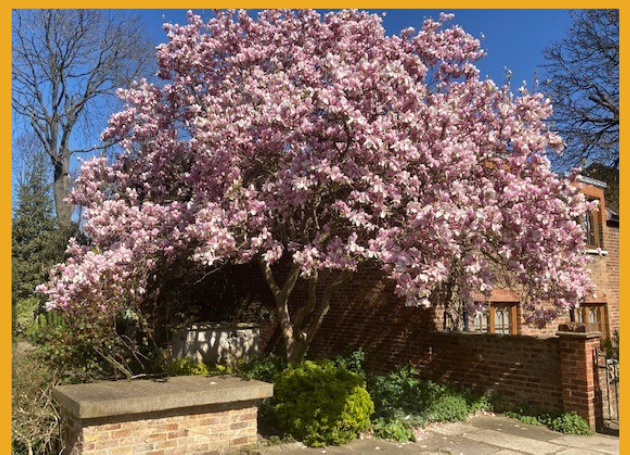
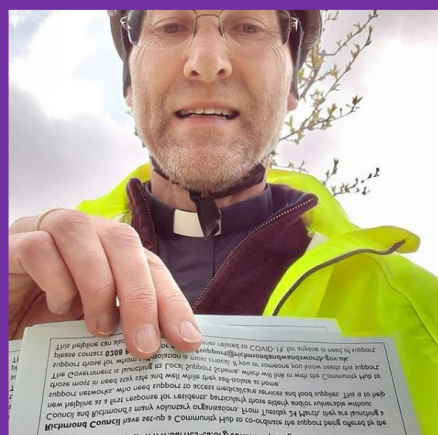
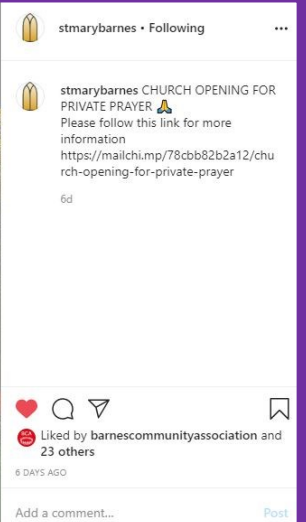


ST MARY'S BARNES



Annual Review 2019 & 2020

Churchwardens' Report



The years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 proved to be very eventful ones for the church, our community and us wardens at St Mary's. These 2 years have been very varied: a year of interregnum ending with the institution of our Rector James Hutchings in July 2019, followed by a year of pandemic from March 2020 to date. It was interesting to hear James say that this Easter was his first real Easter with the congregation at St Mary's after being 20 months in post! We would both on behalf of the congregation like to thank James for everything he has done over the last 20 months and the creativity he has adopted to make our worshipping possible over the unprecedented period of the pandemic, lockdown and now to the easing of the restrictions. We would also like to thank all those on the various committees, groups and working parties, as well as those who helped with extra stewarding including outdoors. Without their contributions many of the things we have been able to do would just not have been possible. We are nowhere near back to our normal numbers of worshippers in the church, but the supplementing of the online church has reached many people who might have been shielding and would have otherwise missed attending services. James has also been creative in introducing new traditions using our church garden in different ways: with worship, displays and activities to our best advantage. Many of these we may choose to keep in the future. Hopefully that is a new way to reaching out into the community and ensuring St Mary's plays its part in Barnes.

Fouki Heller and Phil Bladen, Churchwardens

Fabric Committee Report

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

If you have not seen much of the inside of the church over the last year or so, fear not: it has not changed. However we have been working to look after it. Last summer we had our five yearly inspection of the building by our parish architect, Daniel Martin. He had some minor suggestions to make for repair, and we will be following those up over the coming year. Also we have made plans with him to restore our wooden lychgate, and to repair the Church Road wall; and these will happen fairly soon. We will move the location of the noticeboards that have been hanging on the gate to the wall beside the gate, with a smart new board. Inside the

church we want to install two cameras to live-stream our services, rather than record during the service and put the recordings on line afterwards. We should be able to do that soon. In the summer we hope to be able at last to install the replacement memorial to the Hoare family in the Langton chapel: their previous one was destroyed in the 1978 fire. There has been much consultation with all concerned, including the congregation, on its design and location.

All these things require approval from the diocese (the faculty system). Given the number of applications we have been making they must be getting sick of us.

We will also need to upgrade our fire safety equipment to meet the current rules. There will be small call points beside the main doors and upstairs, but otherwise the changes should not be visible. And the floor grilles for the central heating were regouted in 2019, but the cement has again crumbled. We will seek a better solution this year. 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!

The PCC and I are as ever grateful to the members of the Fabric Committee who give their time and expertise to make these things happen: the churchwardens, Patrick Findlater, Trisha Hawkins, William Heller, Michael Murison and Paul Teverson. As I said last year a slightly larger committee could help us do more, more expeditiously. Who do you know of a practical bent who might like to join us?

Peter Boyling, Chair, Fabric Committee

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 2019, our new Team Rector of Barnes and Vicar of St Mary's was appointed. Lay representatives of the Team, with the vicars of Holy Trinity and St Michael's and All Angels, formed the majority of the Patronage Board that was responsible for the



selection of James. The Team Council, under its new Team Rector, has decided that a future key role of the team will be for the churches to support each other through the provision of resources. St Mary's held a course in good safeguarding practice and we were pleased that representatives of Holy Trinity joined us for that. We also anticipate that individual churches may own equipment that could be lent out to another church, rather than each buying their own.

The Team jointly own 52 Boileau Road, as accommodation for a team curate. Holy Trinity wish to sell their share. The churches have therefore decided to sell the house. We hope to market it this year. St Mary's share is two thirds of the value of the sale; and our PCC will decide how to invest that, in order to provide the funds to rent another house for our next curate.

The annual accounts of the Team for 2019 and 2020 show that the main item is income from the current letting of the house and the expenditure on repairs etc that falls to the Team as landlord. During 2020 most of the funds held were returned to the parishes, leaving £10,000 in the Team account.

Peter Boyling, Secretary to the Team Council

Bellringing at St Mary's April 2019 – March 2020

Our year has been busy with the usual activities of service ringing every Sunday morning, Friday quarter peals and practices, Saturday practices, ringing for weddings and memorial services as well as our Summer Tour and Winter Outing.

We continued to fundraise for our training facilities and are hugely grateful to the congregation and the wider community for the support they have shown. The four refurbished laptops are in frequent use and the second dumb/practice bell will be put to use once we are in a position to apply for a Faculty to fix both permanently in the clock room. Other smaller items have simplified the setup for learners. We still have £8,700 in our account. However, we expect to need a further £5,000 to install full sound control in the tower which would enable us to shut off the sound of the bells travelling out through the tower louvres by means of a single lever, rather than having to clamber under the bells to silence them before and



A bellringing wheel

after each practice, which is a tricky and time consuming process.

The extra time and effort put into our training has resulted in huge progress from quite a number of new and improving ringers during the year. We also helped with a training programme for new ringers at All Saints Fulham and follow-up sessions were held in Barnes on clamped bells most weekdays throughout August from 7.30 am to 9.00 am, a time which suited both trainers and learners alike, with essential coffee and croissants half-way through! These learners now attend practices at both churches and frequently make up numbers for our own service ringing.

We continue our involvement with the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART), and nine certificates have been presented to learners during the year for reaching higher proficiency levels. We were very proud that two of our young ringers, Isabelle and Dominic Johnson, were selected this year for the Surrey Association's 'Surrey Strikers' band in the Ringing World National Youth Contest for under 19s. Three of us went to Liverpool for the day to support the team along with their trainers and families. We were delighted to welcome our new Rector and marked the occasion with a quarter peal on Friday 26 July. External ringing activities included a one-day Winter Outing in January to churches around Harefield, then our Summer Trip with 5 days of very enjoyable ringing in and around Hereford.



Trisha being intrepid!

St Mary's is always a sought-after location for ringing courses and training.

We hosted a group for Developing Handling Skills in March and then a Teachers Conference in November, both for the Surrey Association.

Our schedule of quarter peals along with the Friday practices provide challenges for some of the more experienced ringers in the area and are a wonderful opportunity for members of our own band to progress.

Ringers come from quite a wide area for training on Saturday mornings and the knowledge and training skills required can vary considerably. We are grateful for the assistance of experienced ringers from other towers in the area.

This year ringers from our main band with support of two choir members rang carols on our handbells outside M&S for the BCA Christmas Festival, raising £148 for Spinal Research. They rang again for the residents of Viera Gray and Walsingham Lodge in

mid-December with the choir and clergy from the three Barnes churches.

