



Interim Director of Music

(9 month contract)

St Laurence's Church Catford has a vibrant musical life led by the choir, accompanied by its two-manual Walker organ, with a long and distinguished tradition of choral and organ music: former Organists/Directors of Music have included Malcolm Williamson and David Sanger. In addition to the weekly Sung Eucharist, church festivals are supported by a broad range of devotional music, especially during Easter week and Advent. In addition to maintaining the richness of the Anglican musical tradition, we regularly hold special services with music reflecting the wide diversity of heritages from African and West-Indian/Caribbean countries. The church, a listed building from the 1960s, is a welcoming space with an excellent acoustic and well-designed choir stalls. The choir is supported and appreciated by the clergy and congregation.

The choir currently comprises up to 7 trebles and sopranos, 3 altos, 2 tenors and 2 basses, with additional occasional singers for festivals, with a wide age range. The choir is a member of RSCM and offers musical training for young choristers: this is supplemented by the mini-choir that meets during the service. There are funds for a Choral Scholarship and/or Organ Scholarship and we have had a series of outstanding organ and choral scholars, who have gone on to professional careers in music and performance. Previous Directors of Music at St Laurence's have also organised regular evensong services, concerts and recitals.

The choir meets to rehearse one evening a week (currently Tuesdays) at 5.30-6.30 for junior members, joined by adults at 6pm until 7.30; and at 9.15 on Sundays to rehearse before the 10am service, which usually finishes around 11.15. The choir has a week's holiday after Christmas and Easter and 6 weeks in the summer. This is an interim post as we are currently waiting for **our new parish priest** to join us at the end of the summer **and a** full appointment will be made once he has had the time and opportunity in his new post to discern and determine what the permanent role of the Director of Music will be.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Main Responsibilities:

- With the vicar, taking an active role in planning the musical expression of liturgy in church, setting and maintaining as high a standard as sustainably possible.
- Providing organ accompaniment for Sunday services and key festivals (4 additional services); for weddings and funerals when available (for an extra fee).
- Providing musical leadership through directing the choir at rehearsals and services, planning and building the repertoire, skills, confidence and fellowship of those in the choir of all ages and abilities.
- Working with the vicar to develop apt and sustainable musical liturgical traditions, holding together different styles of liturgical music in a coherent way.
- Providing reports, when required, at parish meetings, e.g. PCC.

Resources available to the DOM:

- a well-stocked music library and rehearsal room
- a budget for a Choral/Organ Scholar and choir bursaries
- a group of experienced singers
- supportive and appreciative congregation
- use of organ/Steinway piano for practice/teaching, subject to booking
- fees for extra services, such as weddings and funerals

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Personal Skills and Experience	Essential	Desirable
A recognised qualification in music	✓	
Ability to play the organ and piano to a professional standard	✓	
Confident and competent singer		✓
Experience of directing/ training a church choir/singers	✓	
Experience of recruiting and nurturing junior choir members	✓	
Experience of mentoring other musicians /singers.		✓
Knowledge and understanding of the Church of England, its liturgy and musical traditions	✓	
Ability to plan and manage time effectively	✓	
Highly skilled communicator who has the ability to engage with people of all ages	✓	
Experience of working with volunteer singers, musicians and helpers	✓	

Personal Qualities		
Ability to be part of a team as well as lead a team	✓	
Approachable and friendly in their manner with an ability to develop relationships with people of all ages and backgrounds	✓	
Experience and understanding of working within a context of diversity	✓	
Ability to work within a broad and inclusive theological ethos	✓	
Ability to be flexible and open to change	✓	
Willingness to undertake relevant safeguarding training as required by Diocese	✓	

How to apply:

Please send a full cv and accompanying letter of application to the email below, with details of your experience and skills, stating why you meet the criteria above. The appointment process will include an audition with the choir and an interview with the recruitment panel.

The deadline for applications is **19 June 2026**.

If you wish to discuss the post, please contact Liz Thusu (ethussu@gmail.com).