

Renaissance Back to School: Music for Learning and Scholarship

Tutor: Stéphanie Dyer

All singers and instrumentalists are welcome: winds – cornetts, curtals, recorders, sackbuts and shawms, string players, plus continuo who can bring their own instruments. Modern string, wind, and brass players are also warmly invited, provided they can read concert-pitch notation and blend sensitively with the group.

Inspired by the university towns, chapels and choir schools that nurtured Renaissance musicians, this workshop explores the intellectual and practical foundations of European polyphony. In the 16th and 17th centuries, music was studied alongside arithmetic, geometry and astronomy, reflecting its deep connection to structure and design. Focusing on substantial works from across Europe, the workshop examines how leading composers used imitation, canon and spatial effects to create music that is both technically sophisticated and rewarding to perform. Sessions will combine practical music-making with exploration of the compositional techniques behind the music, building towards complete performances of each work throughout the day. The repertoire will be as follows:

Palestrina: *Surge, illuminare, Jerusalem* - 8 voices (Double Choir)

Josquin des Prez & Sethus Calvisius: *Praeter rerum seriem* - 6 voices

Alonso Lobo: *Ave Maria* - 8 voices (Double Choir)

Hans Leo Hassler: *Duo Seraphim clamabant* - 12 voices (Triple Choir)

TIMETABLE	10.00	Arrival and registration
	10.30	First session
	12.45	Lunch break
	14.00	Afternoon session
	17.00	Conclusion

Book by 22 August 2026 for early bird discount. Please send your application by **29 August** so we can ensure there are enough scores and parts for all participants. All bookings will be acknowledged. If you are unable to attend the workshop for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible.

Fees **£20 NWEMF members** and other EMF members (£25 if booked after 22 August)
£25 non-members (£30 if booked after 22 August)
£5 full-time students

Membership of NWEMF costs only £10 per year (full-time students join for free). Pay the members' rate for this workshop, and save £5 on future workshops. Join now by [applying online](#) or by contacting the Membership Secretary (nwemf.membership@gmail.com)

Please complete the online booking form, or send the requested information by email to the workshop organiser, Kirsten Flores (nwemf.chair@gmail.com). Payment is by bank transfer, cheque or cash on the day. For bank transfer, please send the appropriate workshop fee by bank transfer to:

Account Name	N W E M F (include the spaces between each letter)
Sort code	09-01-56
Account number	79658106
Payment reference	"12Sept" followed by your own surname

For payment by cheque, please make this payable to "NWEMF". You can either bring it with you on the day, or you can send it with the completed reply slip to the Treasurer (please email treasurer@nwemf.org for the address). If paying in cash, please bring it on the day.

Renaissance Back to School: Music for Learning and Scholarship
Tutor: Stéphanie Dyer

12 September 2026

NAME(S) PHONE

EMAIL Number of participants

Voice(s)

Instrument(s)

Fees £20 NWEMF members and other EMF members (£25 if booked after 22 August)
£25 non-members (£30 if booked after 22 August)
£5 full-time students

Total amount due £

	☐	NWEMF (or other EMF) member
Payment enclosed	☐	☐ Non-member
Will bring on the day	☐	☐ Full-time student

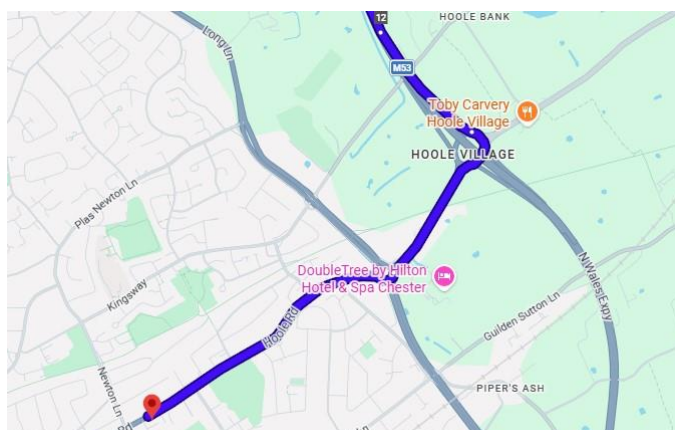
The Venue - All Saints Church Parish Centre, Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ

The church is easy to get to by car. From the south, come via the A55 and take the exit marked A56 for Chester. From the north, come down the M53 and take junction 12 marked A56 Chester. Continue on the A56 towards Chester, following signs for Hoole Road Hotels. The church is on the left hand side and is accessed from Vicarage Road. [Click here](#) for the link on Google Maps.

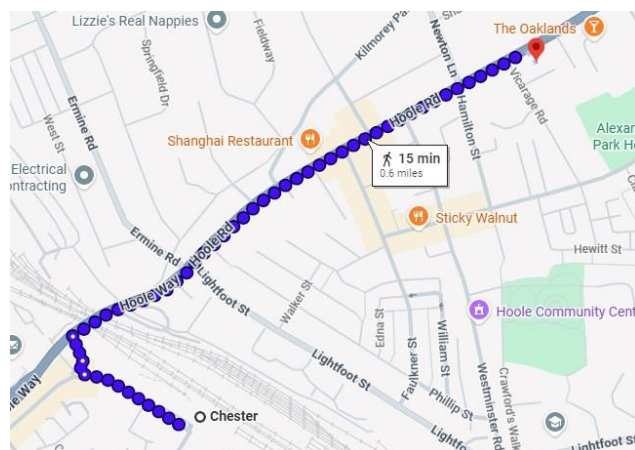
There is parking in the church car park, and on street parking on Vicarage Road and Hoole Road – sometimes the car park can get busy if there are other events on at the same time.

The venue is a 15 minute walk from Chester Rail station.

There is a Costa Coffee within walking distance, and also cafes and shops in Hoole Village, about 5 minutes away from the church, heading into town and towards the station.



Route to church from M53/A55



Route to church from Chester Railway Station