

Choral Scholarships at St Mary's, Barnes

St Mary's Church is situated in the heart of Barnes and is a hub for musical activity, with its own in-house 'St Mary's at 3' series, and monthly Barnes Music Society concerts. The church is also home to the Barnes Music Festival in March, hosting numerous concerts with international-calibre musicians.

The church offers 1x SATB scholarship to sixth-formers or exceptional Year 11 students.

The choral scholars hold an important role in providing a core for the parish choir. They are expected to lead their sections and sing occasional solos when requested. There is regular contact with the Director of Music, where goals and aims can be set and important aspects of choral singing are addressed.

The role is tailorable to the individual and can include regular solo opportunities. It is understood too that the scholarship can be made more flexible during the summer term, in the run-up to exam season. This is warmly supported by St Mary's.

This scholarship is ideal preparation for music making at higher education, or for cathedral choral scholarships. The skills and confidence which the post allows the scholar to develop will enable the scholar to pursue excellent music making, whatever their next steps will be. St Mary's has a strong history of successful scholars, including numerous Oxbridge choral scholars.

Director of Music

The choral scholars work closely with the Director of Music, Ben Markovic. Ben is a fellow of the Royal College of Organists and a current Masters student in ensemble piano at the Royal Academy of Music. Ben has held scholarship positions at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Worcester Cathedral and Queens' College, Cambridge. He is in demand as a performer and can regularly be seen across London, having worked with ensembles including St Martin's Voices, The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Beati Consort, and London Choral Sinfonia to name a few. While at Queens', Ben was responsible for the oversight of choral and organ scholarship appointments, so knows how to help people prepare for auditions!

Typical weekly timetable

Wednesday	19:30 - 20:30	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	09:15 - 09:50 10:00 - 11:00	Choir rehearsal Sunday Eucharist

It is expected that the scholar will devote some time away from this schedule to prepare music and for private practice.

The scholar is expected to attend all rehearsals and services where the choir are singing during term time. Additional commitments in the run-up to Christmas and Easter are expected and will be confirmed in writing in advance. The choir breaks for two weeks after Christmas, for two weeks after Easter and for approximately seven weeks in summer.

Remuneration

The scholarship attracts remuneration of £750 paid in three termly installments. Free coaching in key choral skills is provided, and it is encouraged that scholars pursue private vocal tuition.

To apply

The Church would be interested to hear from any prospective candidates as soon as possible. Please send a brief CV, or description of your musical experience and a short covering note explaining why you would be a good fit for this scholarship to 'dmo@stmarybarnes.org' by **3pm 20th June**.

An informal audition will be arranged at a mutually convenient time and will include a sung piece of the candidates choice (any style of music), some vocal tests and some musicianship tests.



Please note that the posts may be filled before this point, so early applications are encouraged.

If you have any questions, please email the Director of Music, Ben, at music@stmarybarnes.org. He is always happy to answer any questions or to have an informal chat at any point.