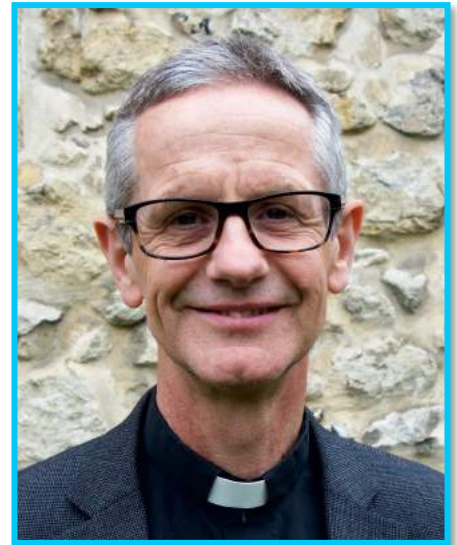


ST MARY'S
BARNES

Annual Review 2017-2018



Introduction by the Rev'd Richard Sewell

Looking back over a year of activities at St Mary's is always one of many wonderful events and a few sad ones. That is inevitable in a wide community like ours and if the balance is far more uplifting than upsetting then that has got to be good. We are very fortunate to live in a community where people can enjoy the beauty of the environment and the diverse and high-quality entertainments available.

However, a Christian community is about far more than just those (valuable) elements of community life. We are here to comfort the sad and bereaved and to support the vulnerable. So, the work of St Mary's described in this report also includes some of those elements of life. But thankfully, the large majority of this report is dedicated to our activities which enrich lives and bring joy and pleasure to people both inside and beyond the church community.

We are called as Christians to be salt and light in the world: salt both preserves and flavours while light illuminates the dark places. If we could resemble these elements even better, both individually and corporately, then we would indeed be a blessing to our community.

"Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 4:16)

Richard H. Sewell



Churchwardens' Report

A year in the life of St Mary's is hugely varied and rich. Sometimes joyous and at other times tinged with sadness and anguish. But through all this we strive to be at the centre of our community and to be a witness to our faith.

As in most walks of life, one of the perennial challenges is always having the resources, both of people and money, to best fulfil our mission. Earlier in the year we carried out a stewardship campaign to explain to the congregation how we utilise those resources, both here in Barnes, and to support the mission of the Church in the wider diocese. We asked for everybody who considers St Mary's to be their church to think about how they could contribute and received a really excellent response. We as churchwardens, and on behalf of the Rector and PCC, would like to thank all those who are contributing so generously with time and money to St Mary's. Some of the results can be witnessed throughout this annual report.

We are delighted to welcome Henry Chandler as our new Director of Music. It would probably be more appropriate to say "welcome back". Henry grew up in Barnes and was an organ scholar at St Mary's. The results of his work with both senior and junior choirs are clear to see on a weekly basis, and were very much in evidence at our wonderful Christmas Carol Service.

An important new initiative in 2017 was the holding of a special afternoon carol service in December for those in our community suffering from dementia. Members of the choir joined the congregation to provide support. The service was a great success and very well supported.

The PCC has this year redoubled efforts to ensure that St Mary's is a safe environment for everybody. The PCC, Junior Church leaders and others have attended safeguarding courses and we are ensuring that all relevant people have the appropriate national background checks. It remains important, however, that every member of our church is aware of the importance of being vigilant and looking out for those who may be less able to look out for themselves.

After our major project to improve the lighting last year, we have seen the full benefit of a versatile system that enhances both our regular worship and a range of events including the Music Festival. A highlight of the year was the service at Candlemas led by Bishop Richard, the Bishop of Kingston to bless the Memorial Window installed in the Langton Chapel at the end of 2017 and the new lighting system.

Churchwardens' Report (cont'd)

You will read in other parts of this report about the Holy Land Pilgrimage, but one thing everybody is clear about is how well Richard, our Rector led the group. This is,



of course, no surprise! We all know that Richard's focus and strong sense of our mission here in Barnes and in the wider world has played a crucial part in enabling us all to strengthen our faith and purpose and we truly thank him for that.

After completing six years in the post, Paul is standing down as churchwarden. We have hugely enjoyed working together over the last twelve months as part of a team together with Richard to try to make sure St Mary's is a welcoming and

inclusive church at the heart of this wonderful community.

Phil Bladen & Paul Teverson, Churchwardens



Barnes Team Ministry

The three Church of England churches in Barnes are legally joined as a Team Ministry. While we keep our own PCCs, finances and distinct ethos, the team structure gives us all, clergy and laity, extra strength for our mission and ministry from receiving and giving mutual support. The membership of the Team Council includes the Team clergy, Readers and churchwardens with two elected lay members from each church.

The three churches bring different but complementary styles of churchmanship and each church can learn from each other's gifts. The team council seeks to develop the relationships between the churches, with opportunities to share in worship, and joint activities. One such activity is the Foodbank based in the Castelnau Centre, which continues to meet the needs of those who call on it. It was established by Holy Trinity who run it; and the other churches provide support to the project.

Another is the Team Prayer walk round Barnes: the 2017 walk happened in May and another is planned for this May. The churches also share in mission through joint participation in the Glass Door homeless initiative and the Pentecost lunch for the elderly. New joint action is being considered, including church involvement in the Barnes Green Christmas lunch. The team jointly own 52 Boileau Road, as accommodation for a team curate. Holy Trinity have now asked to sell their share,

and it is expected that the diocese will buy the share and be joint owners with St Mary's and St Michael's. The house would then be available for a curate from the deanery, with preference for St Mary's and St Michael's. As now, the house would be available for commercial let when not needed for a curate. The annual accounts of the team show that the main item is income and expenditure relating to the house, on which considerable improvement work was done in the year.

Peter Boyling, Secretary to the Team Council



Barnes Youth Group (BYG)

We have had another exciting year at BYG! Visiting trampoline parks, coffee shops, the cinema, climbing walls, plus our entertaining sessions in Kitson Hall. I have truly been blessed to be able to work with a group of young people who are funny, talented and sometimes crazy!

