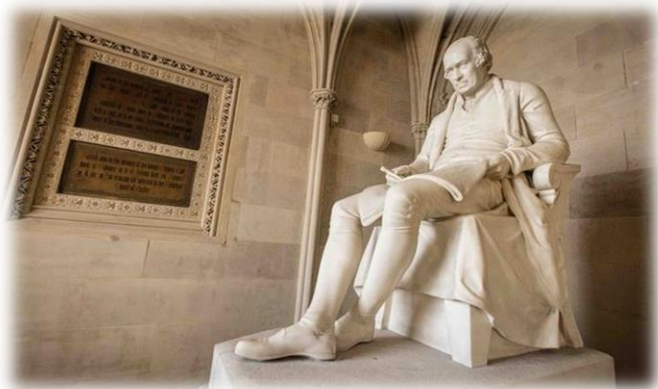


HANDSWORTH, ST. MARY

— CATHEDRAL OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION —

SOPRANO & TENOR CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS WITH CHORISTER TRAINING RESPONSIBILITIES



October 2023

Thank you for your interest in the roles of Soprano & Tenor Choral Scholar with Chorister Training Responsibilities at Handsworth St Mary. This role has been established as part of our wider strategy to transform choral music participation across our locality, raising life chances and bringing people closer to Christ. We launched our music provision in March 2022 from a zero base and have in the short time to now delivered rapid and sustained growth in our provision and delivered transformational change. We are looking to recruit an ambitious, skilled and creative leader who can work alongside our Director of Music, Organist & Assistant Director of Music, Choristers and whole team to develop our centre of choral music excellence.

If you would like to have a confidential informal conversation with our Director of Music to discuss the opportunity further, please do feel free to contact him via the details below:-

Khadeem Duncan-Banerjee FRSA NPQEL

07535656768

DoM@handsworthstmary.org

For more information and to watch our recent BBC Broadcasts visit www.handsworthstmarysmusic.org

Our History

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, also known as Handsworth Old Church, is a Grade II listed Anglican church in Handsworth, Birmingham, England. Its ten-acre grounds are contiguous with Handsworth Park and it is just off the Birmingham Outer Circle and south of a cutting housing the site of the former Handsworth Wood railway station. It is noteworthy as the resting place of famous progenitors of the industrial age, and has been described as "the cathedral of the Industrial Revolution".



Despite the strong Industrial Revolution profile, St Mary's parish register deposited at the Library of Birmingham commences in 1558, and the first stone church building was erected on the site around 1160.

It was a small and austere Norman structure, occupying about half of the present south aisle. The church's few surviving Norman features can be seen at the lower stages of the sandstone tower at the original church's east end.

In its long history, St Mary's has undergone successive and opinionated reconstruction, especially in 1820 and 1870. As a Staffordshire country church placed at the convergence of several cross-country tracks, St Mary's became a significant part of the largest industrial city in Britain.

In his 1851 History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire, William White records:

"Handsworth Church, St Mary, is picturesquely situated on the Hamstead road, about two miles (3 km) NNW of Birmingham. It is an ancient structure, partly rebuilt and enlarged in 1820, and has a tower with six bells, which like the other remaining parts of the ancient fabric, is in the decorated style of the time of Edward III".

In the chancel are two recumbent effigies of members of the Wyrley family, and an ancient piscina. On the south side, a neat groined chapel has been raised over the vault of the late celebrated engineer, James Watt, Esq, of whom there is in the chapel a beautiful white marble statue, by Chantrey. Among the numerous mural monuments in the church is one in memory of the late Matthew Boulton, Esq, of Soho. The rectory is in the patronage of the Rev John Peel, DD, and the Rev George William Murray, MA, is the incumbent.

Handsworth St Mary's Music - Handsworth St Mary's Music exists to transform cultural participation across Birmingham and beyond using the sacred gift of choral music; and to organise place-based arts activities to level-up our community. Music has the power to transform life chances, bring together diverse communities and enrich the cultural capital of all in our society.

We deliver a breadth of music participation programmes for children/young people and adults and aim to offer these free at the point of delivery to ensure fair access for all.



Our Vision

'To establish an outstanding choral and sacred music tradition in our Parish and wider Deanery, using it to share the message of Christ's unconditional love and redemption'

Our Mission

'To transform the life chances of children, young people and adults through music participation of the highest quality in our diverse community'

Our Values

- Inclusivity
- Equity
- Ambition
- Integrity
- Opportunity

Our Work

Chorister Scheme - Our flagship chorister scheme supports gifted and talented children to develop their musical spark with choral excellence.

We offer up to 24 children from our diverse inner-city community a range of music development opportunities including free professional singing lessons and music theory, regular performances in services and concerts, broadcasts (c15 million viewers/listeners across four BBC channels in the last nine months alone) and trips/tours to cathedrals and major cultural venues. Choristers work towards ABRSM singing grades and in due course RSCM medals.

