

St. Peter's Bournemouth
Choral Foundation



Song Squad music director

Job description and candidate profile

Introduction

The St. Peter's Choral Foundation is an ambitious project which aims to establish a high standard of choral music in St. Peter's, not just for the benefit of the church and all who worship and visit there, but also to benefit the wider cultural and educational life of BCP.

Song Squad is part of this project, an opportunity to provide engaging singing experience and training to children who may have no previous knowledge of music.

About St. Peter's

St. Peter's is Bournemouth's founding parish church located in the heart of the town centre. The imposing Grade I-listed building was consecrated in 1845, to a fine Gothic Revival design by George Edmund Street, as the parish church of Bournemouth. It has a landmark 202 foot high spire, and the interior is richly decorated. Simon Jenkins described it as 'one of the richest Gothic Revival interiors in England'. It is classed as a 'major parish church' by the Church of England.

The church has had a strong musical tradition since its foundation. In the early days, a choir school and boarding house was run for choristers recruited from London, which closed in the 1920s as the growth of Bournemouth made it unnecessary. The choir of men and boys continued on a voluntary basis, with girls and women being included from 2009.

Today the choir is formed of nine professional lay clerks (adult singers) and up to sixteen girl choristers who, between them, sing for most services. (An opportunity to sing as a professional singer is available for a qualified candidate.) There is also a voluntary parish choir that sings on one Sunday per month and joins with the lay clerks and choristers from time to time. The Director of Music is Duncan Courts, and the Organist is Ian Harrison.

St. Peter's is inclusive in character, welcoming, and very appreciative of its music.





Song Squad

Song Squad is a new choir based at St. Peter's which will offer children the opportunity to learn to sing in a friendly and enjoyable environment. It will be open to boys and girls aged seven to thirteen. There will be no audition or expectation of previous experience to join, and therefore it will be a mixed-ability group. There will be no charge to parents for their children to join.

The choir will explore a wide range of musical styles and will not be primarily religious in nature. The key aim will be to learn how to sing well while having fun. It is expected that the ethos will be relaxed but well-managed, with participation and learning being the main focus.

The choir will meet for an hour once a week in the song school at St. Peter's. In addition, they will sing several times through the year in services at St. Peter's, including on Christmas Eve.

The music director will play a significant role in the founding of Song Squad, so they will have considerable influence on the shaping of the choir as it develops.



The song school

Song Squad will be based in the song school at St. Peter's. This is a purpose-built music room with a Kawai baby grand piano, moveable chairs and music desks for up to twenty-four singers, music storage, and desk facilities including PC and printer, plus access to larger-format printing and booklet-making. There is a separate lounge area with toilets and kitchen facilities for break-times.

The church is also available for rehearsals, if desired, with an organ and a grand piano available.



Role and responsibilities

Job Title: Music Director, Song Squad

Location: St Peter's Church, Bournemouth

Reports to: Director of Music

Remuneration: £2100 p.a. (based on 1.5 hours per week, forty weeks per year at £35 p.h)

Overview

To establish Song Squad as a well-run junior choir that provides a fun and musically enriching environment for children in Bournemouth, and to lead its musical activities. While it will be based at St. Peter's, the choir's primary mission is musical education and participation, with contributions to services and concerts at St. Peter's being organised occasionally on an individual basis.

There is budget available for an accompanist for some rehearsals, if needed.

Key Responsibilities

- **Musical leadership:** Plan and deliver engaging weekly rehearsals that focus on enjoyment of singing, healthy vocal technique, confidence, and increasing musical literacy.
- **Repertoire selection:** Choose a diverse and appealing repertoire suitable for the 7–13 age range.
- **Recruitment and Outreach:** Coordinate the recruitment of new members through a variety of channels to ensure a thriving membership.
- **Performance management:** Organise and direct occasional concerts and contributions to church services (e.g., Christingle or festivals) in conjunction with the St. Peter's music department.
- **Administration:** Plan repertoire and rehearsals, manage resources effectively, maintain a register of attendance, and coordinate regular communication with parents regarding schedules and events.
- **Safeguarding:** Act as a lead for the group's safety, ensuring all activities comply with Church of England Safeguarding policies and maintaining an enhanced DBS check as part of the Parish Safeguarding policy.

Candidate profile

Essential:

- Previous experience of leading a children's singing group
- Ability to inspire young singers of all abilities
- Competent singing ability that models a healthy technique
- Piano/keyboard skills sufficient for effective rehearsal accompaniment
- Enthusiastic, well-organised, and able to work within the St. Peter's music team
- An understanding of the professional nature of the role
- Committed adherence to current best safeguarding practice, including the Parish Safeguarding Policy and training as required
- Sympathy with the ethos and purposes of a Church of England parish church
- A good sense of humour and patience

Desirable:

- Professional music qualification, e.g. degree, performance diploma(s)
- Experience of working in a church environment
- Willingness to engage with the wider church community
- Interest in a wide variety of music
- An interest in continuing personal and professional development

Interviews

All applications will be acknowledged by email. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview at St. Peter's Church.

The interview will include leading a short rehearsal with a group of children of mixed ages and abilities, to include warm-ups and teaching them a new song that they have not previously seen or heard. This aspect will be discussed in detail before the interview date.

How to apply

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the role further, please call the Director of Music, Duncan Courts, on 07967 357888 or email music@stpetersbournemouth.org.uk

Applications should consist of your musical CV and a short covering letter, including the names and contact details of two referees (one musical and one character reference).

Applications should be sent by email to: music@stpetersbournemouth.org.uk by **Tuesday 19th May 2026**.