This coming year at BYG we plan to venture on many more off-site trips with 'Go Ape' in Battersea being our first trip after Easter. It promises to be another action packed year ahead!



BYG trip to Clip and Climb Chelsea

Every year our young people support 'Under Tree Schools' (UTS) in South Sudan. Our young people have raised much needed funds for UTS by running a stall at the Barnes Fair, ringing hand bells during the Barnes Christmas Festival and baking cakes for a stall during advent. This year the Barnes Summer Fair stall alone raised an impressive £121. Well done to all our young people!



BYG simply could not run without the fantastic support of committed volunteers. I therefore would like to say a BIG thank you to Maxine Tok, Sarah Seward, Helen Farideh, Rita Asmar and Laura Auton. They have been a great blessing to myself and the young people

We are always in need of more support and I would like to keep raising the bar on the provision of opportunities for young people at St Mary's. It is vitally important that they have access to a group which develops their Christian faith, particularly in an increasingly uncertain world. The need for committed Christians to serve God in this ministry is ever present. If you feel that you can help, even if you are unsure how, I would very much appreciate having a discussion with you. So please feel free to contact me via my email address below. I look forward to God's blessing for our young people in 2018.



Under Tree Schools (UTS)

Charlie Auton, Youth and Children's Worker

E-mail: children@stmarybarnes.org Mobile: 07450479081



Bellringing at St Mary's

2017 proved to be another really busy ringing year at St Mary's. Our main purpose is to ring for services and we have rung eight bells on the majority of occasions for all the 10am Parish Eucharist services, apart from the weekend we were away on our summer trip. We have rung for Choral Evensong services and are pleased that, after a break of many years, we are managing to ring more frequently for the 11.30am Baptism and Informal Services with our newer recruits.

There was an increase this year in the number of weddings for which we were asked to ring and also for funeral ringing. This included tolling a bell prior to the start of Jane Radford's funeral, once for each of her 89 years.

We also rang for special occasions including a farewell in January 2017 to Rev'd Ann Lynes and Sigrun Wagner moving to Northwood, for Eddie Hartley's 80th birthday and for Colin Yandle's 90th birthday. Some of us were invited to take part in the televised ringing at All Saints Fulham for the broadcast of their Christmas Day Eucharist.

Mike Wigney continues to organise a quarter peal every Friday prior to the practice. The Friday ringing provides an excellent opportunity for ringers to extend their skills both at ringing and conducting.

The training on a Saturday morning continues to go from strength to strength with an average of around 18 ringers from Barnes and towers nearby, all of whom support and enjoy the Coffee Shop each week! We teach using the methods of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) whose individual goals prove a great incentive to learners. Two of our trainers have qualified as full teachers during the year.

Our outings and trips take us to a huge variety of towers with differing numbers of bells. Our summer trip to Thornham Magna in Suffolk included the Cathedral's 12 bells at Bury St Edmunds – just one of the 37 towers on the five day schedule!

We are still working towards a decision as to how best to add two dumb bells for teaching purposes but in the meantime have begun our fund raising through running the church coffee shop in June and October.

The Surrey Association has unofficially designated us as one of their three learning centres and, through the ART scheme, people interested in learning to ring are directed to us if they live in the area. Added to that, the national initiative 'Ringing for Peace – Armistice 100' to teach 1400 new ringers in remembrance of ringers who lost their lives in the Great War is already bringing in new learners.

We were all saddened by the death of Charles Turnbull, our Deputy Tower Captain, in January 2018. He will be greatly missed by all the band.

Officers: Trisha Hawkins (**Captain**), Jill Wigney (**Treasurer/Secretary**) and Andrew Howard-Smith (**Steeple Keeper**) & 15 other regular ringers.

Trisha Hawkins

towercaptain@stmarybarnes.org

Senior Hand bell Ringers at St Mary's

We have really improved at last and have been meeting virtually weekly – we are now sight reading and have had a few more lessons from Alan Sharps and his wife which is really helpful. We have performed carols at the Barnes Green Day Centre, run the coffee shop twice and held a Fish Supper for the RNLI where we played sea shanties!! We do not have any vacancies right now but if anyone is interested to be on the reserve list, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Sue Adams sue.adams@btinternet.com



St Mary's Christmas Cards



2017 was the third year that I have done the Christmas cards for St Mary's, so I'm settling into it well! This year I asked another lovely local artist, Katie James, if she would be willing to paint the church from a wonderful photograph that Trisha Hawkins took some years ago in the snow. It was a huge success and we had to reprint it halfway through our selling period from mid-November to just before Christmas. We had two other new cards – a photo montage I put together of winter images around Barnes and the Canada Geese on Barnes Pond but in an A6 size. These were in addition to the four designs from last year - Helen Pettigrew's Nativity scene, and the three kneelers photographed by Paul Phillips. There was also some

stock of old cards from previous years which formed the basis of the 'bargain corner'.

We sold 667 packs of cards across all the designs, but the most popular was the new design by Katie James. This overall figure was down on last year's sales and was a combination of having one less week for selling cards as a result of the date of the Christmas Fair and an annual trend over the last three years of sales dropping. The combination of high postage and increases in living costs mean that people have less disposable income, which will increasingly impact on sales. We made £1,530.90 in profit which will go towards the charities that St Mary's supports.

As in previous years, I am hugely grateful to the amazing team of volunteers that enables us to keep the church open for the sale of cards from the middle of November to just before Christmas. We had so many people offering to help this year, it was truly wonderful. Thank you so much.

