



Singing scholarships at Jesmond United Reformed Church, Newcastle upon Tyne

Jesmond URC wishes to maintain its strong musical tradition by engaging up to 4 singers (ideally SATB) to join the current small music team in leading worship, strengthening congregational singing, and contributing a range of music to services. Unlike most choral scholarships we would welcome interest from singers of any age who love singing and have a gift for using their own enthusiasm to inspire others. We are looking for singers who understand the role of music as a means of enhancing spirituality within worship and who would relish the chance to foster this in others within a multi-generational context.

Personal qualities and experience

- A confident singing voice with strong sight-reading ability
- Empathy with and an ability to work in a Christian context
- Strong interpersonal skills and a friendly approach to working within a team

Opportunities

- To develop skills in choral leadership which could include conducting the choir
- To explore opportunities for solo/ensemble work
- To propose projects which reflect the singer's particular interests

Duties and responsibilities

- To attend a music practice on Sunday mornings at 10.00 am followed by the service at 10.45 which normally lasts around an hour
- To take part in the regular monthly Taizé services on Tuesday evenings (8 or 9 annually)
- Ideally to take part in Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday services

Remuneration

Initially £1200 per annum / £100 per month

Jesmond URC

Music plays an important part in the life of Jesmond URC, both in worship and in our outreach to the community. There are not many weeks in which at least one concert, or maybe even a whole festival does not take place in our church!

A major refurbishment 10 years ago transformed the traditional, rather dark, interior into a beautiful, welcoming, bright and flexible space with excellent acoustics equally suited to both church services, large choirs, chamber groups and symphony orchestras, all of whom use it on a regular basis.

In the Reformed tradition there is usually no set liturgy in services, although the liturgical year is followed. Our musical repertoire covers traditional and more modern hymns and includes music from the Iona and Taizé Communities. We use both the organ (a fine 2-manual T.C Lewis) and piano (Kawai grand) in our services, and occasionally other instruments. We are fortunate in having Dr Alison Shiel as our current Director of Music.



How to apply

The first round of applications will close on **7 November 2025**. Interested in adding your voice to a church that celebrates music, community and faith? Then:

1. Complete the online application form available [here](#) or via the church website www.jesmond-urc.org.uk. Please also send a short audio/video recording if possible to Alison at secretary@jesmond-urc.org.uk.
2. Audition & interview – we'll schedule a relaxed session to hear you sing and discuss your vision for the role.