



St Marys
Church Barnes



@stmarybarnes



www.stmarybarnes.org

Annual Review of 2022



Rectors Report

16 Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. (Jeremiah 6:16)

18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Summary

2022 was a year with three deservedly named 'crises', together with many things in the ongoing life of the parish to celebrate. Alongside this we said a thank you to several deeply dedicated volunteers and staff, and welcomed their successors. I have cited these two Old Testament passages as the challenge is to be rooted in the deep truths of our faith (Jeremiah 6) while at the same time being open to the new things God has in store for us (Isaiah 43).

Response to crises

The 3 crises were Russia's renewed and barbaric invasion of Ukraine, the continuing impact of the Covid pandemic and lockdown, and the impact on many of the hike in energy and other prices.

We held a special service of prayer for Ukraine after the invasion in February, and this has remained uppermost in our prayers ever since. We have sought to provide practical help for refugees and their local hosts, and fundraising for relief in Ukraine, most notably a very successful concert in April.

The first half of the year continued to be dominated by the pandemic, with constraints on our services and the negative impact on the health and wellbeing of many. More happily we saw growing congregations as the year progressed, with numbers at Christmas services pretty much back to pre-pandemic levels. We are also keeping the best of the

innovations from the lockdown, such as streaming of services and holding more services and events outdoors.

The Barnes Fund Needs analysis in 2021 showed that despite much prosperity locally, there is also considerable economic and social need and deprivation, and the cost of living crisis has exposed and worsened this further. St Mary's has worked in partnership with other local churches and agencies to provide help through signposting to statutory and voluntary services, providing vouchers for use at local cafes and a Thursday warm space in the Melvill Room.

Goodbye and hello

This was a year of change in many important positions in the church. Among our volunteers, most notably Phil Bladen retired, succeeded by Steve Cox, joining Fouki Heller as churchwarden. Patrick Findlater stepped down as treasurer, replaced by Michael Ross-McCall. Sue Adams laid down the leadership of the flower arrangers, with a new team being built, supported by Judith Blacklock in her stead. St Mary's is completely dependent on the dedicated commitment of so many volunteers, not least those named above, and so my thanks goes to each and every volunteer.

A large contemporary parish cannot rely on volunteers alone. We have strengthened Kitson Hall by employing Anita Janus as the new manager, releasing Cheryl Cole to focus directly on the growing demands of church administration. We have employed Pauline Clarke to take on the bookkeeping role previously carried out by Tiziana George. We were sad to say goodbye to Henry Chandler as he resigned to develop his career as a professional violinist, but pleased to welcome Toby Ward as his successor.

Another goodbye was to Rev'd Sister Margaret Anne who had provided such caring and thoughtful ministry to the parish, particularly during the previous vacancy, following her decision to semi-retire and relocate to Sussex.

Rectors Report

It has been good to welcome two new faces to our ministry team.

The major development was the decision to appoint an Associate Priest, shared with the Parish of St Michael & All Angels, and we were delighted to recruit Revd James Marston who joined us at the start of December. The role is designed both to strengthen our existing pattern of ministry and to enhance our pastoral care, particularly looking outwards in the parish. Revd Heinz Schultheiss, a retired German Lutheran pastor has also joined the two James's, Richard Harries and Geoffrey Barnett in our ministry team, leading evensong and preaching

Other highlights

The important role of St Mary's in civic life was demonstrated by the celebrations of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee with a special service and garden tea party in June. This was sadly followed in September by mourning her death, with the ringers swift to announce this with the tolling of bells, many signing the book of condolence and praying in the church, and a special service of thanksgiving for her life and for the new King.

Every celebration of the Eucharist is a high point, and I am grateful for all who contribute in so many ways to enabling these and our other services to take place. Alongside the special seasons of the year, 2022 saw the restructured all-age "All-Together" services, the return of Sunday Club, an ever growing of toddlers and their parents and carers on Tuesday mornings, children welcomed to their First Communion and teens being confirmed. We are fortunate to have Jackie Davis and Julie Smith leading our children and families work, and it is very good that PCC has renewed and extended their employment. As mentioned above we have also enjoyed a number of services in the church garden, especially at Easter and Christmas, and in the summer we

held a Climate Sunday outdoor Eucharist for the first time.

The many different groups representing life at St Mary's are celebrated with their own reports in this review, and as St Paul reminds us, the body of Christ, like any body, is mutually inter-dependent, and the smallest thing can often be the most important in reality. However, an exceptional part of parish life is the Friends of St Mary's, under the inspired leadership of Andrew Summers and many volunteers. 2022 saw the return of key events which had not been possible in the pandemic, and the second year of the BookFest which is surely now a staple part of the annual calendar. Friends events play a key role in drawing people to St Mary's and the fundraising for our charities, including the church itself.

