

The Organ Scholarship at St Mary's Barnes

The Organ Scholarship

St Mary's, Barnes is offering a one-year scholarship to an aspiring organist seeking to further their experience in the field of Anglican Church music.

The scholarship consists of:

- Services where the Parish Choir is in situ, between Sept 1 2026, and August 31 2027.
- Regular opportunities to play the organ (hymns, accompaniments, and voluntaries) for services at St Mary's
- A recital opportunity, if appropriate
- Coaching in choral accompaniment and repertoire
- Further private tuition in organ and piano are offered at a reduced rate.



Commitment:

- In line with the Parish Choir timetable:
 - Weekly Sunday Eucharists in term time (09:15 rehearsal for 10:00 service)
 - Including one Sunday Evensong services per term (16:15 rehearsal for 18:00 service)
 - Christmas Carol service, Ascension Day, All Souls' Day, Ash Wednesday as well as Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week.

The scholarship does not include Easter Day, Midnight Mass or Christmas Day.

The Parish choir breaks for two weeks after Christmas, for one week after Easter, and for approximately six weeks over summer. When the Parish choir is not singing, the organ scholar will not be required to attend. If appropriate, additional services (weddings/ funerals/ memorials) are paid at the standard church rate.

Remuneration

The scholarship attracts a stipend of between £1000 and £1500, depending on commitment and ability, paid in 3 equal installments throughout the year.

Requirements

This post is open to aspiring organists/pianists. It may particularly suit those studying at sixth-form level, undergraduate degrees or those on gap years. The successful candidates will have:

- A keen interest in anglican church music.
- A positive attitude and engagement with the choirs at St Mary's.
- A responsible approach to all commitments, including excellent preparation and punctuality.

Experience as an organist is not a pre-requisite. We would be interested to hear from accomplished pianists (c. Grade 8 ABRSM) who are wanting to explore the organ.

All applicants are treated on an equal basis, without reference to their ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation or age. The applicant must be able to work in accordance with the church's beliefs, mission, and ethos.

About St Mary's

St Mary's is a thriving parish in the heart of Barnes, with a congregation regularly exceeding 100 people. The church is a hub for musical activity, with its own in-house 'St Mary's at 3' series, monthly Barnes Music Society concerts, and regular concerts held by external organisations. The church is also home to the Barnes Music Festival in March, hosting numerous concerts with international-calibre musicians.

The main 10am Eucharist service contains a congregational mass, a choral anthem and hymns. Evensongs contain a setting of the canticles, a psalm, an anthem, an introit and hymns.

To Apply

Please send a brief CV, outlining experience and suitability for the role and contact details for two referees (one of whom should be able to comment on your musical ability) to 'dmo@stmarybarnes.org'. References may be taken up prior to the interview.

St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Recruitment for this post will be undertaken in line with the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.

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

There is a rolling deadline for this scholarship. The post may be filled at any time, so early applications are warmly encouraged.