



**Richmond
Team Ministry**

St Mary Magdalene, Richmond

**ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP
2025-2026**

St Mary Magdalene Music Foundation

St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond, seeks to appoint an Organ Scholar for the academic year 2025-2026 (September till end of July), with the potential opportunity to continue for a second year by mutual agreement. The Organ Scholar receives an annual honorarium of £1,500 - £2,000 (depending on experience) and generous extra fees for any weddings/funerals throughout 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 a voluntary after the service, hymns, an anthem, a responsorial psalm as well as a mass setting. 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.

The St Mary Magdalene organ is a 3 manual 1907 Walker & Sons, restored in 1965 and 1999 with a conversion to an electric action, new pedalboard and tonal alterations. There is also a Blüthner grand piano in the church.

Organ and Choral 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 Role

The position of Organ Scholar involves assisting the Director of Music in all musical aspects of the services and rehearsals. There will be many opportunities for playing, conducting and contributing to the general running and organisation of the music department, which will include some work in managing the choir library. The scholarship can be designed to suit each candidate's needs, focusing on conducting, playing, or a balance of the two.

The Organ Scholar may also sing when not playing, conducting or assisting another organist. Additionally, there is a monthly recital series and various choral concerts. Scholars are encouraged to perform in these concerts when required.

Several festivals over the course of the year do not fall on Sundays including Advent and Christmas services, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week services, Ascension Day, etc. The Organ Scholar is expected to be available for these services with the exception of Midnight Mass/Christmas Day.

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 Organ Scholar may be asked to play at other services on occasion.

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.

Person Specification

The successful candidate should be of a decent standard in organ playing and show a willingness to learn. The prospective Organ Scholar should show good initiative and have excellent self-management and organisational skills. They should be a good team-player and willing to work well with others.

Honorarium and Fees

The honorarium for the organ scholar's position is £1,500 - £2,000 per annum. There are some weddings and funerals through the year at St. Mary's and additional fees are available for these. The performance fee is doubled for services that are recorded. The Director of Music has first refusal for these extra services.

6 weeks' holiday is permitted during the term of the scholarship by agreement with the Director of Music.

Application and Audition

The deadline for applications is **12 noon, Tuesday 1 April 2025**. Auditions will take place on **Sunday 6 April** and **Friday 11 April**.

To apply, candidates are asked to submit by email a **complete CV** along with a **letter of application** to the Director of Music, Seb Gillot

Email: music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org

Informal enquiries and visits to the church are most welcome.

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

- Play two contrasting pieces chosen by the candidates (maximum 10 minutes in total):
 - One by J.S. Bach;
 - The other written after 1800
- Play two verses of a hymn, provided on the day of audition;
- Play a short sight-reading test;
- Prepare and play a psalm and/or accompanied anthem, provided 48 hours before the audition by email.
- A short interview with the Director of Music and the Curate.

More information

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

Organ Specification

The St Mary Magdalene organ is a 3 manual 1907 Walker & Sons, restored in 1965 and 1999 with a conversion to an electric action, new pedalboard and tonal alterations. The stop list can be found below.

Walker & Sons 1907

Swell division (enclosed)

- Open Diapason 8'
- Lieblich Gedact 8'
- Echo Gamba 8'
- Voix Celeste 8'
- Principal 4'
- Lieblich Flute 4'
- Fifteenth 2'
- Mixture III
- Contra Fagotto 16'
- Horn 8'
- Oboe 8'
- Tremulant

Great division

- Open Diapason I 8'
- Open Diapason 2 8'
- Wald Flute 8'
- Principal 4'
- Harmonic Flute 4'
- Twelfth 2 2/3'
- Fifteenth 2'
- Seventeenth I 2/3'
- Mixture III
- Posaune 8'
- Tromba 8'
- Clarion 4'

Choir division

- Contra Salicional 16'
- Lieblich Gedact 8'

- Salicional 8'
- Principal 4'
- Salicet 4'
- Block Flute 2'
- Sesquialtera II
- Clarinet 8'
- Tromba 8'
- Clarion 4'

Pedal division

- Open Diapason 16'
- Bourdon 16'
- Contra Salicional 16'
- Principal 8'
- Octave 8'
- Flute 8'
- Octave Flute 4'
- Fifteenth 4'
- Trombone 16'
- Trumpet 8'

Couplers

- Swell to Pedal
- Swell to Great
- Swell to Choir
- Swell octave
- Swell suboctave
- Swell unison off
- Choir to Great
- Choir to Pedal
- Choir octave
- Great to Pedal