

RIPON
CATHEDRAL

Assistant Organist

Application Pack



Ripon Cathedral

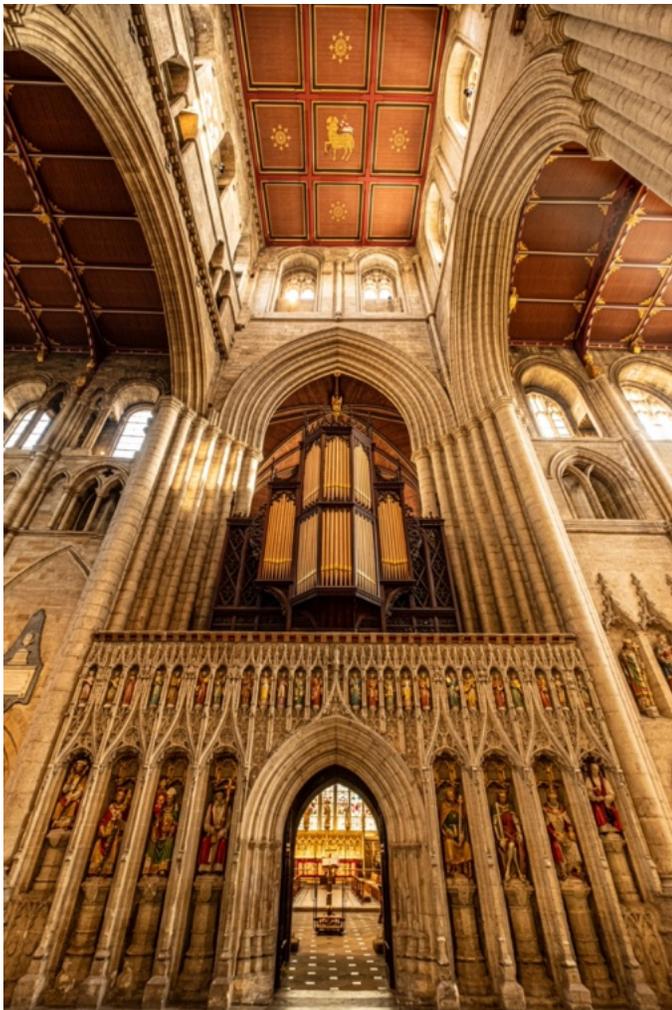
Ripon Cathedral is visible for miles around, sitting atop a hill at the centre of Ripon – the gateway city to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. People have been coming to the site to worship since at least 672 when St Wilfrid built one of the first stone churches in the North of England. The cathedral building is the fourth to stand on the site and was largely constructed in the late 12th century. Throughout centuries prayer has continued to be offered in the sanctuary of Wilfrid's crypt for over 1,350 years.

Ripon Cathedral, a place of Christian worship and mission, is open every day and is free to enter. It welcomes over 100,000 people each year. It is also a space to encourage imagination and debate, and enjoys a well-established reputation as a cultural venue for the region.

Music at Ripon Cathedral

Music has flourished at Ripon since the 7th century when Wilfrid brought cantors from Canterbury. The Cathedral Choir is made up of around 30 boy choristers, 31 girl choristers and 15 teenage choral scholars, all of whom attend a range of local schools. All of these groups sing alongside the six professional adult singers (Lay Clerks), who provide the lower voices in the Cathedral Choir.

Choral Evensong is sung 5 days a week and a Sung Eucharist is celebrated on Sunday. Furthermore, the Cathedral Choir engages in a broad range of other musical activities. In 2024, the choir embarked on a concert tour to Germany, followed by a one-week residency at Westminster Abbey in 2025. The Choir's most recent CD recordings include "Christmas at Ripon" (2024) and "Glorious Kingdom" (2025), both released on the Priory Records label. The Choir will be once again featuring in a BBC Radio 3 live broadcast of choral evensong in February 2026.



YOUR DUTIES:

Organ Playing and Choir Training

- To play the organ for Lay Clerks' services on Thursday or Friday each week and for other services as required.
- To play voluntaries before and after services as required.
- To attend all rehearsals as required to assist the music staff in supervision and care of the choristers.
- To attend all services as required assisting in the organ loft as registrant and page turner.
- To rehearse and direct the Cathedral choirs as required.
- To give an organ recital in the annual Organ Summer Festival (June/July).
- To assist with the teaching of Music Theory to the choristers.
- To assist with the RSCM *Voice for Life* awards training for choristers and choral scholars.
- To be a role model for the choristers and choral scholars by displaying exemplary professional conduct and musical skill, and with due regard to safeguarding best practice.



Administration

- As Choir Librarian to be responsible for the care and maintenance of the Choir library, ensuring that singers, music staff and Canon Precentor have the correct music for all services and rehearsals both in advance and on the day.
- To act as the host and guide for visiting organ recitalists.
- To assist with the Music Department affairs and administration as required, including typesetting and copying music, booklets, psalters and hymn folders.
- Contribute to the music choice and repertoire of the Cathedral where required.



Communication and Outreach

- Work with your music colleagues to develop and review departmental strategy to deliver the musical life of the Cathedral.
- To work as part of the staff team, developing a good working relationship with all Cathedral staff attending meetings and deputising for the Director of Music and/or Assistant Director of Music as required.
- To be proactive in promoting Ripon Cathedral as a centre of musical excellence within the local area, the Diocese and further afield through a range of activities.

