



Annual Review of 2024

All are welcome, of all faiths and none
Listen and linger in this holy space
Enjoy the space and stillness

www.stmarybarnes.org



St Marys
Church Barnes



Foreword from The Rector



It is an immense pleasure to be writing this as your new Rector, having been in post for a couple of months, and only after the events included in this report. I'm very grateful to everyone for such a warm welcome into the parish and for making us feel so welcome.

James Hutchings' legacy will stand for a long time here, and it is a joy that he has been able to contribute the Rector's Report to this document. His gifts as a pastor and priest are clear, and we continue to benefit from his enduring work across the parish. I will leave the rounding up of the church year to his Report, and just mention a few things here myself.

It is a joy to join such a committed and dynamic team, ably led through the interregnum by Peter Boyling, Churchwarden, and Fr James Marston, Associate Priest. Through the energies of a great number of people, the church is in great heart, and has been well supported and resourced across the last few months. I'm very mindful of the cost that has been borne by many, and for all the work that many have contributed, I am deeply grateful. Thank you.

As we look back on a successful and important year for the church, we give thanks to God for his goodness, and for the blessings enjoyed here. We also look to the future with hope and joy, and pray that St Mary's will continue to be a voice proclaiming Good News in this community.

The Rev'd Calum Zuckert

Rector's Report

It is slightly odd writing these words in retirement, so I apologise for things I may have forgotten, and should have included. I am

pleased the process to identify a new incumbent was done about as quickly as is possible within the Church of England, and that the outcome was the appointment of Rev'd Calum Zuckert as Barnes Team Rector and Vicar of St Mary's.

Before my departure there were other significant comings and goings in the parish. In January it was a great pleasure to thank Fiona and Geoffrey Barnett for their respective ministries as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary, and Lay Reader. While both have retired from active ministry in these roles, they have remained a very active, wise and faithful presence. In January, we welcomed Ben Markovic as the new Director of Music. Music lies at the heart of worship and congregational life, and it is very good to have Ben's new impetus and skills to lead this.

Thanks are also due to Julia Daniels who had looked after the choir before and during Christmas and then set up a children's choir in the first half of the year. Engaging the attention of young people in church life is a continuing challenge with so many other calls on their time. However, under the leadership of Jackie Davis, St Mary's offers a range of ways in which children can grow in faith and be involved - baptisms and confirmation, the weekly toddler group and service, Sunday club, serving at the Eucharist to mention just some.

Mentioning confirmation, of course this is open to adults as much as young people, and I enjoyed preparing Abby and Mark Dimock for confirmation at St Richard's, Ham early in the year, having previously married them and baptised their son Henry and Abby! As a church we should always be seeking to grow deeper in faith, as well as seeking to reach as many people as possible in different ways. James Marston and I enjoyed leading a series of "Quiz a Vicar" evenings in the Red Lion, and James also led a number of Thursday morning discussions on key issues of faith. It was special for me to lead for a final time, the great highlights of the annual cycle of worship including Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

It was good to welcome those joining church life and faith, and generally numbers returned to pre-pandemic levels. I am grateful for all involved in the parish's worship, both up front and behind the scenes. Particular thanks go to James Marston for his support and ministry before the vacancy, and then during it. Having an Associate Priest is a great asset, and James has brought his own skills and experience in pastoral care, teaching and leading worship, including negotiating the breadth of this across St Mary's and St Michael & All Angels! A highlight of ministry in Barnes has been the privilege of being alongside Bishop Richard Harries. Frequently it seemed that he told us all that is essential in the Christian faith, in just one short sermon!

One of the many parts of Barnes life I miss is the regular diet of activities organised by Andrew Summers and the Friends of St Mary's. In my last few months, I enjoyed the extraordinary quality and breadth of the Barnes Music Festival, the fun of the Barnes Charity Ball, and of course the benefit for the church and charities of all the funds raised. A different fundraising challenge which was completed this year was the re-upholstery of the church seat upholstery.

St Mary's seeks to be at the heart of community life in Barnes, and so our relationships with local groups and charities, the Barnes Community Association, other local churches and faith groups, and others continued to be very active. In June, the church also hosted the hustings for candidates in the General Election. Kitson Hall also provides a valuable community resource through all of its activities. It was a great reassurance that, at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, Peter Boyling stepped forward to be churchwarden, ably supported as assistant churchwardens, by Fouki Heller and Paul Teverson. Between them they have had so much experience and insight to lead the parish through vacancy. Cheryl Cole has continued to be a lynchpin as church Administrator, supporting not only the clergy and PCC, but also being the first point of

contact for many when reaching out to the church. And a huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time over the year to the many different parts of church life. This is always essential, and an important part of Christian discipleship, but also particularly needed during the recent vacancy.

