



## **St Alfege Church Greenwich**

### **Director of Music (part time)**

#### **An Exciting Opportunity to Lead Music at St Alfege Church, Greenwich**

Are you a passionate and creative musician looking to shape the musical life of a historic and vibrant church? St Alfege Church, Greenwich, is seeking an inspiring Director of Music to lead our rich choral and organ tradition, enhancing worship and engaging the wider community through music.

#### **Introduction**

Our church's Mission Statement describes us as

An inclusive community of faith where everyone is invited to encounter the love of God.

Christ Centred: Outward Focused

- We offer spiritually engaging worship for all ages enhanced by the beauty of music.
- We welcome everyone to enjoy our rich heritage through concerts, our architecture and history.
- We open the church throughout the week as a place of prayer, peace and refuge.
- We offer spiritual support and encourage people on their Christian journey, for daily life and through major milestones (such as birth, baptism, marriage and death)
- We welcome children, young people and families and seek to nurture their Christian faith.

St Alfege Church, Greenwich, a historic, vibrant and inclusive Anglican parish, seeks an outstanding Director of Music to lead and develop our longstanding tradition of excellence in choral and organ music. This role presents an exciting opportunity for a creative musician and collaborative leader to shape the musical life of a church with a rich heritage, inspiring worship and community engagement through music.

We are committed to maintaining and developing our reputation for musical excellence. The choir consists of more than 30 auditioned singers, including four young adult choral scholars and our diverse repertoire spans the 16th to 21st centuries.

We are keen to develop the next generation of singers and musicians by engaging more children and youth in singing and wish to develop our relationship with our church Primary school and potentially other local schools in this respect.

## **About St Alfege Church**

Located in the heart of Greenwich, St. Alfege Church is a landmark of historical and architectural significance. The church has been a place of worship for more than 1000 years and is the final resting place of many notable local people, including Thomas Tallis, the father of English church music. The current church was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor.

St Alfege Church is an inclusive church family, welcoming worshippers from diverse backgrounds, including a significant number of UKME heritage. We are committed to fostering a sense of belonging through music and worship.

Our church is open 11am-4pm every day to visitors, and last year we welcomed more than 19,000 people through our doors. We are a member of Inclusive Church and the Major Churches Network.

The church hosts a regular programme of recitals and concerts in collaboration with Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance and other musicians.

## **Our worship**

The Sunday service pattern consists of a said 8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion and a 10am Choral Eucharist (Common Worship). Children's Church (30 under 12s, plus parents) worship in the hall each Sunday during term time at 10am and are in church for the whole of the all-age 10am service (on average twice a term), actively involved in parts of the worship.

Evening services are a monthly Choral Evensong (6.30pm, last Sunday of the month) and Abide, a lay-led contemplative service (5.30pm, first Sunday of the month).

The choir is involved in leading worship at the Sunday 10am Choral Eucharist and monthly 6.30pm Choral Evensong, and major festivals, including Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.

On the second Sunday of the month Okutendereza mu Luganda, a Lugandan language fellowship, meets for worship at 3pm.

Morning Prayer is held in church at 8.30am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and a said service of Holy Communion at 8am on Thursday.

St Alfege with St Peter C of E Primary School holds a termly service in church.

## **Our Staff Team**

The team is led by our Vicar, the Revd Simon Winn supported by the Curate, Revd Dr Tati Gutteridge and they are looking forward to working closely with the next Director of Music. Our supportive and committed staff team includes a full-time administrator, assistant administrator (Thursdays), a part-time concerts and recitals

co-ordinator, and two staff leading our heritage project and co-ordinating our team of volunteer welcomers and guides.

We have three active Readers (licensed lay ministers), and a Commissioned Pastoral Lay Minister.

The Director of Music has the support of an Assistant Organist, Ben Banks, FRCO, who joined us in 2023. We also employ a part-time choir librarian to manage our extensive music library.

## **Role Overview**

The Director of Music will be responsible for the leadership, development, and administration of the church's music programme. This includes directing the choir, playing the organ, selecting repertoire, recruiting musicians, and fostering a thriving musical community within the church. The role also involves overseeing the Assistant Organist and maintaining strong relationships with the wider church and local community.