As the year ended PCC agreed our new mission action plan (MAP) for the next 3 years and this provides the key focus as we commit to Growing in Faith, Serving the people of Barnes, and Caring for God's Creation. Please take a look at this on the next page of this Review.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the past year, both in my ministry and personally to Alice and our family. Barnes is an amazing place in which to live and work, and I count my blessings as I look forward to all that God has in store for us in 2023.





**ST MARY'S
BARNES**

In the heart of our community

MISSION ACTION PLAN 2023 - 2026

Our MAP is built on the entirety of worship, teaching, community life and outreach at St Mary's. So, the MAP aims to continue all that is good within this, and then to focus on a few new priorities which have been developed through consultation and prayer among the PCC and congregation. We are using the 5 Marks of Mission as our guide in this.

5 Marks of Mission

- Proclaim the Kingdom's good news
- Baptise and nurture new believers
- Respond to human need by loving service
- Change society's unjust structures
- Safeguard the integrity of creation



GROWING OUR FAITH



Grow the involvement and number of children, young people, and families at St Mary's: including greater involvement in worship & growth of junior choir

Enable more adults to come to Christian faith and grow in faith; including an annual enquirers course and new pastoral scheme to build relationships

Widen access and use church for those in particular need in Barnes; including a regular weekday coffee morning

new screen, projector, and AV in church; explore other improvements

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF BARNES



PROMOTING CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

ECO CHURCH

Make progress in reducing our negative impact on the environment by achieving the Eco-Church Silver Award: implement planned improvements to the Kitson Hall & Church

develop the environmental message in our worship & teaching

WWW.STMARYBARNES.ORG

Churchwardens Report

The year 2022 at St Mary's has been quite varied and eventful. As churchwardens we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the richness of life at St Mary's over this last year. The many volunteers and teams have ensured the smooth running of the church activities and services. Most of all, though, we would like to thank our Rector, Revd James Hutchings for his guidance and spiritual leadership, and for all the initiatives he has promoted. Among those initiatives, we have enjoyed services in the church garden, as well as the once a month all together services putting families and children at the centre of our care. The toddler service has continued to thrive and the Thursday morning invitation to meet informally with the Rector has offered a warm place for Barnes residents to meet. The post baptism thanksgiving service promises to be a regular feature in years to come.

The Annual Review shows the wealth of activities reported by the different groups and we wish to extend our thanks to everyone who in their different ways have made our church the warm and welcoming place that it is.

As a result of the growth witnessed in St Mary's, we are delighted that Rev'd James Marston joined us in December as Associate Priest shared with the Parish of St Michael & All Angels. Reiterating what Rev'd James Hutchings has mentioned, we too extend a warm welcome to all new volunteers and staff members who have joined us in 2022, and give our thanks for all the hard work to those people who have stepped down.

Moving forward, we hope and pray that St Mary's remains at the heart of our community, opening its doors to many different activities including music and art, and that more people will continue to join and contribute to our growing church community.

Fouki Heller and Steve Cox, Churchwardens





Barnes Charity Bicycle Sale 2022

www.barnescharitybikesale.co.uk

After weeks of preparation, we were blessed with lovely weather and a long queue outside the churchyard for the bike sale in September. We had received 182 bikes and all but 25 were sold on to new owners. The remainder were past repair and used for spare parts. The team recycles as much as possible.

The team raised an amazing £16,800, a £2,000 increase on 2021. The cumulative total over the last 15 years: 1770 bikes repaired and sold, and over £100,000 raised for St Mary's and our charities. An impressive result by any standards.

Huge thanks to the whole team. Many hands make light work and it is a really fun event to be involved with. We're always looking for new volunteers. If you have any bike- maintaining, marketing or admin skills (or you're happy to help in any area) and would like to join a friendly team, we would love to hear from you. The next Barnes Charity Bicycle Sale will be held on:

SATURDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER 2023
9.30am - 12noon

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. Whilst 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



During the year the clergy continued to meet regularly to exchange views, plan for joint events, including services, and offer one another support where useful. The churches continued to support key projects in Barnes, including FiSH Neighbourhood Care, The Castelnau Centre and the Barnes Foodbank. Churches were supporting each other with advice, eg on recruitment of young people's workers, on financial management and on management of our halls. As members of Churches Together in Barnes we join in activities through that route.

Now that we have sold our curates house at 52 Boileau Road there is no practical need for a bank account for the Team. Once final transfers of the residual funds are made to the churches the account will

be closed. Meanwhile the 2022 accounts are in the papers for the APCM.

