

ST MARY'S
BARNES

www.stmarybarnes.org



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You Tube

Annual Review 2021



Rectors Report

Overshadowing the church, as for the whole of society this year, was the Covid pandemic. Barnes survived this more lightly than many others, but it was still a challenge for everyone, and caused real suffering for some. It was heartening to see the positive response by so many in caring for their neighbours and for the active part played in the wider community by many from the congregation.

Unlike 2020, this year the church was able to remain open for individual prayer throughout the year, and this together with use of the church garden was appreciated by many. With restrictions at times, church services were also held through most of the year and we returned to our usual pattern as soon as we could albeit with lower numbers. The return of the choir and congregational singing was a particular staging post on the return to some normality. By the autumn we returned to about 80% of pre-pandemic congregations, the main absentees being older people isolating and families with school age children affected by continuing high Covid cases. However, we are mindful of the continuing need in 2022 to reach out to those who have not returned to services for whatever reason.

Highlights and innovations in the year included:

Installation of high quality audiovisual equipment enabling us now to stream and record our regular services and other special services and events

More use of the outdoors for worship particularly at Lent and Easter, summer and Christmas

Welcoming a new group of 6 children in December to receive Holy Communion for the first time

Thanking Christabel Gairdner for her service as a Lay Reader and her new status as a Reader Emeritus

Achieving an Eco Church Bronze award as a result of our ongoing commitment to the environment across church and individual life. We walked with young Christian climate change activists in August, celebrated Climate Sunday in October and a group walked to the prayer vigil for COP-26 at Southwark Cathedral

We welcomed a range of stimulating visiting preachers including the Bishop of Southwark, Canon Lucy Winkett from St James' Piccadilly, Dr Daniel Eshun the Chaplain at Roehampton University and Nicole Thomas the head of environmental matters at the Diocese

Sadly, we were unable to hold the Charity Ball in the spring and so the usual level of fundraising for our church charities was significantly reduced.

However we encouraged direct giving for the charities on a monthly basis and with other Friends events, the bike sale and Christmas Fair still possible, charitable giving totalled £23,305

An excellent Lent Course online – in the Footsteps of Jesus – led by the previous incumbent Richard Sewell. We were pleased to welcome back Richard and his wife JulieAnn as they told us about their challenging work in Jerusalem and the Palestinian/Israeli conflict in the early summer

We held a number of other courses online including a masterful series of seminars on T S Eliot's Four Quartets led by Richard Harries

New events included the church Open Day in July and new Friends events such as the first Barnes Bookfest and art exhibitions by Barnes Artists and the Friends of Barnes Common

A new service and group for toddlers and their parents/carers taking place every Tuesday morning in term-time. Trialled in the summer, this really took off as a thriving group in the Autumn led by Jackie Davis and Julie Smith

cont'd

Rectors Report

A short video, professionally filmed and edited, as an introduction to life at St Mary's Barnes to be found on the website home page and our YouTube channel. This provides an excellent flavour of the values and atmosphere of life at the church

Alongside these highlights and innovations lie all the activities which are the core of a healthy church community. The rhythm of worship and prayer which continues daily and weekly in the church and at home. The many, many volunteers who both enable the church to function and provide a range of groups to grow together. To find out more about these please look at our website and read our Annual Review.

Looking ahead to 2022 is all about living out the gospel afresh, in ways which keep new insights from the lockdown, enjoy opening up again and look ahead. We are blessed with a good number of newcomers of all ages who have found St Mary's for the first time and who will help shape our future life together as a community in Christ.

We are exploring new ways of working together as Churches Together in Barnes and as the Anglican Barnes Team Ministry. This will be influenced in part by the insights of the needs analysis commissioned by the Barnes Fund. Among its findings were the serious mental health needs, of young people in particular, in Barnes. The extent of isolation among older people, the value of community space and the need for agencies to work together more effectively.

The sale of the property in Boileau Road explained in the Financial Review has enabled us to create a Ministry Fund to support future ministry needs in the parish. This might be for the employment of an assistant priest or for curates housing. Future ministry will be resourced through encouraging the gifts of others in our church family. As an example a

new monthly Sunday evening service, Sunday@6, started this year led on a shared basis by 5 members of the congregation.