In February, it was an honour to be invited by FiSH to speak at Barnes Green Day Centre in one of their regular Tuesday slots, on 'The Bells of St Mary's'. Over 60 people attended the talk which covered the history of the bells, explained the mechanism of ringing a bell full-circle and lots more. In researching this, it was extraordinary to realise that for more than 50 years in the early part of the last century we did not have many, if any, ringers of our own, and that the bells were probably only ever rung by visitors or by someone using the 1898 Ellacombe chiming apparatus!

I thank our own tower members who are always so willing to give their support to the group and the wider St Mary's community in so many different ways and who make our ringing activities interesting, rewarding and enjoyable.

Bellringing at St Mary's April 2020 – March 2021

It wasn't long after our February 2020 AGM that everything changed! It is extraordinary to think that it will be a whole year without the tower bells being rung. After the first lockdown, when some ringing was allowed, we decided that even being spaced out on four bells we would have been too close to each other under the social distancing rules. Three might have been possible but would have sounded pretty dire. So how have we kept things going in this year of 'silence'?

Until March we had been holding our regular Saturday morning learners' practices, well supported by our more experienced ringers as well as our regular Friday quarter peals. We were also building up our training facilities and had started to use the Raspberry Pi, the new footswitch and the wifi-sensor on the training bell which greatly simplified the setup when one person wished to practice on their own. Things were on a roll. Then suddenly everything stopped!



Soon after the first lockdown started, we decided to create a WhatsApp group mainly for the learners as an easy way of communicating and with the hope of keeping them interested. The aim was to focus the chat on bellringing and to keep it free of 'Covid' talk and jokes since there was so much elsewhere. We found it an excellent way not only to keep in touch but to share suggestions of ringing

recordings to watch or listen to, news stories about towers or ringers, links to training articles and ideas as to how we might find ways to ring within the rules. Unusual suggestions to encourage recruitment were circulated, bell-related quizzes and crosswords were put up to challenge the learners and lots more.

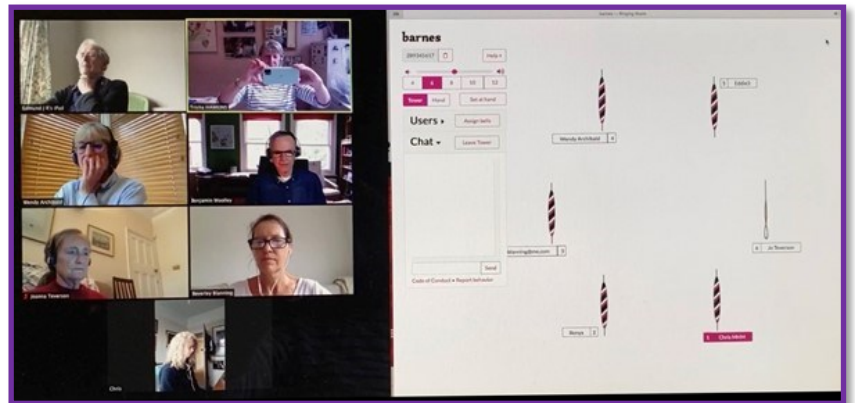
Early in May we decided to have our own Zoom gathering and those who could make it enjoyed catching up. Even if there wasn't much news as we were still locked down, we enjoyed seeing each other again.

Later in May we put up two teams for the Rector's virtual quiz for Christian Aid week. The peal to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8 May could not go ahead as planned, but we were interested to see photos from both Giles and Eddie of themselves taken on the actual day as a young boys.

Before the month was out, Chiswick ringers were practising on a Monday night using both Zoom and a new programme, Ringing Room. We decided to follow suit and, apart from a period in the summer when many were able to take time away from home, we have continued to offer an online practice most Fridays at 4pm for about an hour. Early on Eddie offered some theory lessons as well on Zoom which were well received and extremely useful.

Working with two screens – Zoom and Ringing Room

On 15 August, the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day, Giles and Jo shared the tolling of a single bell 75 times, one ringing with gloves on and the other counting, swapping half-way. On the Patronal Festival on 13 September Judy joined us to ring handbells in the churchyard while the limited number of congregation arrived for the 10am service.



In the months leading up to Christmas, Mike and Jill Wigney gave valuable help online from Devon which enabled several quarter peals to be rung with learners using Ringing Room. Wendy rang her first on two handbells, Owen rang inside to Bob Minor (his first quarter peal) and then another inside to Grandsire Doubles and Jo rang inside to Plain Bob Minor.

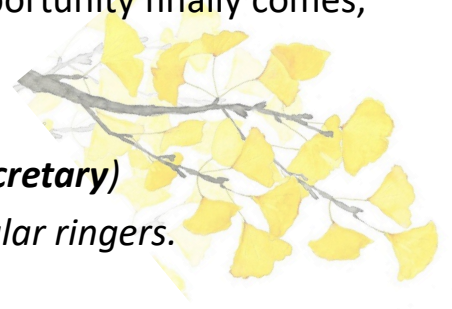
In December we were able to practice handbell carols in the churchyard prior to ringing for a very different Barnes Christmas Festival. Instead of standing outside

M&S in the High Street, we stood in the churchyard by the outdoor crib and firepit. It seemed a far more fitting position and we had lots of attention from passers-by. We also took part in one of the two outdoor carol services in Christmas week which proved hugely popular, despite the rain.

Who would have believed that the year would end with our bells being silent even on Christmas Day! The early part of 2021 has continued in the same way, but now with up to three online practices a week. We do wonder how the practice and theory learned will translate into tower ringing when the opportunity finally comes, but have no doubt that the time will not have been wasted.

Trisha Hawkins, towercaptain@stmarybarnes.org

Officers: *Trisha Hawkins (Captain), Jill Wigney (Treasurer/Secretary) and Andrew Howard-Smith (Steeple Keeper) & 20 other regular ringers.*



Senior Hand Bell Ringers Report 2020

Obviously, we have only managed to meet to ring occasionally but have now restarted our weekly meeting – we are making the best of the rather poor set of bells we have been served up with and are hopeful that our association who are aware of our bells situation are planning to lend us a set – but a bad workman blames his tools and we are trying!!

I hope that this year we will be able to ring at some time in the church or in its environs thus far it's not been possible as several of us were shielding – but now ringing again on the patio at home its already sounding rather lovely so we have much hope!! If anyone is interested in joining us to ring on Tuesday mornings in Barnes do please enquire. *Sue Adams sue.adams@btinternet.com*

Barnes Charity Bike Sale

The Barnes Charity Bike Sale goes from strength to strength. The number of bikes donated, total sales and therefore the resulting proceeds were considerably higher in 2019. We processed 273 bikes in total. 229 were spruced up and sold, 12 were given to the Bike Project after the sale and the rest were used for spare parts. 165 bikes



The night before the Bike Sale !

were gift-aided bringing in an extra £2454.81 in income. The total surplus of almost £17,000 was shared between St Mary's, UTS, Castelnau Centre, Age UK and GlassDoor.

We were helped hugely by the marketing expertise provided by Jamie Vickery. He has joined our impressive and enthusiastic team of volunteers willing to get stuck in and get their hands dirty. A huge thank you to everybody who helped!

Inevitably, the sale in 2020 was cancelled. However, James Kyrle-Pope has done a fantastic job of receiving donated bikes, sprucing them up and selling them on. So far, he has raised £2000 – much needed funds for St Mary's. Barnes Fair 2021 has been cancelled and we are hoping to combine the Barnes Charity Bike Sale with the (expanded) BCA Food in September.

We would welcome anyone else who would be able to offer some time. Specific areas of activity are admin, publicity, bike repair and maintenance, bike washing and making endless cups of tea to keep the team happy!

Keep an eye on www.barnescharitybikesale.co.uk, Judy Gowing



Care for Creation (Environment Group)

One of our Anglican “Marks of Mission” is “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”. God is creator of our wonderful natural world, but human actions are threatening it through climate change. We must work to conserve it. As we seek to care for the wellbeing of members of our community we must also care for our local environment. The Church of England has committed itself to attain net carbon zero in our activities by 2030.

So our PCC has created an environmental policy for St Mary's, to help us contribute to caring for creation. We will be reflecting our commitment in our prayer and worship throughout the year, including marking a Climate Sunday in the summer and the Creation season in the autumn. We continue to encourage wildlife in our church garden. We want to reduce our carbon footprint in church; we already use only renewable electricity. As soon as the technology is proved we will want to move away from the gas we use for heating the church and the hall. Meanwhile we are looking at offsetting the carbon we create, through an appropriate scheme. And we want to involve our young people in what we are doing – they have already contributed to creating the Easter Garden in the churchyard.



Rev'd Sister Margaret Anne ASSP
with a Palm Sunday donkey

We will have a page on our church website that lists all the things we are and will be doing. It will also encourage us all to support local environmental initiatives, such as the Friends of Barnes Common. We will be publishing details of a new online group through which we can reuse and recycle items rather than discard them.

