

Choral and organ scholarships

St James, Malden



St James Church, Malden seeks to appoint up to four scholars each for a period of one year, renewable for up to three years. Scholars will be considered for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass or organ. These positions are likely to suit sixth form or college students but other candidates will be considered.

St James, Malden

St James Anglican church aims to be friendly and inclusive, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities as we worship God together and study His Word in a prayerful and caring community.

The church has a long-standing choral tradition and an excellent two manual pipe organ (specification attached) set in a fine acoustic. The robed choir and organ make a major contribution to the worship of the church through sung services each Sunday morning (10:00am Parish Communion) and evening (6:30pm choral evensong) and for the major church festivals. Our mixed adult/junior choir of all ages sings music across the whole church choral repertoire spanning all centuries and genres.

The role of choral and organ scholars

Choral scholars are expected to be experienced singers with good sight-reading ability so as to be able to provide leadership on each of the four parts (SATB):

- Reducing the need for time spent 'note-bashing'
- Speeding up rehearsal times
- Ensuring a good standard of singing is maintained at all times
- Enhancing the enjoyment and development of other singers.

An organ scholar will have reached a standard equivalent to at least Grade 6 in their organ studies. They are likely to be receiving organ lessons (although these can be provided). An ability to sing will be helpful. He or she will be capable of accompanying hymns and anthems and at least working towards the ability to play for a full service. He or she may already have experience conducting choirs and will be expected to sing when not playing or conducting.

The scholars will be at least 15 years of age with a strong musical ability. They will be expected to attend:

- Morning and evening services each week
- Rehearsals 7:30-8:45/9:00pm each Friday and half an hour before each service
- Special services: Christmas Midnight communion and morning service; Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday evenings; Good Friday afternoon; Ascension Day evening.

Scholars are permitted to take up to four weekends off (but not at the major festivals) in addition to the six or seven Sundays/Fridays when the choir does not sing (4/5 during August and one after each of Christmas and Easter).

Scholars will be expected to participate fully in the choir, contribute to the life of the church and to work in support of the Christian faith at the Church.

What the role offers

The role offers the opportunity for an ambitious singer or organist:

- to develop musical and leadership skills in the context of church music, potentially preparing the scholar for similar positions at college or Cathedral
- to gain experience in singing, (and for the organ scholar, accompanying or conducting) anthems, hymns, psalms and liturgy (playing voluntaries), working with the Director of Music, David Pimm ARCO and the Deputy Choral Director, Trevor Deadman, in a superb church setting
- A supportive community of Christian musicians
- An annual scholarship of £2,000, payable monthly, primarily as a financial contribution to the cost of lessons, classes, exams, music and travel.

The organ scholar will be able to practice on a well maintained, versatile organ subject to agreeing suitable times and safeguarding arrangements. David Pimm will provide occasional coaching for specific services free of charge, as required and, if the organ scholar is under 18, provided another adult is able to be present.

Award of the scholarships is subject to a 3 month probationary period and is renewable annually for up to three years.

To apply or discuss an application

For further information and/or to apply for one of the scholarships, please contact:

David Pimm, BSc, FCA, CRCO, ARCO
pimmda@btinternet.com
48 Berrylands, Surbiton, Surrey. KT5 8JU

Applications should include:

- Name, address, contact details
- Age, and name and contact details of sponsoring parent/guardian (if under 18)
- Category of scholarship applied for (Choral or organ) and voice part (SATB)
- Details of music studies, lessons/tutor and any music exams completed
- Any experience playing for church services and/or choral singing/direction
- A statement of why you would like to be a scholar at St James
- Any other relevant information.

Auditions and interviews will be scheduled for suitable candidates.

24 November 2023

Organ specification

Built: Peter Wood (1994); Speechly & Son (1933); Bryceson Bros (1894)

Great

Gedact	16
Open Diapason	8
Hohl Flute	8
Principal	4
Stopped Flute	4
Twelfth	2 2/3
Fifteenth	2
Tierce	1 3/5
Mixture 19.22	II
Trumpet	8

Swell

Stopped Diapason	8
Gamba	8
Voix Celeste	8
Principal	4
Flageolet	2
Mixture 19.22.26	III
Contra Fagotto	16
Cornopean	8
Tremulant	

Pedal

Open Diapason	16
Bourdon	16
Octave	8
Bass Flute	8
Fifteenth	4
Trombone	16
Trumpet	8
Clarion	4

Couplers

Swell to Pedal
Swell to Great
Swell octave
Swell suboctave
Swell unison off
Great to Pedal
6 thumb pistons to Swell and Great;
6 toe pistons to Pedal;
6 toe pistons duplicating Swell pistons;
10 General pistons