The PCC met for an away day at St Matthias in Richmond in October to look at renewing our Mission Action Plan. Proposed actions include: improved signage and events to welcome people into St Mary's, stronger emphasis on supporting people in the community with wellbeing and good mental health; continued improvements in church facilities such as audio visual; reviewing all age services to be distinctively involving and a time and talents Sunday to encourage us to all explore where God is leading us next.



Rev'd James Hutchings
Rector of St Mary Barnes

revdjames@stmarybarnes.org

Churchwardens Report

As churchwardens, we want to thank everybody who has contributed so much to the life of St Mary's over the last year. As we have moved into a more normal time after the upheavals of the last two years, so many people have worked to ensure that St Mary's is able to carry out its mission in our community. Most of all though we need to thank our Rector, Rev'd James Hutchings, who continues to inspire and lead us. In his usual unflappable and good humoured way, he demonstrates his strong faith in all that he does and has the vision to drive the future growth we all want to see at St Mary's.

We have been so pleased to see the new initiatives which have attracted many new faces to our church and seen the return, post lockdowns, of most of our congregation. It has been



been wonderful to see so many children and young people returning and the hugely popular new toddler service has been a delight. Welcoming back the Scouts recently after such a long absence really allowed us to feel that St Mary's is truly at the heart of the community.

Moving forward we hope and pray that many more people will want to continue to join and contribute to our growing church community.

Fouki Heller and Phil Bladen
Churchwardens





Barnes Charity Bicycle Sale 2021

www.barnescharitybikesale.co.uk

Historically the Barnes Charity Bike Sale has always been staged in July to coincide with Barnes Fair. In 2020 and 2021, Barnes Fair was cancelled due to Covid-19. However, we decided it would be safe to run the Bike Sale in September. This was a good move; it proved that we didn't need to coincide with the Fair to run a successful event. We still had a queue of around 110 just before we opened. We plan to continue with a September sale this year:

17th September 2022.

In 2021, we received 153 bikes (very many of them donated) and sold 142, and made a surplus of just short of £14,500 which was shared with our partner charities: FiSH, Castelnau Community Centre, Age UK Richmond, Under Tree Schools and Glass Door.

Very many thanks to the whole team who contributed so much in so many ways: you know who you are and there are too many to name in person. There's always room on the team for more people though, so if you would like to join in a very enjoyable enterprise and raise some helpful charity money.

We'd love to hear from you.

Judy Gowing

judygowing@gmail.com

07703 312913

Barnes Team Ministry

The three Church of England churches in Barnes are legally joined as a Team Ministry. While we keep our own PCCs, finances and distinct ethos, the team structure gives us all, clergy and laity, extra strength for our mission and ministry from receiving and giving mutual support. The membership of the Team Council includes the Team clergy, Readers and Churchwardens with two elected lay members from each church.

The three churches bring different but complementary styles of churchmanship and each church can learn from each other's gifts. The Team Council seeks to develop the relationships between the churches, with opportunities to share in worship, and joint activities.



Churches Together in Barnes
Walk of Witness



Churches Together in Barnes
Walk of Witness

During 2021 the effects of Covid reduced the scope for practical working together. However the clergy continued to meet regularly to exchange views, plan for joint events, including services, and offer one another support where useful. A substantial change in the Team's way of working came during the year, with the successful sale of 52 Boileau Road, in which our Team curates had lived. The proceeds of the sale were shared out between the churches in the proportions by which they had contributed to the purchase price when we acquired it. St Mary's has therefore received about two thirds of the sale price. This is being invested to fund the cost of future clergy support to the parish and the Team.

Peter Boyling, Secretary to the Team Council

Bellringers Report 2021

2021 proved to be another strange year for our bellringing! England's third national lockdown offered little hope of ringing the tower bells again for some while, thus we continued running practices using the virtual belltower, Ringing Room, via Zoom. The prolonged restrictions brought about many challenges to the usual course of ringing at Barnes. Easter Sunday saw us for the first time, ringing handbells in the churchyard.

On 9th April a single bell tolled 99 times to mark the death that day of the 99-year-old HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh. The easing of restrictions at the end of May saw us ringing for the 10am service for the first time in fourteen months! Many mentioned how wonderful it was to hear the bells again.

October saw a most successful Tower Open Day and the Remembrance Service in November was preceded by ringing on all eight half-muffled bells. By Christmas, Omicron meant back to ringing on just four bells; what a year!



