



The Church of St Alban the Martyr Birmingham

Director of Music Job Description

Director of Music**Background**

St Alban's is an inner-city church in the heart of Birmingham in an area of great cultural and ethnic diversity. Large parts of the parish are currently being redeveloped as part of the Rea Valley Urban Quarter regeneration scheme. The church is also part of a project funded by the Church Commissioners to develop Anglo-Catholic mission.

We believe that music is a vital part of our mission and ministry and want to strengthen our existing choral tradition while further exploring our use of music in diverse contexts. The 10 a.m. Sunday Choral Mass is the backbone of our worship, and we are exploring contemporary and non-traditional music at other services. The church has strong links to the local secondary school, Ark St Alban's Academy (which has a largely Muslim student population), and the vicar is also chaplain of the Academy.

St Alban's church has arguably the finest acoustic in Birmingham and is regularly used for recordings, concerts, and musical events. Our principal organ is a well maintained three manual and pedal Rushworth and Dreaper organ (further information about the organ is on our website <http://www.saintalban.co.uk/music/organ/>), but we also have a small chamber organ on permanent loan (<http://www.saintalban.co.uk/music/chamber-organ/>).

St Alban's has a small dedicated choir of 7 to 10, and for special occasions we are supported by a singers from other choirs. Each Sunday the choir typically sings at our 10 a.m. traditional Choral Mass: choral mass setting, plainsong propers of the day, hymns and a motet or anthem during communion. The Choir also sings for Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction on the 4th Sunday of the month. (Further information about the choir can be found at <http://www.saintalban.co.uk/choir/>).

St Alban's church has a good relationship with The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and we look to develop this further and create new relationships with other centres of Higher Education in Birmingham. The post of Director of Music is an exciting opportunity to take part in developing all forms of worship and music at St Alban's.

Job description

We are looking for a Director of Music who will:

- 1) Work with the vicar and PCC to develop music at St Alban's.
- 2) Meet the vicar at least every 2 months to plan music.
- 3) Play the organ for Choral Mass on Sunday and major festivals and for Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction on the 4th Sunday of the month. This will include Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, St Patrick's Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Ascension, St Alban's day The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Cross day (Anniversary dedication of St Alban's church), All Saints and All Souls.
- 4) Train the choir (practices are currently on Thursday evening) as well as for 45 minutes before each sung Mass and from 4:30 p. m. before Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction (6:00 p.m. once a month). This will include training the choir to sing:
 - a) Plainsong propers,

- b) Mass settings,
 - c) Hymns,
 - d) Motets and anthems
 - e) Choral Evensong and Benediction.
- 5) Recruit new choir members.
 - 6) Build the choir's competence and confidence.
 - 7) Be supportive of the church's contemporary, non-traditional and community musical activities.
 - 8) Developing relationships with Centres of Higher Education in Birmingham,
 - 9) Raise grant and other funding towards financing our current and future musical activities.
Raising funding may lead to enhanced remuneration.

Remuneration for services

£ 5,700 p.a.

Personal description

Essential

- 1) Ability to play the three manual and pedal Rushworth and Dreaper organ to the required standard to support services.
- 2) A wide vision of the future of music at St Alban's.
- 3) Ability to work effectively and collaboratively, and maintain good relationships with all stakeholders.
- 4) A good knowledge of music in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, plainsong and Mass settings.
- 5) Willingness to support the church's contemporary and non-traditional services. Currently these are a Saturday Family Mass, and Interfaith Collective Worship at Ark St Alban's Academy. It is expected these will expand as part of wider development of Anglo-Catholic mission within the deanery and diocese.

Advantageous

- 1) Ability to advise on contemporary and non-traditional music.
- 2) The ability to enhance the church's use of music for mission through community musical activities.
- 3) Ability to recruit new choir members.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to interview and asked to perform two contrasting pieces on the organ.

Closing date for applications: 29th February, 2024.

Please apply by sending a CV, including contact details of two referees, to:
info@saintalban.co.uk

Informal enquiries to the Vicar or our (current) Director of Music are welcome.

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