I should finish by thanking everyone for giving Alice and me such a warm and memorable send-off in July. We will never forget the generosity and friendship of so many people. With all my thanks for your support to Alice and me, and with love and prayers for the future.

The Rev'd James Hutchings



Churchwarden's Report

An overview of the year

In the early summer our Rector, Rev'd James Hutchings, retired from ministry, after five years leading our mission in Barnes and at St Mary's. We gave him a very warm but sad goodbye and wish him and his wife Alice all the best in their new home.

To begin the process of seeking a successor we consulted the congregation on the priorities we wanted to focus on for the future; and we produced a parish profile for the advertisement we issued in October. With the diocese, we were able in December 2024 to appoint Revd Calum Zuckert as our new Rector, and we welcomed him in a joyful service at the start of March 2025.

During the vacancy we were most blessed in having Revd James Marston, our associate priest, to lead much of our worship and guide us. We are most grateful to him. And we also thank very warmly Bishop Harries, Revd Heinz Schultheiss, and our team clergy, Revd David Cooke of Holy Trinity church and Fr Stephen Stavrou and Revd Judith Roberts of St Michael's church for taking services for us, as well as our diocesan bishop, Christopher Chessun and Revd Elisabeth Morse. Together they ensured that we continued to fulfil our responsibility to maintain St Mary's as a place of worship for our parish.

Being outward looking is also central to our mission. We have continued to do this through payments made to the diocesan Parish Support Fund to help churches across the Diocese of Southwark. And in calendar 2024, we were able to donate £39,700 to local and other charities from the proceeds of the wonderful events run by the Friends of St Mary's, as well as our Bike sale, Christmas Fair and all the Saturday morning coffee shops.

As churchwarden during the year, I am most grateful to Fouki Heller and Paul Teverson for supporting me as assistant wardens. And many others in the congregation volunteered their help to ensure that we continued to make progress as a church community during the vacancy, with our PCC and our staff Pauline Clarke, Cheryl Cole, Jackie Davis, Anita Janus and Ben Markovic. They deserve our sincere thanks.

Peter Boyling
Churchwarden





Barnes Charity Bicycle Sale

www.barnescharitybikesale.co.uk

The 17th Barnes Charity Bike Sale took place on 14th September 2024 and, after weeks of preparation collecting and repairing bikes and managing the admin, we were once again blessed with a fine sunny day. This was particularly lucky for this gentleman (right) who started queuing at 5am. He had seen this bike advertised on our Instagram feed and was determined to get it!

There were plenty of other bikes for the remainder of the queue – which stretched back past the Olympic Cinema by the time the gates opened. We had adults, teen and kids bikes: racers, shoppers, off-road, mountain bikes – a huge array. We had been given over 220 bikes and sold the vast majority of them. Unfortunately a few were just beyond repair in the time available. Our mechanics team is headed by James Kyrle-Pope.

Judy, Trisha and Sanchi are in charge of admin, logging all the bikes, donors and purchasers – and publicising the event. It's quite an operation! The proceeds came to £17,286.44, and were shared between St Mary's Barnes, Castelnau Centre, Age UK Richmond and the Barnes Foodbank.



HUGE THANKS TO THE WHOLE TEAM WHO PUT IN SUCH A LOT OF WORK

We're always looking for new volunteers. If you would like to join a friendly team working on a fun event, we would love to hear from you: bikes@stmarybarnes.org

This year's sale will take place on
SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2025
 9.30am - 12noon

Judy Gowing

judygowing@gmail.com

07703 312913

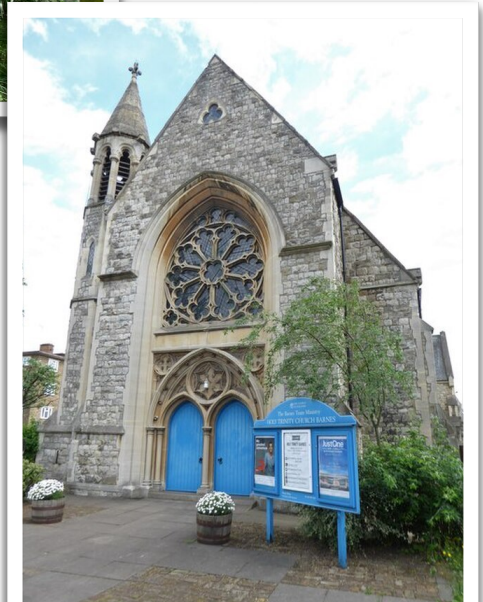
Barnes Team Ministry

The three Church of England churches in Barnes are legally joined as a Team Ministry. 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.

