

DRAFT V1

Parish Church of St Mary and St Michael in Whitley Lower
Howroyd Lane, Dewsbury, WF12 0NB
www.thornhillparishchurch.org.uk

Advert, Role Description & Person Specification

Whitley Parish Church is situated in good travelling distance from the towns of Dewsbury, Huddersfield and Wakefield. Music is viewed as an integral part of services and the congregation is very welcoming to organists. The instrument is a two-manual Binns (some 110 years old) with a good range of stop combinations. It is tuned by Spink Organ Builders. A superb Yamaha Clavinova is also available. There is no formal choir but the congregation enjoys singing and with the excellent acoustics in the church it enhances the worship-centered context.

An enthusiastic organist is needed on a weekly basis but twice a month could be accommodated. The organist has the option of choosing the hymns with the Rector. A well-known mass setting is currently used (Addington Service by Richard Shephard). Voluntaries before and after the services are welcomed and there are several gaps in the Sunday service giving the organist a chance to extemporise/improvise. The candidate would also be invited to play for funerals (about 3-6 per year) plus the occasional wedding. The current rate for both funerals and weddings is £100. The nearby sister Church at Thornhill has a refurbished Binns organ and there is an opportunity for the successful applicant to cover as one of their relief organists.

Title & Fee:	Organist - fee negotiable in the range of £35 per service. The Church would also be willing to help with the cost of regular organ lessons up to £250 per year.
Reporting to:	The Rector. A formal contract can be offered (if required) that incorporates an annual performance review after a 12-month probationary period.
Role summary:	To play the organ at Whitley Parish Church and to meet occasionally with the Rector to plan for major occasions such as Easter and Christmas.
Person specification:	We are seeking a self-motivated and keen individual who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has experience as an organist. The Church will be pleased to invite candidates who are willing to learn how to play for church services.• is comfortable in playing a diverse range of both traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs.• has the ability to work in partnership with clergy members, is a team player and good communicator.