



Crown Court Church of Scotland Covent Garden

Choral and Organ Scholarships

2025-2026

Thank you for your interest in the roles of Choral and Organ Scholars at Crown Court Church.

About Crown Court Church

Crown Court Church of Scotland is centrally located in the heart of London's Theatreland, close to the Royal Opera House and opposite the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. The church is part of the Reformed/Presbyterian tradition, and we have a long history of worship in Covent Garden, celebrating our Tercentenary in 2019.

At Crown Court, our diverse congregation is gathered from all over Greater London and beyond. While many of our congregation are Scots or of Scottish descent, we also have members from other Reformed traditions and Presbyterian churches throughout the world. We also see a number of visitors in church on most Sundays, as people pass through London on business or on holiday. The congregation is lively, inclusive, outward-looking and welcoming, seeking to learn what it means to be people of faith in a modern world.

Crown Court Church's style of worship is broadly traditional in style, but liberal and actively inclusive in terms of theology. The principal service is on a Sunday morning at 11.15am, which follows a typical Presbyterian service structure, featuring four hymns, readings, an anthem, a sermon, and prayers. Holy Communion at Crown Court is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month, on Easter Day, and on Christmas Day. While currently there is no Sunday evening service, a pattern since the pandemic, there remains a possibility that this could be resumed on a monthly basis.

Music at Crown Court

Crown Court Church has a strong tradition of musical excellence, and the enthusiastic singing of hymns and psalms is an important element of our Reformed worship style. The congregation is strongly appreciative of the musical contributions of the choir and Director of Music, who enjoys a collaborative and supportive relationship with the Minister and Worship Committee.

We have a strong desire to develop our musical tradition at Crown Court, and to establish the church as a centre for musical excellence in Covent Garden. We hope to develop a wider musical offering at Crown Court by strengthening the choir and widening its repertoire, featuring more instrumentalists during Sunday worship, through the genesis of a concert series, and finally through our Choral and Organ scholar scheme. Our scholars help us to sustain and grow the musical mission at Crown Court, and both choir and congregation value their contribution.

Crown Court Church Choir

Crown Court Choir is an inclusive, voluntary and amateur group of singers, which leads worship on Sunday mornings, including the singing of an introit and anthem. Although amateur, the choir maintains high musical standards and is always keen to expand its repertoire. Many existing members of the choir are members of the church, and in many cases, office bearers, and so feel very much part of the wider congregation and of the life of Crown Court.

Over the past few years, the choir has commissioned several new works, including an anthem to celebrate the church's Tercentenary year following a competition for young composers. The choir also participates in a wide range of additional services and concerts, and takes part in broader ecumenical events, such as the annual carol singing for Christian Aid in Trafalgar Square. In the past, the choir has also sung for weekend services at both St Albans Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral.

Instruments

The church has a fine English organ by Henry Bevington, installed when the current church was built in 1909. The organ has undergone a major rebuild during 2019 by David Wells Organ Builders of Liverpool (under consultation with Catherine Ennis and Eric Shepherd), and is a versatile, three manual instrument, equally suitable for accompaniment and solo performance.

There is a Knight upright piano in the church and a Broadwood grand piano in the church hall, and the procurement of new pianos for both the church and hall are underway. There are occasional concerts in the church, which has an acoustic particularly suitable for chamber music.



Choral Scholarships: Job Description

We are seeking two choral scholars (Tenor and Bass) from September 2025 for an initial term of one year, with progression to a second year possible, subject to a review with the Director of Music.

The Choral Scholars will be responsible to the Director of Music, and, through him, to the Minister, Session Clerk and the Kirk Session.

Duties

- To attend all Sunday services and Wednesday rehearsals*
- To attend all special services (and associated rehearsals), including but not limited to Good Friday, Easter Day and the service of Carols by Candlelight in mid December
- To attend other specific events such as charity carol singing at Trafalgar Square
- If continuing for a second year, to act as mentors to the new scholars, thereby creating an educational and supportive culture
- To support the concert series, whether this be as performers or helping with the administration
- To actively contribute to, promote and sustain the musical reputation of Crown Court

Person Specification

- Strong sight-reading abilities
- Some experience of singing within a liturgical context
- Knowledge of the Presbyterian tradition desirable but not essential
- Willingness to get involved in the wider life of the church
- Strong organisational and interpersonal skills

*The post is subject to twelve days of paid leave each year (six Sundays and six Wednesdays), subject to prior approval from the Director of Music.

Should attendance and/or performance be unsatisfactory, Crown Court Church reserves the right to terminate the scholarship.

Organ Scholarship: Job Description

We are seeking an organ scholar from September 2025 for one year, with progression to a second year possible, subject to a review with the Director of Music.

The Organ Scholar will be responsible to the Director of Music, and through him, to the Minister, Session Clerk and the Kirk Session.

Duties

- To attend all Sunday services and Wednesday rehearsals*
- To attend all special services (and associated rehearsals), including but not limited to Good Friday, Easter Day and the service of Carols by Candlelight in mid December
- To attend other specific events such as charity carol singing at Trafalgar Square
- To support the concert series, whether this be as performers or helping with the administration
- To actively contribute to, promote and sustain the musical reputation of Crown Court
- To provide cover in the absence of the Director of Music

Person Specification

- Post grade 8 essential, approaching diploma desirable (ARCO, ARSM etc.)
- Strong sight-reading and keyboard skills
- Some experience of playing within a liturgical context
- Experience of accompanying a choir
- Experience of directing a choir (or ensemble) is not necessary, but desirable
- Knowledge of the Presbyterian tradition desirable but not essential
- Willingness to get involved in the wider life of the church
- Strong organisational and interpersonal skills

*The post is subject to twelve days of paid leave each year (six Sundays and six Wednesdays), subject to prior approval from the Director of Music.

Should attendance and/or performance be unsatisfactory, Crown Court Church reserves the right to terminate the scholarship.

Remuneration

The value of the Choral Scholarships will be £1,200 per annum.

The value of the Organ Scholarship will be £1,800 per annum.

If a regular schedule of evening services is introduced during the coming scholarship year, each service will attract a small extra fee, to be added to the total scholarship amount. Similarly, extra fees will be available for taking part in additional special services, such as weddings & funerals.

The scholarships will run from September to July, as the choir takes August off as holiday.

Fees will be paid in arrears at the end of the Winter, Spring and Summer terms.

Weekly Schedule

Wednesday Evening 7:00pm – 8:30pm: Choir rehearsal in the Church Hall.

Sunday Morning 10:15am – 10:45am: Choir rehearsal in Church.

Sunday Morning 11:15am – 12:15pm: Morning Service in Church.

Auditions

Candidates will be invited to an in-person audition and interview at Crown Court Church shortly after receipt of application.

Choral Scholarship

Auditions will involve performance of a prepared piece, sight-reading and an interview.

Organ Scholarship

Candidates will be asked to perform two prepared contrasting pieces (one by Bach) and a hymn, alongside sight-reading and an interview.

Application Process

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Candidates should send a CV and Cover Letter to the Director of Music, Jacob Collins, at: music@crowncourtchurch.org.uk.

