The Parish Trust Community Choir Membership Policy

LAST AMENDED: 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Purpose

The purpose of our membership policy is to strengthen, maintain and enhance the fun, exciting, vibrant and positive atmosphere of The Parish Trust Community Choir by outlining our core values and standards of performance and behaviour for all our Choir Members, Volunteers, Associates and The Parish Trust Community.

The Parish Trust Community Choir is a part of The Parish Trust which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation providing a range of services and activities for the benefit of the general public. We are a Christian based organisation but we exist for all.

This Membership Policy must be read in conjunction with the other policies and procedures of The Parish Trust.

Privacy

Information such as name, email address, postal address and phone number, given to The Parish Trust when joining, will be added to our membership and mailing list. This enables us to send you information relevant to your choir membership and events. For more details see The Parish Trust's Privacy Policy which can be found on our website at www.theparishtrust.org.uk

Choir Communication

When joining The Parish Trust Community Choir you are entering into a contract with the Charity which includes receiving regular communication regarding the choir and its activities. This will include information on guide vocals and learning materials, rehearsal/event/gig details and occasional service management messages.

We endeavour to publicise important information, FAQs and information relating to rehearsals and events within the online membership pages of The Parish Trust Website. We ask that if you have a query to please check these documents first as it is likely that your question will have been asked and answered there. If you can't find your answer, please talk to the leadership team at rehearsal.

We will communicate with Choir Members predominantly during choir rehearsals.

In addition to this we will also use email and our social media platforms in accordance with The Parish Trust's Data Protection Policy. You're free to opt out at any time. Please note, if you choose

to opt out, we can't be held responsible for any loss incurred by not receiving The Parish Trust Community Choir communications.

Membership

The Parish Trust Community Choir is an un-auditioned choir, where all are welcome to join. All those considering joining will be welcome to come to a rehearsal to see what they are like before making a commitment. *We are not looking for a perfect voice!* We are looking for people who enjoy singing, who are willing to give it a go, and who want to have fun in the context of a singing community of friends.

The regular rehearsal night of the choir is Monday evening.

Each rehearsal includes vocal warm ups, practising a selection of the repertoire and a break in the middle of rehearsal to socialise together.

The choir sing songs from the choir's repertoire which are decided by both the leadership team and the choir members themselves. The repertoire is a constantly growing and evolving library of varying music genres which are fun to sing. As The Parish Trust is a Christian organisation, some of the repertoire will include spirituals and religious pieces, but this is in keeping with many other non-religious choirs who enjoy this genre of music.

Your membership includes:

- Weekly rehearsals
- Access to voice parts, lyrics and musical scores of your individual harmony part
- Opportunity to audition for solos if you wish
- Opportunity to partake in planned events throughout the year outside of choir rehearsals

Should The Parish Trust Community Choir need to cancel any rehearsals for reasons outside of our control, we will endeavour to provide alternative/extra rehearsal time over the remaining weeks. We are unable to offer a refund in this case but will ensure that as much notice as possible is given.

Attendance is an important part of your Membership. If you are not able to attend a rehearsal, please notify the leadership team , and please rehearse at home so that you're up to speed on your return.

A weekly email will contain everything you need for happy practising at home, and for the benefit of those who were absent at rehearsal.

Should you have an emergency which means you cannot stay until the end of rehearsal please communicate this to the leadership team as early as possible, either via email or before the rehearsal start time. In instances where you've notified us of early leave, please respectfully wait for an appropriate opportunity to exit to ensure as little disruption as possible to choir members.

Where there are terms with solos, all choir members will have the opportunity to audition if they wish. Auditions will either be before or after rehearsal and information regarding these will be provided through our usual communication channels. If you fancy it, give it a go!

There may be opportunities to take part in events under the banner of The Parish Trust outside of the weekly rehearsals and planned events. We will let you know of these exciting opportunities as they arise.

Music and ideas

As part of your membership, you are given access to arrangements, harmonies and resources. When joining The Parish Trust Community Choir and by taking part in rehearsals, performances and events you agree that our resources, techniques and ideas will not be used, copied or replicated at any other event, to any other group or in any other venue. Doing so is not only a violation of this agreement, but it is also against the law.

Some arrangements are from outside arrangers. We don't have authority to give permission for outside arrangers' work to be used and ask that you contact them directly to comply with licensing laws.

Performances

We ask that you provide your own outfit for each event we hold. Changes to this may occur and you will be notified through the relevant communication channels should this be the case.

Sound checks and dress rehearsals are an important part of our events and need to be attended to ensure the smooth running and high-quality experience and performance of the performance. It is expected that, unless there are extenuating circumstances, all participating choir members in any given event will attend the sound check and dress rehearsal.

Photography and filming

To promote the choir and the broader remit of The Parish Trust, some events are recorded, filmed and/or photographed. This is to help spread the word about the great benefits of choir and singing and so that you can enjoy the fruits of your excellent work! By joining The Parish Trust Community Choir you are giving consent for The Parish Trust to capture you in footage and use this within performance videos, publicity pictures and occasionally, editorials unless otherwise expressly stated by yourself.

Behaviour

As a member of The Parish Trust Community Choir you are representing not just the choir, but The Parish Trust charity at all of our rehearsals and events. To help maintain the fun, welcoming and positive atmosphere of choir we expect that everyone is treated with respect and kindness at all times.

Please understand that to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals and performances and for everyone's enjoyment, the decisions and instructions of the leadership team must be entirely respected and followed at all times.

It is the priority of The Parish Trust to be able to provide all members with a safe and secure experience while at rehearsals and performances. It is also imperative that you take responsibility for your own welfare and behaviour and also be aware and respectful of others around you. Should you have any worries or concerns please discuss these with us.

The Parish Trust cannot accept responsibility for the security of personal possessions including phones, cameras, or other personal belongings.

By joining The Parish Trust Community Choir, you are agreeing to and understand this policy.

The Parish Trust *will not* tolerate:

- Any form of bullying or harassment
- Bad language
- Any form of physical, mental or sexual abuse towards others
- The use or possession of drugs/alcohol
- The possession of offensive weapons
- Any deliberate flouting of The Parish Trust's policies and procedures

If you witness or experience any form of behaviour outlined above, please inform us immediately. This will be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality and will be dealt with appropriately as is necessary to the individual case.

Anybody found to be participating in any of the above will immediately have their membership reviewed and where the issue cannot be resolved participants will be asked to leave, without refund.

Membership Fees (Subs)

Subs are important as it helps The Parish Trust to pay for the core costs associated with running the choir, maintaining the building the choir meets in, and producing and buying music for the choir to rehearse and perform.

Subs consist of a £15 one off sign up fee, and £43.50 per quarter thereafter (£14.50 per month)

Membership fees are usually paid online every three months. Upon joining the choir, you will be charged pro-rata for the month you sign up in, and then you will be charged every three months thereafter.

Membership fees (subs) to The Parish Trust Community Choir may change and you will be notified of any changes in advance.

Cancellation Policy

You have the right to cancel this agreement at any time with the minimum cancellation period being three months. If you decide to leave during/before the quarter end, refunds/partial refunds cannot be given. It is your responsibility to ensure that you notify the choir leader that you wish to resign your membership, and it is also your responsibility to cancel your subscription via your online account.

The Parish Trust reserves the right to amend the Community Choir Membership Policy at any time.

Change Record

Date of Change:	Changed By:	Comments:
24/01/2022	-	Policy adopted
21/02/2022	DAR	Membership fees and rehearsal night added.
01/09/2024	DAR	Membership fees update