This work is being led by an environment group, to whom we are grateful for their enthusiasm and effort: Sarah Cox, Steve Cox, Christabel Gairdner, William Heller, Sue Mackworth-Praed, Cathy Putz and Annie Sullivan, with the Rector and churchwardens. Would you like to join in?

Peter Boyling, for the Environment group

St Mary's Barnes – Children and Family Work

Sunday Club April 2019-March 2020

This year there have been many transitions. We started Easter with a lovely donkey for Palm Sunday who came into church and stood still to listen to the sermon and then gave donkey rides in the grounds after church. We arranged an Easter egg hunt after church on Easter Sunday which went down well in spite of the rain.

In May, we had to say goodbye to Charlie with big celebrations and a great send-off including messages from many children and parents and much love.

In June, Sunday club organised a BBQ and picnic for everyone to join after one service and in July the older children ran a stall selling slime at Barnes Fair and refreshments in the church grounds. It was a beautiful day and much enjoyed by all. In September, our beloved JulieAnn left us to join Richard in Jerusalem and we again gave her a really great send off! She will also be missed greatly. Harvest and October brought the wonderful pretzels-making team back for the Harvest Lunch ably managed by Kim and her family. We had the Christingle service (at a new time of 4pm) in November and the Christmas Fair where many biscuits were decorated and Santa was knocked off the chimney by many snow balls.

In December, the Nativity was superb once again, thanks largely to Alison McMillan and her team of parents. We had just 5 rehearsals (and lots of tea and coffee) before our dress rehearsal on the 22nd and two performances on the 24th December. It was standing room only and a great opportunity to celebrate our very special church family by showcasing our wonderful children.

February was Pancake Day and Sunday Club made pancakes for everyone after the 10am service which were much appreciated, especially by the older folk. It was lovely to see the little ones feeling so confident around the older members of the congregation and testimony to their commitment to our church.

We now have more than 50 children on our registers, many of which have taken part in all of the events I have listed above. I am now stepping back as the Sunday Club lead and we are very excited to have recently appointed 2 officials; A Sunday Club leader and a Youth worker for St. Mary's Church; namely Jackie Davies and Julie Smith. Jackie and Julie were appointed just before the lock down and Coronavirus so have unfortunately been furloughed for the time being, but they are both amazing and we are so excited that they, with James' support, will be helping the young people of St. Mary's to continue to grow spiritually and encouraging them to be hungry for opportunities to explore their faith. I thank all of the parents, you know who you are, who have supported me practically and emotionally with their energy, commitment and love to ensure that the young people of St. Mary's have been supported through this very challenging year. Thank you all so much. I really could not have done it without you. *Cate Summers*

April 2020-April 2021

Coming eagerly into post in February 2020, there was a clear plan in place of how to develop the children and family work within the church and engage with a wider range of children and their families. At this point, it was not apparent how much of a global, as well as local, impact a barely heard of virus was going to have.

Obviously, within only a few weeks the significance and urgency to response to Coronavirus meant drastic changes through society and closure of our church.

Regarding the ability to undertake children's work at St Mary's, the national restrictions that have been in place since March 2020 have inevitably presented challenges in what we have been able to offer. In saying that however, it has also offered an opportunity to reflect and develop what we offer, how we approach it, and on changes that we should make moving forward. These would not likely have arisen in the situation had not been so drastic in forcing different approaches.

This report provides an overview of the variety of children and family work that has taken place and highlights the ways in which we have sought to keep them engaged in this extraordinary year.

Sunday Club

It has been possible to have six Sunday Club sessions in church over the past year. The attendance at these sessions we offered averaged 8 children. There are over 50 children on the registers. The legal maximum we were able to cater for was 15 and this was only possible alongside the implementation of clear and thorough Covid 19 risk minimisation measures.

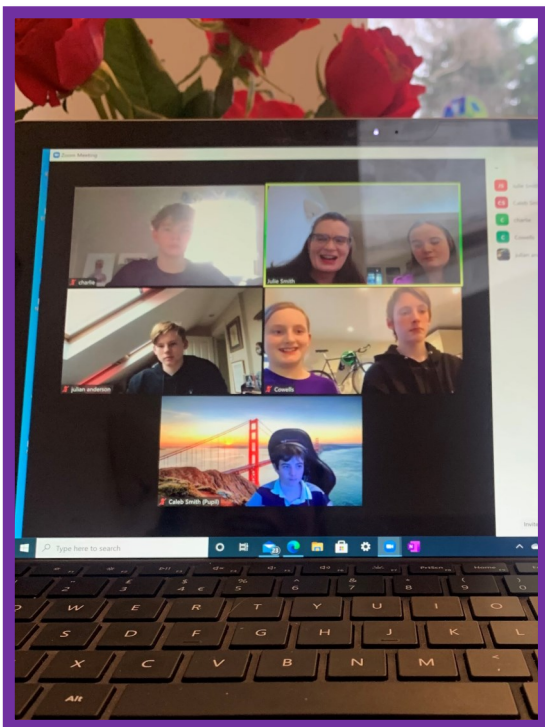
Sunday Club maintains in its intentions to support children in discovering who God is, what God is like and what God does, as well as gain a clear and age-appropriate understanding of Christian values and beliefs. Sunday Club at St Mary's welcomes all children and actively promotes and encourages reflection and questioning form and recognises and respects different views. In our teaching, we continue to utilize a range of methods in our delivery, including reading and storytelling, craft and games, cookery, as well as Godly play strategies. Using this variety of methods



The Bonham family with the Easter Story

creates the opportunity for children with a range of different learning styles to be involved and keeps sessions interesting and diverse for attendees. The structure of the Sunday Club group has been changed and we now offer a single group for children aged 4 -11 (with flexibility for older children to attend if they would like).

Moving forward, the opportunity to participate in a Godly Play session once per term to further enrich their spiritual thinking and learning will be available. The hope is to restart Sunday Club on Sunday 2nd May. The aim will be to run as many sessions as possible outside in order to



The Youth Group on Zoom

minimise risks of Coronavirus transmission and to work toward some of our

environmental aims, as well as allow the enjoyment of the beautiful garden. St Mary's has a small, yet dedicated, core team of Sunday Club leaders who have worked extremely hard to ensure that children within our congregation are able to enjoy the benefits of Sunday Club when it has been permitted. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the team who consistently put so much of their time, enthusiasm leading Sunday Club. The ongoing recruitment of new Sunday Club leaders is a priority.

Sunday Club Zoom

During term time, whilst we have not been able to offer Sunday Club in church, we have been online each Sunday morning for a short Zoom Sunday Club. This has been an important opportunity for our children and families to come together and share their faith in an age appropriate and relaxed manner.

The Zoom club is structured around a bible reading, some 'wondering' questions that promote deeper thinking and questioning and understanding, and prayer.

We have a regular core group of families who attend, and our average attendance is around four families. The Zoom Sunday Club has enabled these families to remain engaged when church attendance has not been possible. It has also allowed for the ongoing contact with families, which is so important for maintaining relationships.

All Together Services

The purpose of these services is to provide an opportunity for all ages of our congregation to come together in worship and as a unified community. The proposal is to have an All Together Service approximately every month and discussion about how these might best meet the needs of all is underway.

Christingle

This year was a Christingle Service with a difference. All attendees were provided with a pack to make their own Christingle as part of an interactive service, led by Reverend James, and supported by children from the congregation in reading and prayer. It was a magical experience, made extra special by being one of the limited opportunities in 2020 to be together and share faith in church.

Remembrance

In November, several families participated in decorating a wooden poppy as part of the Remembrance Sunday commemorations. They decorated these and then placed them around the



Wooden poppies for
Remembrance Sunday

memorial in the church gardens. This was a simple way in which the younger members of the congregation felt able to mark their respects and take time for prayer when legislation meant the attendance at the church services was restricted.

Stars and Angels

As part of the Christmas display in St Mary's, children from our Sunday Club and Ark Nursery in Kitson Hall were delivered Stars and Angels to decorate. Again, this was



Giving out daffodils on Mothering Sunday

Nativity

This was a challenge this year, but with use of technology and 'out of the box' thinking a nativity involving many of our children was produced and watched, both in distanced services on Christmas Eve and through availability on the website. It is always such a special part of the Christian faith at Christmas to have children as an integral part of the nativity story and it was particularly heart-warming in a year where many other traditions had to be forgone. Huge thanks to all involved in making this happen, but especially to Alison Macmillan, whose tireless commitment and energy allowed the seed of an idea to come to fruition.

Mothering Sunday

In addition to our weekly Sunday Club Zoom, children and their families were invited to the church at 11am to share a poem, short activity, daffodil giving, and prayer to celebrate 'mothering'. Children also had the opportunity to select their own plant to be put into the Easter Garden; something that they can tend and watch grow. This was a lovely and positive occasion that helped to bring children and families back to St Mary's.

