

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST'S CHAPEL

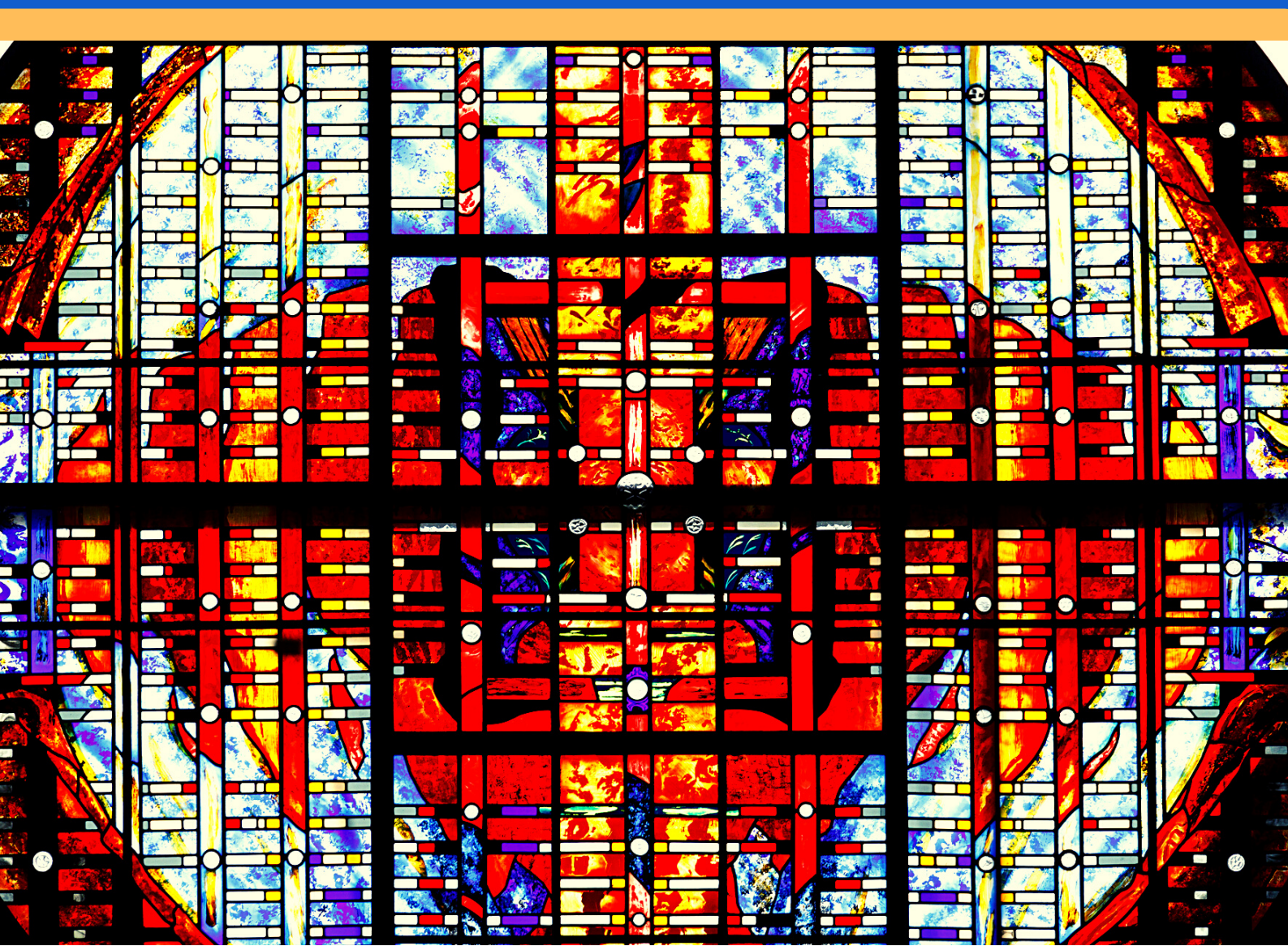
The Parish of St Barnabas Dulwich, SE21 7DG

**St Barnabas is seeking to appoint**

# **Choral Scholars**

## **(Alto, Tenor, Bass)**

From January 2023 | £2,400 PA





## Overview

**The Choir of St Barnabas, Dulwich, is seeking to appoint Alto, Tenor, and Bass Choral Scholars (one of each) to commence in January, 2023.**

The Vicar and PCC have renewed and strengthened their commitment to music at St Barnabas through supporting choral scholarships. These positions offer a hugely exciting opportunity for committed, talented, and energetic musicians to become part of a thriving choir and church community in the parish of St Barnabas with Christ's Chapel.