2022 has begun with much hope; our AGM day in February started with a successful first peal attempt including two of our ringers, Dominic Johnson and Wendy Archibald. Lunch followed in the church for 45 guests from the bellringing and church communities. Then, at the AGM Wendy Archibald was elected to succeed Trisha Hawkins's ten-year tenure as Tower Captain. A few weeks later, as a prelude to the Barnes Music Festival, Trisha and a team of bellringers presented, 'The Music of the Bells', to an enthralled audience of nearly 70; the Barnes community can now listen more discerningly when they hear our wonderful bells!

Wendy Archibald, Tower Captain

towercaptain@stmarybarnes.org



Children, Family and Youth Work

Children and family work at St Mary's Barnes continues to grow. Alongside the attendance of longstanding families, there has been engagement with numbers of 'new' families who have become part of the core attendance at our services.

The Tuesday Toddler group continues to increase in popularity, with approximately 23 children along with their carers attending each week. Sunday Club attendance continues to increase post pandemic, with an average of 8 – 12 children attending each session. Sunday Club maintains the aim in allowing children to explore Christianity in an age-appropriate manner and safe environment that encourages questioning and open questioning.

The All Together Services are becoming more popular with families, as well as gaining encouraging feedback from the wider congregation. It has been a positive to contribute to services that allow all the different ages to come together to share their faith in a manner that is appropriate for all.

The Entry to Communion course that took place in late 2021 was a great success, with five children participating. There is a further course planned for May 2022, with 6 children signed up. It is wonderful to have re-established this special course and that allows our children to take the next step in their faith journey.

Alongside our core work, we have also contributed to other events, such as the Nativity, the Christmas Fayre and the July Open Day, all of which promoted our ethos and successfully allowed us to engage a wider range of children, youth and families.

At times, given the continuing Covid risks and restrictions, we were very limited with our ability to interact with the teens of the church during this period. Rather than meet regularly on a Sunday afternoon slot, we focussed on involving our youth in community/charity initiatives, most successfully, with the COP26 Environmental Relay arranged by YCCN and Christian Aid, and the Glass Door fundraising sleepout which we ran at the church with an evening compline. These social, political, and environmental issues are a great way of engaging younger people, and we are in the process (with CTiB) of arranging further similar activities.

In the next 12 months we plan to extend our children, youth and family work with further special services and events, as well as maintain the established groups that have been build up in the past year.

Julie Smith and Jackie Davis
children@stmarybarnes.org

youth@stmarybarnes.org

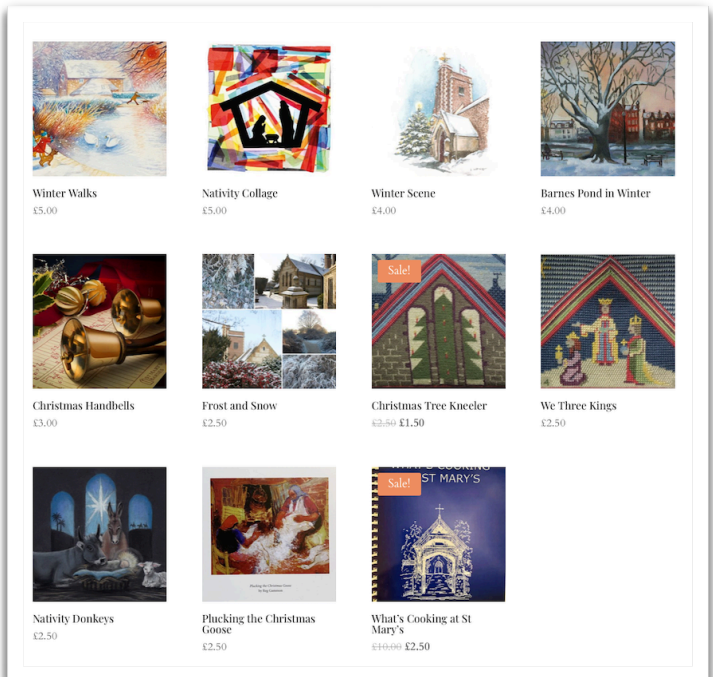
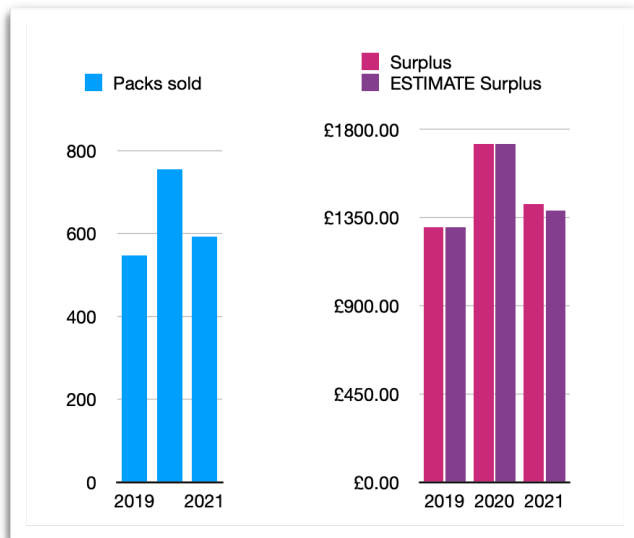