Toddler Group

The legislation around being able to run toddler groups has meant that establishment of St Mary's toddler group has had to be postponed.



There is however a clear plan in place for its launch. Posters, communication with stakeholders, service sheets and ideas for group content are ready to move as soon as changes allow. It is hoped that this will be in the second half of the Summer term (from early June 2021).

The group will be held on Tuesday morning in the church. It will involve a bible story, prayer, and activity, as well as themed activity, singing, play and refreshments.

Holy Week 2020

In Holy Week 2020, 12 families requested a 'Holy Week box', which was taken to their homes. This small box contained a reading and prayer for each day, along with some small items that were relevant to telling the story for each day of Holy Week. This was a way in which the importance of this particularly holy time for Christians could be shared in age appropriate way when not in church, and one which was specifically designed for families to do in a manner that they could share faith together.

Holy Week and Easter 2021

There were several services and events that took place during Holy Week and Easter 2021 that are especially relevant to children and families.

On Palm Sunday there was a mini service in the church garden where we waved our palm crosses as we remembered Jesus coming into Jerusalem on a donkey. Children and their grown-ups were invited to stay in the garden for a faith-based activity and to 'meet' the donkey if they wish.

A small booklet of family prayer and activity for each day was available in the church and sent to regularly attending families. As in 2020, when church attendance was restricted, this was the way to discuss Holy Week as a family at home and support children to gain understanding and reflect on this important Christian time.

During Holy Week we encouraged families to make their own miniature Easter garden to be displayed in the church on Easter Sunday.

Several of the church services planned were suitable for all ages, including a short service around the cross in the church garden on Good Friday and a joyful Easter celebration and easter egg hunt in the church garden on Easter Sunday.

In addition, children and their families have been part of the planting of flowers in the outside Easter garden, something that they will be able to appreciate for many months to come. It was felt that Holy Week and Easter 2021 marked a turning point in being able to cautiously and safely return the children and families in our community back to physical church.

General

Alongside specific pieces of work, ongoing care has been taken to ensure that all risk assessment and administration are up to date and reviewed and amended regularly and /or as required.

Looking forward

The post of Children and Family Worker will continue to oversee and review the development of Sunday Club activities and resources offered to children in the church and local community. In the 2021 / 2022 year, the focus of the role will be to deliver further opportunities regarding children and family ministry and delivery, as well as continue to work in collaboration with the Youth Worker and other key stakeholders.

Jackie Davis, Children and Families Worker, St Mary's Barnes

St Mary's Christmas Cards

For 2019's Christmas card, David Pearce created a beautiful photographic composition of the St Mary's hand bells with the sheet music for Ding Dong Merrily on High. He was incredibly generous and kind with both his skill and expertise as well as his time – thank you so much. We produced the card in a square format



David Pearce Christmas Card design 2019

that we haven't used for a while and in rich reds and golds to stand out against the colours used in previous years. It proved very popular.

This year we only created one new card as we had plenty of stock of previous cards, including last year's one of Barnes Pond by Rachel Parker and some of the lovely painting of the church door by Katie James. There are currently seven different designs with varying levels of stock left for 2020. In total this year,

we had nine different designs, some of which formed the basis of the 'bargain corner'. We sold 547 packs of cards across all the designs, but the most popular was the new design by David. This overall figure was fractionally down on last year's sales (by 4 packs) and was a combination of having one less week for selling cards as a result of the date of the Christmas Fair, and an annual trend over the last four years of sales dropping. As I mentioned in last year's report, the combination of high postage and increases in living costs mean that people have less disposable



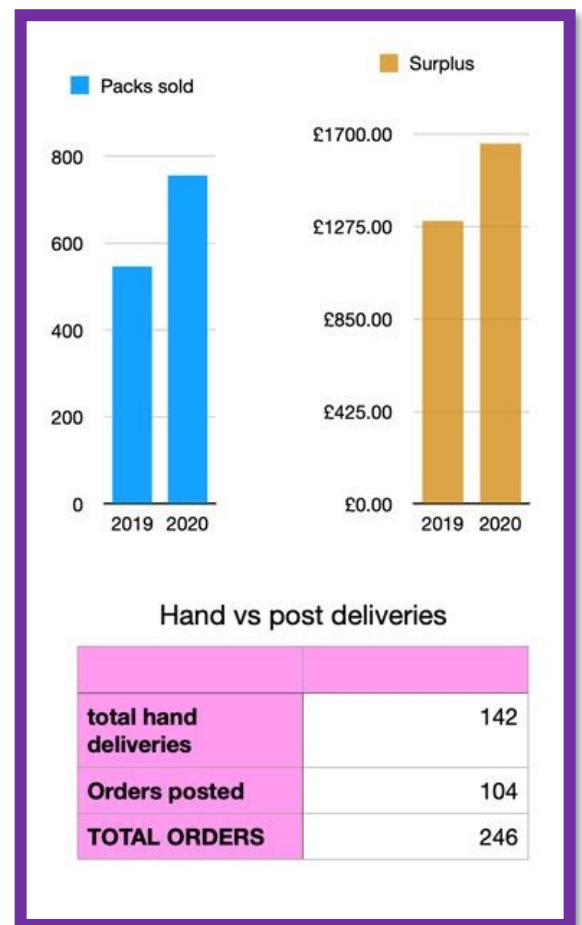
income, which will increasingly impact on sales. Also contributing to the reduction in sales is the trend for people to send email cards, or not send them at all anymore. We made just over £1,300.00 in profit which will go towards the charities that St Mary's supports.

As in previous years, I am hugely grateful to the amazing team of volunteers that enable us to keep the church open for the sale of cards from the middle of November to just before Christmas. We had so many people offering to help this year, it was truly wonderful. Thank you so much. After five years, I think many of you will know that I am stepping down from Christmas card duty. It has been an amazing experience and has given me the chance to meet so many wonderful people, thank you all so much. *Charlie Grainger*

Report on the sale of Christmas Cards online 2020

Inevitably in 2020, it wasn't possible to sell St Mary's Christmas Cards as we had always done in the past from the church. We had a good

supply of cards from previous years which we were keen to sell, so a total rethink was needed so that we could manage things in a 'Covid-appropriate' manner. We printed just one new card to refresh the choice available and agreed a plan of action to sell the cards: The team (Claire Boyling, Jo Teverson, Judy Gowing, Charlie Grainger and Trisha Hawkins) would all operate remotely from home without using the church at all. A WhatsApp group provided easy communication between the team. Sarah Arthur, who designed our website, was asked to add a 'shop' to the site, to feature each card with prices. The site was set to receive payments online via credit card/ Paypal, so there were no cash transactions. Publicity was undertaken online via St Mary's emails, the Bugle, Prospect, LBRuT emails and more. Cards were also offered for sale on eBay.. Claire agreed to be the 'hub' for local deliveries in SW13 & SW14 by volunteers (in practice she and Peter undertook most of the deliveries). Trisha was the 'hub' for mailing orders outside the area. Stocks of cards and envelopes were shared between Jo, Judy and Charlie who packed cards and deliver to Claire or Trisha as



Christmas Card sales 2020

required. Orders from the shop site and eBay were monitored by Trisha. Those for local delivery were forwarded to Claire. To reduce visits to the Post Office, both the website shop and eBay orders were linked to a Royal Mail account which enabled postage to be pre-paid and labels printed automatically from the addresses entered by the purchaser. Packs could be put straight in the letter box or, if too large, dropped off at the PO, mostly before 8am, when queues could be avoided.

Pricing of the cards was kept as low as possible and requests came flying in from all across the UK including Northern Ireland! By Christmas we had received a total of 246 orders, selling 756 packs (=7,560 cards) as well as some Henderson Cisz prints made and unsold from a 2007 card and some St Mary's cookbooks from 2010. The upshot was that over £1,725 was raised which was shared between those in the local community who offered so much help during the pandemic (Castelnau Community Project, FiSH and the Old Sorting Office Arts Centre) and the church. Special thanks go to all those who supported this venture and bought cards from us.

Trisha Hawkins, christmascards@stmarybarnes.org



Coffee Shop & Hospitality Team



Coffee Shop

Saturdays 10.15-12.15

- Delicious homemade cakes and biscuits
- Fairtrade coffee, teas and squash 
- Sunny courtyard for fine days
- Run by local people raising funds for their chosen charity
- Follow the path to the left of the church!

www.stmarybarnes.org

 **ST MARY'S BARNES**
In the heart of our community

Coffee Shop Report

The Saturday Coffee Shop was open only for the first couple of months of 2020 due to Covid restrictions. In that time a little under £1,000 was raised for charities as varied as Save the Children, Myeloma UK, Stroke Association, the Scouts and the Church garden and bells funds. We will, of course, aim to re-start the Coffee Shop as soon as it is safe to do so. In all likelihood by early this summer.

