

Parish Director of Music – Job Description

Walton-on-Thames is a large parish (we suspect the 2011 census will reveal the population has grown to c. 26,000) with two Anglican churches: St Mary's, the parish church, which dates back to the 12th century; and St John's, a 1950s building. Both churches are growing and a number of new initiatives, including developing our ministry to children and young people, have been implemented in recent years.

We are seeking a new Parish Director of Music, following the departure of James Casselton, who has been Choirmaster at St Mary's, with his family to another part of the diocese. The post has been re-configured to reflect developments in the parish.

At present we are exploring the possibility of dividing the current St Mary's 10.00am Sunday service into two distinct services, an All-age Service (probably at 9.30 a.m.) following by a more traditional Parish Eucharist (probably at 11.00 or 11.15 a.m.), though these details have not been finalised. The hope is that the overall pattern of worship across the parish will provide a range of styles appropriate to the existing and potential congregations.

JOB PURPOSE

The Director of Music will have the vision, musicianship and leadership skills to enable the worship at St Mary's (the parish church) to develop and flourish across a wide range of musical styles, and will have an advisory role at St John's (the daughter church).

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee all music/worship-related individuals and groups at St Mary's: four-part SATB choir, organist, St Mary's Young Voices, existing Youth Service Band, and not-yet-existing worship/instrumental group(s).
- Have overall responsibility for training and skills-development of members of these groups.
- Develop a new advisory/oversight role in relation to the music at St John's, liaising with the musicians there and attending choir practice from time to time.
- Encourage the development of all our musicians/singers, spiritually as well as musically.
- Attend meetings of the Worship & Discipleship Committee, and the PCC as required.
- Play his/her part in maintaining good working relationships and communication with the Vicar (to whom the DoM reports directly), ministry team, organist, music group leaders, and other leadership within the church.
- Work within the parish's Child Protection Policy.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Musically skilled and with a wide range of musical interest and sympathy, from traditional Anglican to contemporary.
- A competent organist and pianist
- A committed Christian.
- Able to offer leadership while also being a good team player.
- Computer-literate

Commitments:

- 45 Sundays per annum on duty
- Practice and preparation time/administration/meetings as required

Salary in line with RSCM Category A, plus fees for weddings and other special services.

Thursday is rehearsal night for both St Mary's Young Voices (6.15-7.00 p.m.) and St Mary's Choir (7.30-9.30 p.m.). There are no practices during school holidays.

St John's Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings, normally for an hour from 7.00 p.m.