COP26 Vigil Walk to Southwark Cathedral

Christmas Cards 2021

Many thanks to all who bought their Christmas Cards from St Mary's this year. We added two lovely new cards to our stock and sold a total of just under 6,000 cards, online, at the Christmas Fair and on one or two other occasions in church. The surplus of £1400 will be shared between the church and charities we support. Many thanks to all involved.

Trisha Hawkins and Claire Boyling



Coffee Shop Report

The Coffee Shop in the Melvill Room is open every Saturday morning serving FairTrade coffee and tea and homemade cakes at very competitive prices. Each week a different charity hosts the event and as a result, in 2021-22, we raised just shy of £5,000 in donations to local, national and international charities. This is a remarkable result given that we were only able to operate for half the year owing to Covid restrictions. Many thanks to our fantastic team of volunteer baristas and to the generosity of our customers. The coffee shop also provides an opportunity to introduce St Mary's and its beautiful building to guests and to casual visitors. A win-win situation! .

We would love to welcome additional 'baristas' so if you have a favourite charity and would like to join the roster please contact me. Fresh coffee and tea provided – just bring some scrumptious cakes and a couple of willing volunteers. And we would especially like to see more of our congregation attending so please bear it in mind when you're out and about on a Saturday morning.

Claire Boyling, Co-ordinator
claire.boyling@gmail.com



Churchyard Garden

Many thanks to Rosie Findlater and her gardening team



Church Flowers

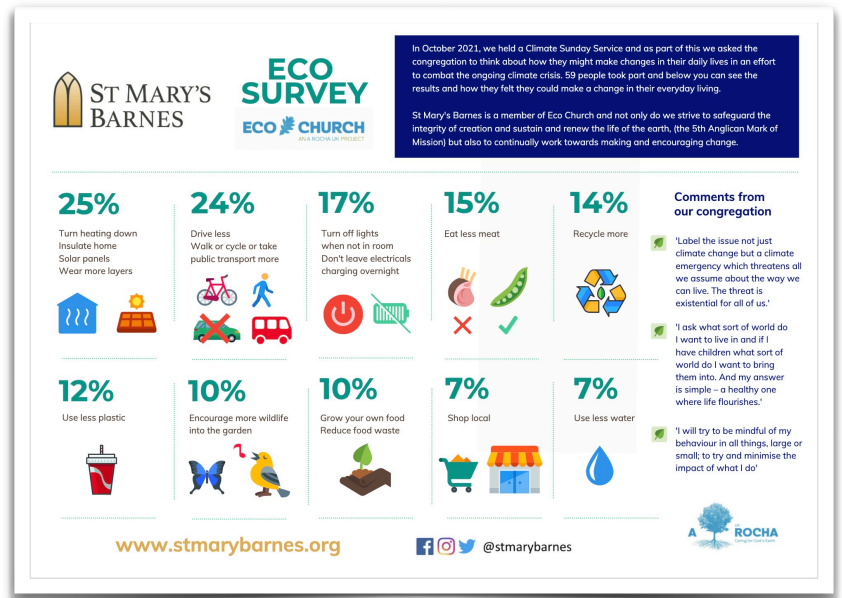
Many thanks to Sue Adams and her flower arranging team



Environment Group

St Mary's is seeking to play our part in protection of God's natural world, particularly from the threat of climate change. The General Synod have committed the Church of England to attain net carbon zero by 2030 and we must do our bit.