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 year was dominated by the retirement of our Team Rector James Hutchings, and the outworking of the diocesan procedure for seeking his successor. The Council approved a substantial document profiling the team and its churches and we advertised the post in October. The team vicars of St Michael's and Holy Trinity and lay representatives of our three churches, with our Bishop, Archdeacon and a representative of our historic Patron, St Paul's Cathedral, served on the Patronage Board in December. We interviewed three candidates and selected Revd Calum Zuckert as our new Team Rector. He was instituted at a packed and joyful Team service at St Mary's on 3rd March 2025.

Peter Boyling, Secretary to the Team Council



Bellringers Report

We continue to be a busy tower offering ringing opportunities for ringers from a wide range of ringing levels, as well as serving our local community, ringing at regular services and special events throughout the year. It was lovely, for example, to ring a special Quarter Peal on 3rd March this year to mark the Institution and Induction of the Reverend Calum Zuckert as Rector of the Barnes Team Ministry.

On Sunday 12th May 2024 we celebrated 'Bell Sunday', an initiative by the CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bellringers) to raise awareness of bellringing in church communities. The bells ringing in the tower were displayed on the big screen in the church as the congregation arrived. Bell themed hymns also featured in the service and the Rector mentioned the relevance of bells in his sermon. Then on Saturday 18th May many of us headed to Kent for a delightful outing to four towers superbly organised by James, one of our ringers who recently moved there. The day was so successful that we look forward to a return visit this May.

There was a familiar pattern to July with the annual tower clean prior to the tower tours as part of the Barnes Fair on 13th July. We managed to raise £443 towards church funds. Then just a few days later, on 15th July we headed back to Hartington in Derbyshire, the base for our summer trip, where we had been in 2023. Unlike the previous year, the sun shone, and a great time was had by all.

Christmas events began in November with us running the 'church mice' game in the ringing chamber. Then December saw Christmas handbell ringing. We were able to raise an amazing £183.85 in just one hour for Crisis at Christmas ringing outside The Sun Inn as part of the Barnes Christmas Festival. We paid our usual visits to the Viera Gray and Walsingham Lodge care homes and took part in the carols in the churchyard.

Our Saturday practices have continued to flourish again throughout the year attracting ringers from many local towers including Richmond, Roehampton, Westhill, All Hallows and Chiswick; I know that they are all grateful for the learning platform that we are able to offer them. Friday evening Quarter Peal attempts and practices have continued to thrive and Sunday service ringing has continued to be well attended throughout the year. So, another busy year here at Barnes!

Wendy Archibald

Tower Captain

towercaptain@stmarybarnes.org



Children, Family and Youth Work

Children and Family work at St Mary's Barnes continues to grow. Sunday Club is well attended and children and families continue to remain engaged in the provision we offer.

Our core aims of highlighting Christian responsibilities and thoughts on social, political, and environmental issues are unchanged. Our work seeks to engage children and young people in building a greater depth of their understanding of Christianity and what it means to be a Christian; considering key principles of service and stewardship at an age-appropriate level.

The Tuesday Baby and Toddler Group is a popular offering and is well attended. The flow of attendees is steady, with numbers remaining consistent with newcomers joining as older children move on to nursery. We receive positive feedback about the group, often with regard to the welcoming and relaxed nature of the group, along with the biblical aspects which set it apart from other groups.

Sunday Club attendance is steady with an average of ten to twelve children attending each session. This is an above average attendance for a children's Sunday group, and is particularly positive when you consider that there is no linked school providing a natural throughput. We continue to teach using a range of methods, such as discussion, questioning, storytelling, and games are utilized alongside crafting, reflection, and prayer. This provides access to faith that is fun, varied and meets the differing needs of all who attend. Our small but committed team are an integral part of being able to successfully deliver this.

All-Together Services are now a regular part of our worship at St Mary's Barnes. They remain popular in offering the opportunity for all ages of our community to share our faith.

The Entry to Communion course in April 2024 was a great success, with several children completing it and taking their first communion in the All Together Pentecost Service.

Numerous other child and family activities have also taken place alongside our core work.

The annual Christingle service was particularly notable, with attendance almost doubling from the previous year. Our Christmas Eve nativity was also busy and engaged some children and families who are not regular worshippers.

We have also been involved in events such as the Christmas Fayre, the July Open Day, and Christian Aid Week. A third Lent Litter pick will take place in early April.

