

St Mary's Barnes Annual Review 2013-2014





Introduction by the Rev'd Richard Sewell

The life of the church is rooted in past events but cannot afford to be backward looking. Past events are foundational – for Christians that is primarily in the life, death and resurrection of Christ but the proclamation of a Christian is “Jesus is alive” which means faith is about today and now. For our church to thrive we need to value those events which have led to us being here today including the history of our church and the legacy we have received. We value the past whilst always keeping our eyes on the present challenge and viewing the horizon ahead of us. Jesus’s parable of the sower teaches us that our faith should be like seed that is sowed in good soil in order that it will bear fruit. That fruit is the work that we do both individually and corporately as the Church.

So this review tells the story of the fruit that has been harvested this year in our Church. We are also looking ahead to a significant year in 2015 when we celebrate the 800th anniversary of the re-consecration of our Church. We are working hard now to ensure that it will be a truly memorable year. Looking back, we can affirm the faith and gifts of those who have gone before us; we have an amazing history in St Mary’s and of course, we want it to continue to be significant. That is always down to us, yet not in our strength, as we have the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to be so much more than we can even imagine.

Richard h. Sewell

PCC Report 2013-2014

The year was punctuated with a joy, a sadness, some innovations, and many celebrations.

The overall structure of the PCC's focus has been to promote and enhance our parish strategy, *St Mary's Today and Tomorrow*. The top priorities for action are ensuring that our worship meets the needs of our congregations; that we show warm hospitality to visitors and our own congregation; that we are alert to the needs for pastoral care in the parish; that we continue to learn more about our faith; and that we are generous in our giving to others here and further afield.

The joy came first in the arrival of the new Team Curate, Ann Lynes, in June 2013. After a year as a deacon Ann will be ordained priest on Saturday, 5 July, and this will be followed by presiding at her first Eucharist on Sunday, 6 July.

The sadness came with the death on 5 November 2013 of the Rev'd Professor Raymond Chapman who had played such a big role in St Mary's over the past 30 years. The whole parish has cause to be indebted to Raymond for all that he had given to the church and to each of us in so many ways.

The innovations came in various forms.

Following the initiation by Holy Trinity Church of a FoodBank at the Castelnau Community Centre, a wicker basket is now a permanent feature at the back of church to collect all sorts of dry packaged or tinned foods. Over the Christmas period St Mary's donated 100 kilos of food, as well as over 90 kilos from the Harvest Festival.

A closed circuit TV system has been installed to enable people in the Melvill Room to feel engaged with and part of the services taking place in the church. This will serve families with young children who need break out space.

One of the benefits of having a young curate is that Ann has created St Mary's Facebook page linked to our own website (www.stmarybarnes.org). We aim to make good use of this new communications facility in the coming year.

An appeal was launched called Funding the Vision which was to raise money to pay for a Youth Worker at St Mary's. A number of people responded generously and the project now awaits the finding of an appropriate candidate.

There was indeed a fine celebration on 17 November when the Bishop of Kingston confirmed twelve teenagers and three adults, all from our parish, in St Mary's. This is the largest group of St Mary's candidates for some years.

At the end of February we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Rehallowing of St Mary's after the fire in 1978. Canon Juergen Simonson (the Rector at the

time of the Rehallowing) preached and his successor, Canon Richard Ames-Lewis also joined us for the service alongside our own Rector, Richard.

Many plans are afoot for 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the re-consecration of St Mary's. Amongst these is a project with Fine Cell Work (www.finecellwork.co.uk). This is a charity which teaches prisoners to sew and we have commissioned from them an altar-frontal, chasuble and linens. A recent talk at St. Mary's by the charity emphasised how wonderful it was for the prisoners to receive such commissions.

We look forward to another year of activities and events all grounded in our desire to love and serve God and to be a sign of that love in our community.

Judy Gowing, PCC Secretary



**The St Mary's Team with our guests
for the
Rehallowing Service**

**Three Rectors of Barnes
(Canon Richard Ames-Lewis,
Rev'd Richard Sewell,
Canon Juergen Simonson)
at the 30th Anniversary
of the Rehallowing Service
in February 2014**



Barnes Youth Group (BYG)

This year Barnes Youth Group has continued to go from strength to strength. Our Sunday evening meetings once a month attract between 16 - 20 young people between the ages of 11- 16. During the past year activities we have enjoyed have included a treasure hunt around Barnes followed by a barbecue, team games on Barnes common, a beetle drive, a Bible Study and our annual Christmas party. We also helped at Gyles Brandreth's show 'The Secret of Happiness' which raised a lot of money for the Youth Worker's Fund.

