

# St Mary's Barnes Annual Review 2014-2015





## Introduction by the Rev'd Richard Sewell

Every church exists to be a sign of God's love for the world and for every soul that lives in it.

Anglican churches have a distinct geographical area which are their first responsibility to serve. We call this area "the parish". The vicar (or rector) of each church is called to care for every person in the parish. Clearly one or two clergy in a church cannot expect to achieve that, so Christian ministry must be a shared enterprise and this annual report is an account of our shared service over the past year.

The people of this parish might be touched by the ministry of St Mary's in a wide variety of ways: attending a wedding or a funeral of someone they love; perhaps celebrating the baptism of a child or attending a service on a special occasion such as Remembrance Sunday, Christmas or Easter. Others will encounter St Mary's, not firstly as a place of worship, but as a venue for a concert or play. Someone may walk into St Mary's simply seeking a place to be quiet and to think. Whatever the reason, I hope that anyone who comes will find a place that lives and breathes for Jesus Christ. I pray that we will be gentle agents of God's love. This report of the different groups and activities gives an insight into the variety of ways that St Mary's community has sought to do this. I am enormously grateful to everyone who puts so much of themselves into sharing in the joint project of serving our parish in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Richard H. Sewell*

## PCC Report 2014-2015

The PCC has continued to implement our strategy for mission and ministry, the Today and Tomorrow priorities. We particularly tried to ensure that we are always welcoming to newcomers.

The plans for the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations have featured in many of the PCC discussions over the past 12 months; from the new altar frontals being prepared by Fine Cell Work and the pilgrimage from Runnymede to the ambitious Magna Carta Flower and Embroidery Festival and the production of Jesus Christ Superstar. At last year's APCM, the possibility of a new memorial window was introduced, also to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Work continues on this project in consultation with diocesan advisers.

A new hymn book has been generously funded by a member of the congregation. It combines hymns and songs from both of the books previously used.

In July, we celebrated Revd Ann Lynes' ordination as priest and First Eucharist with a joyous service, followed by a barbeque in the churchyard.

The method of funding all the parishes in the Diocese is moving from the Fairer Shares scheme to a Parish Support Fund based on a system of 'informed generosity'. Jackie Pontin from the Diocese of Southwark helped the PCC discuss our strategy for financial giving at our Away Day in September.

A Finance Review Group now meets regularly at St Mary's to consider the financial situation and how to improve it.

The second Barnes Music Festival in March 2014 was a great success, with more events than in its inaugural year. The 2015 Festival has featured twenty concerts and events over two weeks, with the theme:

*The English Tradition: Magna Carta, Music and Freedom.*

Throughout the year, the Rector has been seeking a Youth Worker to consolidate St Mary's work with children and young people. Unfortunately, none of the interviews has produced a suitable candidate, but the search continues.

In November a guide to St Mary's for children, written by NADFAS was launched and has proved popular.

Following the retirement of Mark Beedle as Parish Architect, the PCC has appointed Paul Sharrock to replace him. Father Paul Holland has announced his retirement from St Michael's. Vic Nolan has expressed a wish to step down from his duties as Parish Clerk and Verger.

*Judy Gowing, PCC Secretary*

## Barnes Youth Group (BYG)

We are a Youth Group which meets once a month on a Sunday. It is for secondary school age kids. Most sessions are spent playing table tennis, football, arts and crafts and we have discussions too. When the weather is good we go onto Barnes Common and play wide games. BYG also has excursions out: so far we have seen the film 'Noah' at Hammersmith Odeon, we have done Laser Tag and there are plans for further trips/ days out.

There is also Café Church where we have a version of Sunday Club for our age group and we talk about Christianity in a way that is more suitable for us. Café Church also helped run a stall at Barnes Fair, where we had mini games and sold things in order to raise money for Under Tree Schools. In Advent we gave members of the congregation pots to fill with loose change, also to benefit Under Tree Schools helping to build a girls school in South Sudan. We even surprised ourselves by raising just over £1000.

I feel BYG has grown very well but it would be great if we could get additional younger people involved. Feel free to speak to Richard or any of the BYG kids.

