

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Introduction

Following the appointment of Ben Hulme to the BBC Philharmonic, the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC of St Mark's Hamilton Terrace are seeking to appoint a new Director of Music for January 2021 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 robed choir was launched in September 2012. 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.

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.

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 a two manual Allen Digital organ for the east end of the church to accompany the choir.

Use of the organ: The organ and other musical instruments shall be reserved for the use of the Director of Music and Assistant Organist. 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 immediately prior to 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 new Director of Music may desire to undertake further recruitment as the members we have now were all recruited by word of mouth.

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 at alternate All Souls' services 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 and Westminster Abbey 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.

In the summer of 2018, the choir recorded a disc of choral favourites from St Mark's. This was recorded with Regent and released in the Autumn; the choir's first CD recording was made in 2014 and contains repertoire for Advent and Christmas.

The Junior Choir

There is currently no Junior Choir at St Mark's. However, it is hoped that the new Director of Music will work with the Vicar and members of the Senior Choir to reimagine and revitalise this essential work.

Music Department

In September 2019 the Music Department was re-structured and is now comprised of the Director of Music, an Assistant Director of Music and Choral Scholars.

During the past academic year St Mark's has had two choral scholars. Sponsorship is being sought to increase this to four secure places. The Scholars 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 Director of Music

The Director of Music 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 Director of Music shall:

- Be responsible to the Vicar, Wardens and PCC for the care and oversight of music at St Mark's Hamilton Terrace.
- Direct all Senior choir rehearsals for services at which the Senior choir will sing (see schedule A & B), subject to holiday entitlement or other agreed absence, when the Director of Music shall appoint a suitable deputy.
- Play the organ when necessary on Sundays and for weddings, funerals and special services (or arrange for a suitable deputy to play)
- Work with an Assistant Director of Music and fully support their work and endeavours.
- Work with the Vicar and members of the choir to recruit new members and run an audition programme.
- Be responsible for matters relating to the membership of the choir(s).
- Draw up a music list in consultation with the Vicar.
- Attend diary and strategy meetings with the Vicar.
- Take initiative in furthering the musical life of St Mark's and its relationship with its community.
- Work with the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC to agree and manage a budget for the music department.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Education to degree level or equivalent
- Experience in directing a choir, and / or leading a music department in an equivalent setting
- Associate of the Royal College of Organists or equivalent diploma level qualification
- Capable singer
- 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 demonstrate judgement in leadership and work collaboratively with others

Desirable

- Communicant member of the Church of England

Knowledge & Skills

- Experience of training and directing children and adult singers in a church or equivalent setting
- Knowledge and experience of developments in the choral tradition and current trends in church music
- Knowledge of the Christian year and associated practices
- Extensive knowledge of a wide range of sacred music from all periods
- Ability to communicate vision

- Experience of music administration in relation to a church or equivalent setting
- Experience of liturgical organ playing
- 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 choir trainer with a proven track record in a similar setting, and a competent organist. 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 Director of Music shall play the organ and/or direct the choir

09.15 Choir Rehearsal (ending 10.20am)
 10.30 Parish Eucharist
 16.00 Four services per year of Choral Evensong

Schedule B

Services on the Holy Days of the Church at which the Director of Music shall play the organ and/or direct the choir

Advent Carol Service
 Nine Lessons and Carols Service
 Christmas Eve Children's Crib Service
 Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day Eucharist

Vicar: The Reverend Kate Harrison

vicar@stmarks.london

0779 4113782

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 £8,000 per annum, according to experience and qualifications. Extra fees are chargeable for deanery or diocesan occasions, weddings, funerals, and memorial services.

The Director of Music shall have the sole right to play and direct the choir(s) at all services at St Mark's whenever live music is requested. The Director of Music may, at his or her discretion and with the goodwill of the Vicar, permit some other competent person to play at any such service but in that event the Director of Music shall be entitled to receive the fee.

Holiday entitlement is 8 weeks and the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music 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 but the Director of Music would be responsible for finding suitable cover.