We continue to have a good relationship with the local Scout group and their attendance at the St George's Day and Remembrance Service is very much welcomed. There will continue to be annual dates where the scouts can visit the church for a session in order to gain their Faith Badge.

Looking forward, we will continue to try and establish working relationships with local schools. There is also determination to develop our youth work and new opportunities for those moving into Year 7.

Jackie Davis

Children & Families Worker

children@stmarybarnes.org

Christmas Cards

Our card for 2024 (featured here) by Dermot Trimble, a member of our congregation, proved extremely popular.

In total: We sold over 4180 cards and we raised £1,926 for St Mary's and our charities.

We should love to hear from you if you have ideas for a future Christmas Card or would like to get involved in any way. Please get in touch with Claire or Trisha via:

christmascards@stmarybarnes.org



Coffee Shop Report

The Coffee Shop in the Melvill Room is open every Saturday morning serving fairly traded coffee, tea and homemade cakes at very competitive prices. Each week a different charity or local

organisation hosts the event and as a result, in 2024, we raised the remarkable amount of £12,000 plus in donations to local, national and international charities and organisations. This is an impressive result and entirely due 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 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 between 10am and 11.45am.

Claire Boyling,
Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

coffeeshop@stmarybarnes.org

Saturday
Morning
Charity



Coffee
Shop

THE TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED FOR
GOOD CAUSES IS OVER £12,500

2024 has proved to be our most successful year yet thanks to
lots of support from our baristas, bakers and customers

All of the charities below have benefitted from the profits

Alzheimer's Society	Mary's Meals UK
Bishop's Lent Appeal	Medecins Sans Frontieres
British Heart Foundation	Meniere's Society
Castelnau Community Project	Motor Neurone Disease Association
Christian Aid	Parkinson's UK
Christ's School Voluntary Fund	Protected Paws Animal Rescue
Combat Stress	Richmond Riverboat Trust
Cornwall Air Ambulance	St Mary's Sponsor a Chair
Crisis at Christmas	St Mary's Bells Fund
Diabetes UK	St Mary's Music Fund
FISH	Save the Children Fund
Friends of Viera Gray	Shadow Road Productions
Glass Door Homeless Charity	Ukraine Scouts 'PLAST'
Hackney Doorway Night Shelter	Under Tree Schools, South Sudan
Lowther School PTA	Welcare
Maggie's Cancer Care Unit	Young Lives vs Cancer

Should anyone living locally wish to raise funds for their charity or local organisation do let us know. We have all the coffee making equipment. We ask you to bring cakes, milk, flowers for the table and encourage all your friends to come. It's a fun way to raise money for your cause. Just drop a note in to our Church Office or email office@stmarybarnes.org



ST MARY'S
BARNES
in the heart of our community

www.stmarybarnes.org

Churchyard Garden



It is wonderful to see our Barnes neighbours using our churchyard for relaxing in the sun. They, like us, greatly appreciate the results of the hard work of our gardening team, our lawn mowers and our path sweepers who tend it so carefully week by week through the year.

Communications Group

The Communications Group continues to promote events and the church message via the Weekly News. Our digital email goes out to 550 plus subscribers. We discuss what to promote on our internal and external noticeboards, our website and social media. Our social media presence on Instagram and Facebook is growing, particularly Instagram where we now have over 900 followers.

We publicise the upcoming Saturday morning coffee shops and associated charities in the Weekly News and on social media, and have recently put together a poster showing the charities we have supported and total amount raised.

We continue to work closely with AJ, our Kitson Hall administrator, and also with Jackie, our Children and Families' worker. We are delighted that Anna Chambers has joined our team and we are always on the look out for anyone who might like to join us.

Claire Boyling, Trisha Hawkins, Cheryl Cole and Judy Gowing

BARNES

FAIR DAY

www.stmarybarnes.org

SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2024

- ★ CLIMB THE BELL TOWER FOR THE BEST VIEW IN BARNES! ★
- ★ PIMMS TENT ★ CAKE STALL ★
- ★ CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ★
- ★ RELAX IN THE CHURCH GARDEN ★
- ★ HOT & COLD REFRESHMENTS ★
- ★ LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY ★

10-4pm

St Mary's Barnes
Church Rd SW13 9HL

TOWER TOURS
FROM 12 NOON

ALL WELCOME

Environment Group

We have a responsibility to seek to protect God's natural world, particularly from the threat of climate change. The Church of England aims to attain net carbon zero by 2030.

We continue to celebrate the natural world in our worship, through events such as Creation Sunday, and through holding some services outdoors.

