

A worshipping community celebrating everything good about Lewisham

St Mary the Virgin is the ancient parish church of Lewisham and a vibrant, living Christian family today. Our life and worship is centred on the Eucharist, the Bread of Life for all Christians. Here we celebrate and receive the love and presence of God in Jesus Christ. St Mary's has shared God's love with the people of Lewisham for over 1000 years – we continue to do this today in new and creative ways. We celebrate the strengths of this community and we shine God's light in places of darkness.

Job Description

Job Title:	Director of Music and Organist
Responsible to:	The Vicar
Location:	St. Mary the Virgin parish church, Lewisham, SE13 6LE.
Contract:	Permanent with a six month probationary period and annual review.
Hours:	Our Music Director plays for 10.00am Sunday Sung Mass and monthly Choral Evensong. Currently regular Thursday evening choir practice. Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Christmas and occasional major feasts.
Salary:	Salary in line with RSCM rates, to a maximum of £7,000 dependent on qualifications and experience. Opportunities for weddings/ funerals with RSCM agreed fees.
Holiday:	Six Sundays paid holiday per year

Introduction:

St Mary's Church is the ancient Parish Church of Lewisham. It has a lively and diverse congregation with 280 on the electoral roll, and around 100 at sung mass on Sunday. The Parish has a modern catholic tradition and is served by a Ministry Team made up of Vicar, curate, 2 Readers, 3 Pastoral Assistants, plus Churchwardens and PCC.

We have an excellent 3-manual Allen organ with midi facility, plus grand piano; a committed and enthusiastic robed choir, offering 4-part singing, anthems, mass settings etc. The choir leads the singing at several civic functions and joins other churches for occasional choral services. At Christmas we sing carols at various venues including Lewisham Hospital. We host various school services.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) seeks to appoint an inspirational, innovative and collaborative Director of Music and Organist to develop and enhance our strong choral tradition, develop and build the choir, maintain our extensive repertoire and explore new music and styles of worship. A good understanding of the Church of England and liturgy is essential.

Main objectives of the post

- To play for, lead and develop the musical life of the church in collaboration with the Vicar and PCC.
- To train, develop and grow the church choir through the weekly practice,
- enhancing their skills and confidence to broaden the available repertoire.
- To play for and lead Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of every month except January and August.
- To play for services in Holy Week, Easter, Christmas and some Feast Days.
- To play when available at weddings, funerals and memorial services or arrange deputies.
- To engage in and build on music as part of St Mary's mission and outreach to the wider community and develop provision of concerts and other musical events in our wonderful Grade 2* Georgian building.
- To explore expanding the music budget through grants and fundraising, and possible choral scholarships.

Principle Tasks

- To identify and encourage those with a passion for singing and music.
- To meet regularly with the Vicar to plan music for the mass, hymns, psalms and settings. Mass sheets offer flexibility, from Hymns Old & New, Laudate and other sources. Anthems are prepared for each Sunday mass.
- To lead and innovate new musical opportunities, in collaboration with the Vicar.
- To purchase music and maintain the extensive music library within agreed budget.
- To engage accompanists and deputies for agreed absences within the budget.
- To arrange and supervise the maintenance of the organ and piano.
- To produce an annual report for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Essential

- A practising Christian or in sympathy with the aims, objectives and values of an inclusive Church of England church.
- Excellent skills as organist, accompanist and choral trainer.
- Experience of leading congregational worship and linking music with liturgy.
- Experience of working collaboratively with volunteers of all ages and abilities

- Excellent communication skills.
- Proven organisational skills and good time management.
- A team player.
- An ability to inspire, encourage and motivate others
- A flexible approach to working.

The job specifications and description may be reviewed by the Vicar on an on-going basis in accordance with the changing needs/priorities of the parish.

Additional Information:

- The post requires an Enhanced DBS certificate and the post holder will work with the parish Safeguarding Officer, Incumbent and others in all safeguarding issues.
- The post holder must observe the parish policy and procedures relating to Health and Safety in the workplace at all times.
- The post holder must demonstrate the value of 'Respect for All', and follow any guidelines and policies relating to equality and diversity, and equal opportunities.
- The post holder must respect the confidentiality of data stored electronically and by other means in line with the Data Protection Act.
- The post holder must carry out their responsibilities with due regard to the non-smoking environment of the church.

Pay and Conditions

Based on RSCM guidelines

- Pay: by negotiation, related to qualifications and experience. Plus Wedding and Funeral fees
- 6 weeks paid holiday per year pro rata to include 6 Sundays and choir rehearsals; no choir practice in August.
- This position has a six-month probationary period.
- It is subject to current safeguarding legislation and enhanced DBS disclosure requirements.
- A DBS Enhanced Disclosure is required and the post-holder will be required to undertake appropriate safeguarding training.

Application Process:

If you are interested in applying and would like to know more, please ring or e-mail Fr. Steve Hall: vicar@lewishamparish.com. Tel: 020 8690 2682.

To apply for this post please submit your CV and a covering letter to churchwarden@lewishamparish.com

Please provide the contact details of two referees. One should be the clergy of the church/chapel with which you have most recently been associated, or equivalent.

Closing Date: Friday 27th January 2023

Interview and auditions will take place Thursday 9th February and Friday 10th February, from 6.00pm.

It is hoped the post will commence by end of March 2023 or earlier if available.