

## ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

We are looking for an undergraduate or post-graduate organist able to benefit from assisting the Director of Music, Michael Emerson FRCO ARSCM, by accompanying, and occasionally directing, choir rehearsals and choral services, as required.

The opportunities of this scholarship give a suitable applicant the experience of participating in the workings of a well organised Parish choral programme and learning from its musical leadership.

At Chingford there is a Boys' Choir, Girls' Choir, Men's Choir and the Chingford Singers (a choir of Sopranos and Altos). The men sing with all of the choirs on different occasions. Also, on one or two occasions each year a Chamber Choir is formed from former girl choristers who have gone on to University.

This Parish Church maintains on Sundays and Feast days a full musical tradition such as one might find in a Cathedral - and it regularly sings in Cathedrals throughout England and further afield. There is an annual Cathedral Week in England and occasional visits to sing in European churches, such as Notre Dame, Paris, as well as venues in Rome, Venice, Belgium and elsewhere. There has also been a USA tour to New York and Washington DC.

Music is a much-appreciated part of the life of Chingford Parish and thus Choral Evensong is sung every Sunday in term time. It is a tradition that the congregation sits and listens to the voluntary before exiting the church. More information about the choirs and music can be found on the Parish website <http://parishofchingford.org.uk/> .

We are looking for someone who can take up the Scholarship for the period September 2025 to August 2026. Subject to satisfactory performance, one year's extension, to August 2027, may be available if the appointed Organ Scholar requests it.

Candidates will need some practical experience of playing for choral services (including Anglican chant) and preferably some knowledge of cathedral-standard choral repertoire. Their organ playing should be at the level where they have, or could readily progress to, diploma status of a suitable institution. They must have the right to reside and work in the United Kingdom – this will be checked at interview.

The Organ Scholar would be expected to be in attendance at one or more weekly rehearsals and on most Sundays, at least for one of the services. However, we can be flexible in the detailed arrangements as, in addition to the Director of Music, there is an Organist Emeritus and other organists who on occasions accompany choral services and practices.

### **The Duties/Responsibilities**

There would be opportunity to **assist** the Director of Music as required and by agreement in the tasks listed below. Not all will necessarily be needed each week but opportunity for all will feature in the course of the Scholarship. The tasks are:

- accompanying Choir rehearsals;
- accompanying the whole or part of Choral Services;
- providing voluntaries when accompanying services;
- playing for the occasional non-choral service;
- training the Boys' Choir and the Girls' Choir;
- training of choristers for the RSCM Awards Scheme;
- taking part or the whole of rehearsals with the Men and the Chingford Singers;
- planning, organising and participating in regular concerts and lunchtime organ recital series; and
- assisting with any other activities related to the musical offering of Chingford Parish.

Some eight hours per week would typically be needed during choir term time<sup>1</sup> to prepare for and carry out these tasks. Leave would normally be taken outside of choir terms and at school half-terms but other absences can be arranged, in particular to enable attendance at interviews, auditions or examinations.

### **Organ Practice**

The organs of the Parish Church and the Old Church (see below) and a good grand piano are available for personal practice and private teaching, by arrangement with the Director of Music. The specification of the 3-manual pipe organ at the Parish Church is at <http://parishofchingford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Chingford-Parish-Organ-Spec.pdf>.

To arrange practice, a church diary booking arrangement exists and is used by the Director of Music, Organist Emeritus and others. The Organ Scholar would be given access to this.

### **Recitals and concerts**

There is a well-established programme of concerts in the church at least monthly throughout the year, with choral concerts by The London Forest Choir, South West Essex Choir, Harlow Chorus, and smaller scale recitals by soloists and ensembles. Our own choirs give occasional concert performances as part of this, including the popular annual Grand Christmas Concert with professional orchestra, and our annual Choristers' Musical Evening. During the summer there is an established and well attended series of Wednesday Lunchtime Organ Concerts, featuring the 'home team' of organists alongside guest recitalists.

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<sup>1</sup> Choir terms are closely similar to state school terms. In addition, the Organ Scholar could be involved in services at Christmas and Easter and in the annual Cathedral week which takes place during the school summer holidays.

### **All Saints Church**

The Organ Scholar participates in the organists' rota to play, usually monthly, for morning services in this ancient original church of the Parish. It is located about a mile south of the Parish Church on a bus route. It has a 2 manual “Norwich” electronic organ.

### **Chingford**

Chingford is easily accessible on a TFL Overground line from Liverpool Street (a journey of about 28 minutes), Hackney Downs (with a connection to Hackney Central on another Overground route) and Walthamstow (where there is connection with the Victoria Line.) There are also buses from Walthamstow and other parts of north east London coming into the bus terminus at Chingford Station, about 6 minutes’ walk to the Parish Church.

### **Remuneration**

Remuneration for the full annual scholarship from September 2025 is £5,500 + some expenses. Payment will be made monthly in arrears, net of statutory deductions. The Scholarship is not pensionable.

### **Accommodation**

There is no accommodation available with this Scholarship.

### **What this scholarship can offer the post holder**

- Accompanying full Choral Evensongs and Eucharists.
- Conducting Choral Evensong and Eucharists on occasions.
- Accompanying concerts.
- Assisting in the training of the boys’ and girls’ choirs.
- Opportunities to conduct the Chingford Singers in concert.
- A fine 3 manual pipe and a 2 manual “Norwich” electronic organ for practice.
- Insight into what it takes to produce and maintain a good Parish Music Tradition, including recruitment of choristers of all ages.
- Opportunity to take on private organ/piano/singing/theory pupils.

### **Safeguarding**

Due to frequency of contact with children and vulnerable adults, the successful applicant would be required to comply with the Parish safeguarding policy. This will involve a DBS check, which the Parish Safeguarding Officer will arrange and for which the Parish will pay.

### **Equal Opportunities**

It is the policy of Chingford Parish to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on grounds of race, nationality – including citizenship – or ethnic or national origins, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religious or political affiliation, lay or ordained status, or any other respect which cannot be shown to be a necessary requirement of the job or office concerned.

### **Application**

Please send a *curriculum vitae* and a brief statement of what you would bring to the role to the Churchwarden<sup>2</sup>, Mr Richard Vincent, c/o Chingford Rectory, 2 The Green Walk, Chingford, London E4 7ER or, preferably, to [richard.vincent@parishofchingford.org.uk](mailto:richard.vincent@parishofchingford.org.uk) together with a brief summary of your current plans to August 2026. Your application must also contain your contact details and contact details of two referees. All this information will be held and handled securely and will be deleted no later than six months after an appointment is made.

### **The deadline for application is Monday 17 February 2025**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview which will involve playing a short prepared organ piece, sight-reading and taking a short choir practice. Reasonable travelling expenses from within the UK can be reimbursed. **Interviews are planned for Saturday 1 March.** Candidates with a disability defined under the Equality Act 2010 are encouraged to contact us beforehand to arrange reasonable adjustments.

If you have any questions about this scholarship, please contact a former Organ Scholar, Joel Colyer, at [joelcolyer@gmail.com](mailto:joelcolyer@gmail.com).

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<sup>2</sup> Applications would normally go to the Rector but there is currently an interregnum. A new Rector should be in post well before September 2025.