Song School, St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

The Song School was purpose built in 1885 for the choir, and is still used daily by the choristers.

Phoebe Anna Traquair painted the murals from 1888–92. On the East wall are various scenes from the Gospels, as well as a portrait of the choir and clergy, each figure an individual from the Cathedral choir of the day. The various angels also use congregation members or Traquair's friends and family as models.

The North and South Walls illustrate various Biblical songs including the *Benedicite*, in which all parts of Creation (cattle, whales, seas, 'fowls of the air', and so on) praise God. Additionally, there is a fantastic group portrait of various famous faces (including poets Tennyson and Dante, artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and historian Thomas Carlyle), as well as various craftsmen, decorators and artisans who Phoebe worked with and taught at the Edinburgh Social Union. She has also painted herself in a wry, modest self-portrait in a corner of the room, sleeping with a painter's palette.

Finally, the West Wall is painted to illustrate the Biblical song of the angels *Sanctus* (Holy, holy, holy). The style on this wall is very different and is influenced by William Blake and a trip Phoebe took to Florence where she saw some of the finest Renaissance murals.

Since the Song School is in continuous use by the choir, it is not open it to the public on a regular basis. However, it is often open in August as part of the Cathedral's Festival programme.