



'A faithful, welcoming and compassionate church for all'

A new Director of Music for St Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook.

St Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook, is seeking to appoint a new Director of Music.

Introduction and context

St Dunstan's has a long tradition of excellence in church music. Indeed, music plays an integral part in our community, here in Cranbrook.

St Dunstan's Church, the 'Cathedral in the Weald' is a magnificent building with a splendid acoustic and a fine organ.

It is home to the ambitious local choral society, and also houses occasional concerts from two fine local chamber choirs, two local community choirs, and the accomplished Cranbrook Town Band. It presents monthly concerts in the warmer months, and several other evening concerts during the year. The church has had two visits from BBC "Songs of Praise", and previous holders of the post have gone on to prestigious positions in church circles. One became Director of Music at Coventry, Chester, and Liverpool Cathedrals.

However, the church choir does need revitalising. The potential is enormous. For example, two church primary schools and a distinguished secondary school, virtually on the campus, (which houses boarders on the spot for much of the year) could be encouraged to be part of the worship team.

The Director of Music need not necessarily be an organist, although this would be helpful, but there are at least two competent players within the locality. He/she must be someone with vision, passion and energy, willing to release the considerable potential that is within this community.

Music then is important in and to Cranbrook. To be the Director of Music at St Dunstan's is to have an important role, not just in our worship of our God but also in the mission and ministry to our own community.

Our Vision

This appointment comes at an exciting time for us as a church family. Following the retirement of our previous minister in March 2022, the subsequent eighteen months proved to be a very fruitful time of discernment and reflection for the church family.

The interregnum was a period where we thought a lot about ourselves, who we are and who we are called to be. This led to the adoption of a mission statement to be 'A faithful, welcoming and compassionate church for all'.

There are five dimensions to this vision, with music playing a central role. We aim to be:

1. *An all-inclusive, all age, larger church family (including a focus on children and young families) alive to the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever folk are on their journey through life.*
2. *A welcoming, caring and kind Church where the community feel at home without conditions. A church with something for everyone – a community hub.*
3. *A church that is fully integrated playing an active part in the Cranbrook community. Not a club but a church fully engaged and imparting the relevance of St Dunstan's to the wider community. This includes leading and developing programmes in the community.*
4. *A welcoming and adaptable church able to facilitate various activities and groups as a community resource as well as a sacred space and a focus for reflection and worship. This includes an improvement in the facilities.*
5. *A thriving church, alive with music, a strong choir, with events and activities for all ages.*

This vision statement formed the focus of a Parish Profile that led to the appointment of the Reverend Richard King as our new priest-in-charge. He was licensed just over three months ago at a very joyous and happy occasion.

We believe our new Music Director will have a central role in helping develop our existing relationships, the praise of our God, along with our musical talents and work with children and young families.

A person-specification

We seek:

- ⊕ a new Director of Music to join with us in this journey into deeper faith and growth, here at St. Dunstan's Cranbrook.

- ⊕ a person able to build good relationships with all kinds of different personalities, who will work with the priest-in-charge, church wardens, Parochial Church Council and others in shaping and implementing our vision.
- ⊕ a person with a good understanding and knowledge of church music and with some experience in conducting, leading singing groups and with good keyboard skills.
- ⊕ a person, with an enthusiasm to develop musical gifts, and lead a church family in the creation and development of all kinds of contemporary and traditional worship, such as at our Sunday morning service, our Messy Church and also, in time, new services yet to be developed.
- ⊕ a person who is keen to outreach to younger people and families and to organise new events and activities.
- ⊕ a person of collaboration and partnership, seeing the gifts in others and working with them to enable us to be the church family we believe God is calling us to be.
- ⊕ a person, who is empathetic and encouraging and keen to manage and develop others.

The next step

If you would like to receive a copy of the job description, terms and remuneration, or would like to have a conversation to know more about the post, please contact Reverend Richard King, our Priest-in-Charge.

You can contact Richard on 07748 153451 or email him at vicarstdunstancranbrook@gmail.com. Alternatively, please feel free to call Julie, our Parish Administrator, on 01580 715861.

Our deadline for applications is Friday 1st March.