

# Music at St. Mary Plaistow (Bromley)



St. Mary are looking for leadership across the range of traditional and contemporary opportunities in the life of its music.

## **Director of Music**

This will be a person who has the breadth to work across both the traditional expressions of organ and choir along with a less formal group of singers and instrumentalists.

or

## **Choir Director and Contemporary Music Leader**

We realise that our ambition may require a very rare set of gifts and instead seek to cover the work with two people who work closely together.

Remuneration: Music Leader £6,000 p.a.  
Choir Leader £4,000 p.a.  
Contemporary Music Leader £2,000 p.a.

Contract: RSCM, subject to negotiation

## **St. Mary's - a growing church**

St. Mary's Church is seeking inspirational leadership to develop the role of music in the mission and ministry of our growing church. We understand the need for growth and we wish to welcome people and share our faith. This is within the Church of England's parochial ethos so we seek to meet people where they are and serve with care. We have a tradition that is largely central with appreciation of both the Evangelical and Anglo-Catholic.

### **Music at St. Mary's**

We are looking for proven musical ability, cherishing the English choral tradition, which is much valued here, be able to recruit and train children and widen our musical horizons keeping abreast of more contemporary worship styles. St. Mary's has a strong choral tradition maintained over many years. We require sensitivity and an understanding of the role of music in worship to continue this work.

We have a very experienced choir who are well integrated into church life. They are affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. There is an organist who is available for most services but not Sunday morning. Some members of the choir and congregation have in the past played an excellent role as instrumentalists in Family Services, but this aspect of church life needs development. The organ was originally built in the late nineteenth century by William Hill. It was modified by Rushworth and Dreaper in 1953 and fully restored and extended by F.H. Browne of Canterbury in 1993.

The church facilities of organ and piano are available for use including the possibility of enhancing earnings by providing private music tuition.

### **A brief description of St. Mary's Church**

There is a large staff which includes the Vicar, Curate, retired Priest, four Readers and two Pastoral Assistants. We also have a well developed children's work, families ministry, baby and toddler group, a large Mothers' Union and a strong committee structure that looks after many aspects of church life. There are many lay people who will take initiative and arrange large parish events.

The aim of our church is to create an environment in which people can expressively worship God. To this end we have a variety of services which are accessible to a wide range of people. The most regular

Sunday services are a generally Family Communion in the morning and a sung evensong in the evening. Once a month is a full Choral Evensong setting. Once a month there is an all-age Family Service in the morning, with a sung communion setting in the evening. Three times a year there is Choral Mattins. Occasionally there is an evening Taize service.

St. Mary's church building dates from the second half of the nineteenth century. It has magnificent stained glass windows and beautiful chancel murals. The church building has an excellent acoustic for music.

## **Leadership in music**

### General

1. In collaboration with the vicar, share responsibility for worship, music and develop the music programme for the church's mission and outreach.
2. Encourage congregational participation in worship and bring freshness and creativity to our worship.
3. Discern people with musical and worship gifts and an ability to nourish and deploy these.

### Choral dimension

4. Cherish and strengthen our choral worship, directing the choir and further developing the opportunities for choral worship.
5. Recruit inspire and train children for junior choirs and singing groups with the help of the Voice for Life scheme of the Royal School of Church Music.
6. Encourages and stimulate both children and adults to sing and read music from scratch.
7. Nurture the choir as an integral part of the church community.

### Contemporary dimension

8. Encourage more contemporary forms of worship.
9. Inspire and develop an all-age singing and instrumental group along with other musical opportunities including Family Service, Sunday Club worship and a worship band.

## Person specification

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Personal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A public person who can relate well across the congregation and parish.</li><li>• Commitment to Christian discipleship</li><li>• A team player with a sense of humour who can work with a wide range of people.</li><li>• Someone who can lead with understanding, patience and imagination</li></ul>	
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning, directing and arranging music.</li><li>• For choral work, leading choirs.</li><li>• For contemporary music work, leading instrumental groups and singers.</li><li>• Working with children and young people</li></ul>	
<b>Knowledge, skills and abilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge of a breadth of church music and liturgy.</li><li>• Ability to manage teams of people, and to develop their talent and potential.</li><li>• Vision for the place of music in the growth and outreach of a mission-shaped church.</li><li>• Ability to recruit and retain children and adults as choir members, singers and instrumentalists.</li><li>• For choral work, competence as an organist.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Well developed organisational, interpersonal and presentational skills.</li><li>• Willingness to engage in planning liturgies and informal service structures</li><li>• Ability to collaborate and work empathetically with other church groups e.g. children's and young people's groups and holiday club</li></ul>

## **Tasks and responsibilities**

### General

1. Report to the incumbent for the duties described in this job description and advertisement
2. Encourage all forms of music at St. Mary's Church.
3. Ensure music is provided at Sunday services and festivals, planning jointly with the incumbent appropriate music for these services.
4. Comply with the PCC policy on Safeguarding.
5. Attend PCC meetings where music and liturgy are to be discussed, and produce occasional written reports.
6. Prepare a monthly music list and termly calendar.
7. Promote the role of music in the parish, contributing to the website and Parish Magazine.

### Choral dimension

8. Conduct regular weekly practices. Recruit and train adults and children for the choir.
9. Strengthen and enhance the choir and help to develop the depth and breadth of its repertoire.
10. Value and strengthen the traditional services and work supportively with other worship groups within the church.
11. Encourage the choir to play a full part in the wider life of the church, and liaise with the Youth and Children's team about the spiritual and social development of the children and young people.

### Contemporary dimension

12. Conduct regular practices and develop the ministry of singers and instrument players.
13. Introduce more contemporary worship in services including all-age and youth services
14. Work supportively with the choral dimension

## **Applications**

The appointment will require an enhanced DBS disclosure. Applicants should send a CV and contact details for three referees to:

Rev'd Alan Keeler, 74 London Lane, Bromley, Kent BR1 4HE  
Tel: 020 8460 1827 Email: [agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk)

St. Mary's website: <http://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/>