



Crown Court Church of Scotland Covent Garden

Organist/Choral Director

Russell Street, Covent Garden, London WC2B 5EZ

www.crowncourtchurch.org.uk

Scottish charity number: SCo42648

Thank-you for your interest in the role of Organist and Choral Director at Crown Court Church.

About

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/five 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 new minister may wish to explore the possibilities of reinstating one.



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 organist, 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 by strengthening the choir and widening its repertoire; by including more instrumentalists as part of Sunday worship, and finally, by developing a wider musical offering at Crown Court, for example through the genesis of a concert series, on which our new Organist/Choral Director could lead. Our church is in the centre of theatreland and we are also interested in exploring partnerships with others in the performing arts. This new role offers an ambitious, enthusiastic and self-motivated individual an excellent opportunity to make their mark by developing the musical life of our church, in the heart of Covent Garden.

The church is scheduled to undertake building works in late 2026–2027, and a temporary move out of the building may be required. There may be some impact on the organist role during this period.

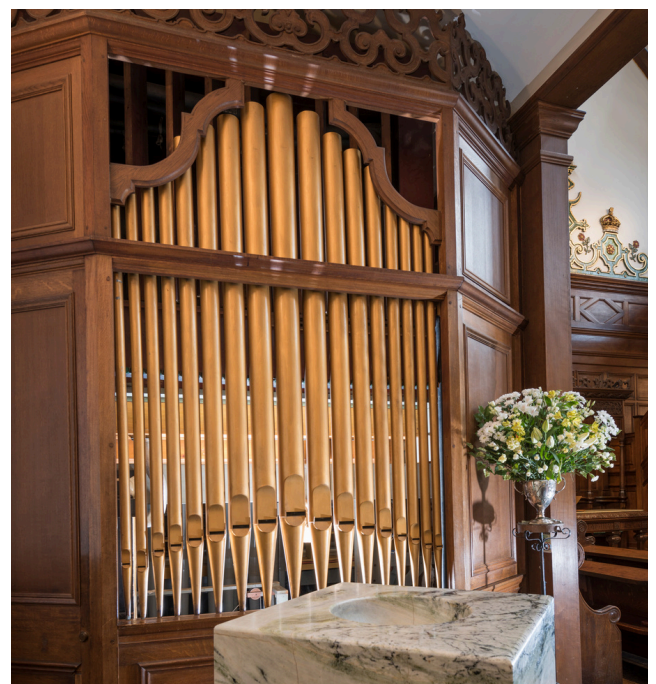
Crown Court Church Choir

There is a small but committed voluntary amateur adult choir, which leads worship on Sunday mornings, including the singing of an anthem. Although amateur, the choir maintains high musical standards and is always keen to expand its repertoire. 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. The Organist/Choral Director will work with the Choir and the Worship Committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a successful bursary programme.

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, 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.

There are occasional concerts in the church, which has an acoustic particularly suitable for chamber music.



Organist/Choral Director

The Organist and Choral Director is employed by the Kirk Session and is responsible to them, through the Session Clerk.

Duties and Responsibilities

- To lead and develop the music ministry of Crown Court, working in partnership with the Minister
- To direct the music at Sunday worship, including playing the organ and directing the choir
- To rehearse the choir, preparing for the singing of hymns and anthems for services
- To select appropriate music for the liturgical year in collaboration with the Minister
- To maintain and extend the choir's repertoire, as appropriate to resources
- To play for additional services at high points of the Christian year, including Easter and Christmas periods (currently on Good Friday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)
- To play for weddings, funerals and memorial services which take place in the church, or to arrange appropriate cover (separate fee available)
- To take responsibility for recruiting new choir members and for investigating the potential to develop a successful student bursary scheme.
- To arrange and direct the choir in occasional concerts
- To ensure that the organ and pianos are appropriately maintained

Person Specification

Essential

- Organ-playing competency to ARCO standard or equivalent, with a varied repertoire
- Experience of liturgical accompaniment
- The ability to lead, inspire and develop a musical offering in partnership with the Minister
- The ability to motivate, challenge and develop a high quality amateur choir
- A musical understanding of the Christian liturgical year
- Strong interpersonal skills, and an ability to work collaboratively as part of a team
- Strong administrative and organisational skills
- A willingness to engage with the wider church community, and musical scene in central London

Desirable

- Knowledge or experience of the Presbyterian tradition of worship
- Experience of choir recruitment

Musical Schedule

Sunday Morning Rehearsal: 10.20am (30 minutes)

Sunday Morning Service: 11.15am-12.15pm

Wednesday Evening Rehearsal: 7pm-8.30pm, with tea break

Remuneration

Remuneration will be **in the range of £11,500-£12,500 per annum**, inclusive of 6 paid Sundays of annual leave per year.

Application Process

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Friday 20th December 2025**.

Please submit in the form of CV and covering letter/email to: clerk@crowncourtchurch.org.uk