Tom Macqueen (13) BYG member

## Bellringing at St Mary's

We are pleased to have successfully rung St Mary's bells for every Sunday 10am service during the year. In addition to our other regular ringing and practices we have rung quarter peals to celebrate a number of special occasions including the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rehallowing of St Mary's, Barnes Music Festival, Revd Judith Roberts' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination, Junior Church members' first communion and Revd Ann Lynes' Ordination/First Eucharist. In addition, Philip and Shelagh Mitchell asked us to ring in celebration of their Golden Wedding. This raised £100 for church funds and Shelagh brought along a lovely cake for everyone to enjoy afterwards! We rang in celebration for Christine Yandle's memorial service and half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday and after the funeral of Patricia Chapman. In total, forty-three quarter peals were rung on the bells during 2014. One of these, in May, was noted as Mike Wigney's 700<sup>th</sup> quarter peal from his wheelchair which is a remarkable achievement! It seems unlikely that anyone else has rung more than a handful, if that, from a wheelchair!



## Bellringing at St Mary's (cont'd)

Our band has remained stable throughout the year although sadly it is more and more difficult for the junior members to attend with their increasing school workload as they move towards GCSEs and A levels. We continue to train new ringers, sometimes to help local towers whose members, in turn, support our own activities. Ringers are increasingly in short supply (not to mention the problem of the average age rising!) and it is important that we support each other in this way so that there are enough trained ringers for our churches.

Our annual summer trip in July took us to Evesham where a group of Barnes ringers and others from our wider circle of friends rang in 32 different towers in that surrounding area over the five days.

At Christmas, helped by members of the Youth Group, we again enjoyed ringing the handbells for the Barnes Christmas Festival and for residents at the three care homes.

2015 promises to be busy again, particularly around the 800 year anniversary celebrations with plans for a talk about bellringing, a peal to celebrate this event, 'LiberTeas' when all the bells around the country will ring at 3pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June and no doubt lots more.

*Trisha Hawkins*

*[towercaptain@stmarysbarnes.org](mailto:towercaptain@stmarysbarnes.org)*





## The Churchyard of St Mary's



Courtesy of Richard Murgatroyd Photography

### Church Garden and Mowing Team

As ever, the lawns are kept in such good shape by Giles Dimock and Anthony Miller, and a mown lawn makes everything else look so much better. They have been fastidious and obliging in leaving the grass at the edge of the wild flower bed just the right length to make a nice transition of mown grass and the rather more wild and free wildflower bed. Without these beautifully mown grass areas, the church garden would be much less impressive and I know their efforts are greatly appreciated.

I hope I can say that we gardeners all benefit from our Saturday mornings, working together (weather permitting) and putting the world to rights over coffee and cakes. Last summer the roses rewarded our tending and pruning with an abundant display of colour and beauty. The wild flowers were the best yet and we have great hopes for 2015. We feel the war we have waged on the pretty, but devilish rooted, alkanet is being won by us, and we have at least gained some control over it. A farmer in Kent said he reckoned their roots could go down 30'! The newly repaired wall (alongside the dustbin area) is a great improvement and has tidied up that corner considerably. There is now room for some dahlias, which will add a splash of colour. The President clematis on the lych gate flowered long and profusely for many months, its purple flowers rather appropriate for a church garden. We planted this soon after Richard arrived in 2010, when he introduced the word President, and it seems to have responded well! We all get great pleasure out of the garden and on a hot summer's day you could almost be anywhere out in the country, simply enjoying the beauty. It is great that so many people walk through, simply to pass through the churchyard garden.

## The Churchyard of St Mary's (cont'd)

Our gardeners are: Tristram Ellam-Bell, Tiziana George, Patrick Findlater, John Deards, Sue Mackworth-Praed, Tom Ridley (who is very often to be seen in the garden mid-week), and David Delaforce.

As ever, Margaret and Mike Marjoram have held coffee shops for the garden and we were able to renew the ancient creaking shed, which did need replacing, thanks to their generosity, not to mention the superb array of cakes they always have at their coffee shops.

### Sweepers

We are all immensely grateful to the sweepers. Sweeping can be a very arduous task during the autumn and the area outside the Melvill Room seems to attract millions of leaves. We have a rota which works very well on the whole and I can only say thank you to all the willing workers. It has been good to meet new folk, who have signed up, and often with great enthusiasm too.

