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# CHRIST CHURCH

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## — Southgate —

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## Organist and Assistant Director of Music

### Background Information

Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert *Vicar*  
Reverend Hazel Miall *Associate Priest*  
Reverend Paul Ellerby *Curate*

William Waine *Director of Music*  
*from September 2024*

## Music at Christ Church Southgate

The Choir of Christ Church Southgate enjoys a reputation as one of north London's finest voluntary liturgical auditioned choirs. As a large choir of over 30 singers, both adults and children, the Choir sings at least twice a week on most Sundays at both Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong, as well as on major Feast Days. The Choir is divided into two sections: at the heart of the Church's musical output is the mixed Adult Choir, who sing for all the choral services and concerts. Augmenting the Adult Choir for two Sunday Eucharists a month and other special services is a thriving junior section of 12 choristers.

Since 2013, music at the Church has been led by husband-and-wife team Richard Brain (Director of Music) and Kate Macpherson (Organist). William Waine has been appointed Director of Music from September 2024.

Christ Church Southgate is passionate about sacred music, undertaking an ambitious programme of choral repertoire, and is one of the last choirs in the north London area to proudly keep alive the tradition of singing a full Choral Evensong on a weekly basis. We provide a centre of excellence in Parish music for the singing of sacred repertoire to the highest standards within traditional Anglican liturgy. The Choir performs a wide range of sacred music written over the last 500 years, including renaissance polyphony by Byrd, Palestrina, and Tallis, through to twentieth century and contemporary works by Chilcott, Dove, Duruflé, Howells, and Vaughan Williams.

The Choir has a significant public performance output in singing for concerts and recordings, and has an established reputation for high quality TV and radio work. In July 2022, the Choir led a live TV broadcast of Sung Mass from St Nicholas Basilica, Amsterdam, with the Dutch broadcaster NRO NCRV. The Choir was also interviewed and recorded Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's *The Mountains Shall Bring Peace* for European TV broadcasts during the lead up to the Coronation of HM King Charles III in 2023.

The Choir is also well regarded as a visiting choir and has sung at some of the UK's most prestigious Cathedrals and Abbeys, in addition to undertaking regular UK and international tours. The Choir regularly sings at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, and has also undertaken recent Cathedral visits and tours to Bristol, Gloucester, Southwark, St David's and St George's Windsor. Recent European tour destinations have included Amsterdam, Venice and Leipzig.

If you wish to hear recordings of the Choir, please visit our website: [www.christchurch-southgate.org](http://www.christchurch-southgate.org) or our YouTube page: [@ChristChurchN14](https://www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchN14).

## **The Organ**

Christ Church Southgate is home to a fine 45 stop three-manual organ, built by J W Walker and Sons in 1870. The instrument was rebuilt and significantly enlarged in 1947, with some remedial work in future years, and was restored with new keyboards and pedalboard in 2016.

The specification of the organ can be found on the NPOR website: <https://www.npor.org.uk/survey/R00869>.

## **The Music Department**

Following the appointment of the new Director of Music, responsibility for accompanying the choir will be shared between the Organist and the Organ Scholar.

The Organist will be the principal accompanist for the Choir. The Organist will accompany the Choir for 75-80% of Sundays during choir term, and on certain Feast and Holy Days as below. The Organist will attend one rehearsal each month to help prepare accompanied repertoire.

The Organist will not be expected to play during regular choir holidays. These include:

- October Half Term (one Sunday)
- Sunday after Christmas (one Sunday)
- February Half Term (one Sunday)
- Sunday after Easter (one Sunday)
- May Half Term (one Sunday)
- Summer Holiday (late July/August - five Sundays)

In addition, the Organist will have one Sunday off in September, November, December, January, March, April, June and July as agreed in advance with the Director of Music. The Choir (and therefore the Organist) also has occasional services off, such as around Bank Holidays and to balance commitments at busy times.

On the Organist's Sundays off, the Organ Scholar will play hymns and voluntaries, and accompany the choir if they are able (otherwise, *a capella* music will be programmed). The Organ Scholar will be expected to attend one additional Sunday each month and 2 each of the Christmas and Holy Week/Easter liturgies to observe the Organist. The Organ Scholar will also be expected to attend one rehearsal each month, either to observe the Organist or to accompany the choir if they are able.

## Timetable of Service Duties

### Sunday Services:

- 10am Sung or Choral Eucharist (9.15am/9.30am rehearsal)
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong (5.40pm rehearsal)
- The following Sunday services are occasionally replaced by special services including:
  - All Souls' Requiem Mass
  - Remembrance Sunday Service
  - Advent Procession
  - Christingle Service (Organ Scholar)
  - A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
  - Epiphanytide Carol Service

### Choral Services for High and Holy Days which fall on days other than Sunday include:

- Christmas Eve Crib Service, 5pm (Organ Scholar)
- Midnight Mass, 11.15pm
- Christmas Day Sung Eucharist, 10am
- Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist, 8pm
- Maundy Thursday Choral Eucharist, 8pm
- Good Friday Solemn Liturgy, 2pm
- Easter Eve Vigil and Choral Eucharist, 8pm
- Ascension Day Choral Eucharist, 8pm

### Friday Rehearsal Routine:

- 6.30pm-7.30pm: Chorister Rehearsal
- 7.35pm-9pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal
- The Adult Choir rehearsal is occasionally extended to 9.30pm when required.

### Choir Tours:

- When the Choir undertakes a visit to a UK cathedral or an international tour, it is hoped that the Assistant Director of Music will accompany the Choir on these visits if available. Fees or expenses for these will be negotiated separately.

Concerts:

- Fees for the Patronal Festival Concert and the Summer concert will be negotiated separately.

### **Music for Services**

At a Sung Eucharist, the choir provides an Introit, Responsorial Psalm, Agnus Dei and a Communion Motet, in addition to the singing of four hymns and a congregational mass setting. At Choral Eucharists, the Choir sings a full sung mass setting, in addition to the other standard musical items.

At weekly Choral Evensong, the choir provides an Anthem, the Preces and Responses, and settings of the Canticles. The Choir sings the Psalm appointed for the evening in the Lectionary to Anglican chant or Plainsong, and there are three hymns.

The Choir undertakes an ambitious musical programme in line with their excellence in choral singing, and the Organist will play a full part in this with their accompanying. Special service requirements include playing or conducting a full Choral Requiem for the Feast of All Souls'. Carol services, including Nine Lessons and Epiphany, are also demanding but rewarding.

### **Functional Relationships**

**Responsible to:** The Vicar of Christ Church Southgate, as line managed by the Director of Music.

It is important that the post holder has functional professional relationships with the following individuals within the church:

- The Vicar and other Clergy
- Churchwardens
- Director of Music
- Organ Scholar
- Church Treasurer
- Parish Administrator
- Choir members
- Chorister Chaperones