The music team at St Barnabas are committed to the Choral Scholarship being a valuable experience in the musical and professional development of young musicians. There exist many exciting opportunities within the parish for professional development and broadening the scope of the Choral Scholarship. These include, but are not limited to: working with the Children's Choir and Youth Choir; singing at weddings; performing lunchtime recitals; library and archival work. These by no means limit the full extent of available opportunities, and the musical team are open to any ideas applicants might have about what they would like to get out of the scholarship program and how this might be achieved.

We are seeking to appoint musicians who wish to contribute to the musical life of a busy, successful, and energy-giving church. The Parish aspires to increase the engagement of under-represented groups.

## About St Barnabas

**St Barnabas is a large, modern, welcoming and inclusive church that sits in the central Anglican tradition. Our large congregation includes people of all ages and from different backgrounds.**

There has been a church choir in this corner of SE21 for one hundred and thirty years. Records from 1891 show that from the very beginning – and even in a temporary building – the Choir of St Barnabas was a success such that it was oversubscribed, and an auxiliary choir was formed. Almost a century later in the church's darkest days when a fire ripped through the old Victorian building on the night of 7th December 1992, the choir still met, sang and led worship the following Sunday in the Parish Hall, such was the strength of commitment from members of the choir.

Almost thirty years later, this commitment remains ever-strong. The adult choir numbers 40, supplemented by four choral scholars, rehearses weekly and sings every Sunday with music and liturgy is at the heart of worship at St Barnabas. At Christ's Chapel in Dulwich Village, there is also a choir that leads the regular singing of Evensong. The newly formed Dulwich Children's Choir has some 40 choristers that meet each week and sing a monthly family service; a new Youth Choir has also recently been established for young people aged between 12 and 16. The choir sings at all the major festivals throughout the year and gives large concerts supported by an orchestra at both Christmas and in June (to mark St Barnabas Day). The choir has toured internationally in previous years and plans are afoot for a tour in 2023.

Congregational attendance is strong, with some 250 adults and children joining for the Family Communion, and Sunday Evensong at St Barnabas attracting very healthy numbers. All services sung by the choir are usually streamed live: the church invested heavily in its IT/AV equipment in November 2020 to ensure this online experience is as inclusive and realistic as possible. St Barnabas is blessed with a fine 3-manual Tickell organ and four pianos; music is very well-resourced. The PCC see music as central to mission in the Parish and wider community.

## Location

St Barnabas is very well served by public transport. The closest railway station is North Dulwich, which is a 10 minute walk from St Barnabas; North Dulwich station takes you directly in to London Bridge in 14 minutes. West Dulwich is slightly further away, but there are four trains an hour into Victoria station, with the journey taking only 12 minutes. There are three bus routes that are within minutes of St Barnabas. There is adequate bicycle storage for cyclists at St Barnabas; Herne Hill is a ten minute cycle and from there King's Cross can be accessed within 15 minutes. St Barnabas is very close to Lordship Lane which is very well served by cafes, shops and restaurants; Dulwich Village is beautiful, and is home to the first purpose built public art gallery in England; Dulwich Park is minutes away from the church.

## Job Description

**The role of Choral Scholar aims to ensure both the maintenance of excellent musicianship within the parish and the development of early-career musicians' skills and talents.**

It is expected that the successful candidate would hold the scholarship for at least six months, through to July 2022. The scholarship amount is three-monthly instalments, at the beginning of March, May and July. There is the possibility of extending this choral scholarship into the new academic year.



