



The Director of Music will:

- Take responsibility for conducting, developing and growing the Choir.
- Be charged with establishing a treble line (children's voices) and integrating this into the Choir.
- Forge stronger links with the Streatham Choral Society and, in discussion with the Rector, other singing groups with links to St Leonard's
- Will explore ways in which Evensong might be nurtured and developed in order to encourage greater participation.
- Select the music for the liturgy and help develop the musical life of the parish – both week-by-week and at special occasions and other services.

Summary of duties

- To be responsible for choral music at our sung Sunday services (10am Eucharist and 6.30pm BCP Evensong) and on major feast days. The evening of the second Sunday of the month is the Taizé service and we do not require the Director of Music to be involved with this.
- To manage the work of the Organist, working collaboratively with them.
- To work collaboratively with the Rector on the selection of hymnody for congregational worship.
- To sustain, recruit, develop and train the adult choir, through its regular weekly rehearsals and at the Sunday morning and evening practices. The choir does not meet or lead worship during August.
- To nurture children's voices including introducing treble voices to the choir.
- To prepare the music for the choir.
- To rehearse the soloists as necessary.

- To be responsible for music at appropriate mid-week services, up to six times per year. (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, St Leonard's Day and Christmas Eve/Day.)
- To book and prepare singers from the choir, when requested, for funerals and weddings.
- To take part in discussions with the Rector and PCC, when required, on matters relating to music and liturgy in general.

The repertoire

In addition to the standards of the Anglican Choral Tradition, including full BCP evensong, we draw from a wide variety of musical resources in worship. The main hymn book is New English Hymnal which we supplement with Anglican Hymns Old and New in the Morning. We also use Taizé, Iona Community, worship songs from around the world and some contemporary hymns and choruses. We like the diversity of our congregation to be reflected in our music. We would love to learn more if you have a particular passion you would like to share with us.

Psalmody is an important dimension of our services. We sing the psalms to Anglican Chant, responsorially and metrically.

The adult choir

St Leonard's adult choir is a longstanding amateur group of approximately ten regular members with good sight-reading skills and a wide repertoire. Additional members, from within the congregation but who are unable to commit to the regular weekly round of services, can augment the numbers for big occasions or festival services. However, the size of the choir has dwindled overall in recent years and recruiting and retaining new members is a key priority.

The regular choir enjoys musical challenges and performs a wide repertoire of accompanied and unaccompanied music – from Renaissance polyphony to contemporary works (for example, James MacMillan, Gabriel Jackson and Judith Weir) drawn from a well-equipped choir library. There is a small music budget to enable the purchase of new music.

The choir sings an anthem at almost every Sunday service (with the exception of the monthly Taizé office) and full Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of the month. In the past, the choir has performed large-scale liturgical works with instrumental ensembles two or three times a year and has made visits to sing Choral Evensong in Chichester and Norwich Cathedrals and the chapel of Merton College, Oxford. The choir is accustomed to having occasional additional rehearsals for special events such as these and other big events. There is a small amount of financial provision, within the church music budget, for the payment of professional musicians if required for these occasions.

The parish

We are the ancient parish of Streatham, South London, and the mother church of the deanery. We hold a commanding position in the middle of the High Road and the church dates back to at least the Norman Conquest. The oldest part of the current building is the tower, which dates back to the fourteenth century. In 1975 the church was almost entirely gutted in a fire, but was sensitively restored to create a beautiful light internal space - a galleried nave with large side-chapels – which is a place of tranquillity and has excellent acoustics for singing. St Leonard's is regularly used for concerts (both by the church choir and other church-related groups as well as external bodies such as Streatham Choral Society), school events and local plays.

Much like Streatham itself, St Leonard's parish is large and extremely diverse. Music is a very important part of church life and worship, and taken seriously by a congregation which is engaged and interested, and with an appetite for many different forms of liturgical music – often staying at the end of services to listen to the organ voluntaries and/or commenting on the pieces sung by the choir. An average service might include a worship song as well as traditional hymnody, psalms sung responsorially or to Anglican chant, and a Renaissance motet as the anthem. In recent months some members of the congregation have enjoyed singing together after the 10am Eucharist informally around the piano, learning new songs with the support of a member of the choir.

A recent worship audit confirmed the congregational enthusiasm for worship and especially our musical heritage. The decision to move to a 'two post model' as an investment in our music is a reflection of this commitment.

The clergy

The Rector of St Leonard's is the Revd Canon Anna Norman-Walker and there are three assisting priests and a part time curate.

The liturgy

St Leonard's has two sung Sunday services: Eucharist and Evensong. At 10.00am on Sunday mornings we have a sung Common Worship Order. On the first Sunday of the month 'Celebrating Together' is a more informal celebration of the Eucharist. Children's Church does not meet on the first Sunday of the month so there is a large number of children present. A communion anthem is sung at every morning service, and a psalm sung responsorially (and cantored by a member of the choir). We use *New English Hymnal* as our basic hymn book, supplemented by more modern hymns and occasional worship songs from *Anglican Hymns Old and New*. The average 10am service has around 120 adults and 20-40 children attending.

Recently a member of the choir has been encouraging some intergenerational informal singing, which has been well received by those who participate.

The evening service is varied. The first Sunday of the month is BCP Choral Evensong, with choir-only settings of the responses and canticles, a psalm sung to Anglican chant

and an anthem. The second Sunday is a candle-lit Taizé service with Taizé chants, attended by a mixed congregation who also play and sing (this is currently directed independently by a member of the congregation and therefore not necessarily requiring input from, or the presence of, the Director of Music), and on the remaining Sundays there is BCP evensong with hymns, chanted canticles and psalm, and an anthem. There are special services of music and readings for the evenings of Advent and Palm Sunday and these are devised jointly by the Director of Music and the Rector. There are usually around 20 people at BCP evensongs and 40 people at Taizé service.

There is full observation of Holy Week and Easter liturgies, and at Christmas a Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, a 10am Eucharist on Christmas Day and a service of Nine Lessons and Carols on the Sunday evening before.

The other sung mid-week services are on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day and St Leonard's Day.

Rehearsals

The adult choir meets at 9.30am for the 10.00am Sunday service and 5.30pm for the 6.30pm (5.00pm for Choral Evensong) one. The main weekly choir practice is on Thursday from 8.00 to 9.30pm, with occasional additional choir rehearsals – if required – before large-scale services.

Other opportunities

Streatham is a neighbourhood of London populated by many who work professionally in the arts and music, and St Leonard's is one of the few community spaces in this diverse, eclectic and changing part of the city.

There is much potential, and many opportunities, to develop music in the wider community and parish, as well as within St Leonard's itself, and the building – highly visible in Streatham – lends itself to concerts and other forms of musical outreach. St Leonard's is delighted to be the home for the Streatham Choral Society and we are keen to forge stronger links with them.

Conditions of employment

The Director of Music is under contract to the Rector and PCC and is directly responsible to the Rector.

Stipend £9,000 per annum.

This post is for an initial period of 3 years.

Holiday – 4 weeks per year, to be agreed with the Rector (not including the Choir break in August). We would be open to some negotiation around this.

Notice – one month either side.

Fully enhanced DBS check required.

For further information, please visit the church's website at www.stleonard-streatham.org.uk.