



ST JAMES'S, SUSSEX GARDENS
The Parish Church of Paddington

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP
from SEPTEMBER 2026

Introduction

St James's, Sussex Gardens is proud of its distinguished musical tradition. Since the Nineteenth century, it has boasted organists including Harold Darke, Sir George Thalben-Ball, Douglas Hawkrige, and Andrew Lucas. The current Director of Music is Mr George de Voil MA FRCO.

The parish supports a fine professional choir of five singers, augmented to eight or ten for major feasts, beautifying the liturgy with a broad and sophisticated musical repertoire. The church is also in high demand as a concert venue for choirs, orchestras and soloists.

In 2021, the admired 1882 Hill & Son organ was given a major restoration worth over £400,000, completed by Mander Organs. The church also acquired a fine new 3-stop chamber organ.

The establishment of an organ scholarship, in 2022, was an exciting development in the musical life of the parish. It now represents an attractive opportunity for a cheerful and collegiate musician fully in sympathy with the mission of this Anglo-Catholic church to learn and grow in all aspects of the liturgical musician's craft, with current and former scholars holding the post in conjunction with Masters' degree courses at the Royal Academy of Music and Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Summary of Duties

The Organ Scholarship is a training position and at all times the Organ Scholar will be under the supervision and mentorship of the Director of Music or Associate Director of Music. The exact duties of the post will be tailored to the individual, but it is expected that applicants will be fluent players, with some experience of choral accompaniment and liturgical playing.

It is expected that the Organ Scholar will take a full part in playing pre- and post-service voluntaries, hymns and choral accompaniments. There will be the opportunity to rehearse and conduct the professional choir, and to participate in consort singing, for the right candidate, as well as to practise improvisation, and the accompaniment of plainsong. The organ scholar will also take a leading role in the rehearsing & directing of the Community Choir.

The weekly timetable will be as follows:

Monday	19.30-20.30 (term time only)	Community Choir rehearsal
Sunday	9.00-12 noon	Rehearsal & High Mass
	16.30-17.45 (twice a month)	Evensong or Evening Service

In addition, the Organ Scholar should be available for the following services occurring on weekdays: Midnight Mass, Maundy Thursday, Easter Eve, All Souls. They will also be required at the carol services for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

The Organ Scholar will act as Music Department librarian, assist with administering the organ recital series, and will give one organ recital during the course of the year.

The post will be tenable for a calendar year from 1st September 2026, and the remuneration is **£3,000 per annum**, paid in monthly instalments.

There will be eight Sundays of holiday, agreed well in advance, with an expectation that this is not taken over Christmas or during Holy Week.

The Organ Scholar will be entitled to practice and lesson time in the church, as far as the church diary allows. This should be booked with the Parish Office not more than a fortnight in advance.

Skills & Attributes

The successful candidate will likely be a current undergraduate/postgraduate student or recent graduate, though this is not a requirement. The candidate should be of a very good standard in organ playing, while some experience of singing is desirable. They may have either already obtained or have been looking to soon achieve the ARCO diploma. The prospective candidate is expected to take an active role in the life of the church. The prospective Organ Scholar should show good initiative and have excellent self-management and organisational skills. They should be a good team-player willing to work well with others.

Appointment Process

The deadline for applications is Monday, 19th January. Please send a covering letter stating the reasons for applying together with a CV to:

Mr George de Voil
Director of Music
music@stjamespaddington.org.uk

Auditions will be held on Tuesdays 3rd and 10th February. Candidates will be asked to play:

1. Two contrasting pieces of own choice (maximum ten minutes).
2. The Hymn tune *Wolvercote (O Jesus, I have promised)*: introduction, first and last verses, followed by 30 seconds of improvisation.
3. Two pieces of sight-reading.
4. A choral accompaniment, emailed to candidates in the week preceding the interview.

There will be a short interview.

Candidates are very welcome to contact the Director of Music in advance of the closing date to discuss the post.

