

# St Michael & All Angels with St James

## **Choral Scholar (Soprano – Alto – Tenor – Bass)**

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 by Westfield), 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 12 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.

Principally 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.

Guest singers augment the choir for major calendar events such as Christmas and Easter. The future of the choir is a going concern, and it is hoped that the Choral Scholar(s) (CS) will work with the Director of Music (DOM), Assistant Director of Music (ADOM) and Organ Scholar (OS) to help promote the choir and 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, which is 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 or Corpus Christi.

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

- 09.30
- 14.30

## **Job Description**

The CS's work with the DOM, ADOM and OS and are expected to:

- attend rehearsals;
- sing at the choral services;
- play an active role in the administration of the music library;
- help promote the musical life of St Michael's.

## **Attendance & Tenure**

Choral Scholarships are offered for a period of twelve months.

Extension to a scholarship is possible either by invitation from the DOM, or re-application.

The Music Trust trustees reserve the right to withhold scholarship payment or terminate a scholarship if an acceptable level of attendance is not maintained.

CS's are expected to attend rehearsals and services whenever possible, with 80% attendance being the minimum. A register of attendance is kept, and a reduction in the quarterly payment will be made should this attendance not be met.

Priority in attendance must be given to the main services of the church calendar.

Choir holiday includes August and one Sunday after Easter and Christmas. Additional time off is flexible and can be discussed and agreed with the DOM.

## **Remuneration**

The *St Michael's Music Trust* pay Choral Scholars an annual scholarship of £850 p.a.. This is paid in quarterly instalments of £212.50.

There may be external RSCM or other relevant courses available during the year that may also be of benefit. At the discretion of the DOM and the trustees, the Music Trust may offer to contribute towards the expense of such formative courses if the CS indicates interest in attending.

## **Application**

To apply for this position, please send your CV alongside a covering letter, including a statement of what you would bring to the role. Please also list three referees.

Andrew Scott  
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The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

## **Interviews & Auditions**

Interviews and auditions for shortlisted candidates will take place sometime in August.

Candidates will be expected to sing two contrasting pieces of their own choice (10 minutes maximum), and sight read a piece of accompanied repertoire (you will get 10 minutes' study time)

It is hoped that the successful candidate will be able to take up position in September 2019, or on a mutually agreed date.

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

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