

HOLY TRINITY HEADINGTON QUARRY
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

SUMMARY

The congregation at Holy Trinity values its music very highly and enjoys a diverse range of music and worship. We have resources within the church including a high-quality Tickell organ, robed choir, contemporary singing group, and instrumentalists who are willing to contribute. We are looking for a Director of Music who will draw all these strands together: to play the organ (and, occasionally the piano) and to prepare the choir and others for worship. What is laid out below describes our current forms of worship and suggested role for a Director of Music. But since we expect our worship and its music to evolve over time, we would be willing to discuss and negotiate both aspects with any candidate who feels drawn to this post.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Holy Trinity is the local parish church in Headington Quarry serving the people of Headington Quarry, Risinghurst, Wood Farm, and the areas around the local hospitals. This is the church C.S. Lewis attended and he is buried in the churchyard. We have a membership of around 160 and an average Sunday attendance of 80-100. The liturgical tradition is inclusive catholic with the Eucharist as our main act of worship at 10am, a monthly Evensong service at 6pm, and the full set of services celebrated in Holy Week. We have occasional 'All-Age' acts of worship which include music specifically designed to engage children. The church is affiliated to the RSCM. Further details are on the church website: www.hthq.org.uk

RESOURCES:

Organ and pianos:

- i. We have a small but excellent, two manual and pedal, Tickell organ, built in 1992 for this church.
- ii. We have a Clavinova piano in the church.
- iii. We have a good quality upright piano in the nearby hall which can be used for recitals.

Choir/singing groups/musicians:

- i. Sunday morning robed choir in term time - currently entirely made up of adults, but we would be very keen to establish a Children's Choir/Choristers in future.
- ii. Evensong robed choir (6pm on the first Sunday of the month at present)
- iii. Music group – informal singing group which practices once a month and sings Taizé, Iona and world music songs at the Parish Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month.
- iv. Taizé worship instrumental group which includes piano, flute, acoustic guitar.
- v. Instrumentalists who play to a good or professional standard and contribute to our music in worship or through concerts and recitals.

PATTERN OF WORSHIP

Our 10am service (attracting up to 80 adults) is a Sung Eucharist (Common Worship, Order 1) with a sung setting (currently usually MacMillan & Ives) and hymns mostly from the latest version of *Ancient & Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*. There is a robed choir which usually rehearses on Thursday evenings and sings on three Sundays of the month.

On the first Sunday in the month our “Music group” sings instead of the choir. This group meets once a month to practise for this service.

We generally hold a choral service on the First Sunday of the month – this is usually Choral Evensong but sometimes coincides with other occasions (e.g. All Souls’ Day, Advent Carols).

We hold choral services for Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, the Easter Triduum, and we hold two carol services at Advent and Christmas.

THE POST

The Director of Music post is a permanent appointment with a probationary period of six months. It is not required that the postholder be a Christian, but they should be in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the Church of England. This is a part-time post.

The postholder will be accountable to the Vicar.

The appointment will be subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

The successful candidate will:

- Play the organ for all services, or delegate playing the organ to another organist.
- Maintain a high standard in choral accompaniment, voluntaries, improvisation, and liturgical playing.
- Direct and rehearse the Choir and take a lead in the recruitment of new members.
- Engage with and support the Music Group.
- Play for any special services and concerts as required and as agreed in advance.
- Work with the Vicar and clergy, and other singers and musicians to take a creative and active role in contributing to worship at Holy Trinity.
- Attend safeguarding training.
- Choose hymns and anthems (in consultation with the Vicar) for the morning and evening services and other festival occasions.
- Introduce new anthems and liturgical items as appropriate, arranging for them to be bought or photocopied (a reasonable sum will be available each year for this purpose).
- Produce a monthly music list and assist with publicity for services and concerts.
- Ensure compliance with copyright regulations and liaise with the Parish Administrator to prepare the annual CCLI return.
- Supervise the maintenance and upkeep of the organ, pianos, choir library and choir robes.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- A level of experience of playing the organ that is commensurate with career stage.
- A level of experience directing choral music that is commensurate with career stage.
- Capacity to inspire, organise, and lead singers of mixed abilities.
- Sufficient keyboard skills to lead and accompany choir rehearsals.
- Communication and team working skills with people of different ages and abilities.
- Ability to work as leader of a team to produce inspiring music which is suitable for the liturgical setting.
- Good administrative skills.

Desirable

- Qualifications in music and/or education.
- Experience of directing children's choirs or working with choristers.

EMOLUMENTS

The postholder will receive:

- A salary of £6,000 p.a.
- A supportive team of people to work alongside
- Access to the piano and organ for personal practice, including organ and singing teaching as appropriate.
- 6 weeks paid holiday per year.

The Director of Music has first refusal for weddings (£120 + £60 if service is videoed), funerals (£85) and baptisms (£30).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit a CV, covering letter, and the names and addresses of two referees, to reach us by 5pm on Friday 3rd March:

The Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott

vicar.hthq@gmail.com

(Email applications preferred, but postal applications accepted):

The Vicarage
46 Quarry Rd
Headington,
Oxford OX3 8NU

To arrange an informal conversation about the post, please contact the Vicar.

Interviews are expected to take place the week beginning March 13th and we hope the successful postholder will be free to take up the post as soon as possible after interview. Thank you for your interest in this post.

February 8th 2023