In more normal times 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 2019, we again raised over £6,500 in donations to local, national and international charities. St Mary's also benefits although this largely goes to cover overheads. 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 bellringing team. 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! As one of our baristas kindly said "It is a wonderful resource for the community generally as well as for the many local charities that benefit and we really value your support and generosity". 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. We would also 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 020 8878 3775 / claire.boyling@gmail.com*

Hospitality Team Report 2020

The Hospitality team is a small but vital cog in the daily life of our church. Our role is to provide refreshment at special times and at regular events and services. In 2019, we prepared lunch for the 'Rector' candidates and associated dignitaries, cooked a Maundy Thursday Supper in the Kitson Hall and an Easter Dawn post Service breakfast and co-ordinated all-day refreshments at Barnes Fair, cakes and drinks for Christian Aid and the Barnes Children Literature Festival, Harvest Lunch and a series of light nibbles during the year as required! But the special occasion was the Bring and Share lunch in July to celebrate the arrival of Rev'd James and Alice Hutchings. Our thanks to Diane du Parcq and colleagues who provided lunches and other refreshment at our Christmas Fair in November. And to our team of enthusiastic 'barmen' who make sure we never go home thirsty! Where would we be without all this generous help? And finally a word of thanks to our team of Sunday baristas who supply us with coffee after the 10am Sunday service. It is so nice to be able to chat over a cuppa. Should you wish to join us please contact Claire Boyling (020 8878 3775). We only meet a couple of times a year: the committee does the organising but it is the congregation who really make these events special both in terms of contributions and volunteering.

Hospitality Report for 2021

2020 was a very sad year with little hospitality of any sort possible. We did, however,

manage to serve coffee outside after the Sunday Eucharist service for just a few weeks but that was the sum total of our efforts! We cannot wait to get back to some sort of normality, perhaps by the summer of 2021. Here's hoping as I know we have all missed each other greatly. Thank goodness the report for the year 2019 is far more representative of the role of the Hospitality team. It is a small but vital cog in the daily life of our church. Our role is to provide refreshment at special times and at regular events and services.

In 2019 we prepared lunch for the 'Rector' candidates and associated dignitaries, cooked a Maundy Thursday Supper in the Kitson Kall and an Easter Dawn post Service breakfast and co-ordinated all-day refreshments at Barnes Fair, cakes and drinks for Christian Aid and the Kids Literary Festival, Harvest Lunch and a series of light nibbles during the year as required! But the special occasion was the Bring and Share lunch in July to celebrate the arrival of Rev'd James and Alice.

Our thanks to Diane du Parcq and colleagues who provided lunches and other refreshment at our Christmas Fair in November. And to our team of enthusiastic 'barmen' who make sure we never go home thirsty! Where would we be without all this generous help?

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The 'H' Team: Rosie, Claire, Fiona, Patty, Alison and Sian

Communications Group Report

It was recognized and noted in St Mary's Barnes Mission Action Plan back in early 2018 that we needed to think cohesively about how the church represents itself to its congregation, the local community and the wider world. However, the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliance deadline needed to be met by 25th May 2018, so much work was done



The new main church noticeboard

by several people using the newly acquired ChurchSuite database to meet that deadline and ensure our contacts list was up to date. Then we also entered a period of interregnum as Rev'd Richard Sewell moved onto his new post as Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem leaving St Mary's Barnes on 16th September 2018. Rev'd James Hutchings joined St Mary's Barnes as Vicar of St Mary's Barnes and Team Rector of the Barnes Team Ministry on 22nd July 2019.

The remit for the group is to look at how communications work at St Mary's, particularly external ones but can also include internal. Issues like how people use the website, development of a social media presence, and how we communicate electronically with the congregation and others in the community.

The Communications Group first met officially in September 2019 and we meet regularly once a month to discuss and hopefully solve issues concerning physical and digital communication. Fortuitously, we formed before the Coronavirus pandemic hit and were able to react swiftly to the sea change necessary to communicate with our congregation and the Barnes community during the difficult times that various lockdowns and restrictions brought.

We set up a YouTube channel and began recording services and weekly messages from Rev'd James. Morning Prayer was broadcast live on Facebook and our Instagram presence began to grow with weekly messages of prayer and reminders of what was going on at church and in the community. We set up an Online Church page on our website with resources for viewing services or taking part in Zoom coffee shops or courses to help deepen faith. The pewsheets became digital and is sent out each Saturday via Mailchimp to over 400 email addresses. Our Instagram presence is growing due to the able management of Sarah Cox. Judy Gowing and Claire Boyling promote our presence on Next Door Barnes and A Church Near You respectively. Trisha Hawkins continues to use her excellent organisational skills on revising and improving our database. We also tackled the physical; redesigning our main noticeboard, musing over what our other noticeboards, both external and internal, should contain and communicate. Future projects include the commission and design of an additional new noticeboard to promote church hirings and events, continuing improvements to our website, creating a Welcome video, promotion and implementation of ways to donate digitally and much more.

The Communications Group members are Rev'd James Hutchings, Judy Gowing, Trisha Hawkins, Sarah Cox, Claire Boyling and Cheryl Cole. Many thanks to all

members of the group who work so hard and have great ideas. Do contact us via office@stmarybarnes.org if you have comments on how we can improve our communications. *Cheryl Cole, March 2021*

Faith In Action group

One of the priorities in St Mary's Mission Action Plan 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 the PCC promotes 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. The Faith in Action group supports the PCC in organising the promotion.

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 and intercessors often include the current charity in our prayers.

Thank you to those in the congregation who have responded with practical help, such as volunteering in local charities, and fundraising through participation in events.

Our charities are:

Castelnau Centre Project
(community development in
North Barnes)

Age UK Richmond's Barnes
Green Centre (support for older
people)

FiSH (voluntary community care
in our area)

Glass Door (accommodation,
advice and support for the
homeless)

Richmond Welcare (support for families and children)

Christian Aid (international development)



Christian Aid Quiz by Zoom



Under Tree Schools (education of girls in South Sudan)

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (concern for oppressed religious minorities).

The congregation also support the Bishop's Lent Appeal, which includes support for the clergy in the diocese of Matabeleland. And those who run our Saturday coffee shops normally raise funds for a range of charities – though not of course during 2020. The PCC now want to review our list of charities. Do we want to change the list? We will be consulting the congregation to get your views.

St Mary's is able to help our charities by donations. Our policy over the last decade has been that the money does not come from the PCC's budget for running costs; it comes from the Barnes Charity Ball, from half the proceeds of the Christmas Charity Fair, from the surplus made at the Fashion Show and from other events, including the Bike Sale at the Barnes Fair, and fundraising by our young people. And we give some gifts in kind, such as food donated at Harvest Festivals.

The PCC are reviewing this policy too. In future should we contribute PCC funds?

At present some of our events cannot happen. The PCC has looked for another way to raise funds for our charities this year. We will be having special collections over the coming months, and we hope that you will want to be generous.

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

Flower Arranging Team Report

Obviously, we have not been able to arrange any flowers over the last few months in general, but the flower ladies look forward to being back to normal and able to decorate the church again. In normal times, week by week we do our two urns and have had some lovely foliage given to us this year by Jim Davey from his woodland out in Surrey – we are very lucky to have this as foliage is expensive and not so natural as one would like. When offered foliage, I am a little ungrateful perhaps as it doesn't

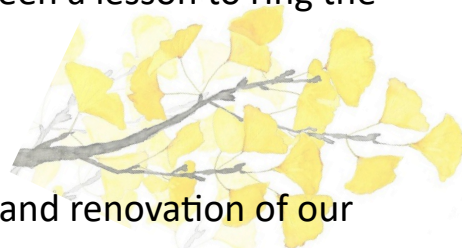


come in the lengths that we can use and causes us more work – Annie Bond and I have done the usual weekly flowers and have looked to the wider team for the special occasions.

Many weddings again and some lovely designs – the Wedding of Imogen Blackburn just before Christmas gave the team a wonderful opportunity of trying out some new styles and one realises that materials and styles indeed do change – our team for such events of Nicky Urquhart, Annie Bond, Sue Lefroy and Isabel Courtenay achieved marvellous results with the orange and red theme and the Covent Garden team featured a set of photos in their list.

Very sadly our dear Mickey Heath died during the year but I still feel his spirit when doing the arch in particular. He was a huge support through many years and is greatly missed. His funeral near the Isle of dogs was an eye opener to me anyway! reading the above makes me realise how we used to really enjoy such wonderful flowers all year – however, this year making the best of the smaller vase arrangements has had equal messages of enjoyment from people so perhaps its been a lesson to ring the changes!! *Sue Adams*

Friends of St Mary's Barnes



The Friends of St Mary's Barnes raise funds for the upkeep and renovation of our historic church building and churchyard and promote awareness of its place in the life and history of Barnes. Our programme includes three major annual events: *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October, *Barnes Charity Ball* in February and *Barnes Music Festival* in March. These have now become established annual events which, along with our other events, have raised considerable sums for St Mary's and for local, international and church charities and have established a strong presence for St Mary's within the Barnes community.