Our thanks go to: David Oxley, Simon Clough, Martin Gee, Anthony and Patsy Miller, Trevor Toolan, Colin Ferguson, John Deards, Patrick Findlater and Elena Fletcher.

*Rosie Findlater*



## Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop is run every Saturday in the Melvill Room serving fairly traded coffee and tea and homemade cakes. Thanks to the generosity of Coffee Shop customers and those running the Coffee Shop every Saturday, £4,756.33 was donated to these charities in 2014.

Alzheimers Society	Royal Marsden
British Heart Foundation	Save the Children Fund
Buttle UK	Save the Saveable and Good Shepherd
Cancer Research UK	Sport Relief
Cancer Support	St Mary's Garden Fund
Combat Stress	St Mary's Music Fund
Comic Relief	Surrey Bell Restoration Fund
FiSH	The Huggard Trust
Friends of Viera Gray House	The Refugee Council
HomeStart	Tiny Tickers
Lent Appeal	Trinity Hospice
Lullaby Trust	Under Tree Schools
Macmillan	UTS Bursary Fund
MS Society	West London Churches Homeless Concern
RNLI	

Thank you to all the loyal barristas and coffee drinkers who have supported the Coffee Shop over the past few years that I have been coordinating the rota. Claire Boyling will shortly be taking over the reins, so if you would like to raise money for your favourite charity, please contact her to book a date. [claire.boyling@gmail.com](mailto:claire.boyling@gmail.com)

*Judy Gowing*





## Curate's Report

St Mary's (with St Michael's and Holy Trinity) has been a wonderful place to begin my ordained ministry, not least due to the wonderful spaces all around our river-bound parish, where one can walk and ponder and pray.

Last December, several members of St Mary's enjoyed a quiet day at the beautiful Kairos Centre in Roehampton. The day was led by Jenny Lowery, who preached at my first Communion Service at St Mary's after my ordination in July. The programme provided a great opportunity to spend deliberate periods of quiet reflection and prayer, together and individually, at the beginning of what is for many of us a very busy season. It was intentionally practical and accessible, as well as being profound and inspiring. We hope to run a similar day next autumn and I would encourage anyone who is interested to give it a try, even if a quiet day is not something you have done before.

During my time here it has been a privilege to work with various parts of St Mary's youth ministry, including Sunday Club, # Sunday and Barnes Youth Group. I am especially looking forward to leading the next First Communion course later this year. I also hope that St Mary's will be able to appoint a youth and children's worker in the near future, enabling us to strengthen and extend the good work that is already happening in this area.

I have recently become coordinator for commemorations of the First World War in Southwark Diocese. The idea is to assist parishes in commemorating these important past events in a way that is relevant to the present and helpful towards the future. Part of my role is to encourage parishes across the diocese to submit the names listed on their local First World War memorials. The aim is that this will enable the Cathedral (and any other parish using the diocesan prayer calendar) to remember every single individual from across Southwark diocese who died in the First World War between now and Armistice Day in 2018. If anyone would be interested in helping me establish a list from Barnes please let me know!

I am thankful for all of the opportunities I have had here so far, and for so many fabulous people who have inspired, challenged, encouraged and entertained me on my journey. I look forward to my next year here and all that it holds in store.

*Rev Ann Lynes, Team Curate*



## 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 and what it means to be a Christian. There are currently several ways in which we do this:

**Welcome into Communion Group:** for children of seven years and up 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 ten children were welcomed into communion.

**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 four adults were confirmed this year in a service at St John's Waterloo.

**Bible Study Group :** A small group of us have been meeting on Thursday mornings throughout the year and we have read and discussed two thirds of St. John's Gospel and the Epistle of James. During Lent we read the Transforming Power of Prayer by Michael Marshall and during Advent Rowan Williams' Being Christian. Speak to Fiona Barnett if you wish to join.

**Exploring the Way Group :** There are now two Home Groups one convened by Christabel Gairdner and the other by Lucy Hine and in the last year the groups have studied Paul's two Letters to the Corinthians and the Gospel of Mark. Facilitating the evenings is shared around the groups which meet on Tuesday evenings and new members are always welcome. We study, share, pray together but above all we 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.

