

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A CHOIR DIRECTOR, ST MARK'S, NEWNHAM

St Mark's Church

St Mark's Church is situated on Barton Road, next to the Red Bull pub, and serves the surrounding area of Newnham on the edge of the city of Cambridge. It is a lively, active and friendly church of a broadly central Anglican tradition. Main Sunday worship is usually a 10 am Communion service with Junior Church provision for children and young people. The congregation of around 90 on a normal Sunday morning is made up of people of all ages and backgrounds, some of whom have worshipped there for many years, many of whom are relatively new or in Cambridge on a temporary or short-term basis.

The congregation is active and enthusiastic, and good at providing support and care for each other and for any employed by the church.

The Choir

A choir has long been an important part of the life and worship of St Mark's, and its members are enthusiastic and committed. We usually have enough singers to cover all four parts well, although it is fair to say that membership has dwindled in recent years. As a mixed group, made up mostly of adults, the choir sings a variety of music, including hymns and songs (mainly from our new hymn books – Ancient & Modern: Hymns and Songs for refreshing worship), and an anthem most weeks. It also leads the congregation in singing the psalms. The communion service normally includes our own musical settings for some of the liturgy composed by the organist, Jonathan Hellyer-Jones.

On the Sunday before Christmas there is always a popular parish Carol Service, at which choir pieces, as well as congregational carols are sung. In Holy Week, the choir contribute to the Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday services. In the past, choir directors have also arranged other choral events which have been enjoyed by the choir, and well-received by the congregation, including collaborations with college choirs for evensongs and cantatas.

The choir has been in the habit of having a break after Christmas and Easter for two weeks, for one Sunday at each half-term, and for the whole of August.

The Role

We are seeking to appoint a Choir Director (ideally from September 2018) on a part-time basis. The role includes:

- organising, leading and directing the choir during weekly rehearsals
- directing the choir during Sunday services
- working with clergy, organists and others
- choosing weekly anthems, and other seasonal music, appropriate for the choir and the occasions
- developing the choir and recruiting and training new members
- contributing, in collaboration with others, to the wider worship and music of the church

The Person

The person appointed should be:

- able to accompany (on piano), as well as direct the choir during weekly rehearsals (currently held on Friday evenings between 6 and 7 pm)
- familiar with a wide range of church music, and, in consultation with the Vicar, able to choose weekly anthems appropriate to the church's seasons, and appropriate choir items for Carol Service
- competent, flexible and encouraging to singers of varying abilities, experience and ages
- keen to energise and provide vision for the choir
- happy to work closely with the Priest in Charge, the organist and his deputies
- able to plan ahead, communicate clearly, and see him/herself as part of the church's ministry team
- (ideally) willing and able to play an instrument in, and help organise music for the 10am all-age service on the fourth Sunday of each month (when the choir does not normally sing)
- able to obtain enhanced DBS clearance, which should be applied for on appointment, and adhere to all safeguarding policies and procedures

The choir director is accountable to the Priest in Charge of Grantchester and Newnham, the Revd Rachel Rosborough, who will act as line manager, and to the PCC of St Mark's Newnham. They will be expected to work closely with the organist, Jonathan Hellyer-Jones.

Please apply by email or in writing, with the contact details of two referees (one musical, one personal) by Friday 4th August, 2018. Interviews will probably be the following week (and could be conducted on Skype for candidates absent from Cambridge at that time). The appointment would ideally commence with choir practice in early September 2018 or, in exceptional circumstances, early October.

Salary to be agreed, in line with RSCM guidelines.

Applications for the above post should be addressed in the first place to:

The Administrator, Poppy Crooks, c/o St Mark's Church, Barton Road, Cambridge, CB3 9JZ
or by email to administrator@stmarksnewnham.org