Barnes Charity Fashion Show 2019

The *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October 2019 featured two nights of the boutiques of Barnes showcasing their latest fashions to enthusiastic audiences to the background of music and entertainment from violinist Lisa Rollin, supported by sponsorship from Knight Frank and Onside Law. The shows were judged the best ever with both nights sold out and over 500 people attending, raising £10,000 for the

Friends, Home Start and FiSH.

By the time we got to 2020, Covid restrictions prevented us from running a full show so instead we created *Barnes Charity Fashion Week*. The week featured a new Barnes Fashion Trail, special offers in all the shops, continuous social media and JustGiving account for people to donate to FiSH and the Friends. The week was launched by BBC presenter Kate Silverton and generated considerable interest, activity and charity funds. Our thanks go to Isobel Woolf who stood down as chair of the Fashion Show Committee after nine years and welcome to Sandy Urquhart who took over as chair in 2020.

The *Barnes Charity Ball* in February 2020 with the theme of *The 80s* celebrated the new decade remembering the era of shoulder pads, big hair, neon colours, Rubik's cube and some of the best pop ever. It was a special evening of fine food and wines, a wonderful selection of auction prizes and some amazing costumes. Entertainment was from The 80s Dancers with live music from Candy Apple Blue and the open auction led by specialist

auctioneer Charles Hanson. The event raised over £40,000 for Under Tree Schools, Association for Post Natal Illness, Castelnau Community Centre, Glass Door Homeless and the Friends. This was one of the last events held



before lockdown and the next Barnes Charity Ball is planned for February 2022

The *Barnes Music Festival* in March 2020 had as its theme *Musical Journeys* featuring a wide range of music crossing boundaries both cultural and geographic. With 35 events planned over two weeks at 10 different venues in Barnes, highlights included the opening concert with Hugo Ticciati and O/Modernt, also featuring Anna Hastrup, BBC Young Chorister of the Year; Bach *B Minor Mass* conducted by Martin Neary at St Michael's; world-famous baritone Roderick Williams with *Journeys across Europe*; distinguished cellist Steven Isserlis in conversation with the younger generation; Howard Goodall presenting his film on The Beatles; Handel *Messiah* with Tiffin Boys' Choir; an ambitious production of Janáček's opera *The Cunning Little Vixen*; a Come & Sing *Oliver!* with over 100 adults and children taking part; and the award of *Barnes Young Musician of the Year 2020* to violinist Xenia Edwards. Sadly

the festival had to close early due to covid restrictions but not before the final concert given by Henry Chandler *violin* and JP Ekins *piano* which turned out to be an emotional and fitting finale to a successful, albeit curtailed, festival. A Musicians Fund was set up to support the musicians who were cancelled in the final week and many people generously donated their ticket refunds to this fund. Sponsorship from Chestertons, Russell-Cooke and many others, and support from the Friends of Barnes Music Festival, ensured high quality performers, enthusiastic audiences and



Barnes Young Musician's Competition 2020

soon as indoor concerts can take place again.

Other events during the two years included, in September 2019, Gyles Brandreth speaking about his new book *Dancing by the Light of the Moon*, engaging his audience with how to learn poetry by heart. This event had been in aid of Bellringing Training facilities and raised £1500 for their appeal. In November 2019 *Berlioz from B to Z* was a lecture illustrated with images and music given by Alastair Aberdare, chairman of the Berlioz Society to mark the Berlioz 150th anniversary. Later in November 2019 *A Christmas Cracker* featured readings, plays, music, dance and poetry to launch the Christmas season performed by local and national celebrities. Hosted by Gyles Brandreth, performers included Stephanie Cole, Alistair McGowan, Charlotte Page, Timothy West, Jane Howell, and Nick Waring with the Olympic Choir and The Misfits.

One new event which was planned was the inaugural Barnes BookFest run in conjunction with Barnes Bookshop and organiser Anne Mullins. This weekend of talks and screenings from some of Britain's best writers was originally planned for November 2020, then delayed to February 2021 and then again to September 2021

a contribution to the community life of Barnes which has become increasingly valued.

The *Barnes Music Festival 2021* with the theme *Music & Theatre* was fully organised to take place March but the re-imposition of covid restrictions resulted in us delaying until May, with the festival planned to go ahead from 17-30 May as

when we now expect to launch this new annual event for the Friends.

At the Annual Choral Evensong in October 2019, our guest preacher was The Venerable Sheila Watson, Preacher at Lincoln's Inn and Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, with fine choral music led by the Director of Music Henry Chandler. We were pleased to be able to hold our Annual Choral Evensong again in October 2020, between lockdowns, sung by the Choral Scholars and including performances from the Barnes Young Musicians of the Year Xenia Edwards *violin* and Tian Hsu *trumpet* with an address on "St Mary's at the heart of the community?" from Rector James Hutchings.

The booklet *Over 1000 Years of Barnes History*, which was originally published for the Magna Carta celebrations in 2015, was re-printed to meet the demand from Barnes residents and visitors. St Mary's was also featured in a new book *100 Churches 100 Years* published by the 21st Century Society describing the building as one which "creates a new place of worship, light, flexible and responsive to the new visions of the liturgy".

All these events and activities have not only encouraged greater awareness of St Mary's and brought many people into the church building but they have also raised significant funds both for the church and for nominated charities which have amounted to well over half a million pounds over the last twenty years. Most recently these funds have been used to pay for churchyard, noticeboard and tower renovations, for piano reconditioning and for upgrading audio-visual equipment. The Friends Fund continues also to pay for all utility costs, maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's.

contact Andrew Summers at friends@stmarybarnes.org

Gardening at St Mary's Barnes

Saturday mornings in the church garden are much enjoyed, though the recent absence of the Saturday Coffee Shop has meant we don't get the delicious cakes to reward ourselves for our labours! This year we have planted azaleas and clematises, and concentrated on the beds against the east wall, and hopefully some of these climbing plants will start to grow along the top of the wall. It's very rewarding for us gardeners that our efforts seem to be much appreciated by passers-by. Big thanks especially to Jai Jai, Paula, Shane and Reid, who are new to the gardening team. We are watching the progress of the sunflower Paula and



Reid planted, and it's doing well, growing strongly.

There have been a great number of dandelion type weeds in the grass, and taking them out is work in progress, not the most exciting gardening task, but it makes a big difference to the look of the grass.

As ever our mowers have done a great job, and the grass always looks cared for. The rather neglected area to the left of the main gate has greatly benefited from the work done there, with a climbing rose and azaleas to bring some colour.

The grass is tended by Giles Dimock, Anthony Miller and Peter Allen.

The gardening team consists of Sue Mackworth Praed, Tris Ellam Bell, David Delaforce, Peter Allen, Ellen Gasper, Christabel Gairdner and Margaret Morkel.

The leaf sweeping team over the past year has consisted of: Lindsay Burn, John Deards, Colin Ferguson, Patrick Findlater, Martin Gee, Judy Gowing, Anthony and Patsy Miller, Simon and Judy Umfreville.

Big thanks to all the gardeners, mowers and sweepers for keeping St Mary's garden a lovely peaceful space to walk through.

Rosie Findlater

Garden of Remembrance

In the first few weeks of the Rector's new ministry, he wrote to the loved ones of those whose names are inscribed in the Garden of Remembrance introducing himself and proposing we revert to holding the Service of Remembrance every May. Therefore, no service was held in the garden during 2019. Instead, many came to the evening All Souls service on the 3rd of November. During 2019 three new names were inscribed on the new path.

2020 was a very different year for the garden. The proposed May service was sadly cancelled. But the year was notable as there were so many more friends and relatives who visited the garden to find peace during lockdown. In September 2020 another 12 names were added to the path. Parishioners have commented positively on the clarity of the inscriptions made on the new path. This





is the result of our fine York stones no longer being chiselled on cold days by hand but by accurately sandblasting the letters through pre-printed templates on a warm day. Some might be interested in these photos of the process.

The Garden remains a very special place to many wherein, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted”.

Dominic Dreyfus



The Good Companions

The Good Companions is a social group for men who have retired, are partially retired or who work from home. On Monday 2nd March 2020, a group of us with wives met for lunch at the Red Lion and afterwards at 2 Suffolk Road for coffee and port. This was to celebrate the group’s 20th Anniversary, the first meeting was held on 29th February 2000. Sadly due to Coronavirus lockdown, we have not had one of our lunches since then. Hopefully when the disruption is over, we will continue to hold our monthly men’s lunches and also our other activities to which our wives join us. On 17th December we had our Annual Christmas Lunch and forty two of us sat down to an excellent meal at the Waterman’s Arms which was most efficiently organised by Brian Turk. In November our Coffee Morning raised over £1,190 for Combat Stress.

