

# Christ Church, Reading

## Choral and Organ Scholarships

The choir of Christ Church, Reading is looking to appoint Choral and Organ scholars for the academic year 2023/24. Christ Church is a welcoming church with a rich musical tradition. Music at our church ranges from traditional hymn singing to fully sung [choral services](#). There are at least four choral services a month as well as festival services and concerts.

The choir sings a wide range of music from the Anglican, European and spiritual traditions. Our varied repertoire ranges from plainsong to Palestrina, from Haydn to Howells, Schubert to Stanford and Bach to Brahms! We also welcome the chance to perform new music, including by local composers. In recent years the choir has sung services at Winchester Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral.

### **The role of the Organ and Choral Scholars:**

Choral and Organ Scholars join in choir rehearsals and at services, singing and playing as part of the regular pattern of worship at Christ Church. Scholars are asked to be present to take part in all rehearsals and choral services, although we recognise that life is busy, so there is some flexibility with other commitments, especially around exam periods.

### **Development and mentoring:**

Choral Scholars receive a payment of up to **£1250** (for the year, depending on experience and ability). A grant for singing lessons may also be available as part of the scholarship.

Organ Scholars receive a payment of up to **£1250** (for the year, depending on experience and ability). There is also an additional grant for organ lessons of up to **£750** and a further grant for singing lessons may also be available.

As the choir has a very large repertoire, joining this scheme allows musicians to develop their sight-reading skills as well as learning a wide range of different styles. Depending on experience, skills and interests of individual scholars, there are opportunities to perform solos, support the development of younger musicians, lead rehearsals and conduct the choir in services. For exceptional candidates, additional fees are available for performing at services such as weddings and funerals. If helpful, tuition and guidance in music theory, harmony and composition are also available; many scholars have had their own compositions sung by the choir in services and/or recorded.

### **Skills and experience required:**

Musicians from all backgrounds, including those without any experience of church music, are welcome to apply. Successful applicants will have good team work skills and will embrace the chance to learn a wide repertoire of music. For guidance, applicants for a Choral Scholarship should be Grade 5 standard in singing. Applicants for an Organ Scholarship should be Grade 6+ standard in piano or organ. Musicians with experience of playing another instrument and with an interest in developing their singing skills and wider musical experience are also encouraged to apply.

Recent Choral and Organ scholars at Christ Church include individuals who have gone on to perform and study music in a wide range of ways including performing as a soloist and in ensembles, studying at undergraduate and postgraduate level, conducting choirs, taking the role of Musical Director for stage shows, as well as other work in music and music education.

### **Further information and applications:**

There are five scholarships which are available from the beginning of the academic year 2023/24. To apply, please email the Director of Music, Jamie Hudson: [music.ccreading@gmail.com](mailto:music.ccreading@gmail.com) with a brief summary of your musical experience and ambitions for the future. If you would like any further information about music at Christ Church or would like to arrange an informal discussion please contact Jamie at the same address.

