

JOB DESCRIPTION

Director of Music and Organist

Location : Christ Church, Ballynure



THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

Introduction

Christ Church is a friendly and inclusive church in the greater Newtownabbey area which appreciates a breadth of church music from traditional to more contemporary. It is the smaller of 2 parish churches which make up the United Parish of Ballynure & Ballyeaston (Ballyclare). We have a two-manual organ maintained by Wells Kennedy.

Salary: salary negotiable commensurate with qualifications and experience and in line with national scales.

Contract Length : 3 years (with an initial probationary period of 6 months).

Employer : The Select Vestry of the United Parish

Line Management : The Minister of the Parish

Approximately 4 hours per week, to include:

- 1 Service on Sunday mornings (10am – 11am – arrival at 9.30am)
- Weekly Choir rehearsal (an evening that is deemed suitable)
- Time for planning/preparation
- Adhoc informal meeting with Church staff

In addition there will be annual festivals (Christmas, Holy Week & Easter, Harvest) where additional hours above the weekly 4 hours may be required. These additional hours will be paid based on the hourly rate.

Summary of responsibilities

- The successful candidate will be passionate about leading and empowering Christian worship using a variety of styles to build and grow the musical tradition in Christ Church.
- The Director of Music/Organist will oversee all aspects of the musical life in the parish.
- They will also be responsible for recruiting, growing and directing the choir at church services, as well as running rehearsals every week for those singing.
- They will work with the Minister and others to develop the music and worship in the church and encourage the musical development and worship of the congregation.
- There will also be special services and may be other activities at key times of the year, which they will be required to contribute to in terms of planning and leading worship. These will be arranged and communicated well in advance by the Minister.
- They will be able to lead and be part of a team, building on existing relationships and developing new ideas.

Responsibilities of this role

1. Director of Music

- 1.1 Liaise with the Minister to choose all Service music, and work ahead on music for sermon series.
- 1.2 Play the Organ and direct the choir at weekly 10.00 am Services as well as any other special services throughout the Church year.
- 1.3 Recruit, train and direct choir members.
- 1.4 Organise practices to ensure all singers have an opportunity to advance their own capabilities.
- 1.5 Develop and execute strategies to increase numbers of choir members, including the possibility of developing the recruitment of young singers.
- 1.6 Develop repertoire for traditional and contemporary worship styles and manage the music library in church to serve the current and future music needs.
- 1.7 Report to the Minister any maintenance or repairs required to the organ.
- 1.8 Undertake regular meetings with the Minister to contribute to the mission and development of worship at the church.

2. General

- 2.1 To work in accordance with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy if working with young people.
- 2.2 To undertake any other work that has been agreed and is seen to be appropriate.

3. Access NI

- 3.1 The post may require you to work with children and young people, and you will therefore require an enhanced Access NI check which will be organised prior to appointment by the Parish Administrator.

Person specification

- A committed Christian demonstrated through a life of worship, in a local church context.
- Willingness to work within the Church of Ireland's Christian ethos (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/our-faith/what-we-believe>)
- Willingness to work within the core values of the United Parish (<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/what-we-believe/>)
- Has competent musical knowledge including organ keyboard skills and singing ability including appropriate musical qualifications .
- Can demonstrate experience of leading different kinds of worship music, both choral/traditional and more contemporary.
- Can demonstrate experience and aptitude to work with and direct people of all ages in music and choirs/worship teams.