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# CHRIST CHURCH

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# — Southgate —

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## Organist and Assistant Director of Music

### Job Description

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

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

<b>Job Title</b>	Organist and Assistant Director of Music
<b>Employer</b>	Christ Church Southgate PCC
<b>Reporting to</b>	Director of Music and The Vicar of Christ Church Southgate
<b>Location / Address</b>	Christ Church, The Green, Southgate, London, N14 7EG
<b>Contract type</b>	Permanent
<b>Salary</b>	£5,500 per annum (£25 per hour) with additional fees paid for special services and events

Christ Church Southgate is seeking to appoint an Organist and Assistant Director of Music from 1 September 2024.

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 Organist will be the principal accompanist for the greater church-standard choir and, as Assistant Director of Music, will be the first port of call to deputise for the Director of Music in conducting the Choir in choir practices and services. The Organist will act as a mentor to a sixth-form/undergraduate Organ Scholar. The Organist will, in conjunction with the Director of Music, have responsibility for the care, maintenance and development of the organ.

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious organist who wishes to be the principle organist within a Cathedral-style Anglican choral tradition but with the flexibility to pursue other freelance work or another career, gaining valuable experience of both liturgical organ playing and conducting in an outstanding Parish environment.

## **Job Description**

### **Job Type:**

- Part-Time;
- There will be a probationary period of six months; and,
- The post will require a successful Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Search (DBS) in advance of commencing the post.

### **Salary: £5,500 p.a**

- Additional fees will be payable for weddings (£200 per service) and funerals/memorial services (£130 per service). The Organist will have first refusal for the organ playing at these services, and in the absence of the Director of Music would be responsible for the direction of any singers if required.

### **Hours and Commitment:**

- The Organist will be required to accompany the choir for two services each Sunday during choir term time.
- The Organist will be entitled to one complete Sunday off (or two services) each month during choir term time. The Choir also has a 5 week summer break over late July/August and occasional services off, such as around Bank Holidays and to balance commitments. The Organist would not be required to play outside of Choir term time. For a detailed explanation see the Information Pack.
- The Organist will be required to attend one Friday evening rehearsal each month during choir term time, as agreed in advance with the Director of Music.
- There will be additional attendance and hours for a limited number of Feast and Holy Days (see Information Pack). Attendance at the following should be considered obligatory:
  - All Souls' Requiem Mass
  - Advent Procession
  - Nine Lessons and Carols
  - Midnight Mass

- Christmas Day Eucharist
- Ash Wednesday Eucharist
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist
- Good Friday Solemn Liturgy
- Easter Eve Vigil and Eucharist
- Easter Sunday Eucharist and Evensong

### **Specific Duties and Responsibilities**

1. To be the primary accompanist for the congregation and choir at the organ. This includes:
  - Accompanying a full range of liturgical repertoire, including anthems, motets, mass settings, hymns, and psalms;
  - Providing appropriate organ voluntaries before and after services, either prepared or improvised;
  - Providing appropriate improvisations according to the demands of the liturgy (e.g. post-Gospel or Offertory); and,
  - Playing the organ as required for occasional concerts, visiting cathedral evensongs and/or choir tours, if available (See Information Pack).
2. To deputise as the conductor for rehearsals and services as required by the Director of Music. This includes rehearsing both separate Chorister and Adult Choir rehearsals on a Friday evening.
3. To act as a mentor to the Organ Scholar.
4. To be responsible for the regular maintenance of the organ, overseeing its long-term health and welfare and arrangements for tuning, in conjunction with the Director of Music.
5. To support the Director of Music in the smooth running of the Music Department, and in the continued integration of the Music Department with the wider congregation.
6. To work cooperatively with other members of the staff and volunteer team in the interests of the Parish as a whole.

## Person Specification

<b>Skills/knowledge/experience</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Ability to play the organ competently to ARCO standard or equivalent	x	
Experience of accompanying a wide variety of choral repertoire within the Anglican choral tradition	x	
Ability of playing a wide variety of solo organ repertoire	x	
Ability to improvise competently for services	x	
Ability and/or experience of conducting choirs in liturgical settings		x
Exhibiting an understanding of liturgy and the role of music within it		x
Experience of working with children and young people in musical settings		x
Ability to communicate effectively with people individually and in groups	x	
Experience of working collaboratively as part of a team	x	
Being self-motivated, punctual, and reliable	x	
Willing to be flexible and open minded, with an understanding of working with volunteer singers	x	
A member of the Anglican Communion or in sympathy with the Christian faith	x	
Commitment to and understanding of safeguarding procedures	x	

## **Application and Appointment Process**

**Applications should be submitted via email to [office@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:office@christchurch-southgate.org) by 12 noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

Candidates should include a covering letter (of no more than 2 pages) and a CV detailing relevant experience and why you are interested in the post. Please also provide the details of two referees, one of whom should be your current employer, and the other who is an individual who can comment on your musical skills.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact the incoming Director of Music, William Waine, c/o [office@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:office@christchurch-southgate.org).

**Interviews will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

The interview process will comprise of four main elements: an audition at the organ; an interview in person with the Vicar and other designated persons; leading a short rehearsal with the Choristers; and, a short rehearsal with the Adult Choir where you will both accompany the Choir and conduct an anthem.

At the organ audition, you will be asked to play two contrasting pieces of organ music (of no more than 10 minutes duration in total). You will also be asked to undertake a number of short tests, including sight reading and accompanying a hymn with a concluding offertory improvisation of around 30 seconds. The hymn will be provided to you in your practice session at the organ on the day.

For the Chorister practice, you will be asked to lead a short rehearsal taking the children through repertoire they already know.

During the Adult Choir audition, you will be asked to accompany the choir at the organ, as well as conducting a short *a cappella* anthem or extract of a larger choral work.

All of the music for the Chorister and Adult Choir rehearsals will be provided to candidates in advance of the interview by email.