**Lent Lectures :** these take place every year on a different theme and in the different churches of Barnes. This year the theme was the Place of Faith in Britain Today to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta. Once again we were treated to top quality lectures including ones from Shami Chakrabarti of Liberty and Matthew Reed of The Children's Society. These lectures are also a good way for members of all the churches of Barnes to meet and visit each other's churches.

## Fabric Committee

On behalf of the PCC, the Fabric Committee continues to work to maintain our grade II\* listed building in good condition.

We are supported in our efforts by our Parish Architect. After 30 years of service, Mark Beedle retired from the role in 2014; he had a major role in the rebuilding of the church to the design of Edward Cullinan. After a competitive interview process the PCC has appointed Paul Sharrock as his successor. We look forward to working with him. One of his early tasks will be to carry out the five yearly check on the building this summer.



**Renovated churchyard wall  
funded by the Friends of St Mary's**

The results of some of our work over the year are visible: the south east corner of the boundary wall on Church Road has been rebuilt, after being pushed off line by a large self seeded sycamore, a number of monuments in the churchyard have been repaired to ensure their stability, the large noticeboard on Church Road has been replaced and the main one by the lych gate repainted. Cyclists are delighted that we have a new security chain in the east courtyard. There is new flooring to the loos beyond the Melvill Room

A lot is not visible. We have the exciting task of ensuring that all the regular checks on boilers, electrics, etc are undertaken, and that our health and safety policies are kept up to date. We have arranged repair of the damage caused by two burglaries over the last year (and are researching CCTV as a defensive measure). We have had the lightning conductor system repaired after a strike – the system had done its job, so no-one realised the church had been struck.

We have been working on a brief for replacement of the lighting in the nave, to improve its effectiveness. We are seeking diocesan approval of the means to cure damp at the base of the tower. We are beginning the gradual process of reupholstering nave chairs that need it. We are seeking a decision on how to display the bell that the church beadle in the nineteenth century used to ring to call people to services. There is a new proposed design for a memorial to the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reconsecration of the church in 1215.

## Fabric Committee (cont'd)

I am as ever grateful to the members of the fabric committee who give their time and expertise to make these things happen: the Rector and churchwardens, Phil Bladen, Patrick Findlater, Trisha Hawkins, William Heller, Michael Murison, Ted Muxworthy and Sam Wright.

*Peter Boyling, Chair, Fabric Committee*

## 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.

We support a small number of charities in each category. We give information about what each charity does, and we encourage prayer, financial support and practical help for them.

We hope that it is helpful to see the information we offer about the charities in our pewsheet and on the church website. 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.

We thank those who have already responded to opportunities for practical help, including by cooking for those who attend homeless lunches; volunteering in local charities; offers of food to the Foodbank; and 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 St Mary's 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.



**Under Tree Schools in South Sudan**

## Faith In Action (cont'd)

Over 2014 our charities were:

Castelnau Centre Project (community development in North Barnes): we gave £5,000 and toys

Age UK Richmond's Barnes Green Centre (support for older people): £1423

FiSH (voluntary community care in our area): £1468

West London Churches Homeless Concern (accommodation, advice and support for the homeless): £3000

Richmond Welcare (support for families and children): £1820

Southwark diocesan link with dioceses in Zimbabwe (funding of clergy in Matabeleland): £1423

Christian Aid (international development): £2200; and St Mary's played a major role in the street collection in Barnes which raised £15,910

Under Tree Schools (education of girls in South Sudan): £10,395

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (concern for oppressed religious minorities): £210

The congregation also supported the Bishop's Lent Appeal with £760; the Carol Service raised £1700 for the Church Urban Fund; we staffed meals for the homeless; and those who run our Saturday coffee shops raise funds for a wide range of charities.

Many thanks to the members of the Faith in Action group who have led its work in the year: Phil Bladen, Celia Cleave, David Delaforce, Anthony Figgis, Rosie Findlater, Amanda Iremonger, Jo MacDermott, Veronica Schroter and Sandra Sherratt. We welcome new members!

*Peter Boyling, Chair, Faith in Action group*



Courtesy of Richard Murgatroyd Photography



## St Mary's Church Flower Arrangers

Another busy floral year although fewer weddings than usual – We are quite lucky to do something that people can actually see and smell and are most grateful for the compliments! Annie Bond, Nicola Urquhart and Sue Lefroy have been a part of the team and we have been able to enjoy their artistry.