Peter Boyling, Secretary to the Team Council

Bellringers Report 2022

2022 witnessed a return to the joyful, celebratory ringing we were party to prior to the pandemic. Whilst its huge impact on the world of bellringing did not leave Barnes unscathed, with the positive and cheerful support of all our ringers, bellringing has remained a prominent, integral part of both St Mary's and the wider community.

We have rung every Sunday. Saturday practices have run successfully, with two training bells now installed we are ready to train 'Ring for the King' recruits for the coronation. Friday night Quarter Peal attempts and practices have thrived with 27 Quarter Peals recorded.

The Barnes Music Festival opened with our presentation 'The Music of the Bells' and in July, our Tower Opening, saw us not only raising £370.90 for tower funds, but, witnessing a young couple becoming engaged on the tower roof! Then followed the Barnes Summer Trip, based in Himley West Midlands.

The Queen's death on 8th September saw us ringing on fully muffled bells (with the tenor open at backstroke); Trisha rang 96 whole pulls, shortly after the announcement. The next day we rang at noon in her memory and a Quarter Peal in the evening. Open bells rang on the Sunday to mark the proclamation of the new King then again on muffled bells on the day of the funeral.

December saw us ringing handbells at Viera Gray, Walsingham Lodge, The Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, as part of the churchyard carol service and the children's nativity service on Christmas Eve.

Wendy Archibald, Tower Captain

towercaptain@stmarybarnes.org



James, one of our ringers,
assisting with the installation of
our second training bell



Our handbell ringers at
Walsingham Lodge

Children, Family and Youth Work

Children and family work at St Mary's Barnes is flourishing, with new families attending and engaging in services and events, alongside those who have been longer established as part of our congregation.

The Tuesday Toddler group continues to be well attended and successful, with around 28 children attending each week, along with their carers. We are at the point where a number of children 'move on' to nursery, but numbers remain consistent because of continuing interest from those with younger children. We have had some lovely feedback from families and many 'first timers' are coming on the recommendation of those who already attend.

Sunday Club attendance remains steady with an average of 10- 12 children attending each session. Our small but dedicated team of volunteers continue to consider Christianity in an age-appropriate manner and safe environment that encourages questioning and open questioning.

The All Together Services continuing to be well attended by both families and the wider congregation, with feedback being encouraging. This now feels like an established way of worship at St Mary's and important in allowing different ages to come together to share their faith in a manner that is meaningful to all. We ran an Entry to Communion course in May 22, with 7 children participating. We also organised confirmation classes for 3 teens who have all now been confirmed within the diocese. As always, we are delighted to be able to guide our children in the next step in their faith journey.



Family Litter Pick around Barnes

Numerous other child, youth and family activities have also taken place alongside our core work. Annual events such as the Christingle service, the Nativity promoted participation and were well attended. We have also contributed to other events such as the Christmas Fayre, the July Open Day and the Queen's Jubilee. This allowed opportunity to expand our reach to those not actively engaged in the church on a regular basis.

We continue to highlight Christian responsibilities and perspective on social, political, and environmental issues, and work to engage children and young people in taking action at an age appropriate level. This year we held a Christian Aid Walk to promote thinking about those who are in extreme poverty and have to walk a large proportion of their day just for basic

food. We also held a short family friendly service and evening compline, followed by an all age sleepout, to raise awareness of homelessness and support Glassdoor. On a sunny Saturday morning, we had four children run the coffee shop at St Mary's (and several other bake ahead) in aid of Toilet Twinning. Over £200 was raised for this amazing charity which brings sanitary facilities to poor and rural communities across the globe, improving hygiene and helping reduce disease.

Children, Family and Youth Work, cont'd

In March 23, we supported a local Ukrainian children's group to establish their 'new home' in the Ellerton room. This group brings together Ukrainian families in the area to enable them to share and promote their culture and heritage whilst in new surroundings. We will continue to work to with them to secure funding and also to create good relationships where we can work together for all of the children who access our church.

In the next 12 months, we will continue to nurture and grow what is already established. Our key aim is to establish deeper working partnerships with local schools and other key child and youth focussed organisations.