We are celebrating the natural world in our worship, through events such as Creation Sunday, and through holding services when appropriate outdoors. We are seeking to manage our churchyard in an environmentally conscious way, through the plants we grow, through installing a water butt to recycle rain water, and through providing bird feeders and bird boxes.



We use a lot of power to heat and light the church and Kitson Hall. When there are practical alternatives to gas heating we want to consider that. Meanwhile we are improving temperature controls in the church and hall, and installing better insulation in the hall. New flood lighting will reduce electricity use.

We can all seek to ensure we live our lives as ecologically as possible. There is information on our new environment page of the church website; why not join our Freecycle WhatsApp recycling scheme? We can also take action locally, and we plan for walks in our green spaces, and litter picks with other Barnes churches. And we can support action world wide – the Sunday Clubs are joining the toilet twinning scheme.

So far, St Mary's has achieved a Bronze level Eco-Church award for our results and we are now working towards the Silver award.

We thank the members of our planning group for their work. Do join us, and bring your enthusiasms to strengthen our efforts.

Peter Boyling, Member of the Environment Group



Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee supports the PCC in maintaining our Grade II* listed building in good condition, and where we can, improve our facilities.

We have been able to do a good deal of the work recommended by our parish architect in his 5 yearly review 18 months ago, including repair to the churchyard wall and repairs to the stone of the church. The mortar surrounding the heating grilles has been redone, and seems to be holding up this time. The restoration of the lych gates was being undertaken at the time this report was written. The system to live stream services was installed and has been working very well.

Other things have been delayed for one reason or another. But the new fire alarm call points are at last to be installed soon after Easter. And we have waited a long time for diocesan approval to come through for the new memorial to commemorate the Hoare family's historic beneficence to St Mary's. We hope it will be installed in October.

Do have a word with one of us if you see something we should be acting on. With luck we might even have it in hand already! We have a list of new projects and other jobs to do.

We are as ever grateful to the members of the Fabric Committee who give their expertise to make these things happen; the churchwardens, the Treasurer, Trisha Hawkins, William Heller, Michael Murison and Paul Teverson.

Peter Boyling, Chair, Fabric Committee

Faith in Action Group

One of St Mary's priorities is Outreach. In response to the many blessings we receive we should be generous in serving the needs of people locally, nationally and internationally. So we promote the work of a small number of charities in each category. Their work should challenge the way we see the world and our part in it.

Month by month we give information about each organisation, and we encourage prayer, financial support and practical help for them. One or other of our charities is always among the special prayers for the week. You can find information about our charities at the back of the church.

During the last year, because Covid reduced our income for charities, we had special collections month by month for each of them. At the end of the year we were able to use proceeds of the Christmas Fair and the sale of Christmas cards to ensure that the amount going to each charity was as equal as possible.

During the year we also carried out a survey of the congregation to seek comments on the way we can support charities in the future. We are grateful for the suggestions that you made.

Many thanks to my fellow members of the Faith in Action group who have led its work in the year, championing specific charities: Helen Arianpour, Phil Bladen, Celia Cleave, Anthony Figgis, Judy Gowing and Veronica Schroter.

Peter Boyling, For the Faith in Action group, supporting the PCC

Friends of St Mary's Barnes

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes raise funds for the church and other charities with the aim of enhancing our community role. Once restrictions on live indoor events were lifted in May, we made up for lost time with an active programme of successful high profile events.

The Barnes Music Festival 2021, with the theme of Music & Theatre went ahead in May with smaller groups and distanced audiences and was most successful. The 2022 Festival celebrating its 10th Anniversary was back in March with a full programme of 36 events over two weeks involving 750 performers.

In the summer, we hosted two art exhibitions A New Expression and Barnes Common Artshow. In September we held the inaugural Barnes BookFest with 18 events to hear authors such as Sebastian Faulks, and Sir Michael Morpurgo. We also hosted two launches of books by Bishop Richard Harries: Seeing God in Art with Ben Quash in July and Hearing God in Poetry with Roger McGough in February.



