

St Ia Parish Church, St Ives

ORGAN SCHOLAR

The Vicar and Church Wardens invite applications for the post of *Organ Scholar* to work with the Director of Music and his Assistant as a member of the music team at St Ia. This is a new role, and its aim is to provide a platform for a young musician to gain experience in organ playing and an insight into the provision of music within the Anglican Liturgy in preparation for him/her to be able to take on their own role of Organist and Choir Director at some point in the future.

Selection Procedure

The post will be awarded solely on the grounds of technical merit and musical ability. Candidates should be proficient pianists with some ability on the organ, and previous experience of church music, for example as a chorister, would be an advantage. It is likely that the suitable candidate will be in full-time academic study or in a gap year prior to taking up a place at university/college. It is proposed that the scholarship be awarded for the academic years 2024-2026, or for one year in the case of a gap student.

Details of the Post

The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Director of Music and will be entitled to receive free lessons from him, funded by the PCC of St Ia. There will be ten lessons per term. He/she will assist in singing and accompanying at choir rehearsals and services and will be expected to stand in for the Director of Music from time-to-time.. There may be the occasional opportunity to play for weddings or funerals, for which the *Organ Scholar* will receive the appropriate fee. He or she will have the use of the church organ for practice subject to negotiation with the Director of Music and availability of the church.

The *Organ Scholar* will be expected to play a full role in the musical life of St Ia and will need to be available for all normal services and practices during term time. Through observation and active participation, he/she will gain considerable experience in the provision of music for church services, the use of the organ in the accompaniment of liturgical music and solo repertoire, and valuable insight into the recruitment, training and conducting of a church choir. There will be opportunities to work within other areas of the church's musical life, for example concerts, recitals and civic events. The *Organ Scholar* will be coached for and encouraged to take as full a part in these as academic study allows.

St Ia's Choir is a voluntary and enthusiastic group of a dozen or so singers, though additional forces are sometimes brought in for special events, such as the Advent Procession and the Nine Lessons and Carols. The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 19:00 to 20:30. There are no rehearsals during half term breaks or the summer holiday, nor during the week after Christmas and Easter. The main Sunday service is at 09:45 and is preceded by a 30-minute briefing/rehearsal. In addition, there are some evening services during the week for major feasts and festivals, e.g. Holy Week, and the successful candidate will be required to attend these.

The Organ

The St Ia organ is a fine three manual Hele instrument that was built in 1907 and retains most of the original pipework. It was thoroughly overhauled and rebuilt in 1993 by Lance Foy of Truro. There is an annual recital series during the summer that showcases the instrument outside of its liturgical role.

Applications

Candidates should apply outlining their experience relevant to the post and giving the names and addresses of two referees, one of whom should be able to vouch for their musical ability. Applications should be sent as soon as possible sent to St Ia's Director of Music, Jeffrey Williams.

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