Co-ordinator Tim Budgen, 0208 748 3413, t.j.budgen@btinternet.com

The Golden Girls

We are a social group of retired ladies of St. Marys and the community. We meet monthly for lunch in local restaurants – Cote ,the Red Lion, Awesome Thai etc.- for good food and chats. Members are informed of events by phone and email. This year our membership has been further depleted to about 25 and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please contact me on 8748 8090 or email hecooper9@gmail.com. *Co-ordinator Hilary Cooper.*

Home Group

A Wednesday morning group has continued to meet at 2 Mill Hill Road during term time. In the summer we discussed the Beatitudes, taking each of them week by week. We moved into Mark's gospel in the autumn, with a break for three Advent sessions in which we discussed the classic Advent issues of waiting, watching and listening. We resumed the study of Mark's gospel in the new year and finished it in time for Lent, when we read Cally Hammond's book, Augustine's Life of Prayer, Learning and Love.

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).

Home Group for 2020

We each had a booklet Mapping Advent, which had been produced by the church of England, and provided a different map for each of the four weeks. It was good and we shared particular things we had found. Then this year in January I led a Zoom group reading Philippians. Now in Lent Geoffrey is leading Stephen Cherry's book Thy Will Be Done – an exploration of the Lord's Prayer.

Kitson Hall 2019-2020

Hirings, community and church use

Our 3 biggest hirers by far are still Clifford Dance Studios, Ark Nursery, and Pedal Project (cycle training for children) between them producing roughly 50% of income for the hall. We also hire regularly to Monkey Music, Barnes Theatre Club, Butterfly Ballet, Krav Maga & Stretch Therapy, T'ai Chi, National Childbirth Trust and Barnes Petite Performers. Newcomers are Ballet Better "Silver Swans", Neuromovement and Pan and Luna Yoga.

The hall is always in high demand for children's parties at weekends but availability for wedding receptions has reduced due to greater use of the hall during term-times on Saturdays. Barnes Community Players had a further Summer show in 2019, in addition to their annual pre-Christmas show. Other community uses include the Barnes Community Association and Scouts jumble sales and homeless lunches. The hall is used by the church for the annual Fashion Show and various church receptions and meals.



Hall income and expenditure

In 2019 gross income was just under £67,000, compared with £62,000 in 2018, £65,000 in 2017 and £60,000 in 2016. There were again small fee increases payable by The Ark Nursery, Clifford Studios and Barnes Community Players from September 2019 but hourly rates remained unchanged.

The surplus after expenses was £29,808 (compared with £25,459 in 2018), all of which was transferred to the youth fund. This was the highest ever surplus caused by a record figure for gross income and relatively low expenditure overall, apart from one large item, being expenditure of just over £7,000 for a new stage curtain, and window curtains and blinds in the large hall.

Maintenance Repairs and Improvements

The curtains have just been mentioned. A further fire risk assessment on the hall was carried out recently. This recommended various action points, the main one being that there should be a new fire alarm connected to a central monitoring point. Competitive quotations are being sought.

Summary: Cheryl should be thanked for the consistently good financial results over the last four financial years achieved by an ever higher level of lettings in both halls within two separate and constantly changing timetables of holidays and term-time. It should be noted, however, that the recent Coronavirus outbreak will inevitably have a severe impact on future hire income for the hall in the short and possibly medium term.

Kitson Hall 2020-2021

Hirings, community and church use

As predicted in my report for the 2020 APCM, hirings were severely impacted by the pandemic with all hall use ceasing from 23rd March 2020. The Ark Nursery were able to return after the Summer half term on 1st June 2020 and the hall opened up to other hirers on 4th July. The second lockdown in early November then stopped all hirings except to The Ark Nursery until now. However, there is the prospect that under the easing of lockdown restrictions the hall can reopen again for other hirings from 12th April.

Hall income and expenditure

In 2020 gross income was just under £32,000, compared with just under £67,000 in

2019, owing to the pandemic. However expenses especially cleaning and Cheryl's salary (whose Kitson Hall role was furloughed or partially furloughed some of the time) were also considerably lower. The Kitson Hall Committee approved a reduction of the Ark Nursery fee from £4,695 to £3,000 per term for the Autumn Term 2020 and the Spring Term 2021 because many children have ceased attending during the pandemic and this had a considerable impact on their fee income.

In 2020 the surplus after expenses was a surprisingly good £9,776 bearing in mind the lack of hirings due to the pandemic. This was all transferred to the youth fund, as in 2019 when the surplus was a much larger £29,808.

Maintenance Repairs and Improvements

As mentioned in my last report a further fire risk assessment on the hall was carried out last year and this recommended various action points, the main one being that there should be a new fire alarm connected to a central monitoring point. One quotation has so far been obtained in the total sum of £6,700 including VAT. Further quotes will be obtained and it is hoped that there will be the funds to undertake installation this year as The Ark Nursery only has very basic battery operated smoke detectors in the small hall. The fire doors also need to be upgraded which could cost several thousand pounds.

Summary: With the hall due to be reopened to most hirers from 12th April it is hoped that 2021 will be a better year financially than 2020. There is no shortage of enquiries from existing and new hirers wanting to use the hall.

William Heller, Chair of Kitson Hall Committee, kitsonhall@gmail.com

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 weddings@stmarybarnes.org



Music at St Mary's Barnes 2020 & 2021

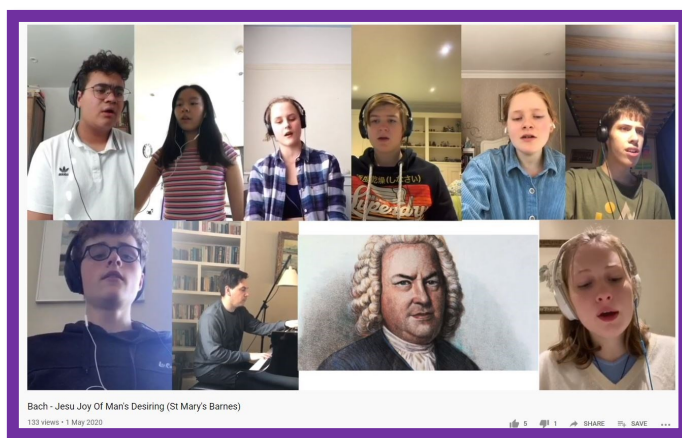
Music plays a hugely important role at St Mary's. The Senior Choir augments the 10am Sunday Eucharist every week with an anthem. We also sing at special liturgical occasions such as the Christmas Carol Service, Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. In addition to this, the choir sings several Choral Evensongs per year, including 2 joint services with the choir of St Michael's, Barnes (one of which is part of the Barnes Music Festival). The rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings 19.00-20.30. We have a thriving Junior Choir who also rehearse on Wednesdays, and sing in around 2 services per term, plus the occasional special services and a Summer Concert. We welcome children aged 7-14 and offer a fantastic opportunity to sing and appreciate music.

Sadly, due to the coronavirus pandemic, this has all taken a hit in the last year, and for much of it we weren't able to sing. However, restrictions will allow us to recommence in May, and we are all looking forward to this immensely.

We were lucky to showcase our amazing scholars in the anthems throughout the autumn, culminating in two truly excellent Carol Services at Christmas. Other young singers who would like to join us are

encouraged to contact me (music@stmarybarnes.org). We said goodbye to Rosie Thorogood, our organ scholar, in 2020. Her playing had come on tremendously over the past couple of years. Rosie will be going to Somerville College, Oxford to read Chemistry. Leaving us at the end

of 2021 will be Luke Sitaraman and Andreana Chan. They have both been vital to the music at St Mary's and they will be greatly missed. Luke will be studying music at Jesus College, Oxford and Andreana will be off to Pembroke College, Cambridge with an organ scholarship to study law. We wish them all the best and they are welcome anytime to sing with us when they are in London. We are grateful that Sequoia Ralph, one of our tenor scholars, will be taking a gap year and will continue to sing at St Mary's next year. We are also very grateful for the talents of the Haestrup twins, William and Anna. Their contribution to the choir has been considerable - especially on Christmas Day where you may have heard just the two of them belting out Hark



St Mary's Barnes music scholars on Zoom

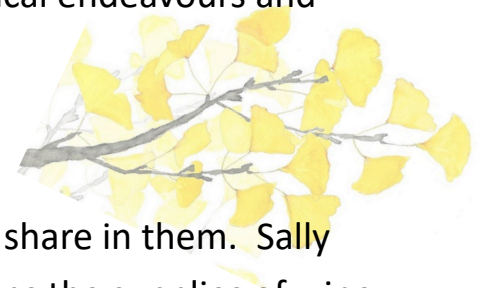


BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship

the Herald with full organ. I would like to extend my thanks to the core, regular choir members who give up their time every week (when we are allowed to) and put in some detailed work on Wednesday evenings. The result is always worthwhile; the choir rose to the many challenges we have faced.

