



St. Alfege Church, Greenwich

Choral Scholarships 2024-25

St. Alfege Church, Greenwich

Choral Scholarships SATB - £1,500, aged 18-25 and in full-time education

The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC have strengthened their commitment to music at St Alfege through supporting the introduction of four choral scholarships (SATB). These positions offer a hugely exciting opportunity for committed, talented, and energetic musicians to become part of a thriving auditioned, amateur choir and church community in the parish of St Alfege, Greenwich.

The music team at St Alfege is committed to the Choral Scholarship being a valuable experience in the musical and professional development of young musicians. There exist many exciting opportunities within the parish for professional development and broadening the scope of the Choral Scholarship. These positions are well-suited for university students, conservatoire students and aspiring young professionals. Scholars will immerse themselves in the broad repertoire of the St Alfege Choir and will be asked along with other choir members regularly to contribute solos to weekly worship. St Alfege Church has connections with Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, the University of Greenwich, and Thomas Tallis Society (TTS) in which there are many opportunities for further music-making.

St Alfege Church

We are a diverse congregation of all ages and backgrounds, an inclusive church with a rich musical tradition, and a thriving church primary school, at the heart of Greenwich. Our church stands on ground hallowed by Alfege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was martyred here on 19 April 1012. A place of worship has stood here ever since as the parish church of Greenwich. The present building, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, was opened in 1718 and replaced the medieval church. The Church has royal connections dating back to the Tudors; Thomas Tallis (1505-85) the 'father' of English church music is buried in the crypt. More information at www.st-alfege.org.uk

Music and the Choir

We are committed to maintaining and developing our excellent reputation of cathedral/collegiate standard music-making with an auditioned, voluntary SATB choir of about 30 members (adults with a few older teenagers). The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings, before services and on Sunday mornings after the 10am service. The choir's repertoire of sacred music ranges from the 16th to the 21st centuries. The choir enjoys socialising together after rehearsals and Evensong.

The Choral Scholars

The scholars are expected to play an important role within the choir, supporting their respective voice parts through the regular routine of services, rehearsals, and concerts.

Weekly commitment

Thursdays: 19:30-20:45 (Rehearsal)

Sundays: 9.15-12.30 (Rehearsal and Choral Eucharist)

Last Sunday of the month: 17:30-19:30 (Rehearsal and Choral Evensong)

In addition, choral scholars will be expected at other major services across the year, including:

Advent Carol Service; Nine Lessons and Carols; Christmas Midnight Mass; Christmas Day Morning; Ash Wednesday; Maundy Thursday; Easter Day; Ascension Day.

Scholars will be permitted four Sunday services and four Thursday evening rehearsals off per year (in agreement with the Director of Music), excluding major services listed above.

Services will involve singing solos and in ensembles with other choral scholars and other choir members.

Along with other members of the choir, scholars will also have the opportunity to sing at weddings and funerals for a set payment.

It is anticipated that Choral Scholars will take featured roles in two or three concerts in the church during the year.

Choral Scholars will be encouraged to develop their skills as singers; it is expected that scholars take regular singing lessons with a teacher.

Experience of choral singing is essential.

Singers should show ease and competence in singing in various musical styles. Familiarity with traditional liturgical choral music, hymns and psalms is desired.

Successful candidates will:

be aged 18 to 25 and in full-time education;
looking for ways to support their music studies whilst improving their abilities as a choral singer; have a strong, developed, quality singing voice;
have strong sight-reading singing skills;
be able to hold their own vocal line;
be able to sing in time and in tune;
have a strong and clear speaking voice and be able to communicate effectively;
be able to demonstrate their enthusiasm for music in church;
be in sympathy with, and support, the aims and mission of St Alfege Church, Greenwich.

Honorarium and fees

The Choral Scholars will be awarded £1,500 in three termly instalments (September, January and April).

Additional payments will be made for weddings and funerals, shared with other members of the choir (currently £90 each).

Applications

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter with the names of two referees to: Benjamin Newlove, Director of Music by email to benjaminnewlove@st-alfege.org.uk Closing Date: **Friday 3rd May 2024 at 17:00**