Cafe Church also held once a month on a Sunday morning, has seen us exploring various issues such as poverty, third world education and gender equality, whilst enjoying breakfast of pastries and hot chocolate.

Seven of the group were confirmed at Christchurch and St Stephen Church in Battersea in April. Then in November, a further 13 were confirmed at St Mary's. Both were memorable and enjoyable occasions, made all the more special by us being together with our BYG friends.

Community events we have been involved with during the year have included raising money for Under Tree Schools by collecting money in Smartie tubes, which raised a total of £300, and helping on the UTS stall at St Mary's Christmas Fair. Here we also organised a game with marshmallows which helped raise additional much needed funds, and was great fun too. On a sunny Sunday morning in July we hosted a barbecue and cake stall after an 11 o'clock service. We also helped serve food and drinks at a choral evensong service in October. These events have really helped us to feel more integrated into the St Mary's church community.

Freya Fraser, BYG Member

**Freya Fraser receiving the
Violet Potter Award
From the Master of the
Surrey Association
of Bellringers
in May 2014**



Bellringing at St Mary's

2013 has been as busy as ever for our Bellringers. We have been able to ring for at least one service every Sunday and have had extra ringing on a number of occasions including ringing for 11 weddings, two funerals/memorial services, for the Enthronement of the new Archbishop, the birth of Prince George, St George's Day ('Ring for England') and for special carol services. In November we were particularly glad to be able to ring two quarter peals to celebrate the life of Raymond Chapman. Thirty-nine Quarter Peals were rung on the bells during 2013.

With ringers from neighbouring towers we enjoyed an outing in January to the Wraybury and Windsor area. In July our summer weekend trip took us to Alsager, East Cheshire, from where we rang at 33 different churches over 5 days and were successful with 15 quarter peals. Some of us also joined the Fulham ringers in October on their outing to Essex to ring at some 10-bell towers while their bells were out of action.

Our AGM Dinner in February was held at San Remo in Castelnau. We were joined by our Rector, Richard, and JulieAnn as well as some of the ringing friends who frequently help and support our practices and training.

In May, at the Surrey Association AGM held at St Mary's Putney, Freya Fraser was presented with the Violet Potter Award. This award is presented to a ringer who achieves a quarter peal before reaching their 18th birthday. Freya was just 13 at the time!

Also in May, the Association's Annual Quarter Peal Week took place and three of our newer ringers, Michael de Freitas, Freya Fraser and Kristen Frederickson, participated for the first time. Each was successful in achieving a quarter peal.

In June, Ann Lynes was ordained and appointed to The Barnes Team Ministry. Ann had learned to ring at St Mary's Battersea. She enjoys bellringing and we are very pleased to have her as one of our band.

This has also been a heavy year for maintenance. In the spring the Whitechapel Bell Foundry replaced the bearings on the bells. This was the first major maintenance carried since they were re-furbished and re-hung over 30 years ago after the fire. They are now running more smoothly and should remain in good condition for at least another 20 years. Our bell ropes are expensive and become

Bellringing at St Mary's (cont'd)

worn with continuous use; we have extended the life of some by having new sections spliced into them.

Our handbells were purchased by the ringers with some financial support from the PCC in 1987 and after 25 years some of these were in need of repair. We had our full set of 22 bells were checked and refurbished as necessary by Whitechapel and we were pleased to have the work carried out without financial aid from the PCC. They were returned just in time for the practices which preceded the Christmas carol ringing for the late night shopping evening, for the three care homes and for both nativity services on Christmas Eve.

We have enjoyed running the coffee shop twice during the year and funds raised have been donated to the Surrey Association Bell Restoration Fund which gave a large sum to St Mary's towards our own restoration 30 years ago. We also gave £100 to Educators Trust, a charity helping street children in Goa, from the proceeds of the handbell ringing for late night shopping.

In addition to some enthusiastic children lining up to ring our service bell on a Sunday morning, we currently enjoy visits on a Saturday morning by three very young boys who have persuaded their parents to bring them in pushchairs just to watch us ring. They can hardly talk, but 'bells' was apparently one of the first words they had learned. We will teach them to ring when they have grown a bit, but it is always a great pleasure to be appreciated by any age group and we are delighted to bring people into the church through our ringing!