In managing our churchyard our gardeners make a careful choice of the plants we grow. They added a bug hotel this year to the existing bird boxes, and we have replaced the old compost bins with new ones to be used environmentally. A large bough of the old yew tree came down in a storm; we will ensure that the wood is properly reused.



We await better technology to enable us to replace the gas boilers we use in the church and the Kitson Hall. Meanwhile we are concentrating on ways to use the heat in the hall wisely, and we are drawing up plans to improve its insulation. And until we reduce our carbon use the PCC is offsetting it by payments to approved green projects overseas.

On the environment page of the church website we encourage good practice, individually and jointly, including recycling and walking and cycling wherever we can. Another litter pick walk with the children in our congregation is about to take place.

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. We do need an environment champion, to encourage us to greater efforts. Is this you please?

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.

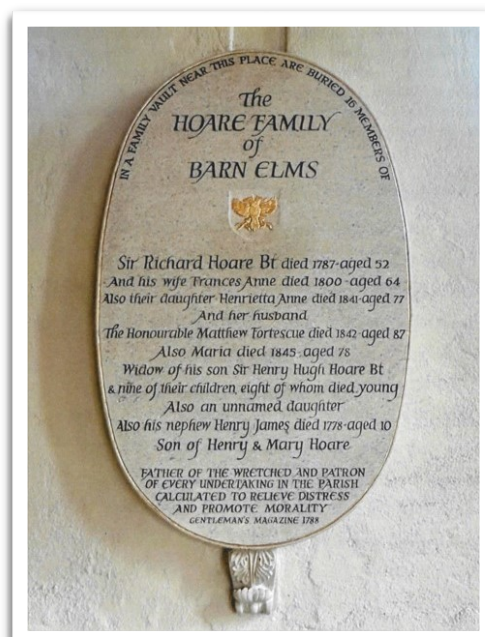
We continue to work on finding a solution to the problem of how to add two new toilets to the church, to meet the needs of audiences at the very busy events we host. We live in hope of finding a practical way of supplying the need without extortionate cost.

We want to prevent the sound of the bells annoying the outside world when we are practising. We have a detailed proposal, but it is taking time to get diocesan approval. We hope we are nearly there. The bellringing fund already holds the money it will cost.

Our big yew tree outside the porch lost a bough last year and we were advised to remove another bough and reduce the weight of the other branches, to protect the tree and the church. Most of that work has been done and we seek a contractor able to finish the job. Yew wood can be very desirable for woodworkers; and we want to get the wood that has been removed from the tree into good hands for reuse. We will shortly be offering a number of small items that you might like to buy.

We are as ever grateful to the members of the Fabric Committee who give their time and expertise to make these things (and many others) happen.

Peter Boyling, Chair, Fabric Committee



Faith in Action Group

Outreach is an important part of our St Mary's mission. In response to the many blessings we receive, we are urged to be generous in supporting the needs of people locally, nationally and internationally in financial away giving, in our prayers and practically.. We promote the work of a small number of charities in each category.

Charity	Website	Champion
Age UK Richmond	www.ageuk.org.uk/richmonduponthames	Veronica Schroter
Bishop's Lent Appeal	www.southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call	Phil Bladen
Castelnau Community Project	www.castelnaucentreproject.co.uk	Veronica Schroter
Christian Aid	www.christianaid.org.uk	Annie Sullivan
FiSH	www.fishhelp.org.uk	Judy Gowing
Glass Door	www.Glassdoor.org.uk	Anthony Figgis
Under Tree Schools South Sudan	www.undertreeschools.org	Peter Boyling
Welcare	www.welcare.org	Helen Eidi

You will notice that Veronica represents 2 charities. If this is something that would interest you, and you would like to be the Champion for either Age UK Richmond or CCP, please contact Judy Gowing (judygowing@gmail.com).

All these charities would welcome more volunteers.

Do contact them (or their Champion) if you have even an hour or two free occasionally.

Month by month we give information about each organisation. 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 or on the websites listed above. We donate the proceeds from our Friends of St Mary's events, the Barnes Charity Bike Sale, Christmas Fair and the sale of Christmas cards. In 2024, we donated to:

Age UK Richmond	£2,800
Bishop's Lent Call	£652
Castelnau Community Centre Project	£2,800
FiSH Neighbourhood Care	£1,500
Glass Door Homeless Charity	£2,000
Under Tree Schools	£2,595
Welcare Richmond	£1,500

In addition, we have donated to Crisis which was our chosen charity for Christmas and a myriad of other charities through the weekly Coffee Shop (see separate report). Many thanks to all the Champions, with special thanks to Peter Boyling who led this group for many years.

