

Job Profile

Organist and Director of Music

St Mary's Church, Boxford

Vicar: Fr Rob Parker-McGee

The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford, Suffolk, CO10 5JT

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Job Profile

Position: Organist and Director of Music

Remuneration: In line with RSCM guidelines

Contract: We will negotiate a suitable contract based around RSCM guidelines and the aspirations laid out in this profile.

St Mary's is at an exciting juncture, a new Rector has recently been appointed and the parish is naturally beginning to explore new avenues as it strives towards growth and deepening spirituality. Shortly before our New Rector's arrival, our existing organist announced that he would be retiring after Christmas, leaving a vacancy that we would like to fill as soon as possible. Our new Organist and Director of Music will be an important appointment in helping the church to move forward. St Mary's is seeking someone of talent and inspiration to join our community and lead the way in developing the role of sacred music in the mission and ministry of our church. The successful candidate will have clear musical ability with an aptitude for sacred music that cherishes choral tradition, whilst embracing modern hymnody, Eucharistic settings and accompaniment. We hope this person will help us widen our musical horizons, broaden our repertoire and style and encourage, recruit and train more people of all ages to participate in the musical life of our church.

Boxford is a picturesque Suffolk village with a thriving social element. There are numerous societies and clubs catering for many different age groups. It has a good Church of England Primary School and its teenagers generally attend either Thomas Gainsborough Secondary Academy in Sudbury or Hadleigh High School in Hadleigh. There are two shops (inc. Post Office), Public House, Café, Hairdressers, Butchers, Wine Shop, Garage, Medical Centre and an Alternative Therapy Centre. Farming is a big local industry and there are also many other businesses in or around the village. Many of the population commute to work into Ipswich, Colchester, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge and even London.

St Mary's in Boxford is the largest of five churches in the Box River Benefice, the others being St Mary the Virgin's in Edwardstone, St Bartholomew's in Groton, St Lawrence's in Little Wadingfield and All Saints' in Newton.

Most Sundays our main congregation numbers around 35 committed adults. The number of children and families is increasing having previously been no-existent; attending to this is now a priority. We have recently appointed a new Rector with a mandate to provide us with direction and help us grow the church to attract many more people of all ages and

especially young people and families, whilst enhancing the essential deep elements of our sacramental liturgical tradition. It is envisaged that the broadening of musical repertoire will play a big part in this. Our church-life revolves around the Eucharist. We follow a loosely mid to catholic style of worship and our Rector is of a modern Anglo-Catholic mould. He will be looking to develop our liturgy further so that it is well-ordered. We aim to welcome everyone and are seeking to create an environment in which church growth happens naturally as people are enabled to encounter God through our outreach and the richness of the liturgy in divine worship. Occasional special services with particular focus, often including musical variation, will be an important part of this missional approach.

Our regular services range in style from said *Book of Common Prayer* Holy Communion at 8am (1st Sundays), 11am Sung Eucharist using *Common Worship* at least 2 Sunday's per month, monthly Café Church, monthly Family Eucharists/Morning Worship/BCP Matins and a monthly BCP Evensong. Obviously the BCP Holy Communion at 8am on the 1st Sunday will not require an organist, neither necessarily will Café Church, but the rest will on normal occasions require accompaniment. In all of these there is an opportunity to introduce some musical variation.

There is also the opportunity for the Director of Music to organise recitals, if that were desirable to them.

We have an experienced adult choir of long-standing (affiliated to the RSCM) who are well integrated into church life. The organ is of an excellent standard and has been well-cared for and enhanced over many years.

The Church holds some musical concerts throughout the year, but more would be welcomed.

The Director of Music would be able make use of the organ and piano (after booking it into the church diary), both for private practice and to enhance earnings by providing private music tuition. As a church, we take safeguarding extremely seriously, and the right candidate will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check and to adhere stringently to all Diocesan Safeguarding policies.

We are looking for someone who will:

1. Be reliable, trustworthy and friendly.
2. Provide leadership to our existing choir, music and sung worship and be a partner in ministry and mission for the Rector, working under his/her overall authority for the worshipping life of the church and seeking, with him, to develop the music programme for the benefit of all and as an attraction to those outside of the church.
3. Discern and spot the potential musical talent in others and encourage, nurture, nourish and deploy such gifts.
4. Cherish and strengthen the choral worship within the parish, direct and nurture the choir as servants of the liturgy and an integral part of our worshipping community.
5. Play the organ and/or piano, and oversee the choir(s) at Evensong (1st Sunday), Sung Eucharists (2nd and 3rd Sunday), Family Eucharist/Morning Worship/BCP Matins (4th Sunday), on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, All Saints Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, other Principal Feasts and at other public services when reasonably requested to do so.

6. Prepare music lists for agreement by the Rector (in keeping with Canon B20). The Director of Music and Rector will meet quarterly to plan an outline of music for all major upcoming services. It will be important that the Director of Music is collegial and open to variables the Rector might ask for inclusion resulting from certain missional or theological themes the parish is pursuing.
7. Encourage varied ancient and modern hymnody and Eucharistic settings. Support alternative forms of divine worship and inspire and develop both the choir and congregation in their singing and musical repertoire. Encourage congregational participation in worship and bring a freshness with a licence to be creative in our sung worship.
8. Develop initiatives to help recruit, inspire and train young people and adults for the choir (and occasional singing groups) and explore the possible use of initiatives such as the RSCM Voice for Life scheme.
9. Encourage and stimulate both children and adults to sing, whether they read music or not, and help all to understand that they can contribute and that music is a gateway to the soul.
10. Be available for weddings and funerals (or source cover when unavailable), valuing the expression of spirituality in couples and family's choices of music (whether traditional or contemporary).
11. Attend the APCM and Annual Vision Day and meetings of the PCC or its sub-committees, on the rare occasions when reasonably requested to do so by the Rector.
12. Be responsible for the supervision of the care and maintenance of the Church's organ and other musical instruments.
13. To care for our youngsters and adhere strictly to good, kindly practice regarding their oversight and nurture. This includes complying fully with Diocesan and PCC safeguarding policies, to undertake the required safeguarding training and be DBS cleared to an enhanced level.

You are very welcome to contact our Rector for an exploratory conversation.

Application can be made by contacting our Rector, Fr Rob Parker-McGee SR, with a *Curriculum Vitae* and covering letter explaining why you feel suited to the post.

Deadline for applications: ASAP

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<p>Grades 6 or above in organ playing/teaching.</p> <p>Ability to play piano to high standard</p> <p>A diploma in a music related field</p>	<p>ARCO, FRCO</p> <p>A Diploma in Organ playing/teaching</p> <p>A Degree in music or related subject or extensive experience</p>
Experience	<p>Experience as a church musician/organist</p> <p>Commitment to continuing professional development</p>	<p>Ability to lead and play other instruments</p> <p>Experience of working with children and young people</p> <p>Experience of choral directing</p>
Knowledge, skills, abilities	<p>Knowledge of a breadth of church music and comfort with ordered liturgy</p> <p>Proven ability to manage teams of people, and to develop their talent and potential</p> <p>Willingness to engage in planning liturgies in collaboration with ordained and lay ministers</p> <p>Ability to collaborate and work empathetically with other church groups (e.g. Sunday school, youth group, PCC etc.)</p> <p>Vision for the place of music in the growth and outreach of a missional church</p> <p>Commitment to their own personal spiritual growth and discipleship</p>	<p>Well developed organisational, interpersonal and presentational skills.</p> <p>Ability to recruit and retain people of all ages as choir members, singers and instrumentalists</p>