



# St Stephen's with St John's, Westminster

## Director of Music and Organist

St. Stephen's Church, Rochester Row, London SW1P 1LE

Salary	£6000 per annum; plus fees may be earned for extra services by agreement
Wedding fee	£100 basic, £120 with choir or soloist rehearsal, more if complex.
Funeral fee	£80 basic, more if choral or complex.
Duty days	Sunday mornings 9 – 12 (rehearsal, service, learning rehearsal) Sunday evenings 5.30 – 7.15 (congregational Evensong; occasionally choral) Weekday work as needed to recruit and train children
Holy Days	Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Day.
Duty share	The organist emeritus will take some share in this but when and how much is open to negotiation. The D of M/Organist should expect to do around 75% 80% of the duties. The D of M and Emeritus could share Holy Days if helpful.
Management	The Vicar and Wardens/PCC engage the musicians, who remain on a self-employed contract and are paid gross.
Holidays	4 Sundays per year are paid holiday for which the church will engage deputies. Other leave is possible with permission but at your own expense.
The Music Team	<p>The <b>voluntary choir</b> SATB (max 5, 4, 2, 3) sings at the 10a.m. Eucharist weekly, offering a responsorial Psalm and good anthem every week. To this group the church desires to add a children's section, allowing for a midweek or after-school rehearsal since the 9.20 warm-up is inadequate for training. The choir consists of novice and very capable, experienced singers, and is noted for its friendly and task-centred attitude. There is a thirst for more than the notes in terms of background and understanding, and a willingness to learn. The parish has deliberately chosen to keep this group voluntary and to work within its means musically.</p> <p>There is an <b>ensemble</b> of woodwind and highly proficient strings which plays periodically. Parts are arranged, typeset and circulated in advance. This task can be shared if helpful. An <b>organ scholarship</b> post exists but is currently vacant, with an interested candidate for a few months' time. It exists to train parish organists for the future, is not age-limited, and falls to the D of M to teach.</p>

Profile of the worship	<p>Music is valued highly as a function of the liturgical life of the church. Both the congregational Evensong, self-sung by an enthusiastic group, and the main Eucharist led by choir or instrumental group (same people!) are loved by the clergy and congregation. Good organ music matters and the Evensong congregation will expect a decent voluntary each week. Organ music for 30 minutes with themed texts to read is the devotional framework for prayer before the Good Friday liturgy. Informal music is also used a lot and both the present clergy are singers and players.</p>
Other music here	<p>The church is heavily used for rehearsals, concerts and events. Choral societies and orchestras hire the building.</p>
Instruments	<p>2-manual J J Binns 1903 organ (translated from Edinburgh) arrived in 2012 and was installed as though from new. It is tubular-pneumatic and bears the plaque announcing that, but a modern capture system has been added to allow for the performance of everything composed since 1903. A trombone constructed to Binns' scaling was added to support the chorus in the space here which is very different from the open-plan position it occupied previously.</p> <p>A good Bechstein grand piano and a good Yamaha electric piano for rehearsal in the vestry completes the set. There is an extensive library of suitable anthems and Psalms, and the choir knows a lot of music securely.</p>
The job itself	<p>Is to keep the above thriving, but critically to add children's work, finding a suitable time to teach and train, and gradually to integrate them with the adult choir. The establishment of all routines awaits. Availability is key – the reason for the present D of M stepping back is lack of it during the week and distance from London.</p>
The Emeritus	<p>Rosemary Field GRSM FRCO etc is Deputy Director of the RSCM and lives in Salisbury. Her RSCM task precludes weekday working in London except very occasionally. Over 13 years she has built the choir, overseen the installation of the organ, established the ensemble players and built a library. The role of Rosemary in the future depends greatly on who is appointed and what support they need/would welcome.</p>
The person needed	<p>.....is a capable musician in kilter with the spiritual drive behind what we do, down-to-earth and practical, utterly reliable and professional, and adaptable. This person will be a good leader and manager of people, with teaching ability across the generations and a care for people as well as the music they make. They will be trustworthy, kind and responsible around the children and will have a wide working knowledge of liturgical music and a sense of how and when to deploy it within the situation of the parish. Good organ-playing and related skills are essential, to at least ARCO standard.</p>
Audition	<p>You need to test if this parish is right for you on a Sunday morning, No interview ascertains that and we will be inviting shortlisted candidates to arrange a Sunday when they can rehearse the choir and play the service, as though a deputy. Interview can be any time at mutual convenience.</p>