Jackie Davis

children@stmarybarnes.org

Julie Smith

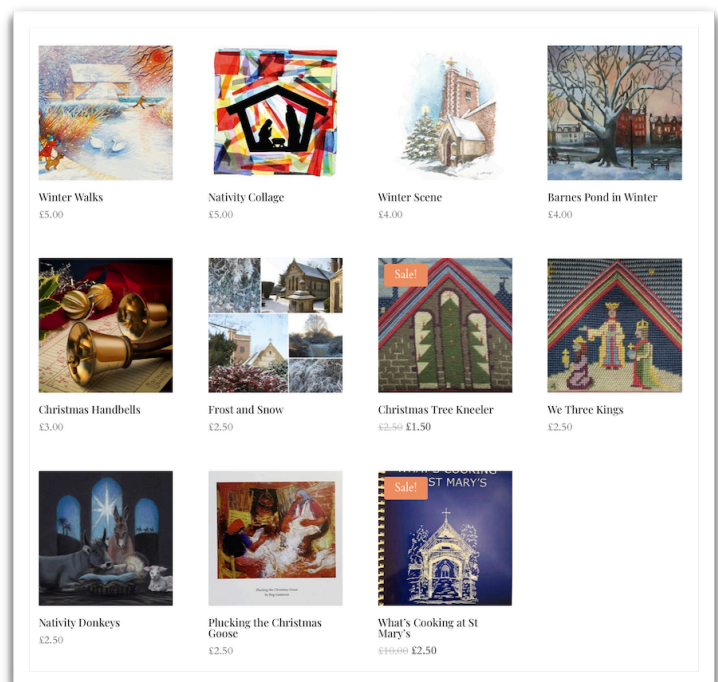
youth@stmarybarnes.org



Christmas Cards 2022

With the addition of a new card painted by Josie Toole, we sold over 4600 cards for Christmas 2022, mostly online, but also in the church when possible. The surplus of £1588 was shared between the church and charities we support. Many thanks to all involved. We will have another new card for 2023!

Claire Boyling & Trisha Hawkins



Coffee Shop Report

The Coffee Shop in the Melvill Room is open every Saturday morning serving fairly traded coffee and tea and homemade cakes at very competitive prices. Each week a different charity hosts the event and as a result, in 2022 we raised nearly £4,000 in donations to local, national and international charities. Our efforts also spearheaded further very generous donations by the congregation, notably to Ukraine and to the Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children in Jerusalem where JulieAnn Sewell volunteers.



Barnes Football Club Coffee Shop

Many thanks to our fantastic team of volunteer baristas and to the generosity of our customers. We are particularly grateful to our loyal group of regulars including our bellringers, gardeners and the sacristy team. The coffee shop also provides an opportunity to introduce St Mary's and its beautiful building to guests and to casual visitors. So a win-win situation!

We urgently need new '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. We would also love 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

Rosie says 'I think our church garden is as environmentally friendly as possible and we are all incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful space. We gardeners all work hard to keep it as natural looking as possible. The mowers do a fantastic job, and well kept grass makes all the difference. There seem to be plenty of butterflies and bees around. People often comment on the garden as they walk by in Church Road. If anyone has any other good ideas, I'd love to hear them!'

Many thanks to Rosie Findlater and her gardening, mowing and sweeping team.



St Mary's Barnes beautiful church garden

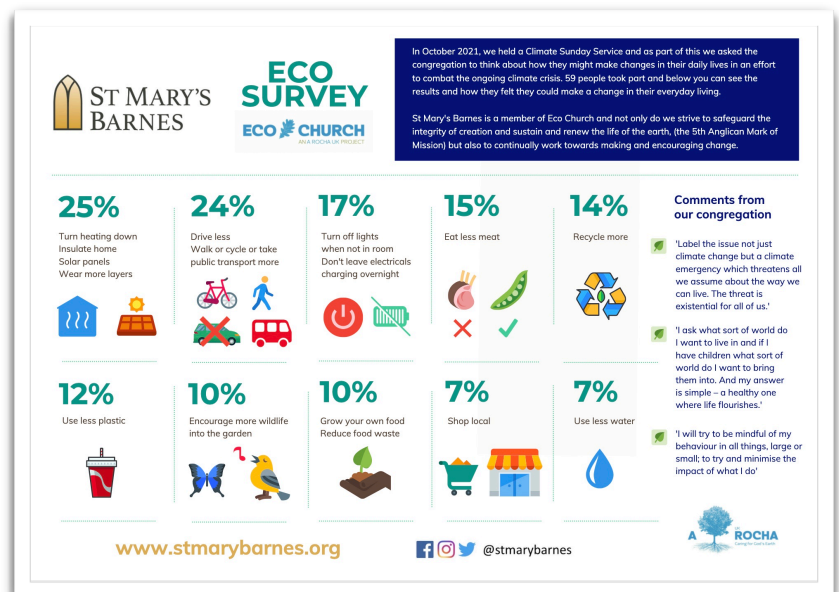
Communications Group

The Communications Group continues to promote events and the church message via the Weekly News, internal and external noticeboards, our website and social media. Our social media presence on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook is steadily growing and between the three platforms we have over 1000 followers. The Weekly news is sent via email to over 600 subscribers. We work closely with AJ, our Kitson Hall administrator, and also with Julie and Jackie who look after the Children and Youth groups. Our ongoing projects include organising a technical team to help with the streaming of events and services, updating our website, and organising the many photographs that we have on Dropbox.

