

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MALDON

DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD
BRADWELL EPISCOPAL AREA



Director of Music - Job Description

Maldon St Mary sits at the heart of an attractive town in the county of Essex, situated on the Blackwater Estuary with a population of approximately 15,000. It regularly features in national surveys of the top ten places to live in the country. St Mary's Church is a riverside parish, known locally as the "Fishermen's Church" and is a Grade 1 listed building. The parish enjoys its locality in Church Street, close to the Hythe Quay and Promenade Park and just a short walk from the centre of town.

Music lies at the very heart of our worship and we are seeking a musician who will:

- Engage creatively with the choir to continue to deliver high quality music.

- To develop links with the wider community including local schools, young adults and families to encourage broad participation in the life of the church.
- Enliven and nourish our Anglo-Catholic worship drawing on the great traditions of Anglican choral music and being alert to the possibilities of innovation.

The adult choir (12 - 15 singers) are enthusiastic, committed and versatile. They sing a varied repertoire ranging from contemporary settings to unaccompanied 16th century church music. In 2021, the choir commissioned and gave a successful first performance of the Mass for St Mary's by Gabriel Jackson to mark the dedication of the new organ. A full Mass setting is sung every Sunday morning, together with a communion motet. On the first Sunday of the month the Mass is fully congregational and is led by the Junior Choir (5 singers) who also sing the communion motet. On this Sunday, the adult choir sing 1662 Choral Evensong, again from a wide repertoire of settings.

Choir practices are currently on:

- ✓ Wednesday evenings: Juniors 6pm-7pm; Adults 7.15pm-8.30pm
- ✓ Every Sunday morning at 9.15am (before the 10am Sung Mass)
- ✓ First Sunday of the month at 4.30pm (before 6pm Choral Evensong)

There are good relationships in place with local primary schools; an outreach programme at Wentworth Primary School has led to the successful recruitment of several singers in the junior choir, and it is hoped that the new Director of Music will continue to forge links with young people in the town.

The parish uses two hymn books: the New English Hymnal and Laudate. This gives a broad range of music from traditional Anglican to modern catholic hymnody. The choir also has an extensive music library containing several thousand items.

The church recently installed a two manual Klais/Hey Orgelbau organ in a new, purpose-built gallery, and both the church and the adjoining Octagon Hall contain grand pianos for use during rehearsals, services and concerts.

The St Mary's Music Guild exists to promote music projects within the church, and funds are available to support an Organ Scholarship and also the use of supporting organists when the Director of Music feels it is appropriate to conduct the choir, e.g. for Choral Evensong and Carol Services. The Guild will also pay for instrumentalists and extra singers for larger liturgical and concert performances. Previous Organ Scholars have gone on to study at Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Birmingham Royal Conservatoire and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Administrative support is available via the Church Office.

Fr. Andrew Appiah, Priest in Charge