

Postgraduate Organ Scholar – All Saints Church Kingston

Kingston upon Thames, London

Reporting to: Director of Music

Location: All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames

Role Type: Part time (Approx 12 hours per week), 1-year fixed-term contract

Salary: £5500 Per Annum



All Saints Kingston have a rare opportunity for a talented postgraduate organist to work with our nationally famous and well-established choir. This role is ideal for someone looking to gain extensive experience in an ambitious and exciting music department.

Our Story

The Choir of All Saints Kingston was first recorded in church documents in the 13th century, and was founded in its current form in the early 19th century.

The choir at All Saints Church has a longstanding and national reputation for excellence. Musical standards are very high and the choir sings repertoire comparable to most cathedral music lists. The choir is 'semi-professional': the choristers and choral scholars are paid a termly fee, and the lay-clerks are voluntary auditioned singers who are highly experienced and many of whom sing with some of the country's best chamber choirs, opera companies and work as soloists.

The music department is led by David Condry, Director of Music. David is a highly experienced and well respected musician having been Assistant Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral, currently teaching at a renowned international Music School. He is assisted by the Postgraduate Organ Scholar and the Junior Organ Scholar. In addition, there is a Choir Matron, Choir Librarian and Choir Administrator. Fundraising and social events are organised by a choir committee. There is also a choir association, which is an organisation for current and former choristers to keep in touch through a series of social events and an annual festival evensong.

What is the current weekly schedule for the Organ Scholar?

The Organ Scholar is required to attend all services unless previously agreed with the Director of Music. An example termtime week is outlined below:

Wednesday:

16:50 for 17:00 rehearsal and 17:30 choral evensong (ending approx.18:00).

Friday:

- 17:45 Probationers training
- 18:15 Choristers rehearsal
- 19:30 – 20:30 Full Choir rehearsal

Sunday:

- 08:50 for 09:00 Rehearsal
- 09:30 Choral Eucharist, ending approx. 10:30
- Break until rehearsal
- 11:15 full rehearsal, ending 12:00
- 17:15 for 17:25 rehearsal
- 18:00 Choral Evensong ending approx. 19:00
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There are occasional special services for which you will be required. Weddings and Funerals attract extra fees.

What does the Postgraduate Organ Scholar do?

The Postgraduate Organ Scholar plays a vital role in supporting the musical life of All Saints Kingston. The position is designed for a talented organist pursuing post-graduate study or having recently completed post-graduate study as an organist. This role offers an opportunity to develop and enhance your skills in a supportive and musically thriving environment.

You will have principal responsibility for accompanying the choir in most choral services on the renowned 1988 Frobenius Organ. There will be opportunities to give organ recitals in both the Monday Chamber Music recital series and the Friday Organ Recital series. There will also be opportunities to assist in the direction of the choir and rehearsing of the choristers and choral scholars.

The main responsibility of this position will be playing the organ. However, at times, the Organ Scholar may be required to help plan the music list for services, provide a list of voluntaries and promote the choir within the community.

What we would love to see from you:

- Candidates should have advanced proficiency in organ performance, with standard equivalent to ARCO (Associate of the Royal College of Organists) or preferably to FRCO standard (Fellow of the Royal College of Organists)
- Strong sight-reading skills and familiarity with Anglican liturgy and choral music.
- Experience in accompanying and conducting choirs.
- Some experience working with children and young singers in preferred.
- Willingness to encourage and support the Junior Organ Scholar to develop their skills and confidence.

Recent Repertoire:

- Langlais *Messe Solennelle*
- Howells *St Paul's Service*
- Leighton *Second Service*
- Bairstow *Blessed City, Heavenly Salem*
- Weelkes *Service" for Trebles"*
- Byrd *The Great Service*
- Mozart *Coronation Mass K. 317*
- Mozart *Missa Solemnis K. 337*
- Mozart *Credomesse K. 257*
- Bach *Lobet Denn Herrn BWV 230*

Benefits of working here:

- Access to the acclaimed, Frobenius organ, which has recently been renovated with a new solid state capture system.
- You will be entitled to use the organ for personal practice and for teaching, subject to the Church's safeguarding policy.
- Opportunities for professional growth and development.
- A supportive, sociable, and collaborative working environment (You are encouraged to join our social events if you would like to, including our weekly pub visits).
- All Saints has a long and proud tradition of singers and organists moving on to highly successful professional musical careers having developed their skills at All Saints Kingston.

Our approach to diversity is simple —it's about embracing everyone, and everyone is welcome at All Saints Church Kingston. We are committed to welcoming everyone, regardless of gender identity, orientation or expression. We are diverse in age, race, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, and perspective.

All applicants must have the right to work in the United Kingdom.

Appointment is subject to an enhanced DBS Check with both barred lists.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake the Church of England's safeguarding training.

The post is a fixed-term contract for one year, commencing August 30th 2024.

Thank you for your interest in this post, we look forward to receiving your application. Closing date for applications: **Friday 23rd June 2024 at midnight.** Applications submitted past the deadline may not be considered.

Auditions and interviews will take place in the afternoon and evening of 4th July. Shortlisted candidates will be informed by Monday 1st July 2024.

Please email a CV with contacts for references and a covering letter, outlining your interest in the role to the choir administrator, Kate Shrimpton choiradmin@allsaintskingston.co.uk.

The Director of Music, David Condry will be happy to have an informal conversation about the role. He may be contacted by email: choir@allsaintskingston.co.uk