



St Peter's Church

Hammersmith

St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith, London W6 9BE

Website: <https://stpetersw6.org>

Vicar: Revd Dr Charles Clapham

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Who we are

St Peter's is a thriving inclusive-minded church, rooted in a central Anglican tradition, on the border between Hammersmith and Chiswick, twenty minutes by tube from central London. On the banks of the Thames, with parks, restaurants and good schools, this is a pleasant and desirable place to live, and those who can afford to move here do not easily move away. The church attracts a diverse and international congregation (including significant numbers of children and families), many of whom (but by no means all) are relatively affluent, well-educated professionals, often working in financial services in the City of London, in the legal profession, as journalists, or in the media. The parish also includes areas of deprivation; 20% of pupils at St Peter's Church Primary School (with which we have very strong links) are on pupil premium, and 40% have English as an additional language; and there are high levels of ethnic diversity.

Vision and values

St Peter's seeks to be a generous, inclusive, all-age community, with a commitment to mission and growth:

- In terms of *generosity*, the church gives strong support (financial and practical) to two specific local projects which work with refugees, the homeless, and those in need; many of the congregation also give time and expertise in various capacities as governors, trustees or volunteers in a variety of charitable or educational projects.
- With regard to *inclusion*, St Peter's affirms the ministry of ordained women, and wants to welcome LGBT people in the life and ministry of the church at every level.
- To strengthen *all-age* provision, we recently appointed a part-time children's worker, as well as supporting work with younger teenagers, and want to continue to find ways to include children and young people in the life of the church across the board.
- As a *community*, we have a vibrant social life and seek to be a place where those who are new to the area can quickly make friends and build relationships. Recent events have included a champagne tasting, quiz night, safari supper, and our Harvestival street fair. Two local choirs rehearse at St Peter's; the church is also used as a venue for talks, concerts, and music recitals.
- In the long term, these initiatives are part of our desire to *grow* as a congregation - spiritually, numerically and financially - so we can contribute positively to the local community, and support and resource the wider church. As part of this, St Peter's has been appointed to be a Resource Church, under a Diocesan programme overseen by the Bishop of Islington.

Worship

Worship on Sunday mornings centres on the Eucharist, celebrated with vestments (but no incense), using modern language Common Worship order one, with a Said Communion at 8 am, and Parish Communion at 10.30 am with (unrobed) choir. A Sunday school for children runs during the 10.30 am service; a crèche is also provided. Evening Prayer, from the BCP, is said by a small group of lay people each Sunday at 6.30 pm. Family Worship, which runs once a month on Sundays at 9.30 am, is a short and informal service of about half an hour for parents and young children. Average Sunday attendance (across these three or four services) is around 200. In addition to Sunday worship, the church observes a range of festivals, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as a Carol Service, Crib Service and Midnight Mass.

Standards of music at St Peter's are high. The organ is of high quality and well maintained, and the acoustics in the church are good. The church choir usually meet to rehearse at 9.15 am on a Sunday morning, and attracts between 10 and 15 adults each week, supplemented with a professional soprano. In addition to five or so congregational hymns each Sunday (from the New English Hymnal), the choir typically sing an anthem during communion, and various elements of the liturgy are also sung (Gloria, Sanctus and Benedictus, and Agnus Dei). The church has also provided the Director of Music with a small budget to employ additional professional musicians or singers on significant occasions.

St Peter's has a high appreciation of music in worship, and of music as an offering to the wider community, and there is considerable musical talent, both amateur and professional, in the congregation. Enthusiasm and support will exist for a new Director of Music to expand the range of music sung, introduce new mass settings and new hymns, and draw on the musical talents of those in the congregation and wider community. In keeping with our aspiration to be an all-age community, there is also room to involve more young people in the musical life of the parish (as singers, for example, or as musicians in an occasional ensemble during Sunday worship).

Musical development

In addition to playing for Sunday worship and other occasional services, there is also considerable scope for the Director of Music to liaise with a range of other local groups and organisations, with a view to developing St Peter's as a centre for musical excellence and as a place to nurture musical talent, building on the strong connections that are already in place.

