

# St Matthew's Church

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## Director of Music

### Church Context

St Matthew's Surbiton is an open Evangelical church with two complementary styles of worship. It is a friendly worshipping community with roots in its community through the church Primary school, other schools in the Parish, care homes, the community Arts Centre (the cornerHOUSE) and Churches Together in Surbiton.

It is part of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry which includes St George's Church, Tolworth and St Paul's Church Hook.

St Matthew's Church was completed in 1875 and is an impressive building. The church was re-ordered in the mid-1970s and central heating was installed in 2016.

The church is affiliated to the RSCM.

### Worship

9am is a partly sung Eucharist (alternating the Mathias and Rutter Communion settings) except on the third Sunday of each month. This service is Morning Prayer with some sung elements. A robed choir sing each week at the 9am service and on most Sundays they contribute to the worship by singing an anthem. Congregations at this service are usually around about 40.

10.45am is a family-oriented service lasting one hour. There is a mixture of traditional hymns and worship songs. There is also a very popular 'action song' for the children who leave after about 10-15 minutes to continue worship in their own age groups. The music for this service is provided by a small band – typically pianist and bass guitar with a varying selection of drums and guitar. Since Covid a regular small singing group has not really been re-established but this would be a welcome development. This service is live-streamed. Congregations at this service are comprised of about 70 adults and 20 children aged 11 and below.

On special occasions these two services combine for a joint 10am service which, depending upon the celebration, may emphasise the traditional or the contemporary but will contain elements of both.

## **Choir**

There is a small adult choir of about 9 regular members (SATB). The members are very faithful with a range of ages and musical skills and know-how. The choir currently meets to practise on a Thursday evening in the Sitzler Room (a room adjoining the church) between 6.30- 7.30pm.

On the first Sunday of each month we have 'Super-choir' when the regular choir is augmented by singers who are not able to commit every week but enjoy a monthly outing! Super-choir practice is usually on the preceding Thursday. This can include up to about 14 singers, and all of them enjoy the more ambitious repertoire that is made possible by the increased numbers and abilities. It is also the Super-choir which leads musical worship at festivals, especially at a reflective service on Good Friday and at Carols by Candlelight at Christmas.

Pre-Covid a small but very popular children's choir also sang occasionally, and this is something we would hope to revive.

In recent years the choir has joined with the neighbouring Parish Church to sing a Cathedral Evensong, with a "dry-run" service incorporating the same music in one of the churches beforehand. This year the combined choirs sang at Rochester (having in previous years visited Southwark, Chichester, Winchester, Portsmouth and Guildford). An Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral is in the diary for October 2024.

## **Congregation**

The congregation are very supportive of the music and the musicians and there may be hidden talent within the congregation which has not yet been tapped. We also have a number of known talented musicians who may be available (with the agreement of the Director of Music) to continue playing the organ or piano at services leaving the Director of Music to conduct, sing or play an alternative instrument (as appropriate).

Short concert series have been devised in recent years, often using local musicians, and have been well received. We would hope that these will continue in the future.

## **Organ**

The three-manual organ dates from when the church was built in 1875. It was refurbished and extended by J.J.Binns in 1906 and again by Walkers in 1962. A detached console was added during the church re-ordering in 1975-6. The organ is regularly tuned and serviced and has had various improvements made in the last 10 years, including a new wind chest and an upgrade of the solid-state transmission system. Walkers (the current tuners) have identified and quoted for a good deal of renovation work, but this will probably need to be done piecemeal due to the high cost.

There is also a good grand piano which is played at the 10.45am service and occasionally at 9am if the choice of hymn/song requires it.

## **Director of Music**

We are looking for a musician with a heart for God and his mission in our community who will lead and develop the music at St Matthew's. Our new Director of Music will be at home with the traditional worship of an Anglican parish church but will also be enthusiastic about good contemporary worship songs and styles, and will want to help us sing them better. S/He will be keen to use instruments in addition to the organ for worship and will be confident about experimenting with new musical resources. S/He will be sensitive to the existing repertoire of the congregations and choir and introduce new music considerately but imaginatively. S/He must be able to work collaboratively and value being part of the body of Christ. S/He will need to be a competent organist but we are also interested in all round musical skills and the ability to train and develop the choir.

The position is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

**To apply for the post of Director of Music, please send a covering letter with CV setting out full, relevant post holding and/or employment history and include details of two referees. Please send to Rev Helen Hancock at [teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org](mailto:teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org)**

Deadline for receipt of applications is 12 noon on Monday 31 July 2023 with interviews to follow in August and a proposed start date of 1 September 2023 to allow for a one month handover.

### **Terms and conditions**

The Director of Music would be expected to play for both services each Sunday and be entitled to 6 paid Sundays of holiday a year (avoiding the major festivals).

There are occasional, additional midweek services (e.g. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday), payment for which would be included within the salary.

Occasional church funerals and weddings also arise and it would be useful for the Director of Music to be available to play at some or all of those. A revised fee for these occasional services will be set in negotiation with the Director of Music and RSCM guidance.

Salary to be negotiated, depending on experience.

June 2023