



Associate Choral Leader – St Gregory’s, Sudbury with St Martin-in-the-Fields
(in association with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Music Mission and Young People Project)
September 2024 – July 2025

This new training opportunity provides an opportunity for an emerging choral conductor or vocal leader to help establish new children’s and community music initiatives in St Gregory’s Church, Sudbury, whilst being offered regular intensive support and training opportunities with the music team at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

St Gregory’s serves most of the town of Sudbury, between Colchester and Bury St Edmunds, which is around 1 hour 10 minutes from London Liverpool Street by train. It is a Youth Beacon Area church in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich with a particular focus on developing ministry to children and young people. As part of this initiative St Gregory’s has partnered with St Martin-in-the-Fields and the newly established Music, Mission and Young People initiative from the Church of England in Suffolk with the aim of developing new strands of children’s, young people and community music making as a key part of the mission and outreach of the church – at the same time as supporting the development of the next generation of church music leaders.

As part of this work, we wish to appoint an **Associate Choral Leader** as part of the St Martin-in-the-Fields Artist Development Programmes initiatives. The associate choral leader scheme is aimed at choral conductors or vocal amateurs who are in the first few years of a professional career and wish to develop their skills to a high level, through a combination of practical experience and training. In Sudbury, this will include developing stand-alone children’s choirs and community choirs.



St Gregory's, Sudbury

St Gregory's is the Civic Anglican Church in Sudbury in Suffolk, famous for its silk trade and birthplace of the artist Thomas Gainsborough. Although the current building is fourteenth century, it is built on the site of a previous place of worship dating back to the eight century. Situated in the picturesque Dedham Vale, the market town attracts a steady stream of tourists. The worship style is central with a strong emphasis on hymns, liturgy and festivals. The adult choir is approximately twelve strong.

The church has vibrant links with the CofE primary schools in the town. Both secondary schools regularly welcome Christian outreach. We are part of the vibrant local Churches Together ecumenical group and support the Eden's Project for 11-18 year olds.

St Martin-in-the-Fields Associate Choral Leader Training Programme

Approximately six times a term, you will receive professional development training alongside other Choral Leaders from around the UK. This is a combination of in-person and online activity. Over the past year, workshops have included conducting technique training with Eamonn Dougan and Neil Ferris, working with children's voices with Laurel Neighbour, vocal health workshops with Charlotte Mobbs and programming for liturgy with Tim Ruffer. This programme is overseen by Assistant Director of Music, Olivia Tait. This programme is a hybrid model of online and in-person, with approximately three online workshops and three in-person workshops each term.

Requirements

As part of the wider mission of St Gregory's as a Youth Beacon Area, we wish to appoint an Associate Choral Leader for 2024-25:

- To develop standalone children's choirs in St Gregory's, Sudbury
- To develop musical relationships with local primary and secondary schools through leading 3-4 workshops and rehearsals each week.
- To encourage the integration of this new musical outreach with the wider life and mission of the different churches, working with others in the benefice as appropriate.
- As the work develops, to explore the possibilities for creating adult community choirs and other choral initiatives
- To attend training and development sessions on approximately six afternoons each term (on Tuesday afternoons, either in-person at St Martin-in-the-Fields or online).

There will be the opportunity to shape the work around the skills of the Associate Choral Leader, working alongside the needs of the project as a whole.

Schedule

The main schedule revolves around a weekday or two half days (in agreement with the schools and the Associate Choral Leader), some Sundays and Tuesday afternoons.

- Weekly children's choir rehearsals
- Daytime rehearsals/workshops in local schools, approx. 1 day per week (may be 2 half days, in agreement with the schools and the Associate Choral Leader)
- Some Sunday morning and lunchtime commitments
- Six times a term on Tuesday afternoons between 2.00 and 5.00pm you receive development and training, either in-person at St Martin-in-the-Fields or online.
- There may be the potential for other project-based work, to be agreed at the start of each term

St Gregory's is developing a hybrid model of in-person and online worship. All of the services and events may also be either live-streamed or recorded for future broadcast on our social media channels.

Term dates

This is a ten-month programme running from September 2024 to early July 2025, with breaks at half term.

Autumn Sunday 16th September – Sunday 1st December (inclusive)

Spring Sunday 12th January – Sunday 6th April (inclusive)

Summer Sunday 4th May – Sunday 6th July 2025 (inclusive)

There will be a half term break in each of the terms.

Other dates required may include carol services in December, and services during Easter and Holy Week. These dates will be confirmed before the start of each term.

Honorarium and conditions

We envisage this being a two day a week role in term time. The Associate Choral Leader receives an honorarium of £8,000 paid in three equal instalments in December, April and July.

The costs of travel down to London for the in-person workshops will be covered by St Martin-in-the-Fields. In addition, a travel subsidy of up to £1000 per year is offered for travel to and from Sudbury.

Throughout this period, you will be an Associate Choral Leader and considered to be a freelancer and not an employee. Nothing in this document is intended to create a relationship of employer and employee between you and St Martin-in-the-Fields or St Gregory's or the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

The Choral Leadership will run from September 2024 to July 2025. It will be renewed in exceptional circumstances subject to re-interview. You will work under the supervision of the Rector of St Gregory's and the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

You will also be encouraged to play an active part in the developing Music, Mission and Young People Network in the Diocese, as this develops.

Eligibility

The scheme is aimed at choral conductors who are in the first stage of a professional career and wish to develop their skills to a high level, particularly in working with children's choirs. In particular, we are looking for:

- Relevant vocal leading experience, and some choral conducting experience
- Experience of working with children and enthusiasm for children's choral singing
- Enthusiasm for working as a member of a team, together with a willingness to develop their own musical talent.
- Understanding and commitment to relevant safeguarding requirements
- Experience in administration and organization, working alongside the St Martin's Music Administrator and local clergy to develop relationships with schools
- A basic level of keyboard skills is required (e.g. to be able to lead a rehearsal from the keyboard).
- Able to work in sympathy with the aims and the ethos of the Church of England, happy to support others in the Benefice as they encourage Children and Young People on their faith journey.

Safeguarding

The Associate Choral Leader will work within the Church of England's safeguarding framework. They will need to adhere to the safeguarding requirements of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich including undertaking all training required by the diocese and co-operating with the clergy and safeguarding officers. An enhanced DBS will be required.

Our ambition is to work together to promote a more inclusive environment, which attracts all candidates and signals our commitment to celebrate and promote diversity. We particularly encourage applications from those who are currently underrepresented within choral music.

To apply

Please return the application form, along with a **current CV**, by email to Phoebe Palmer, Music Administrator at choirs@smitf.org by **Monday 24th June at 5pm** at the latest.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to direct a short choral rehearsal and undertake an interview. Auditions will take place on **Wednesday 3rd July**.

If you have any questions, or for an informal discussion about the Associate Leader programme, please contact the St Martin's Assistant Director of Music, Olivia Tait, on olivia.tait@smitf.org