

### **Knowle Parish Church is seeking a PARISH ORGANIST AND CHOIR LEADER**

- Salary of £5,250 per annum (in line with RSCM rates) to deliver the key responsibilities set out below
- Preferred start date: As soon as possible in 2025

**To apply**, please send your CV and an accompanying email indicating why you are applying for the job and why you feel you would be suitable for the role, to the Operations Manager, Helen Allen (helen.allen@kpc.org.uk)

#### **About KPC and the Role**

Knowle Parish Church (KPC) is a large Church in a semi-rural location in the south of Solihull, West Midlands in the Diocese of Birmingham. We have a broad Bible based evangelical tradition and offer a diverse range of four Sunday Services covering a breadth of worship styles.

The Organist and Choir Leader will be managed by, and work collaboratively with, the Worship Minister to deliver the weekly Sunday 11.15am service in the main church. This service is a traditional liturgical service involving a robed choir and our well-maintained Walter James Bird & Son Organ. The service music is led by the Organist and Choir Leader and most services feature an anthem sung by the choir, hymns and voluntaries. There is a Holy Communion service once a month and on the other weeks the service follows the structure of the Common Worship Morning Prayer. This service is attended by between 65 – 80 people and is a valued part of the worship expression at KPC.

There are 20 people in our choir at present. They are a group who support, and enjoy fellowship with, each other. The choir has recently been renamed and rebranded as St John's Choir and is open to all members of the local community who would like to come and sing in a church setting. The choir has a clear missional element to its function that brings fun, fellowship and the gospel to the local community and beyond. We are keen to appoint a permanent person in this role who would work collaboratively with our Worship Minister to develop the choir, their skills and to grow the choir's membership. They would be concerned not only with the musical abilities of the choir but would also take on a pastoral role, as this post is for someone with a vocation for this kind of work. The appointed Organist and Choir Leader would benefit from having a permanent contract of employment with the church which would include paid holiday and sick pay and they would become part of a very friendly, supportive and hard-working staff team in a vibrant church at the heart of the local community.

The Organist and Choir Leader will be paid for 6 hours per week but there will be flexibility in hours worked: around major Festivals and the lead up to them, more hours per week will be worked and correspondingly fewer in 'ordinary' weeks

We would consider applications from people willing to job share the role or people willing to take on either one of the organist and choir director roles but not the other, so do contact us if you would be interested in this.

#### **Key responsibilities**

- Directing the choir at the weekly 11.15am Sunday service and other principal festivals as agreed throughout the year and playing the organ at some of these services
- Working with the clergy on the choice of hymns for these services
- Selecting an anthem for the choir to sing at the services

- Leading a weekly choir practice (1.5 hours on a Thursday evening)
- Nurturing, encouraging and developing the skills of the choir members and praying for and pastoring them in their faith
- Drawing in and recruiting new members to the choir and praying for the missional focus of the choir
- Playing the organ and leading the choir (when required) for weddings and funerals in the church as availability permits (for which an agreed additional fee would be paid)

### Person specification

Essential	Desirable
Having a personal Christian faith that is grounded in the Bible as God's word for their own life	Someone with the ability to engage pastorally with people of different ages
Previous experience of leading a choir	
Previous experience as a church organist	
Ability to provide leadership and to inspire the choir	
Good organist, with excellent awareness of musical repertoire	
Good verbal communication and time management skills	
An encourager of others who is approachable, kind and enjoys working with people of all ages	
Able to work creatively and collaboratively as part of a wider team	

### Terms

An annual salary of £5,250.

The post is subject to a 6 month probationary period. The Organist and Choir Leader is entitled to 25 days holiday per year (pro rata, this equals 30 hours holiday). At Knowle Parish Church we are committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults. This appointment is subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory enhanced DBS check.

If you would like to have a conversation about this role, please contact our Worship Minister, Alex Dengate, on 07754 170197 or [alex.dengate@kpc.org.uk](mailto:alex.dengate@kpc.org.uk)

More information about the life and activities of KPC can be found on our website [www.kpc.org.uk](http://www.kpc.org.uk)

To be eligible to apply for this role you must have the right to work in the UK.

\*A Genuine Occupational Requirement applies in terms of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003, that the appointee to this post should be a practising Christian with a firm faith.

### Recruitment process

Applications will be dealt with as they are received. Candidates will be invited to an informal interview. They will also be asked to play a particular hymn and an excerpt from a voluntary of their choice. They will also be asked to direct members of the choir in practice for 20 – 30 minutes.