Charlie Grainger

christmascards@stmarybarnes.org

The Churchyard of St Mary's

Church Garden and Mowing and Sweeping Team

The highlight of the gardening year was when Jimmy May and I went to collect our Silver Gilt medal from the London Borough of Richmond Gardening scheme last September. There were only three churches who took part in the scheme and we



did very well to get Silver Gilt. We can still aim higher this year. We have decided wild flowers are too much of a challenge, having very stiff competition from weeds like Alkanet, which thrive in the churchyard. Grasses have been planted in the bed along the wall in Church Road and hopefully they will thrive and look particularly good on frosty mornings (of which we had many in the first few days of March).

Our gardener Tristram Ellam Bell has made a very welcome return after a break of about a year.

Jimmy May decided he had too many

commitments and fortunately Tris was happy to

return to Saturday mornings, which we are all delighted about.

Giles Dimock and Anthony Miller have been mowing every week, when necessary, for many years now. Giles and Anthony would love someone to help out with mowing occasionally, We are extremely grateful to them for their efforts, which make such a difference.

Thank you all, particularly Sue Mackworth Praed and David Delaforce, who have as ever, been very assiduous members of the gardening team all year.

Thank you too, to all the sweepers who quietly get on with their allotted days.

Our newest recruits to the team are Judy and Simon Umfreville, whose first sweep at the beginning of January was very promising.

We hope that St Mary's congregation and the wider community can all enjoy the peace and beauty of our churchyard and that it is a fitting testament to the beauty of God's creation which is all around us.

Rosie Findlater

garden@stmarybarnes.org



Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop in the Melvill Room is open every Saturday morning serving fairly traded coffee and tea and homemade cakes at very competitive prices. Each week a different charity hosts the event and as a result, in 2017, very nearly £6,500 was donated to local, national and international charities. This represents an average giving of over £130 per session. Many thanks to the fantastic team of volunteer baristas each week and to the generosity of our customers.

The coffee shop also provides an opportunity to introduce St Mary's and its beautiful building to guests and to casual visitors. A win-win situation! So, if you haven't joined us for coffee and chat do please do so this year.

We would love to welcome additional 'baristas' so if you have a favourite charity and would like to join the roster please contact me. Fresh coffee and tea provided – just bring some scrumptious cakes and a couple of willing volunteers.

*Claire Boyling 8878 3775
claire.boyling@gmail.com*



Easter breakfast 2017

Deepening Faith

One of the five strategic areas in our Mission Action Plan is Learning. In this we commit ourselves to be a learning church in which people have the opportunity to grow in their understanding of faith and what it means to be a Christian. There are several ways in which we do this:

Pilgrim Course – this is a new learning resource produced by the Church of England. A small group met to follow the six sessions on the theme of The Creeds. We had interesting discussions focused on the building blocks of the Christian faith and helped the group to explore what we believe and why. We decided that next year we would follow another of the courses in the series and that would be on The Eucharist. The Pilgrim Course replaced The Rough Guide to Christianity which did not run this year.

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 we welcomed 4 children into communion.

Home Study Group - The Thursday morning group met at 2 Mill Hill Road during term time through the year. During 2017 Paul's letters to the Corinthians were the subject matter. In Advent we read some of Michael Mayne's reflections on *Advent: Responding to the Light*. In the new year we turned to the biblical book of Esther and explored the significance of this story in the Jewish faith. During Lent we took one of Stanley Spencer's paintings in his *Christ in the Wilderness* series each week and discussed it in detail with the benefit of Bishop Stephen Cottrell's reflections. This is a relaxed and informal group, varying in size between four and eleven. We are always a larger number through the weeks of Lent. New or occasional comers will always be welcome. Get more information from Fiona or Geoffrey Barnett (020 8878 6975).

Exploring the Way Groups - The two groups, one convened by Christabel Gairdner and Lucy Hine and the other by Fouki Heller and Judica Palmarozza, have been meeting together over the last year to study the Letters of Timothy, of Titus, the first book of Isaiah and the book of Ruth. We continue to grow in numbers. The evening meetings, facilitated each week by a different member of the group, offer the opportunity to study, discuss and learn from one another in a relaxed atmosphere. We meet for three, six week blocks over the year.



Deepening Faith (cont'd)

Lent Talks – This year rather than a series of Lent Talks, Churches Together in Barnes organised just one talk. This was with Baroness Shirley Williams and was hosted by St Osmund's Church. Despite it being a cold and snowy evening there was a very good turn out to hear a fascinating talk entitled *My Life; My Faith*. Baroness Williams drew on her long and interesting political life to give insights into the pressure of life in Parliament and how her strong Christian faith informed and motivated her work. You can read about this in her 2003 book, *God & Caesar: Reflections on Politics and Faith*.

Advent Prayer Workshops – these have become a regular and valuable feature of our calendar. Advent was enriched by a weekly quiet time of contemplation with a special focus on R S Thomas, Evelyn Underhill and the Celtic Saints led by Rev'd Richard, Christabel Gairdner and Sr Margaret Anne respectively.

Pilgrimage – This year we undertook a Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This is reported in full elsewhere.

Rev'd Richard Sewell & others



The Easter Cross

Faith In Action

One of the mission priorities for St Mary's is Outreach. In response to the many blessings we receive we should be generous in serving the needs of people locally, nationally and internationally.

So we promote the work of a small number of charities in each category. Their work should challenge the way we see the world and our part in it. We give information about each organisation, and we encourage prayer, financial support and practical help for them. One or other of our charities is always among the special prayers for the week and intercessors often include the current charity in our prayers. We are pleased that a number of people have told us that they find it helpful to see the information we offer about the charities in our pewsheet; and they welcome the visits to the church by representatives of the charities to talk about them. We thank those in the congregation who have responded with practical help, including cooking for those who attend homeless lunches, volunteering in local charities, offering food to the Foodbank, and fundraising through participation in events.