Trisha Hawkins, Tower Captain



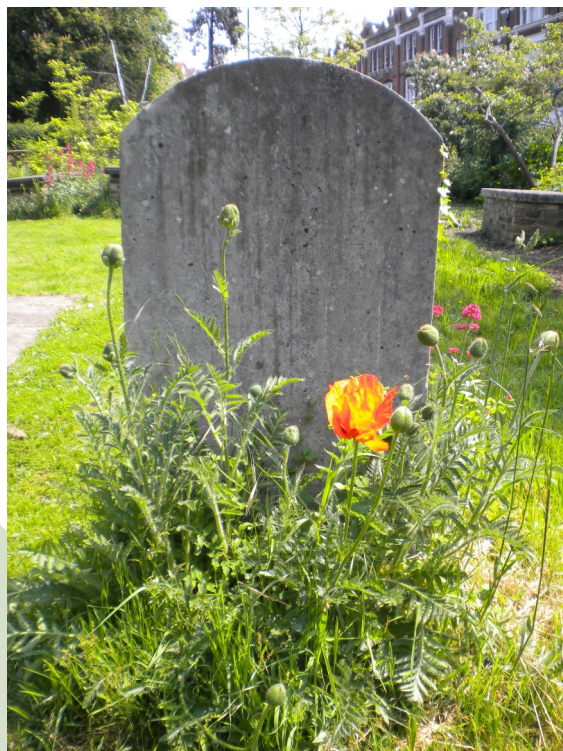
**Bellringers
in the
Tower**

The Churchyard of St Mary's

Our Saturday morning gardening sessions have been enjoyable as ever, in spite of many Saturdays being too wet to do much. The wildflower bed during the summer of 2013 was better than the year before, though there is still much room for improvement, and we may never reach Prince Charles's league. Our plans for 2014 will be to buy more wildflower plugs, as well as planting all the seeds we removed during October/November from the existing plants, and to buy some shrubs which can be used for decorating the church. The most prolific wildflowers during 2013 were Rose Mallow (Lavatera) Phacelia Tanacetifolia, the occasional Borage, Larkspur and the prolific yellow Marigolds, which went on flowering into December, when we reluctantly dug them up to prepare for the next year. The gardening team has consisted of Tris Ellam-Bell, Tiz George, Patrick Findlater, John Deards, Tom Ridley – he often comes along mid-week and does amazing work clearing the tombs etc. of weeds, and more recently David Delaforce, and occasionally Elena Fletcher. Our Saturdays are immensely enjoyable and anyone who felt moderately energetic would be most welcome to join us.

As ever, the mowing team Giles Dimock and Anthony Miller, have done great work and mowing the grass is the finishing touch which makes everything look cared for. Mike and Margaret Marjoram ran coffee shops for the garden, and these funds have meant that we can replace elderly garden tools, as well as buying plants. The team particularly enjoy Margaret's simply delicious cakes!

Rosie Findlater, Churchwarden



Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop is run every Saturday in the Melvill Room serving homemade cakes and fairly traded coffee and tea. Thanks to the generosity of Coffee Shop customers and those running the Coffee Shop every Saturday, £4,972.81 was donated to these charities in 2013.

Christian Aid	British Heart Foundation
NSPCC	St Mary's Garden Fund
Help for Heroes	Save the Children Fund
Youth Worker Fund	Under Tree School
Samaritans	RNLI
Macmillan Cancer Care	Meniere's Society
Joint Refugee Council	Huggard Trust
MS Society	Friends of Greenmead School
Fine Cell Work	Trinity Hospice
Comic Relief	Castlenau Community Project
Genesis Research Trust	Wandsworth Sea Cadets
Lullaby Trust	Surrey Bell Restoration Fund
Combat Stress	CCP - Childrens Club
Bishop's Lent Appeal	Friends of Viera Gray House
St Mary's 2015 Fund	Royal Marsden

If you would like to raise money for your favourite charity, please contact Judy Gowing to book a date for your Coffee Shop.

