

GODALMING MINSTER



Sub-Organist

£5,500 per annum (self-employed)
from November 2026

Godalming Minster

Godalming Minster is a parish of the Church of England which encompasses four churches with a range of styles of worship. Formed in 2024 to combine the parishes of Godalming, Busbridge and Hambledon into a new Minster, these four churches are located in the heart of Godalming (St Peter & St Paul's, Church Street), Ockford Ridge (St Mark's, Franklyn Road), Busbridge (St John the Baptist, Brighton Road) and Hambledon (St Peter's, Church Lane). The administrative centre is at the Brighton Road site.

Job Description

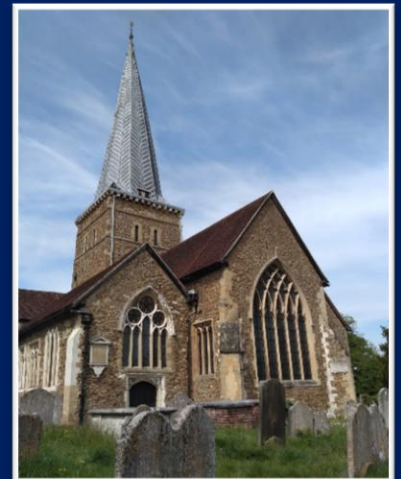
Job Title: Sub-Organist

Location: Godalming Minster Church Street (St Peter & St Paul's) and other locations where the Minster Choir sings from time to time

Remuneration: £5,500 per annum (self-employed)

Responsible to: The Organist & Master of the Choristers

Godalming Minster is seeking to appoint a skilled Sub-Organist to start from November 2026. Building on a strong Anglican choral tradition, the Minster aims to enhance the ministry of music across the parish while maintaining high standards of liturgical accompaniment and choral singing. The Sub-Organist will play a key role in this work.



Services

Working alongside the Organist & Master of the Choristers, who directs the Minster Choir, 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, St Peter & St Paul's, Church Street, using the fine, three-manual, William Hill organ (<https://npor.org.uk/survey/D08367>). Hymns and choral repertoire are chosen by the Organist & Master of the Choristers. The service pattern includes major festivals throughout the year (which are held in the evenings when these fall on weekdays) as well as 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, accompanied by the Sub-Organist and directed by the Organist & Master of the Choristers.



Remuneration

Remuneration for this post is £5,500 per annum (paid monthly in arrears upon receipt of invoice) under a contract for services on a self-employed basis. The role offers flexibility for the Sub-Organist to take leave throughout the year (other than during Holy Week and the fortnight leading up to Christmas) as required, in agreement with the Organist & Master of the Choristers, as well as opportunities to deputise for the Organist & Master of the Choristers 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 and recompenses their own deputies in consultation with the Organist & Master of the Choristers. Godalming Minster will reimburse the Sub-Organist for up to £375 per annum of such deputies' 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, with additional fees for recordings).

The Minster Choir

The Minster Choir currently comprises 22 adults who sing to a high standard, covering repertoire across a wide range of the Anglican choral tradition. Sample music lists are available from the Organist & Master of the Choristers (organist@godalmingminster.org). 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, Organ Scholar and members of the Choir under his direction.

The Choir rehearses on a weekday evening 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.

Supporting and Developing 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.

Further Opportunities

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.

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.



Person Specification

Essential

- Competence as an organist to a high standard comparable with diploma level
- Ability to improvise, sight-read and learn accompaniments to a high standard
- A willingness to work collaboratively with clergy, the Organist & Master of the Choristers, the Choir, and other officers and members of Godalming Minster
- A strong understanding of the importance of Safeguarding
- A sympathetic understanding of the Christian ethos, aims and values of the Church of England

Desirable

- A relevant diploma such as ARCO
- Experience of playing cathedral organs
- Ability to transpose
- Broad knowledge of Anglican liturgy and repertoire in the Anglican choral tradition
- Competence in conducting and rehearsing a choir

Applications

Applications should be made by email to the Rector, Revd Chris Lion (chris.lion@godalmingminster.org), enclosing a CV and the names and contact details of two referees who know the applicant in a professional (musical or church) setting.

Should any prospective candidate wish to discuss the post in advance of making an application, the Organist & Master of the Choristers, Matthew Greenfield, would welcome a conversation, and can be contacted informally via organist@godalmingminster.org.



Terms and Conditions

The Sub-Organist is engaged on a self-employed basis and is responsible for their own income tax, National Insurance contributions, and any other statutory liabilities arising from payments made under this agreement.

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 receipt of two satisfactory professional references, agreeing the terms of the contract for services, and an enhanced DBS check.

Godalming Minster is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The successful applicant will be expected to comply with the Minster's safeguarding policies and procedures and will be required to undertake safeguarding training appropriate to the role.

