

## DIRECTOR OF CHORISTERS – ROLE INFORMATION

St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington is seeking to appoint a Director of Choristers to work with children and young people, continuing our inspiring musical tradition.

The choristers are 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 young people to participate in high quality music-making in the spectacular setting of one of Scotland's largest medieval parish churches.



St Mary's Choristers was founded around 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. In previous years membership of the Choristers has been between 8 to 20+ young people in the age range of 8 to 16 years. Parents have previously been involved in coordinating running of the Choristers (parent rota in line with safeguarding responsibilities and choristers' secretary).

The Director of Choristers would expect to be involved in around 12 church services per year with 3-4 additional events. The Director of Choristers will coordinate with the minister of St Mary's to plan an appropriate schedule for choristers.

### Church Choir

St Mary's has an enthusiastic mixed-ability parish choir numbering around 20 singers. The choir sings at the 11am Sunday service, with an introit and anthem including much from the Anglican choral tradition as well as more contemporary choral work. The choir meets to rehearse each Thursday, after the Choristers, from 7.30-9.30pm.

### **Weekly Worship**

St Mary's is a congregation of the Church of Scotland. 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. 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. St Mary's Choristers usually participate at the 11am service, once a month, and particularly at any joint services, during term time.

### **Musical Resources**

St Mary's has a very fine pipe organ (Lammermuir Pipe Organs, 1990), a choir robing/rehearsal room, and rich resources of sheet music. 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 each Sunday (in post), and the leader of the choir (currently a volunteer). Funding has previously been available in St Mary's to fund choral or organ scholarships for young people (aged 17 or older).

### **Terms of Employment**

The annual salary is between £2,650 - £4,150 (depending on experience). This includes:

- Planning a stimulating and wide-ranging programme of choral music for the St Mary's Chorister group.
- Undertaking outreach work to local schools and the wider community to promote membership of the Choristers.
- Leading Thursday rehearsals in the church from 6.30-7.30pm for the Choristers (during term time only)
- Planning a programme, for the choristers, of choral music for Sunday worship in collaboration with the minister, organist and leader of the adult choir, taking into account liturgical priorities and the abilities and potential of the choirs.
- Rehearsing and directing the choristers (and choir as appropriate) from 10.30am on Sunday mornings until around 12noon (approximately once a month during term time)
- Involvement at services on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm.
- Very occasional involvement in directing the choirs at special occasions (such as weddings) is subject to additional payments.

As there has been an absence of a Director of Choristers in recent months it is anticipated that the post holder will initially require to engage with local schools and the wider community to promote membership of the group.

### **Annual leave**

The choristers do not sing at worship during July and August, and there are no midweek rehearsals during this period.

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

### **Requirements of the post-holder**

- Experience of leading children and young people in a choral setting.
- Relevant music related qualifications, or equivalent experience, relating to vocal tuition and choral direction.
- An ability to engage and enthuse children, young people and adults in choral singing.
- Keyboard skills to facilitate rehearsal with the choristers (organ-playing skills are preferable but not essential).
- An ability to forward plan and a willingness to work with the Minister, Kirk Session, choir 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 post reports to the Minister and Kirk Session (Elders and Trustees of the Congregation).

### **Interview**

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

**Closing date: 30 June, 2019**

**A letter of 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

**e-mail:** [sessionclerk@stmaryskirk.co.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@stmaryskirk.co.uk)

For an informational discussion regarding the post, please contact:  
Stewart Macrae, tel: 07706 091913