Email: judygowing@blueyonder.co.uk Tel: 020 8741 5083



**The newly refurbished clock
and sundial on
St Mary's Tower**

Deepening Faith

One of the five key areas in our strategy Today & Tomorrow is Learning. In this we commit ourselves to be a learning church in which people have the opportunity to grow in their understanding of their faith. There are currently several ways in which we do this:

Welcome into Communion Group – for children of seven years plus in which they explore ideas of faith and what the Eucharist means. It culminates in a special service where they receive communion for the first time. This year eleven children were welcomed into communion.

Confirmation Group – for young people eleven years and up. This is an informal discussion group with ideas on the key elements of Christian faith with opportunities to discuss and challenge views. Twenty-three young people were confirmed in 2013.

Rough Guide to Christianity – is a discussion group for adults that is an introduction to Christian belief and practice. Adults who have not been confirmed and would like to receive communion join this group. We were delighted that three adults were confirmed this year.

Bible Study Group – meets throughout the year on Wednesday mornings. This year we studied most of Isaiah – though none of us is a biblical scholar we manage to have lively discussions. During Advent we read Paula Gooder's book *The Meaning is in the Waiting* and now are beginning to look at the Gospel of John. We would love to see anyone who would like to come and join in our Wednesday mornings. Speak to Fiona Barnett.

Exploring the Way Group - Lucy Hine and Christabel Gairdner convened a home study group one year ago and have been meeting once a week in the evening, looking first at Acts of the Apostles and more recently Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians. For both we have used commentaries by Tom Wright. Our aim has been to study, share, pray and above all listen to and learn from one another. Everyone has contributed, either by hosting or leading the group, and the evenings have been congenial and rewarding. Our aim is for the group to expand and new members would be most welcome. Speak to Lucy or Christabel.

Deepening Faith (cont'd)

Lent Lectures – these take place every year on a different theme and in the different churches of Barnes. This year the theme was Poets in Search of God. We were treated to top quality lectures from a mixture of home-grown and visiting talent. We learned more of five poets including Christina Rossetti, George Herbert and Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Faith In Action

One of the five priorities for St Mary's, in our Today and Tomorrow strategy, is Outreach. We want to encourage the church family to serve the needs of people locally, nationally and internationally through supporting charitable organisations.

The PCC selects a small number of charities for St Mary's to support, and we review the list each summer. Over the year we aim to inform members of the congregation about the valuable work of each charity, we encourage prayer for them, financial support for them, and practical help for them. The work is led for the PCC by its Faith in Action group.

You will find information about the charities in our pewsheets, on leaflets we hand out at services, and on the church website. One or other of our charities is always among the special prayers for the week in the pewsheets.

We advertise opportunities for offering practical voluntary involvement, for those who may have some time and enthusiasm to offer. We thank those who have already responded to these opportunities, including by cooking for those who attend homeless lunches, or fundraising through participation in fun runs and other events.

One of the ways to help our charities is via donations. The PCC aims eventually to give away 10% of our income. The money comes from the Barnes Charity Ball, the Christmas Charity Fair, the Fashion Show and other events (not from the PCC's budget for running costs). And we give some gifts in kind, such as food donated at Harvest Festival, and toys at the Toy Service.

We reviewed our list of charities last spring and the congregation seemed happy with our established list. We did however in the autumn add the opportunity to donate food to the new Foodbank distribution point just opened in north Barnes.

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Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee has undertaken a number of tasks necessary to maintain the church building and churchyard in a good state of repair. Most work has been relatively minor. The most visible task was the repainting of the clock and sundial, undertaken in the early part of 2013. The CCTV system that transmits the service from the church into the Melvill Room was completed in early 2014. A proposed monument to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the rededication of the Langton Chapel in the form of an engraved window is being actively pursued.

Other items include:

- Renewal of the 10 year old smoke detectors throughout the building

- Replacing the rubber matting on the roof of the tower

- Maintenance of the churchyard monuments

- Testing of the electrical system

- A review of the security of the building and proposal to replace all locks.

Members of the Fabric Committee are: the Rector and churchwardens, Phil Bladen, Peter Boyling, Patrick Findlater, Trisha Hawkins, Colin Hayward, Michael Murison (Chairman) and Ted Muxworthy. New members William Heller and Sam Wright have recently joined the committee.

