



The Church of St John the Baptist (C of E), Macaulay Rd, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8AR



Context

St John's Church is a single-parish benefice in the middle Anglican tradition, where the role of music in its services has always been valued. Gently catholic in its weekly Sunday morning worship, it nevertheless offers a broader range of services and worship styles across the year, to a congregation which is also broadminded. With an electoral roll of 167 and a 10am congregation of 80-100, we are a vibrant, friendly and growing church which stands at the heart of the community. We are both an Inclusive and a Fairtrade Church, and have achieved our Bronze Eco Award. Our new annexe, built sympathetically onto the north side of the church and completed in August 2023, has extended our capacity for real engagement with the local community. Our children's work, Muddy Church, is also growing. It is an exciting time in the life of St John's.

In recent years the occasional ill health of our elderly organist has meant we have relied on local cover for several months at a time, and while this has afforded us the service of some excellent organists, we have lost some of the continuity, consistency and direction in music that St John's has so valued.

With the recent retirement of our organist, who served us wonderfully for 20 years, we are now seeking to appoint an organist who, in collaboration with the Vicar, can take our worship forward in these ways. This post would suit experienced organists but also those still developing their skills.

Role of Organist at St John's

As organist you will:

Work closely with the Vicar (your line manager) in ensuring the musical life of the church is orderly, inspiring, consistent and developed. The Vicar selects the hymns, but may consult with the organist each month.

Play the organ at all Sunday morning 10am services and play for an additional 18 services a year (Holy Days and Special Services) all included in the main salary. These services will be listed in the contract.

Attend the Worship and Spirituality Committee meetings (3 times per year) to discuss, review and plan the services and the liturgical life and worship of the church.

Take responsibility for informing the incumbent and church wardens when organ maintenance is necessary.

Set up the four hymn boards each week.

Commit to the organ practice necessary to enable the proper performance of your duties. Regular practice time can be organised in the church at a day and time to suit you, subject to church availability.

There may be opportunity to develop work with a potential singing group if there is interest to do so. This can be discussed at interview and is not a requirement. Should such work be undertaken, suitable additional remuneration would be made.

Over and above the performance of your employed duties, the organist will have sole right to play at other church-based services in the church beyond the contracted Sunday morning and 18 services. The exception to this is baptism services, where there is no payment for playing, and we use volunteer musicians. Any further services beyond the Sunday morning and 18 additional ones in the contract, will receive extra payment. They include church funerals and weddings (rates below). Rates will still be paid for funerals and weddings for any services where families have music but use their own musician or CDs. Last year we had 4 weddings, 1 wedding thanksgiving and 10 church funerals.

In addition the organist may use both the organ and grand piano for private teaching / tuition if desired, by agreement with the incumbent, subject to church availability.

Summary of Terms

52 Sunday morning services plus 18 additional services included in salary / contract. Services beyond this will receive further payment.

6 weeks holiday pro rata.

Pension contributions can be made if requested.

Our 10am service is recorded each week and uploaded to the Church YouTube channel, receiving 20-50 views on average. Some services and funerals may be live-streamed in the future. There is no additional remuneration for this.

Salary and additional payments

These range as follows, depending on qualifications and experience:

Annual Salary £4100 to £5100

Additional Payment for weddings £110 - £148 per wedding

Additional Payment for Funerals £85 - £92 per funeral

Additional Payment for extra morning services outside those contractually listed £50-£75 per service

Additional Payment for Evensong or equivalent outside those contractually listed
£50-55 per service

All appointments will be subject to safer recruiting processes and suitable references.
A DBS check will be required.

Worship at St John's

We are very much a Eucharistic-based church. There is a said Holy Communion at 8am each Sunday and at 10.30am each Wednesday, which have no music and do not involve the organist. Every week our 10am is a sung Holy Communion with music played on the organ. Seasonal and liturgical worship is our mainstay. We use Common Worship at the 10am service, using service booklets which make full use of the seasonal choices.

Although there is no longer a choir, which has been the case for several years now, it is still in the memory, and there may be some interest in a small singing group developing. We are seeking to revitalise our worship whilst maintaining our traditional 10am services. These have sung liturgies, and our worship uses mostly hymns with a handful of more modern choruses. We use the Ancient and Modern Hymn book but also have access to Mission Praise. There is no plan to revive a regular Sunday Evensong, but we wish to make provision for an occasional service, perhaps 5 or 6 times a year, ranging from Evensong to Taize. Incense is used twice a year, at the Midnight Mass and the Easter Eve Vigil, though we may introduce it at two or three other services across the year.

Every third Sunday has been designated an All-Age service at the 10am – in practice, this ceased to work well post-Covid, and may be in a time of transition. It remains for now as a simpler shorter Eucharist but still with the organ used for worship. At one stage a small music band of pianist, saxophonist and flautist formed, and the monthly All Age developed a mixed economy of organ music for the hymns and the small music band for songs. This was unable to continue, but at some point a mixed economy of organist and similar music band at this monthly service may emerge. The Eucharistic settings we use (at least in part) are: Mass of St Thomas - David Thorne, and A New People's Mass - Gregory Murray.

In addition to the church organ we have a grand piano in church which has been used on certain occasions.

Organ at St John's

Originally by Geo. Osmond & Co of Taunton the organ serves the Church well. It is, together with its associated blowers, serviced and maintained regularly. It is a two manual instrument with electric action complete with a 32 note radiating pedalboard from C two octaves below middle C to F above. Specification -

Swell

Lieblich Gedacht 8', Gamba 8', Voix Celestes 8',
Gemshorn 4', Contra Oboe 16', Cornopean 8',
Oboe 8', Tremulant, Swell Sub, Swell Octave

Great

Open Diapason no 1 8', Open Diapason no 2 8', Stopped Diapason 8', Dulciana 8',
Principal 4'

Twelfth 2&2/3, Fifteenth 2', Trumpet 8'.

Pedal

Bourdon 16', Bass Flute 8', Contra Oboe 16',
Cougles

Swell to Great, Swell to Pedal, Great to Pedal



The organ is in reasonable condition but some remedial work is required and the PCC has committed to that refurbishment this year.

Musical Connections

Whilst there is a strong musical appreciation within the life of St John's, you will find the congregation delightfully supportive and encouraging to play for. The local Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, based in Poole, is popular amongst many in our congregation. We are the 'home' of the Broadstone Music Series (BMS), which performs concerts in our church and encourages the talent of young musicians. We host many classical and other concerts throughout the year, including those given by the Dorset Chamber Choir, Broadstone Community Band and the BMS.

Broadstone

Broadstone is a delightful town in Dorset, just 4 miles from the sea in an outstanding area of coastline. With 10,289 residents in the 2021 census, it is big enough to be a vibrant town and yet retain a village feel. It has an excellent High Street and array of shops, including supermarkets, bakeries, butchers and grocers, card and gift shops, a pet shop and many others. There are various very good restaurants, takeaways, four pubs/wine bars, a library and two doctors surgeries. There are five schools within the parish, all with good reputations. Broadstone is located 4 miles from the useful shopping centre of Poole with its historic and attractive Quay, 3 miles from the delightful town of Wimborne, and is a 45 minute drive from Salisbury. It is a genuinely attractive and welcoming place to live and work.