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

Over 2017 our charities were:

Castelnau Centre Project (community development in North Barnes): we gave £4800

Age UK Richmond's Barnes Green Centre (support for older people): £3610

FiSH (voluntary community care in our area): £1820

Glass Door (accommodation, advice and support for the homeless): £4960

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

Southwark diocesan link supporting the clergy in the diocese of Matabeleland in Zimbabwe: £1820

Christian Aid (international development): St Mary's congregation played the major role in the street collection in Barnes, which raised a total of £13,350 plus Gift Aid



Faith In Action *(cont'd)*

Under Tree Schools (education of girls in South Sudan): £9300

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (concern for oppressed religious minorities): £160 from the Saturday coffee shop.

The congregation also supported the **Bishop's Lent Appeal** with £1446 and the **Children's Society** with £362; the Carol Service raised £1464 for the **Church Urban Fund**; we staffed meals for the homeless; and those who run our Saturday coffee shops raise further 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, championing specific charities: Phil Bladen, Sue Boyd, Celia Cleave, Anthony Figgis, Veronica Schroter, David Delaforce and Jo MacDermott. The latter two now step down from their role and we welcome Helen Arianpour as a new member. We would welcome more new members!

Peter Boyling, Chair, Faith in Action group

St Mary's Flower Arrangers

As I sit to write this everything is covered in white!! Not the best of time to buy flowers so I am quite relieved that we mark Lent with no flowers! The market is of course still functioning but in line with the very weak pound, the cost of flowers has risen sharply as so many come from the flower markets of Holland. So, we have tried hard to be prudent – and are just about holding our head above water.

Many thanks for the support from Annie Bond, Nicola Urquhart and Sue Lefroy – who have turned out in all weathers to ensure we have flowers in church – and to help with the sadly large number of funerals and indeed the normal run of weddings – a big thanks to our Mickey Heath who not only transports our flowers from the market for us but does the arch so beautifully on the Saturday weddings – whilst I run around looking for someone young and fit to help with the lifting and putting in place over the front door.

We would welcome anyone who has an interest and knowledge of flowers to join the team – the ability to lift is quite important – do let me know if you are interested!!

Sue Adams, Head Flower Arranger flowers@stmarybarnes.org

St Mary's Garden of Remembrance

The annual Garden of Remembrance Service took place on 28th May and was well attended by the friends and relations of the many who are interred here and remembered on the stone tablets that adorn this tranquil spot. Very few inscriptions were made in 2017 as families were obliged to await for the receipt by us of the required approvals for the extension to the Garden of Remembrance. These have now been forthcoming and we will soon be able to continue making inscriptions on new tablets that will line the broad path leading to the church office. There were six interments during the course of the year.

Dominic Dreyfus



The St Mary's Bicycle Sale queue 2017 , it just went on and on!



Friends of St Mary's Barnes

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

The *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October 2017 featured two nights of the boutiques of Barnes showcasing their latest fashions to enthusiastic audiences to the background of Retro 70s music and entertainment. The shows were judged the best ever with both nights sold out and over 500 people attending, raising £10,000 for the Friends, AgeUK Barnes Green Centre and the Paddock School in SW15.

Barnes Charity Fashion Show 2017



Barnes Charity Ball 2018 Committee

The *Barnes Charity Ball* in February 2018 with the theme *Highland Fling* had almost everything from north of the border: the music, dancing, decorations, food and whisky, many of the auction prizes and of course the costumes. Entertainment was from the band Ceilidh Tree and the piper Alan Henderson with an open auction led by local auctioneer Nick Evans.

The event raised over £30,000 for Under Tree Schools, Castelnau Centre, Glass Door Homeless, Activity Station and the Friends.

The *Barnes Music Festival* in March 2018 had a new Artistic Director, James Day, and a new theme *Peace & Harmonies* linking to the centenary of the end of the First World War but very much focussing on the power of music to console, comfort, inspire, excite and unite. The varied programme over two weeks had 30 events at 9 venues with an additional 5 Young Artists Soirées in private houses. The Barnes Young Musician of the Year returned for a second year with a much greater number of

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

talented musicians applying. We experienced some outstanding performances from Guy Johnston and the Thames Youth Orchestra, Barnes Concert Band, Howard Goodall, Alistair McGowan and Anthony Hewitt, Blondel, Fibonacci Sequence, Labuschagne Quartet, English Chamber Choir, Barnes Choir, Dvorak Society, Barnes Community Choir and also recitals from Henry Chandler, James McVinnie, Martin Neary and

Barnes Young Musician of the Year 2018



Johann Sebastian at the BMF 2018

Josh Salter. The festival featured the four main oratorios: Bach *St Matthew Passion*, Haydn *The Creation*, Handel *Messiah* and Mozart *Requiem* and schools involvement included *Zimbe!* with Barnes Primary School and St Paul's School and the St Paul's School Jazz Band playing at Kitson Hall. One of the aims of the Festival is to engender a spirit of community through music performance and appreciation

and this was certainly achieved with a total audience of nearly 4000 and 950 musicians taking part. Other events during the year included in July 2017 Chris Patten talking about his new book *First Confession - A Sort of Memoir* in which he spoke to a spellbound audience of over 200 about his varied and high-profile career and the relationship between politics and identity. This was followed in September 2017 by Bishop Richard Harries being joined by broadcaster Gyles Brandreth to debate "What Really is Happiness?" based on Gyles Brandreth's book *7 Secrets of Happiness* and a reprise of Richard Harries' book *The Beauty and The Horror*. A lively and amusing debate left the audience of 200 feeling much happier.