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Over 2013 our charities, and our donations, were:

Castelnau Centre Project

(community development in North Barnes): £10,320 and toys

Age UK Richmond's Barnes Green Centre (support for older people): £1393

FiSH (voluntary community care in our area): £1393

West London Churches Homeless Concern

(accommodation, advice and support for the homeless): £4171

Richmond Welcare (support for families and children): £1920

Southwark diocesan link with dioceses in Zimbabwe

(funding of clergy in Matabeleland): £1393

Christian Aid (international development): £8484, including the street collection from our part of Barnes

Under Tree Schools (education of girls in South Sudan): £6,932

The congregation also supported the Bishop's Lent Appeal in 2013 with £1065; and those who run our Saturday coffee shops raise funds for a wide range of charities.

Many members of the congregation also support other charities with their money and their time. Many thanks to the members of the Faith in Action group who lead its work: Phil Bladen, Celia Cleave, Anthony Figgis, Rosie Findlater, Amanda Iremonger, Jo MacDermott, Veronica Schroter and Sandra Sherratt.

We welcome new members!

Peter Boyling, Chair, Faith in Action group

St Mary's Church Flower Arrangers

Our visit to Highgrove was perhaps our highlight this year – it was so kind of the Duchess of Cornwall to remember our discussions concerning another visit during her time at the the flower festival. We were amazed to find the gardens so extended since our previous visit – but there was even more food for thought or not! The idea of maintaining the gardens was awesome. But it was generous to give us entry for 50 – and the coach was most comfortable. Lots of ideas for us all!

Each year brings us different challenges and it's interesting to find our style changes – I suppose in line with the general trend. Our wedding numbers were down this year but as both my children were married in 2013 I was glad of less pressure. It was such a privilege to do the flowers for both weddings and really let ourselves indulge with everything covered in flowers – I particularly enjoyed the arrangement on the arch at the entrance from Church Road adorned for the first time.

Harvest was notable as usual and we will miss dear Raymond Chapman stepping through the fruit and vegetables in the future – he always thought to remark on the Harvest décor!

Annie Bond, Nicola Urquhart and Sue Lefroy have been busy again and others have come from time to time – maybe our large arrangements put some potential arrangers off but we would welcome others to join us on Friday mornings. My thanks to all who have contributed to the beautiful flowers and to our Mickey Heath for yet another year of 'toing and froing' from flower market to church and his beautiful work at the church.

Sue Adams, Head Flower Arranger Email: sue.adams@btinternet.com



**Our Rector greeting
bridesmaids
before a wedding**

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 history and life of Barnes. 2013/14 has been busier than ever with the launch of the Barnes Music Festival, and our events have raised considerable sums for St Mary's and for local, international and church charities.

2013 started with the seventh Barnes Charity Ball in February. The theme was *Tales of the Orient* with the 300 guests enjoying a wonderful party in Kitson Hall and St Mary's. March saw the launch of the new Barnes Music Festival in conjunction with the Barnes Music Society, the Barnes Choir and the Barnes Community Association. The theme was *Holst & the English Tradition*, celebrating the centenary of Gustav Holst living in Barnes, and featuring choral, instrumental, jazz and film performances at St Mary's and other Barnes venues. Highlights at St Mary's included Julian Lloyd Webber and the Verter Trio, the John Colet Singers and the Barnes Concert Band performing *Holst and Britten*, Piano Duets from Christabel Gairdner and Daniel Turner, the Tippett Quartet *Holst's Legacy in Barnes*, the Barnes Choir *Holst & his friends* and a final Choral Evensong including a performance on Holst's own trombone. It was a wonderful week of music led by Artistic Director Daniel Turner and a real community event with a special atmosphere, to be followed by an extended festival in 2014.

In June we hosted another Scholars Concert with the title *Eternal Banquet* featuring vocal, organ and choral performances from the Music Scholars and the St Mary's Senior and Junior Choirs. In October, the guest preacher at our Annual Choral Evensong was the Bishop of Southwark, Rt Rev Christopher Chessun, and this was soon followed by the third Barnes Charity Fashion Show in conjunction with the Barnes Community Association. This showcased in St Mary's the latest fashions from the boutiques of Barnes and was followed by a successful after-party in Kitson Hall. In November we hosted the launch of Bishop Richard Harries latest book *The Image of Christ in Modern Art* with a response from Professor Sir Christopher Frayling. In December we held a Christmas Concert with rising star Mary-Jess who was joined by Isabel Suckling and the Harrodian School Choirs. 2014 started with the eighth Barnes Charity Ball in February with the theme of *Friday Night Fever* featuring music, fashion and food from the 70s with the 300 guests enjoying themselves more than ever and raising considerable sums through both a live auction led by Martin Bayfield and a silent auction run for the first time on i-tablets.