Following Christmas, we managed to record and stream our scholars singing and playing solos during the January lockdown, which was a chance to hear them in a different light. The music at St Mary's has never truly stopped, and we all look forward to relishing the freedom we will soon have to perform

in May. This last year has shown just how important music is to us and to our congregation, so I am extremely excited to get going again for a new musical chapter at St Mary's in May. All this demonstrates that the strong musical tradition at St Mary's continues, and on behalf of all the musicians involved at St Mary's, I would like express our gratitude for the support given to our musical endeavours and musical education.



Sacristan's Annual Review

We enjoy our sacristan duties and also find it a privilege to share in them. Sally continues to keep us on our toes but more importantly keeps the supplies of wine, wafers etc. properly stocked. We are grateful to those who clean the Langton Chapel on a regular basis. If more people would like to offer to do this it would be much appreciated,

There is an excellent, though small team of adults and children who assist with all the duties of serving and assisting with sanctuary duties on Sundays. It would be wonderful if more people could volunteer to crucifer, serve and/or acolyte so that the Sunday service is properly covered and we don't have to rely on the same people over and over again. During 2020, we have continued to prepare the altars with the different needs as they arose depending on whether services were being held live or online. So if you think you could do this, do speak to Sally or one of us.

Fiona Barnett, Sally Copland, Wiz Dundas, Lucy Hine, Judica Palmarozza

St Mary's Safeguarding Report 2020-2021

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 Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO's). 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 (online with the Diocese recruitment process). To date 66 people at St Mary's have DBS. In 2021 only 4 of these will need renewing. We had a successful Safeguarding training on 29.2.20 when 20 people attended.

We have continued:

To ensure DBS and Safeguarding information is kept in accordance with new data laws, all information is kept on the church database (Church Suite). 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 (with thanks to William Heller for this).

To ensure risk assessments are in place for church activities.

As well as the newly recruited voluntary posts, we are now looking at previously established posts across the church to ensure they all have the recommended training and DBS checks. This has included PCC, Sunday Club leaders and bell ringing teachers. We are going to expand this to include all Sides People (in accordance with 'A Safer Church, Diocesan Policies and Procedures').



Natasha Mold



Lis Munden

Actions for 2021:

Ensure all voluntary posts, including Stewards, have recommended training and DBS check, launch new Safeguarding recording form, use the recently updated Confidential Declaration form as requested by the Diocese.

Elisabeth Munden and Natasha Mold, Parish Safeguarding Officers

St Mary's Barnes Scouts Group 2019-2020

All sections of the Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts followed a full programme of activities throughout the year. All 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 contents of our meetings. 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 had several camps. The Cubs and Scouts had a joint camp at Walton Firs, near Cobham at the beginning of June and they also attended Borough Camp with other Scout Groups from Richmond upon Thames district in July, again at Walton Firs. The Beavers had a District Funday followed by a sleepover also at Walton Firs in September.

The Beavers went to Brooklands Museum for a District Air Activities Badge Day in May and attended the District New Year Party in January. Some of the Cubs went with other Cubs from the District to a Fun Day at the National Scout H.Q. at Gilwell in Essex in June. A team of Cubs took part in the Ian Goddard Challenge, a district Cub trail competition, this year held at Richmond Riverside in September. The Cubs enjoyed an evening air rifle shooting at 1st Whittons Scout Hut also in September. In March a team of Cubs entered and won the District Cub Quiz. Both Beaver Colonies and Blue Pack Cubs enjoyed a visit to St. Marys Church to hear the Rvd. James talk about his work and to complete a worksheet about the Church building.

Two of our ex-Scouts, now Young Leaders, attended the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in July and August and another Scout hopes to go to the Euro Jamboree in Poland later this year.

Two of our Scouts were nominated for and won the Jack Petchey Award for their commitment to Scouting. The prize money plus funds from the Group paid for two

trips chosen by the winners, a night on H.M.S. Belfast and a tour of Twickenham Stadium and the Rugby Museum.

At Barnes Fair the leaders and parents served burgers and other refreshments at our kitchen tents on Barnes Green by Station Road. The Cubs again ran a very popular Coconut Shy. Our annual Jumble Sale was once again held in February at Kitson Hall. It is a lot of work but provides important funds for our activities. We send our thanks to all the people from the Barnes community who help us with this.

At Christmas the Group provided and decorated the Christmas tree in the Church. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts attended St. Mary's Church for Remembrance Sunday. At present we have two Beaver Colonies, two Cub Packs and one Scout Troop.

Sadly we have had no meetings since the Cub Quiz on the 14th March due to the Covid-19 outbreak. We keep in touch by e-mail, suggesting activities and badge work the children can do at home until things get back to normal.

St Mary's Barnes Scouts Group 2020-2021

For most of this year we could not hold face to face meetings. Briefly at the beginning we tried a few Zoom meetings but did not find them that successful despite the work of those running them. The children were sent details of activities and badge work they could do at home and on their daily outdoor exercise. Some of the children sent in evidence of their efforts and where appropriate were awarded their badges which were sent to them in the post. When restrictions started to ease we spent weeks writing risk assessments and making the Scout Hut and it's yard Covid safe in the hope of restarting outdoor meetings. Then lockdown two happened. When that was lifted just before Christmas we did hold a trial meeting for each of our two Beaver Scout Colonies consisting of a hike and a camp fire with toasted marshmallows. The intention being to start in earnest with all the sections in the New Year. Then lockdown three put pay to that.

The good news is, with this slow lifting of the lockdown restrictions, we hope to start back after Easter with outdoor meetings for all sections. The Group did, however, as has become a tradition, supply and decorate the Christmas tree for St. Mary's Church. The Beavers were able to see this tree lit up through the window of the church on their hike. We all hope for a much more active and normal year in the coming twelve months. *Roger Stanley, Beaver and Blue Pack Cub Leader on behalf of all the Leaders of SMB Scout Group.*

Sewing Group

Lockdown has not helped the sewing group since March, and it seems a long while since we could meet up on Monday afternoons without worrying about coronavirus. The Monday sewing group has been a marker in the week for many years, and the coronavirus has closed this door for some members of the group, who have to self-isolate (the dreaded words), which means we miss seeing them and vice versa.

In non Coronavirus times, we meet in each other's houses occasionally, and in the garden if the weather is fair. We enjoy working out how to finish our creations, and it gives us satisfaction to work out any problems we have. Sewing is a lovely community occupation, and stitching and chatting do go very well together! Our current sewers are: Fiona Barnett, Jo MacDermott, Rosemary Stone, Clare Wales and Margaret Morkel

Rosie Findlater



Vineyard Lunches 2019

St. Mary's hosted Vineyard Lunches twice in 2019. We served Coq au Vin and Shepard's pie with a selection of deserts to approximately 20 guests at each occasion. Thank you too everyone who helped by bringing food or raffle prizes, working in the kitchen and serving. I attended the Vineyard Annual General Meeting and heard how successful the project is in many Richmond churches. It was interesting to hear how some churches had engaged local pubs and cafes to help supply food e.g. soup. Unfortunately, all lunches ceased due to the pandemic. A virtual meeting was held to discuss what could be done to help and at that point the advice given was to donate to homeless charities in particular Glass Door. Thank you again to everyone for your support and generosity with the Vineyard Lunch Project. Let's hope it will be able to start again soon.

Natasha Mold

Welcome Group at St Mary's Barnes

Group members: Catherine Roe, Hannah Bondi, Franck Kouamen, Dionne Morris, Jo Teverson, Julie Smith, Helen Eidi, Fouki Heller, led by Revd James Hutchings.

This group first met in September 2020. It was established to think about ways St Mary's could respond positively to the injustices highlighted by the Black Lives

Matter (BLM) movement.

Our brief developed to a much broader focus, on ensuring St Mary's is welcoming and inclusive to all people across our activities. The group would like to consider ways for St Mary's to become more inclusive for Black and Ethnic Minority people (BAME), as part of a wider inclusion for everyone. To achieve this, the group is working through and recommending:

- inviting BAME guest preachers from time to time as part of a diverse group of preachers over the calendar year to preach at a service.
- creating a short welcome video for our website, showing a variety of voices within St Mary's congregation.
- acknowledging and understanding the church's history of discrimination in more depth, in order to help the church change to be more inclusive in the future.
- involving and getting input from the youth group on these things.

The work of this group is ongoing.





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

Front cover photo credits:

Church with sunlight: John Fegan @jsfegan (Instagram)

Christmas Tree & Nativity Stable : Trisha Hawkins

Children in Easter Garden: Helen Bladen

Church now open & vicar on bike: Rev'd James Hutchings

Magnolia Tree: Cheryl Cole @chet66 (Instagram)