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 Church of England aims 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 some services outdoors. We are seeking to manage our churchyard in an environmentally conscious way, through the plants we grow. In 2022 we installed bird boxes (made from recycled wood) and a new bench for relaxation and contemplation. We will plant a new tree.



We use a lot of power to heat and light the church and the Kitson Hall.

When there are practical alternatives to gas heating we want to consider that. Meanwhile we have better temperature controls in the church and hall, and we are looking at better insulation in the hall. New flood lighting is cutting electricity use. And until we reduce our carbon use the PCC has agreed that we should offset it by payments to green projects overseas.

On the environment page of the church website we encourage good practice, individually and jointly – recycling, litter picks, walks in our many parks. And there is a box in church for recycling crisp packets. We can support action world wide - such as joining the toilet twinning scheme which was spearheaded by the Sunday Club.

So far St Mary's has achieved a bronze level Eco-Church award for our results, and we are now working on 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. How about becoming St Mary's environment champion, to encourage us to greater 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 improve our facilities.

In 2022, the lych gates were restored with funding from a generous donor. The new memorial to the Hoare family has now been installed in the Langton Chapel. Call points to set off the fire alarm, operated wirelessly, have been installed at the church entrances, to meet current regulations.

We await diocesan approval of proposals to upgrade our audio system in church, to give much better quality sound, and to install a projector and drop down screen so that pictures can readily be shown at church and external hire events. As with so many things at present we will need to wait some time for equipment to be supplied.

We seek to reduce our use of fuel in the church. Refurbished floodlights, recently installed, will help a little. We might be able to double glaze the top windows in the lantern over the altar. But we await better technology before it will be sensible to replace the gas boilers we use.

A big new project is extra toilets, to have enough for a full church for our many services and events over the year. The PCC will consider how to provide for these within our rather constrained land footprint and at a reasonable cost. We will consult the congregation on a proposal later in the year.

We are as ever grateful to the members of the Fabric Committee who give their expertise to make these things happen.

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. The current list of the charities we support, with the amounts of donations made in 2022 to each, from Friends of St Mary's events and proceeds of the Christmas Fair and the sale of Christmas cards is:

Castelnau Community Centre £2609

Under Tree Schools in South Sudan £3000

Age UK Richmond £2609

Glass Door (support for the homeless) £2609

FiSH (neighbourhood care for older people) £2609

Welcare (support for families with younger children) £2609

Bishops Lent Appeal 2022 £1040

In addition Christian Aid raised funds in Barnes. And our Saturday coffee shops raise funds weekly for a wide range of charities. Many thanks to my fellow members of the Faith in Action group who have championed specific charities: Helen Arianpour, Phil Bladen, Celia Cleave, Anthony Figgis, Judy Gowing and Veronica Schroter. We welcome Annie Sullivan who has now succeeded Celia.

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. This year has been extra busy post-Covid with a programme of successful high profile events.

The Barnes Charity Ball returned in May 2022, delayed from its normal time in February, with the theme Havana Nights, and then again in February 2023 with the theme A Night at the Oscars.

In April we hosted a celebrity event For Ukraine raising funds for Ukraine humanitarian charities. In the summer, we hosted the Barnes Common Artshow with the theme Living with Water.

In June we hosted the launch of Chris Patten's Hong Kong Diaries and in September we held the second Barnes BookFest with 19 events to hear authors such as Jonathan Porritt, Bonnie Garmus and Robert Harris.

The Barnes Charity Fashion Show was back in October with two sell-out performances. Our Annual Choral Evensong in October featured Canon Andrew Zihni from Southwark Cathedral.

The Barnes Music Festival 2023 Festival returned in March with the theme The Musical Environment and a full programme of 37 events over two weeks involving 600 performers.

All these events not only bring many new people into the church but generate considerable funds for the church and nominated charities which amounted to a record figure of £72,000 in 2022. These funds are used to pay for all the church's maintenance and utility costs as well as projects such as church wall renovation, lighting improvements and fire alarm installation.

