



ST ALPHEGE CHURCH, SOLIHULL

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Thank you for taking an interest in our post. The existing postholder is leaving us at the end of August 2021 to take up the post of Director of Music at Bangor Cathedral.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull is looking to appoint someone with the skills, musical ability, vision and enthusiasm to build on the considerable successes of their predecessor, and who will maintain and further develop our choirs and music groups to contribute to the growth and mission of St. Alphege Church. We have a very strong choral tradition and are one of just a few churches that are members of the Friends of Cathedral Music. We are very proud to number amongst our alumni Tom Lilburn (St. George's Windsor), Nigel Short (Tenebrae), and Christopher Monks (Armonico Consort).

Our Choirs and Music Groups

Boys' Choir 14

Girls' Choir 18

Ladies' Choir 8

Men's Choir 16

all of which are capable of singing as separate choirs or in any combination of SATB (and split part) voices. The choirs have a wide repertoire and there is an extensive music library. Our children follow the RSCM Voice for Life programme and we have several gold, silver and bronze award holders, as well as Grade 8 and Diploma ABRSM singers.

The choirs visit Cathedrals to sing services for a week's Summer Tour and on occasional Saturdays in term time.

St Alphege Singers is an unrobed group of congregational members who enjoy singing on an ad hoc basis at the 9.15am service.

The St Alphege Band is a group of musicians and singers who lead the monthly All Age Worship service.

Services

Pre-Covid there were two Sunday Choral Eucharists at 9.15am (informal / congregational setting and motet) and 11.00am (traditional with full Mass setting and motet) and Choral Evensong at 6.30pm. Once a month the 9.15am service is All Age Worship with the St Alphege Band. We also celebrate mid-week Feast Days with an evening Choral Eucharist. The annual Civic Service and the Borough Remembrance Service replace the 11.00am services twice a year. Of course, this structure may change with the arrival of a new Rector. Currently, due to staff shortages and our being in an interregnum, we have one Sunday morning service at 10.30am and evensong at 5.00pm.

The Director of Music and Organist has first option to play at our approx. 50 Weddings and Funerals per annum.

Our Church

St. Alphege Church is the parish church for Solihull, located in the town centre at one end of the High Street. It is a large, 13th Century, Grade I listed building.

Musical Resources

St. Alphege has a fine three-manual Nicholson Organ, an electronic keyboard, and an upright piano. There is a choir vestry with small song school above, and an extensive music library. The organ and piano are available for the postholder to use for practice and teaching when the church is not in use for other purposes.

The Director of Music is supported by an organist, currently on a sessional basis, but there may be the opportunity to appoint an Assistant Organist once the interregnum is over.

Some administrative assistance may be available.

Accommodation

The post holder has the option to rent a small, three-bedroom house from Anchor Hanover Housing, located next to the church.

The Friends of St Alphege Music

The work of our church choirs is supported by this charity, established to maintain our choral tradition by raising money for the education of the choristers and to help with the running costs of the choirs. A substantial amount of our income is raised through our weekly **Wednesday Lunchtime Recital Series** which provides a performance platform for many musicians, and is well supported and enjoyed by the audience.

Hours of Work and Contract

16 hours per week. See Job Specification for details.

There will be a probationary period until such time as a new Rector has been appointed, and we are hopeful for the post-holder to be re-appointed at this juncture.

This post will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure and associated declarations, and satisfactory references. Applicants should already be eligible for employment in the UK and will be expected to undertake safeguarding training as appropriate.

Remuneration

£14,000 per annum.

More information

www.solihullparish.org.uk

www.facebook.com/solihullparish

www.facebook.com/FriendsofStAlphegeMusic

Informal conversations or enquiries may be made to the Parish Warden, Pam Price on 07913 260868, 0121 704 3104 or colandpam@ic24.net .

Application and Selection Procedure

To apply, please complete all sections of the Application Form available from the Parish website, together with a Letter of Application stating why you are interested in the post, how you fulfil the criteria, and ways in which you might contribute to the life of the church, music and wider congregation.

Applications should be sent to Pam Price colandpam@ic24.net or c/o The Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull B91 3RQ.

Applications close at 12 noon on Friday 3rd September 2021.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview, organ-playing audition and choir practice at St Alphege, Solihull on Saturday 18th September 2021.