



SARAH'S STORY:

Summer term 2026: Call out for volunteers for wardrobe assistance for new show to take place at St. John's Church, Chatham

This is a unique opportunity to be part of a multi-cultural event – part of the re-launch of a major Medway heritage building. In partnership with Tempo, volunteers can receive Time Credits for their participation in this project.

We will be telling the story of Princess Omoba Aina a.k.a. Sarah Forbes Bonetta – popularly known as the black 'godchild' of Queen Victoria.

Much of her story takes place in Medway and we are bringing it to life in a church connected to her tale.

We are looking for:

- 1) Wardrobe assistance: St. John's was the scene of a wedding in 1859. We hope to have a large community cast, around our professional cast of 3, portraying the high class guests of the wedding and production of sufficient crinoline gowns and tailcoats to recreate the scene. This is an excellent opportunity for experience in the basics of period sewing, theatrical costuming and introducing historical tailoring.
- 2) Additionally, some costuming may reference the dress of the Dahomey people (present day Benin) and the Egbado (Yewa) clan of the Yoruba people. So this is an interesting project for investigating tribal African dress.
- 3) In addition to making, we are looking for: dressers, wardrobe allocation, repairs, cleaning etc.

Please contact Director Kate Mechedou kate.mbmtc@gmail.com or on 07883 340356, or sign up via the link on our website and social media posts:

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Thank you.

