

Title of Project: The Role of Liverpool's Cathedral Music Departments in Shaping Congregational Community and Spirituality.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the project is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

1. Why is the project being conducted?

This research is being conducted to develop an understanding of what parts of worship are found to be meaningful by members of the worshipping community within Liverpool Cathedral. There is particular interest into seeing if different parts of the worshipping community find meaning in different parts of the acts of worship. This research is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of Liverpool John Moores University for a PhD in Sociology by Christopher Deacon.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been identified as a potential participant in the research due to the researcher recognising you as a part of the worshipping community within Liverpool Cathedral.

You should only take part if the following conditions apply to you:

- *You are aged 16 or over.*
- *You would consider yourself to be a part of the regular worshipping community at Liverpool Cathedral.*

This research intends to capture observations of 150 participants behaviour and capture the stories and perspectives through informal ethnographic interviews of 50 participants.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether to take part. You can ask questions about the project before deciding. You can stop being part of the project at any time, without giving a reason. You may leave the project by contacting the researcher via their email address (C.W.Deacon@2025.ljmu.ac.uk) or by speaking to them within the cathedral. You are free to opt-out of both the observations and interviews, or to opt-out of either part on their own, so it is possible to participate in observations but not interviews or vice versa.

4. What will happen to me if I take part?

Concerning Observations:

The researcher may make observations and notes about patterns of behaviours that you and other participants preparing for, during and shortly after services within Liverpool Cathedral. This will only occur at services where there is a sign mentioning the presence of the researcher at the service, the researcher will not interrupt your own worship in gathering these observations.

The researcher will not ask you to sign a consent form and you do not need to do anything to take part in this project. If you do not wish to take part in this project, please inform the researcher either in person at Liverpool Cathedral, or via email to C.W.Deacon@2025.ljmu.ac.uk. You can opt-out of taking part in the project by 01/02/2027 (but if possible, the researcher will not include you in the project if you opt-out after this date)/until publication of the project.

Concerning Informal Interviews:

The interview will take place within Liverpool Cathedral. and should take approximately 5-30 minutes, depending upon how much information you wish to share. You will be offered regular breaks as necessary. The interview will discuss the worship which you participate in within Liverpool Cathedral, and what parts make worship meaningful to you. Specifically, you will be asked questions about what inspires you to attend the cathedral for regular worship, and where you find meaning within this process. You will likely be asked specifically about your connections with the music within the service, the significance of the other people within the cathedral's community generally (you will not be asked about any specific individuals, but are welcome to talk about this should you wish), and how your faith and spiritual journey are impacted by your participation within worship at Liverpool Cathedral. You will also be asked if there is anything else which is of particular importance to you which hasn't been raised during the prior conversation. These questions are designed to serve as launching off points to discuss the parts of your participation which are most meaningful to you, and you will be able to steer the discussion to the parts which are most significant to you.

5. Are there any possible disadvantages or risks in taking part?

Taking part in the project is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantages or discomfort. The potential *psychological harm or distress* will be the same as any experienced in everyday life.

6. Are there any benefits in taking part?

While there are no immediate benefits for those people who take part, participants will be given the opportunity to express their feelings towards their worship within Liverpool Cathedral in a way which will be presented anonymously to Liverpool Cathedral's senior clergy and lay leaders. It is hoped that this project will lead to cathedral leaders having a developed understanding of the practices and behaviours of congregation members, allowing for more informed and confident strategic decision making in line with the congregations felt and expressed needs. The research also hopes to inspire some development in the thinking of cathedral leaders in other cathedrals, who will also be able to draw inspiration from the research carried out in Liverpool Cathedral not only to further inform inquiries into their own congregations social and spiritual developments, but also to begin to see what this may look like for individuals in similar situations to those studied in Liverpool within their own congregations.

