

ST MARK'S

HAMILTON TERRACE

ASSISTANT ORGANIST

Introduction

St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace is seeking to appoint an Assistant Organist from October 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Music has historically been a key aspect of mission for St Mark's. The choir and musical reputation of the church disappeared in the 1960s and a new voluntary choir for St Mark's was begun in September 2012 upon the engagement of Tansy Castledine as Director of Music. Since then, singers and organists have achieved scholarships and awards at Robinson College, Cambridge, Exeter College, Oxford, The Temple Church, Peterborough and Norwich Cathedrals, and in Genesis Sixteen.

About St Mark's

The parish of St Mark's is the second largest in population in the deanery of Marylebone with some 14,000 inhabitants. St Mark's seeks to serve the local community faithfully. It faces some challenges, not least in terms of the demographic of the area which is only 50 per cent Christian. However, strategies are being developed to reach out particularly to the elderly. There is scope for more work with young people too. The congregation are mainly young professionals with young families and the population is transient due to the high property costs. There had been plans to sell the Church Hall and its land for development and to divide the church building. However, the PCC moved to abandon such plans in 2011 and we are now actively pursuing the restoration of the church - building and people!

The main Sunday service is the Parish Choral Eucharist at 10.30 at which a full choral setting is sung, alongside a motet. During the choir holidays, the Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne is used. The current hymnbook is *The New English Hymnal* and extra hymns are drawn in from other sources as appropriate. There is an increasing programme of concerts and a loyal audience.

Assistant Organist

In September 2017 the Music Department was re-structured and is now comprised of the Director of Music, an Assistant Organist, Director of the Junior Choir, and Choral Scholars. The creation of the post of Assistant Organist marked a significant development in the musical history of St Mark's, with the playing having been previously covered by Organ Scholars, thus securing the ability to tackle more complex choral repertoire regularly. Ben Hulme (September 2017) was the first incumbent of this post; he has been appointed to succeed Tansy Castledine as Director of Music from October 2018, and thus relinquishes the post, leaving a vacancy.

The Organs

The church has a fine three manual organ built by J.W. Walker in 1878 and moved to the west end of the church and rebuilt in 1950. It is in need of a full refurbishment, but some work has already been carried out which ensures that it is reliable.

There is also a two manual Allen Digital organ for the east end of the church to accompany the choir and it is hoped that a new pipe organ will be built at the east end as an accompaniment instrument.

The organ and other musical instruments shall be reserved for the use of the Director of Music, Assistant Organist, and Director of the Junior Choir. Additionally, for the teaching and practice of their pupils, assistants or deputies, or others with the permission of the Director of Music at such times as will not interfere with the services of the church.

The Senior Choir

This comprises former university choral scholars, trained singers, and professionals whose primary commitment outside work is the choir; membership currently stands at 15, with between 10-12 in attendance each week. Choir members are auditioned and required to commit to singing at least 50% of the services in a given month. The choir sings every Sunday with a rehearsal in advance of the service (the choir does not rehearse in the week) and has a week off after Christmas and Easter, and six weeks in the summer.

The choir's repertoire is extremely broad in terms of genres and includes approximately 55 mass settings; the Fauré and Duruflé Requiems are sung liturgically and there are Carol Services for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. In the last few years, the choir has appeared on BBC Songs of Praise several times, sung in Bristol and Norwich cathedrals as a visiting choir and participated in the Brandenburg Festival. They have performed concert repertoire such as Monteverdi *Vespers* with The English Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble, Vivaldi *Gloria* with the Brandenburg Sinfonia, and Bach *Magnificat*, Handel *Messiah*, Haydn *Nelson Mass* and Poulenc *Gloria*, with St George's Sinfonia.

Following the choir's first CD recording in 2014, featuring repertoire for Advent and Christmas, the choir recorded a second disc with Regent in June 2018 ready for release in the Autumn, repertoire for which is "choral favourites".

The Junior Choir

The Junior Choir was formed in 2015 for children between the ages of 8-13 and rehearses weekly on a Thursday after school. Recent accomplishments of the current members include achieving grades 4/5 singing, and their RSCM Bronze Awards, demonstrating that the training and musicianship offered enhances musical outcomes and development. The Junior Choir Director is currently run by James Rhodes (September 2017) who sings tenor in the Senior choir and is also Director of Music at a local CISC Prep School.

Choral Scholars

Funding is available for 4 choral scholars paid £800 per annum. They sing on Sundays during term and the holy days during the year (see schedule B; scholars are expected to be in attendance at either Christmas or Easter Feast Days).

The Role of Assistant Organist

The Assistant Organist will be supportive of, and enthusiastic towards the life and mission of St Mark's. It is hoped that they will enter fully into the life of St Mark's, taking an interest in its present and future projects and developments and current concerns.

In addition, the Assistant Organist shall:

- Play the organ at the services listed in Schedules A & B, subject to holiday entitlement or other agreed absence, when the Director of Music or Assistant Organist shall appoint a suitable deputy.
- Be responsible to the Director of Music for the care and oversight of the keyboard instruments at St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace.
- Work with the Director of Music and Director of the Junior Choir and fully support their work and endeavours.
- Take initiative in furthering the musical life of St Mark's and its relationship with its community.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Education to degree level or equivalent
- Associate of the Royal College of Organists or equivalent diploma level qualification
- Capable singer
- Ability to conduct a choir
- In sympathy with the Christian faith and commitment to the mission of St Mark's
- The ability to engender enthusiasm and commitment in others
- Creative and entrepreneurial
- The ability to work collaboratively with others

Desirable

- Communicant member of the Church of England

Knowledge & Skills

- Experience of liturgical organ playing and accompanying choral music in a church or equivalent setting
- Knowledge of the Christian year and associated practices
- Extensive knowledge of a wide range of organ music from all periods
- Ability to communicate vision
- Experience of working with volunteers
- Commitment to continuing professional development
- Commitment to ensuring the Church's safeguarding policies and procedures are understood and applied consistently by all those involved in the church's musical life

The successful candidate will be an outstanding organist with a proven track record in a similar setting, and a competent singer and conductor. They will be committed to their own musical development and will be able to demonstrate their commitment to the choral tradition of the Church of England.

Schedule A

Weekly Sunday Services at which the Assistant Organist shall play the organ (and/or with prior agreement, direct the choir in the absence of the Director of Music)

09.15 Choir Rehearsal (ending 10.20am)
10.30 Parish Eucharist

Schedule B

Services on the Holy Days of the Church at which the Assistant Organist shall play the organ (and/or with prior agreement, direct the choir in the absence of the Director of Music)

Advent Carol Service
Christmas Eve Children's Crib Service (Junior choir)
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Eucharist
Epiphany Carol Service
Ash Wednesday Eucharist
Maundy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Vigil
Easter Day Eucharist
All Souls' Day Requiem

Remuneration

The remuneration for carrying out duties in relation to the services listed in Schedules A and B above is up to £4,000 per annum, according to experience. Extra fees are chargeable for deanery or diocesan occasions, weddings, funerals, and memorial services.

Holiday entitlement is 8 weeks and the Director of Music, Assistant Organist, and Director of the Junior Choir, should not take their holiday at the same time except with the written permission of the Vicar (or Wardens in the absence of the Vicar). Such permission would not be unreasonably withheld.

Further information

If you would like to discuss the position or request any further information, please contact the Director of Music, Tansy Castledine, tansycastledine@aol.com.