



The Ted Martin Organ Scholarship 2025-2026

The Church of St Margaret's, Lee seeks to appoint an Organ Scholar for the coming academic year. Working with our RSCM-affiliated choir and under the guidance of our Director of Music, the Scholar will receive a comprehensive grounding in the skills of an accomplished church organist, from developing as a performer and liturgical musician, through accompanying a choir with flair and sensitivity, to directing and working with other church musicians. Opportunities are available for candidates who wish to grow in confidence as recitalists or choral conductors, and the church will support the Scholar in going on to develop their career in church music. The annual honorarium is up to £2500.

MUSIC AT ST MARGARET'S

There has been a St Margaret's Church in Lee for nearly 900 years. It has been rebuilt a number of times and the current church was completed in 1841. When it was first built the interior was much simpler, the lavish gothic inspired interior being created around 1873. It is now a vibrant and inclusive community, with music at the heart of its worship. The organ was built by J.W.Walker and Sons Ltd. in 1928, in consultation with Dr Charles Macpherson. It was overhauled by Harrison and Harrison of Durham in 1999. The Organ has 3 manuals, 43 speaking stops, 6 pistons per manual and 8 general pistons (the full specification is accessed from the music page of the church website (St Margaret's Church - Music at St Margaret's (stmargaretslee.org.uk)) 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. The choir also enjoys a team of four choral scholars, composed of university and music college-level musicians. The choir performs a wide repertoire of music from the British sacred music tradition at regular services at St. Margaret's. 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.

TED MARTIN

Ted Martin was a dedicated priest and psychoanalyst whose passion was for music - especially that of J.S. Bach. As well as being an organist he had a double manual harpsichord and attended lessons at Morley College for over 25 years. He encouraged organists and Music Directors suggesting putting on performances of Bach's St John Passion, Messiah, Noyes Fludde, and even Peter Maxwell Davies (O magnum mysterium).

OUTLINE OF THE ROLE

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, Mozart, Lotti, Darke and Stanford. 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. 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. The position of organ scholar involves assisting the director of music in most of the musical aspects of the services and rehearsals and is also seen as an opportunity to enhance their skills over the course of the year. The prime focus of the year is playing for services and rehearsals, occasionally directing the choir in rehearsals and services, and assisting in matters involving the general running and organisation of the choir, including acting as choir librarian (putting out and collecting in music and checking/looking after music). The position can be accommodated around under- or postgraduate study at the music colleges.

WHAT ST MARGARET'S OFFERS

St. Margaret's is an extremely friendly church that has a great appreciation for music, and commitment to the central importance of music to the Anglican liturgy. Any young organist with a passion for Anglican music will find St Margaret's a highly-supportive and rewarding place to utilise and develop the following skills:

- Assured and fluent hymn-playing, attentive to the ebb and flow of singers' breath and with intuitive use of registration to bring the words to life.
- Familiarity with a wide range of repertoire for the eucharist, matins and evensong, and a deft ability to accompany psalm chants.
- A lively and creative flair for organ improvisation.
- A comprehensive understanding of the role of musical director in rehearsal and performance with the choir.
- An annual honorarium of £2500.
- Free access to the Walker organ and Bechstein grand piano for personal practice and for teaching.
- Opportunities for further remunerated work from weddings and funerals when available.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for an applicant with a sincere enthusiasm for church music and the necessary skills to contribute meaningfully to our music-making. We know the importance of tailoring the

Scholarship to the needs and interests of the successful applicant, to give them opportunity to thrive. Prospective applicants, by way of guidance, should have:

- ABRSM Grade 8 in Organ Performance, or comparable ability.
- Experience of working with a church choir, be it as a performer or director.
- Good (though not necessarily perfect!) sight-reading.
- An existing and varied solo repertoire, and willingness and aptitude to learn new music.
- A passionate interest in the organ, Anglican and Catholic sacred choral music, and a sense of ambition.
- Good time management and punctuality St Margaret's takes the safeguarding and care of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults is reviewed annually by the PCC and can be downloaded from the church website. The successful applicant will need to have completed a DBS check, and will be expected to comply with this Policy.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send a current CV and covering letter to our Director of Music via the Church Office (office@stmargaretslee.org.uk), briefly explaining what you hope to get out of the Scholarship. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an audition and interview, date to be confirmed, at which applicants will be asked to:

- Play two contrasting pieces of organ repertoire.
- A short piece of sight-reading.
- Accompany the choir in the singing of an anthem and an Anglican Psalm chant. (music will be sent to shortlisted applicants in advance of the audition).
- Improvise on a theme given by the Director of Music for one minute.
- Conduct the choir in the singing of an anthem. For any further information or if you wish to have an informal chat about the position, the Director of Music, Duncan Atkinson, can also be contacted via the Church Office.