Compliance

- Ensure that all work and activities are undertaken in compliance with applicable statutes, regulations and directives regarding Health & Safety, Fire and Security, including the Cathedral's internal policies and procedures.
- Take all reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work.

Safeguarding and Welfare

- The safeguarding and welfare of everyone who comes in to contact with the Cathedral is of the utmost importance to the Dean and Chapter. All employees are expected to recognise the shared responsibility we hold and keep up to date with policies and procedures as they enact their role. Employees are supported in this by the work of our dedicated safeguarding team.

Professional Development

- To be accountable for own development through the appraisal process, seeking out opportunities to learn new skills.
- To work towards a professional qualification alongside Cathedral work, e.g. FRCO.



Salary

The salary for this role is £26,436.80 per annum; additional fees are payable. Salaries are reviewed annually. Accommodation is available; needs to be vacated by the end of July 2028.

Pension Scheme

Chapter offers a contributory Occupational Pension Scheme where the employer pays 5% PLUS 0.5% into a life policy; the employee pays 3%.

Context

The Music Department is led by the Director of Music and the whole department works closely with the Canon Precentor to deliver an inspiring programme of music and liturgy. The Assistant Organist will work collaboratively within the music team and with the wider Cathedral community, maintaining and developing the music as an integral part of the life of the Cathedral within the direction of the strategy set by Chapter.

The post of Assistant Organist is located within Ripon Cathedral, which is a place of Christian worship and mission within the Church of England. The person appointed will be expected to respond positively to this ethos.





Knowledge, skills and abilities

- Team player
- Ability to enthuse young children.
- Ability to prioritise workload effectively.
- Efficient user of Microsoft Office and Sibelius software.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person specification below indicates the qualifications, experience, knowledge and skills required to undertake the role effectively.

General

- Experience as a professional musician.
- Knowledge of the Church of England's teachings, musical traditions and practices.
- An understanding of, and sympathy with, the aims and purposes of the Cathedral, its worship, mission and ministry.
- Applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

Qualifications and Training

- Music Graduate (e.g. BMus, BA)
- Completion of at least one previous cathedral/university organ scholarship.
- Completion of ARCO or an equivalent qualification.

Experience

- Experience of playing the organ for choral services, often for large and discerning congregations.
- Experience of working with and training young singers.
- Experience of being a rehearsal pianist.
- Broad knowledge of the breadth of repertoire in the Anglican choral tradition.

Personal Qualities

- Respect for the different music genres and breadth of churchmanship required in the Cathedral Music Department.
- Willingness to actively contribute to a forward-thinking music department.
- Calmness under pressure, and ability to problem-solve.
- Self-awareness of personal boundaries particularly as it relates to working with children and young people.
- Willingness to take instructions and advice.
- Commitment to personal and professional development.

Terms and Conditions

- Job Title:** Assistant Organist
- Duration:** Full-time, fixed-term (2 years)
- Reporting to:** Director of Music
- Location:** Ripon Cathedral
- Salary:** £26,436.80 per annum
- Accommodation:** available; needs to be vacated by the end of July 2028.
- Working hours:** Your standard working week will be approximately 40 hours during term time. Also included in your annual working hours is the requirement to:
- Work on public holidays which fall within your usual working hours.
 - Work on major Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter.
 - Attend any formal training as specified by the Director of Music.
 - Contribute to other Cathedral services, events (e.g. concerts, recording sessions, choir tours) and rehearsals which fall within your contracted hours as notified to you by the Director of Music.



Terms and Conditions (cont'd)

Safeguarding:

A satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure form the Disclosure and Barring Service will be required upon employment.

The details above are only a summary of the terms and conditions offered and do not replace the wording of the Terms and Conditions which will form the contract between the post holder and the Dean and Chapter of Ripon Cathedral.

This job description is provided to assist the post holder to know their principal duties. It may be amended from time to time in consultation with the post holder, by, or on behalf of, the Director of Music, without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grading of the post.

Application Process

If you wish to have an **informal conversation** about the role of Assistant Organist or to ask questions in advance of application, please contact the Director of Music, Dr Ronny Krippner, by email: ronnykrippner@riponcathedral.org.uk

Applications should be made by email to GovernanceOfficer@riponcathedral.org.uk (Mrs Charlie Stewart) by **12 noon on Monday 02nd March 2026**.

Applications should consist of:

- (a) a covering letter.
- (b) a completed application form.

Process Following Application:

All applications will be acknowledged by email.

Short-listing of candidates; outcome communicated by email to all candidates.

Interviews/Auditions at Ripon Cathedral take place on **Monday 16th March 2026**.

Audition requirements consist of the following:

- a repertoire piece of your own choosing up to a maximum of 5 minutes
- an improvisation reflecting a Gospel passage at the Eucharist for up to 90 seconds
- a hymn accompaniment, including extended last verse for the Offertory (1 1/2 minutes max.)
- Sight-reading of a simple choral accompaniment (together with a singer)
- Accompaniment of an Anglican Psalm (together with a singer)

The successful candidate will be able to take up this position in September 2026.