

Benefice Musical Director & Organist

The Benefice of Hampsthwaite with Felliscliffe, Killinghall and Birstwith

Salary: £30/hr up to 5hrs/week

A fantastic opportunity now exists for an enthusiastic and skilled Christian musician in this newly created post to develop and challenge our three talented SATB choirs and maintain excellence in the contribution of music to our worship and to our presence in our 4 village communities. As well as being an inspiring choral director to those of all ages and abilities, the candidate must also be an excellent organist and experienced accompanist as this is an integral part of the role.

Who we are:

The United Benefice of Hampsthwaite & Killinghall, and Birstwith lies within the Ripon Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds in a rural area close to the beautiful spa town of Harrogate in North Yorkshire. There are three churches in the benefice as well as Felliscliffe Chapel of Ease in Kettleasing near Hampsthwaite.

The churches are traditional churches with a central catholic church style and the choirs are robed. Each of the churches has a choir with a regular group of enthusiastic members and additional singers drawn from the villages joining for special occasions. The choirs have forged links with their local primary school and the school choirs take part in special services. At joint benefice services and special occasions, all three church's choir members are encouraged to sing together. Birstwith church also has a band which helps inspire worship at their monthly Family Worship service and assists in a variety of ways on other occasions.

Brief outline of Role:

This newly established role reflects the importance the Benefice places on music and its significant contribution to worship, choir development, the life of the church and the respective village and school communities.

The Musical Director will achieve a balance between traditional sacred choral music and contemporary songs and choruses, working alongside the Vicar, established organists, pianists and band, and working with the Music Committee where applicable. They will share responsibility for all aspects of the musical life of the Benefice with the incumbent, including maintaining the well established musical events cycle, concert schedule and performances.

The Musical Director would be expected to follow the same schedule as the Vicar which would be around 8 services a month, including a monthly joint Benefice service. The hourly rate would include an agreed element of paid preparation time and there would be an expectation that the Musical Director would, whenever possible, make

themselves available to play at the frequent funerals and weddings across the benefice. Occasional office fees are in addition to the standard hourly rate.

Key Responsibilities of the Role:

- To liaise and work in full cooperation with the Vicar and church officers, agreeing appropriate anthems and/or accompanying music for use during services.
- To lead and be part of a team of organists, musicians and band, building on existing relationships and developing new ideas, ensuring effective communication of planning and music choice.
- To direct the choirs at services, special services and festivals throughout the year.
- Organise the choir practices for children and adults, ensuring choristers of all ages have the opportunity to advance their own capabilities.
- To initiate and implement agreed strategies to increase the number of choir members, to encourage singing and promote the joy of singing.
- Facilitate, promote and encourage the development of music within the congregation and build upon any existing musical talent.
- To work with the Vicar, and within an agreed budget, in organising the purchase of music, worship and music resources and ensuring ongoing planned maintenance of church organs and musical instruments.
- To undertake regular meetings with the Vicar and/or Church Committees to contribute to the mission and development of worship across the Benefice.

Commitment of Benefice Role: (approx. 5hrs/week including preparation time)

- To play the organ/piano at church services every week, usually 2 morning services, the exception being 4th/5th Sundays when there may only be a single benefice wide service. **= 3.5 hours**
- Choir practices for the benefice choirs **= 1.5 hours**

Accountability:

The Musical Director is accountable to the Vicar and in their absence the churchwardens.

Person specification:

- The post holder should be a practising Christian.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with clergy and others.
- Be passionate about leading and empowering Christian worship in a variety of styles.
- Proven keyboard and accompanist skills (preferably at Diploma or Degree level) and singing ability.

- Can demonstrate experience of different kinds of worship music, both SATB choral/traditional, and contemporary.
- Can demonstrate experience and aptitude to work with and teach/direct people of all ages with the ability to show proven ability to lead and train a choir of adults and children.
- Experience of developing music activities with young people and/or children.
- Can demonstrate experience and understanding of the role of Benefice Musical Director.
- Can demonstrate experience and aptitude to plan a structured practice session to meet the objectives of the choirs.
- Demonstrable ability to support the mission of the Benefice through its musical life.
- Ability to maintain administrative and record-keeping skills appropriate to the responsibilities of the post.
- Ability to transport themselves around the benefice within the necessary timescales. A car is probably essential.

DBS Check:

- The safety of all within the church is paramount and everyone is expected to work in accordance with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.
- The Musical Director is required to have an Enhanced DBS check with barred list information; the DBS check must be renewed every 5 years or as advised by the Diocese.

References:

Two references will be requested; one must be from the candidate's priest.

Closing date and interview process:

The closing date for this advert will be **Wednesday 16th February** with interviews taking place the following week on **Thursday 24th February**. The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by a panel, including the Vicar and members of the Benefice. Please note that as part of the interview it is expected that the candidates will perform a short organ piece of their choosing from their repertoire and also a hymn.

Please apply for this post by sending a CV and covering letter/email to Reverend Suzy McCarter at: Suzy.McCarter@leeds.anglican.org