



MATT BECKINGHAM

the call

LIVE

The Call is a worship event with worship leader, Matt Beckingham. Celebrating the Methodist Church's *Our Calling*, the evening focuses on the four key ways we can live out our lives as Christians and Methodists.

The Call will feature new songs including songs based around *Our Calling*, and the themes presented by the President and Vice President of Conference in recent years. These are sung alongside some wonderful, but less well-known songs from 'Singing the Faith', and new arrangements of all-time favourite hymns.

The Call invites all members of the Circuit to come together and sing in worship. This is an evening of celebration and praise, with time for sung reflection as we wait on the Lord and consider His call for each of us.

The Call Choir

People from around the Circuit (from teens to retirees) are invited to a choral workshop. Those attending the workshop will then form a choir, taking part in *The Call*. The workshop is a fun & engaging session, open to anyone with an interest in singing, regardless of experience. Participants will learn choral arrangements of some of the songs, and leave the session with a good knowledge of what they will be singing on the night. Participants will also receive a CD with the songs, and a copy of the music.

Host The Call

If you would like to experience *The Call* in your Circuit, please get in touch. All we ask is that you're able to provide a venue for the workshop and event days, and are willing to help to publicise the event in your local churches. We will provide marketing materials, and tickets will be made available from the website. If you would like some tickets to sell locally in addition to online, that is also possible. We would be grateful for a couple of volunteers to help serve refreshments on each day. Please see the FAQ below for further information on hosting.

FAQ

What's a 'worship event'?

The Call takes the same structure as a concert, with an interval, but crucially, it's a time for all the *audience* to sing in worship together, with space for reflection on what Gods call is for each of us, alongside stories, songs Matt will sing, and video.

How does the choral workshop work?

Depending on availability, the workshop will be either a day or evening session. The day time session ordinarily starts at 10am, and finishes at 3pm, rehearsing with Matt Beckingham. The evening session starts at 6:30pm and finishes at 9:30pm. The choir will then meet on the day of The Call for a final run through and balance rehearsal.

Does the host circuit need to provide Audio or Video equipment?

If the host church has AV equipment, we'd welcome a conversation about compatibility. We will ordinarily bring the necessary Audio equipment along, though we'd be grateful to use the projector / screen at the host church, if available.

How many do you anticipate in the audience & choir?

The vision of The Call, is to bring together a large group from throughout a Circuit - from an audience of at least 70 upwards - so that it can be a real Circuit celebration. To this end, The Call relies upon being well publicised by, and within the Circuit. We will provide a marketing pack for each church in the Circuit, to help with this. The choir can be from 25 members upwards. If the formation of a choir is not possible in your circuit, we can discuss this further.

Do the venues need anything in particular?

- **General** It's really helpful if the venue(s) are centrally located in the Circuit, or somewhere members across the Circuit are used to travelling to.
- **Kitchen** We ask to have access to a kitchen, with a fridge, and tea and coffee making facilities. We'd be grateful if the host church can provide tea and coffee etc.
- **Workshop space** A hall, or flexible sanctuary - a bright, or well lit room, which can seat the singers in, ideally, a semicircle. Alongside space for refreshments.
- **Worship event space** A medium/large sanctuary, with space for the scratch Circuit choir to sing from 'on stage', alongside the audience seats.

Are the song words projected?

If a projector is available, the words will be projected. Programmes will also be available with the words printed. A limited number of large print versions are also provided. We are currently exploring making Braille copies available.

Does the Circuit need to provide local help at the event?

We would be grateful for the support of a small number of volunteers, to help with interval refreshments, ticket desk etc. We'd like to thank those volunteering by offering them a free ticket and programme. Most Circuits find it useful to have one contact person from the Circuit, for ease of communication.

Would you consider a District event?

The main focus of *The Call* is to work at local and Circuit level, but we are very happy to discuss how *The Call* might work for particular Districts.

How much does it cost the Circuit?

Ideally nothing. Except the provision of the venues, volunteer time on the days and in publicising the event, but otherwise Circuits are not ordinarily charged any fee. The workshop and worship event are ticketed, and reasonably priced, with proceeds going towards this area of ministry, overheads and expenses. The choral workshop, including music and CD, is £10pp. Ordinarily, the worship event is priced at £7.50 per ticket, with a limited early bird offer of £5 per ticket. Tickets for under 26's are £5. We started by saying 'ideally nothing' as we ask, as a sign of our partnership - working together towards a great Circuit celebration - for Circuits to agree to cover any shortfall should tickets sold for the event total under £400.

Some Circuits decide that they would prefer to offer the tickets free, or on a donation basis, whilst some like to offer a free guest ticket for each member of the choir. We will be happy to be flexible and to work with you to find a model which works well in your setting.

We already have a Circuit Choir, so can they do it?

Some Circuits may decide to invite their existing choir to participate in The Call. Those Circuits may find it a useful opportunity to open it up to other singers who may then be interested in joining the Circuit Choir after the event. Circuits may like to invite any local church choirs to get involved too.

Could we have an afternoon event, rather than evening?

We're happy to explore dates and times which will work best in your community.

Is it just for Methodists?

The event is an opportunity for the Circuit to come together, but it may be an opportunity to invite the wider community along too. Alongside being a time of *discipleship through song*, it could also be used as a missional tool. Those interested in exploring their faith, will hear and experience what the Methodist Church is called to do, and how we live out that calling. The evening will include a time to make a personal response to *Our Calling*.

Who is Matt Beckingham?

Matt Beckingham is a worship leader at his local Methodist church. Matt has been involved leading musical worship nationally, at the Methodist Church's 3Generate and Connecting Disciples, through to playing New Wine and leading congregations of over 15,000 at Greenbelt Festival Communion services. Matt is Artistic Director of OneSound, formerly known as MAYC Orchestra & Singers.

Matt spends most of his working life as a chorus master, working with organisations including London Philharmonic Choir, London Symphony Chorus, Opera North, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and Royal Northern Sinfonia. Matt has worked on a broad range of repertoire, conducting arena shows to recording at Abbey Road, and from performing for HM Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey, to conducting at the Chapel of Kings College Cambridge for a live broadcast on Classic FM with the King Singers. Matt has prepared choirs for a number of BBC Proms, working with the Vienna Philharmonic & Sir Simon Rattle, BBC Symphony Orchestra & Donald Runnicles, among others. Matt's arrangements have been performed by orchestras including London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, CBSO, Orchestra of Opera North, Royal Northern Sinfonia, and Berlin Rundfunkchor.

Matt is passionate that the Methodist Church should not only be born in song, but should be living in song today too. The Call is an expression of that passion; to use our voice to sing to God, about God, and for God.