



Following Christ, serving you

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Mary's Long Ditton – Church Organist Information for applicants

Purpose of role

We are keen to find an inspiring, dedicated organist to play the organ and accompany our choir.

The choir is an integral part of the worshipping life of St Mary's and sings each Sunday morning and at monthly Choral Evensong services. The Rector and PCC all strongly support the choral tradition at St Mary's, which has existed for over 50 years.

St Mary's is open to extending our use of music to enhance our worship with other services, involving a wider range of people in music making and finding new ways of reaching out to our surrounding community through music and singing.

Choir background and team

Our friendly, sociable choir is a blend of committed members and talented singers aged 7 and above. We have a relatively small core group of regular singers and a wide network of people who join as needed for major festivals and monthly evening services.

The Organist will be expected to work closely with the existing choir team. Our Choir Director plans and communicates the musical aspects of the choir including choosing anthems, arranging attendance, taking Friday night choir practices for junior choristers and adults, leading pre-service rehearsals and conducting music during services. The Choir Manager performs supporting duties including music librarian, financial matters (e.g. paying choristers), attendance and safeguarding.

Organist role – expected duties

- Play for all Sunday choral services and be an integral part of the musical worshipping life of the church under the overall direction of the Rector and the Parochial Church Council.
- Work collaboratively with the Choir Director and Manager as they lead and manage the choir, including acting as consultant for selecting music and RSCM chorister programme.
- Play for special services as listed on page 3.
- Play or arrange cover for weddings, funerals and memorial services.
- Meet regularly with the Rector and Choir Director to plan worship.
- Organise cover and deputies when needed.
- Stand in as Choir Director as needed for occasional Friday rehearsals and pre-service rehearsals (by mutual arrangement with additional fee of £50 for each Friday rehearsal)
- Arrange and supervise the maintenance of the organ and pianos.

Person specification

- A passion for leading and enabling worship.
- Ability (musical and interpersonal) to inspire and develop our choral tradition and a willingness to extend the music repertoire beyond the familiar.
- Experience in playing a pipe organ in church.
- Warm collaborative approach with experience of teamwork with volunteers of all ages.
- Familiarity with Anglican church music and liturgy, with a respect for the sacramental tradition.
- A high degree of enthusiasm, punctuality, honesty and reliability.
- Excellent communication and organisational skills, including relevant computer skills, internet and e-mail access.

Management

- Employer: Parochial Church Council.
- Line Manager: The Rector.

Key relationships

- Choir Director and Choir Manager.

Pay and Conditions based on RSCM guidelines

- Pay: £6,000 per annum plus Wedding and Funeral fees (currently £125 per service).
- 6 weeks paid holiday per year pro rata to include 6 Sundays.
- This position has a six-month probationary period.
- It is subject to current safeguarding legislation and enhanced DBS disclosure requirements. The post-holder will be required to undertake appropriate safeguarding training.

For further information or an informal chat, please contact the Rector as below.

To apply for the post, please send your CV and covering letter, together with the names of two referees to the Revd Dr Kuhan Satkunanayagam, The Rectory, 5 Church Meadow, Long Ditton KT6 5EP. E-mail: rector@stmaryslongditton.org.uk Telephone 020 8398 1583.

Closing date 24 June 2022.

Church Services

The church is open every day for any who desire a space for peace and prayer or are simply curious.

Our Sunday consists of three different services with a broadly traditional feel to them.

The 8am said service follows the Common Worship Order 2 structure.

The main Sunday service is at 10.15am and follows the Common Worship Order 1. This is a sung communion service (currently using the Thorne Mass setting) with congregational hymns (our current hymn book is Common Praise) and a choir anthem. Hymns are also chosen from the Methodist Church 'Singing the Faith'. Voluntaries are typically chosen by the organist to reflect the appropriate season. The organist would also be expected to improvise appropriate music during the service e.g. during Communion.

The Evening Service at the moment has the following pattern:

First Sunday – Evening Prayer (said)
Second Sunday - Evening Prayer (said)
Third Sunday - Choral Evensong (BCP)
Fourth Sunday - Evening Prayer (said)
Fifth Sunday - Evening Prayer (said)

There is a Wednesday morning said Communion service which follows Common Worship Order 2.

The Organist is required to attend and play for all 10.15am Sunday services and evening services on the third Sunday of each month (except August).

Seasonal special services where the Organist is also required to play include:

Ash Wednesday (8pm)
Maundy Thursday (8pm)
Good Friday 3-hour service (12 noon)
Ascension Day (8pm)
All Souls (4pm)
Advent carols (6pm)
Sunday before Christmas: Nine Lessons and Carols (6pm)
Christmas Eve: Crib Service (3pm) and Midnight Mass (11.30pm)
Christmas Day (10.15am)

The organ at St Mary's Long Ditton

The Hunter Organ

History

The first organ in the new 1880 church, with two manuals and fifteen stops, was built by Forster and Andrews of Hull and installed in 1881. Early photographs and paintings of the church show that the casework projected into the chancel, unlike the present instrument.

In 1928, after nearly fifty years, the organ was in need of attention and the lowest estimate by Abbott and Smith of Leeds, was accepted. Unfortunately, they converted the organ to pneumatic action which was unreliable, and the instrument received attention from four different organ builders over the following forty years.

Eventually the unreliability reached a point where it was decided that the organ should be replaced with an instrument with mechanical tracker action (like the original Forster and Andrews organ). Matthew Copley, a local organ builder installed an organ originally built c1860 by Alfred Hunter for the former Borough Road Baptist Chapel in South London.

This organ was installed in 1984 with the addition of a mixture stop and a good 16ft pedal stop by Hill, but only six years later it was damaged by smoke from a serious fire in the church vestry. Repairs were executed in 1992 together with some additions and modifications, including converting the pedals to electric action.

It is a 2 manual organ with 14 speaking stops restored by Andrew Cooper in 2014 with John Norman as Organ Consultant. It has mechanical key action with electric pedal action and electric stop action.

Organ Specification

available on the National Pipe Organ Register

<http://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=R00887>