

All Saints, Writtle, Essex.

All Saints Writtle seeks to appoint an Organist and Director of Music (DoM) on 1 March 2024, or earlier. Remuneration is £7,000/annum payable monthly, together with extra fees for weddings and funerals.

Music at All Saints.

All Saints is a beautiful, well maintained Grade II listed church with churchyard, built around 800 years ago and is centrally situated in the historic village of Writtle, just to the west of Chelmsford.

The organ is a two manual Geo. Johnson, Bristol 1886 instrument with 18 speaking stops and an enclosed swell box which was transferred to the site in 1994 from its previous home in Shepton Mallet. It is well maintained and sounds lovely within the acoustic of the Church. There is also a well-maintained grand piano available for use in the Nave, when required.

The music tradition has been excellent in the past but is now seeking to become reinvigorated through the development of a new and more youthful choir alongside the existing small choir of some 12 singers, including 7 sopranos, 4 altos, and one flexible male voice. Average attendance is normally slightly below the full complement, and very often two upper voice parts only. The choir leads the hymn singing and the congregational mass setting. Normally, they sing an anthem during the administration of Holy Communion and are called upon for funerals and weddings as required.

There are no children currently in the Choir and the church is keen to change that. There are very good relationships with the local primary school and uniformed organisations. For example, Harvest, Christmas, Easter festivals are held in church and extremely well attended by the local primary school and their families. They also come into church for a 'church discovery' day, where they spend the whole day learning about the history, art, and symbolism of church life, including a musical component that the Organist and DoM could develop further. And the uniformed organisations have a great presence during the festivals, including Remembrance Sunday, and at Christmas.

The Role

The Organist and Director of Music's role will be to:

1. Develop and enrich the worship at All Saints through music so that it is a centre of musical excellence in the Chelmsford area.
2. Grow the choir and the repertoire so that they have a wider presence in the area and can sing in other churches and cathedrals.
3. Develop younger peoples' participation in the choir, including engaging with the local schools and uniformed organisations, and to recruit and retain a junior choir.
4. Think outside the brief to imagine further opportunities. This could be around engaging with the local community, putting on other kinds of music events that the church would be suitable for outside of traditional worship.

This is a developmental role, and All Saints is looking for someone with both experience in traditional Anglican worship and with the energy and vision to accomplish something new. They will lead the church in music through a period of change. We have the occasional joint gathering of our Mission & Ministry Partnership churches where the choirs form together to lead worship. Messy Church has just begun, and different music will be very welcome for that. We want our church to be a place where young people will be given the opportunity to learn and grow in music, and established singers will want to come because it's a place that offers musical excellence. All Saints is a good place to be for many people already, and we want that to expand and offer more to more and varied people.

The organ and piano will be available for the Organist and DoM for their own practice and teaching.

A Job Description and sample Contract are attached. There is room for negotiation within the information supplied, and we hope you can see there is also room for the applicants' own giftings, interests and vision to bring the role to life. Keeping the status quo is neither an option nor desirable.

Safeguarding

This post is subject to the Church of England's safeguarding policy. The post-holder is required to have completed level 3 Safeguarding training with Chelmsford diocese and enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Agency. The church will ensure that this is always in place and is responsible for its renewal.

Next steps.

The deadline for applications is 6pm Monday 8th January 2024.

Interviews and auditions will take place on Saturday 20th January 2024.

Candidates are invited to send a complete CV along with a letter of application and two referees, all by email.

Shortlisted candidates will be required to

- play two voluntaries suitable for a major thanksgiving service and for during a penitential season, displaying a range of colours from the organ lasting no more than 10 minutes in total.
- play a communion hymn (supplied on the day) which terminates with an improvised end to 'fill the gaps' of approximately one minute.
- play on the piano a modern praise-style song/hymn of your own choice.
- prepare and rehearse a supplied short anthem for communion for a small choir, where reading skill is not assumed as part of a choir rehearsal.
- submit choices of hymns, communion anthem, organ voluntaries for Easter Sunday. The bible readings will be supplied.

The interview and audition will be conducted by the Priest-in-Charge, a member of the PCC, and an external advisor. Full particulars will be supplied to successful candidates.

Successful applicants will be advised on Friday 12 January 2024.

Email applications to:

Rev Tony Cant: revtonyc@gmail.com

Ph: 01245 631078