Anthony Hewitt & Alistair McGowan

In December we hosted *The Gift of Christmas*, a series of readings and carols devised by Amanda Waring with Virginia McKenna, Nick Waring, David Simeon and Elizabeth Counsell to a capacity audience of 300. This was due to be followed on the day after

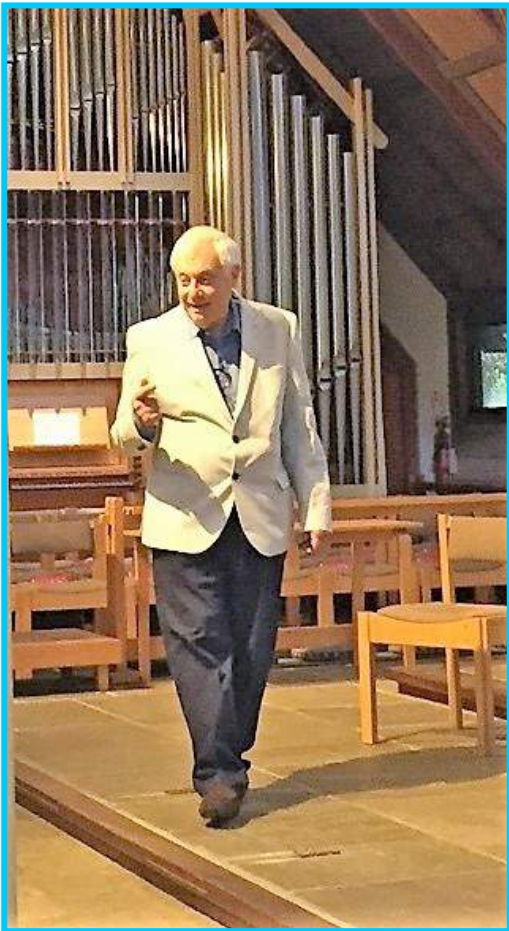
Friends of St Mary's Barnes *(cont'd)*

by a Celebrity Football Match at Barn Elms but this sadly had to be cancelled due to poor weather. It is hoped that the match will now be held in December 2018.

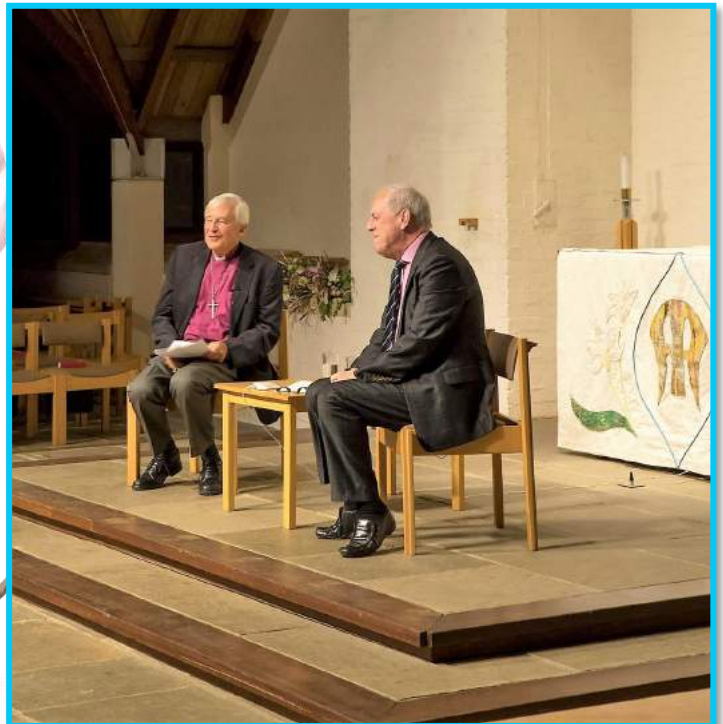
At the Annual Choral Evensong in October 2017, our guest preacher was Ven John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth with fine choral music led by the new Director of Music, Henry Chandler.

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 which have amounted to over half a million pounds over the last twenty years. Most recently these funds have been used to pay for the new lighting system, the 800th Anniversary window and upgrades to the sound system. The Friends Fund continues also to pay for all utility costs, maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's.

Contact Andrew Summers at: friends@stmarybarnes.org



Chris Patten at his book launch
of *First Confessions*



Richard Harries & Gyles Brandreth discuss
What Really is Happiness?

The Golden Girls

We are a social group for retired ladies of St Mary's and the community. We meet monthly for outings or lunches/teas in members' houses or restaurants. Members are informed about coming events by email or letter.

This has been rather a quiet year for various reasons. During 2017, we visited Syon House and West Clandon village in Surrey. We lunched at Rick Stein's and had our annual Christmas celebration at The Red Lion. Sally Copland hosted 2 lovely coffee mornings at her home.

As some of our members become less mobile we are evolving into a social lunch club when we can get together at local restaurants.

Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Hilary Cooper 0208 748 8090 goldengirls@stmarybarnes.org

Good Companions

The Good Companions is a social group for men who have retired, are partially retired or who work from home.

It has not been a good year for us. A number of our longstanding members have died, namely George Brown, Ronnie Williams, Moray Watson, Peter Davies and Vic Nolan. Vic was 97 when he died and as he had been on most of our walks a large group of us joined in a walk in memory of him along the river to Richmond for lunch and a few then made it to Kingston for tea. In spite of this, our membership is still in the region of 60. The group had its first meeting on 29th February 2000, so we are now in our nineteenth year and to celebrate this a group of us with our wives met over coffee and port on 1st March.

We continue to hold our monthly men's lunches, usually these are at our houses but sometimes we hold them in the Melvill Room at St Mary's. In addition we hold the occasional lunch at the Red Lion when we are joined by our wives. In December we returned to San Remo for our Annual Christmas lunch, which was again very efficiently organised by John Smith. In November our Coffee Morning raised £565 for Combat Stress.

Co-ordinator: Tim Budgen 0208 748 3413 goodcompanions@stmarybarnes.org

St. Mary's Holy Land Pilgrimage – February 2018

A dark cold 4.30am start did not seem propitious for our much - awaited pilgrimage, but nineteen St. Mary's pilgrims quickly proved to be a happy band open to the adventure of new experiences.