## **Key Responsibilities**

### **1. Musical Leadership**

Direct and accompany the church choir for all scheduled services, rehearsals, and special events.

Work with the Vicar and clergy team to select choral settings, anthems and hymns that enhance worship and align with the liturgical calendar.

Ensure a high standard of choral and organ music.

Lead weekly choir rehearsals (Thursday evenings & Sunday mornings) and additional rehearsals as needed.

Oversee the recruitment, support and development of Choral Scholars.

### **2. Organ Playing & Choir Management**

Play the organ for services, including weddings, funerals, and memorial services (or arrange deputies when necessary).

Recruit, audition, and train choir members, ensuring a vibrant and committed ensemble.

Manage the work of the Assistant Organist, providing mentorship and guidance.

Oversee access to the church's organ and ensure proper maintenance in collaboration with the Assistant Organist.

### **3. Administration & Outreach**

Ensure monthly music lists are prepared and posted on the church website.

Manage the music budget and support the Choir Librarian in managing and curating the church's extensive music library.

Meet with wedding couples, agree repertoire, book organist and choir (if required) for each service. Ensure information is passed to clergy, choristers, organist and administrator.

Possibility to arrange and lead choir tours, external performances, and collaborations with other choirs.

Work closely with the wider staff team, including clergy, churchwardens, administrator, safeguarding officer and PCC Worship Committee, ensuring music remains a key and integrated part of the church's life; attending staff meetings as available.

Promote St. Alfege Church's music programme to the wider community, strengthening and developing partnerships with local institutions, churches, musicians, and schools.

## **Person Specification**

### ***Essential Criteria:***

*Musical Excellence:* A highly skilled choral conductor and organist, experienced in the Anglican choral tradition, and familiar with Anglican liturgy.

*Leadership & Communication:* An inspiring and effective leader, able to motivate and nurture both professional and volunteer musicians.

*Organ Playing:* Strong abilities as both an accompanist and performer.

*Administration & Organisation:* Ability to manage choir schedules, budgets, and musical resources efficiently. Competent IT skills, including ability to use our online administration system, and responding to communications promptly and professionally.

*Collaboration & Pastoral Sensitivity:* A team player who values pastoral care, fostering positive relationships within the church community.

*Flexibility & Commitment:* Willingness to work evenings, weekends, and major Christian festivals. Able to work flexibly to allow for the varying workload across the full Church year.

*Christian faith:* A communicant member of the Church of England or another Christian church in good standing.

### ***Desirable Criteria:***

Experience of music within a large parish church or cathedral or similar setting.

Local to or residency within reach of Greenwich or nearby to actively engage with church and community life.

A degree in music or equivalent experience, with proven skills of training choirs of all ages.

## Salary & Benefits

£11,500 per annum.

The Director of Music is entitled to six Sundays off per year, usually those in August and directly after Christmas and Easter when the choir is not on duty.

Key working hours are on Sundays and Thursday evenings (average 370 hours per year, approx 20% of a full-time role).

The post requires an Enhanced DBS clearance and timely completion of all Diocesan training modules as part of the Church's commitment to safeguarding.

## Application Process

If you would like to arrange an informal conversation about the post, please contact Revd Simon Winn: [office@st-alfege.org.uk](mailto:office@st-alfege.org.uk) or 020 8858 6828.

St Alfege Church is committed to the principles of Safer Recruitment.

Applicants must have the right to reside and work in the UK.

*To apply please submit:*

1. A cover letter outlining your suitability for the role.
2. A CV detailing relevant experience.
3. A completed Application Form including contact details for two referees (at least one must be a recent employer and one who will have significant knowledge of your professional skills and ability to meet the full range of the selection criteria).
4. A completed and signed Confidential Declaration.

Email applications to: [office@st-alfege.org.uk](mailto:office@st-alfege.org.uk)  
Subject line: "Director of Music Application"

Closing Date: Wednesday 30th April 2025, 12 noon (UK Time)

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a day of auditions and interviews on Thursday 22nd May at St Alfege Church.

The selection panel will include the Vicar, Churchwardens, and a professional church musician.

We anticipate the successful candidate taking up the role on 1st September 2025.