St John the Divine, Kennington

Organ Scholar 2016-17

Overview

St John the Divine, Kennington is seeking an Organ Scholar for the coming year, 1st September 2016 – 31st August 2017.

The post would most suit a 6th form student of grade 7 or 8 standard who may be in preparation for either a university scholarship or gap-year cathedral organ scholarship.  Current undergraduate students may also be considered.

St John’s and its Music

Both the clergy and musicians at St John’s are passionate about the nurturing of church music and musicians.  The church has a strong musical tradition with a long-established adult choir singing cathedral-style repertoire weekly to a high standard.  The choir sings regularly at Westminster Abbey and undertakes other cathedral visits during the year.  Since Easter 2013 choral singing has expanded following the formation of separate boys’ and girls’ choirs as well as a more recently formed Chamber Choir for teenagers.  The children’s choirs go on their own annual 5-day residential to St John’s College School, Cambridge.  In the last two years this has included singing evensong at Peterborough and St Edmundsbury cathedrals.  The children’s choirs have also taken part in a number of performances away from St John’s in the last 2 years, including Britten’s War Requiem.

Services

\* The adult choir sings for 3 or 4 Sunday morning parish Masses per month, Evensong & Benediction (approx 6 per year), for major feasts, carol services and other special services.

\* The boys’ and girls’ choirs sing for Sunday morning parish Mass once a month plus one weekday evensong per month, in addition to a carol service and other special services as required.

\* The newly formed Chamber Choir currently sings alongside both children’s and adult choirs as well as on their own for occasional special services.

Music Team

The current music team consists of:

Lionel Bourne

Organist & Director of Music (DoM)

\* Lionel has been at St John’s since 2006.  A graduate of the Birmingham Conservatoire he has many years experience as a church musician under his belt as well as a career in music at the BBC.

Benjamin Clark

Director of Children’s Choirs

\* Ben has been at St John’s since 2013.  A graduate of Durham University he sings professionally, is passionate about encouraging young people to make music and performs widely when not working at St John’s.

William Nicholson

Assistant Organist

\* William has been at St John’s since 2009.  A graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music and one-time organ scholar at Chester cathedral, he can be found working at Westminster Abbey when not sat at an organ console.

In addition there is a Choir Administrator for the adult choir and a team of experienced adults to support the work of the children’s choirs.

Instruments

\* 3 manual pipe organ by J W Walker & sons; electro-pneumatic action with detached stop-key console.  The church has embarked on a project to replace this instrument with a newly built pipe organ and work on this will progress further to fruition in the next few years.

\* Steinway Model-D concert grand piano.  Acquired in 2014 this fine instrument was made and supplied for the Purcell School in 2002.

1st June 2016