

Choral Trainer Bass Lay Clerk – 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 13 hours per week), 5 Year fixed term contract

Hours: up to 13 hours per week

4 of the 13 hours are school term-time only (36 weeks per year)

9 of the 13 hours are choir-term only (41 weeks per year).

Holiday allowance of 26 days (pro rata for part-time hours and term-time only) + bank holidays (should be taking during school/choir holidays)

Salary: £8,000 Per Annum, paid monthly

Pension: 15% Employer Contribution

All Saints Kingston have an exciting opportunity for a talented professional singer (bass) to work with our nationally famous and well-established choir. It also offers an exciting opportunity to play a key role in developing a new form of musical outreach. This role is ideal for someone looking to gain extensive performance and music education experience in a challenging and exciting music department.

All Saints Kingston is a Hub Church in the Diocese of Southwark, focusing on **Growing Faith through Singing**. It has recently received a 5-year funding stream for this from the diocese, enabling it to create a model that can be easily shared with other music focused churches seeking to reach young families.

The model will be based on its existing **Lifting Young Voices** (LYV) programme. LYV offers high-quality singing lessons to local state primary schools, engaging with a wide cross-section of children in the borough. The children are then invited to join a Junior Choir at the church. There are also termly concerts in the church, bringing together the school groups and the Junior Choir.

Now that LYV has been established, the church intends to offer all-age services that revolve around the Junior Choir and appeal to both their families and young families in general. This is part of a journey to develop a **Fresh Expression of Church** that will combine the rich tradition of choral singing with recent insights into how faith is nurtured through the connection between church, home and school. The aim is to grow a congregation that is both younger and more diverse, and to offer this as a model which other parishes might want to adopt.

All Saints is seeking to expand its LYV programme by appointing three **Choral Trainers** to work alongside the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music. Each Choral Trainer will deliver the programme to two primary schools. They will also sing in All Saints Choir as professional Lay Clerks, helping to strengthen the choral tradition, nurture young choristers and integrate the outreach work in the schools with the regular life of the church.

Our story

The Choir of All Saints Kingston was first recorded in the 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. Three professional Lay Clerks (who also work in primary schools) sing alongside the voluntary lay-clerks - 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 a Director of Music, David Condry, who is assisted by the Acting Assistant Director of Music 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 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 Choral Trainer Lay Clerks?

(Choral Trainer Lay Clerks will be referred to here as Lay Clerks for simplicity). Lay Clerks are required to attend all services where Altos, Tenors and Basses are required, unless previously agreed with the Director of Music. Where a Lay Clerk cannot attend a service, the Lay Clerk must arrange a deputy. An example termtime week is outlined below, Lay Clerks usual attendance is marked ***LCs**

Wednesday:

16:50 for 17:00 rehearsal and 17:30 choral evensong (ending approx.18:00). ***LCs (not every Wednesday)**

Friday:

- 17:45 Probationers training
- 18:15 Choristers and Choral Scholars rehearsal
- 19:30 – 20:30 Full Choir rehearsal ***LCs**

Sunday:

- 08:50 for 09:00 Rehearsal ***LCs**
- 09:30 Choral Eucharist, ending approx. 10:30 ***LCs**
- Break until rehearsal
- 11:15 full rehearsal, ending 12:00 ***LCs**
- 17:15 for 17:25 rehearsal ***LCs**
- 18:00 Choral Evensong ending approx. 19:00 ***LCs**
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There are occasional special services for which you will be required, for example the ordination service on a Saturday in late June/early July. Weddings and Funerals attract extra fees, paid directly by All Saints Church.

What do Lay Clerk Choral Trainers do?

Lay Clerk Choral Trainers play a vital role in supporting the musical life of All Saints Kingston. The position is designed for talented professional singers who want an opportunity to be involved in music education outreach as well as professional performance. This role offers an opportunity to develop and enhance your skills in a supportive and musically thriving environment.

The Choral Trainer aspect of the Job will involve running weekly singing classes in two primary schools as part of our "Lifting Young Voices" Programme. These singing sessions will be approximately 40 minutes and will be organised such that they are time efficient for you. The LYV programme was started in September 2023 with a view to increasing the involvement of young people in our church through music. This is done in a number of ways – we provide high quality, whole class music lessons as a singing class. Repertoire is chosen to fulfil aspects of the national curriculum and is a mix of secular and sacred. Once a term we host a LYV concert at All Saints to which we invite all the school groups we have been working with for that term. In addition to these school singing classes, we established a junior choir for children aged 6-9. This choir currently rehearses on a Friday afternoon after school at 4.15pm. The Junior choir have so far this year been involved in a number of services alongside the main choir. The long-term aim of this project is to establish a new all-age service, with the involvement of our junior choir – it is possible that there will be opportunities to be involved with this. Alongside the exciting opportunity of establishing a new service with the aim of attracting new families, we have already seen that the Junior choir acts as a pipeline for trebles in the main, auditioned choir.

As a professional singer, you will be singing with a highly respected and historic choir. Performance standards are high and you will be expected to sing in services to a professional standard. Opportunities for solos arise regularly. There will be opportunities, should you wish, to give vocal recitals in the Monday Chamber Music recital series. Part of the role of a Lay Clerk is to act as a mentor to our younger Choral Scholars. This will involve being a first port of call for them for advice on developing vocal skills, sight reading skills and thinking about future work.

What we would love to see from you:

- Candidates should have advanced proficiency in vocal performance, previous choral singing experience is essential, and you may have qualifications in vocal performance.
- Strong sight-reading skills and familiarity with Anglican liturgy and choral music.
- Experience working with children and conducting choirs.
- Some keyboard skills would be helpful.
- Familiarity with the Christian faith and a willingness to teach this through the musical education we provide, both in school and church.
- Willingness to become socially involved with the choir.

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 *Credomessa K. 257*
- Bach *Lobet Denn Herrn BWV 230*

Benefits of working here:

- You will be entitled to use the choir vestry for personal practice and for teaching, subject to the Church's safeguarding policy and availability in the church diary.
- Opportunities for professional growth and development both as part of a leading church choir and as part of a pioneering choral outreach programme.
- A supportive, social, 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. Our diversity fuels our innovation, brings diversity of thought, and connects us closer to Jesus Christ through the community.

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

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

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

The post is a fixed-term contract for five years, commencing September 20th 2024.

Thank you for your interest in this post, we look forward to receiving your application. Closing date for applications: **September 9th 2024**. Applications submitted past the deadline may not be considered.

Please email a CV with contacts for references and 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