



Director of Music

Job Description

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 in the nearby slums of Pimlico.

The liturgy and worship at St Mary's combines Gregorian chant, Renaissance, Viennese and more recent sacred music with the majestic language of the Book of Common Prayer. 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, Paul Brough, supported by the Organist, Richard Hills and an organ scholar.

The principal act of worship on Sundays and on Solemn Feast Days is a traditional High Mass (a form of the interim rite) but with significant concessions to Vatican II and using Common Worship readings. It seeks to achieve spiritual excellence by combining carefully thought out and well-honed ceremonial with appropriately fitting music, combining traditional liturgical plainsong (using *The Plainchant Gradual* ed. Palmer and Burgess) with settings of the mass, anthems and motets from a wide range of composers, from all musical periods, as well as some traditional Anglican hymnody. Mass settings are usually in Latin, but may also be settings of the Prayer Book liturgy.

The music staff attach vital importance to the integration of music and liturgy, with the former being emphatically the servant of the latter. To this end the selection and presentation of choral and organ music is

undertaken with strict adherence to the celebration and lection of the day, together with the appropriate chant.

Much experience has been gleaned by the music staff over the years in shrine and parish churches, cathedrals and collegiate institutions. The autonomy afforded by this experience as expressed at St Mary's is greatly valued. This relationship is expressed joyfully in friendship with the congregation, and music of high quality is seen as a powerful binding force in this Eucharistic community.



Key Responsibilities of the Director of Music

The Director of Music's primary tasks, as an employed staff member, will be:

- To maintain excellence in liturgical music at St Mary's
- Leading a number of musicians and singers within the members of the music department including the Organist, the professional Choir of eight members and the organ scholar (appointed annually).
- Compiling a monthly music list
- Liaising with families to agree music for weddings, funerals and memorial services
- Rehearsing and directing St Mary's choir for regular church services, and accompanying services in the absence of the Organist
- Alternating with the Organist (and organ scholar) in accompanying Benediction on Sunday evenings
- Meeting regularly with the Organist to coordinate the work of the music department
- Meeting regularly with the Vicar

Regular Services

The service pattern remains constant and our main Sunday services and high Masses are livestreamed on our youtube channel and available there for 24 hours. We have a said mass every weekday.

Sundays

9am Low Mass (said)

11am High Mass

6pm Evening Prayer (said) and Benediction (with organ). Occasionally, there is evensong with a cantor, or with a full choir.

6.45pm Low Mass (said)

Weekdays

6.30pm Low Mass (said)

Saturdays

11.30am Low Mass (said)

In addition, other choral services include (but are not limited to):

High Mass:

All Saints, All Souls, Immaculate Conception, Midnight Mass for Christmas, Christmas Day, Epiphany, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, The Annunciation, Maundy Thursday, Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Ascension, Feast of Title, Corpus Christi, SS Peter & Paul, Requiem for Founders & Benefactors, The Assumption.

On three Sundays of the year High Mass is followed by a procession and Solemn Benediction

Others:

There are also some full choral services on Sunday evenings, including the Sunday after Corpus Christi and an Advent Carol Service

Sung Mass (normally with organ and a cantor):

St Joseph, St John the Baptist, Sacred Heart, Transfiguration, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

It is the 150th anniversary of St Mary's in 2024 and we are planning a year of events to mark this occasion and the Director of Music will play an important role in these celebrations.

Current music resources

- The organ was built in 1913 by Lewis & Co, who retained some pipework from the J. W. Walker organ of 1875. In 1928 the organ was rebuilt in its present form by Henry Willis & Sons; a small chancel section was prepared for but never installed. Some further work was carried out by N P Mander in 1984.
- The work of 2005-6, by Harrison and Harrison, consisted of a major restoration, with releathering of the actions and wind system, renewal of the electrical equipment, and the addition of a Trumpet to the Great Organ. The organ stands in the west gallery of the church; the case, by Gambier-Parry, dates from the early twentieth century.
- An extensive library of liturgical music
- A baby grand piano

Personnel

Organist, Richard Hills

St Mary's choir – a professional octet

Organ Scholar - an appointment for the 22/23 Academic Year is currently being made

Person Specification

Essential

- Significant experience of choral direction
- Comprehensive knowledge of sacred music
- An excellent musician with ability to play the organ
- Ability to programme music with regard to liturgy in the Catholic tradition
- Leadership skills with emotional intelligence
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with musicians, clergy, parish staff and church officers
- Excellent communication skills
- The capacity to work accurately and reliably to deadlines
- The ability to maintain good grace and humour when under pressure
- A desire to actively promote the musical life of St Mary's Bourne Street
- An enhanced DBS check is required for this role in accordance with the parish's safeguarding policy.

Terms of Appointment

- The Director of Music is appointed by the Vicar with the agreement of the Parochial Church Council and will report to the Vicar.
- The appointment is part time and will be on an employed basis (with pension as required) and a contract for services entered into.
- The appointment will be subject to review after the first three months and may be terminated at any point by either side with a minimum notice period of three months.
- The salary payable for this Director of Music post will be £14,000 per annum, payable monthly in arrears.
- Additional fees will be payable for weddings, funerals, memorial services when or as required.

A letter of application accompanied by a full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees (who will not be contacted until after shortlisting has taken place) should be sent by email to the Parish Administrator, Kathy Redington (office@stmarysbournest.org) by the closing date, 5pm on **Thursday 28th April 2022**.

Shortlisting will take place in the week beginning Monday 2 May 2022 and all candidates will be notified by email whether or not they have been successful.

Appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references and proof of the right to work in the United Kingdom. Candidates may be asked to provide of qualifications.

A visit to St Mary's may be arranged by contacting the Parish Administrator as above.