



APPLICATION PACK

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP 2026-27

Bromley Parish Church invites applications for an Organ Scholarship, offering a young organist the opportunity to develop their playing and gain practical experience within the musical life of a busy parish church.

The scholarship would particularly suit a student in Years 11, 12 or 13, a recent school leaver or a young adult who is already learning the organ. Applications would also be welcomed from able pianists interested in developing as organists. Working alongside the Director of Music and Organist, the scholar will receive guidance and gradually gain experience of accompanying services and rehearsals, playing voluntaries and hymns, and supporting the work of the choir.

Music plays an important part in the life of Bromley Parish Church. Our friendly and committed adult choir sings a wide range of sacred music at the Parish Eucharist, monthly Choral Evensong, principal festivals and special services throughout the year. There may also be opportunities to take part in visits to cathedrals and other churches.

Scholarship awards

The Organ Scholarship is available in two categories:

- **up to £600 per annum** for secondary-school students
- **up to £1,200 per annum** for post-school applicants

The level of the award and the scholar's responsibilities will reflect their experience, stage of development, and agreed commitment. The award is intended to support a scholar who participates regularly in the church's musical life. We understand that school, university, examinations and other commitments may occasionally affect availability, and arrangements can be discussed in advance where necessary.

What will the organ scholar gain?

The Organ Scholar will have opportunities to:

- develop confidence in playing for services
- gain experience of accompanying hymns, service settings and anthems
- build a varied repertoire of voluntaries
- develop skills in registration, accompaniment and improvisation
- observe and take part in choir rehearsals
- learn more about Anglican worship and the role of the organ within the liturgy
- work alongside experienced church musicians
- become part of a welcoming and committed musical community

The precise balance of responsibilities will be tailored to the scholar's current experience and ability, with opportunities increasing as their confidence and skills develop.

Regular commitment

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. The Organ Scholar would attend these rehearsals as required and according to a pattern agreed with the Director of Music.

On the first, second and fourth Sundays of each month, and on any fifth Sunday, there is a rehearsal at 9.45am before the 10.30am Parish Eucharist. The third Sunday is an All-Age Service at 10.30am. This is usually led from the piano and includes a simple congregational Mass setting and hymns. The Organ Scholar may be asked to play for this service when appropriate.

Choral Evensong takes place at 6.30pm on the second Sunday of each month, except in August and December, with a rehearsal at 5.00pm.

The Organ Scholar would be expected to attend services, rehearsals and principal festivals regularly, according to a pattern agreed with the Director of Music. The choir takes short breaks after Christmas and Easter and does not sing during August; the Organ Scholar may nevertheless be asked to play for some of the services during these periods, as agreed in advance.

Playing and musical responsibilities

According to their stage of development, the Organ Scholar may be invited to:

- play voluntaries before or after services
- accompany hymns, service settings and anthems
- provide short improvisations during the liturgy
- accompany parts of choir rehearsals
- play for the monthly All-Age Service
- assist with music at festivals and special services
- sing with the choir when not required at the organ
- contribute more widely to concerts and other musical events at the church

Some choral experience and a willingness to sing as part of the choir would be particularly welcome.

Festivals and special services

Alongside the regular pattern, the church's musical year includes services for All Souls' and Remembrance Sunday; Advent and Christmas carol services; Midnight Mass and Christmas morning Eucharist; as well as services during Holy Week, Easter and at other principal festivals. The Organ Scholar would be expected to play at a selection of these services according to their ability and the pattern agreed with the Director of Music.

The church also hosts organ recitals given by professional players on Bank Holiday Mondays. In the past, it has presented further concerts and recitals as part of a regular series. Should this series return, it could provide additional opportunities for the Organ Scholar to perform, assist with events and gain wider practical experience.

The instruments

The church's principal organ was built by J. W. Walker & Sons in 1991. It is a substantial three-manual and pedal instrument with 40 speaking stops, 55 ranks and 2,708 pipes. Its mechanical key action gives the player a direct connection with the instrument, while its combination system supports the quick changes of registration needed in services and recital repertoire.

Designed to accompany both congregational and choral music as well as to serve as a recital instrument, the organ offers considerable tonal variety. It provides an excellent instrument on which a developing player can explore registration, accompaniment, improvisation and solo repertoire from a range of periods and traditions. Extensive work on the organ was undertaken by Nicholson & Co. in 2018.

The church also has a chamber organ, suitable for smaller-scale accompaniment and ensemble work, and a Yamaha grand piano used for rehearsals, concerts, and the monthly All-Age Service. Together, these instruments give the Organ Scholar opportunities to develop versatility across a range of liturgical and musical settings.

Who are we looking for?

We would be pleased to hear from young musicians who:

- have an enthusiasm for the organ and church music
- possess secure keyboard skills appropriate to their stage of development
- are willing to learn and respond positively to guidance
- are reliable and able to commit regularly to rehearsals and services
- would enjoy contributing to the musical and community life of the church

Previous experience of accompanying a choir or playing for services is welcome but is not essential.

Applications and auditions

Entry is by a short, informal audition and interview with the Director of Music. This is an opportunity for us to hear you play and assess your present keyboard skills and musicianship, and for you to find out more about the church and the scholarship.

To apply, please complete the enclosed application form and return it to our Director of Music by emailing it to DoM@bromleyparishchurch.org or by post:

Tom Robson, Director of Music

Bromley Parish Church
St Peter and St Paul
Church Road
Bromley BR2 0EG

www.bromleyparishchurch.org





ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2026-27

Personal Details

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone number(s): _____ (mobile)

_____ (home)

or if under 18 _____ (parent/guardian)

Email address: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Length of time having organ lessons: _____

Length of time having piano lessons: _____

Reference

Please provide the name and contact information of a referee who we may contact in relation to your application that can speak of your musical ability (there is no need to provide the written reference with your application).

If you are in education this should be a teacher or organ/piano tutor.

Full Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Email Address: _____



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Statement

Please list your relevant experience and musical qualifications (if applicable) and tell us why you're interested in an Organ Scholarship at Bromley Parish Church.

Signed: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Please sign and return to our Director of Music by email or by post:

Tom Robson, Director of Music

Bromley Parish Church

St Peter and St Paul

Church Road

Bromley BR2 0EG

DoM@bromleyparishchurch.org