



## PARISH PROFILE

[www.stmarybarnes.org](http://www.stmarybarnes.org)



ST MARY'S CHURCH OFFICE, CHURCH RD, BARNES, LONDON SW13 9HL  
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## PARISH PROFILE: ST MARY'S CHURCH, BARNES

The Barnes Team Ministry is a team of three parishes of St Mary's, St Michael & All Angels and Holy Trinity in the attractive and busy community of Barnes in South West London.

Each parish has a separate PCC and separate finances and is led by a Team Vicar, and at St Mary's by the Team Rector.



## ST MARY'S CHURCH

We aim to be a welcoming community which reaches out to people of all ages. We are a busy church, but we also recognise the need to build our spiritual lives, to learn more about our faith and to live it out in our daily lives. St. Mary's is very much at the heart of the community in Barnes and aims to reach out to those beyond our congregation in many ways with a variety of activities. Recently we have become a pilot church for the diocesan Lay Leadership initiative.

St Mary's Church is a distinctive building in the centre of Barnes village. With parts of the building dating back to the 1100s, the church was rebuilt after a fire in 1978 to an award-winning design which blends the contemporary with the mediaeval. It is a flexible space which is designed to be used both for uplifting worship and for a range of other activities.

Worship on Sunday is focussed around Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am and Parish Communion at 10am. There is also Evensong at 6pm, usually said, with Choral Evensong once a quarter.

At the Parish Communion, we have an average attendance of 120 with a choir (unrobed) and fine music. At the earlier more traditional Holy Communion service we have around 30 people.

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St Mary's has a thriving children and youth ministry. We run three groups on Sunday mornings which provide an opportunity for children of all ages to explore the Christian faith. Enabling children to participate on Sunday mornings has been a key success which has led to continued growth over seven years. Supporting and growing our large volunteer force is seen as a key part to maintaining the growth of the ministry. Demand for these services is increasing and growing leaders to meet this demand is seen as an area of great potential.

During the week we have daily Morning Prayer at 9.05 am and Holy Communion on Thursday at 12 noon preceded by Quiet Time. Services at major festivals are always packed out - on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day last year we had 1124 people attending services, including two Nativity Services with a production staged by the children, and on Easter Day we had 398 people. At the Remembrance Day Service, we are joined by the Barnes Concert Band and the St Mary's Barnes Scout Group.

Baptisms are usually at an 11.30am service once a month. In 2018 there were 32 baptisms, 11 weddings and 19 funerals/memorial services. We also had 4 children prepared for First Communion.

Music is an important part of our worship. We have an enthusiastic, unauditioned choir under the leadership of a Director of Music, which sings an anthem every Sunday and quarterly choral evensongs. We offer four choral scholarships and an organ scholarship to talented sixth formers. We seek to increase the choir membership.

The Junior Choir is very energetic and sings occasionally in the Eucharist Services.

St Mary's has 8 bells with an active group of bell-ringers who ring every Sunday as well as at weddings and other special services.



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## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

The Electoral Roll currently numbers 214 and in addition to worship we have a wide range of activities in which many people are involved. These include social groups such as Good Companions, Saturday Coffee Shop, and Sewing Club; church care groups such as Daily Friends, Churchyard Maintenance and Flower Arranging; study groups such as Lent Groups and Home Study Groups; and groups for Pastoral Support, Marriage Preparation, Confirmation and First Communion Preparation.

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes was formed to raise money to maintain the church and now contributes considerable sums. We have a series of major community events during the year which brings thousands of people into the church from Barnes and beyond.

- Barnes Charity Ball in February, held in the church and a major fundraiser for church, local and international charities



- Barnes Music Festival in March with two full weeks of concerts at St Mary's and other venues in Barnes (including both the other team churches)





# ST MARY'S BARNES

- St Mary's at Barnes Fair in July when the churchyard is a hive of activity, including a renowned bike sale



- Barnes Charity Fashion Show in October, held in the church, supporting the local high street boutiques as well as local charities



Kitson Hall is the church hall in the adjoining Kitson Road. It is used extensively during the week and weekend by a nursery school and for theatre productions, classes, parties and wedding receptions. We hold a Christmas Fair in November with stalls in the Hall.



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We actively support nine charities, some in Barnes, some regionally and some overseas. In a year-round programme we encourage the congregation to pray for them and offer financial support and their time where appropriate. We invite speakers from time to time to keep us up to date with their progress. We also have links with the local care home, Viera Gray House (named after a previous deacon at St Mary's).

## **BARNES COMMUNITY**

Barnes is an attractive residential area of South West London within easy reach of Central London. It has a village-like atmosphere in a semi-rural setting bounded by a loop in the River Thames (part of the course of the annual Boat Race) with local landmarks including Barnes Pond, Barnes Common and the London Wetland Centre.

Housing is largely of Victorian and Edwardian stock and is much sought after especially by families. In North Barnes the Castelnu Estate, formerly a large council estate, is a more mixed area and nearby are the recent developments of Waterside and Harrods Village. Transport links into London are good with frequent trains from Barnes and Barnes Bridge stations to London Waterloo and a frequent bus service into Hammersmith to connect with the Underground.

The population of Barnes is around 15,000, we estimate that about half of this number live in the parish of St Mary's Barnes. Many people work in London in professional, financial, media and similar occupations, though it is not homogeneous with the Castelnu Estate being recognised in the borough as relatively challenged by the impact of social deprivation.

Barnes has a strong sense of community and identity in which the churches play an important contributory role. Cultural and social groups abound including theatre, music and choir groups, literary society and history society, and sports clubs.

Barnes Community Association sponsors a myriad of activities including the widely-attended Barnes Fair held annually on the Green around the pond. The Castelnu Community Centre supports community development in the North Barnes area. Barnes village has several good food shops, clothes boutiques, art gallery and a good number of cafes and restaurants. Main schools are St Paul's School and St Paul's Juniors, Harroddian School, St Osmund's primary school and Barnes and Lowther Primary Schools.

There are a high number of families in Barnes and many have lived here all their adult lives. Most people live busy and pressurised lives with their jobs, their families and their leisure pursuits. The church has the challenge of helping them to find meaning in their lives, whether they are regular or occasional church-goers, as well as helping them with the family, work and social problems they can often face.

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Parish Boundaries of St Mary's, St Michael's & Holy Trinity

