

29TH APRIL - 1ST MAY 2026

Conference

SUPPORT • CONNECT • CELEBRATE

Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford

Highlights include...

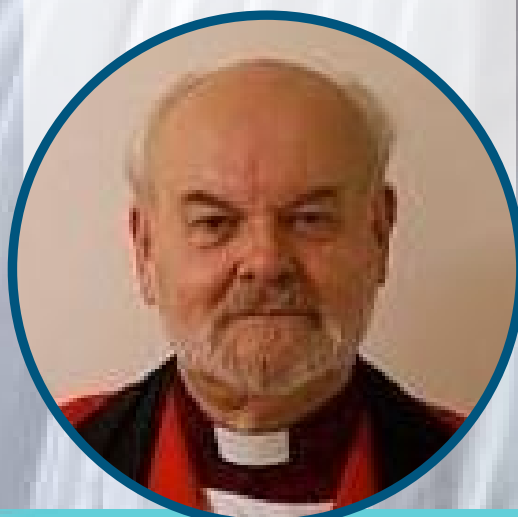
3pm, Wednesday 29th April - live broadcast of BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong from Christ Church Cathedral. Supper on Christ Church Meadow.

9.30am, Thursday 30th April - full day of conference sessions followed by dinner in the magnificent 16th century, Christ Church Great Hall

6am, Friday 1st May - celebrate May Day at Magdalen College

**BOOK
HERE**

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Chartres, Bishop Emeritus of London.



Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, vocalist, composer & conductor



Andrew Gant, composer, singer, author & politician



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dear Colleagues

We are delighted to invite members of the Choir Schools' Association to our **Conference in Oxford, from 29th April to 1st May 2026**, bringing together the choral music community under the theme:

Support • Connect • Celebrate

This conference will be an opportunity to step away from day-to-day pressures and re-energise your work with the choristers through new ideas, shared experiences and collaboration.

Why attend?

Delegates will benefit from:

- Practical **support** for real challenges. Gain fresh perspectives and workable ideas you can take straight back to your school, cathedral or church - whether around recruitment, wellbeing or nurturing musical excellence.
- A strong sense of **connection** with the choral community. Connect with others who truly understand the unique joys and demands of working with and supporting choristers strengthening professional relationships.
- **Celebration** of achievement and tradition. Celebrate the extraordinary work happening across our member schools, cathedrals and churches and reaffirm the shared values at the heart of the choral tradition.
- Opportunities to shape the future. Contribute to important conversations about the future and the role of the Association in supporting members in the years ahead.

Whether you are a head, director of music, chaplain, precentor or senior leader, this conference will leave you feeling supported, connected, and proud to be part of the choral community.

Oxford provides a rich and reflective setting to pause, think and return to your role with renewed clarity and inspiration. We very much hope you will join us for what promises to be an uplifting and enriching conference.

David Morton

Chair of the Choir Schools' Association and Headmaster of King's School, Gloucester



The Pavillion,
Christ Church Meadow



Christ Church Cathedral



The Great Hall, Christ Church

Used by permission of the Governing
Body, Christ Church, Oxford.



Thatched Barn

Conference Venues

Venue

This year's conference is very kindly being hosted by Headmaster Richard Murray at Christ Church Cathedral School. Oxford is home to four other CSA member choirs - Frideswide Voices, New College School, Merton College Girl Choristers and Magdalen College School - and we are delighted that the conference will also give us the opportunity to hear these choirs during our time together.

Programme

At 3pm on Wednesday afternoon, BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong will be broadcast live from Christ Church Cathedral. Conference delegates are warmly invited to attend this special occasion, marking 100 years of BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong broadcasts. Later that evening, supper will be served on the beautiful Christ Church Meadow.

Thursday is the main conference day. Registration opens at 9.00am, with the first session beginning at 9.30am and the final session concluding at 5.00pm. The sessions will be focussing on our key themes of Support, Connect and Celebrate and we are delighted to welcome key note speakers, The Right Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Chartres, Bishop Emeritus of London, Joanna Page L'Estrange and Andrew Gant to lead these sessions. The CSA AGM will be held at the end of the afternoon, giving you the opportunity to hear more about our work over the last year and have your say on our future direction.

At 6.15pm, you are invited to attend Evensong at New College, followed by a drinks reception at 7.00pm and dinner in the magnificent Christ Church Cathedral Great Hall at 7.45pm.

On Friday morning at 6.00am, delegates are invited to join us at Magdalen Tower to hear the choristers sing as part of the traditional May Day celebrations, or slightly later at Mass.

Reserving Your Place

- Full members are entitled to two complimentary places at the conference
- Associate members are entitled to one complimentary place
- Additional places are available at the following costs per person:
 - £175 for whole conference including supper on Weds, Dinner on Thurs and Breakfast on Friday.
 - £145 for full day on Thursday and dinner
 - £95 for full day on Thursday (without dinner)

Accommodation is not included in the conference package; you need to book and pay directly with your chosen accommodation provider.

Please share the booking details and link with colleagues from your school, cathedral, or church who are connected with the choristers. To reserve your place at the conference, please book [HERE](#).

Accommodation



Rooms have been reserved at the **Spires Oxford**, Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4PS ([Website](#). Telephone: 01865 324 648).

Spires is a modern and stylish 4 star hotel, with pool, spa and plenty of parking. The hotel is located outside the city's congestion charge zone, so no congestion fees apply. It is a 10–15 minute walk from the hotel to the conference venues in the city centre and there are frequent buses travelling along the Abingdon Road into the city.

Please quote **C4S** when booking to access the discounted single occupancy bed and breakfast rate of £172, which includes parking (usually £198.50 excl parking). Rooms are being held for CSA conference delegates until 28th February.

Delegates are, of course, welcome to make their own accommodation arrangements elsewhere in the city if they prefer.

Sponsors

With sincere thanks to our headline sponsor **Schoolblazer** and to **Thomas Franks**, our caterers on Wednesday evening, for their generous support of this year's conference.

Queries?

Please email info@choirschools.org.uk