Friends of St Mary's Barnes (cont'd)

All these events 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. Over the years these have been used to pay for heating, lighting and sound systems, notice boards, paving and repairs to the tower and churchyard walls as well as the upgrade of the Melvill Room. This year, with the help of a generous donation in memory of Sir Frank White, the clock-face and sundial have been renovated to sparkling effect and a new video system has been installed to connect the church with the church rooms. From 2014, the Friends will take on responsibility for funding all church building and churchyard maintenance, repairs and upgrades which means there will no longer be the need for a Quinquennial Fund.

Contact Andrew Summers at friends@stmarysbarnes.org



Guests enjoying the
Barnes Charity Ball
Tales of the Orient
at St Mary's
in February 2013

Villiers String Quartet
playing at the
Barnes Music Festival 2013



**St Mary's just
before the
Annual Bicycle Sale
2013**



**Scholars Concert with the St Mary's Music Scholars
and Senior and Junior Choirs in June 2013**

**Models show off
latest fashions
at the
Barnes Charity
Fashion Show
in October 2013**





**A wedding reception
in Kitson Hall**

**A beautiful flower arrangement
at St Mary's**



**Guests celebrate the
70s with
Friday Night Fever
at the
Barnes Charity Ball
in February 2014**



The Golden Girls

We are a social group for retired lady members of St.Mary's and the community. We get together monthly for outings or lunches/teas in members' homes and restaurants. Members are informed about forthcoming events by letter. During 2013 we visited the Royal Chelsea Hospital, the Globe Theatre, Fulham Palace and Horseguards Parade. We enjoyed 2 lovely garden parties hosted by Sue Boyd and Sally Copland and had lunches at Strada and the Red Lion. Please contact me if you would like to join us:

Hilary Cooper, 18 Lowther Road, SW13 9ND 0208 748 8090

Email: hecooper@sky.com

Good Companions

The Good Companions is a social group for men who have retired, are partially retired or who work from home. Our membership now totals about 70. We have continued to hold our monthly men's lunches, usually at our houses but in the winter at the Bull's Head and Red Lion. In December 42 of us attended our Annual Christmas lunch and this year it was held at the recently refurbished King's Head at Roehampton. In addition we organise a wide variety of activities and our wives participate in most of these. The group is now in its fourteenth year.

In earlier years we have walked the entire lengths of the Thames Path and the Ridgeway and this year we are due to complete our walk of the North Downs Way. These walks have all been organised by Brian and Janice Turk with Martin Gee, one of our members, driving the Fish Minibus to our various start and finishing points.

During the year we have had tours of the Kings Cross Regeneration Area, Temple House and an Exhibition of Cornish Artists, Strawberry House in Twickenham, Roehampton University Campus, the Ceramics Gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Also in November Allen Chubb lead a discussion of Inheritance Tax and John Smith has taken two groups around the British Museum for an introductory talk on Greek Sculpture.

During the year we hosted two Coffee Mornings at St Mary's which were in aid of Under Tree Schools and Combat Stress, both of which were very well supported. In November we held our annual work party to clear the rear of Kitson Hall and St Mary's in preparation for the Christmas Fair and several of us help out from time to time as stewards or bar attendants for the various events taking place in St Mary's.

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

Kitson Hall

2013 was my first complete year managing Kitson Hall and I have come to know and love the Hall with all its varied uses and demands. It sees many different events there during its annual cycle. The Ark Nursery uses the Small Hall each morning during term-times. The Large Hall hosts regular users ranging from children's music classes (Baby Bop and Monkey Music), children's gymnastics (Backflip Performers) to adult T'ai Chi, Zumba and Body Conditioning classes. There's even a midweek Puppy Training class thrown in for a bit of variety! And of course there are the wonderful church and community events; two Annual Jumble Sales, Homeless lunches, BYG (our youth group) who meet once a month, the Barnes Charity Ball and Charity Fashion Show and of course two yearly productions by the Barnes Community Players. Do have a look at the timetable and advertising on the noticeboard outside the Hall and see if there's anything you fancy?

A couple of regular users found it difficult to maintain numbers in these cash-strapped times but thankfully for those that we lose there always seem to be others wanting to try a new venture. The biggest loss financially was the Sunshine Nursery who used to operate in the Small Hall in the afternoons. This income will be hard to replace. However, the frequency of children's party hiring at the weekends has been good and constant during the year.