We are now looking towards the Magna Carta Festival in May when we can really let our artistic juices flow – it's exciting but we do need to make sure it's professional and that many people come and visit – Judith Blacklock is helping us plan several installations and we are all going to learn how to use flowers to create all sorts of items, from the river Thames to a feast on the table fit for a king after the sealing of Magna Carta. Enough said – please do all come and enjoy in May.

Mickey Heath has again been such a valuable part of the team, early morning visits to Covent Garden and several wonderful arches over the front door – in fact a picture of one has recently appeared in the January addition of the Italian Vogue's wedding section! So we are reaching the high spots!!

Our thanks also to the Friends of St Mary's who are always a cheerful addition to Friday mornings – we are grateful for the final clearing of our mess after we've been creative.

*Sue Adams, Head Flower Arranger    Email: [sue.adams@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.adams@btinternet.com)*



Courtesy of Richard Murgatroyd Photography

## 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. 2014/15 has been busier than ever with the growing success of the Barnes Music Festival, and our events have raised considerable sums for St Mary's and for local, international and church charities.

In its second year, the Barnes Music Festival 2014 grew into a two-week programme in March/April 2014 of 19 events across 7 locations in Barnes, centred on St Mary's. Under the theme of *Three Greats: Elgar, Delius, Holst & the English Tradition*, events included an opening concert from Cantabile, Julian Lloyd Webber performing with the Verter Trio, St Paul's Girls' School Orchestra and Choirs filling St Mary's, the formation of the Barnes Music Festival Chorus to sing a new commission by David Bednall, Opera in a Day to sing *Trial by Jury*, Christabel Gairdner Piano Recital and a range of other instrumental, choral, jazz and film events. The festival has developed into a real community event for Barnes with increasing involvement, and funding, from all community organisations.

The Barnes Music Festival 2015 built on the previous two years with a further extended programme of 20 events over two weeks in March 2015 under the theme *Magna Carta Music & Freedom* as part of the national celebrations for the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magna Carta and its links with Barnes. It started with a *Come & Sing* day with Ralph Allwood, an innovative *Photography & Music* exhibition, Misericordia medieval music, Purcell *King Arthur* with narration by Gyles Brandreth & Patricia Hodge, Bach *St John Passion* at St Michael's, *Memories of Flanders & Swann* and a final Choral Evensong with a Magna Carta anthem and Rev'd Robin Griffith-Jones as preacher. It was a wonderful festival of world-class music-making in Barnes and attracted a total audience of 3000 from the Barnes community and beyond.

Other events during the year included the annual Scholars Concert in June on the theme *Voyage à Paris* and a screening of the son et lumière *The Enduring Flame* on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its original production in St Mary's. The Barnes Charity Fashion Show in October showing the latest fashions from the boutiques of Barnes was sold out earlier than ever and this year the church lay-out was reversed to give an even better display. At the Annual Friends Choral Evensong in October we welcomed as preacher The Rev'd Canon Professor Richard Burrige, Dean of King's College London. In November, we hosted a *Tribute to Stephen Dodgson* concert in memory of the local composer who died in 2013 and in February 2015 the Barnes Charity Ball returned with the theme *The Medieval Ball* as the first event in the St Mary's 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

## 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 both for the church and for nominated charities. 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. From this year, these funds now pay for all maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's which in this year has included new locks, organ renovation, new signboards, churchyard tomb and wall repairs and renovated lighting.

*contact Andrew Summers at [friends@stmarybarnes.org](mailto:friends@stmarybarnes.org)*