For example, the church already has very good links with St Peter's primary school, with weekly assemblies, and with children from the school coming to services in the church several times a year, but there is more that could be done to involve the school choir and orchestra in the life of the church. West London Free School, a local state secondary school with a music specialism, currently sing Choral Evensong in the church once or twice a year, and use the building for music examinations, and in the past we have also appointed four choral scholars from West London Free School to sing in our choir. In addition to renewing these appointments, there might also be the possibility of appointing a young organ scholar from West London Free School or from Latymer (a leading private school in our parish), for example, or developing other links.

There is also scope for greater liaison with the two local amateur choirs which meet in St Peter's Church – the Petros Singers, and SingWest – and for the Director of Music to be involved with the Quidam programme, run under the auspices of the PCC, which offers a series of regular music recitals, often drawing on the talents of students and recent graduates from the Royal College of Music. The possibility of funding a small honorarium for a 'Composer in Residence' to support the development of contemporary liturgical music and hymnody in the Anglican tradition, has also been mooted in the past.

This wider work of musical development would necessarily depend on the skills, vision and commitments of the Director of Music, and the church would therefore be supportive of expanding the role and hours of the position in dialogue with the Vicar and the PCC, and welcome applications from candidates with enthusiasm and a vision for cultivating St Peter's as a centre for musical life and excellence in West London.

Duties and responsibilities of the Director of Music:

1. Playing for Sunday morning Parish Eucharist every week and for the Family Service each month, apart from agreed holidays. Conducting Choir Practice immediately before the service (at 9:15 am for the 10:30 am services and at 10:10 am for the monthly 11:00 am services), and at such other times as may be agreed.
2. Playing for celebrations of the Eucharist on such feast days and holy days as are observed on a weekday: including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as a Carol Service, Crib Service, Midnight Mass, and Christmas Day.
3. Playing – subject to availability – for weddings, funerals and other occasional services at St Peter's, including liaising with couples and families to discuss music and hymns, and arranging for professional singers or additional musicians as requested. Additional fees will be payable at these times.
4. To actively and imaginatively develop the musical life of the parish, forming a focus for music-making both within the congregation and in the wider local community.

The person we seek will be:

1. Able to play to a high standard on organ and piano.
2. An academically trained musician who may be pursuing a musical career or some other occupation. In either case, experience of playing and of training a choir is essential.
3. Able to draw on a varied repertoire of music old and new.
4. Either a communicant member of the Church of England, or sympathetic to its ethos and place in the community. Familiarity with the Church of England's musical tradition and historic repertoire is necessary; likewise a knowledge of modern developments in Church music.
5. Keen to develop the musical life of the congregation and to develop the place of children and young people in church music-making.
6. Capable of motivating a varied mix of talent in the choir and sensitive to the pastoral as well as musical place of a choir in Church life.
7. Able to demonstrate reliability and punctuality in attending all duties.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The post is expected to carry an annual stipend of around £7500, paid monthly in arrears, but will be negotiable depending on experience, and could increase depending on hours and wider responsibilities and commitments.
2. Four Sundays holiday a year are guaranteed.
3. The appointment will be subject to a probationary period of six months on either side.
4. At the end of six months, with the agreement of both parties, a Contract of Employment, in a form advised by the Royal School of Church Music, will be entered into between the Parochial Church Council and the Director of Music.
5. Fees for playing at weddings, funerals and other occasional services outside of those stipulated in the Contract of Employment will be at least on the scale recommended by the Royal School of Church Music.
6. Since the post requires working with young people, appointment will be conditional on the successful completion of a Confidential Declaration and an Enhanced DBS disclosure, and may require the candidate to undertake safeguarding training provided by the Diocese of London. The successful candidate will also need to demonstrate their right to work in the UK.

How to apply:

Applications are invited in the form of a CV (including the names of two people from whom the church can seek references) and a cover letter. Applications can be sent by email to office@stpetersw6.org, or by post to St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith, London W6 0UH. The closing date for applications is 2.30 pm, Friday June 21st 2019. The interview date for potential candidates will be posted on St Peter's website as soon as it has been confirmed; candidates selected for interview will be notified directly.