



The Parish of Great St Bartholomew

West Smithfield, London EC1A 7JQ

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Position of Assistant Organist

(post available from January 2019 or by negotiation)

The Priory Church of Saint Bartholomew the Great, parish church of the new benefice of Great St Bartholomew, is London's oldest surviving church having been neither burned nor bombed. Founded in 1123 as an Augustinian Priory, it has been in continuous use since at least 1143. Within the parish is also the Hospital Church of St Bartholomew the Less. The Smithfield area, which includes St Bartholomew's Hospital and Smithfield Market, has a large number of restaurants, bars and pubs both north and south of the Market and, at its heart, the Priory Church. The area is in the process of change and development with the Crossrail Farringdon station being built to the north and the redevelopment of former hospital building to the south to form 236 new apartments and considerable office and retail space.

Drawing on their nearly 900-year history, our churches today are noted today for their remarkable architecture, traditional formal worship (in the Anglo-Catholic tradition), intelligent preaching and high-quality music.

The Rector and Director of Music now seek to appoint an Assistant Organist to join the team of professional musicians. He or she must be an accomplished organist and accompanist in sympathy with the liturgical and musical traditions of the church. It is desirably but not essential that they may also be experienced in directing vocal ensembles of professional singers.

The two main services on a Sunday (consisting of a Solemn Eucharist and Choral Evensong) are usually supported by a choral director, organist and 8 professional singers. There are no Sundays in the year when there is not music provided by an organist and choir – although in the summer and other occasions this is reduced to either a quartet or cantor and the service may be in St Bartholomew the Less.

There in addition choral services on Ash Wednesday, Christmas Night and Christmas Day as well as during Holy Week (on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) . There are also very many extra services: weddings, livery services and carol services.

Currently services are accompanied with a Viscount electronic organ but plans are well under way for a new 4 manual American Symphonic organ to be built by Schoenstein of California.

SPECIFIC SKILLS

The Assistant Organist will be required to:

- Enrich the liturgy with appropriate, colourful and interesting improvisation
- Accompany the professional choir in a wide variety of Anglican repertoire
- Accompany plainchant taken from the Graduale Romanum
- Accompany hymns with flair and freedom of harmonisation
- Provide fitting Postludes for each service
- Direct the choir when the Director of Music is not present (subject to experience)

FEES

The Assistant Director of Music is paid monthly in arrears for the services undertaken. He or she will be free to arrange a deputy in their absence (a list of deputy organists will be provided and an agreed maximum number of Sunday absences established for the year). The total fees for every regular service amounts to approximately £6.5k with an additional £4.5k of extra weddings and other services usually available during a typical year.

The Assistant Organist will be contractually obliged to attend services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Easter Eve and Easter Day.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be an experienced musician whose professional abilities will include a high degree of liturgical sensitivity, the ability to improvise fluently, a good provision of solo organ repertoire, a strong ability as an accompanist in all styles of repertoire and demonstrable ability as a conductor. He or she will be a good communicator and a team-player with a desire to contribute sensitively to worship to the best of their ability.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Candidates should submit a CV and application letter/email to Rupert.gough@greatstbarts.com

Interviews will be arranged by mutual convenience during November.