## Key Responsibilities and Expectations:

- Choral Scholars will be expected to sing at rehearsals and services as directed by the Director of Music, approximately 30 a year. This will most often be a morning communion service (9:00 am rehearsal; 10:00 am service) and Evensong once a month (5 pm rehearsal; 6:30 pm service). In addition, choral scholars will be expected at other major services across the year, including: Nine Lessons and Carols; Christmas Midnight Mass; Christmas Day Morning; Ash Wednesday; Maundy Thursday; Easter Day services; Ascension Day and St Barnabas Day.
- Rehearsals will take place weekly on a Friday evening during term-time (7–8.15pm) and immediately before services. While there is an expectation that scholars attend Friday night rehearsal less than infrequently, the music department appreciates that a certain number of absences (particularly for the purposes of external performance opportunities or professional development) may be necessary.
- Services will involve singing solos, in ensembles with other choral scholars, and chorally with both amateurs and occasionally professionals.
- It is anticipated that Choral Scholars will take featured roles in two or three concerts in the church during the year.
- Choral Scholars may have the opportunity to work with the choristers of Dulwich Children's Choir or the newly-formed Dulwich Youth Choir. This may take the form of mentorship, leading sectionals or smaller rehearsal, or singing with the ensembles in concerts.
- Choral Scholars will be encouraged to develop their skills as singers; it is expected that scholars take regular singing lessons with a teacher.

## Person Specification:

- Experience of choral singing is essential.
- Singers should show ease and competence in singing in various musical styles
- Familiarity with traditional liturgical choral music, and confidence leading the singing of hymns and psalms, is desired.
- Successful candidates will:
  - have a strong, developed singing voice of a quality to inspire and lead the church congregation;
  - have either strong sight-singing skills or be very quick and able at learning "by ear";
  - prepare sufficiently in advance of rehearsals so that a good and confident lead can be given to the choir
  - be able to hold their own vocal line and to take a leadership role within their section;
  - be able to sing in time and in tune
  - have a strong and clear speaking voice and be able to communicate effectively;
  - be able to demonstrate their enthusiasm for music in church;
- demonstrate skills as a musical leader, or an enthusiasm to develop such skills.
- Choral Scholars will be in sympathy with and support the aims and mission of St Barnabas Dulwich.

## Terms of Scholarship:

- The scholarship is awarded by the PCC of St Barnabas and Christ's Chapel, Dulwich.
- You will be expected to attend regular services and rehearsals during term-time, as agreed with the Director of Music.
- Your scholarship will commence on 8 January 2023.
- The first 2 months will be treated as a probationary period.
- All absence during term-time should be agreed in advance and in writing with the Director of Music. Scholars are expected to attend each Friday and Sunday during term-time, although reasonable requests will not be withheld.
- You will be responsible to the Director of Music on behalf of the PCC.
- You will be paid a gross annual stipend of £2,400
- Payment for additional services and other engagements will be made in addition to your scholarship at rates in advance with the Director of Music
- A choir cassock will be provided by the parish for your use.
- As part of the parish community, the mutual respect required between all members of the choir and all those connected with the Church is important. Good relations with colleagues, other members of the parish staff team, clergy and choir members are key to a successful partnership. You will be required to behave in a manner in keeping with the high standards expected of the staff team.
- Beyond the probationary period, you will be entitled to receive and be required to give two months' notice should it be necessary to terminate your scholarship.
- The post is subject to an enhanced DBS clearance.
- You will be expected to comply with parish policies including policies on Safeguarding, Conflicts of Interest, Anti-bribery, Managing Risk, Whistleblowing, Managing Complaints, and Managing Volunteers.
- Unplanned absence (e.g. Illness) must be reported in writing to the Director of Music as soon as possible.
- The Vicar and Director of Music reserve the right to withhold a scholarship payment if absence (either planned or unforeseen) becomes more frequent than desirable or if the choral scholar is reasonably deemed not to be fulfilling their duties to the best of their ability.

# Application Process

**For further information visit [www.stbarnabasdulwich.org](http://www.stbarnabasdulwich.org)**

For an informal conversation with either The Vicar or Director of Music, or for more information, please contact the Parish Office at [parishoffice@stbarnabasdulwich.org](mailto:parishoffice@stbarnabasdulwich.org) or 020 8693 1524.

To apply via email or express interest, please send a CV (max 2 pages) and covering letter (max 1 page) detailing your interest in and suitability for the role to the Assistant Director of Music, Owen Elsley, at [adom@stbarnabasdulwich.org](mailto:adom@stbarnabasdulwich.org). Please provide the contact details of two referees. We will acknowledge receipt of all applications.

**The closing date for applications is 9 am on Monday 12 December 2022.**

Auditions will be considered upon receipt of application. Auditions will be held at St Barnabas Church (40 Calton Avenue, SE21 7DG). Candidates should bring a prepared solo song, with or without piano accompaniment, and they will be given tests including singing, aural, and sightreading.

