



Music Director

Profile for St. James' Church West End



St. James' West End is a vibrant parish church with exciting musical opportunities. Music plays a vital role in our worship, our community engagement and our life as a parish and central to this is our robed, RSCM affiliated choir which leads the singing at the Parish Eucharist and at Sung Evensong. At St. James' we are committed to developing our choral music and we see much growth and potential from doing this. The primary role of our new Music Director will be to lead our choir, play organ and develop our choral music.

In January 2016 we introduced an additional, weekly 'Church Alive' service, and music for this is currently led by piano and a small instrumental group and includes more contemporary hymns and songs. We also want to develop the music at Church Alive and this will be an additional role to explore under the oversight of our new musical director. It could involve for example starting a training choir or music group and so we have set aside an additional budget to explore this further.

Our Choir

Our choir currently has 17 members, singing in four voice parts – soprano, alto, tenor and bass and is regularly enlarged by extra singers who sing at festival services or special choral events. The choir sing at our weekly Parish Eucharist at 9.30am and also at two Sung Evensongs on the first and third Sundays of each month.



There are occasional mid-week evening services around the time of major festivals (Easter, Christmas etc.) besides occasional weddings and funerals.

Choir practice takes place once a week currently on Tuesdays between 8pm and 9pm.



Outreach has been an important part of our Choir's work and we regularly collaborate with other local church choirs through joint evening services and special Deanery events. Recent musical events at St. James' have included Stainer's Crucifixion and a Deanery Advent carol service.

Our Church Choir provides a breadth of music in Church giving a good lead to the singing, and making Worship an uplifting experience.

There is also a community side, in that a group of people who enjoy singing can get together, develop their skills in a Christian environment and work as a team to bring to life beautiful music, week by week.

Our Organ



Our two manual organ is in good condition and underwent a complete refurbishment by Griffiths Cooper in 2010 and since then has been regularly maintained by Griffiths & Co. It was rededicated in May 2011 by the Rt Revd Graeme Knowles, the then Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and for which occasion David Thorne composed the anthem Thou art Risen. We are fortunate to have a pool of assistant organists who help, one on a regular basis and others as and when called upon.

Our baby grand piano

A recent welcome addition to our musical life was a donation of a new baby Grand Piano by Venables & Sons, made in 2017. The piano has opened up new opportunities and is being well used at concerts and worship.



Our Worship



9.30am Parish Eucharist

Weekly following Common Worship Order One with robed choir, organ, servers and ministry team.

Current average congregation 68 adults 5 children

A typical Parish Eucharist presently includes hymns, the Mass setting by David Thorne, occasional Anthems or Canticles and a sung Psalm. Our primary hymn book is the new Ancient & Modern (Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship) and we also use the green New English Hymnal.

11am Church Alive

Weekly contemporary, informal service following refreshments after the Parish Eucharist. Music currently led from the piano with small instrumental group including flute and guitar. Words for hymns projected on overhead screen. Current average congregation 30 adults 12 children. The development of music at Church Alive is to be explored as an additional role under the oversight of the new music director.

6.30pm Evening services

1st and 3rd Sundays Sung Evensong with choir and organ. Current average congregation 21

2nd Sundays Prayer & Reflection, alternate months with prayers for Healing (no organ)

4th Sundays Informal Worship (no organ, music provided by Folk Group consisting of Keyboard instruments and singers)

5th Sundays Taizé style service (no organ, music provided by Folk Group consisting of Keyboard instruments and singers)

Other services

8am said Holy Communion traditional language on the last Sunday of each month

10am said Communion is held every Wednesday morning

Sung services are held on special occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Ascension Day, Advent Sunday and Christmas Eve.

Concerts

St. James' Church is an excellent venue for concerts and is increasingly being booked by outside choirs and ensembles. There is great potential for developing these opportunities further and we see this as an important part of our outreach to the wider community. In the past two years concerts have included 'Come & Sing' events, recitals by visiting artists, chamber orchestras and choirs. The church is also used by local schools and during the biannual Christmas Tree Festival there has been a range of musical performances from choral music to the Rock Choir.



Schools

We have very good relationships with our three local Primary schools and in particular with St. James' CofE Primary School who visit the church regularly for school services, community events and educational visits. The school choir has sung at church on a number of occasions and there is a willingness to explore new musical opportunities between the school and church.

Additional Note

On 22nd April it was announced that our Priest in Charge, Revd Thomas Wharton had been appointed Vicar of Romsey Abbey. Although Thomas will be leaving West End in the near future, a new Priest will be appointed as soon as possible thereafter and the PCC are committed to developing our choral worship well into the future as well as developing the music at Church Alive. The parish profile for the new priest will reflect this.

Music Director

Role Description

- Lead, develop, encourage and train our choir
- Conduct a weekly choir practice
- Play organ for the Parish Eucharist, Sung Evensong and special seasonal services
- Arrange for cover organists when needed
- Choose music for the month ahead in cooperation with the incumbent / ministry team
- Look after and add to our music library within the agreed budget
- Have first call for weddings and funerals: c. 12-25 weddings and c. 15 funerals a year
- Meet with the incumbent / ministry team to plan the musical calendar for the months ahead
- Provide a music list for the ministry team, choir members and administrator
- Encourage a recruitment drive with the support of choir members and ministry team
- To oversee the development of music at Church Alive in consultation with the incumbent, ministry team and Church Alive musicians
- Encourage the development of a varied range of concerts at St. James'
- Develop links with other choristers and musicians in the wider deanery and diocese

Accountability

- The music director is accountable to the incumbent and churchwardens
- He / she will undergo an annual appraisal with the incumbent and a churchwarden

Policies

- The Music Director is expected to adhere to all policies and guidelines of St. James' Church West End, including Health and Safety, Safeguarding, GDPR.
- St. James' Church is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. This post is subject to the satisfactory completion of the appropriate enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check which will be dealt with confidentially.

Person specification

- Share the Christian faith and have a desire to use music to enhance worship, build community and enrich our parish life
- A competent organist with an understanding of the choral traditions of the Church of England
- Enthusiasm to lead, train and inspire existing choir members and attract new recruits
- It is expected that you will have appropriate musical qualifications and experience for leading an RSCM affiliated choir and developing choral music.
- An understanding and appreciation of the role of contemporary and other forms of music in the life of our church
- A willingness to learn new skills and develop further as a musician and leader
- An ability to work well with a team and to encourage others

Hours

As well as any private preparation time, a full time Music Director should be available at St. James' at these times:

- Sunday mornings between 9.15am and the end of the Parish Eucharist (usually no later than 10.45am).
- 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings between 6.15pm and the end of the Sung Evensong (usually no later than 7.15pm).
- Sung services at special occasions.
- One-hour choir practice once a week on a weekday evening, currently 8pm on Tuesdays but can be changed with the agreement of choir members.
- A quarterly meeting with the incumbent and ministry team, to plan the musical calendar ahead.

Annual Leave / Holidays

A full time Music Director would be entitled to six full weeks of annual leave. This is in effect six Sunday morning Parish Eucharists; three Sunday evening Sung Evensongs; six choir practices; and one ministry team meeting. We are usually flexible on how these days are taken.

The Music Director is however expected to play at all special services.

Remuneration

- Based on the latest guidelines from the RSCM, a full time music director at St. James' would be paid up to **£4,968** depending on experience.
- Weddings for 2018 £85 (£170 when videoed)
- Funerals for 2018 £65
- Pension and sick / paternity / maternity leaves are provided as required by the prevailing legislation.