

Visiting Choirs: Information for Services

3b 5.30 pm Weekday and 4.00pm Saturday Solemn Evensong

Book of Common Prayer

Music required:

- Responses
- Psalm (words from the BCP, sung to Anglican chant)
- Magnificat antiphon (plainsong)
- Evening Canticles
- An appropriate anthem
- Two hymns
- Final responses (Naylor)

Details of the two hymns, plainsong Magnificat antiphon and appointed psalm will be sent well before your visit.

The choir lines up at 5.25pm (3.55pm Saturdays) in the vestry and one of the Canons says a vestry prayer. They then process up to the south choir aisle where silence is kept; the Crucifer and acolytes set out followed by the President and then the choir. The procession moves via the crossing into the choir stalls. There is reflective organ music for a few minutes before the service and as the choir processes in.

Order of Service

Responses (unannounced; a note is given by the organist who finishes playing in the key of the responses)

Office Hymn (announced by the officiant)

Psalm (announced)

First Lesson, followed by one minute's silence (timed by the conductor)

Antiphon

Magnificat

Antiphon

Second Lesson followed by one minute's silence (timed by the conductor)

Nunc Dimittis

Creed (said; the choir does **not** turn to face East)

The organist gives the appropriate note for the

Lesser Litany, Our Father, Responses, Collects (all sung)

Anthem (announced)

Intercessions (normally closing with the Grace, said by all)

Processional Hymn (announced; the organist plays over the opening of the hymn, finishing by sustaining a suitable note (ideally between tenor G and B flat) for the president to intone on. The president then sings, unaccompanied: "Let us proceed in peace" and the choir responds "In the name of Christ. Amen". The first verse of the hymn then begins and the choir follows the Crucifer, president and servers in procession via the crossing, south aisle and nave.

As the procession reaches the foot of the podium, the hymn stops (with improvisation if necessary so the last verse has NOT been sung). A suitable note (from the last chord) is again held on the organ. The president sings a collect and the choir responds with a monotone "Amen".

The last verse of the hymn is sung straight away, and the choir processes past the choir stalls to the sanctuary where it takes up a semi-circular formation in front of the altar, leaving a gap in the centre. The organist improvises if necessary until all are in their places.)

Blessing from the Altar (followed by said 'Amen')

Final responses (the Festal responses by E W Naylor (OUP, 1964) or any other setting.)

The voluntary starts; the choir follows the President in procession to the crypt. A closing prayer is said in the vestry.