

Organist & Director of Music

St Paul's, Clapham

St Paul's, Clapham is looking to appoint a resident Organist & Director of Music to help shape, lead and energise the next chapter of our musical life. This is an exciting opportunity for a gifted and imaginative musician to become an integral part of a warm parish community, enriching worship through confident organ playing, thoughtful musical planning, and the development of singing across the congregation.

Music already has a valued place at St Paul's, centred on our historic Forster & Andrews organ, a mixed ability congregational choir, and a congregation that values the role of music in its culture and worship. The successful candidate will help us build on this foundation: supporting Sunday worship, growing our congregational choir, broadening our repertoire, and encouraging new musical involvement across the life of the church.

The core responsibilities are set out below.

Key Services and Commitments

The Resident Organist & Director of Music will provide music for the weekly Sunday morning Parish Eucharist at 10 a.m., including pre-service rehearsals, normally from approximately 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

The role also includes the following major services and observances during the year:

- Advent Sunday evening Carol Service (with choir)
- Third/Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Carol Service (with choir)
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Ascension Day
- Corpus Christi
- All Souls' Day
- Occasional Offices, including Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals, currently fewer than four a year and subject to availability

Organ Playing and Instrument Care

The organist will bring confidence, sensitivity and imagination to the musical leadership of worship, providing three voluntaries each Sunday – opening, Communion and closing – alongside three or four hymns, a congregational mass setting, and a responsorial psalm.

- Rehearse with the weekly cantor at 9:30 a.m.
- Arrange organ recitals on an *ad hoc* basis throughout the year.
- Arrange twice-yearly organ tuning and maintenance.

Cantors, Choir, and Congregation

A central part of this role is to encourage confident, joyful singing across the parish, supporting the weekly cantor and helping St Paul's develop a congregational choir of mixed abilities for festival services throughout the year.

- Assist the weekly cantor with preparation for the weekly responsorial psalm.
- Build and encourage a congregational choir of mixed abilities, to sing for festival services throughout the year.
- Enhance and expand the musical repertoire of the congregation and congregational choir through hymns and congregational mass settings.
- Liaise with singers from other churches in Clapham for joint choral endeavours, for example the Advent Sunday *Churches Together in Clapham Carol Service*.
- Arrange additional instruments as required, for example a trumpeter for Remembrance Sunday.

Music Planning and Administration

The Organist & Director of Music will work collaboratively with the clergy and parish team to ensure that music is well planned, liturgically appropriate, and practically supported throughout the year.

- Work with the Clergy to prepare a termly music list in keeping with Sunday observances.
- Devise the music lists for seasonal services.
- Compile a quarterly cantor and choir rota, encouraging new singers to join
- Maintain a working knowledge of the music library.
- Arrange for deputisation when unavailable.
- Liaise with other musical groups using St Paul's to coordinate access and rehearsal times.
- Arrange deputisation for the Occasional Offices, currently fewer than four a year.

Musical Outreach and Growth

Beyond the regular pattern of worship, St Paul's hopes to develop music as a wider expression of welcome, creativity and mission. The successful candidate will be encouraged to offer opportunities for broader musical involvement in the life of the church, especially through establishing a children's and families' choir within the first year.

- Develop the congregational choir and create opportunities for other musical involvement in the life of the church.
- Expand the congregation's musical repertoire.
- Work to establish a children's and families' choir within the first year.
- Promote the musical life of St Paul's.
- Encourage the use of the organ and church for performances by external organisations.

Remuneration

The remuneration for this role is £9,082.63 per annum, rising in line with Musicians' Union rates and reviewed annually according to developing responsibilities.

- The Organist & Director of Music is responsible for paying their own tax and national insurance obligations.
- Out-of-pocket expenses will be covered.
- Overtime and additional rehearsal time will be paid in line with Musicians' Union rates.
- Occasional Office fees are currently £175 for a wedding and £125 for a funeral or baptism taking place outside of a Sunday morning service.

About St Paul's, Clapham

St Paul's is a parish church with a strong musical tradition, a supportive congregation, and a desire to see music flourish at the heart of worship and community life. We are looking for someone who will bring musical excellence, pastoral warmth, practical organisation and creative energy to this role.

For a musician who wants to play beautifully, lead generously, grow choirs, encourage congregational song and help shape an ambitious musical future, this is a rewarding opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the life of St Paul's, Clapham.

Person specification

- High standard of competence playing the organ.
- Ability to lead and train a choir of adults.
- Experience of developing music activities with young people and/or children.
- Ability to support the mission of a parish church and the discipleship of church members through its musical life.
- Willingness to work inclusively and collaboratively with clergy and others.
- Administrative and record-keeping skills appropriate to the responsibilities of the post.
- Familiarity with copyright law applicable to church music.
- Understanding of the liturgies and worshipping life of the Church of England.