The scheme is run in partnership with St Mary's Primary CofE Academy (part of Fioretti Trust) and St Micheal's Primary CofE Academy (part of Birmingham Diocesan Multi-academy Trust) and all choristers attend the schools.





Instrumental Workshops - In March 2022 we were pleased to launch our music instrument workshops scheme which has now been delivered to over 300 children, with an ambition to scale to 1,000 by the end of 2023.

Working with local schools, professional musicians and arts organisations we deliver free musical instrument workshop afternoons to children from across Birmingham. 2022 workshops included Jazz saxophone, pipe organ, piano, harp and flute to name a few.

Lunchtime Recitals - Every Wednesday from 1:00pm - 2:00pm, we offer free lunchtime recitals delivered by professional musicians from across the region and beyond including students from the renowned Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Programmes are released monthly and we have a broad range of soloists and groups playing a variety of music to suit different pallets.



Vision for the Future to 2025

We are highly aspirational at for the music at St Mary's. We are now at a stage where we need to grow our team in its capacity and capability to deliver the next phase of our growth plan which includes:-

- Strengthening, growing and developing our choral provision (including chorister scheme, prospective choral scholars and community choir)
- Increasing our presence and partnerships with local schools – a separate provision, co-designed with local Headteachers (Birmingham Choral Education Partnership) is under development

- Building our community workshops and participation for adults (we are forming strategic partnerships with other arts organisations in the locality to deliver new and innovative participation opportunities for people of all ages)
- Growing our recital series and music workshops
- Increasing capability by expanding our pool of funders, donors, partners and volunteers
- Grow our portfolio of engagement with the media and civic leaders to advocate for access to high quality cultural opportunities for children, families and adults from minority ethnic and disadvantaged backgrounds

Our Team

Our current team Include:-

- Director of Music (Khadeem Duncan-Banerjee)
- Organist & Assistant Director of Music (Tom Etheridge)
- Chorister Singing Teacher (Vacant)
- School Liaison – Staff of St Mary’s School (Jenny Sullvarna-Hall)
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (Christopher Perry)

Worship at St Marys

The English choral tradition is judged throughout the world to be an important part of our national heritage and of the spiritual treasury of the Anglican church. The Music Department forms an integral part of the structure and life of the worshipping community of St Mary’s.

Choirs

The Church Choir is currently made up of St Mary’s Choristers, who lead a choral eucharist three Sundays in the month. As our choristers grow in ability and confidence, we will begin to introduce choral evensong and increase the ambition of our repertory.

We have a community choir which welcomes singers of all ages and abilities who sing on selected Sundays throughout the year. This choir has been suspended pending the appointment of the Organ Scholar who will have responsibility for leading and developing this group with support from the Director of Music.

Organ

In 2019, following the £1.5 million re-ordering (refurbishment) of St Mary's we commissioned a state-of-the-art three-manual Copeman Hart installation led by Prof Ian Tracey DL. We also have a fine three-manual Norman & Beard which is awaiting restoration. The Copeman Hart console has been designed to accommodate the pipe organ when this project is delivered.

Piano

We have two grand pianos, one in the Church and the other in our St Mary's Hall (a short walk up the Hamstead Road from the Church). We are fortunate that the Church piano is a very fine Steinway & Sons Model D Concert Grand (9ft).

Our new Soprano & Tenor Choral Scholars with Chorister Training Responsibilities

The post requires the dedication of a highly adept musician, whose creativity seeks expression in the enhancement of worship and the communication of the Christian faith through music. It is expected that the Soprano & Tenor Choral Scholars will provide inspiration to all our team and stakeholders. The ability to foster good relationships with the choir, music team, church colleagues and members of our church community and external partners is paramount. It is expected that the successful candidate will play a full part in the Christian life of our community at St Mary's.

Your Background

The Music Leaders, with the support of the Wardens & Parochial Church Council wish to appoint an aspiring professional musician who has:

- 1 A passion and vision for music in the worship life of Handsworth St Mary and our wider community (CL/Int)
- 2 Experience of participating in the choral music traditions within a major city church or cathedral, in similar context and familiarity with the shape of the church's year and music in the Anglican choral tradition (CL)
- 3 Ability to sing to an excellent and professional standard with conviction, flare, and musical distinction in the disciplines of blended choral singing and solo repertoire performance (Aud)

- 4 Experience and ability to motivate, train and inspire choristers, fellow choral scholars, musicians and other adult singers contributing to the use of music in worship (CL/Int)
- 5 Sound understanding of safeguarding best practice and how this role plays a part in maintaining safe practice throughout the work of the Music Department (Int)
- 6 Ability to work collaboratively, think independently and to use your initiative to manage delegated tasks and responsibilities with creativity and to the highest of standards with good professional integrity. (Int)
- 7 Ability to plan, schedule and work to deadlines, and proficient in IT (CL/Int)

Key: Covering Letter (CL), Interview (Int), Audition (Aud)

The full Role Description and Person Specification is attached in appendix.