Our trip was based in Jerusalem and Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee and each day was different, varied and exciting. To visit so many places whose names are familiar though Bible stories was a special experience even if their modern version may have borne little resemblance to what we imagine. It was difficult to envisage the nativity in the overcrowded Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, but we were moved by the peace of 'Shepherds' Fields' on the edge of the city where you could imagine shepherds 'keeping watch over their flocks by night'. By way of contrast Nazareth - a bustling modern town - was brought to life at Nazareth Village, a reconstruction of 1st Century Galilean life where you got a sense of the life Jesus may have led as you walked in vineyards and olive groves. To travel through the wilderness of Judea was to see a landscape probably little changed from biblical times and it did not take much imagination to bring many of the familiar stories to life as we sailed on tranquil waters across the Sea of Galilee in a small boat. There are still simple fishing boats with fishermen casting their nets and we were privileged to celebrate Holy Communion on the shore by the Church of the Loaves and Fishes.

Jerusalem itself is a city of contrasts and our hotel was well placed overlooking the walls of the old city near the Damascus Gate. The hustle and bustle of the souk was like any Middle Eastern bazaar but slip into one of the many churches along the Via Dolorosa and a different atmosphere prevails. So many different denominations are represented and so many styles of architecture from simple interiors to opulent basilicas adorned in scarlet and gold. The number of churches of so many nationalities is testament to the spread of Christianity throughout the world. This is particularly evident at The Pater Noster Church on the Mount of Olives where translations of the Lord's Prayer in 140 languages (including Welsh and Gaelic) are inscribed on colourful ceramic plaques around the walls of the church. Groups of pilgrims of many nationalities following in the footsteps of Jesus today are witness to a living faith and it was good to meet some of the clergy who minister to Christians in Israel.

Our tour ran so smoothly thanks to Richard's efficient organisation and the services of our delightful Palestinian guide, Kivork, who not only informed us about historical

St. Mary's Holy Land Pilgrimage – February 2018 (cont'd)

matters but provided an insight into the current political situation. Some visits too gave an awareness of other major religious communities in the country. There was a walking tour of Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter and Mt. Zion with a prompt start to beat the crowds at the Temple Mount. We did well to arrive early and enjoy a quiet wander around the Dome of the Rock with its stunning blue tiles and golden dome. The Western Wall (below) was a chaotic mixture of lively Bar Mitzvah ceremonies and individuals saying private prayers, some written on pieces of paper stuffed into the wall.

Fridays are a day to be out of Jerusalem and we had a full day's tour to the impressive fortress of Masada built by King Herod and the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered – particularly interesting having seen the Scrolls earlier at the Israel Museum. On to the Dead Sea for some relaxation in its therapeutic waters. It was quite a sight to see some of our pilgrims floating in the salty sea – one reading the obligatory magazine!

Our first crossing into Palestinian territory and the sight of the separation wall covered in political graffiti brought home to us the constraints for those living in the disputed territory, and a meeting with the manager of the Bethlehem Rehabilitation Centre gave some insight into the lives of those Palestinians in the West Bank for whom Jerusalem which could be seen from the window of the clinic was more inaccessible than New York!



Holy Land Pilgrimage group at Temple Mount

The final part of the trip took us north to Tiberias stopping at the Jeel al-Amal Boys' Home for deprived children, supported by this year's Bishop's Lent Call. On to Jericho and Qasr el-Yahoud baptismal site on the River Jordan where we all removed shoes and waded in, some collecting water for baptism of 'future grandchildren'!

Each of us had moments that were special to ourselves but I am sure that for all the St. Mary's pilgrims it was a journey that will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

Fiona Smith



Kitson Hall

Hirings, Community and Church Use

Our 3 biggest hirers by far are still Clifford Dance Studios, Ark Nursery, and Pedal Project (cycle training for children) between them producing roughly 50% of income for the hall. Soccer Skills Academy stopped hiring the hall in September 2017 and Music Central have recently announced their intention to cease hiring the hall. Newcomers are Astanga Yoga, Neuromovement and Krav Magda/Stretch Therapy.

The hall is always in high demand for children's parties at weekends but availability for wedding receptions has reduced due to greater use of the hall during term-times on Saturdays. Barnes Community Players are reinstating their Summer show in 2018, in addition to their annual pre Christmas show. Other community uses include the Barnes Community Association and Scouts' jumble sales and homeless lunches.



The hall is well used by the church for St Mary's Minis, Barnes Youth Group, and also for major fundraising events such as the Charity Ball and Fashion Show, and various church receptions and meals.

Hall Income and Expenditure

In 2017 income was just under £65,000, compared with about £60,000 in 2016, £48,000 in 2015 and £45,000 in 2014. Though there will be small fee increases payable by The Ark Nursery, Clifford Studios and Barnes Community Players from September 2018, it is likely that income in 2018 and beyond will be lower than £65,000 because of substantially reduced use by Clifford Studios, who have agreed terms for a lease of a shop in Barnes.

The surplus after expenses in 2017 was £20,836 and in 2016 £15,802 but the budgeted surplus for 2018 is only £8,800. The 2017 surplus covers the majority of our costs for youth and children's work. In spite of a lower budgeted surplus for 2018, it is hoped that it will be possible for this arrangement to continue.

Kitson Hall (cont'd)

Maintenance, Repairs and Improvements

Over the last couple of years maintenance expenditure has been higher than normal



as several large items including boilers, the oven and the dishwasher have had to be replaced and the interior of the hall and external frontage redecorated. 2018 will be another high expenditure year, exceptional items being external redecoration works and possibly new curtains and fixings for the large hall and stage curtains. Longer term expenditure is likely to reduce somewhat as

high cost items will have recently been replaced.

Summary

The hall is a valuable resource for both St Mary's and the local community. I believe the higher standards of maintenance over the last couple of years have been appreciated by hirers and should, hopefully, be reflected in both increased use of and income for the hall. On behalf of the PCC, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Cheryl Cole for her excellent management of the hall and its users.

