

The Organ Scholarship 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 boasts a Peter Collins two-manual tracker action organ and a (from summer 2025) newly refurbished Steinway D concert grand piano.



The organ scholarship is tailored to the individual, focusing on core accompaniment skills and choral directing skills. The scholar is encouraged to sing in the choir when not playing.

This scholarship is ideal preparation for music making at higher education, or for cathedral organ scholarships. Previous organ scholars have won highly contested posts, including recently Pembroke College Cambridge, Hampton Court Palace and St Marylebone Church.

Director of Music

The organ scholar works 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	19:00 - 20:30	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	09:15 - 09:50 10:00 - 11:00	Choir rehearsal Sunday Eucharist

The scholar may on occasion be asked to play for the monthly baptism service at 11:45 on Sunday.

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. A flexible arrangement in the Summer term can be agreed to lessen the commitment during exam season. It is expected that the scholar will devote some time away from this schedule to prepare music and for private practice

The choir sings from September through to mid-July, and breaks for two weeks after Christmas and Easter.

Fees and perks

The scholarship attracts remuneration of £1000-£1500 depending on experience, paid in termly installments. Free coaching in organ playing, choral accompaniment, and conducting are also offered as part of the post. Additional subsidised tuition in organ and piano is also offered.

The organ scholar receives an additional £50 when playing or directing in the absence of the Director of Music and Organist. If appropriate, the scholar may be invited to play at weddings and funerals at the standard church rate.

The organ scholar is entitled to practice the organ and piano when the church is open (09:00 to 17:00 or dusk daily) when the building is not otherwise in use. If the scholar is under 18 years of age, private practice must be in line with church safeguarding policies (more information on request).

To apply

The Director of Music 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**.

The informal audition will comprise of a piece of prepared organ/piano music, some aural tests, a piece of organ/piano sightreading and a hymn, which will be provided in advance.

Please note that the post may be filled before this point, so early applications are encouraged. If you have any questions, please email the Director of Music, Ben, at dmo@stmarybarnes.org

