



St. Alfege Church, Greenwich

Choral Scholarships

The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC have strengthened their commitment to music at St Alfege through supporting the introduction of four choral scholarships (SATB, or possibly ATTB depending on applications). These positions offer a hugely exciting opportunity for committed, talented, and energetic musicians to become part of a thriving auditioned, amateur choir and church community in the parish of St Alfege, Greenwich.

The music team at St Alfege is committed to the Choral Scholarship being a valuable experience in the musical and professional development of young musicians. There exist many exciting opportunities within the parish for professional development and broadening the scope of the Choral Scholarship. These positions are well-suited for university students, conservatoire students and aspiring young professionals. Scholars will immerse themselves in the broad repertoire of the St Alfege Choir and will be asked along with other choir members regularly to contribute solos to weekly worship. St Alfege Church has connections with Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, the University of Greenwich, and Thomas Tallis Society (TTS) in which there are many opportunities for further music-making.

St Alfege Church

We are an inclusive community of faith where everyone is invited to encounter the love of God in the heart of Greenwich. Our church stands on ground hallowed by Alfege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was martyred here on 19 April 1012. A place of worship has stood here ever since as the parish church of Greenwich. We offer spiritually engaging worship for all ages enhanced by our rich musical tradition. The present building, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, was opened in 1718 and replaced the medieval church. The Church has royal connections dating back to the Tudors; Thomas Tallis (1505-85) the 'father' of English church music is buried in the crypt. 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, marriage and death). We are also fortunate to have a thriving and vibrant church primary school through which we welcome children and families and seek to nurture their faith.

Music and the Choir

We are committed to maintaining and developing our excellent reputation of cathedral/collegiate standard music-making with an auditioned, voluntary SATB choir of 30 members. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings, before services and on Sunday mornings after the 10am service. The choir's repertoire of sacred music ranges from the 16th to the 21st centuries. The choir has a strong and supportive social life which the choral scholars would be encouraged to be involved in.

The Choral Scholars

The scholars are expected to play an important role within the choir, supporting their respective voice parts through the regular routine of services, rehearsals, and concerts.

Weekly commitment:

- The choir sings in service at St Alfege from September-July. During August the choir does not sing.
- Thursdays: 19:30-20:45 (Rehearsal)
- Sundays: 9.15-12.30 (Rehearsal and Choral Eucharist)
- Last Sunday of the month: 15:00-17:00 (Rehearsal and Choral Evensong)

Other commitments:

- In addition, choral scholars must be at other major services across the year, including: Advent Carol Service, Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Midnight Mass, Christmas Day Morning, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Day, and Ascension Day.
 - Scholars will be permitted four Sunday services and four Thursday evening rehearsals off per year (in agreement with the Director of Music), excluding major services listed above.
- Services will involve singing solos and in ensembles with other choral scholars and other choir members.
- Along with other members of the choir, scholars will also have the opportunity to sing at weddings and funerals for a set payment.
- It is anticipated that choral scholars will take featured roles in two or three concerts in the church during the year.
- Choral scholars will be encouraged to develop their skills as singers; it is expected that scholars take regular singing lessons with a teacher. There will also be monthly development sessions with the Director of Music.
- The choral scholars will be expected to lead a musical Children's Church programme for St Alfege's children's group at various points throughout each term. This is done in consultation with the Director of Music.
- Alongside these duties, the choral scholars also lead assemblies (no more than two each term) at St Alfege with St Peter's CE Primary School. This forms an important part of musical outreach to a diverse and thriving school with an appetite to grow and develop its musical provision.
 - It is possible that this activity will expand to assisting the Director of Music with potentially delivering KS1 and KS2 music classes to the students throughout the term.
 - If this activity does expand, remuneration will be adjusted to reflect this.

Successful candidates will:

- be aged 18 to 25 and in full-time or part-time education.
- looking for ways to support their music studies whilst improving their abilities as a choral singer.
- have a strong, developed, quality singing voice.
- have good sight-reading singing skills.
- be able to demonstrate their enthusiasm for music in church.
- be in sympathy with, and support, the aims and mission of St Alfege Church, Greenwich.
- Experience of choral singing is essential.
- Familiarity with traditional liturgical choral music, hymns and psalms is desired.

Honorarium and fees:

- The Choral Scholars will be awarded £2000 in three termly instalments (September, January and April).
- Additional payments will be made for weddings and funerals, shared with other members of the choir (currently £95 each and subject to annual review by the PCC).

How to apply:

- For further details or to apply (enclosing a CV, covering letter, and one reference from a professional musician or instrumental/vocal teacher), contact Joshua Ryan, Director of Music at directorofmusic@st-alfege.org.uk
- Auditions and interviews: By arrangement with the Director of Music.
- Auditions will include a performance of a prepared piece of classical music of your choosing (no longer than 5 minutes), and some sight-reading and aural tests.