We have begun a much-needed maintenance schedule and during the year we had new vinyl put down in the toilets, revision and replacement of emergency lighting, sanding and varnishing of both Halls' wooden floors and a sound system installed which was a glaring omission from the facilities at the Hall. We have also kept our Handyman, James Baker, hard at work with lots of smaller remedial jobs and many thanks to him for that work. It's a busy, well-used building and as such is always going to need regular maintenance and investment.

Pippa Woodroffe resigned as Chair of the Kitson Hall Committee midway through the year, many thanks to her for all her hard work and many thanks to Peter Boyling, who has taken over as interim Chair. He is a great support as are all the Committee.

Cheryl Cole, Bookings Manager of Kitson Hall Email: kitsonhall@gmail.com

07834 536530

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 four 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. Additionally the team also helps run 'The Good Marriage Course' which is a seven week course open to married couples who would like to enhance and enrich their relationship. Fouki and William Heller invest a great deal of time in leading this with the assistance of others. It is a symbol of our Churches' commitment to help to create stable and fruitful marriages.

Jo Carr Tel: 0208 748 7330 email: jo.carr@hopeandglorypr.com

Music at St Mary's

Both Senior and Junior Choirs at St Mary's continue to thrive with both benefiting from slightly increased membership since the last report.

The choirs' principal work remains the 10am Sunday Parish Eucharist at which we lead the congregational singing and provide an anthem suitable for the day. This past year has seen a number of new anthems being performed and a gradual increase in our core repertoire.

In addition to our regular duties the choir has also sought to enhance the worship at special occasions such as Ash Wednesday, The Friends Annual Evensong, the final event of The Barnes Music Festival, Christmas Carol service and other Choral Evensong services all of which have been a great success. This year we also decided to make more of the Patronal Festival by singing Mozart's Coronation Mass and Rachmaninov's setting of the Russian Orthodox version of the Ave Maria text. This piece has now become a staple of the choir's Marian repertoire.

In November we returned to Southwark Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong, which I found incredibly rewarding and successful. Judging by the comments from the cathedral clergy and all those present we did St Mary's proud!

I am confident that everyone will agree that The Barnes Music Festival is a welcome addition to the life of St Mary's. We can celebrate all the rich history of musicians connected with Barnes and also the progress that our choir is making in improving standards. All of us can benefit from world-class music making coming to Barnes and I must thank Andrew Summers in particular for his tireless work in both generating funds and ideas for this.

Music at St Mary's (cont'd)

St Mary's continues to enjoy a vibrant choral scholarship programme that enables the choir to have a consistent team of excellent young singers in place. All of us benefit from their energy and enthusiasm and I must record my thanks here to them and to their parents for their ongoing support. Also I wish to go on record to say thank you to the many members of the congregation who support the scheme financially; this enables us to pay a small honorarium to the scholars which is a helpful recruitment and retention tool!

I would like to thank Christabel Gairdner for her piano playing during communion. I find that it never fails to add something to this special time for us to have some reflective and uplifting Mozart or Haydn to accompany us to the altar.

My work as Director of Music would be impossible without the support of Judy Gowing as choir administrator and Patty Darke as librarian. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. But I must also record my thanks to the many members of the congregation who continue to provide encouragement; the occasional e-mail or comment over coffee really does lift our spirits!

I would like to end by thanking the choir and the clergy of St Mary's for their wonderful support for me during my illness and particularly to Justin Miller for his work in standing in for me when I was away in hospital. I look forward to another wonderful year of music making.

Daniel Turner, Director of Music at St Mary's



Sacristan

Another year has flown by with its usual speed. The project for a new altar frontal and vestments to celebrate 2015 has got off to a really good start thanks to Rosie, and I look forward to seeing the final results. My thanks as always to all the people who help, the Langton Chapel team who make sure it is kept looking good. Not forgetting the girls who make it possible for me to have a weekend off. It was a pleasure to welcome 2 new crucifers, Anne Sullivan and Francesca Wisdom, they are a great help in spreading the load. All we need now are a couple of servers.

