



Choir Church Shadwell Music Director at St George-in-the-East Parish Church

JOB DESCRIPTION

ACCOUNTABLE TO: The PCC of St George-in-the-East Parish Church; regular supervision, training and appropriate support will be provided for the post-holder to develop in this role.

LOCATION: St George-in-the-East Parish Church, 14 Cannon Street Road, E1 0BH (offices in the East Crypt of the church building)

BACKGROUND: The PCC of St George-in-the-East (SGE) are committed to the renewal of parish ministry in Shadwell and to working within an alliance of organising parishes in east London. The Diocese of London have designated SGE as a Resource Church

The practice of community organising is at the heart of our approach - harnessing its potential to both strengthen churches and enable them to act with others for the common good. The vision of the parish captures the most important aspects of our mission – to worship God, build community and to challenge injustice.

Choir Church plants congregations in schools, built around Singing, Sacrament and Justice. Choir Church Shadwell is based in St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Whitechapel and is led in association with our parish church, St George-in-the-East. Choir Church was founded in 2016, and has grown to incorporate whole-school singing, an after-school choir meeting as a congregation on a monthly basis, and we now have an ambition to extend this to form a choir for teenagers, meeting in the church on a weekly basis.

Choir Church Shadwell is seeking a skilled musician who possesses strong pastoral skills to develop our vision to give voice to children and young people in our community. The Music Director will be part of a team seeking to build deeper connections with local children and families with progression routes from primary school to university.

The Choir Church Foundation

The Choir Church Foundation was established in 2021 offering advice and support, and resourcing parishes with a Learning Community and musical materials. The Choir Church Choral Curriculum will be made available as a resource, and the musician will be able to adapt that and shape the repertoire of the school.

JOB SUMMARY: St George-in-the-East is seeking a skilled musician who possesses strong pastoral skills to develop our vision to give voice to children and young people in our community. The Music Director will be part of a team seeking to build deeper connections with local children and families with progression routes from primary school to university.

Responsibilities

Music in the School

- Develop singing sessions within the school curriculum for years 1-6 (day(s) negotiable). The existing programme is available to adopt within school before review with school leaders.
- Work closely with the Children & Families Pastor to maximise opportunities to grow the numbers of choir participants and worshippers at monthly Choir Church Eucharists.
- Plan in advance of the school term to connect with the Model Music Curriculum.

Music in the Choir Club

Primary School

- Planning hymns, anthems and songs for services with the Choir Church team
- Leading musical rehearsals in school with the choir club participants after school in preparation for sung worship, currently taking place on Wednesdays in term-time, 3:30-4:30pm.
- Lead musical worship for an agreed number of Sunday mornings at St George-in-the-East, working to create concrete opportunities for connection between Sunday worship and the Choir Church worshipping community - including a once a term choir performance at the Parish Mass on a Sunday. We envisage the postholder playing at between 12-15 services each year.

Secondary School

- Work with the Children's and Families Pastor to develop follow on activities for children in the transition school years 7 and 8 (post Choir Church). Music activities and opportunities will enable primary school leavers to continue sharing their voices as well as maintain and build new friendships throughout secondary school.
- Work with the Children's and Families Pastor to manage a team of volunteers to offer a safe, welcoming and attractive environment including a homework space and catering provision

Planning and Mentoring

- Prepare sessions, including scores, conversations with the St George-in-the-East team, the and St Paul's school SLT to ensure services and lessons are delivered with professionalism
- Have half termly mentor catch up with a member of the St George's clergy

Parish church

- The post holder will be given opportunities to play on additional Sundays and services at parish organist rates when a deputy is required.
- The post holder will be expected to attend all staff meetings once every six weeks to provide updates on Choir Church, build relationships and learn about the wider work of the parish.
- The post holder will be mentored in the practices of community organising by a member of staff or congregation in ways that are applicable to the role.

Funding

- Work with the Choir Church team and St George-in-the-East colleagues to secure the longer term financial sustainability of Choir Church Shadwell
- With the planting team, raise funds amongst the community for trips and special events for Choir Church Shadwell
- Prepare short reports on the choir's progress for funders and St George-in-the-East PCC

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Essential

- A gifted musician who understands music, worship, and liturgy, who plays the organ and piano to a high standard and is confident leading a choir of children, with empathy, and with a desire to gain hands-on experience of community music. The job will require the facilitation of group singing (including children) in large groups (school assemblies) and small groups (Choir Church singers).

Voluntary or work experience of assisting or leading singing/music with children and/or young people in a school, church or community setting.

- Confidence with a range of musical styles and in particular with hymn singing and the English choral tradition. Where a candidate has perhaps less experience, evidence of growing expertise and confidence would need to be shown.

Desirable

- An understanding of community organising and the potential of justice work to fire the imagination and energy of children and adults.
- Voluntary or work experience in a primary school environment.

**TERMS AND
CONDITIONS:**

Hours: 8 hours a week (1 day), plus an additional monthly half day (4hrs) music leading at the Sunday Parish Mass at St George-in-the-East. This role will be primarily delivered in term-time through Wednesday afternoon choir clubs and a monthly Eucharist (apart from in August).

Salary: £28-30,000 pro rata dependent on experience (£5600-£6000 pro rata)

Child and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding and Protection

The successful candidate will be required to undertake a self-disclosure (DBS) and attend annual safeguarding training.

Contract and Appraisal

This job is offered initially for 12 months with continuation of the post beyond this dependent on successful fundraising. There will be an annual appraisal with line manager and representative of the PCC. There will be a probationary period of 3 months.

Notice Period

The notice period, after completion of the probationary period, is 1 month.

Note: In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 it is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a practicing Christian.