



St Thomas' Church, Goring-on-Thames Organ Scholarship

The Organ Scholarship is part of The St Thomas' Organ Rebuild and Musical Outreach Project. During 2022, the organ was dismantled, mended, cleaned and completely rebuilt by early 2023. Now we have started the second phase of the project – Musical Outreach. An important element of this outreach is encouraging a new generation of young organists. In September 2024, we offered our first organ scholarship to Toby Best, who stayed in post for 20 months., until May 2026. We are delighted to announce that we are offering one or more St Thomas' Organ Scholarships again this year. Each scholarship will normally be for 12 months running from 1st September to 31st August the following year.

The Organ Scholarship will be tailored to the successful applicant. The main purpose of the scholarship is to develop skills in organ playing. However, depending on the individual, there will also be opportunities to develop skills in choir accompanying and directing.

Duties

Depending on the ability and experience of the post holder, duties are likely to include:

- Playing the organ at least once a month for part of a service (eg., hymns, voluntaries, accompanying the anthem)
- Attending choir practices on a Friday evening (6.30pm–8.15pm)
- Accompanying or directing some of the items at choir practices

Benefits

Organ Scholars will also gain benefits, such as:

- Access to our wonderful rebuilt organ for playing and practising
- One hour per month of free organ tuition with our Director of Music (additional paid lessons by arrangement)
- Regular opportunities to perform
- Possible hands-on experience of accompanying and directing the choir

Remuneration

As well as receiving one hour per month free organ tuition, the Organ Scholar will be awarded a grant of £300+ depending on experience and level of commitment. The grant can be used as the scholar wishes, to subsidise additional lesson costs or to buy music, for example.

How to Apply

Applications are now open for the scholarship running from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2027. **The closing date for applications is 1st July 2026.** We welcome applications from any talented pianists or organists (Grade 5+ level).

Anyone interested in applying for the Organ Scholarship will be offered a consultation lesson and interview by arrangement sometime in July or August 2026.

To apply or to find out more, contact officeofgsandss@yahoo.com

