

Vacancy: Organist/Choir Director

15 hours per week, including Sundays

Parish of Fendalton

St Barnabas Anglican Church is a large, vibrant parish in Fendalton, Christchurch.

We are seeking a gifted and committed **Organist & Choir Director** to lead the musical life of our worshipping community. This is a key role in shaping the spiritual and artistic character of our traditional services and major festivals.

The principal purpose or role of the organ is to lead in the worship of God. The 95-year-old pipe-organ is a fine instrument and is an integral part of our Category 1 heritage church.

Candidate Profile

The ideal candidate is an experienced organist with a strong background in sacred and church music, particularly within the Anglican tradition. Experience leading adult choirs—whether in churches, schools, or similar settings—is highly desirable. Additional instrumental skills (e.g. piano) and formal music qualifications (e.g. BMus, or equivalent) are an advantage.

The parish houses three pianos (one grand and two uprights) and a two-manual Hill, Norman & Beard pipe organ. It is maintained to a high standard.

About the Role

The Organist & Choir Director is responsible for planning, leading, and coordinating music for:

- our weekly 9:30am sung Eucharist service.
- regular special evening services.
- major festivals and other significant occasions in the church year.
- weddings and funerals.

Key duties include:

- Serving as the principal organist at parish services and events.
- Recruiting, training, and directing the four-part adult Morning Choir (every second Sunday) and the Evening Choir as scheduled.
- Working collaboratively with clergy and musicians to support the parish's musical vision.
- Providing advice on musical choices for services.
- Encouraging a strong sense of community among musicians and choristers.

- Maintaining records, music archives, and up-to-date knowledge of developments in church music, including New Zealand compositions.
- Overseeing, in consultation with staff, the care and maintenance of the parish's pipe organ and pianos.
- Leading congregational singing and offering accompaniments or recitals when requested.
- Preparing an organist roster for services when s/he cannot attend.

About You

We are looking for an organist with:

- proven experience in sacred or church music, ideally within the Anglican tradition.
- skill and confidence in leading adult choirs.
- strong collaborative and communication skills.
- an interest in nurturing musical excellence and community.
- additional instrumental ability (e.g., piano) — an advantage.
- relevant music qualifications (e.g., BMus or equivalent) — desirable.

Our Instruments

The parish is well equipped, with:

- a Hill, Norman & Beard two-manual pipe organ with pedals, 20 ranks of pipes (some 1,350 pipes) and 40 stops. In 1996 it became the first pipe-organ in the South Island to have computerised control. (See [St Barnabas Anglican Church – Fendalton – The South Island Pipe Organ Company](#) for more detailed specifications.)
- three pianos (one grand and two uprights).

Parish Mission Action Plan

The Parish Mission Action Plan below was passed by the Fendalton Parish AGM on 12th April 2024. The full plan can be found online at [[Parish Mission Action Plan – St Barnabas Anglican](#)]

Applications will be considered as they are received. Please include a CV, cover letter, and a link to a recording (or similar) that showcases your musicianship.

These should be sent to Rev'd Dr Andrew Butcher, Priest-in-Charge at andrew@stbarnabas.org.nz.

Expressions of interest and informal “no-strings” conversations are also very welcome.