



The Parish of St Thomas, High Lane

st-thomas-high-lane.org.uk

Buxton Road, High Lane

Vicar: Rev'd Hannah Hupfield (hannahhupfield@cantab.net / 01663 766 448)
Churchwardens: Mrs Shan Alexander (shan28530@gmail.com / 0161 427 4419)
Mr Alvin West (alvinwest21@gmail.com / 07709 034 470)

Vacancy for the post of Director of Music / Organist:

Background:

High Lane village is a borough of Stockport with a population of almost 6000 people. As we emerge from lockdown the Sunday morning attendance at the 10am service is between 40 and 50 people.

St Thomas' Church has a worship style which can be described as modern Catholic. There are three Communion services celebrated weekly, of which the Sunday morning 10am service takes the forms of a sung service of Holy Communion (Common Worship). In addition to this, Evensong is celebrated once a month on the fourth Sunday at 6pm.

Prior to lockdown the parish communion service had four congregational hymns, anthems sung by the choir and a range of mass setting sung by the choir and congregation. The choir also sang at the monthly service of evensong using the Brama responses, a range of anthems and settings of the canticles.

In the past the church has had both a 'Singing Group' (which learned a range of pieces including those from more modern composers) and a 'Robed Choir' (which followed a more traditional parish repertoire). There was a degree of overlap between these groups and they were amalgamated by the previous director of music.

The parish has a well maintained organ and an electronic piano.

Currently the choir meet to rehearse on a Wednesday evening from 7pm. In the past this has varied as there used to be a junior choir which rehearsed earlier in the evening. During the vacancy (the new vicar arrived in January 2021) the previous director of music left and due to the pandemic the opportunities for singing were extremely limited. The Junior choir is no longer in existence but members of the former choir/singing group have regathered since September to lead the singing of hymns and to allow evensong to restart.

Vision:

There is a strongly held feeling that music is a core part of the worship at St Thomas' and throughout the pandemic it's absence has been lamented. Limited return of music has begun but there is enthusiasm to grow and reinvigorate the choir and the role in worship. There is a desire to engage with both traditional styles of music and also to embrace more contemporary styles. We would hope that our new musical director could help to explore and develop that diversity.

Opportunities for Worship with music:

- Sunday morning: 10am Parish Communion
Holy Communion (Common Worship – using seasonal materials)
Ideally (pandemic permitting) – Congregational hymns, choir anthem, mass setting, pre and post service music
- Sunday evening 6pm (4th Sunday of the month) Evensong
Book of Common Prayer
Ideally (pandemic permitting) – Congregational hymns, choir to sing the responses and canticles, choral anthem, priest acts as cantor for the responses and collects, pre and post service music
- Occasional offices There has been a long standing arrangement with a local organist to provide cover for music at Weddings and Funerals so it would not be a necessity for the Director of Music / Organist to be available for all of these services but they could be negotiated according to availability. These would attract fees, paid separately

Role description:

It is anticipated that the Director of Music / Organist would work for 5 hours each week (negotiable). Tasks would include:

- Playing the organ at services or enabling others to do so
- Running the weekly Wednesday evening (some negotiation may be possible) choir practice or other rehearsals as required
- Encouraging the participation with music in worship
- Collaborating with the Vicar/Ministry Team in agreeing music and hymns for services
- Communicating maintenance needs of the organ
- Maintaining the parish music library

The Director of Music / Organist will report to the vicar and would be expected to liaise with the ministry team and church wardens as required.

The Director of Music / Organist would have access to the organ and piano for private practice.

Expenses (agreed with the Vicar/Wardens) would be reimbursed

Person Specification:

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will:

- Be a qualified musician (ideally both organ and piano, though piano alone would be considered)
- Be able to rehearse and direct the choir
- Be keen to encourage growth of the choir (and potentially restart a children's choir)
- Understand the role of music as an expression of worship and be in sympathy with the values of the Church of England
- Be able to communicate well with people of all ages
- To have good organisational skills

Other details:

This post will have a 6-month probationary period. Remuneration will be negotiable but based upon RSCM rates, dependent upon experience and qualifications. There is an entitlement to 6 weeks leave per year pro rata, of which only six days can be taken on Sundays.

Recruitment will follow a 'Safer Recruitment' process which will include the taking of references, confidential declaration and a DBS check, in accordance with St Thomas' Parish Safeguarding Policy.

For an informal conversation about the post please do contact Rev'd Hannah Hupfield, the vicar (01663 766 448).

Applications can be made by submitting a CV and covering letter to:

Rev'd Hannah Hupfield
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High Lane,
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hannahhupfield@cantab.net