

## **Holy Trinity Fareham**

### **Organist and choir leader**

#### **Job description and Person Profile**

We are seeking an organist who can also direct the choir and be involved in shaping the direction of music at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham.

As a church we are currently in vacancy and not sure how the future will be, so we are looking for someone who can be part of our journey and help shape the future.

Our service pattern may change in the future partly depending on clergy numbers. We are currently consulting the congregations in the parish about the style and timings of our services but for a long time we have had a weekly Eucharist at 9.30am. One Sunday a month it is accompanied by our music group (all volunteers) who want to continue a collaborative relationship with the organist and choir leader as opportunities arise. The other Sundays are accompanied by the organ with the choir. Our Sunday morning worship is live-streamed.

As part of our commitment to being an Inclusive Church, during Autumn 2021 we started to explore how to become more inclusive as musicians, enabling others to join the choir. Currently we are experimenting, for a period of 6 months, with a pattern of sitting in the chancel as a traditional choir on one Sunday a month, and on the other two Sundays sitting amongst the congregation to encourage others in their singing, but with the choir assembling in the chancel to sing an anthem during the administration of Communion. We hope this will widen the group of singers who might participate and so we are inviting people to join an extended choir for special services, for example around Christmas and Easter. We have not had children in the choir for a while but we would like to encourage young people and children to be part of our choir and so would support any initiatives the person appointed might take, with the minister and PCC's approval, to enable this to happen. We currently have two choir practices a month although that is something that could be negotiated.

There is a long tradition in this parish of hymn-choosing groups of which the organist is a part. New music, hymns and songs have been introduced to the congregation by the organist and music group.

The role is based at Holy Trinity but we have a sister church in the parish, St Columba and we sometimes join together so there can be opportunities to collaborate with the organist of St Columba, who has also played at Holy Trinity when invited to do so.

Our organ is an electronic, three manual Makin instrument.

Currently the choir has about 12 members. We have some experienced singers who are more than able to hold a part and some excellent sight readers as well as some who are less experienced but enthusiastic. We sing a variety of settings and anthems, and a broad range of hymns. Most Sunday morning services are live-streamed.

This is a paid position as an employee where the Parochial Church Council are the employers. RSCM contract and rates apply and so depend on the experience and status (professional or vocational) of the person appointed. This will be agreed following interview with the successful candidate.

There is also the opportunity to earn fees from playing for weddings and funerals in Holy Trinity Church. In 2019 (before any lockdowns) there were 13 funerals and 4 weddings in Holy Trinity.

The Parish of Holy Trinity with St Columba is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are required to share this commitment and to fulfil all appropriate safeguarding training.

All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check.

More information about our parish can be found on our website [htscf.org.uk](https://htscf.org.uk)

In summary, we are seeking someone to

- play the organ at church services, (and be responsible for its care and maintenance),
- lead and rehearse the choir,
- choose hymns and music as part of a small group,
- collaborate with the music group when appropriate,
- share with clergy and PCC in the development of music to support and enhance the worship of God.

## **Person Profile**

We are looking for someone to help us on our journey in music and worship, who will enjoy leading and helping as part of a team, so that we grow in numbers and in worship.

### Essential

- Has relevant experience of church music and an understanding the role of music in worship

- Has appropriate organ playing skills
- Can lead other singers and musicians
- Will advocate for and facilitate a variety of musical styles
- Can work creatively in a context of changing patterns of worship
- Can encourage, communicate and work as part of a team
- Is creative, organised and inclusive
- Will care for others in the team
- Actively share the parish values <https://htscf.org.uk/vision-mission-and-values/>

### Desirable

- will enjoy being part of our congregation,
- will develop and expand our enjoyment of music within worship

To arrange an informal conversation about this post please contact the Parish Office [office@htscf.org.uk](mailto:office@htscf.org.uk) or telephone 01329 232688 (mornings only Monday - Friday).

### **How to apply for this post.**

Please write a letter of application and send to the Parish Office, either by email [office@htscf.org.uk](mailto:office@htscf.org.uk) or by post to The Parish Office, Holy Trinity Church, 132 West Street, Fareham, PO16 0EL.

Your letter should include:

- your contact details
- your musical qualifications and experience (particularly anything relevant to this post)
- any organist positions you currently hold or may have held in the past.
- why you are interested in applying for this post and what you hope to bring to it.
- the names, contact details, and positions of two referees we could contact if you are offered the post.

**The interview process** for this post will include either playing for a Sunday service or leading part of a choir practice as well as an interview with a small panel.