



## St Mary of Charity Parish Church

### Director of Music (Organist and Choir Director)

with

### St Mary of Charity Primary School

'Empowered to succeed'.

### Choir Director (Tutor)

Thank you for your interest in this new joint post of Director of Music at St Mary of Charity Parish Church Faversham and Choir Director at St Mary of Charity Primary School. This document includes information about the musical life of the church and school, job description, person specification, key terms and conditions and information about applications.

St Mary of Charity Parish Church is the largest of four Anglican Churches (Faversham Benefice) serving the market town of Faversham. We are part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. We seek to be a warm, welcoming and inclusive church being part of the inclusive church network. In terms of the size of the church building, it is reputed to be the largest parish church in Kent. The church is used in addition to the normal pattern of worship for Civic Services as well as by local schools and other organisations. The church prior to COVID had a usual Sunday attendance of 80 and has a small children's and young family's presence within the congregation.

Faversham has good road (M2) and rail links and like many towns in the Southeast is seeing exponential growth with much new housing.

Choral Music forms an important part of the life of the church and the choir at St Mary of Charity has formed a vibrant part of the life of the church community. Music within church is mixed with the enthusiastic RSCM- affiliated SATB Choir which undertakes regular Cathedral visits (pre COVID) and a small music group which presently plays for more contemporary services. The organ is a 3-manual with pedals instrument by Brown and Sons of Canterbury to the specification of the late Dr Sydney Campbell, organist at Canterbury Cathedral. We also have a grand piano, staging and space for concert performances. The Director of Music has oversight of all church music and an affinity for a wide breath of church musical styles is essential. As our Mission Priest explains to our Vicar regularly, we need to encompass Radio 1 to Radio 3 within our worship. Whilst the Vicar working with the PCC has ultimate responsibility for Church liturgy the relationship between Vicar and Director of Music is fundamental to the very best worship, we, as a church community, can offer.

St Mary of Charity Primary School is our local church school with the children coming into church each term to worship. At its last SIAMS and OFSTED inspections it was rated as Outstanding. Previously both the lower and upper school had choirs organised by a teaching assistant. The lower school choir rehearsed weekly at a school lunch time with a choir of approximately 15 and the upper

school rehearsed weekly directly after school with a choir of 30. The choir attended the annual young voices experience at the O2 and made visits in the local community to care homes around Christmas.

The church is keen to support the school and hope to cross pollinate the Church Choir by funding through a church / school charity a choir director to run the school's choir. Whilst previously we had a Church Choir director, we intend to create this new joint post to build on our close links to the church school.

If in the first instance you would like to discuss the role informally, please contact the Vicar Revd Simon Rowlands 01795 532592

Thank you for your interest.

**St Mary of Charity Parish Church, Faversham, Kent. Director of Music (Organist and Choir Director)**

**St Mary of Charity Primary School. Choir Director (Tutor)**

**Job Description**

**Main Job Purpose**

To play for, lead and develop the musical worshipping life of the church, under the overall direction of the Vicar and the Parochial Church Council, in a way that draws new people into church, and supports and upholds those already a part of it.

To manage and train the choir at their weekly practice and before each service.

To build and develop the choir by actively recruiting, encouraging, and training new members, while also nurturing the skills and confidence of existing members to broaden available repertoire.

To foster a fully inclusive, non-auditioned and all-welcoming environment, where there are no reasons for exclusion other than safeguarding.

To play or arrange cover for weddings, funerals, and other special services.

To work with the Music Group and other musicians to accommodate a variety of tastes in worshipping traditions.

To prepare and lead two weekly school choir practises and liaise with the Head Teacher or nominated individual to direct the choir at agreed performances.

**Other Tasks**

Meet regularly with the Vicar and other church musicians to plan worship.

Timely preparation of regular hymn and music lists.

Purchase music and maintain the choral and worship music library.

Responsibility for organising cover and deputies when needed.

Arrange and supervise maintenance of the organ and pianos.

Organising choir tours and cathedral visits,

Ability to engage, lead, inspire and direct the church's musicians, including choir and music group, and a willingness to develop the musical repertoire beyond the familiar.

A person who can engage with the Vicar to explore new musical styles and settings. i.e., Taizé, Iona and Northumbria Community

**Remuneration.**

For the post of Church Choir Director RSCM guidelines, weekly services and rehearsal to be discussed further. In addition, for the Choir Director School, hourly rate £30. It is anticipated 2hrs rehearsal time and 2hrs for preparation per week, 4hrs per week for a 39-week school year. Due to the nature of this being two distinct posts we would be open to discussion over a self-employment contract of work.

Person Specification		
	Essential	Desirable
A passion for leading and enabling worship	Yes	
Experienced in training a choir	Yes	
Experience in training a children's choir	Yes	
Highly competent organist	Yes	
FRCO or equivalent		Yes
Experience of working with a music group		Yes
Supportive of a wide range of church music, including contemporary church music	Yes	
Capable of inspiring and encouraging other musicians	Yes	
Experience working musically with children	Yes	
Skilled communicator and organisational skills	Yes	
Understanding of parish churches and their dynamics		Yes
Knowledge of RSCM training programmes, actively supporting any chorister wishing to develop his/her skills by participation in the awards scheme		Yes
Familiarity with Anglican church music and liturgy, and ability to work within our sacramental tradition.	Yes	
Sympathetic to the Christian faith as expressed by the Church of England	Yes	
To have a heart and experience of working with volunteers of all ages, open to recognising and sharing all levels of gifts of musicianship within the church community	Yes	