

**DIRECTOR OF CHORAL MUSIC
ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, HADDINGTON**

The position of Director of Choral Music is part of the ministry of music at St Mary's, which plays a long-established and central part in the life of the congregation. It is also an important dimension of the congregation's outreach to the community of Haddington and East Lothian, offering opportunities for children and adults of all ages to participate in high quality music-making in the spectacular setting of one of Scotland's largest medieval parish churches.



St Mary's Life

St Mary's is a congregation of the Church of Scotland, which is part of the worldwide family of Reformed Christians, including the Presbyterian Church USA, and the United Reformed

Church. Within the parish, there are warm ecumenical relations with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church and Haddington West Parish Church.



Looking east in the nave

Weekly Worship

There are two Sunday morning services at 9.30am and 11am. The 9.30am service is a short and participative service, especially appealing for families, but with an all age attendance. The music is led by a group of volunteer musicians who form a lyrical music group currently comprising piano, clarinet, recorder, guitar and percussion. This group report directly to the Minister, but on certain occasions such as Harvest Thanksgiving, Easter Sunday, the Nativity service in December and on Christian Aid Sunday, the 9.30am and 11am services are combined into a joint service at which the music group collaborate with the choir and organist to lead the music.

Church Choir

St Mary's has an enthusiastic mixed-ability parish choir numbering around 25 singers, some of whom also contribute to the music group. Choir members value its community dimension, with relationships formed through singing together. Many members are engaged in other aspects of the life of St Mary's congregation. There are choral scholarships available for talented young singers, which include the opportunity for further vocal coaching from the Director of Choral Music. The choir sings a stimulating range of music, with an introit and anthem each Sunday, including much from the Anglican choral tradition as well as more contemporary choral work. The choir meets to rehearse each Thursday from 7.30-9.30pm and then at 10.30am each Sunday prior to participation in the traditional 11am Sunday service.

St Mary's Choristers

In addition to the parish choir, St Mary's Choristers are a small group of young singers ranging from 7 to 16 years of age. The group was founded about twenty years ago, and is drawn both from congregational families and the wider community. The Choristers rehearse in the church each Thursday in term time from 6.30-7.30pm. They are currently singing on an occasional basis with the adult church choir. A rota of chorister parents assists with supervision and helps to fulfil our safeguarding obligations.

Musical Resources

St Mary's is blessed with a very fine pipe organ (Lammermuir Pipe Organs, 1990), a choir robing/rehearsal room, and rich resources of sheet music in a long-established choir library. The church has a very good acoustic, being much sought after as a venue for music events such as the annual Lammermuir Festival. The music staff team currently consists of an organist who plays on Sundays (in post), and the Director of Choral Music.

Terms of Employment

The annual salary is £4,050 This includes:

- Planning a programme of choral music for Sunday worship in collaboration with the minister and organist, taking into account liturgical priorities and the abilities and potential of the choirs.
- Planning a stimulating and wide-ranging programme of choral music for the St Mary's Chorister group.
- Leading Thursday rehearsals in the church from 6.30-7.30pm for the Choristers and 7.30-9.30pm with the Church Choir.
- Rehearsing and directing the Church Choir from 10.30am on Sunday mornings until around 12noon.
- Involvement at services on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm and 11.30pm (no involvement on Christmas Day).
- *Very occasional involvement in directing the choirs at special occasions (such as weddings) is subject to additional payments.*

Annual leave

The choir does not sing at worship during July and August, and there are no midweek rehearsals. The choir is also off duty on the first Sundays after Christmas Day and Easter Day.

Should further Sundays off be required when the choir is scheduled to sing, the provision of suitable deputy cover is the responsibility of the post-holder.

Requirements of the post-holder

- Demonstrable ability as a choral director.
- An ability to engage and enthuse children, young people and adults in choral singing.
- Keyboard skills to facilitate rehearsal with the choirs (organ-playing skills are preferable but not essential).
- An ability to forward plan and a willingness to work with the Minister, Kirk Session and musicians to develop music outreach at St Mary's.
- An openness to a wide range of choral music, ancient and modern.

Commencement in the post is subject to:

- A satisfactory Disclosure Scotland check or update being received.
- Two references from former employers/music educators.

Line Management

The posts of Organist and Director of Choral Music both report to the Minister and Kirk Session (Elders and Trustees of the Congregation).

Interview

Interviews will be held and will include a trial rehearsal with the church choir and the choristers.

Closing date: Friday 16th June, 2017

A letter of application marked "Director of Choral Music Application" (including a curriculum vitae) should be sent to:

**Alison Meikle
Session Clerk
St. Mary's Parish Church Office
The Trinity Centre
5 Church Street
Haddington
EH41 3EX**

For an informational discussion regarding the post, please contact Martin Ritchie, Assistant Minister, on 07984 466 855 or email: MRitchie@churchofscotland.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Church
Sidegate
Haddington
East Lothian

www.stmaryskirk.co.uk