Judy Gowing judygowing@gmail.com

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 again been busy with a programme of successful high profile events.

The 40th Anniversary of the rebuilding of St Mary's was marked by two talks. The first in April by **Mark Beedle** of the original Cullinan design team on the rebuilding of the church. The second in June by **Scott McCracken** on the archaeological investigations after the fire.

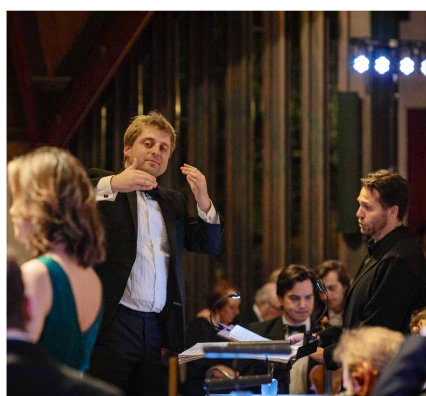
The **Barnes BookFest** was held in September with 20 events over a weekend. Authors included Frank Gardner, Robert Harris, Miriam Margolyes and David Gower. We also hosted in November **Bishop Richard Harries** in discussion with Ven Sheila Watson discussing his latest book *Wounded I Sing*.

The **Barnes Charity Fashion Show** returned in October 2024 with two packed-out performances. At our **Annual Choral Evensong** our preacher was the Very Rev'd Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark.

The **Barnes Music Festival 2025** in March 2025 was the most successful ever with 6500 people attending 35 events over two weeks, with 900 performers including Sir Antonio Pappano, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Opera Holland Park, Jeneba Kanneh-Mason and Alistair McGowan.

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 £50,000 in 2024. These funds used to pay for all the church's maintenance and utility costs as well as projects such as the new audio-visual installation.

Contact: Andrew Summers at friends@stmarybarnes.org



Flower Team

The flower team was formed in November 2022 and is made up of the following helpers: Fiona Barnett, Patty Darke, Rosie Findlater, Judy Gowing, Fouki Heller, Sue Lefroy, Sue Mackworth-Praed, Jay Jay McCarra, Sue Squire and Jo Teverson under the leadership of Judith Blacklock.

We have a weekly rota ensuring two members of the team arrange flowers for the sanctuary and the Langton Chapel, except for Lent and Advent when no flowers are required.

Fouki Heller



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. In 2024, we had four interments of ashes. We are preparing for 11 new stone inscriptions in liaison with the stonemasons.

Cheryl Cole, Parish Administrator

office@stmarybarnes.org



PLEASE DONATE www.stmarybarnes.org



ONE OFF DONATION
use your mobile phone camera to scan this code and click the link shown



CONTACTLESS DEVICES
we have two in church



REGULAR GIVING
please speak to a churchwarden or steward or pick up a form in church or email office@stmarybarnes.org

"God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

At St Mary's, we depend on the generous giving of individuals. We do not have a cash collection during the service, but there are easy alternative ways to give. Thank you for your support enabling us to continue serving our community.



[@stmarybarnes](https://www.instagram.com/stmarybarnes)


[St Mary's Church Barnes](https://www.youtube.com/stmarysbarnes)



Charity Commission No: 1134540

Gift Aid

The Rector and PCC would like to thank everyone who has generously donated to St Mary's this year. Your generosity has allowed us to maintain this beautiful ancient building and offer the variety of services, events and support described in this Annual Review. I hope everyone is familiar with the term, Gift Aid. It is a scheme whereby we can claim an extra 25% on donations to St Mary's, from the government. In the financial year 2024-25, we have claimed £45,538 in Gift Aid so it is well worth doing!

There is a stipulation that the donor must pay sufficient tax to cover the amount of Gift Aid claimed on their donations. If you donate and have not yet completed a Gift Aid Declaration form, please consider doing so. You can see it makes a big difference to our finances.

If you need a statement of donations made to St Mary's for your tax return, please contact giftaid@stmarybarnes.org

Patty Darke and Judy Gowing
Gift Aid Secretaries

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 Melvill Room, at St Mary's Church, using the Church kitchen and facilities. Usually, twice a year, we have an additional monthly lunch at the White Swan, Twickenham. For several years now we have had our Christmas Lunch in the Cote Restaurant, Barnes. 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 paths such as the Thames Path, and The Ridgeway. We have had boat trips on the Thames, visited The Mansion House, The Law Courts, The Cavalry Museum, and the Garrick Club. This year we had lectures and guided walking visits to the Brentford Dock area of London. We encourage members to organise trips out and we always include wives in any outings. We actively support two charities - Combat Stress, from which we were voted Community Group of the Year 2023, and the River Thames Boat Project enabling people who often have difficulty leaving their home, to have a day out on the River Thames.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining The Good Companions, please get in touch with us, via St Mary's Barnes Church Office.

