



Organ Scholarship Job Description

The Organ Scholar will work alongside the Minister and the Director of Music to provide appropriate musical support for the services. He/She is immediately responsible to the Director of Music.

Each Scholarship lasts for one year, which is subject to renewal after that period, in consultation with the Minister and Director of Music.

Duties:

The Organ Scholar's duties include:

Playing the organ or piano for choir practices (currently Fridays 7.15pm–8.30pm). Playing the organ for a weekly Sunday Eucharist and a Choral Evensong (currently once a month).

Assisting the Director of Music in the individual training of theory to singers or helping individuals learn their voice parts, as required. The role of the Organ Scholars at St Nicolas is to support the work of the choir and help maintain the standard of music making in the church, in the process of which it is hoped that they themselves will become more confident and proficient as musicians.

At this stage there is no junior choir at St Nicolas but it is hoped in time that there will be and part of the Organ Scholar's duties would be to support the Director of Music in the recruitment and training of the junior Choir/Choristers and play for a separate rehearsal.

The Scholar will also be expected to take the odd rehearsal and direct the choir occasionally and to help with minor administration on the odd occasion if required, e.g. photocopying etc.

They may also be asked to meet visiting organists if the Director of Music is unable to.

As well as developing his/her accompanying and directing skills, the Organ Scholar is also encouraged to develop their solo repertoire. To that end, each Scholar is encouraged to give a short public recital (c. 30 minutes) at St Nicolas Church during their tenure.

Organ Scholars may be required to play or direct for weddings and funerals, for which a separate fee is payable.

Attendance

These Scholarships are designed to fit loosely around the Academic year, so we would therefore not expect the Scholars to attend during the main summer vacation. We would welcome a start in early September if it was possible before the main term begins.

The Scholars are expected to attend on major feast days including Holy Week (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) and in addition to special occasions such as the Advent and Christmas carol services in consultation with the Director of Music. Organ Scholars are not expected to attend Midnight Mass or Christmas Day/Easter Day services but it would be very welcomed if they could.

Remuneration

The Scholars will be paid at least £750 per year in three separate installments: £250 towards the end of each term.

Extra fees for weddings/funerals/memorial services etc. are paid on an *ad hoc* basis.

The period of the Scholarship is one year (12 months from the agreed starting date) and is renewable subject to the agreement of the Priest and Director of Music.

The Organ Scholar will be given keys to the church and organ. These keys are on loan for the duration of his/her Scholarship only.

The Organ Scholar may use the organ for their private practice, at a time mutually agreeable with the Director of Music.