**Community Choir Leader**

**St Mary Magdalene Church, Charlemont Farm, West Bromwich, B71 3PJ**

The intention is to set up and recruit to a community choir serving the estate of Charlemont Farm and then to run that choir once a week for 36 weeks/year.

Funding has been secured for an initial two years.

The appointment will be subject to a six month probation period.

The choir leader will be able to either play an instrument suitable for leading a choir or alternatively be able to make use of licenced recorded music.

**Rationale**

Charlemont Farm is an area with high levels of deprivation. There is little in the way of community provision especially in the evenings. It is a multicultural area with many families. The church wishes to provide a community choir to bring people together, increase confidence and well being. The intention is that the choir will reflect the diversity of the area in terms of backgrounds and ages. To help achieve this then the choir should meet on an evening or on a Saturday. Suggested age range would be teenage upwards. The community choir is non-faith based. To that end the music should focus on uplifting and generally well known music that all can aspire to. Christian music may be part of that repertoire (e.g. a gospel song) if the rationale is that it will be uplifting and of benefit to choir members. The community choir will be free to users.

**What support can you expect?**

You will have the support of the parish priest and the outreach worker. One or both will be in attendance at the community choir.

A new Yamaha Clavinova would be purchased as your instrument if that applies.

A phased approach is expected to recognise the time it will take to establish a choir. The first month will be for preparation and recruitment. From initial consultation there are already 12 people who wish to join a choir.

The choir will meet for 36 weeks per year.

An initial music budget of £1000 for the first year will be available, then £500 year thereafter. This may include sheet music and online resources. Any resources purchased from this budget will remain the property of St Mary Magdalene Church.

Access to photocopying facilities.

**Requirements**

An enhanced DBS check will be required.

You will need to undertake safeguarding training as provided by the diocese unless you can demonstrate you have current training such as from an education setting.

You need to be able to demonstrate a desire to set up a community choir that will meet the needs of varying levels of ability and confidence. You will aspire to a choir that reflects the diversity of the area and ensure that all members are valued and that their opinions count.

There are many potential ways to recruit (schools, Sandwell Adult and Family Learning, Sandwell Community Development Officer, Church members, attendance at outreach activities, posters and leaflet drop) and you should be prepared to explore all possibilities.

An ability to work with a wide range of people, showing confidence and a positive outlook.

Confident playing of an instrument or good knowledge of suitable recorded resources.

Evidence of working with groups in a music setting.

**Time allocation**

Prep and admin 3 hours

Contact time 2 hours

Total 5 hours

36 weeks/year 180 hours

**Pay**

Total 180 hours/year @£25 hour £4500

Pay will normally be via the Diocese of Lichfield payroll with employer pension contributions if you opt in.

**Additional role available to a pianist**

The church is able to pay for a pianist for Sunday service (9.30am)

The church community is quite small (typically twenty worshippers). It is predominantly made up of people of working age and secondary school age young people. It is ethnically diverse. Musical accompaniment is currently with a digital hymnal. A blend of traditional hymns and contemporary songs are used. Music is important to the church so we wish to have a pianist/keyboard player to support and improve the service. There are no additional services that would require accompaniment. The Church meets 52 weeks per year (of which you would play on 46 weeks)

For those with little/no church playing experience, then the parish priest will give guidance to the style of playing required at different points in the service. The parish priest selects the hymns/songs. The service format is set so typically five hymns/songs and some quiet playing during communion. Currently no other parts of the service are sung, but that is something which could be developed over time.

Prep and admin 1.5 hours

Service inc set up 1.5 hours

Total 3 hours

52 weeks/yr inc 6 weeks ‘holiday’ 156 hours

£25/hr

**NB there is no requirement for someone taking on the role of the community choir leader to also play for Sunday service, but the role is available. Equally no preference will be given to an applicant solely on the basis that the person also wishes to play on Sunday.**

**How to apply**

Please email the parish priest Fr David fatherdavid100@gmail.com for an application form.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role please contact Fr David on 0121 525 8095

Applications should be sent by 11th February.

Suitable date for interview will be negotiated with those applying.