

# SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHOIR



**Music is at the heart of our life at St Michael's**, which has an excellent choral tradition going back 150 years. The St Michael's Choir is made up of a diverse group of singers from the local area, and the repertoire of music is equally diverse ranging from medieval to modern. The Choir sings at the 10am Sung Eucharist most Sundays and occasionally some evening services and mid-week feast days.

Rehearsals normally take place on Wednesday evenings 8.15-9.30pm and on Sundays before the service at 9.15am. There is a break after Christmas and Easter, and a long holiday in the Summer. The Choir also takes part in the annual Barnes Music Festival. The Director of Music is Dr Martin Neary, former Organist of Westminster Abbey.

The experience and musical skill of choir members varies greatly, although an ability to read music and some prior experience of singing is necessary. Naturally, we encourage attendance as much as possible, but you don't have to sing weekly. Members of the Choir can indicate availability and 'book-in' for services they can attend.



**Dr Martin Neary, Director of Music:**

*“It is thrilling to make music in the uplifting acoustic of St Michael’s, and to work on pieces which I hope are both challenging and rewarding for the choir—while the organ is one of the best in the locality.”*

**Jane Bennett-Powell, Choir member:**

“I love the mixture of music and friendship, sometimes enhanced by a trip to the Coach and Horses after rehearsal! I had a little bit of experience of singing from school and I always sang carols in harmony at Christmas, but my sight reading was poor—learning new, short anthems has improved my sight reading immensely.”

**Rhodri Walters, Choir member:**

*“When I first started coming to St Michael’s I realised that the music was very like the stuff I had sung and enjoyed at college. So within weeks I was in the Choir! We have always had good—and patient - directors of music who appreciate our widely varying abilities, yet who manage to coax the best out of us and make it fun. I have sung in other choirs but this is the one that means the most to me.”*



**Why not try out for the St Michael’s Choir with an informal and friendly audition by contacting the Parish Office?**

**Email: [admin@stmichaelbarnes.org](mailto:admin@stmichaelbarnes.org)**

**Tel: 020 8876 5230**