Brian Turk

Home Groups

Our small home group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings weekly. We read passages in the bible on different themes. During Lent we have been reading Rowan Williams' latest book 'Discovering Christianity,' simply put but illuminating too. During the year we have read the two Samuel's and during Advent looked at some George Herbert poems. This is a relaxed and informal group, varying in size between five and eight. You would be very welcome to join us if you'd like to.

Fiona Barnett 0208 878 6975

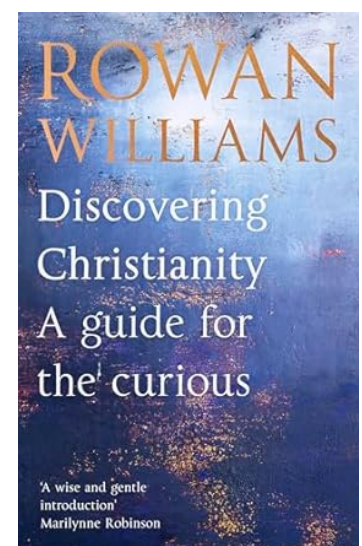
A home group continues to meet at 20 Berkeley Road. Chris and Lucy Hine have taken on the administration of the group allowing Christabel Gairdner to relinquish this role after 11 years.

She continues with us as a committed member of the group.

We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7-9.30pm for three blocks of 6 weeks over the year.

New members are always welcome.

Contact: Chris and Lucy Hine 0208 748 4852 lucyhine10@gmail.com



Hospitality Report

Hospitality events in 2024 were very well supported by both the congregation and the wider community. The two major events were the All-Day refreshments in Church on Barnes Fair Day and again during our Christmas Fair in November. We received lots of positive comments from happy customers on both occasions, most especially for our salad lunches and our cakes! Special thanks to Olympic Choir who provided extra cakes on Fair Day, to Ena and her sister Sue for their jams and preserves at the Christmas Fair and to Diane du Parcq for delicious gammon and salmon on both occasions. It was with great sadness, that we said goodbye to Rev'd James Hutchings and Alice in July but a joyful occasion too as we were able to thank them both for all they have done for us during James' tenure and of course generous refreshments were provided by the congregation.

We also organised a Bring and Share Harvest lunch in Kitson Hall in the early autumn and at the end of the year mulled wine and mince pies for our church garden Carol Service. And we continue to offer the ever-popular post-service Sunday coffee.

A big thank you to our fellow hospitality committee members and the Sunday coffee team. The St Mary's congregation and the Friends of St Mary's always come up trumps and we are never short of support, generosity, skill and time. Having said that we are growing a bit older so would very much welcome some 'younger' members on the committee please!!

Claire Boyling (Hospitality) & Wiz Dundas (Sunday Coffee)



Kitson Hall

Since the last review it has been another busy and successful year for Kitson Hall. Revenues from classes remains strong, but it was with some disappointment that the annual licence for the letting of the small hall was not renewed in September. The good news is that, after several false starts, we have now completed negotiations for a three-year licence for a new nursery school starting in September 2025. Bringing a nursery school back to the hall will be a exciting event for all of us and we are very much looking forward to it.

In terms of cost management, we successfully re-tendered the cleaning contract during the year bringing both costs down and quality up. For those who don't know, the hall is cleaned in the middle of the night, every night of the year except Christmas. It is our single biggest cost and we now have a great set of cleaners. The second biggest cost is energy and this too was reduced in a successful buying round in September. Lower costs continue to be relentlessly pursued!

We have also been working hard on our big strategy to meet the Church of England target of net zero carbon by 2030. We have a plan! Phase One which was to replace all lights with LED lamps and install movement sensors was completed to plan at year end 2024.

Lots planned for 2025 as well....

Richard Nickels

Chair of Kitson Hall Committee



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<https://www.stmarybarnes.org/kitson-hall/>

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.

Sanchi Murison, Marriage Preparation Team weddings@stmarybarnes.org

Music Report

The 2024/5 year has once again proven to be a success for music at St Mary's. We are happy to have retained most of our Scholars from last year (Henry, Kate and Alexis) and are happy to welcome Analise (from Jan '25) as Alto Scholar. The Parish choir are continuing to flourish, tackling tricky music with aplomb! September saw the institution of a new recital series 'St Mary's at 3' which seeks to provide a platform for some of London's most exciting young musicians to perform and has seen recitals with instruments including the voice, cello, viola and organ, and are now being attended by nearly 50 people each time.

