so a printed copy will be given to every parent at the first rehearsal on the 3rd September. I strongly encourage parents to take the time to read the new guide carefully as there is a lot of new and important information in it. If you wish to look at the new guide before you receive a paper copy, it is on the LCC website at <http://loughchoir.co.uk/membership-guide> (less the personal contact details).

The biggest change mentioned in the guide is the introduction of small subscription charges for the choir. **Starting this term, there will be a charge of 50p per child per rehearsal** (subject to a maximum of £1 per family per rehearsal). We will ask for this money to be paid in cash at the beginning of every term. Stacey Morley-Seaman will be managing this and will contact you in the near future to collect payment.

As you will know, the choir is performing at an increasing number of high profile events. In order to be able to continue doing this we need to encourage punctual attendance at rehearsals and performances, as well as a high level of discipline. With this in mind, we are introducing a payment system to children of 20p for every rehearsal and performance they arrive on time and are well-behaved. The payment will be made to the children at the end of every term. More details of this scheme appear in the new membership guide. Again, Stacey Morley-Seaman will be managing this payment to the children.

Other changes to the guide include a slight relaxation of the rules for the use of photographs of the choir, a statement about our plan to store some of your

personal details electronically, and some new guidelines/requests to parents for rehearsals and performances (e.g. not remaining in rehearsal rooms prior to performances). The new guide also contains some general information that was not on the guide before simply from oversight (e.g. the details of the uniform).

Child Information Forms

In accordance with church policy of updating a child's details annually, at the first rehearsal on the 3rd September we will also be issuing every child with a new child information form. In order to reflect some of the changes in the membership guide, this form is a little different from before. Please could parents fill these forms in and get them back to us as soon as possible.

A Farewell and a Welcome

The 3rd September will be the last time that Joy Lee will be with us. Joy is working on moving near London where her husband works. Joy has been with the choir longer than anyone else and it will be quite an end of an era with her departure. For those of you who don't know, LCC was formed from a children's choir that used to meet at Emmanuel church. Joy was involved with this choir for many years and was its leader in its final years. When LCC was formed and moved to All Saints, Joy came too as an assistant. I'm sure we all want to thank Joy for her support of LCC, and indeed the choir before that, and wish her well for the future. I will be giving Joy a small gift at the rehearsal on the 3rd.

On a happier note I am delighted to announce the arrival of our new professional assistant director, Emily Walker. In addition to being part of the *DioSing!* project (of which LCC forms a part), Emily is also the Director of Music at St Peter's Church in Oadby, Leicester, having previously been the resident musician at the Diocesan retreat house of Launde Abbey and before that Iona Abbey in Scotland.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday. Please don't forget to have a look at the online calendar and let me know of any dates your child(ren) cannot attend as soon as you know.

Best wishes,
Emma