



BARNET & MUSEUM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

31 Wood Street, Barnet, EN5 4BE

Patron: Martin H.C. Russell MBE, DL
Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet

12th February 2024

Dear Fr Rossiter-Peters

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH ORGAN

Thank you for contacting Barnet Museum about the Church organ. I have no hesitation in writing, on my own behalf and that of our membership to support your efforts to restore and maintain the organ.

As you are aware, Barnet Museum often works with the Church to welcome school pupils from across the borough and even further afield; visits to both the Church and the Museum give pupils a splendid view of the rich heritage of the area. Many times, I have attended the Church part of the visit myself - and it still impresses.

A visit to the Church is hugely informative, giving a feel for history that so few places can reproduce. The real (not video or touchscreen!) craftsmanship and beauty of the Church is stunning to young visitors (and, as I said, impressive to older ones too). This gives an education and inspiration that is simply unique.

The organ plays an absolutely critical part in this awe-inspiring experience. When you see the faces of the audience reacting to the thunderous sound of Bach's *Toccata*, you sense something special, something you just cannot get elsewhere.

My praise above for the organ has not taken into account its "day job". Providing music for services is a vital part of religious practice. Occasional recitals and concerts also show the Church in its best light. It is unthinkable to have the Church without the full power of this remarkable (and historic) instrument.

The organ completes the Church.

Yours sincerely,

MA Noronha

Mike Noronha
Curator

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