



## **The Parish of St John & St Luke, Bilton, Harrogate**

**Rector – Rev'd Simon Dowson** Tel 07735 532821, email: [simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org)

**Administrator: Gill Clarke** Tel 01423 565129, email: [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

**Address: Church Office, c/o The Vicarage, Bilton Lane, Harrogate, HG1 3DT.**

### **Information about the post of Director of Music / Organist**

#### **Background**

The parish of Bilton (population c. 18,000) is situated on the northern side of the spa town of Harrogate, with easy access to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and the cities of Leeds and York. Bilton itself is a settled, socially mixed area with 7 primary schools. Of our two churches, St John's (designed by George Gilbert Scott, opened 1857) is the larger, with an average adult attendance of 110 alongside around 40 young people. There is a well-established SATB robed choir with a good spread of ages. Meanwhile St Luke's, built in 1959, has an average attendance of 24 adults and 8 children per Sunday.

Presently at St John's the choir practices on Friday evenings, with junior choir meeting first, then being joined by the rest of the members (NB this timing is not set in stone). There is also a brief practice before the main Sunday service. As well as leading the congregational singing, the choir usually sings an anthem during the administration of Communion, and sings an introit as required.

We have an excellent and well-maintained organ built by Hill and Sons of London, with pipes by Lewis & Co also of London, and there is an extensive library of choral music built up over many years.

Meanwhile at St Luke's the music is undertaken by a variety of musicians including our musically gifted team vicar, but does need fresh oversight and input.

#### **Vision**

Our belief is that music is integral to our life and growth as a worshipping community, not least because the Holy Spirit chooses to work through music to draw people into the presence of God, and our desire to appoint a new musical director shows our commitment to this belief. It is also our belief that our worship can and should be expressed in a variety of styles ranging from the traditional to the contemporary, and the musical director will be expected to embrace and nurture this diversity.

## Current Pattern of services

	St John's	St Luke's
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9.30am All Age Parade Service with band</li><li>• 11am Holy Communion – Common worship – organ and choir</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10.30am All Age Morning Worship</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10am Holy Communion – organist/choir with small band/pianist as required</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10.30am All Age Parade Service</li></ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10am Morning Worship – organist/choir with small band/pianist as required</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10.30am All Age Holy Communion</li><li>• 4.30pm Café Church</li></ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10am Holy Communion – organist/choir with small band/pianist as required</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10.30 am Morning Worship</li></ul>
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10am Morning Worship – organist/choir with small band/pianist as required</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10.30am All Age Worship with breaking of bread</li></ul>
Occasional Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shared services with combined choirs from local churches approx. 3 times per year</li><li>• Advent and Christmas carol services</li><li>• Service for the bereaved twice a year</li></ul>	

There is also a variable, but not large, number of weddings and funerals services each year, for which fees are payable separately.

## Role Description

It is expected that the director of music will work 7.5 hours per week. Tasks will include:

- Overseeing the musical life of St John's and offering support as required at St Luke's
- Playing and leading the music at services or enabling others to do so
- Working closely with our volunteer musicians
- Running weekly Friday night choir practices and other rehearsals as required. Once a month this practice is open to all to help encourage more people to sing and perhaps join the choir.
- Developing the participation of the congregation, including children, in music worship
- Agreeing music and hymns for services with the clergy
- Overseeing the maintenance, including tuning, of the organ and piano
- Maintaining the library of music

The Director of Music will report to the Rector. The person appointed is expected to liaise with the clergy, service leaders, churchwardens and others who hold positions of responsibility as required.

## Person Specification

It is expected the successful candidate will:

- be fully in sympathy with our Mission Action Plan (supplied separately)
- be a qualified musician who has relevant experience in directing church music
- see Spirit-inspired music ministry as an essential factor in enabling congregational growth
- be able to communicate well with people of all ages
- have good organisational skills

## Other Information

There will be a 6 month probationary period. Remuneration is based on RSCM rates and dependent on qualification and experience. There is an entitlement to 6 weeks leave per year pro rata, of which only 6 days can be Sundays.

The person appointed will be subject to a safer recruitment process including a DBS check, in accordance with the Parish's Safeguarding Policy.

For an informal conversation about the post, please contact the rector, Simon Dowson. Interviews and auditions will be held in late-September.