The Barnes Charity Fashion Show was back in October with two sell-out performances. We also hosted The High Heels & Close Shaves in October and celebrated another Christmas Cracker in December. Our Annual Choral Evensong in October featured the Rev'd Brutus Green who also performed during the music festival.

All these events not only bring many new people into the church but generate considerable funds which are used to pay for all the church's maintenance and utility costs as well as projects such as live-streaming and church wall renovation.

Contact Andrew Summers at friends@stmarybarnes.org

Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance is a quadrant of lawn directly outside the Church Office where ashes are interred and this is surrounded by paths laid with York Stone flagstones where inscriptions of names of loved ones may be engraved after their death. During the year, many families and friends will visit the Garden, lay flowers and sit on the bench nearby in peaceful remembrance.

Since 2017, Dominic Dreyfus had worked alongside Cheryl Cole, the Parish Administrator, on administration of these two processes. Very sadly, Dominic died on 7th February 2022 and his ashes have now been interred in the same plot as his son Theodore Dreyfus. He was wonderful to work with and will be greatly missed. A quote from Dominic's last email regarding the Garden: *'The job is not difficult, however, requires careful coordination, sensitive correspondence with the bereaved families and proof reading, working with Kenward and Co the stonemason once a year.'*

Stone Inscriptions 2021: Alan Mitchell, Anthony Land, Chantal Davaux, David Clifford, Gillian Banks, Miranda & Andrew Forster, Sheila Ross Cavanagh

Interment of ashes 2021: Andrew Forster, Anthony Land, Bo Ingvar Ljunghammar, Eve Kirkby, Miles Mallinson, Monty Brown, Sheila Cavanagh

Cheryl Cole, Parish Administrator, office@stmarysbarnes.org



The Good Companions

The Good Companions came into existence in the year 2000. It is a socially active group for men with a membership which is mainly of retirement age. On a voluntary basis one or two members organise and run a Lunch once a month. This can be in the member's own home or if that is not possible, then in the Ellerton Room, at St Marys Church, using the Church kitchen and facilities. Occasionally we have our monthly lunch at the Red Lion Pub or other Public Houses in Barnes. In the past few years we have had our Christmas Lunch in the Watermans Arms by the River. Wives are always invited to the Christmas Lunch.

Besides lunches we encourage members, who have expertise in any activity, to organise and run outings. In the past we have walked over 700 miles on paths such as the Thames Walk, The Ridgeway, and North Downs Way from Canterbury Cathedral to Winchester Cathedral. We have had boat trips on the Thames, visited The Mansion House, The Law Courts, The Bank of England, Tower of London, The Kings Cross Development and several special exhibitions at Highgrove House, Petworth and other National Trust properties. We encourage members to organise trips out and we always include wives in any outings. We actively support one charity – Combat Stress. We hold a Coffee Morning on the Remembrance Weekend in November each year and hope to raise substantial amounts of money for this very worthy cause.

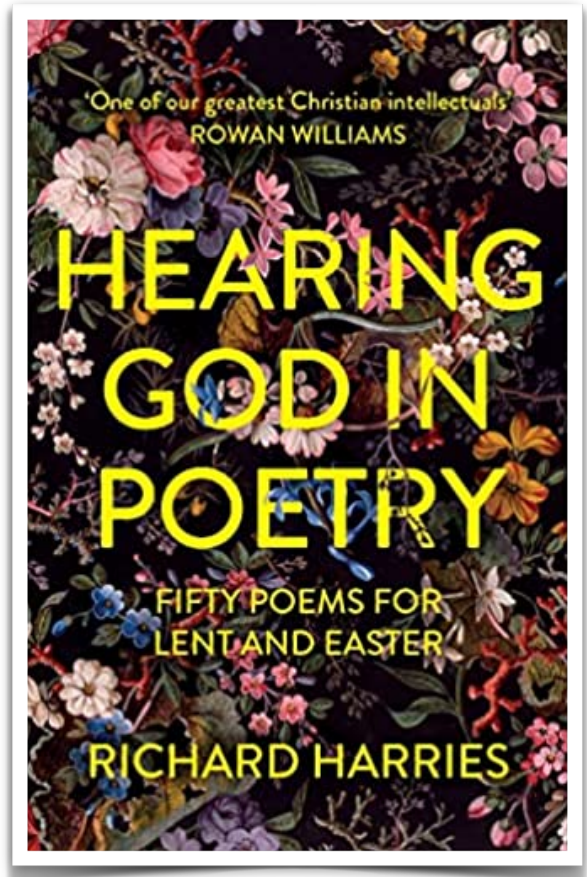
We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining The Good Companions, please get in touch with us, via St Marys Church Office. Brian Turk

Home Group

A Wednesday morning group has continued to meet at 2 Mill Hill Road during term time. A year ago we read in Lent Stephen Cherry's very good book exploring the Lord's Prayer in detail – Thy Will Be Done.