Contact: Andrew Summers at friends@stmarybarnes.org



Chris Patten's Hong Kong Diaries
Book Launch

Bonnie Garmus at Barnes BookFest



Flower Team

The new Flower Team formed in May 2022 after the retirement of Sue Adams. The team is guided by advice from Judith Blacklock and work in pairs to arrange flowers for the church during the year. Flowers for weddings and funerals are now arranged by external florists chosen by families with an arrangement fee going to the Church Flower Fund. The Flower Team are: Patty Darke, Sue LeFroy, Louise Gizzi, Jo Teverson, Sue Squire, Judy Gowing, Sue Mackworth-Praed, Rosie Findlater, Jai McCarra, Fouki Heller & Fiona Barnett. Do let us know if you would like to join the team!

Patty Darke, pat.darke@yahoo.com

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.

Cheryl Cole, Parish Administrator, office@stmarybarnes.org

The Good Companions (2022)

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 or Melvill Rooms, at St Mary's Church, using the Church kitchen and facilities. Occasionally we have our monthly lunch at the Red Lion Pub or other Public Houses in Barnes. We had our Christmas Lunch in The Spencer in Putney. Wives are always invited to the Christmas Lunch and any other activities outside the monthly 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 Path, 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 Cavalry Museum, Whitehall, 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 The St Mary's Church Office.

Brian Turk

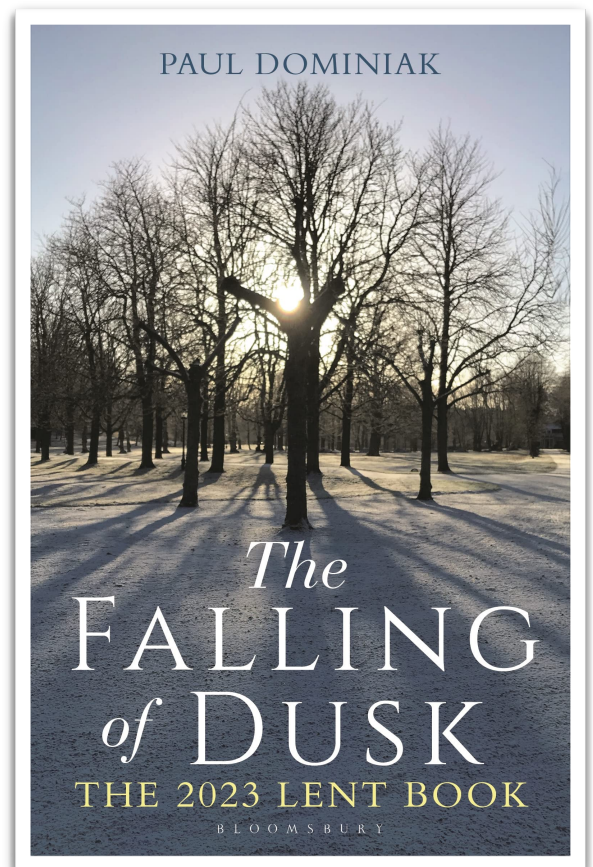
Home Groups

A Wednesday morning group has continued to meet at 2 Mill Hill Road during term time. Through last summer term we studied a number of parables and in the autumn we followed a 'Pilgrim' course for the Christian Journey' entitled the Bible. In Advent, our themes were the patriarchs, the prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. In the new year, we continued to study Jesus's parables and then began to read for Lent 'The Falling of Dusk' by Paul Dominiak, reflections on the seven last words of Jesus on the cross. 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)

A home group started up by Christabel Gairdner and Lucy Hine in 2013, having grown to 16 members come Autumn 2022, decided to split into two groups to enable new members to join. One group continues under its original leadership, the other is led by Patty Darke and Judica Palmarozza. Both groups meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.00pm for three blocks of six weeks over the year, combining scriptural study with informal discussion on all aspects of faith. New members are always welcome.

For further details please ring Christabel on 8748 1218 or Patty on 07970 477953



Hospitality Report

Hospitality events in 2022 were very successful and it has been wonderful to welcome people into church again. Our most popular event was our Cream Tea to mark the occasion of our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in early June. Our visitors devoured in the region of 400 plates of scones and the church garden was alive with people enjoying the sunshine. Other successes were the all-day refreshments on Barnes Fair Day and at our Christmas Fair and a bring and share Harvest lunch in the autumn. We continue to offer the ever popular post-service Sunday coffee, biscuit and chat time and our Saturday morning Coffee Shop.

A big thank you to my fellow committee members and all the congregation for their unstinting support and encouragement. Nothing would happen with your generosity, skill and time.

Claire Boyling, Chair

Kitson Hall

New Hall Manager

We successfully recruited a new hall manager, Anita Janus (AJ) last April, in place of Cheryl Cole, to allow Cheryl to devote much needed time on church matters.

Hirings and community use

With most pandemic restrictions removed by the end of 2021, we had a good spread of regular users during 2022. These included a group offering cycle tuition for toddlers and children, various exercise, yoga, dance, ballet, theatre and fitness classes for children and adults, and a new pilates class.