THE ORGAN

PEDAL ORGAN

1.	Sub Bass	32	<i>to G</i>
2.	Open Wood	16	
3.	Violone	16	<i>from 28</i>
4.	Bourdon	16	
5.	Dulciana	16	<i>from 15</i>
6.	Octave	8	<i>from 2</i>
7.	Violoncello	8	
8.	Bass Flute	8	
9.	Fifteenth	4	<i>from 2</i>
10.	Octave Flute	4	<i>JWW</i>
11.	Ophicleide	16	
12.	Fagotto	16	<i>from 53</i>
13.	Posaune	8	<i>from 11</i>
14.	Bassoon	8	<i>from 53</i>

*I Choir to Pedal II Great to Pedal III Swell to Pedal
IV Solo to Pedal*

GREAT ORGAN

28.	Violone	16	<i>Hele</i>
29.	Open Diapason No. 1	8	<i>Hele</i>
30.	Open Diapason No. 2	8	
31.	Open Diapason No. 3	8	
32.	Hohl Flute	8	
33.	Octave	4	
34.	Principal	4	
35.	Wald Flute	4	
36.	Twelfth	2 2/3	
37.	Fifteenth	2	
38.	Mixture 19.22.26	III	
39.	Double Trumpet	16	<i>Hele</i>
40.	Trumpet	8	<i>Hill/Hele</i>
41.	Clarion	4	<i>Hele</i>

*VII Choir to Great VIII Positive on Great IX Swell to Great
X Solo to Great*

CHOIR ORGAN

15.	Contra Dulciana	16	<i>Re&D</i>
16.	Geigen Diapason	8	
17.	Claribel	8	
18.	Dulciana	8	
19.	Salicet	4	<i>Re&D</i>
20.	Harmonic Flute	4	
21.	Flute	2	

POSITIVE ORGAN (*playable from Choir keys*)

22.	Stopped Diapason	8	<i>JWW</i>
23.	Flute	4	<i>JWW</i>
24.	Nazard	2 2/3	<i>JWW</i>
25.	Piccolo	2	<i>JWW</i>
26.	Tierce	1 3/5	<i>JWW</i>
27.	Larigot	1 1/3	<i>New</i>

*Tremulant
V Swell to Choir VI Solo to Choir*

SWELL ORGAN (*enclosed*)

42.	Bourdon	16	
43.	Open Diapason	8	
44.	Gedeckt	8	
45.	Salicional	8	
46.	Celeste T.C.	8	
47.	Gemshorn	4	
48.	Stopped Flute	4	
49.	Fifteenth	2	
50.	Mixture 12.19.22	III	
51.	Oboe	8	
52.	Vox Humana	8	<i>New</i>
	<i>Tremulant</i>		
53.	Contra Fagotto	16	<i>Hill/Hele</i>
54.	Cornoepen	8	
55.	Clarion	4	

*XI Swell to Solo XII Octave XIII Unison off
XIV Sub Octave*

ACCESSORIES

*XVIII Generals on Swell Toe Pistons
XIX Great & Pedal Combinations Coupled
XX Page on Sw-Gt Toe*

Eight thumb pistons to Choir, Great & Swell
Six thumb pistons to the Solo Organ
Eight toe pistons to the Swell & Great Organs
Eight general pistons & general cancel
Stepper with five advance & one reverse thumb piston
Advance and reverse Bluetooth page pistons
Full complement of thumb and toe coupler pistons

*Wind pressures: 4" (102mm) – Swell & Pedal Flues
3" (76mm) – Choir Flues 3 3/4" (95mm) – Great Flues
4 3/4" (121mm) – Solo 10" (254mm) – Tuba & Ophicleide
2 3/4" (70mm) – Positive 6 1/2" (165mm) – Sw & Gt Reeds*

SOLO ORGAN (*enclosed*)

56.	Harmonic Flute	8	<i>Hele</i>
57.	Viol d'Orchestre	8	<i>Hele</i>
58.	Viole Celeste	8	<i>Hele</i>
59.	Concert Flute	4	<i>Hele</i>
60.	Orchestral Oboe	8	<i>Hele</i>
61.	Corno di Bassetto	8	<i>Hele</i>
	<i>Tremulant</i>		<i>Hele</i>
62.	Tuba (<i>unenclosed</i>)	8	<i>Hele</i>

XV Octave XVI Unison off XVII Sub Octave

*999 levels of general memory & 10 divisional levels
Key action: Electro-pneumatic
Stop action: Electro-pneumatic (Positive: electric action)
Manual compass: C- a3 Pedal compass: C – f1*