

Director of Music at St Peter's, Hall Green - Background information

St Peter's is an Anglican parish church serving a residential area of Hall Green. There are typically over 50 worshippers at the main Sunday morning service. A sung Eucharist is held on three Sundays of the month, with a less formal All Age Service with hymns on the Second Sunday. Sunday evening services are held occasionally, but not usually accompanied. Many of the evening services are small and informal and require no accompaniment.

The church has a well-specified 3 manual Viscount Regent 256 digital organ, which has served well since its installation in 2011

Hymns are taken from Hymns Ancient and Modern, Hymns Old and New, Common Ground, plus occasional Taize chants and worship songs. We have CCLI and One License licences. These are normally chosen by the Vicar or for special services by the minister conducting the service. Collaboration on choosing music would be welcomed.

There are 13 regular members of an unrobed choir, which rehearses on Thursday evenings. Anthems are frequently sung in 3 parts. The choir normally sings an anthem each Sunday, during the communion. Special choir items are prepared for carol services at Advent and Christmas, and occasionally for other festivals. Currently, convening of participants, both choral and instrumental, is done via email or WhatsApp.

A small number of weddings and funerals are held each year. Typically there will be 2 or 3 weddings, and 6-8 funerals, requiring an accompanist, for which a fee is paid.

Our approach to music is quite pragmatic: we experiment with new songs and service settings from time to time, and if they work well, they join the repertoire. Similarly, the choir has an extensive library of anthems, which has been extended year by year, mainly to add simpler and more tuneful pieces best suited to a small choir.

Our priority is to recruit an organist who will take on the routine accompaniment of services. This would mean committing to the majority of Sunday mornings, and being available as much as possible for other main services, e.g. during Easter week and over the Christmas period.

We are therefore looking for a candidate who will be able to demonstrate the following qualities:

- a competent organist
- enthusiastic and knowledgeable choral director
- good organisational skills
- the ability to work independently
- good communication skills
- a basic understanding of audio technology
- an encourager - sympathetic to working with people of all musical abilities

Remuneration

The church is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and remuneration will follow RSCM guidelines. Therefore payment will be negotiated according to the usual scales. The parish averages 2-3 weddings a year and 6 - 8 funerals. The present rates for the organist are £120 per wedding (double fees for a wedding that is DVD recorded) and £120 per funeral. Fees and remuneration will be reviewed annually.

Safeguarding

The appointment of Director of Music is subject to the usual DBS clearance and training.

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Application

Please direct any informal enquiries to the vicar, or apply using the attached form and return to the vicar:

The Revd Canon Martin Stephenson
33 Paradise Lane
Hall Green
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