



St Mary Redcliffe Church
Section Leaders
(Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass)

£4352 PA.

Application Pack
2026/2027



Welcome

St Mary Redcliffe is a busy and inclusive parish church, with internationally recognised architecture and heritage in the centre of Bristol. Worship has continued in this place here for nearly 1000 years, as a testament to the faith of the Christian community in Bristol, the craftsmanship and dedication of artists and musicians, and the glory of God.

SMR is a diverse community set in one of the most deprived areas of Bristol, with people of all ages, ethnicities, backgrounds and cultural identities. We are strongly opposed to all forms of discrimination and seek to welcome those who have felt excluded by society and the Church.

Worship is at the heart of who we are as a church. Our worship is built on the foundations of the Church: centred on the Eucharist as instituted by Christ and passed on through the apostles. It recognises the decisive moment of the Reformation when Thomas Cramner simplified the monastic offices into the beloved services of Mattins and Evensong. And we recognise the importance of making our liturgy reflect the concerns of the modern world in addressing the climate crisis and recognising the love of the Creator for creation, as well as the equality of all human beings made in the image of God. We aim for worship that is imaginative, accessible, inclusive, progressive in drawing in excluded voices, but firmly rooted in the deep wells of our tradition.

The church is open daily for all to visit, pray and join in communal worship, and plays host to events that encourage our community as a centre of faith, learning and culture.

And who is your neighbour?

An image from the North Transept Window, depicting Jesus, Mary and Joseph on a migrant boat crossing the channel



Music at St Mary Redcliffe

St Mary Redcliffe has a long-standing reputation for musical excellence, built on the choral tradition with generations of choristers having proudly sung here. Under the leadership of Director of Music, Joe Cryan, with organists Claire and Graham Alsop, it continues to flourish with a growing chorister line and a proud and enthusiastic volunteer choir. The robed choir sings at Choral Mattins, Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong in term time, as well as feast days and solemnities. Our annual Rush Service is a highlight of the choral year, along with our Advent Procession, 9 Lessons and Carols and Easter Triduum. The church has a popular online presence: all services are streamed on SMR Live for those who may not be able to attend services in person. We take part in a broad range of musical activities both at SMR and in our wider community. In recent years the choir have sung at Bristol Cathedral, Bath Abbey, the Tyntesfield Estate (National Trust) and S.S. Great Britain. We recently broadcast our 2025 Easter service live on BBC 1.

Our repertoire reflects that we are in the Inclusive Church network. We actively seek to sing music by composers who have previously had perceived barriers of access to English Choral Tradition. Recent additions include music by Florence Price, Kerry Andrew, Janet Wheeler, Esther Bersweden and Jose Mauricio Nunes Garcia.

The Choir's treble line is currently made up of around 10 boys and 16 girls who attend a range of local schools. The lower voices are made up of volunteers. In September 2024 we launched our new treble line, SMR Sing Start, which is for children in Year 1 and 2 at school and currently has around 20 on roll. We also have regular "Come and Sing" groups for people who are currently out of work, followed by coffee, cake and a chat. The section leaders will be an integral part of musical life at St Mary Redcliffe, who help us to "sing the song of faith and justice"



Section Leaders

We are seeking professional singers to lead our choir as section leaders. We hope to recruit up to 5 section leaders from September 2026 to August 2027. We will be recruiting at least one of each voice part (SATB) with the possibility of hiring one extra singer to support the choir where it would be most helpful. They are expected to confidently carry their part and take solos as the music requires. Experience of the Anglican tradition and good sight-reading an advantage, however, we will also consider those who have strong voices and are willing to spend time preparing the service.

Section Leaders are expected to attend the following rehearsals and services.

