

## **Job Description: Children's Choir Director**

### **Overview**

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary in the Lace Market, Nottingham seeks to appoint an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to assist in the establishment, development and growth of a Children's Choir (age 7 to 13), enhancing the worship of the Church and providing opportunities for choral singing amongst the children of Nottingham and its surrounds.

St Mary's enjoys a strong reputation for musical excellence which enriches the traditional Anglican worship offered by the church. St Mary's has a renowned adult choir which sings three services a week as well as giving regular concerts and making recordings. The adult choir benefits from a thriving choral scholarship scheme for up to ten students each year, many of whom have gone on to pursue successful careers in music. More recently, an organ scholarship scheme has been established in conjunction with the Barber Organ Scholarship offered by the University of Nottingham.

The church now seeks to expand this musical offering by creating a Children's Choir, for children between the ages of 7 and 13. This is intended to complement the existing musical provision of St Mary's but also to take the musical excellence of St Mary's into the city and beyond. The role is intended to include outreach into schools in and around Nottingham by way of developing strong links with primary schools in the locality, the provision of singing and musical tuition in those schools and the recruitment of young voices into the new choir.

The role offered is intentionally developmental in nature. St Mary's is establishing the Children's Choir "from scratch" and this is reflected in both the aims of the project and the description of the role as set out below. We would welcome applications from applicants at any stages in their careers.

## **Aims**

Through the establishment and development of a Children's Choir, St Mary's intends to:

- Help children discover the pleasure of singing and its many benefits, in recognition that singing in a group has a positive impact on children's overall attitudes and behaviour, helping to build their confidence, concentration and teamwork skills, challenging them intellectually and socially
- Offer opportunities for children from Nottingham, especially from inner-city areas, with an emphasis on providing opportunities to children from disadvantaged or excluded communities, to sing both at school and on a wider stage
- Invest in the future of the music from the Anglican tradition at St Mary's and provide a route for progression for children over time, helping talented young singers make the most of their abilities
- Encourage more children and their families to participate and engage in the life and worship of St Mary's as a church and a community
- Further St Mary's role as a centre of excellence in the Anglican choral tradition
- Provide an opportunity for a talented and enthusiastic individual to develop their own abilities in the leadership of a Children's Choir project

## **Role Description**

The role offered includes the following responsibilities and requirements:

- Work with the Vicar, Director of Music and Project Team to develop a dynamic, inviting, choral singing opportunity for children within the church of St Mary the Virgin, Nottingham
- Lead the development of a children's singing programme that promotes good vocal technique, aural skills (including accuracy of pitching and singing in parts) and musical literacy, as well as learning repertoire
- Develop relationships with local schools with a view to making choral singing an enriching part of their curricula and other musical offerings
- Lead the recruitment of Children's Choir members
- Hold regular Children's Choir rehearsals; being prompt and well-prepared for rehearsals at all times

- Develop appropriate repertoire for the children's choir including music within the Anglican tradition
- Effectively communicate needs and challenges to the Vicar, Director of Music and Project Team
- Attend and actively participate in meetings with the Vicar, Director of Music and Project Team
- Assist the Vicar, Director of Music and Project Team in identifying and exploiting funding opportunities for the further development of the Children's Choir Project

The appointed individual will have the following personal attributes:

- An ability to enthuse young singers of all ages and abilities and instil in them a love of singing
- Excellent skills as a vocal coach and choral animateur with a thorough understanding of children's voices
- Undergraduate or postgraduate degree in Music or equivalent training/experience is preferred but not essential
- Proficiency in playing voice parts at the piano; although an accompanist will usually be provided
- Strong motivational, teaching, communication and leadership skills
- An ability and enthusiasm to work with children from a diverse range of backgrounds
- Enthusiasm to work within St Mary's established music department and develop a collaborative relationship with both the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music as well as volunteers within the church
- Sympathy with the ethos and worship of the Anglican Church

### **Terms & Conditions**

**Salary:** £15,000 for 3 days' work per week (equivalent to £25,000 pro rata).

**Pension:** 5% employer contribution.

**Hours of work:** To be agreed, but not to exceed an average of 21 hours per week. During school term-time, this is likely to be more (when preparation and travel time are taken into account); during school holidays correspondingly less.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check and a probationary period of 6 months.

### **Appointment Process**

All candidates must complete the Application Form (available on the parish website:

[www.stmarysnottingham.org](http://www.stmarysnottingham.org)) and submit to [admin@stmarynotts.org](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org) by the closing date.

**Closing date for applications:** 6 March 2022.

**Interviews:** During week-commencing 21 March 2022

**Start date:** As soon as possible and latest by summer 2022