



# ST MARY'S BARNES

*January 2025*

Dear friends,

It is with huge excitement that I write to introduce myself a little to you, in anticipation of being installed as your vicar on 3rd March 2025. The time that I have spent in the parish – even during the interview(!) – has all convinced me of God's calling to serve among you. I am hugely honoured by the trust that has been demonstrated by the interview panel, the bishop, and the wider community. I am committed to being faithful to this calling, and I can't wait to get started.



I have already had conversations with a few people in the life of the church, and I am grateful especially to Peter and Cheryl for all that they are doing in preparing for the next season. I am also immensely grateful to James Marston for his support and collegiality – and for the huge amount of work that he is putting in over the vacancy. It is a privilege to join such a dedicated and experienced team, and I look forward to learning from the wisdom of those around me.

My background is as a professional musician; I have conducted choirs, taught music, and sung and played the piano (and violin – although that's pretty rusty these days!). My musical energies continue to be channelled into a little freelance choral conducting, although this occupies much less of my time than it used to. I was ordained in London in 2019 as a Self-Supporting Minister, and I earned my living from conducting. During COVID, I reassessed my balance of work and felt called to full-time ministry.

I have for the last three and a half years enjoyed being a Minor Canon of St Albans Cathedral. Here, I have been responsible for children and youth ministry (up to age 40 – this is the church after all!) and have taken responsibility in leading on a number of big projects.

This week, for example, I have organised a parish Burns Supper and ceilidh in the Nave of the Cathedral. I have led the Cathedral's outreach children's choir, which has expanded from around seven children to over 50 on a weekly basis. I have also loved leading regular services and pastoral

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care in our local care home and make a point of pastorally visiting the congregation each week. During my time at the Cathedral, we have seen growth across all areas of children's ministry, and I look forward to bringing this experience to St Mary's.



I will be joined in Barnes by my fiancée Anna and her children, Tilly (6) and Finlay (4). We are very much looking forward to the move; Tilly has written herself a countdown, so she can cross off the days! They will regularly be joining us in worship, and Anna will be leaving her current position as Children and Families Worker at St Albans Cathedral at the same time as I leave. We are currently working through the process of arranging school places for Tilly and Finlay, and we are delighted to say that we intend to marry in St Mary's in late May – more details in due course!





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When not busy in church or conducting, I enjoy being in the air, having held a Private Pilot's Licence for over 2 years. I also enjoy cooking, seeing friends, and attending concerts. I'm particularly excited to experience the Barnes Music Festival, and getting involved in all areas of life in the local community.



At the moment, I am working hard to balance working in my current role (finishing on 16th Feb), planning the move, planning a wedding(!), and doing all I can to learn about life in St Mary's and in Barnes. Thank you all for your support and encouragement, and I do hope that many of you will be able to join us on 3rd March for my installation.

Please pray for Anna, for Tilly and Finlay, and for me, as we are praying for you.

With gratitude,