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

Marriage Preparation at St Mary's

The Marriage Preparation Team helps couples having a wedding in Barnes prepare for their future marriage. Once a couple has met with the clergy, the administrator puts them in touch with one of the five trained team couples. The engaged couple then fills out an online questionnaire via *Prepare Enrich* and then has two or three evening sessions with a team couple, where they talk confidentially about issues relating to married life. The team meets twice a year over supper to discuss how to enhance the service offered to those marrying at St Mary's and to share best practice.

Jo Carr weddings@stmarybarnes.org



Music at St Mary's

As has become clear to me since I took over as Director of Music, music plays an integral part of the worship at St Mary's. The Senior Choir sings an anthem at the 10am Sunday Eucharist (with short breaks after Christmas and Easter, and a summer break), and also sings at special liturgical occasions such as the Christmas Carol Service, Ash Wednesday etc. In addition to this, the choir sings several Evensongs per year, including 2 joint evensongs with the choir of St Michael's, Barnes (one of which is part of the Barnes Music Festival). Music is also provided at weddings and funerals at the highest possible standard. We have had professional vocal and string quartets performing at some extremely memorable services.



Although the lead up to Christmas was extremely busy, the choir rose to the occasion and delivered a memorable Carol Service of high quality. This was helped by about 5 professional singers to boost our forces – and we have received similar help for other big services and evensongs. This naturally sheds light on our need for scholars. Cy, our bass scholar, is coming along and has sung a few solos during the services, and is gradually becoming more confident when singing in an ensemble. We are still on the look-out for other scholars, tenors in particular – although some tenors have been promised from the West London Free School to start in Autumn 2018.

The Sunday anthems have generally been well received, and we have taken a few Sundays off in order to focus our attention towards other repertoire/services. This has, on two occasions, given the Junior Choir an opportunity to sing – which has gone down very well with the congregation at St Mary's, and indeed the parents of the Junior Choir. They performed in Barnes Music Festival this year as part of Zimbe! – a joint collaboration with other local schools in a successful concert. I am very thankful to Kate Cowell and Judy Hildesley for their help with the Junior Choir on Wednesdays. I have also been teaching the organ to a very musical and local 15 year old, Rosie Thorogood. Rosie is a superb candidate for our organ scholarship, and I would like to involve her more in the church activities from Autumn 2018, when she has completed her GCSE's, and has become more advanced on the organ.

Music at St Mary's (cont'd)

Overall, I am pleased with the way the choir has developed since my arrival. Their sight-reading has improved quite significantly, as has the focus on singing the music rather than the notes. There are some technical areas that still need attention (tuning, unanimous vowels, dynamics and rhythm) but I feel the choir is patient when I work on these elements in the rehearsals. They rose to the challenge of the repertoire for the Barnes Festival Evensong, and I look forward to the fast approaching Summer Term. I am incredibly grateful for the help and support I have had since starting the job from Judy Gowing and Peter Boyling. They have been able to advise on all aspects of music at St Mary's. I am also very thankful to Richard who has provided continual support during my first 9 months, and has always been able to guide me in the right direction.

Henry Chandler, Director of Music, music@stmarybarnes.org

The Sacristy & Serving Team

We all find it a privilege to share the Sacristan duties and in such a great team. As we said last year, the smooth running is thanks to Sally who continues to be alongside us and responsible for the ordering of wine, wafers and other essential supplies. We are also grateful to those who clean the Langton Chapel on Saturday mornings. More volunteers are needed for this, so please get in touch with Sally if you think you could take a turn.

We also have an excellent team of adults and children who assist with all the duties of serving and assisting with sanctuary duties on Sundays. These enable our worship to be conducted with good order and the liturgical style to which St Mary's has become accustomed. Many thanks to all those who assist with these roles and to Sally who co-ordinates.

Sacristinis: Fiona Barnett, Wiz Dundas, Fouki Heller & Lucy Hine

St Mary's Safeguarding Report

I joined Rachel Skilbeck March 2017 as a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) supporting the Safeguarding practices at St. Mary's. A noteworthy change is that Rachel retired as PSO in September and Lis Munden (PCC) took up the post in December. The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed in November 2017. A copy can be found in the Church entrance. St Mary's submitted a Safeguarding self-audit to the Diocese in March. We received lots of positive feedback regarding our procedures and policy.

St Mary's Safeguarding Report (cont'd)

Also, we received advice on how to make improvements and we have made and are in the process of making changes accordingly. These include:

- Ensuring all Sunday Club Leaders, members of PCC and Bell-ringers have an up to date DBS check.
- Ensuring all Sunday Club Leaders, members of PCC and Bell-ringers have signed a confidentiality declaration.
- Raising the profile of Safeguarding amongst the congregation (by including a short introduction to Safeguarding and the PSOs in the pew sheets bi-annually and having Safeguarding on the PCC agenda).
- Ensuring Sunday Club Leaders, Bell ringers and PCC members could access a more convenient Safeguarding training by holding a session at the church in September. This was well attended with 23 people gaining their 'C1 Foundation in Safeguarding' certificate. Other members of PCC and new members of staff have attended separate Safeguarding training when necessary.
- Reviewing procedures regarding the regular hirers of church rooms and Kitson Hall to ensure they have their own Safeguarding policies and procedures.

We will continue to use the Diocese's invaluable advice to guarantee Safeguarding best practice at St. Mary's. We have a clear vision of what needs to be done in the forthcoming year and are committed to safeguarding the young and vulnerable in our church and community.

Natasha Mold & Elisabeth Munden, Parish Safeguarding Officers

safeguarding@stmarybarnes.org



Natasha Mold



Lis Munden



St Mary's Scouts Group

All sections of the Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts followed a full programme of activities throughout the year. All our meetings were held in the Scout Hut on Queen Elizabeth Walk. A mixture of games, working towards badges and awards and learning traditional Scouting skills make up the contents of our meetings. As often as we can we like to be outdoors, on the playing fields opposite the Scout Hut, Barnes Common, along by the river and other local areas.