The nursery which had hired the small hall for very many years went into liquidation last July. Terms were agreed for Alice Wells, T/A Barnes Petite Performers (BPP), who runs various parent and toddler groups and children's parties, to take over the small hall from last September. BPP have become the biggest income generator for Kitson Hall, earning it considerably more than the nursery ever did.

The BCA Jumble Sale took place over the October half term in 2022, which interfered less with our regular hirers than in previous years. As usual, Barnes Community Players hired the hall for 10 days for their pre Christmas show.

Hallmaster

Soon after AJ joined, she introduced a new online booking system called Hallmaster. This allows members of the public to request bookings via the church website. This has speeded up and simplified bookings considerably, removing reliance on a paper diary and allowing much simpler monitoring of bookings and payments.

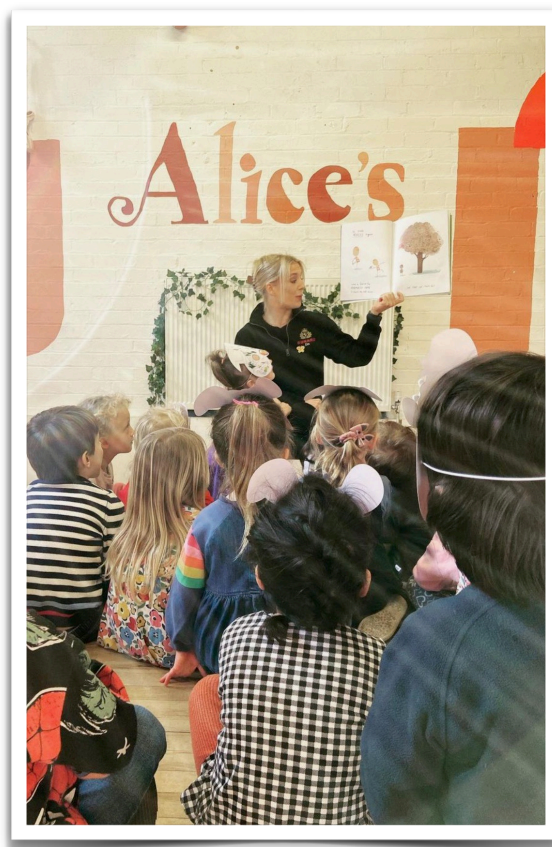
Hall income and expenditure

Gross income was £74,200 (exceeding the previous record by about £5,000) compared with £45,494 in 2021, and the net surplus was £33,463, £30,000 of which was transferred to the Youth Fund. This compared with a net surplus of £11,056 in 2021. Surpluses shortly before the pandemic were between £25,000 and £30,000.

Maintenance repairs and improvements

There were no substantial alterations or repairs in 2022 though the kitchen was decluttered and a small amount of money was spent in providing new crockery.

William Heller, Chair of Kitson Hall Committee



kitsonhall_barnes

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

Music Report

It is pleasing to review what has been a vibrant and rewarding first year (almost!) at St Mary's, with a number of memorable highpoints within an overall period of growth.

Regular Sunday Eucharist contributions aside, the Senior Choir has enhanced a number of special services to an impressively high standard (Friends of St Mary's, Queen Elizabeth II, Nine Lessons and Carols, the BMF Evensong, to mention a few). We have welcomed new members, welcomed back former choral scholars, and in doing so laid down strong foundations on which to continue to build.

I am grateful to the core members of the Senior Choir, in particular Judy Gowing and Peter Boyling for their commitment and support. New members are always welcome, particularly tenors and basses!

We have expanded our choral scholar programme this year in partnership with West London Free School. I hope to expand the current crop of five scholars to eight in September. Aside from enjoying their musical contributions, I believe supporting and training the next generation of church musicians is an essential part of our mission as a parish. It would be wonderful to hear from any members of the congregation who might consider sponsoring a choral scholar, or donating to the Music Fund to support this expansion.

We have not managed to secure an organ scholar this year, but in September we welcome Barnaby Silverstone, second year student at the Royal College of Music, who will provide vital support and allow for a greater breadth of musical options.

The Junior Choir (Choristers) has been steady and regular, with membership fluctuating between 6-12 members. The aim into the next academic year is on recruitment, and to solidify their contribution to St Mary's; singing more Sunday morning services, and hopefully bringing more families into our church community. If you know a child (aged 7-14) who loves singing, please encourage their parents to be in touch!

