



ST MARY'S CHURCH BURY ST EDMUNDS

www.wearechurch.net

seeking to **worship** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit; to **teach** the Bible in a way relevant to everyday life; to **grow** people in faith, understanding and love; to **equip** people to serve others; to **offer** people opportunities to meet Jesus and discover forgiveness and new life.

THE POST OF CHOIR DIRECTOR AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURY ST EDMUNDS

Thank you for your interest in the post of Choir Director at St. Mary's Parish and Civic Church, Bury St Edmunds.

St Mary's claims to be the third largest parish church in England and is a glorious building which boasts a proud history. Mary Tudor, the sister of Henry VIII and Queen of France, is buried in the church and there are a large number of visitors who admire this wonderful medieval gem.

St Mary's is held in great affection by the town and hosts a number of civic and military events. These include St Georges Day (when we often have 1,000 people in church), the annual Jankyn Smyth Service (the oldest endowed service in the UK), the Civic Remembrance Day Service and more recently the Mayor's carol service. Despite the close proximity of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, St Mary's is not overshadowed by it, as it serves a highly important role in its evangelical mission and witness.

We cherish our rich and varied worship and musical styles within the church as a whole, in particular our traditional weekly 11am sung service and twice a month Choral Evensong. The all-male choir (currently 8 boys and 15 men) is one of only 38 all male choirs existing in British parish churches today. It is a tradition which is highly appreciated in the church and one which we would love to maintain, but recognise that it is becoming increasingly difficult.

Over the past few years St Mary's has also seen a shift to a more informal style of music, with the significant growth of the 9:30 service. 'Songs of Fellowship' is used at this service, in addition to music by Getty, Townsend, Sovereign Grace

We also have a Ladies' choir (with its own Director) and also a new Girls' choir. There are times when the ladies join the men for choral evensong, when the girls join the boys and when all three choirs join together.

The standard of music is high and there are anthems and a variety of settings used for all musical services. The repertoire is wide and varied and draws heavily on the English choral tradition plus performances of oratorios from the "Messiah" to Monteverdi's 'Vespers'.

A regular feature are visits to sing in various cathedrals and residential tours. Foreign tours have included Israel, Spain, Normandy and Malta, and a short tour of Cologne is scheduled for October 2016.

The organ is a large four manual instrument with over eighty stops. It is maintained to a high standard by Richard Bower and has many fine stops. The instrument is regularly visited by various organ societies.

The current Director of Music, to whom you will be answerable, is Adrian Marple.

Pattern of Sunday services:

08.00: BCP Holy Communion (said)

09.30: A relaxed service which caters for people of all ages, with groups for children.

11.00: 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday Sung Communion. 2nd and 4th Sunday: Matins

6.30: 1st and 3rd Sunday: Choral Evensong. Others services are non-choir.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE POST OF CHOIR DIRECTOR

Job Summary

We are looking for someone who could be the Choir Director for both the men and boys choir and for the girls choir.

The Choir Director will work collaboratively with the Vicar and Director of Music (DoM) to prepare music to enrich weekly worship services, special services, choir visits and concerts.

He or she will particularly focus on directing the choir(s) at the more traditional services, although it is essential that they have experience with a wide genre of music for worship and would be comfortable in directing or playing at more informal services.

Job Responsibilities

1. Attend and direct the Boys' weekly practice (currently term times, Tuesday 4.30pm – 5.30pm and also the Girls' weekly practice (currently term times, Tuesday 5.30pm – 6.30pm)
2. Attend and direct the Full practice (currently term times, Friday Boys - 7pm, Full Choir from 7.30pm)
3. Train the boys and, in time, girls (with the assistance of the DoM and several gentlemen singers) in preparing for RSCM tests, Bishop's Chorister Awards and hopefully Gold Awards. (Currently run at 6.30pm on Friday prior to the practice)
4. Head up/Share in the responsibility for recruitment of boys and girls for the choirs.
5. Attend and direct the choir for the 11am Sunday morning and 6:30pm evening services, and additional services where the Choir sing. Non-choir services duties are shared with the DoM and other organists. There may be occasions when they will also be asked to play or assist at the 9:30 service
6. Special services include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (part of the 3-hour devotional service), Ascension Day (a joint Choral Service with the Cathedral), Christmas Eve Midnight, Christmas Day. (We usually have our Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services at our sister church, St Peter's, when they provide the music).

7. Organ playing duties (if ability permits): there are many special services, which are shared out by the Director of Music. These currently include the St Georges Day, Town Memorial and Jankyn Smyth service. There are also thanksgiving or baptism services (very occasionally), weddings, funerals and memorial services. We also have a number of school or organisation carol services. For all of these latter (non-church calendar services) there are additional fees.
8. Assume responsibilities of DOM during his absence.
9. If possible, be available to share organ playing during holiday times in consultation with the Director of Music.
10. Report any malfunctions of the organ to the DOM, or report any items of immediate concern that affect the performance of the organ(s).
11. Meet regularly with the DOM to plan music and diary.
12. Recommend additions to the church's music library and help occasionally on filing music.
13. Maintain reasonable availability through email and phone.
14. Be available, where possible, for Choir trips and tours (e.g. Forthcoming visit to Cologne during October half-term).
15. To be flexible and adaptable when plans change..

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS REQUIRED:

ESSENTIAL

The person appointed will be required to submit to a prescribed vetting procedure to establish suitability, which will comply with the Safeguarding Act

We are looking to appoint a man or woman who

has a committed Christian faith, is understanding of the evangelical theological tradition of St Mary's and who understands the importance of music as part of the Church's ministry, spiritual life and outreach.

is an experienced choir trainer, who has ideally had experience in a church, school or college setting.

has the ability and enthusiasm to work both with children and adults in encouraging their singing to a high level of attainment.

possesses some knowledge of the church music repertoire.

works collegially and demonstrates good interpersonal skills.

is punctual, self-motivated and creative.

PREFERABLE

has competent Organ-playing ability.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS:

Practice and teaching privileges include use of St Mary's Organ, Bechstein Grand Piano and in the Choir vestry - provided the lessons are given in accordance with Safe Church Policy guidelines.

Lesson schedules must be agreed with the DoM and will need to be kept up to date and provided to the Church Secretary to avoid clashes in diary.

HONORARIUM:

The position holds a current annual honorarium of £2703

Additional fees include
£75 for directing choir at wedding;

If the person appointed is a competent organist:

£85 for organist at wedding or funeral

£60 for services such as the St George's day, Town Memorial and Jankyn Smyth service.

£40 for playing, when required, at thanksgivings or baptisms.

The Choir Director will be accountable to the DoM.

The current holder of the position is entitled to one Sunday off per month, as is the DoM. When the DoM is absent He/She will need to play the organ and direct the choir at the morning service, or we may be able to provide an organist for you. This will need to be agreed with the DOM.

The choir does not sing during school holidays or the final Sunday of each half term. They do not rehearse during school holidays or half terms.

..AND FINALLY

The DOM is Adrian Marple, he is quite happy to discuss and/or meet with potential candidates.

His contact details are: 01359 270611 adrianmarple@btinternet.com

The church's website is www.wearechurch.net

The choir website is www.stmaryschoir.net

The latter includes an up-to-date specification of the organ(s).

Applications in writing to the Vicar:

Rev Canon Malcolm Rogers, St Mary's Church, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT, or by email to vicar@wearechurch.net

Please include the names of two people who we can approach as referees.

The closing date for applications is Friday 2nd September

It is hoped to hold interviews and auditions during the week of 11th September