



### **Vacancy for Director of Music (Organist and conductor)**

St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford (MSG) sits at the centre of a North Buckinghamshire market town on the border of Milton Keynes. All Saints Calverton is the nearby rural church which shared an incumbent with Stony Stratford since the 1960s and the two parishes combined in 2012.

We are seeking to appoint a Director of Music to play the organ for weekly services at both churches (09:30 and 11:15) and lead a small but well-established part-time SATB choir.

MSG has a very well regarded three manual Fr. Willis organ ([NPOR | Survey D02104](#)) which was fully restored in 2016 following a major fund-raising campaign and Heritage Lottery-funded support. The church also has a wonderful acoustic and a rich musical programme throughout the year in addition to our services.



All Saints also has a weekly Sunday morning Mass with hymns and a congregational mass setting. The organ is a single manual with ten stops. [NPOR | Survey D00735](#), though most accompaniment is provided by an electronic keyboard.

### **Role**

The Director of Music is required to work closely with the Rector (currently in interregnum) in the planning and delivery of regular sung services.

MSG has a weekly sung Mass including four hymns, a psalm, a sung mass setting (generally congregational but sometimes choir) and a sung anthem/motet on some weeks/festivals. The choir rehearses weekly and typically sings twice a month which can flex to align to festivals. There are additional sung services around Christmas and Easter (e.g. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Advent Carols, Nine lessons and Carols) – see detailed list below. In the past the choir has also prepared and performed a Lenten cantata with other visiting singing friends and guests, and also participated in other musical events in the Church such as Come and Sing evensongs and major works (e.g. Spem in Alium).

All Saints has a weekly Mass with hymns and a mass setting and on occasions sung festivals are also held here.

Ad-hoc opportunities exist for the Organist to teach, as well as to play for weddings and funerals at both churches. Choir rehearsals take place in the Parish Hall using an electronic piano, SMSG has a high quality modern grand piano used for concerts and services as required.

## Choir

The choir is an adult SATB group which has varied over recent years between around ten and fifteen members and has a track record of singing a wide repertoire of music in support of the liturgy. The group is capable of singing to a good standard with mixed age, ability and confidence so responds well to the support and encouragement of a capable conductor. There are a number of children in the congregation but currently no children's choir so there is potential for a creative and enthusiastic Director of Music to build a choir which includes children from the congregation and the local parish.

## Person Specification

- Ability to sympathetically accompany hymns, Mass settings, choral music, and to improvise and play voluntaries before, during and after services on the organ.
- Ability to rehearse a small choir and direct them in singing musical items in services (currently up to 90-minutes, weekly on Wednesday @ 19:00).
- Well-organised, in order to plan music to be sung in services, including hymns and other music in conjunction with the Rector, and music for the choir to sing.
- Ability to work harmoniously with the Rector, Churchwardens, choir, and others throughout the church, including the Music for All @ SMSG events organising group regarding musical events such as the annual Willis Pipe Organ Festival, Come and Sing days and Monthly Monday Organ Recitals.
- Responsibility for liaising with those who maintain the organ and piano in liaison with the PCC Treasurer.
- Experience and familiarity with traditional Anglican liturgy and an empathy with Christian ethos are desirable.
- Willingness to collaborate with other users of the church facilities including the organ and piano.
- Relevant qualifications and experience should be shared within your application.

## Remuneration

Remuneration will be on the basis of a monthly honorarium totalling £10,000 per year plus fees for additional services.

## Application

Your application should include your CV and a covering letter which explains your experience and qualifications, your interest in this post and how you meet the person specification.

## Selection process

The selection process will comprise three parts:

- Playing – short examples of extemporising before a service, a piece to play after a service and accompanying a hymn
- Leading a 15 minute rehearsal with a small selection of singers to include: short vocal warm-up, directing a piece the singers know and introducing a piece of your choice
- Interview.

## Services included

The following services are included within the annual scope of work

The Epiphany of the Lord	Parish Mass
The Presentation of the Lord	Parish Mass
Ash Wednesday	Parish Mass
The Annunciation of the Lord	Parish Mass
Holy Week	Additional Liturgies (to be agreed)
Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday	The Liturgy
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil
The Ascension of the Lord	Parish Mass
Corpus et Sanguis Christi	Parish Mass, Procession and Benediction
The Transfiguration of the Lord	Parish Mass
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Parish Mass
St Giles Day	Parish Mass
All Saints Day	Parish Mass
All Souls Day	Parish Mass
Christmas Eve	Christingle or similar
Christmas Day	Parish Mass
Evening of Sunday after Christmas	Nine Lessons and Carols

Evensong/Evening Worship in either Parish Church on six Sundays per annum to be agreed with the Incumbent and one annual weekday evening Carol Service at St.Mary and St.Giles