

# St Michael & All Angels with St James

## **Assistant Director of Music**

Owing to Joshua Ryan's appointment as Organ Scholar to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, we are seeking to appoint an Assistant Director of Music.

Music is very important to the worshipping life of St Michael's and we value our musical tradition and seek to maintain its high standard and heritage whilst continuing to develop and evolve.

### **The Parish of St Michael and all Angels**

Now somewhat dwarfed by the office blocks of Surrey's 'mini-Manhattan', St Michael's is the most centrally located church in Croydon.

The parish includes a swathe of older residential streets around West Croydon Rail Station on London Road. To its south lies the Whitgift Centre (soon to be redeveloped) a shopping mall named after an archbishop of Canterbury whose alms-house, schools and palace grace the town.

The church is close to the transport hubs of West and East Croydon, with their train, bus and tram routes with easy access to London Bridge and Victoria.

### **St Michael's Church**

The church built in 1880-1 is a fine example of the later work of John Loughborough Pearson. This magnificent church, a Grade 1 listed building is by no means Pearson's largest church, but it appears much larger than its actual size. The red brick exterior is dignified, if a little forbidding.

The church is crowned with a lofty fleche cased in copper, which rises to a height of one hundred and twenty feet. The main entrance to the church is by the south porch located in the stump of what would have been the spire, which was not built due to lack of finance.

Inside, the church is faced with yellow London stock bricks and Bath stone dressings. At one hundred and fifty feet long, the nave boasting a vault of fifty-three feet, the church has an atmosphere of space and light.

### **Our Spiritual Life**

Following the Anglo-Catholic tradition, Mass is celebrated every day and there are three Masses on Sunday.

The Sunday 08.00 Mass is said and is followed by a said 09.30 Mass with hymns. The 09.30 service is shorter and less formal than the main 11.00 Solemn Mass. Evensong & Benediction is sung on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 15.30.

### **The Choir**

St Michael's has a voluntary adult choir comprising of 14 regular members, most with a strong background in church music. They are a confident and competent group serving our church through offering their ministry of music.

Through the work of Michael Fleming who established the choir we have today, though non-professional, it provides a cathedral and collegiate repertoire, and aims to do it to a comparable standard. St Michael's also maintains an unbroken tradition of singing plainsong propers and psalmody.

Guest singers augment the choir for major calendar events such as Christmas and Easter. The future of the choir is a going concern and the appointed person will be expected to work with the Director of Music to help recruit the choir and promote the musical life of the church.

There are two choral services, the first being the 11.00 Solemn Mass, and the second, Choral Evensong with Benediction, the latter being sung on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 15.30.

There is also a full programme of choral services during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Holy Week, as well as other occasional weekday feast days, with Michaelmas being our patronal festival.

## **Choir Rehearsals**

There are no mid-week rehearsals unless there is a sung weekday evening Mass; such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi.

The choir rehearse on Sunday before each of the choral services:

- 09.30
- 14.30

## **The Organs**

The church is blessed with a particularly fine example of the work of the eminent Victorian organ builder, Henry (Father) Willis. His three-manual organ of 1882, in its impressive double organ case by Bodley, was enlarged by Noel Mander in 1955. This instrument provides an ideal vehicle for the performance and interpretation of organ music from all periods, as well as fulfilling its primary role in the accompaniment of the liturgy.

The church is also home to a 1998 Harrison & Harrison, three-stop continuo organ owned by Andrew Scott.

Over the years we have welcomed an array of British and international performers to our weekly recital series. The series director has overall responsibility for administering the recitals, with assistance and contribution from the Directors of Music.

## **Schedule of services**

The Assistant Director of Music (ADOM) works with the Director of Music (DOM) and Organ Scholar (OS) to provide music for all sung services.

The ADOM would be expected to:

- play the organ and accompany the choir for choral services;
- play the piano or organ for choir rehearsals;
- rehearse and direct the choir in the absence of, or as agreed with DOM;
- take an active role in the administration of the music library;
- take an active role in the encouragement and direction of the OS;

- play for the Sunday 09.30 mass in the absence of the OS;
- take a share of playing for the congregational services during choir holidays;
- help recruit the choir and promote the musical life of St Michael's;
- help populate the organ recital series with the series administrator.

The ADOM will play a key role in rehearsing and directing the choir and would assume leadership of the music department in the absence of the DOM. Choir training and conducting skills are therefore essential.

The ADOM is expected to be available for the choral services during term time (including feast days) and assist with the congregational services during choir holidays.

With the agreement of the DOM, the ADOM can engage a suitable deputy to cover the schedule of services where necessary, and the same fee as would be paid to the ADOM would be applied. This position is flexible, and additional time away during term time is negotiable.

The ADOM will have free use of the church and its instruments for practise or private teaching so long as any such activity does not interfere with the normal daily life of the church, which must take precedent. Any regular teaching activity would need to be booked into the church diary, and the vicar's decision on any such activity is final.

The ADOM is given first refusal on funerals, the fee for which is currently £100. In the absence of the DOM, the ADOM will get first refusal on weddings, the fee for which is currently £100. An additional video fee is sometimes applicable for weddings.

## **Payment**

The ADOM is paid £65 per service; this includes a pre-service rehearsal.

*The Sunday 9.30am service would be played for in lieu of not being present at the choir rehearsal and does not carry a separate fee.*

The DOM submits an invoice for services rendered at the end of each calendar month.

The Vicar and DOM review the fees annually.

### **Employment Status Tax**

No part of any agreement with the appointed ADOM shall be deemed to constitute a contract of employment. This is a flexible, self-employed position and the ADOM would be expected to administrate their own accounts, submit their own tax return to the *Inland Revenue* and make provision for their own tax and national insurance contributions. A signed statement to this effect must be submitted to the Vicar.

### **Safeguarding**

The ADOM will work at all times within the Safeguarding and Health and Safety Policies in place at St Michael's.

As our music scholarship holders could be under the age of 18, any position offered would be subject to a successful DBS check.

### **Review**

The position is subject to a three-month trial period.

### **Notice Period**

The agreement with the ADOM can be terminated either by the Vicar (with the agreement of the DOM and PCC), giving at least one months' notice to the ADOM, or by the ADOM giving at least one months' notice to the Vicar.

### **Application**

To apply for this position, (preferably electronically), please send your CV (including details of three referees), along with a covering letter and statement of what you would bring to the role.

Andrew Scott  
Director of Music  
scottnandrew@aol.com

The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

## Interviews & Auditions

Because of the ongoing issues surrounding Covid-19, interviews and auditions for shortlisted candidates may be held via *Zoom*, or postponed until it is possible to meet in person.

When we are able to interview, candidates will be expected to play two contrasting pieces of their own choice (15 minutes maximum), improvise a gospel fanfare (2 minutes), and accompany the choir in a hymn, anthem and short piece of plainsong.

In addition to organ playing, candidates will be expected to rehearse and direct the choir in a short piece of unaccompanied repertoire.

Copies of music will be sent to shortlisted candidates in advance.

45 minutes organ practise will be made available on the day of interview.

Any appointment made will be subject to a DBS records check.

It is hoped that the successful candidate will be able to take up position in September, or on a mutually agreed date.

---

St Michael  
& All Angels  
with St James

St Michael & All Angels with St James  
7 Poplar Walk  
Croydon  
CR0 1UA

[www.stmichaelscroydon.com](http://www.stmichaelscroydon.com)

FACEBOOK: /stmichaelsc1

TWITTER: @stmichaelsc1