

The Parish Church of St Laurence's, Ludlow

Appointment of Director of Music & Organist



Ludlow enjoys an enviable reputation for its character, architecture, gastronomy and scenic setting, lying in an area of outstanding natural beauty in the Welsh border country. Described by Betjeman as 'probably the finest town in England', Ludlow was the UK's first recipient of the Cittaslow Award (www.cittaslow.org.uk) because of the quality of life it offers.

St Laurence's is a building of outstanding architectural quality set in the heart of the town. The Rector is The Revd Kelvin Price. The church is one of England's 'Greater Churches Group' which are all buildings, while not being cathedrals, that are distinguished by their size, character and use. St Laurence's is often referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Marches'. It is one of only 18 churches given 5* in Simon Jenkins' book *England's Thousand Best Churches*. The church boasts perhaps the finest misericords in the country, some excellent and unique stained glass and its renowned Snetzler pipe organ.

The church has over 70,000 visitors each year. It is second only to Ludlow Castle as an attraction in this much visited town. Recent reordering of the nave has created the largest covered community space in Ludlow. We are entering a new exciting phase in our Vision for St Laurence's, where we can expand both our community offerings and mission in the town.

The Snetzler organ dates from 1764 and has been upgraded and enhanced over time by Gray and Davidson and more recently by Nicholson. It comprises a four-manual, 53 speaking stop instrument built around 15 ranks of the original instrument.

The choir has a core group of 24 singers and has established a reputation as one of the finest parish choirs in the region. St Laurence's provides a full range of choral services to support the liturgy. We have an active mini trebles programme introducing young singers to church music and we are starting a new initiative developing choral scholars with Lucton School, a local independent school, in September of this year.

Church and parish are very much at the heart of this active town. The church is regularly used for civic and special services. We have close links with both independent and state schools in the area. Because of the size and stature of the church, diocesan and county services, and major music events are also held here. The BBC has just been recording for broadcast all the events of the Ludlow English Song Weekend, hosted almost in its entirety at St Laurence's.

Music is well catered for in and around Ludlow. There is a long and vibrant tradition of choirs, orchestra and other musical groups rehearsing and performing regularly. The current Arts programme organised by St Laurence's for 2019 gives talented upcoming soloists their chance to shine next to established world class soloists, musical groups and bands in a wide repertoire of events, all of which are being hosted in the newly created space.

For more information about the church and the 2019 events programme, please go to www.stlaurences.org.uk

Appointment of Director of Music & Organist

We are seeking to appoint an excellent choir trainer and organist who can enhance the role of music in the worship and life of the church, with its rich pattern of services throughout the year. The successful candidate will develop the musical offering to suit the differing styles and musical requirements of the church's liturgy.

The church is affiliated to the RSCM. The choir is mixed and has a committed core of 24 members who are keen to develop further its wide repertoire and high standard.

The choir's regular schedule is shown below. In addition there are services on major festival days, with additional special services on national, civic and other special occasions.

A team of organists is available to play for major services and events.

An Arts committee at the church organises a season of recitals and concerts in the space. The new Director of Music would be expected to advise and support the Arts programme as part of the wider musical offering in the church.

Terms of Reference

Title: Director of Music & Organist

Location: St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, Shropshire

Principal Accountabilities

1. To advise the Rector and clergy on the musical aspects of worship
2. To work with clergy and others in developing the church's strategy for worship with particular regard to the contribution and the provision of music
3. To manage the delivery of the musical strategy, week by week, to a high standard
4. To develop and train the choir to a high standard and to recruit new choir members, with particular reference to junior choristers and the choral scholar programme
5. To play the organ at services (delegating as appropriate), maintaining a high standard
6. To be a member of the Arts Committee to plan and develop the annual series of organ & piano recitals, so that the series plays a valuable part in the musical life of the area
7. To take responsibility for the care and custody of the church organ and Steinway piano, planning such maintenance as may be necessary, consistent with the annual PCC budget. This may involve activity in fund raising campaigns
8. To plan and develop other initiatives as may be appropriate to raise the musical reputation of the church
9. To be a member of the Liturgy Committee of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and contribute to meetings of the PCC when required

Remuneration

This post is likely to be of interest to a musician who will include their church duties as part of a portfolio of musical or other activities. The church wishes to ideally appoint someone who is committed to a long-term tenure of the role.

The salary for this post is expected to be in the region of £14,000 with additional fees payable for weddings, funerals and memorial services.

The organ is available for the appointee for private tuition. There are also possibilities for music teaching at local schools

Schedule

1. Normal pattern of services and practices

Thursday	17.30 – 18.30	Junior Chorister Rehearsal (<i>during school terms</i>)
Thursday	18.30 – 20.15	Choir Practice
Sunday	09.00 – 09.30	Choir Practice
	09.30 – 10.45	Parish Eucharist
	10.55 – 11.25	Choir practice
	11.30 – 12.30	Choral Matins (<i>2nd and 4th Sundays</i>) or other agreed choral service
	14.55 – 15.25	Choir practice
	15.30 – 16.30	Choral Evensong (<i>1st and 3rd Sundays</i>) or other agreed choral service

2. Major church festivals over and above normal Sunday commitments:

Ash Wednesday (unless it falls within half term)
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Eve
Ascension Day (unless it falls within half term)
Advent Carol Service
Nine Lessons and Carols (normally 23 December)
Christingle (24 December)
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
Epiphany Carol Service

Person specification

The successful candidate:

1. will be an accomplished musician with a wide knowledge of church music, willing to embrace the varied services offered at St Laurence's
2. will have demonstrable skills in choir training, and will probably have spent some time in a similar post in another church
3. will have experience of working with young choristers
4. will have a strong knowledge of current safeguarding best practice, including enhanced DBS clearance
5. will possess a good level of technical accomplishment as an organist and is likely to be qualified to ARCO/FRCO level
6. will have strong administrative skills including the ability to create special service booklets

Selection Process

The timetable for the selection process is:

Closing date for applications:	Friday 10 May
Short listing and candidates informed by :	Monday 13 May
Interviews / auditions:	Thursday/Friday 23/24 May

(where appropriate candidates' partners will be welcome to come to Ludlow at this time, for an opportunity to see the town and meet members of the church community)

During the interview process candidates will meet with key groups of the church community including the choir, choir parents and the Director of Music at Lucton School.

Decision communication:	by Monday 27 May
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A CV and letter of application outlining your suitability for this position should be sent by email or by post to the Rector at the address below.

The names of two referees should be provided.

One should be the incumbent of the applicant's current church (or, if applicable, someone who has worked with the applicant for a considerable time); and the second should be someone who can comment in detail on the applicant's musical ability. References will be taken up prior to interview for short listed candidates.

The musical adviser for this appointment is Geraint Bowen, Organist & Director of Music at Hereford Cathedral.

Applications should be sent by post or e-mail to:

The Revd Kelvin Price

The Parish Office, 2 College Street, Ludlow SY8 1AN

rector@stlaurences.org.uk

Potential candidates are welcome to call the Rector for an informal discussion on 07799 243867