**Julian & Jiaxin  
Lloyd Webber playing at  
the Barnes Music  
Festival 2014**

**Barnes Music Festival Chorus  
sing the world première of  
David Bednall's anthem**







Guests enjoying dinner at the Barnes Charity Ball 2015 *The Medieval Ball*

Our retiring Parish Clerk,  
Vic Nolan, at a wedding



Courtesy of Richard Murgatroyd Photography

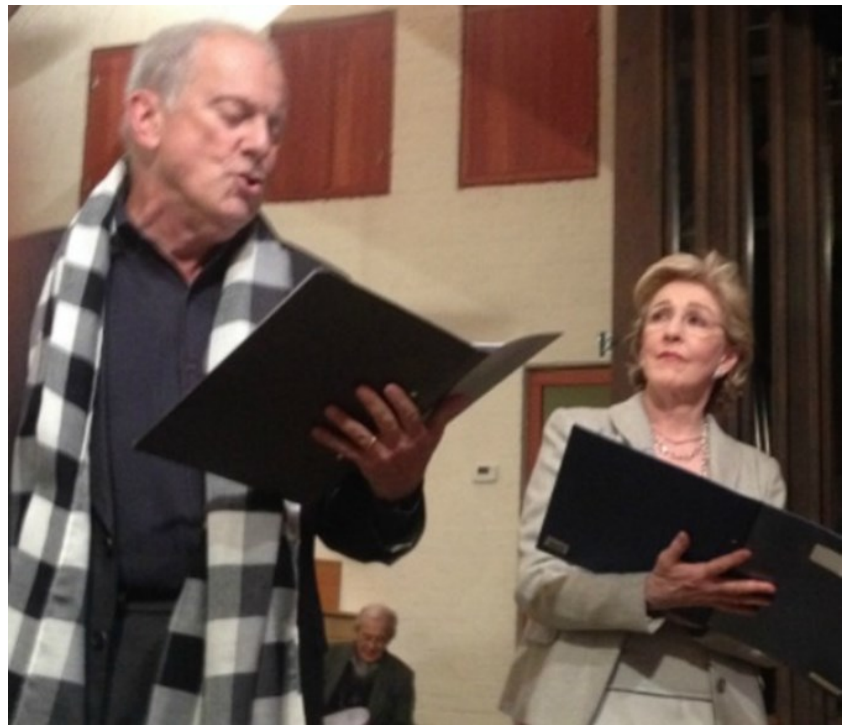


Models show off  
latest styles  
at the  
Barnes Charity  
Fashion Show  
2014



Medieval musicians  
Misericordia at Barnes  
Music Festival 2015

Gyles Brandreth &  
Patricia Hodge narrate  
Purcell *King Arthur* at  
Barnes Music Festival  
2015



Michael Mates &  
William Godfree  
perform *Memories of  
Flanders & Swann* at  
Barnes Music Festival  
2015



## 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 or e-mail.

During 2014 we visited The Royal Ballet School, Bentley Priory, Ightham Mote in Kent, Clarence House, Richmond Theatre, and Tate Britain (Turner Exhibition). We enjoyed 2 lovely garden parties hosted by Sally Copland and Sue Boyd and had lunches at Pembroke Lodge 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 Red Lion. In December, 45 of us attended our Annual Christmas lunch which was held at San Remo. In addition we organise a wide variety of activities and our wives participate in most of these. The group had its first meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2000, so we are now in our sixteenth year.

In earlier years we have walked the entire lengths of the Thames Path and the Ridgeway and this year we have completed our walk of the North Downs/Pilgrims' 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.

We have had tours of Lords Cricket Ground, Southside House in Wimbledon, Kew Music Museum, Foundling Museum, and Broadcasting House in Portland Place.

During the year we hosted two Coffee Mornings at St Mary's. The first was in aid of Combat Stress and the second was held in memory of Nick Phillips one of our members who sadly died during the year. This was in aid of the charity being set up by Katherine Phillips for out of hours Palliative Care for terminally ill patients within the Imperial College Healthcare Group. These raised respectively £500 and £400. 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

2014 was my second year managing Kitson Hall. It's a lively job, dealing both with keeping the building in good condition (expenditure – groan) and with a constant stream of hirers (income - hurrah!).

The year brought exceptional expenditure. We have been implementing the advice of a surveyor we commissioned in autumn 2013. The urgent work was to replace the wall between the Hall and no 2, which was bowing. This cost £8180. The hall is a busy, well-used building and as such is always going to need maintenance and investment. Our regular series of checks brought a need for some remedial work to the electricity system and emergency lighting and the maintenance of kitchen equipment. We had the wooden floors of both halls sanded and varnished, as needed every few years and had new vinyl put down in the toilets. 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. This year we will commission an inspection of the roof, which was last rebuilt in 1991.