- Friday Rehearsal (usually 7pm - 8:30)
- Sunday Services
 - 9:00am rehearsal for 9:30am Mattins followed straight away by a rehearsal for
 - 10:30am Eucharist which usually finishes by 11:45am
 - 4:30pm rehearsal for a 5:30pm Evensong which is usually finished by 6:45pm

You would also sing at other events, rehearsals, and special services as required, which includes 9 Lessons and Carols, Midnight Mass, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday, Ascension, 3 Lunchtime recitals as part of our concert series.

A full list of these additional services is available later in the pack.

Section leaders are expected to be appropriately dressed, professional and timely. They have a role in leading their section, helping those singing alongside them. St Mary Redcliffe is a warm, inclusive church and we are looking for people to embody these values.





Person Specification

- Strong solo and choral singing skills
- Leadership skills to help others perform their best
- The ability to communicate effectively
- To inspire and lead the volunteer choir and church congregaton
- Sympathy with and support for the aims and mission of St Mary Redcliffe Church.
- Have strong sight-singing skills OR the ability to prepare sufficiently in advance of rehearsals to be able to perform at a high level
- Ability to contribute and work within a team

Terms and Conditions

- The position is allocated by the PCC of St Mary Redcliffe on a temporary 11 month contract from September 2026 through to July 2027, with the possibility of extending it from September 2027 to July 2028.
- You will be responsible to the Director of Music on behalf of the PCC
- You will be expected to attend services and rehearsals, and any meetings as agreed with the Director of Music
- All absences will be agreed in advance and in writing with the Director of Music.
- Hours will be paid on contract in line with the banding at St Mary Redcliffe. Section Leaders will be employed on a band D contract at £14.60 per hour, which includes 12.7% holiday pay.
- A choir cassock and surplice will be provided by the parish for your use
- As part of the parish community, the mutual respect required between all members of the choir and all those connected with the Church is important. Good relations with colleagues, other members of the parish staff team, clergy and choir members and congregation are key to a successful partnership. You will be required to behave in a manner in keeping with the high standards expected of the staff team.
- There will be a termly review with the Director of Music
- The post is subject to an enhanced DBS clearance. You will be expected to undertake safeguarding training in line with Diocese of Bristol and Church of England policies.

Duties

- Section Leaders will be required to sing at 38 Sundays per annum, with weeks off after Christmas and Easter, and a half term break within the 3 choir terms, and a break from mid July through to the end of August. This equates to 6.5 hours per week.
- Section Leaders will be required for additional midweek services including Treefest Carols, 9 lessons and Carols, Salvation Army Carols, Lunchtime Carols, Midnight Mass, Ash Wednesday, Lent Services of Compline after rehearsal on Fridays, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Ascension and the Saturday before Pentecost.
- Section Leaders also have an additional 7.5 hours of administration time paid for meetings with the music team, as directed by the Director of Music.
- Section Leaders will also perform 3 recitals throughout the year as part of our lunchtime recital series, which equates to 10 hours across the year.
- There are two “Come and Sing” Oratorio services in the year, which each has an additional 2.5 hour rehearsal. This will be on Harvest and on Palm Sunday.
- During rehearsals, Section Leaders will be called upon to act as a “second adult” in helping to supervise and safeguard choristers.
- The contract will be annualised, and section leaders will work 298 hours per year.

Apply

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk/vacancies>

For an informal conversation with either The Vicar, or Director of Music, you can contact Revd Dr Brutus Green: brutus.green@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk or Joe Cryan: joe.cryan@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk or call 01172310060

Please apply via email, sending a CV, covering letter detailing your interest in and suitability for the role, and recent video recording of you singing. This does not need to be a professional recording, and can simply be done on your phone.

Please send all applications to jobs@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk

We will acknowledge receipt of all applications. Auditions will be considered upon receipt of application. Auditions will be held at St Mary Redcliffe Church. Candidates should prepare a solo song, with or without piano accompaniment. The audition will include some sightreading.

Applications close on 19th June at 5pm. Interviews will be held w/c 29th June with a preferred start date of September 10th 2026

Please provide contact details for two referees.

