

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CATFORD



**MUSIC DEPARTMENT
VACANCY**



ORGAN SCHOLAR 2018/19

APPLICATION PACK

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MUSIC AT SAINT JOHN'S

There has been a long tradition of music at St John's Catford. At its height in the mid-twentieth century, the choir had around 40 boys and adults and sang two services every week. In more recent years, the music ministry lessened, but in 2016 the St John's District Church Council decided to re-invest in the music ministry of the church to bring it back to the previously high standards. A new Director of Music was appointed starting at Easter 2016, and since then the ministry has grown.

CHOIRS AND MUSIC GROUPS

The parish has a committed and growing choir, in addition to a youth band. The choir (currently consisting of around 9 adults and 5 children) rehearse weekly and sing every Sunday. Although limited in size, there is a wealth of experience in the group and they are continuously developing. In 2016 a musical link was established with the attached church school, on the same site as the church. There are plans for this link to develop into a formal choristers' programme. The church youth band is run by a visiting couple and includes the Director of Music. They rehearse monthly and provide music for the afternoon service on the first Sunday of every month.

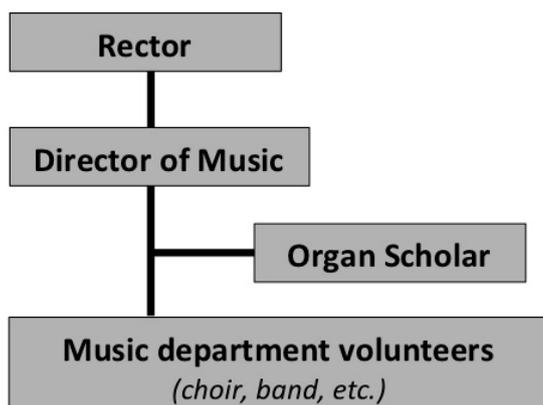
INSTRUMENTS

The church is lucky to have a **Hunter pipe organ** placed on a gallery in the south transept. With 29 speaking stops over three manuals and pedals, the organ was installed in the church in the 1980s when its original home was closed. At this stage, a new detached electro-pneumatic console was added at ground level in the church. The organ is now under the care of Harrison and Harrison, and has recently been brought back to fully working order. In January 2017 (with a bequest from a parishioner) the DCC purchased a **Weber Grand Piano** which is used for services as well as recitals and concerts. In addition to these two, the department also owns the instruments used by the youth band at their monthly services.

CONCERTS AND RECITALS

In 2016 a lunchtime recital series was established, currently consisting of one per month, which averages audiences of 20-30 each time. There are plans in time to extend this series to every other week. In addition to these regular concerts, there are also now regular evening concerts in the church – these are mixture of internal concerts organized by the department and external bookings using the building. Recent examples have included celebrity organ recitals and gala piano concerts.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



THE ROLE OF ORGAN SCHOLAR

The scholarship is an opportunity to learn and gain experience in parish music making, it is not a means of appointing an 'assistant organist' and as such the exact role the scholar will play in the life of the music department will be dependent on the person who is appointed. The application process is open to any organist – of any experience – who believes they could benefit musically from participating in this scheme and who also has skills and experiences to offer this vibrant church community. Singing is not a requirement of the organ scholar, but they will work closely with the choir (including directing) and an open mind towards singing would also be desirable. Although open to anyone, the scholarship would ideally suit a sixth-former or undergraduate who is studying the organ and would like to spend a year working at the heart of a busy parish music department firming up their skills and experience before looking to move on to a subsequent scholarship or similar role within a bigger department.

DUTIES

The scholar will be present at the weekly choir rehearsals and the weekly Sunday services (morning and afternoon). Consideration will be given to the scholar's time during periods of particular business (exams etc). There is also a choral evensong in church at least once a half-term. The organ scholar will also be invited to join the choir for their regular visits, such as choral evensong in Southwark Cathedral, which they sing every year. There are plans for a choir tour in 2018/19 to which the scholar will be invited. In addition to this there will be major festivals and occasional meetings which will require the scholar's presence. Leave and absence will be arranged with the Director of Music.

JOB DETAILS

Job Title: **The Roland & Margaret Smith Memorial Organ Scholar**
known as: 'St John's Organ Scholar'

Line Manager: **Director of Music (DoM)**

Salary: **£1500 p.a.**

Hours: **Fridays** (in term time only)
1900 – 2000 [*adult choir rehearsal in church*]

Sundays
0930 – 1200 [*choir rehearsal at 0945, service at 1030*]
1540 – 1700 [*evening service: 'StJohn's@4'*]

Holiday: 6 Sundays per year. Opportunities to gain experience performing elsewhere can also be arranged on a case-by-case basis with the DoM.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES	DESIRABLE QUALITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of, and sympathy for, the work of the Church of England• Good musicality and organ playing ability (at least to competent student level)• A desire to learn• Ability to work on major festival days (like Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least some experience playing the organ in liturgical settings, possibly including accompanying choirs and congregations• Experience conducting choirs (adults and children, and diverse abilities)• Communicant member of the Church of England

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the role, please send a **CV and covering letter detailing your suitability for the post** to the Director of Music, Nicholas Wibberley, by email to **music.stjohnscatford@gmail.com**.

Early applications are encouraged as Appointment will be made when the right candidate is found.

NB. Although designed as an Organ Scholarship, applications are also welcome from individuals who are non-organists, but who have other gifts to offer (such as singing, conducting, or piano playing) and who believe they can benefit from the scholarship.