



CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2024-25

Adults 18+

The Church of St Margaret's, Lee seeks to appoint four Choral Scholars (SATB) for the coming academic year. The annual honorarium for each scholar is up to £1500.

MUSIC AT ST MARGARET'S

The choir has long been at the heart of worship at St. Margaret's, performing a wide repertoire of music from the British sacred music tradition. The choir consists of two parts: the Junior Choir is auditioned and made up of children aged 7-14 drawn from a number of local schools, while the Senior Choir is a friendly body of volunteers drawn from the congregation and others interested in church music. Beyond its regular commitments at St. Margaret's itself, the choir makes an annual visit to a cathedral in the South East of England – recent visits have included Rochester, Portsmouth, Winchester and Southwark, as well as St George's Chapel, Windsor.

In addition to its function as a place of worship, the church acts as a busy concert venue for Trinity Laban and Goldsmiths, University of London, and a variety of local ensembles. The choir has also produced two CDs to date, with a third planned.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Scholars are required for morning services and at least one evensong per month during term-time, as well as for all major festivals (excluding Midnight Mass and Christmas Day). All services are available through live-stream broadcast as well as in person. Evensongs are usually on the last Sunday of each month at 6pm (full choir), though it is hoped that there will also be a number of scholars-only evensongs throughout the year.

Scholars will be expected to sing with the choir at such services, and will also have the opportunity to perform in solo items and as part of smaller groups, offering the chance to sing a very wide variety of repertoire. Scholars have taken part in termly concerts and have used the church for their own concerts and rehearsals, subject to prior arrangement. In addition, many previous scholars have composed for the choir.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates will be expected to have prior experience of choral/solo singing, as well as a good level of sight-reading and the ability to hold a vocal line alone. Effective time management skills are also essential. Previous scholars have gone on to sing at Southwark Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields and St George's Church, Beckenham, as well as setting up vocal ensembles of their own.

TIMES/DATES REQUIRED

The choir's calendar is loosely based around university terms, though some services may take place during university holidays. A typical schedule is outlined below:

- Thursdays: 7.30pm-9pm
- Sunday mornings: 9.45am-10.30am (rehearsal); 10.30am-11.30am (service)
- Last Sunday of each month: 4.30pm-5.30pm (rehearsal); 6.00pm-7.30pm (service)

On most Sundays, there is a parish communion service – here, the choir leads the hymns. In addition, the choir performs a full setting of the Mass, for example settings by Haydn, Schubert, Lotti, Darke and Stanford.

Once a month, there is a service of Morning Prayer, in which the choir additionally sings a psalm and canticles, for example performing settings by Tallis, Parry, and Ireland. Also once a month, the choir sings Evensong – at this service, the choir sings an introit and anthem, as well as settings of the psalms and canticles, for example settings by Gibbons, Howells, and Sumsion.

At each of these services, the choir, or members of the choir also perform a number of anthems, ranging from 16th century Polyphony, through verse anthems to new music written for the choir.

HONORARIUM/FEES

The annual honorarium for each scholar is up to £1500 (paid in monthly instalments), with extra fees available for weddings and funerals throughout the year.

APPLICATION/AUDITION

Candidates will be invited for audition, during which they will be expected to sing a piece of their choice, as well as sight-reading a short piece. They will then be invited to participate in one or more choir rehearsals and services to allow them to see how the process works before committing themselves to the requirements of the scholarship.

To apply, please send a completed application form and CV to our Director of Music, Duncan Atkinson via the Church Office (office@stmargaretslee.org.uk).

For any further information or if you wish to have an informal chat about the position, Duncan Atkinson can be contacted on 07802 725519.