



The Church of St Alban the Martyr Birmingham

Organist and Choir Director Job Description



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

St Alban The Martyr
Birmingham

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 diocesan bid for funding from the Church Commissioners to develop Anglo-Catholic mission within the deanery.

We believe that music is an important 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 Sung 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 Rushwoth 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 6 to 8, 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 Sung Mass: choral mass setting, plainsong propers of the day, hymns and motet during communion. (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 Organist and Choir director 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 an Organist and Choir director who will:

1. Work with the vicar to develop music at St Alban's.
2. Meet the vicar at least every 2 months to plan music.
3. Play the organ for Sung Mass on Sunday and major festivals. This will include Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Ascension, St Patrick's day, St Alban's day The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Cross day (Anniversary of the dedication of St Alban's church), All Saints, and All Souls.
4. Train the choir in:
 - a. Plainsong propers,
 - b. Mass settings,
 - c. Hymns,
 - d. Motets and anthems.

5. Build the choir's competence and confidence. Lead choir practice each week (traditionally on Friday evening) as well as for 45 minutes before each sung Mass.
6. Support the church's contemporary, non-traditional and community musical activities.
7. Recruit new choir members.

Remuneration

£ 5,000 p.a.

There is opportunity for the successful candidate to develop the post to that of Director of Music, which may accrue an enhanced salary. Development activities would include:

- a. developing choral evensong,
- b. taking part in the church's contemporary worship services and community musical projects,
- c. developing relationships with Centres of Higher Education in Birmingham,
- d. raising grant and other funding for our musical activities.

Personal description

Essential

1. Ability to play the three manual and pedal Rushwoth 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. Ability to support developmental use of different music genres both in worship and community music projects.
5. A good knowledge of music in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, plainsong and Mass settings.
6. Willingness to support the church's contemporary and non-traditional services. Currently these are a Saturday Family Mass, Sunday Evening Worship, and Interfaith Collective Worship for 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. Ability to enhance the church's use of music for mission through community music initiatives.

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

Closing date for applications: 29th December 2021, interviews 8th January 2022.

Please apply by sending a CV, including contact details of two referees, to:

info@saintalban.co.uk

Informal enquiries to the Vicar are welcome.

Fr Gerry Sykes

Vicar

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