



Organ Scholarship

St Mary's, Bourne Street is an Anglican church near Sloane Square in London. It was built 'quickly and cheaply' in 1874, with the intention of providing ministry to the poor living around Pimlico and is now considered by many to be the seat of the Anglo-Catholic movement in London.

St Mary's seeks to achieve spiritual excellence by combining carefully thought out and well-honed ceremonial with appropriately fitting music, combining traditional liturgical plainsong with settings of the mass, anthems, and motets from a wide range of composers, from all musical periods. The principal act of worship on Sundays and on Solemn Feast Days, at which the professional octet will sing, is a traditional High Mass (a form of the interim rite) but with significant concessions to Vatican II and using the Common Worship readings. There are occasional services sung by a smaller group or by a single cantor. The ceremonial is rich and traditional. The church has been beautified by successive generations and remains strangely simple and peaceful...despite the gentle rumble of the trains underneath.

St Mary's has a distinguished team of musicians led by the current Director of Music, Richard Pinel, supported by the Organist, Richard Hills, a professional octet of singers, and an organ scholar. The musicians occupy a warm friendship with the congregation, and music of high quality is seen as a powerful binding force in this Eucharistic community.

We are looking for an organist who is keen to learn and enhance their experience of liturgical organ playing, with a specific focus on chant accompaniment and liturgical improvisation. The scholar will also be expected to be present at the majority of Sunday High Masses each month, and to accompany the services of Solemn Evensong and Benediction two to three times each month. Reasonable absences will be by prior arrangement with the Director of Music. At the High Mass the scholar will gain experience of accompanying chant under the supervision of the Director of Music and the Organist. The scholar will also occasionally conduct part of the service under the supervision of the Director of Music and the Organist.

The organ scholarship will begin on 1st September 2026, is for a fixed term of 12 months, and carries a stipend of £3,420 p.a. (paid in twelve equal instalments). The appointment is subject to the receipt of satisfactory references and proof of the right to work in the United Kingdom. It is also subject to a clear DBS check being received.

For the right applicant, this organ scholarship can additionally be combined with the organ scholarship for the Christopher Wood Choral Foundation (CWCF), which is in residence at St Mary-le-Strand WC2R 1ES.

The CWCF scholarship provides a weekly opportunity to accompany choral evensong sung by the scholars of the CWCF under the directorship of David Guest, and the mentorship of Richard Pinel, Roger Sayer and Alexander Pott. Evensongs take place at St Mary-le-Strand every Sunday at 3.00pm, with a rehearsal at 1.45pm.

The CWCF organ scholarship runs for a fixed term from mid-September 2026 to early July 2027 (exact dates tbc) and attracts separate remuneration – paid weekly - potentially totalling over £3000. More information can be found at www.cwchoralfoundation.com

Auditions:

- Please prepare two contrasting pieces of organ repertoire, not lasting more than 12 minutes in total (portions or excerpts of longer works are permitted).
- We may additionally ask applicants to sight read and improvise.

NB: we will not expect applicants to sight read or accompany Gregorian chant as part of the audition, however the successful applicant will need to display a proactive attitude towards learning this skill.

Applications: Please send a CV with covering note to Kathy Redington (office@stmarysbournest.org) along with details of two referees by Friday 27th March 2026. Auditions (after shortlisting) will be held on Friday 10th April 2026.

If you would also like to be considered for the Christopher Wood Choral Foundation position, please indicate this in your application, in which case a copy of your application will be forwarded to David Guest (Director, CWCF). Auditions for this position may be conducted on a separate occasion.