



Richmond Team Ministry

St Mary Magdalene, Richmond

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

2025-2026

Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass

St Mary Magdalene Music Foundation

St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond, seeks to appoint Choral Scholars for the academic year 2025-2026 (September till end of July). We are looking for 4 Choral Scholars (SATB), who are each paid an annual honorarium of £1,500 plus extra fees for any weddings/funerals as available through the year.

Music at St. Mary Magdalene

Music plays an integral role in worship at St. Mary's. The church has an able and enthusiastic robed SATB choir, supported by four Choral Scholars (SATB), which performs music covering a vast variety of musical styles from the Renaissance to the present day.

A typical Sunday Eucharist will contain hymns, an anthem, a psalm, as well as a mass setting which is mostly congregational, but sometimes choral. Choral Evensong is sung every week (apart from August) using a host of different responses and canticles, which allow the choir to explore more repertoire including larger evening settings.

The church is a particularly beautiful Grade II* listed building in the centre of Richmond and is an inspiring place to work.

Scholars are able to use the church for practice, concert performances, etc. subject to agreement with the Director of Music and booking with the Parish Office.

St Mary Magdalene Music Foundation

In 2017 money received from legacies was used for the setting up of a Choral Foundation at St Mary Magdalene Church. Subsequently other monies have been received to continue the work of the Foundation. In 2025 the Choral Foundation was renamed 'St Mary Magdalene Music Foundation' to better reflect the expansion of the programme of music at St Mary's.

Its aims:

1. To enrich the worship at St Mary Magdalene through music
2. To develop, promote, and maintain a full programme of extra-liturgical music
3. To grow the Church choir and repertoire
4. To develop the musical skills of individuals

The Scholarships

The Choral Scholars will help to enhance and support the resident church choir of St. Mary Magdalene. As well as having the opportunity to expand their knowledge of repertoire and technique, the scholars will be able to improve their abilities through a vast array of music making. The scholarship can serve as a solid foundation for those looking to seek choral scholarships at a university or college, and/or can help to consolidate and expand skills of those who may be studying at university or conservatoire.

Under the direction of the Director of Music, Seb Gillot, and the Assistant Organist, Andreeana Chan, each Choral Scholar is expected to be present at all rehearsals and services during term time, as well as major Feast Days (Advent, Holy Week and Easter, Ascension Day, etc.) and concerts which may fall outside of term. Although not expected for Midnight Mass/Christmas Day, scholars will be expected to attend all other Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services. 6 weeks' holiday is permitted during the term of the scholarship by agreement with the Director of Music. The Choral Scholars may also have many opportunities for solo performances through the year by mutual agreement with the Director of Music. There will be a recital series as well as choral concerts. Scholars are encouraged to perform as a quartet or as soloists. St Mary's is currently embarking on an exciting expansion of its programme of music, and it is hoped that the Scholars will form an active part of this.

Choral Leadership Programme

Autumn 2024 saw the launch of our Choral Leadership Programme, generously supported by the Ouseley Church Music Trust. The programme offers increased opportunity for St Mary's Scholars to develop all the skills necessary in the leadership and delivery of choral music. Successful Choral Scholarship candidates may have the opportunity to benefit from additional tailored mentorship as part of this programme.

Typical Weekly Timetable

Thursday

19.30 - 21.00 Choir Rehearsal

Sunday

08.45 - 09.20 Choir Rehearsal

09.30 - 10.45 Morning Eucharist

17.00 - 18.15 Choir Rehearsal

18.30 - 19.30 Choral Evensong

This list is not intended to be exhaustive and the Choral Scholars may be asked to sing at other services on occasion. Additionally, some help maintaining and managing the choir library is required.

Person Specification

This position is open to all ages and stages of career (undergraduate, postgraduate, etc.) and provides an excellent training to those who are looking to support their music studies and improve their abilities as a choral singer and/or soloist. Applicants should have some experience of choral and/or solo singing and have secure sight-reading skills. Previous experience of church music is highly desirable but not essential. Good self-management and time keeping are necessary. Above all, a passion for high standards of music making and choral singing is crucial. It is also expected that scholars will take part in some wider aspects of the church's life, being good team-players willing to work well with others.

Honorarium and Fees

The honorarium for each Choral Scholar position is **£1,500 per annum**, paid in 3 instalments. Weddings and funerals occur through the year and the scholars are at times required for these (fees are available).

Application and Audition

The deadline for applications is **12.00 noon, Tuesday 1 April**. Auditions will take place on **Sunday 6 April** and **Friday 11 April**.

To apply, candidates are asked to submit a **complete CV** along with a **letter of application** by email to the Director of Music, Seb Gillot. Informal enquiries and visits to the church are most welcome.

Email: music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to audition and will be asked to:

- Sing 1 solo item of their choice that best demonstrates their vocal ability and technique;
- Sight read a short piece;
- Sing one or two verses from a hymn and/or some verses of a psalm (Anglican chant).
- Carry out some brief aural tests
- After the audition, a short interview will take place with the Director of Music and Curate.

More information

www.richmondteamministry.org/st-mary-magdalene/