

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The church of St Mary & St John, part of the parish of Cowley St John, Oxford, seeks to appoint an energetic Director of Music to lead its music ministry. We are open to new ideas that have musical and theological integrity, build upon our strong Catholic tradition, make the most appropriate use of choir abilities, and nurture congregational participation in worship.

Core Duties.

Sunday Sung Eucharist. 10.45. Organ voluntaries (seasonally appropriate) from 10.35; congregational hymns (including improvisation where liturgically required); congregational service music; psalms; choral communion anthem; post-service organ voluntary.

Feast Days and Solemnities. These sung services are usually in the evening (7.00 or 7.30), with musicians' rehearsals as required: Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Midnight Mass, Christmas Morning, Epiphany, Annunciation, Ash Wednesday, Mass of the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday (3 Hours vigil, with hymns, followed by Mass of the Pre-Sanctified), Easter Vigil, Ascension Day, All Souls.

Choir Rehearsals. A weekly 1-hour weekday evening rehearsal, and 10am for 10.45 Sunday morning.

Additional Duties (paid), Holidays and Substitutes, Reporting, Review

Funerals & Weddings are highly variable in number, but up to 12 per year. The Director of Music will have right of first refusal for these, to be paid (additional to salary) at RSCM rates; if the Director cannot, or does not wish to take a service, it will be his/her responsibility to recruit an appropriate substitute (RSCM rates).

Holiday. The Director will be entitled to seven Sundays or feast days off during each twelve-month period from appointment, subject to the recruitment of an appropriate substitute.

Reporting. For all matters relating to liturgical music, the Director will report to, and liaise closely with, the Vicar; administrative issues, including holidays and substitutes, will be confirmed and approved jointly by the Churchwarden and Vicar. The Director will be employed by the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Cowley St John.

Review. There will be a 6-month review focussing on performance in the following key areas: skills as a liturgical musician, growth of the choir and its repertoire, leadership and innovation with congregational music, integration into the life of the parish.

Person Specification

- Accomplished organist (ARCO level of competence or equivalent)
- Experienced choral conductor
- Experienced commitment to Anglican liturgy and music in the catholic tradition
- Ability to work creatively with all ages
- Excellent organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to create and develop new musical initiatives

Remuneration

£5,000 p.a., plus occasional services (weddings and funerals) paid at RSCM rates.
(The Director of Music may also apply to the Vicar and Churchwardens for additional funds for occasional hire of musicians for special services, and for music purchase.)

Application

Please send a letter of application setting out your interest and qualifications for the post, together with a *curriculum vitae*, and the names and addresses (including email) of two referees, one of whom must be a parish priest, chaplain, or similar. This should be addressed to The Parish Administrator, The Vicarage, Redwood

House, 276a Cowley Road, OX4 1UR; applications can be sent as pdf's to parish@cowleystjohn.co.uk. The closing date for receipt of applications is 23 August, 2019.

Interviews

These will be held by individual appointment w/o 2 September. Interviewed candidates will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the church and organ, and be asked to play for the committee before interview. Details will be sent to invited candidates.

Music at St Mary & St John

Congregational. Service music is sung congregationally (at present Murray, with Merbecke in Advent and Lent), as are Psalms. We are very keen to expand and diversify the congregational mass-setting repertoire. We are also a hymn-loving parish, and have recently invested in the 2013 edition of *Ancient & Modern*.

The Organ. The present organ of 38 stops and three manuals is a fine instrument, well-suited to the large volume of the building. Its origins were in Oxford's St Michael-at-the-Northgate ca. 1850, rebuilt with three manuals by Norman and Beard 1914, and brought to St Mary and St John in 1940. It was entirely overhauled at the cost of some £200,000 in 2010, and is in excellent working order, housed in a gallery above the west end. In the nave there is also a Bluthner grand piano, used for some parts of Sunday worship.

Choir. At present there is a very dedicated core of singers (6-8) who meet before the 10.45 service to rehearse hymns, psalms, and an anthem (usually taken from the *Oxford Anthem Book*).

Cowley St John Parish

CSJ was formed in 1870 from the historic parish of Cowley St James to serve Oxford's rapidly growing, mostly working class, eastern suburb. Its first incumbent was Fr Richard Benson, also superior of the newly formed Anglican monastic community, the Society of St John the Evangelist (the 'Cowley Fathers'). This inheritance continues today in a wholly inclusive expression of Catholic Anglicanism, marked by a strong eucharistic focus, commitment to the Daily Offices, and outreach to the poor, homeless, mentally ill, and new immigrant communities in East Oxford. The parish consists of two churches – St Mary and St John on the Cowley Road, and the former mission church of St Alban's nearby in Charles Street. Attendance at the main (10.45) sung eucharist at St Mary and St John is currently ca. 40-100, depending on the season. Attendees are overwhelmingly local residents, and Cowley St John is the diocese's most economically, socially, and racially diverse parish. We are particularly keen to enhance our ministry to the area's large population of students and younger families. There is scope for the successful candidate to explore opportunities for music and mission with children at St Mary and St Church Cof E Primary School.

St Mary & St John Church

For his new church of St Mary and St John, Father Benson commissioned as architect Alfred Mowbray, son of the Oxford Movement publisher and printer Alfred Richard Mowbray. Building commenced in 1875, with consecration in 1883, followed by the addition of the west tower by Mowbray in 1892-3. Large vestries were added in 1912. Due to lack of funds, much of the decorative details in the church were left unfinished, but the building is an impressive architectural essay in Anglo-Catholic theology and liturgy by design, rather than adaptation, with its voluminous nave and aisles dramatically focussed on the climax of the elevated chancel, high altar, and carved and painted reredos (1918) by Cecil Hare, assistant to G F Bodley.

Find Us

On the web at cowleystjohn.co.uk and on Facebook (Cowley St John Parish, Oxford).