Almost a year since my appointment, this opportunity is as good as any to thank you all for such a warm welcome. Working for such a supportive and kind community is greatly rewarding! I must stress how much the choir and I welcome congregational feedback. It's a great pleasure to pass on complimentary feedback (a great boost and galvanising for the choir!). Constructive comments are equally welcome. If you feel the music has beautified our worship (or not...!) – please tell us!

Toby Ward, Director of Music

Sacristan Report

With Sally Copland's aid, four of us take it in turns to prepare the Langton Chapel and Main Altar for the Sunday services and also for the Thursday communion service in the chapel, as well as other occasional services during the week throughout the year. This involves cleaning/sweeping the sanctuary and similarly the chapel; laying up the altar. Making sure the correct service sheets are in the priest's folder; finding the epistle and gospel in the relevant books; replenishing the wine/water; soaking the votive candles which have been used during the week, cleaning and refilling them. Then clearing away after the service and taking home the used linen to wash.

Lucy Hine, Wiz Dundas, Judica Palmarozza, Fiona Barnett

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 a Confidentiality Declaration (in line with the Diocese recruitment process).

During the year we have continued to adhere to diocesan recommendations by:

Ensuring and advising re Risk Assessments for all activities within the church buildings are undertaken, updated, and safely stored within the church office.

Ensuring all PCC members, Sidesmen and Sunday Club leaders have up to-date Safeguarding Training. Due to the pandemic, some training had been delayed but this is now up and running again and many of the required courses are not only available face to face but can now also be completed online.

Ensuring all people working with vulnerable adults or children have completed a Confidential Declaration document.

Ensured that all newly recruited posts (specifically our new Director of Music and our Assistant Priest) were recruited following Diocese Safer Recruitment procedures.

Continuing to raise the profile of Safeguarding within the Congregation. The PSOs contact details are on the pew sheet every week as well as a section identifying St. Mary's commitment to Safeguarding.

The Safeguarding aspects of the Church website are frequently updated in line with national guidance.

Safeguarding remains a mandatory item at every PCC meeting. This is both to allow members to raise any concerns and to ensure that any PCC matters discussed are also viewed with Safeguarding in mind.

Sunday Club and Pastoral care guidelines are written with Safeguarding kept as a priority and ensuring that all leaders and helpers are aware of them.

To improve the safety and well-being of our congregation and church community several volunteers, members of PCC and sidesman undertook a First aid awareness course which was very informative and much appreciated.

This coming year we will continue to maintain the actions as listed above. We will continue to work with the Diocesan Safeguarding team to ensure that St Mary's keeps its whole community, especially our young and any vulnerable adults, welcomed, safe and appropriately cared for at all times.

Elisabeth Munden and Natasha Mold, Parish Safeguarding Officers

Pastoral Group

We meet roughly monthly with James, and now with new James too, to share news of those we have visited; different needs that may have arisen and generally to try and ensure that anyone in our congregation who might need support is getting it.

James plans introducing a new scheme, which he found good in his previous parish, of linking everyone within our congregation with a pastoral contact in order to keep an eye out for one another.

Christabel Gairdner, Fouki Heller, Lucy Hine, Rosie Findlater, Rose Robertson, Elisabeth Munden, Julie Smith and Fiona Barnett.

SMB Scout Group Report

Our weekly meetings were a mixture of working towards badges and awards, and playing games. From spring until early autumn we like to be outside as much as possible. The Beavers attended the District New Year party at the end of January in Teddington and the District Funday in September at Walton Firs.

The Cubs and Scouts took part in the Borough Camp over a weekend in June and a Group activity day in September, both at Walton Firs. At Barnes Fair in July the Cubs helped run the coconut shy and the Scouts assisted with our food stall.

The Scouts completed their Adventure Challenge Award during a water weekend at Thames Young Mariners in June and their Expedition Challenge Award in December with a 7 mile hike from Cobham Station to Walton Firs followed by an overnight camp.

One Scout completed all 9 Challenge Awards and so received the Chief Scout Gold Award. Several of the other Scouts are well on their way to achieving this Award.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts took part in both of our church parades at St. Mary's Church, the St. George's Day parade in April, when they renewed their promises, and the Remembrance Day parade in November. Both groups of Beavers also visited St. Mary's Church as part of their Faith Badge.

Roger Stanley on behalf of SMB Scout Group

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. The Vergers Team changed in 2022 as Karen Aldred retired to give much needed time and care to her elderly parents. Many thanks to Karen for all her hard work. Sarah Cox kindly stepped up to the plate and joined the team. Sian Walford is the funeral verger. Sarah Cox and Deborah Stewartby cover both funerals and weddings. In 2022, there were 13 weddings (including one blessing), 30 funerals (some cremations only) and 6 memorial services.



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