Through the summer term we studied the Letter to the Hebrews and continued with it in the autumn. In Advent we read Music of Eternity, the Archbishop of York's Advent Book by Robyn Wrigley-Carr, containing chiefly meditations by Evelyn Underhill. We finished the Letter to the Hebrews at the beginning of this year and then studied a number of parables before turning to Richard Harries' Hearing God in Poetry in Lent. This is a relaxed and informal group, varying in size between five and eight. New or occasional comers are always welcome.

More information from Fiona or Geoffrey Barnett (8878 6975).



Hospitality Report

It has been a difficult couple of years for Hospitality! Covid restrictions have curtailed so many events including those at Easter and of course Barnes Fair. We did however stage a very successful Open Day in the summer, a Tower Climb occasion, Harvest lunch and the Christmas Fair so all was not lost. It was wonderful to welcome people into church again. And we have also been able to offer Sunday coffee most weeks – as often as not in the church garden keeping suitably distanced! I feel confident that in the remainder of 2022 “normal service will be resumed” and we shall once again be able to offer more entertainments and refreshment for our congregation and for the wider community.

A big thank you to my fellow committee members and others for their unstinting support and encouragement. *Claire Boyling, Chair*

Harvest Lunch 2021



Kitson Hall

Hirings, community and church use

With the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions most users were able to return by mid April, but not children's parties until mid July.

We now have a good spread of regular users during term time, including various exercise, yoga, dance, theatre and fitness classes for children and adults. Pedal Project (cycle tuition for toddlers) are also still a good source of income especially during holidays and half term.

Last August an amateur production of "Piano Man", a jukebox musical based on music by Billy Joel, took place.

After many years of negotiation, Barnes Community Players (BCP), finally signed a licence for their occupation of the hall. Their pantomime took place in early December after a gap in 2020.

The BCA Jumble Sale took place once again in October.

Hall income and expenditure

Gross income was £45,494 compared with £31,974 in 2020, and the net surplus was £11,056, all of which was transferred to the Youth Fund, compared with £9,776 in 2020. Recent surpluses before the pandemic exceeded £25,000.

Due to reduced student numbers caused by the pandemic, we agreed reduced termly fees with the Ark Nursery of £3,000 throughout 2021, compared with £4,695 under their now expired contract.

Last September fees for children's parties were increased from £40 to £50 per hour in the large hall and from £25 to £30 per hour in the small hall.

Maintenance repairs and improvements

Further ballet barres have been installed and the strip lighting in the large hall has been replaced with LED fittings.

The fire alarm was upgraded at the end of October at a total cost of just over £5,000, including a new fire alarm panel and connecting the small hall to the main system.

William Heller, Chair of Kitson Hall Committee



Marriage Preparation at St Mary's

The Marriage Preparation Team helps couples having a wedding in Barnes prepare for their future marriage. Once a couple has met with the clergy, the administrator puts them in touch with one of the five trained team couples. The engaged couple then fills out an online questionnaire via Prepare Enrich and then has two or three evening sessions with a team couple, where they talk confidentially about issues relating to married life. The team meets twice a year over supper to discuss how to enhance the service offered to those marrying at St Mary's and to share best practice.

Jo Carr, Marriage Preparation Team weddings@stmarybarnes.org

SMB Scout Group Report

After a year of not holding face to face meetings we resumed after Easter 2021. Initially meeting outdoors and then moving into our Scout Hut as winter drew on. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts followed their usual programs of activities, a mix of games and work towards badges. There were no camps during the year but the Beavers did take part in two District events, an activity weekend without a sleepover at Walton Firs at the end of September and a New Year party in Teddington during January. The Group took part in the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at St. Mary's in November and we again provided and decorated the Christmas tree for the church.