We also pursued our ambition to add to the facilities, to make them even more attractive to hirers. The PCC decided to introduce a sound system, which cost £8300. We acquired outside sheds, as our storage capacity is limited. This year we will add spotlights for the stage, so speakers can be seen as well as heard.

On the income front, the accounts have been suffering from the £9000 per year loss when the afternoon Sunshine Nursery had to move away. A couple of other regular users also left, finding it difficult to maintain numbers in these cash-strapped times. It will be a big job to replace the losses, but thankfully there always seem to be others wanting to try a new venture. But we are working on improving the promotion of the hall to attract more hirers and clients for them.

The Hall offers great classes for younger users including Baby Bop, Monkey Music and Tempo Tots to encourage their musical and educational development, physical activities include Backflip Performers (children's gymnastics), Pilates and Fit for Life. A new Soccer Skills Academy has started on Friday evenings. The Ark Nursery uses the Small Hall each morning during term-times and is also extending into the early afternoon. The frequency of children's party hiring at the weekends has again been good and constant during the year. And in between these we thread the two annual Jumble Sales, our monthly BYG youth group, the Barnes Charity Ball and Charity Fashion Show, Homeless lunches, and two productions in the year by the Barnes Community Players.

We also need to continue to be good neighbours and we have worked hard to improve our arrangements for avoiding unwelcome noise and rubbish from events.

## Kitson Hall (cont'd)

This year the Hall management committee has consisted of the Rector and Wardens, Peter Boyling, Phil Bladen, Patrick Findlater and me. Peter Boyling did a great job as interim chair and was and is a great support and provider of much-needed advice and wisdom. We are very pleased that William Heller has agreed to join the committee, and Peter is particularly delighted that he has agreed to chair it.

*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

The last year has been yet another busy one for St Mary's musicians. Our singers continue to thrive with both our choirs growing in confidence, ability and numbers. 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.

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. Our (now annual) Scholars Concert was a huge success and my thanks to Andrew Summers for his support and logistical efforts must be recorded here.

Of particular note has been the work with harpist Louise Wiggins and our children's confident performances of the Britten *Ceremony of Carols*.

## Music at St Mary's (cont'd)

St Mary's choral and organ scholarship programme is enjoying a particularly successful year with some wonderful young singers who are also quite quirky characters! We have also (at last!) appointed an organ scholar. It has been a pleasure to have two sopranos who both joined the team having been previously committed members of the church family in Barnes. I am also very pleased that our tenor line has never sounded better with two outstanding singers who have also strengthened our links with St Paul's School. The whole church family benefits from the scholars' 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 music whilst we are engaged in the central act of worship.

The Barnes Music Festival is growing into something which is putting St Mary's on the capital's musical map. We celebrate all the rich history of musicians connected with Barnes and this year we have welcomed the opportunity to participate in the national Magna Carta celebrations. St Mary's is the undoubted hub of the festival and it was a very moving moment for me to realise two particular life-long ambitions this year: to gather as many choral musicians as possible (of all abilities) in a parish church and perform sacred music from eight centuries, and to mount a performance of Purcell's *King Arthur* with a specially conceived narration. This St Mary's achieved and excelled at. In addition to this I know that we contributed to the observance of the Lenten season by performing Bach's *St John Passion* on Passion Sunday in St Michael's church and it is very pleasing to report our links with the musicians there continue to develop. Andrew Summers has proven to be an outstanding chairman and a wonderfully supportive colleague. Much fun has been had in our collaboration.

My work as Director of Music would be impossible without the support of Judy Gowing as choir administrator and Peter Boyling as librarian. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. But I must also record my thanks to clergy and the many members of the congregation who continue to provide encouragement. Richard Sewell is to be heartily thanked for allowing me the freedom to explore new liturgies and for supporting me during my illness.



## Music at St Mary's (cont'd)

My last words must be of thanks to the wonderful children and adults who volunteer their time and efforts to sing in our choirs. Weekly rehearsals and several hours of their Sunday mornings are given to enhance the church's worship and to sing God's praise. That they do this with good humour and devotion, and put up with my eccentricities is a marvel and I cannot thank them enough.