Aided by Catherine Roe, William Heller and Andrew Summers, we have launched a piano restoration appeal to bring our fabulous Steinway back into an excellent condition, and at time of writing, we are approaching our goal of £19,000 which is a resounding (pun intended) success.

We were sad to say goodbye to Julia in September and, despite changing Junior Choir rehearsal times to Sunday mornings, we are struggling a little to bring in enough children to keep the choir viable. If you know of any young people who would like a fun choir to join, please send them my way!

We are hugely excited with Calum's appointment and musical expertise and look forward to seeing music continue to flourish with his oversight and support. Here's to an exciting year ahead!

Ben Markovic

dmo@stmarybarnes.org





SPONSOR A PIANO KEY

to help restore St Mary's Barnes Steinway piano

88 KEYS
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- Our classic Steinway D piano, gifted decades ago by a Barnes music lover, enables St Mary's to host exceptional music.
- We need to raise £19,000 for urgent, essential restoration (new Steinway Model D costs £150,000).
- This work will be done by a leading Steinway expert.
- All sponsorship up to £5,000 will be matched by a generous donor.
- All sponsors will be acknowledged by name in a public list.
- Support the Piano Restoration Fund to secure music of the highest standard in Barnes.

TO SPONSOR

Please use button below *giftaid it* or use the contact machine in the church

www.stmarybarnes.org/piano



Sacristans 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 holders of 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. Sally has repaired vestments where needed and also had them cleaned

Lucy Hine, Wiz Dundas, Judica Palmarozza, Fiona Barnett

Safeguarding Report

St Mary's is committed to its responsibility to safeguard the young and vulnerable in our church and community. We have continued to ensure that adults working with children and vulnerable adults have an up-to-date DBS, have completed a Confidentiality Declaration (in line with the Diocese recruitment process) and an appropriate level of Safeguarding Training.

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.

We have ensured that all newly recruited posts were recruited following Diocese Safer Recruitment procedures. We continue 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 policy can be found in the Church entrance and on the Church website along with photos of the PSOs.

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.

We have recently completed the Diocesan Safeguarding audit, which has given us confidence that we are working to keep everybody safe but also give us some areas of development which we will be able to provide updates on in next year's report.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who engage with us to complete and renew the required certifications. 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 Nicola King

Parish Safeguarding Officers

safeguarding@stmarybarnes.org

Pastoral Group

We meet monthly with the Rector and Rev'd James Marston sharing whatever any of us might feel needs sharing, where we have visited members of our congregation or a situation where support is needed. We do hold intercessory prayers on the first Monday of each month, when we include all the prayer requests that appear on the prayer board. Please let any of us know if you would like special prayer either for yourself or anyone about whom you are concerned.

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

St Mary's Barnes Scout Group Report

All sections of the Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts followed a full programme of activities throughout the year. All of our meetings were held in the Scout Hut on Queen Elizabeth Walk. A mixture of games, working towards badges and awards and learning traditional Scouting skills make up the content of our meetings. The Scouts were working especially on their Challenge Badges in order to achieve the Chief Scout's Gold Award and Silver Award. As often as we can, we like to be outdoors on the playing fields opposite the Scout Hut, Barnes Common, along by the river and other local areas.

During the year we held several camps. The Cubs had a camp at Walton Firs, near Cobham in April 2024. The Scouts had a hike and overnight camp also at Walton Firs in March 2025 and attended the Thames Young Mariners weekend in June 2024. Both the Cubs and Scouts went to the District Camp again at Walton Firs in July 2024. The Beavers went to the District New Year Party in Teddington in January 2025.

At Barnes Fair, the Scouts, leaders and parents served bacon rolls and other refreshments at our kitchen tents on Barnes Green by Station Road. The Cubs again ran a very popular coconut shy.



At Christmas the Group provided and decorated the Christmas Tree for the church.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts attended St Mary's Barnes for St George's Day and Remembrance Sunday services. At present, we have one Beaver Colony, two Cub Packs and one Scout Troop.

*Roger Stanley, Beaver and Blue Pack Leader,
on behalf of the leaders and young people of St Mary's Barnes Scout Group*

Vergers

What is a vergers? 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. In the last twelve months, the verging team have provided their services at eight weddings, one blessing of marriage, seven funerals and three memorial services.

Sian Walford, Deborah Stewartby & Sue Glasgow