

J O B D E S C R I P T I O N

Choral Scholar

St Barnabas Church, Ealing · 2026–27

A self-employed engagement on a per-service basis

ABOUT ST BARNABAS' EALING

St Barnabas is a parish church in Pitshanger, Ealing. We are an inclusive Christian community, and our worship is in the modern Catholic tradition of the Church of England.

Music is integral to our worship. The choir is well-established and thriving, spanning a wide age range and combining experienced singers with newer and younger members with the support of two paid Choral Scholars. Our repertoire is rooted in the Anglican choral tradition. The choir sing every Sunday at 10.30am — with hymns, a sung mass setting, a sung psalm, and a communion anthem. Rehearsal runs from 9.30am on Sunday mornings. The choir also sings for major festivals and at Choral Evensong services across the year.

THE ROLE

The Choral Scholar leads a voice section in the choir and sings the regular Sunday Mass and a series of festal services across the academic year, on a self-employed per-engagement basis with right of first refusal across the season. Separately organised work at the Church (weddings, funerals, memorial services, external concerts and recordings) is arranged directly with the relevant hirer and falls outside of the Scholar agreement but will be offered to the scholar by the Director of Music where possible. The role begins on the 6th of September 2026 and the final service of the choir year will be on the 31st of July 2027.

THE SCHEDULE

The Church expects to offer approximately 55 engagements across the academic year, on a right-of-first-refusal basis:

Sunday Sung Mass · rehearsal from 9.30am, Mass at 10.30am	<i>c. 41 Sundays 9.30am–noon</i>
Sunday Choral Evensong · service plus preceding rehearsal	<i>7 Sundays 4–7pm</i>
Festal services · Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, All Souls' Requiem, Nine Lessons and Carols	<i>6 services across the year</i>
Fundraising concert · on a mutually agreed non-Sunday date, with up to one hour of rehearsal as standard	<i>1 concert</i>

The whole of August is free of engagements, along with the weeks immediately following Christmas and Easter and a further five Sundays are free aligned with the Director of Music's leave (confirmed in advance). The Choral Scholars are **not** expected to sing on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

WHAT THE ROLE INVOLVES

- Singing the regular liturgical programme to a high musical standard, working under the musical direction of the Director of Music during rehearsals and services
- Leading and supporting a voice section that also includes volunteer singers
- Preparing repertoire ahead of services where required by the difficulty of the music
- Behaving professionally in a church setting, including before and after services
- Complying with the safeguarding policies of the Church and the Diocese of London (Compliance is straightforward and supported by the Church.)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential:

- Confident sight-reading at the standard required for Anglican choral repertoire
- Prior experience of Anglican choral worship at parish, collegiate or cathedral level
- A voice type matching the vacancy advertised
- Willingness to comply with safeguarding requirements as a condition of access to church premises

Desirable:

- Conservatoire or comparable university training in voice.
- Experience of leading or anchoring a vocal section
- Undertaking regular voice lessons with a recognised singing teacher.

If you do not feel you meet all of the requirements above, please do not let that prevent you from applying. All applications will be considered equally and we welcome applicants of all backgrounds.

FEE AND TERMS

Fee per engagement	£65 (covers service and rehearsal)
Approximate annual total	c. £3,575 across c. 55 engagements
Basis of engagement	Self-employed; contract for services
Invoicing	Paid via invoice within 30 days.
Deputies	Welcome by arrangement, no fixed attendance requirement

As a self-employed engagement, the position does not include paid leave, sick pay, pension contributions, or other benefits associated with employment. Scholars are responsible for their own tax and National Insurance, and may nominate a Deputy to sing in their place where they cannot attend, subject to the standards set out in the agreement.

MENTORING

Separately from the engagement itself, the Director of Music is glad to offer informal conversations on repertoire, technique, or wider career questions to Scholars who would find this useful. This is entirely optional. Within the context of the service, there are lots of opportunities for professional development, solo singing, and choral conducting experience for the interested candidates.

HOW TO APPLY

Send a CV, a covering letter, and a recording. Please include an audio or video recording of your recent singing — a phone recording is absolutely fine, video is strongly preferred.

If you do not have a recording to hand, you are still welcome to apply. Please also include in your email any dates on which you are unavailable to audition.

Write to Luca: directorofmusic@barnabites.org

Informal enquiries about the role are warmly welcomed at the same address.

An in-person audition follows at a mutually convenient time, comprising solo pieces, aural and vocal exercises, sight-reading, and a short prepared study.

Closing date: 12 June 2026