Sally Copland, Sacristan

St Mary's Safeguarding Report 2013

The main safeguarding event in 2013 was the new safeguarding audit which required the church to examine all aspects of safeguarding, and report back on how well we are doing in this area. We had a very good score, however there are areas to improve and these will be addressed for this year's audit. There have been changes at Trinity house with Jill Sandham leaving and Kate Singleton replacing her as Diocesan advisor, and also the introduction of a part-time assistant advisor, due to the increase in safeguarding work being carried out.

There have been no significant changes to the manual this year, these are planned for the future, but the main document issued this year was the 10 steps to safer recruitment. Locally we have appointed Paul Teverson as the safeguarding representative on the PCC and Rachel Bryant will be taking over from Kate Boundy. Lucy Hine will continue with the CRB checks (now called Disclosure & Barring Service). *Kate Boundy, Safeguarding Officer*

St Mary's Scouts Group

Another busy year for SMB, with all the usual events, camps, galas, Church parades, and Barnes Fair (we provided breakfast at Barnes Fair). Enjoyable but a lot of hard work for our leaders, as well as children!

Another good group jumble sale, thanks to all the help from the leaders & BCA volunteers. We also help at the BCA jumble sale and attended church parades on a regular basis.

Our quiz night was a good social event, but once again sadly due to the work on Barn Elms playing fields we were unable to hold our bonfire night and I fear that this event has now slipped into the history books. However we did take over 100 members and family ice skating at Hampton Court in December (almost the entire group).

As has been tradition for the last 30 odd years we have supplied and decorated the Christmas tree in St. Mary Church as our annual 'good turn'. So once again, my sincere thanks to the excellent Scouters at SMB that volunteer and give up their time and energy for the children of our community and the superb group of helpers that continue to help at our annual jumble sale. Without all of them, past & present, the world would be a far sadder place.

We are very short of adult help, so I take this opportunity to ask for anyone that can spare a couple of hours a week working with the children (all ages no experience necessary). Please just contact me for a chat.

Pieter van de Wiel, Group Scout Leader, St. Mary Barnes Scout Group

Email: gsl@smbscouts.org.uk

Sewing Group

The group continues to meet in the Melvill Room on Monday afternoons and we all come away feeling we have had a very therapeutic afternoon, particularly enjoying the kitchen facilities to make cups of tea, as well as the greatly improved lighting, The Six Days of Creations tapestries are coming along well, some almost finished and our next challenge will be to see if we can put them all together as a wall hanging. Nearing completion of a tapestry is a satisfying feeling, the weight of the wools and the colours bringing them to life, not to mention the feeling of achievement, and it has been a lovely joint project.

Anyone who enjoys creative hobbies like knitting and embroidery/tapestry stitchwork would be most welcome to join us.

Please call Rosie Findlater: 8876 5338 or rosemary@pfindlater.plus.com.



**Rev'd Ann Lynes
at her Welcome Service
in June 2013**



**The Nativity at
St Mary Barnes
2013**



Sunday Club - where all children of all ages are welcome

It's been another successful and fun packed year at St. Mary's Sunday Club. Our members are getting younger and younger! We operate an open door policy and cater for children between 3-11 yrs. We rely on the older children to help us support the younger children during our time together and so build friendships and respect. We always try to accommodate all children who are happy to stay unaccompanied but do ask that new or young children have a familiar adult with them until they are settled.

We now have 52 children 'on our books' though thankfully they don't all turn up at the same time! And we have a fantastic team of 16 leaders who meet regularly both to socialise and to 'talk shop'. Their enthusiasm, can-do attitude and genuine energy and altruism has meant it is a very happy team and the responsibilities are shared amongst everyone in our joint vision and guiding principles of nurturing the Christian faith amongst the children of St. Mary's.

In the past year we have included a wide range of activities in our sessions including; drama, craft, meditation, games, science experiments and lots of opportunities for discussion and listening. We have been involved in the infamous Christmas nativity and raised lots of money for good causes on our Teddy Tombola at the Christmas Fair. 34 of us enjoyed a trip to see the 'Snow Gorilla' at the Rose Theatre in Kingston in January of this year.

So as you can see we are thoroughly enjoying the challenges and opportunities we find being a part of St. Mary's Sunday Club. Thank you to everyone who supports us with your kind words, smiles and prayers. We hope we will continue to grow both spiritually and as individuals, young and old(er), as a part of St. Mary's Church
Cate Summers and JulieAnn Sewell (Sunday Club co-ordinators)



**Sunday Club members at
the Harvest Supper 2013**

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