

Sub-Organist of Godalming Minster

Godalming Minster is seeking to appoint a Sub-Organist to start in September. Godalming Minster is a parish of the Church of England which encompasses four churches with a range of worship styles.

Sunday hours and Festivals

The Sub-Organist's duties primarily involve accompanying the traditional, liturgical services of Choral Eucharist (every Sunday morning – 8.15am rehearsal for a 9am service) and Choral Evensong (currently once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month – 3.45pm rehearsal for a 5pm service during the winter months; 5.15pm rehearsal for a 6.30pm service during the summer months).

These services take place at the largest of the Minster churches, Ss Peter & Paul's, on the fine, three-manual, William Hill organ (<https://npor.org.uk/survey/D08367>) working alongside the Organist & Master of the Choristers, who selects hymns and choral repertoire, and directs the Minster Choir. The service pattern includes major festivals throughout the year (which are held in the evenings when these fall on weekdays) as well as occasional civic services, special services, and occasional services at one of the other Minster churches. The Minster Choir from time to time covers weekend services at Cathedrals (recently Chichester, Winchester and Guildford) as well as by invitation at other churches in the area.

Remuneration

Remuneration is £4,000 per annum (paid monthly in arrears upon receipt of invoice) under a contract for services on a self-employed basis, with leave in agreement with the Organist & Master of the Choristers, and opportunities to deputise for him in directing the choir in his absence. A number of deputy organists are available and, in line with the self-employed nature of this role, the Sub-Organist arranges their own deputies in consultation with the Organist & Master of the Choristers. While the self-employed nature of the role means that Sub-Organist is responsible for any deputies' fees, Godalming Minster will reimburse up to £375 per annum of such fees, in recognition of the need for good-quality deputies. There are also regular opportunities to play for weddings and funerals across all four Minster churches for an additional fee (currently £150 per service).

The Minster Choir

The Minster Choir currently comprises 22 adults who rehearse once or twice a month as required. The Sub-Organist is warmly welcome to attend these rehearsals, although there is no expectation that they should do so, unless they are deputising as conductor in the absence of the Organist & Master of the Choristers or otherwise. Godalming Minster is currently exploring the development of a choristers programme to include children singing alongside the adults of the Choir. As and when this develops, the Sub-Organist will be involved in aspects of the choristers' training, alongside the Organist & Master of the Choristers.

The Minster Choir has a well-stocked and expanding library of choral music, which is maintained by the Organist & Master of the Choristers with assistance from the Sub-Organist and members of the Choir under his direction.

Other organists

When an Organ Scholar is in post, the Sub-Organist will assist in taking responsibility, under the direction of the Organist & Master of the Choristers, for the Organ Scholar's training. The Minster also has a rota of amateur organists who play on rotation at the other Minster churches; the Sub-Organist, together with the Organist & Master of the Choristers, may from time to time provide training opportunities for these organists.

Opportunities for the Sub-Organist to become further involved in the life of the Minster are warmly welcome, and the Rector and Organist & Master of the Choristers would be delighted to discuss this.

Use of organs and pianos

The Sub-Organist is welcome to use any of the Minster organs or pianos for their own personal practice and private teaching, without charge, subject to booking these into available slots within the Minster's diary with sufficient notice. In all cases, the Minster's own events take priority over any such diary booking. The Sub-Organist also assists the Organist & Master of the Choristers with the care and upkeep of all the Minster's organs and pianos.

Insurance

The Sub-Organist is expected to insure themselves adequately against accidents and damage to or loss of material assets, as well as against liability.

Following a recruitment process, this post is subject to two satisfactory professional references, agreeing the terms of the contract for services and an enhanced DBS check.