



ALL SAINTS LEEK

Director of Music (part-time)

The PCC of All Saints, Leek, are seeking to appoint an energetic and visionary musician who is able to excite young and old about the joy of music-making to the newly created role of Director of Music. The appointed candidate will play a crucial role in shaping the mission and ministry of the parish, by strengthening our existing connections with local schools, developing our annual music festival, as well as supporting our regular round of worship in the anglo-catholic tradition.

Key Dates

Application deadline Friday, 18 September 2026, 12noon

Intended start date As soon as possible

Key Information

624 hours per annum

Competitive annual salary of £11,000 (including additional NI employer payments etc.)

Access to a music budget of £2,000 per annum

Role Description

Purpose of the Role

The Director of Music will encourage music-making in local schools and re-invigorate the musical life at All Saints, Leek. Their work will deepen the existing ties between All Saints Church and All Saints First School, and develop new connections with other local schools, providing a crucial point of contact between the parish and families. By offering free musical education and enhancing the musical life at All Saints, the Director of Music will raise the profile of All Saints in the wider community, encourage people to encounter the Christian faith, and engage new people in the life of All Saints. They will play a vital role in establishing Leek as a lively place of cultural activity.

Details

The Director of Music will be expected to:

- (1) Establish and maintain contacts with local schools, delivering approximately 6.5hrs/week of musical tuition in local schools (during term time);
- (2) Oversee the music provision for worship at All Saints by:
 - (a) Directing, administering and developing the existing choir;
 - (b) Supervising volunteer organist(s);
 - (c) Playing the organ when required;
 - (d) Laying the groundwork for integrating new children choristers/establishing a children's choir.
- (3) Liaise with the vicar and PCC in order to develop the vision for All Saints.
- (4) Work with the vicar and churchwardens to establish an annual calendar of musical events at All Saints, including the organisation of the newly established annual All Saints Music Festival.
- (5) Undertake training and professional development required for the role (including statutory safeguarding training).

Where and When

The role is based at All Saints, Leek, and will include work at local first and middle schools. The role is currently funded for a period of three years, though it is envisaged that the role will be continued thereafter (pending available funding).

The Director of Music will be required to work on Sundays throughout the year, on major Christian festivals (including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), in addition to mid-week choir rehearsals and school tuition.

Beyond the requirements of the role, it is anticipated that the Director of Music will be invited to provide music for occasional offices (weddings, funerals), for which they will receive an additional fee. Other local churches may also invite the Director of Music to play for such occasions when these do not conflict with existing commitments at All Saints.

Reporting and Support

The Director of Music will be appointed by the PCC. They will be responsible to the vicar, who will act as their line manager. In addition, the Director of Music will be supported in their duties by the parish administrator and safeguarding officer. The

Director of Music will have access to RSCM resources through the parish's membership with that body, and additional funding for any professional development may be available from the PCC on application. The Director of Music will be supported by volunteer organists in the regular round of Sunday worship.

Role Requirements

The Director of Music is expected to complete the Church of England's safeguarding training (Basic, Foundation, Leadership) within the first four weeks of their appointment. Prior to any appointment, an enhanced DBS certificate will be requested (including barred lists for children and adults).

Other Information

Applicants should either be a communicant member of the Church of England; a practising member of a Christian church in good standing with the Church of England; or be sympathetic to the aims and objectives of the Church of England.

Person Specification

The advertised role of Director of Music requires someone who

- (1) Is able to think strategically and develop a vision for the musical life of All Saints (and the wider community);
- (2) Can excite others about that vision;
- (3) Is energetic and joy-filled, willing to try new things and learn from set-backs;
- (4) Sees this role as an exciting opportunity to develop their skills;
- (5) Is a skilled communicator who builds good relationships;
- (6) Is a gifted choral trainer with a proven ability to encourage children as well as adults, and is comfortable working in school settings;
- (7) Plays the organ to a professional standard;
- (8) Has a broad knowledge of and passion for choral music and liturgy;
- (9) Is reliable, and able to work both as a (supervised) member of a team as well as independently;
- (10) Treats all people with dignity and respect, regardless of musical ability or background.

All Saints, Leek, is committed to promoting a safe environment and culture for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Anyone appointed to this role will be expected to work within the relevant safeguarding policies and procedures, and to attend all required safeguarding training.

Application Process

Applicants are invited to submit a CV along with an Application Letter, illustrating how they meet the person specification, no later than Friday, 18 September 2026, 12noon. Applications are to be sent via email to revdhenry.hope@posteo.uk.

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact the vicar, Revd Dr Henry Hope: revdhenry.hope@posteo.uk; 07421 462 595.

About All Saints, Leek

The Town and Church

Designed by the acclaimed architect Norman Shaw, the foundation stone for All Saints, Leek, was laid 140 years ago, on 25 July 1885. The church includes historically significant internal decorations and stained-glass, alongside a rich collection of historically valuable embroideries, all of which earned All Saints grade-I status in the 1990s.

Leek is a beautiful market town in the Staffordshire Moorlands, with many independent traders and a strong hospitality and service sector: nestled at the Western edge of the Peak District, Leek is an attractive base for tourists. The town is also home to a number of small-scale cultural ventures, including community choirs, the Foxlowe Arts Centre, and the annual Leek Arts Festival.

The congregation at All Saints usually numbers around 25 at a Sunday morning Eucharist (Common Worship), with service times alternating between 9.15am and 11am. The church hosts a significant number of funerals each year (approx. 25 in 2025), as well as bi-monthly baptisms and occasional weddings. The church has strong links with All Saints First School, who regularly attend special services (Harvest, Christingle etc.), as well as with the congregation at St Edward's, Cheddleton (with whom the parish shares its vicar).

In 2025, All Saints launched an annual music festival ("Saints in the Summer"), which saw its second successful iteration in July 2026: recent concert performances at All Saints have included Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*, an ABBA tribute band and more, beginning to raise awareness of All Saints as a prime venue for music-

making in the Staffordshire Moorlands. There are currently plans to establish toilet & kitchen facilities within the church building (as well as improve access) in order to increase the church's ability to offer hospitality to worshippers, visitors and concert audiences.

The Choir

Founded in line with the principles of the Oxford Movement, All Saints boasted a strong choir throughout the twentieth century, including boy choristers. With declining congregations since the turn of the millennium and in the wake of the Covid pandemic, however, the choir has seen a period of significant decline. Today, All Saints has a small but still very loyal and enthusiastic choir, made up of ten singers (8 female; 2 male). The choir regularly join forces with a further six to eight singers from St Edward's Church, Cheddleton, for special services.

At the Sunday morning Eucharist, the choir lead hymn-singing (most recently beginning to use the Revised English Hymnal), the Mass ordinary, and occasionally offer a simple choral anthem during communion (from RSCM Anthems for Worship). Settings used include the Mass of St Thomas (Thorne), Salisbury (Hubbard), and Missa Simplex (Archer), and the choir have recently begun to re-introduce traditional chants as well as Taizé materials into their repertoire.

The Jardine Organ

The organ at All Saints was built by Jardine Church Organs of Manchester in the late 1890s. It is a three-manual instrument with a wide range of stops. In 1998, the organ underwent a substantial overhaul, including the electrification of the pedal board, the introduction of thumb and toe pistons, and a two-channel captive system. The organ is well maintained and is a joy to play.