

Hoare Family Memorial: the church's response

The re-dedication of the Hoare family memorial presents an opportunity to focus on what the church is doing today to live out gospel values in opposing slavery, racism, and injustice in all its forms.

None of those memorialised were directly involved in the slave trade. However like the Church of England and many other institutions, Hoare's Bank has a long history and would have benefited from profits derived from the slave trade prior to abolition.

At the time of the abolition campaign the Hoare family were not engaged politically but had very strong connections with the Church of England. One of the partners, William Henry Hoare, was a close friend of William Wilberforce and other members of the Clapham Sect.

St Mary's Barnes, together with all of the Church of England, is seeking to learn the lessons of history, and actively apply these in the future. St Mary's is a member of Inclusive Church seeking to be "a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate". We have established a 'Welcome Group' to make practical steps to achieve this aspiration across the life of the parish. We are committed to the [Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter](#). To find out more about St Mary's please go to www.stmarybarnes.org, including our welcome video.

A church building like St Mary's reflects the deep history of the parish, positive and negative. However, primarily it exists to be an expression of Christian values today and in the future, seeking to be welcoming to all in the name of the living Christ, who welcomes all who come to Him.