Remuneration and Conditions

The post will attract a fee of £4,520 per annum. Opportunities for additional earning may also be available through special projects, our schools outreach programme and events team. You will be commissioned as a self-employed contractor on a twelve-month contract; annual renewal shall be subject to mutual agreement. You shall be responsible for arranging payment of your own national insurance and income tax with HMRC. The contract will be subject to an initial three-month trial period and will be reviewed upon appointment of a new Rector as standard requirement in canon law.

The choral scholars will also receive up to £300 each for singing lessons with a teacher of their choice.

Recruitment

Please submit an up-to-date CV and a covering letter explaining how you meet the requirements for this role. We are particularly interested to hear how you meet the core requirements above.

The deadline for submission of applications is midnight on 5th October 2023. Interviews/auditions will be held on 8th & 9th October 2023. More information about the process will be provided to the short-listed candidates nearer the time.

Please ensure your application includes:-

- A CV detailing education, musical and professional qualifications and employment history;
- A brief covering letter (not more than two sides of A4) saying how your skills and experiences match the requirements of the post;
- Details (name, address, telephone number and e-mail) of three referees who would be able to speak about your relevant experience and personal qualities;
- Your contact details including daytime and evening telephone numbers.

APPENDIX



ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title:	Soprano/Tenor Choral Scholar with Chorister Training Responsibilities
Reporting to:	Director of Music
Sessions Required	7 hours per week (term-time only – excluding items in Schedule B)

Schedule of Work

Fridays

Full Choir Rehearsal – 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Sundays

Morning Eucharist 10:00am – 12:00pm (service beginning at 11:00am)

Choral Evensong 4:30pm – 6:30pm (once per month during term-time)

Chorister training responsibility

3 days per week from 3:30pm – 4:30pm, 35 weeks per year during term-time (day choice flexible).

Responsibilities

- 1 To sing for choral services (as outlined in Schedule A and B), events and broadcasts
- 2 To lead chorister training sessions including rehearsing music for choral services and concerts, ensuring the highest musical standards in worship at all services and choir performances can be realised.
- 3 To perform one 40-minute lunch time recital per term (three per year)
- 4 To assist in appropriate and diligent management of choristers, and to ensure that safeguarding is prioritised across all activities.
- 7 To ensure all policies and procedures relevant to their role are implemented and adhered to.
- 8 To assist in any administrative duties as reasonably requested by the DoM/ADoM.

Person Specification

You will need to demonstrate the following (not in order of importance):

- 8 A passion and vision for music in the worship life of Handsworth St Mary and our wider community (CL/Int)
- 9 Experience of participating in the choral music traditions within a major city church or cathedral, in similar context and familiarity with the shape of the church's year and music in the Anglican choral tradition (CL)
- 10 Ability to sing to an excellent and professional standard with conviction, flare, and musical distinction in the disciplines of blended choral singing and solo repertoire performance (Aud)
- 11 Experience and ability to motivate, train and inspire choristers, fellow choral scholars, musicians and other adult singers contributing to the use of music in worship (CL/Int)
- 12 Sound understanding of safeguarding best practice and how this role plays a part in maintaining safe practice throughout the work of the Music Department (Int)
- 13 Ability to work collaboratively, think independently and to use your initiative to manage delegated tasks and responsibilities with creativity and to the highest of standards with good professional integrity. (Int)
- 14 Ability to plan, schedule and work to deadlines, and proficient in IT (CL/Int)

Key: Covering Letter (CL), Interview (Int), Audition (Aud)

Personal Skills and Qualifications

Essential	Desirable
Musical presence and gravitas	Experience leading music participation in schools
Be of Grade 8 standard or above	Experience using social media for promotion of events and activities
Understanding of safeguarding, including policies, procedures, culture and best practice	
Ability to relate well with choristers and handle maintaining discipline and behaviour	
Strong team player	
Strong networking skills	
Ability to communicate well within teams	
Ability to hold your own and make ethical and sensible decisions that are appropriate and safe	

The PCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders are expected to share this commitment. All appointments to roles undertaking regulated activity are subject to pre-appointment checks, including a references and a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check

SCHEDULE A

Day	Time	Event
Sunday	11.00am	The Parish Eucharist
Sunday	5.30pm	Evensong (once a month during term time)

SCHEDULE B

Day	Time	Event
Sunday	Afternoon	9 Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	11.00pm	Midnight Eucharist
Ash Wednesday	Evening	Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	Evening	Eucharist
Holy Saturday	Evening	Eucharist
As required	As notified	Confirmations & Diocesan events
As required	As notified	Civic Services
As required	As notified	Cathedral Visits
As required	As notified	Concerts