7. What personal data will be collected and what will happen to this?

The information you give us, or that we collect from you, from which you can be identified (e.g. from identifiers such as your name, etc.), is known as **personal data**. Taking part in this project will involve the collection/use of your personal data. We will keep all information about you safe and secure. The investigator and their supervision team will have access to some or all your personal data. You can object to our processing of your data, and you have the right to ask us to access, remove, change or delete data we hold about you for the purposes of the study. We might not always be able to do this if it means we cannot use your data to do the project. If so, we will tell you why we cannot do this. The personal data collected will include:

- A record of consent (which will include your name)
- Project data. We will use a code/pseudonym so that you cannot be directly identified from the data. The personal data collected/used may, where relevant include more sensitive categories of personal data (special category personal data) such as your race; ethnic origin; politics; religion; health; sex life; or sexual orientation. Excluding religion, this special category personal

data will not be asked about and will only be retained if you specifically tell the researcher during interviews of this data, and affirm that you believe it to be important.

- Identifiable project data will be stored securely for the duration of the project – unless there is no need for the data to be identifiable, at which point it will be made anonymous. Other data (including consent records and opt-out records) or project data that needs to be identifiable, will be stored securely at LJMU for three years after publication or public release of the thesis written which this data is used for.

Limits to confidentiality

- Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.
- Please note that confidentiality will be maintained as far as it is possible, unless during our conversation I hear anything which makes me worried that someone might be in danger of harm, I might have to inform relevant agencies of this.
- Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines.
- Confidentiality will be respected unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for this to be breached. If this was the case we would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.
- Confidentiality may be limited and conditional and the investigator has a duty of care to report to the relevant authorities possible harm/danger to the participant or others.

8. Will the project be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other outputs?

The findings from the project *will* be written up *in a thesis, peer-reviewed academic publications, conference presentations*. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the project and we would like your permission to use direct quotations but without identifying you in any outputs. Please note that confidentiality in outputs may not be guaranteed; *for example, due to the limited size of the participant sample, the position of the participant or other information included in reports, participants might be indirectly identifiable in transcripts and reports [investigator to edit]*. The investigator will work with the participant in an attempt to minimise and manage the potential for indirect identification of participants and will seek explicit consent from you ahead of any publication if the investigators think there is the potential for you to be indirectly identifiable. However, you should not take part if the potential to be indirectly identifiable in outputs is not acceptable to you.

A copy of my thesis/ dissertation will be deposited online in the LJMU archive where it will be publicly available to facilitate its use in future research.

9. Data Protection

Liverpool John Moores University is the data controller with respect to your personal data and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the project. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the project outlined above. Research/evaluation is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from the LJMU [Privacy Notice for Research Participants](https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice) (https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice). The LJMU Data Protection Officer can be contacted via email: DPO@ljmu.ac.uk.

10. Who has reviewed this project?

This Project has received a favourable ethics opinion from an LJMU Research Ethics Committee as well as the Research Ethics Committee in Liverpool Cathedral.

Research Ethics Committee Reference Number (LJMU): 260114LJMUREC294

11. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the project or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please contact Prof. Simone Krüger Bridge (S.KruegerBridge@ljamu.ac.uk) and we will do our best to answer your query. You should expect a reply within 10 working days. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at Liverpool John Moores University who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee; Email: FullReviewUREC@ljamu.ac.uk;
Tel: 0151 231 2121; Research Innovation Services, Liverpool John Moores University, Exchange Station, Liverpool L2 2QP

12. Further information and contact details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

Principal Investigator: Christopher Deacon LJMU postgraduate research student

LJMU Email address: C.W.Deacon@2025.ljamu.ac.uk

LJMU School/faculty: School of Humanities and Social Science / Faculty of Society & Culture

LJMU Central telephone number: 0151 231 2121

Supervisor Name: Prof. Simone Krüger Bridge

Supervisor's LJMU Email address: S.KruegerBridge@ljamu.ac.uk

Please consider retaining a copy of this information sheet for your future reference.