Organist and Choir Leader

St Paul's Church, East Molesey, Surrey.

About the role

We are looking for an organist to lead the music in our Sunday worship. This is a role for someone who loves helping people sing, not only someone who plays well. You will lead our small, enthusiastic choir and our congregation, helping us to learn new hymns and songs and to grow in confidence as a worshipping community. We value both traditional and contemporary music, and want someone who can do both to draw people closer to God.

Main responsibilities

- Lead the music on three Sundays per month, playing the organ and piano as appropriate
- Lead and encourage the choir, including weekly/bi-weekly rehearsals helping amateur singers to grow in confidence and enjoyment.
- Introduce new hymns and songs to the congregation, and help people feel able to join in.
- Work with the vicar to plan music for services, including the main festivals and seasons of the church year.
- Lead the music at occasional extra services, such as Christmas, Holy Week, Remembrance and special services [and, by arrangement, weddings and funerals, with fees set separately].
- Encourage and, where possible, develop other musicians, singers and young people in the musical life of the church.

Organ & Piano specification

- The organ was installed in 1872, and refurbished three times, the last two in 1961 by Mander, and 2014 by Andrew Cooper, this is a 3-manual organ consisting of Great, Swell and Positif. The console is split from the pipework.
- There are a variety of stops, which give the player adequate opportunity for demonstration of solo work, or for general congregational accompaniment.
- The church also has a Bluthner Edwardian Boudoir grand piano.

Person specification

Essential

- Skilled musician on both organ and piano bringing music to life for both choir and congregation.
- Creates enjoyable choir rehearsals leading with energy, enthusiasm and sensitivity.
- Real sympathy for both traditional hymnody and contemporary worship hymns and songs.
- Experience of leading or directing choir or singing group
- A good working relationship with the clergy: able to plan collaboratively, take direction and communicate well.
- Reliable, well organised and a good team member.
- A personal Christian faith, or a clear commitment to the church's worship and mission, and a desire to help others encounter God through music.

Desirable

- Experience in an Anglican or similar church setting.
- Some experience of working with children or young people.

Terms

- **Hours:** 3 Sunday services per month depending on weeks in the month, plus choir rehearsals and occasional additional services
- **Pay:** £80 per service £40 per choir rehearsal (currently the choir rehearse approximately 20 weeks in the year)
- **Holiday:** 4 weeks, with cover arranged in consultation with the vicar.
- **Contract/Freelance:** Written agreement, with a six-month review period.
- **Insurance:** Hold public liability insurance
- **Safeguarding:** St Paul's is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk. The successful candidate will need an Enhanced DBS check with the relevant barred list check, to follow the Church of England's and the parish's safeguarding policies, and to complete safeguarding training.
- **Responsible to:** Rev Anne Farmer Vicar, and the PCC.

How to apply

Please send a CV and short covering letter, describing your musical experience and why you are interested in the post. Short listed candidates will be invited to an interview including a short informal audition where you will be asked to play a hymn and lead members of the choir in a short piece.

Informal enquiries and visits to meet the vicar and see the church are warmly welcome.

Apply to: Rev Anne Farmer, Vicar, St Paul's Church, East Molesey. Surrey KT8 9DR

Email: alf@rev21.co.uk