

JOB DESCRIPTION

Church Musician

Christ Church, Isle of Dogs

Summary

Christ Church Isle of Dogs is looking to appoint a new Church Musician with skills to develop our worship, our sense of community and our cohesion through music.

We find ourselves able to offer an exciting opportunity for someone with musical gifts to enrich our worship - the emphasis being on music in its widest and most inclusive sense, welcoming different styles, cultures and genres into our worship.

Our vision is to encourage the use of music, to support and lead our worship, rather than to overburden it. Our worship is centred in the Mass and the liberal catholic tradition, but still is critical, wide-ranging and inclusive. We currently use three different hymn collections, The New English Hymnal, Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard and Hymns old and new. We also print songs or hymns on our notice-sheet to widen the repertoire.

Being Church Musician at Christ Church could involve use of singers and different instruments in our worship, or coordinating musicians in the Parish, enabling them to contribute and use of different periods, ages and style of music, It might mean, for example, providing music to support meditative prayer, or to strengthen the chanting of psalms, or bolster the contribution of children in our worship.

A key skill for our future Church Musician will be as a teacher, training the whole congregation to perform and enjoy music in a knowledgeable and confident manner. We aspire to be a congregation that sings its prayer and its praises lustily and skilfully.

At the heart of our worship is the Parish Mass at 11am on Sundays which has a sung mass setting and four hymns, with organ (and sometimes piano) accompaniment. The Musician will need to be able to *ad lib* with ease and provide accompaniment to the liturgy.

In the past there has been a choir, but this not been the case for 1-2 years due to key choir members leaving the Parish. A recent music survey has revealed just how much a strong lead in music in worship is valued – for many a choir provided this lead in the past and they look forward to being led in that way again.

Under the leadership of a new Church Musician we would hope to encourage members of the congregation to sing more ably together and then to create an informal singing group to help give a lead and confidence to the congregation when

singing hymns. It is hoped that this group would, in turn, be the nucleus of a new choir, in the medium to long-term (e.g. in the next 2-3 years).

<p>Main responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play the organ for Sunday services (or piano for All the Church Family Services, or when the music dictates) to lead the sung mass setting and hymns • Run a weekday afternoon/evening rehearsal for any and all that want to sing the Sunday music more confidently. Demonstrate how music works/experiment with part singing. • Play on weekday evening services where festivals fall mid-week – for example, All Souls, Ascension Day, Corpus Christi
<p>Previous experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of playing in churches and accompanying congregations • Experience of teaching/training/community development in music • Working alongside the staff and children of local schools
<p>Technical skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficient organist • Proficient in piano and at least one other instrument • Experience of leading choirs of mixed abilities • Ability to teach and train adults, young people and children • Ability to arrange music to allow use of varied instruments by others.
<p>Preferred qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiastic about the role of music in worship • A teacher and enabler • Openness to the wider community • Ability to work with people of all ages and musical abilities • Team-working • A good listener • Knowledge of the London church music scene.

Application is by CV, 2 relevant references and covering letter by Fri 1st Feb to tom.pyke@parishiod.org.uk (for informal briefing ring 07753616499)
 Shortlisted candidates will be invited to play at a Sunday service and lead a short congregational practice to introduce or refamiliarise the congregation with a vocal item. Candidates will be paid for this engagement.