During the year we had several camps. The Cubs and Scouts had a joint camp at Walton Firs, near Cobham at the beginning of June and the Scouts attended Borough Camp with other Scout Groups from Richmond upon Thames district in July, again at Walton Firs. The Scouts also attended a Water Activities camp and had a weekend camp with the 1st Whitton Scouts at their H.Q.

The Beavers joined in with a District Explore Badge Day in Bushy Park in November and the District New Year Party in January this year. They also went to the Beaver Funday at Walton Firs in September but this year did not stay for the sleepover. The Cubs also had a Funday in June at the Scout H.Q. at Gilwell. We entered a team for the District Cub Quiz in March this year, they did very well and won. At the District Cub Swimming Gala we were represented by a small team and achieved two second places and two third places. A team of Cubs also took part in the Ian Goddard Challenge, a district Cub trail competition, this year held in Richmond Park. It was a very enjoyable day made even better by our team winning. So a very successful year for the Cubs. The Scouts had a team in the County 'Day Prowl' map reading and navigation exercise, coming a very respectable tenth.

The Beavers and Cubs took part in the Barnes Fair parade and the leaders and parents served breakfast and all day, burgers and other refreshments at our kitchen tents on Barnes Green by Station Road. The Cubs ran a very popular Coconut Shy.

We had an enjoyable afternoon skating at Hampton Court in December, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their families taking part in the fun.

Our annual Jumble Sale was once again held in February at Kitson Hall. It is a lot of work but provides important funds for our activities. We send our thanks to all the people from the Barnes community who help us with this.

At Christmas the Group provided and decorated the Christmas tree in the Church.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts attended St. Mary's Church for Remembrance Sunday and for Mothering Sunday. This year we also took part in the District St. George's Day celebrations and parade in Twickenham.

At present we have two Beaver Colonies, two Cub Packs and one Scout Troop.

Roger Stanley, Beaver and Blue Pack Cub Leader,

on behalf of the Leaders and young people of St. Mary Barnes Scout Group

Sewing Group

Another year of our enjoyable Monday afternoons has gone by. The year has gone quietly and we have met regularly, often delighting in each other's work. The latest projects are tapestried specs cases, with much scope for use of colour and learning new stitches.

Fiona Barnett, Sylvia Howell, Jo MacDermott, Rosemary Stone and I are usually gathered together on a Monday afternoon, which we all find very restoring.

New members would be very welcome:

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

St Mary's Minis Playgroup



St Mary's Parent & Toddler group has seen continued growth this year. The group, called St Mary's Minis, was launched last year and remains a popular and successful resource for our community. Kitson Hall transforms into a hive of activity every Thursday during term time from 10am - 11.15am. Children enjoy healthy snacks, many different soft play options, craft activities plus a time to share bible stories and songs. Parents and carers are also treated to snacks and good quality coffee. Each session is charged at just £2 to cover refreshment costs.

"St Mary's Minis is brilliant! There's a great range of toys, the space is very generous and the atmosphere is the most friendly and welcoming" (Svetlana Crow)



"St Mary's Minis is so amazing. As a nanny you need to introduce children to an environment where they can learn to socialize and interact with peers. It's brilliant, I will recommend the group to anyone with young children with great pleasure." (Cinnabelle)

We continue to request help from the St Mary's congregation. It is very important that these families on the fringe of the church are made to feel welcome. If you think you would like to help please email me below.

*Charlie Auton, Youth and Children's Worker
Email: children@stmarybarnes.org Mobile: 07450 479081*



Sunday Club - where all children of all ages are welcome

Let the little children come to me and do not stop them (Luke 18:16)

Jesus clearly demonstrates that the Kingdom of God is for everyone, regardless of age. The Church of England believes that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the church, and that discipleship is possible at any age. Here at St Mary's we hope that everyone will be able to draw closer to God by sharing in our church life. As such we are truly blessed to have a vibrant children and youth ministry. Every child and young person has an opportunity to participate in church through the provision of regular Sunday Clubs which meet on Sunday mornings. They are:



Ages 3-8 years

Circle time, simple prayers and readings plus lots of games and activities that explore how we can follow Jesus' teachings of kindness and compassion.



Ages 9-11 years

Asking questions, sharing thoughts and ideas on living like Jesus at home, at school, with our families, with our friends.



Ages 12+ years

Discussing what it means to be a Christian and a young citizen of today's world. Challenging, inspiring and guiding each other.

In addition to our exciting Sunday Clubs there have been various special events throughout the year. During Easter the church garden plays host to the adventures of a chocolate egg hunt, whilst in the course of our summer celebrations the children play a variety of outdoor games at the church family barbecue.

Sunday Club - where all children of all ages are welcome (cont'd)

Over the Christmas period the Sunday Clubs were magnificent in their nativity performances. And finally, at the beginning of the new year we all thoroughly enjoyed a trip to the OSO pantomime to see Cinderella.

We are truly grateful for the committed team of volunteers who have enabled the provision of regular Sunday groups for all ages. I particularly wish to say a big thank you to JulieAnn Sewell and Cate Summers for their hard work and dedication in managing the Sunday Clubs. On behalf of the parents and children we thank them for their efforts in making these groups so fruitful. Our challenge for the coming year is to see continued growth in numbers of volunteers who can rise to the challenge of serving God in this fantastic ministry. This remains vitally important as children and young people need access to a space where they can participate in discipleship, fellowship and worship which is appropriate for their age.

If you are excited about the development of our Sunday Clubs and you would like to get involved, or you are a parent who would like to be kept updated, please come and speak to me or contact me via my details below. I look forward to the many blessings that God has in store for our children and young people at St Mary's for the next year.

Charlie Auton, Youth and Children's Worker

Email: children@stmarybarnes.org

Mobile: 07450 479081





Christingle 2017



Nativity 2017



Handbell ringing at Viera Gray House



Team Rector:

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