



St Laurence Church Catford
37 Bromley Road London SE6 2TS
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Appointment of Organist

St Laurence Catford seeks applications for the position of Organist to work with our Director of Music, Jocelyn Freeman, from April 2018.

St Laurence's has a long tradition of musical excellence. The original church, built in the 1880s, had a strong choir of men and boys who took part in the Festival of Britain services in 1951. This musical tradition continued after the opening of the new church in 1968 with a two manual Walker organ that used some pipework from the old organ. The parish has been fortunate in its long series of distinguished directors of music and organists.

The principal Sunday service is the 10am sung eucharist; St Laurence's is a modern catholic parish, in keeping with the church's architecture, where both music and singing play a very important role.

The choir remains unique in this part of south-east London in that it continues to use only trebles (girls and boys) on the top line. The lower parts are provided by volunteer adults from the local community. Young people receive an excellent musical education. Recent cathedral residencies and services have included Ely, St Asaph, Beverley Minster, St Edmundsbury, St David's, Liverpool Metropolitan, Canterbury and Southwark. In 2007 the choir went on a 4 day tour of the Netherlands which included 2 concerts in Amsterdam and a service; subsequent tours have included Berlin (2008), Tuscany (2009 and 2014), Ypres (2013), Durham (2015) and Madrid (2017).

For the right candidate, there may be the opportunity if desired to develop the role into an assistant Director of Music position.

Closing date for applications: February 5th, 2018. Auditions: week of Feb 19th.

Duties

- Attendance at the choir rehearsal each Sunday at 9.15am, and playing the mass at 10am, except for the Sundays in Lent (but including Refreshment Sunday) when the organ is not currently used.
- Playing at services on high days and holy days – generally 2 carol services, Christmas midnight mass, New Year's Eve (payable separately), Ash Wednesday, Maundy

Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, Ascension Day, 1 or 2 choral evensongs, a civic or similar service (not every year).

- Playing the organ (in consultation with the Director of Music) at weddings, funerals and occasional offices (appropriate fees to be paid; currently £100 for a standard service, 10–15 services a year)
- Taking part in choir tours as required
- Being responsible (in conjunction with the Director of Music) for the maintenance of the Walker organ.

Essential qualities

- The ability to accompany the choir and congregation with sensitivity
- The ability of extemporise in liturgy
- A reasonable knowledge of organ repertoire (for voluntaries)
- The ability to deputise for the Director of Music, in emergency
- The ability to work as part of a team, and under the direct supervision of the Director of Music

Desirable but not essential qualities

- Arrangement and composition skills
- Reasonably fluency in simple transposition and score-reading.
- Experience of singing

Remuneration

- the organist is engaged through an annual contract for the provision of musical services to the sum of £4,000 p.a.

If he or she is absent for any reason, the organist is entitled to delegate their duties to a competent deputy subject to the approval of the Director of Music (not to be unreasonably withheld) whose remuneration shall be the organist's responsibility.

There will be a probationary period of three months.

To apply

Please send a CV and covering letter to the Vicar,

The Rev'd Canon Charles Pickstone, 31 Bromley Road, London, SE6 2TS
email: info@stlaurencecatford.org.uk