



**ALL SAINTS, MARGARET STREET, LONDON W1**

**Applications invited for the Dr JOHN BIRCH ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP  
ALL SAINTS MARGARET STREET tenable from September 2022**

Deadline for applications Monday 6 December 2021

Since its foundation in the 1850s as the model church of the Catholic Revival in the Church of England, music has been central to the life of All Saints. Until 1968 through its Choir School, and since then with its excellent choir of men and women, it has sought to enhance the celebration of the Anglican liturgy in Butterfield's stunningly beautiful church with the riches of Western church music. Each Sunday High Mass and Evensong and Benediction are sung, and High Mass on major weekday feasts. The repertoire is wide: plainchant and polyphony, Baroque and Victorian, Latin and English, complemented by vigorous hymn singing and accompanied by a fine Harrison & Harrison organ which had a major restoration in 2002.

Although the resident population of the parish is small, All Saints continues to draw a growing congregation from across London and beyond. It is no Sunday-only church. All Saints seeks to remain faithful to its calling to be a centre of Christian presence and mission in London; a place of Christian teaching, pastoral care and spiritual guidance.

The commitment of All Saints to excellence in church music was reinforced some years ago by the establishment of the All Saints Choir and Music Trust Fund, and also by the foundation of an Organ Scholarship established by a legacy from the estate of Dr John Birch (Organist of All Saints, 1953-58) and augmented in 2018 and 2019 by other sizeable donations, which we hope will benefit not only All Saints' music but also the wider Church.

**Details of the Dr John Birch Scholarship**

The Organ Scholarship offers training to a high level in service playing and voluntaries, drawing on a diverse repertoire of Anglican canticles and anthems, alongside those of the Eucharistic rite, prepared to accomplished standards. It also offers experience in accompanying chant and liturgical improvisation, and opportunities to work with the choir, under guidance.

Within this framework there is the opportunity for the Organ Scholar to advance particular musical interests and skills, and liturgical discernment. The music of the church is centred on the 1910 Hill/Harrison 4-manual instrument, regarded as one of the finest of its type in the UK.

The Director of Music, Stephen Farr, and the Associate Director of Music, Jeremiah Stephenson, provide ongoing support and guidance for the Organ Scholar throughout the tenure; suggestions for solo repertoire, assistance with preparation for ARCO and FRCO, and for other diplomas and examinations.

## **Terms and Conditions**

### **Length of tenure**

For one year, running 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 [renewable by invitation for an additional year] for:

- (a) Those in gap year between school and university;
- (b) Those undertaking undergraduate or postgraduate study in or near London.

All candidates will be expected to be available to be present at All Saints for audition.

*Speculative recordings will not be accepted.*

### **Duties and Attendance**

Attendance is expected at all choral services and practices, including Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. The Organ Scholar learns both through observation and active participation in music making at All Saints.

### **Holiday periods**

Absences after Christmas, Easter and during the summer holidays are arranged in conjunction with the Director of Music, and in consideration of the wider music team. The Organ Scholar is expected to be present to provide cover during their holiday times, but there will be opportunities for days off *in lieu*.

### **Remuneration and other benefits**

- (i) The annual remuneration for the academic year 2022-3 is currently £3,780 payable in monthly instalments of £315 each, and reviewed by the PCC annually in November. Extra fees are payable for special events and services when the Organ Scholar acts as the Assistant Organist.
- (ii) Free use of the four-manual Harrison organ and the Choir Room piano at agreed times.

### **Applications**

Informal telephone conversations with Stephen Farr (T: 07930 542555) are welcome at any time. **Formal applications should be sent to Stephen Farr by emailing [sforganist@gmail.com](mailto:sforganist@gmail.com) with ORGAN SCHOLAR as subject heading. Applications must arrive by 12 noon on Monday 6 December 2021.** *Hard copies of submissions are not required.* Please include the names and contact details of two referees, and a brief indication of the post's attraction, particularly in reference to the Anglo-Catholic liturgical tradition at All Saints and how the scholarship might benefit your progress and development.

### **Auditions and interviews**

Auditions will be held at the church in January 2022 conducted by the Director of Music. Candidates will be invited to play two contrasting pieces, one of which must be from the Baroque period, the two pieces lasting no more than 15 minutes in total. In addition there will be the usual keyboard tests, and the candidate will be asked to improvise briefly.

The expected minimum standard is from ABRSM Grade VIII to ARCO, but candidates will also be assessed on their potential and musical aptitude. There will also be a brief informal interview.

*November 2021*