*Daniel Turner, Director of Music at St Mary's*

## Sacristan

The year seems to have rushed by with indecent haste. The progress of the new altar frontal and vestments to celebrate this year has been both interesting and exciting to see. My thanks must go to those who help me, the chapel cleaning gang who keep the Langton Chapel looking clean and tidy. Also my three brilliant helpers who enable me to have a free weekend occasionally. And of course all the acolytes, crucifers and servers who turn up on a Sunday and so stop me having to imitate an inebriated spider !

This year is full of exciting happenings in celebration of 800 years of St. Mary's which will keep me busy and hopefully will be both interesting and fun.

*Sally Copland, Sacristan*



## St Mary's Safeguarding Report

It has been a little over a year since I stepped into the PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer) role supporting general safeguarding practices at St Mary's.

Lucy Hine continues with DBS checks and is currently busy as many of the initial checks are now expiring after 5 years. Trying to raise awareness of the importance of having a safe church has resulted in a number of mini-training sessions or discussions with the Sunday Club, Bell Ringers and PCC. We will shortly submit a new safeguarding audit. The team at Trinity House with Kate Singleton, Diocesan advisor, have been very supportive in the informal chats we have had this last year. Fortunately we have not had any serious safeguarding incidents. Paul Teverson continues as the safeguarding representative on the PCC. We hope to have another year where all who visit St Mary's know they are safe and welcome.

*Rachel Skilbeck, Safeguarding Officer*

## St Mary's Scouts Group

St. Mary Barnes Scout Group was founded in the early 1920s, but was closed during and, for a time after, the Second World War. The Rev. Chris Heath, incumbent of St. Mary's and Mathematics Master at St. Paul's School, restarted it in the 1940s. The Group amalgamated with the Barn Elms Scout Group (which had already amalgamated some years earlier with the Holy Trinity Sea Scout Group) in the 1980s. It is now the only Scout Group in Barnes. Our Group had formerly been based at the Church Hall in Kitson Road, but following the amalgamation, we moved to our present HQ, built in 1952 by the members and parents of Holy Trinity Sea Scouts and named "Hermione". The ship's wheel and bell of their former guardship were installed in the hall along with the "Hermione" name-board, which had been hand-carved by one of the scouts. The original troop's colours, damaged during Second World War bombing in 1942, were framed and are displayed in the entrance hall.

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 who volunteer and give up their time and energy for the children of our community and the superb group of helpers who continue to help at our annual jumble sale. Without all of them, past and present, the world would be a far sadder place.

Do contact me if you are interested in joining or volunteering.

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

*Email: [gsl@smbscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@smbscouts.org.uk)*





## Sewing Group

Our year has passed agreeably and peacefully, and we are nearing completion of the six Days of Creation tapestries. We hope to have them all completed for St Mary's Festival week in May, and merged into a wall hanging.

We have shared joys and supported each other through illness and some of the darker days of winter, not to mention our discussion of various television programmes and films we have seen, which we always enjoy. We all feel the benefit from our time together and it is a privilege to share our lives with each other.

We are always open to new members, and nothing undertaken is too onerous or challenging; often mending some of the many moth holes that our cashmere jerseys seem to attract in affluent Barnes.

*Please call Rosie Findlater: 8876 5338 or [rosemary@pfindlater.plus.com](mailto:rosemary@pfindlater.plus.com).*



**View from the Bell Tower during Teddy Bear Parachuting at Barnes Fair 2014**

**The Langton Chapel during a wedding**



## Sunday Club - where all children of all ages are welcome

Sunday Club meets during the 10am service and continues in its mission to nurture Christian faith through stories, games and activities with children from age 3 upwards. It also continues to grow. So this year, we have created a new older group for children in Years 4-6+ who have named themselves #Sunday. Increasing numbers means an ever enlarging team of leaders and helpers, who are the backbone of our work with children at St. Mary's. We are now a team of 16, which means that the responsibilities can be shared and enjoyed in partnership with one another.

This year the Sunday Club also ran Good Friday and Harvest workshops which has encouraged children and families to be better represented at key events in our church calendar. And of course there was the Nativity, which this time was 'The Curious Sheep' and a valiant effort by both cast and crew.

With about 45 children presently registered in Sunday Club, new members, helpers and children, are always welcome.

*Cate Summers and JulieAnn Sewell (Sunday Club co-ordinators)*



**St Mary's Barnes Angels**



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