

**Professional Development &
Mentoring for Church
Musicians**

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Professional development for church musicians

Professional development is a feature of contemporary working life. But it isn't always provided to church music leaders, possibly due to reluctance to put ministry and vocation in the same category as work or career. But professional development can inspire, build confidence and skill, maintain motivation, promote good working relationships, and ideas for improving the musical life of the parish. Much is available, although it's not all free, so churches should budget for this.

Online

Relevant advice and guidance is out there, for example, on www.wgrg.co.uk you'll find a free download of 10 Golden Rules for improving congregational singing, and on www.ssg.org.uk there are tutorial videos for those just starting out as cantors. Musicademy and the Incorporated Society of Musicians provide more structured formal online training and webinars.

Mentoring

Ask our consultants if you'd like to pursue this, connecting you with an experienced church musician with to share experiences and ideas. Teenagers in London wanting to make church music a career can access the Arts Emergency mentoring programme. One-off informal sessions may be from Cathedral music departments, or approach directly inspiring speakers or worship leaders at conferences and training days. Be prepared for them to say no as they are usually very busy people, but ask anyway. If they say yes be prepared to travel to them; you may be able to skype, email, sit down and talk, or arrange a day shadowing their work and learning from all you see and hear there.

Training

Keep an eye on the CMF events pages to see what training is coming up. Training for church musicians is also provided by the Royal School of Church Music, Guild of Church Musicians, Worship Central, ResoundWorship, and at summer conferences organised by the London School of Theology, Society of Saint Gregory, National Network of Pastoral Musicians, to name but a few. DVDs and online training is available from Musicademy and the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

Professional Support

It's not all about music but also working conditions, insurance, safe-guarding, finances, legal advice, ... guidance is available from the Musicians' Union, Incorporated Society of Musicians, or more informally through useful books such as Everything Else an Organist Should Know.

Meet-ups and Tweet-ups

Get to know other local church musicians. Join the local organists' association; collaborate on a Deanery or ecumenical service. If you don't have a Sunday evening service, go along to someone else's nearby. Enjoy time together sharing experiences, joys and troubles. If it's not possible to do this in person, you can use social media to connect with like-minded souls. You'll find your own 'Friends' but could start on Twitter following @theliturgy lady, @musicademy, @resoundworship, @LiturgyandMusic, @NNPMuk ... and see where that takes you.

Church Music Future believes all churches can – and should – have access to good music, regardless of size or resources. CMF’s advisers have a wealth of experience in helping churches to develop their music, and work with clergy, musicians, dioceses, partner organisations, and the wider Church to achieve this.

CMF offers:

- **one-to-one tailored guidance to individual churches, clergy people and musicians, in all matters concerning music, liturgy, mission, and fund-raising**
- **a range of inspirational and practical training events and workshops throughout the UK**
- **free access to a website knowledgebase and blog, where common questions and topical themes are explored**

Church Music Future can help your church. For further details, visit our website at www.churchmusicfuture.com.