Things should be back to normal now. We have two camps for Cubs and Scouts planned for this summer, a district one in July and our own camp in September, both at Walton Firs. There will be an activity weekend for the Beavers with a sleepover also at Walton Firs in September.

We hope to be able to attend St. Mary's for a St. Georges' Day celebration and for Remembrance Sunday.

We will be at Barnes Fair with our refreshment stall and coconut shy this year after the cancellations of the last two years.

Roger Stanley on behalf of SMB Scout Group

Sacristan Report

The sacristans are responsible for the material preparations for all liturgical services at St Mary's. Fiona Barnett, Judica Palmarozza, Wiz Dundas and Lucy Hine share these duties and work on a rota system. We are available on both Saturdays and Sundays to make sure that everything is prepared in advance for the services on Sunday morning. Sally Copland continues to be part of the team checking supplies and ordering items when necessary. We work well together and find it a joy and an honour to work alongside the clergy and serve God in this practical way.

Safeguarding Report

We are committed to safeguarding the young and vulnerable in our church and community. The Safeguarding policy can be found in the Church entrance and on the Church website along with photos of the PSOs. We have continued to ensure that adults working with children and vulnerable adults have an up-to-date DBS and have completed the recently updated Confidentiality Declaration (inline with the Diocese recruitment process). To date 75 people at St Mary's have DBS. In 2022, 6 of these will need renewing.

We have endeavoured to ensure all voluntary posts, including Sides People, have recommended training and DBS check. At present not all Sides People do. A new Safeguarding recording form has been written.

We have continued:

To ensure DBS and Safeguarding information is kept on the church database (ChurchSuite). Written notes and documents are kept in locked cupboard in Church Office.

To raise the profile of Safeguarding amongst the congregation and Parish. We have: continued to display photos of PSOs in the church entrance; have a Safeguarding page on the website; have the contact details of PSOs on weekly pew sheets and safeguarding is a regular item on PCC agenda.

To ensure all newly recruited voluntary and paid posts have the recommended Safeguarding training.

To ensure our Safeguarding responsibilities regarding the various institutions that we lease rooms and Kitson Hall to are met.

To ensure risk assessments are in place for church activities.

Actions for 2022:

Ensure all voluntary posts, including Stewards, have recommended training and DBS check.

Launch and raise profile of new Safeguarding recording form.

Ensure risk assessments are up to date.

Ensure PSO and other leaders have up to date training.

Elisabeth Munden and Natasha Mold, Parish Safeguarding Officers

The work of the Vergers

What is a verger? It means to be at the edge, to be in attendance. In other words: to hover, observe, anticipate, and deal with any hiccups before they become obvious to anyone else.

There are three of us. Sian Walford is the funeral verger. Karen Aldred is the wedding verger. Deborah Stewartby verges for both weddings and funerals. She is therefore multi-talented.

There have been less funerals and weddings in the last two years. Both as the result of COVID. The weddings that took place in 2020 were unfortunately often connected with some life-threatening condition, making haste an imperative. In Barnes the deceased are often incredibly interesting people and it becomes a service of celebration.

Funeral vergers make sure that those attending are shown to their seats and everyone is as comfortable as they can be in the circumstances.

Whilst bride and groom spend time over the details of ushers, bridesmaids, outfits, it became apparent that by the time of a rehearsal the happy couple had reached the conclusion that only had to be there on the day. This is not the case.

To assist the pre planning thought process Karen (with the able assistance of Cheryl and revisions from Deborah) devised a questionnaire which is sent to the couple in advance. Questions about any disabled guests who need to access via the side door, what are the bridesmaids going to do with their mobile phones whilst carrying the bride's train, are there any people that ushers should guide to their chairs, have the ushers clearly understood that getting the groom there on time and sober is a pre requisite. As we have learnt, the use of flower petals inside the church that get stuck in each nook and cranny of the paving, and thousands of biodegradable rectangular silver pieces of paper confetti in the garden, make a huge amount of clearing up and so are now firmly discouraged.

Karen Aldred, the Verger Team

Many thanks to those who have contributed wonderful photos to this publication, they include; Paul Phillips, Andrew Summers, Claire Boyling, Sue Adams, Wendy Archibald & Trisha Hawkins



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