



Parish of St Matthew with St Paul, Winchester Organist and Director of Music

The role

We are seeking a new organist and director of music, reporting to the Priest-in-Charge, to lead music, in a wide variety of styles, at services and to develop further the musical life of the parish. This opportunity arises due to the recent retirement of our organist.

The core of the role is to lead the music, and our music groups, at services, utilising the wide range of capable musicians (vocal and instrumental) who already contribute to the musical life of the parish, including a band which provides the music on the first Sunday in the month, a singing group on the third Sunday and instrumental and vocal contributions during Communion most weeks.

Beyond Sunday services, our Advent and Christmas carol services have become important parts of parish life which we envisage continuing, as well as our use of a wide variety of musical styles – for example, in Holy Week we have used music in the Taizé tradition.

The ‘director of music’ aspect of the role offers an exciting opportunity to build on strong foundations as the parish enters a new phase: major refurbishment and development projects at both churches have recently been completed, including the acquisition (on a long-term loan) of a superb grand piano at St Paul’s and the installation of a new electronic organ at St Matthew’s. St Paul’s, even before its reordering, was well used for community activities such as dance groups, semi-professional and amateur choirs (including a children’s choir run by the parish), orchestras and chamber groups for rehearsals and performances. We have ambitious plans to develop this aspect of the church’s activity.

Our vision is for the appointee imaginatively to develop and expand the musical life of the church in the parish. We are happy to discuss with candidates the extent to which they would like to take on this broader musical development aspect of the role.

The parish has a new rector being installed in June and he will make the permanent appointment.

Key responsibilities

Play a leading role in providing music at the parish’s ‘flagship’ Sunday Parish Eucharist service at St Paul’s at 9.30 am for three or four Sundays a month; this currently encompasses organ voluntaries and accompanying hymns, with some piano accompaniment.

Play the organ/piano at ‘special’ services including Advent and Christmas carol services, Midnight Eucharist/Christmas Day and at Eastertide (currently Maundy Thursday and Good Friday).

The opportunity (on a ‘first refusal’ basis) to play for weddings and funerals at both churches (combined total each year usually in the range 10–12 services).

Find organist cover when not playing.

Choose hymns (in collaboration with the Priest-in-Charge).

Prepare the rota for the provision of music during Communion.

Prepare choir music for the third Sunday in the month and identify who will be singing.

Attend meetings as required.

Musical development of the parish – see ‘The role’ above; scope to be discussed. There is an opportunity for the organist to play the organ at the 11.15 am Sunday service at St Matthew’s, but this is not a requirement. (St Matthew’s uses the BCP; Holy Communion first Sunday in the month, Mattins other Sundays including organ accompaniment to the congregational singing of Psalms and canticles).

Compliance with the parish’s policies, procedures and safeguarding requirements.

What will you get from the role?

As well as the chance to lead the music at Sunday services, this is a unique opportunity to make a real difference to the development of the musical life of a flourishing parish through the imaginative, inclusive and creative use of music, building on strong foundations and with the enthusiastic backing of the PCC.

Remuneration

At a minimum £3,000pa but with the potential for this to be higher depending on the scope of the role – in particular, the musical development aspects beyond Sunday services.

Skills/experience needed

Minimum

A competent, capable and experienced liturgical organist, who understands worship in an Anglican context.

Experience, and successful use, of a variety of musical traditions.

Essential

An ability to work harmoniously and effectively with parish leaders, musicians and others to deliver music of a high standard.

Desirable

Previous successful design and delivery of a parish music development programme, with clear outcomes, deliverables and measures of success.

A vision for how music can support the broader ministry of a parish.

Experience in running amateur music groups – adult and child – using an imaginative and broad repertoire.

Experience, capability and enthusiasm for rehearsing and conducting an amateur choir.

About us

The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul occupies much of the northwest of Winchester and its inner suburbs. It is a flourishing parish which also has clear potential for further growth and development not just in numbers but in activities, in our spiritual life and in our impact in the community. We are sacramentally focused, prayerful, delighting in theological exploration and determinedly inclusive.

The parish has very close links with Western Church School, and there has been a regular pattern of visits by the school to St Paul’s for shared services such as Christingle, Nativity, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance. Year-group and other visits have also been regularly arranged at St Matthew’s and St Paul’s.

Looking to our community, our services actively invite those who might not see themselves as churchgoers to join us. St Paul’s Remembrance Sunday service is attended by local scouting groups and their families; the Christmas carol service and Christmas Eve Nativity attract many who do not normally worship in church.

Our aspiration is to continue to be an inclusive and welcoming Anglican parish for all ages, open to all whether their inclinations and preferences are catholic, evangelical or broad. The gradual growth in our worshipping community over recent years suggests that this can prove attractive. With the strapline ‘Pilgrims on a journey’, we articulate our aspirations and our mission as follows:

Provide a rich variety of worship relevant to our community;
Encourage, challenge and enable people to explore and grow in their faith;
Act beyond ourselves, both locally and globally;
Commit to the challenge of resources to make this possible, now and for future generations;
Effectively proclaim our faith and values through active collaboration with the community,
offering caring pastoral support to all.

To apply

The application process is:

- Written application (CV including two referees) to admin@stmatthewstpaul.org
- Play to a small group
- Play for a Sunday service.

Contact us

Parish Office, St Paul's Church, St Paul's Hill, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5AB,
www.stmatthewstpaul.org

Parish Administrator: Katy Palacio, admin@stmatthewstpaul.org, 01962 844878 (Mon, Wed, Fri)

For an informal conversation contact David Blunt (davidpeterblunt@gmail.com, 07772 590477) or
Bill Lucas (bill@bill-lucas.com, 07802 435948)