



**SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
BARNES**

ANNUAL REVIEW

2019-2020

CONTENTS

View from the Vicarage	Page 3
Church Fabric	Page 7
Churchwardens	Page 8
Financial	Page 9
Families and Children	Page 12
Music	Page 14
Flowers and Cleaning	Page 15
PCC Activities	Page 16
Liturgical Ministries	Page 18
Centre and Hall	Page 19
Parish Clergy	Page 20
Charities	Page 22
Mission, Vision, Values	Page 23

Welcome to the new-look Annual Review that aims to show our life as a church in an engaging and attractive way. Despite the challenges of the last few months we continue to give thanks to God his love and mercy revealed to us in so many ways.

VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

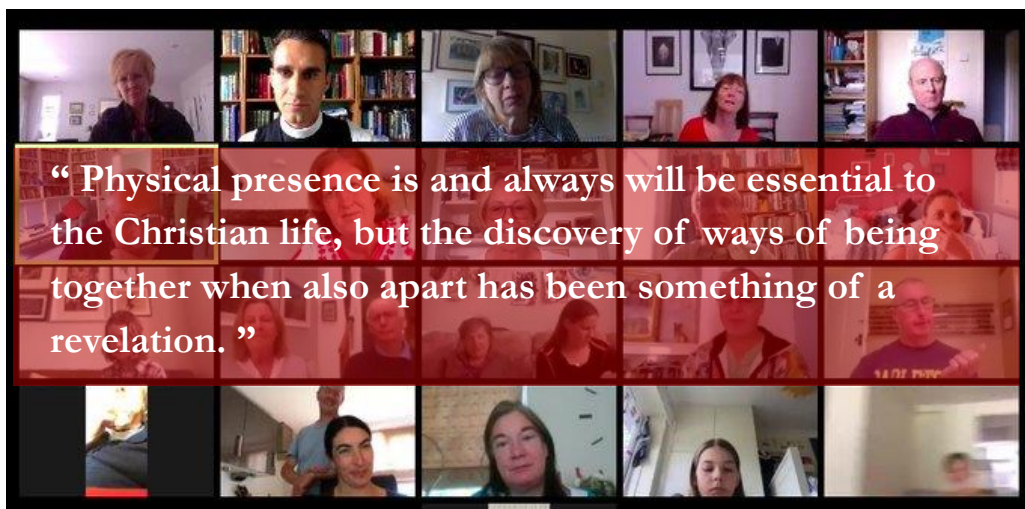
Father Stephen Stavrou, Vicar



What can I say about the last six months? When I wrote my last View from the Vicarage around Easter – I deliberately chose not to talk about corona virus or lockdown. At that time there was nearly a year of parish life to record and celebrate, and the pandemic was still too new and shocking. Now, although it's ongoing, we have had some time to reflect, and we are learning to live with a high level of uncertainty and risk.

Stand firm in the Lord

Perhaps we may draw inspiration from St Paul writing to the Philippians when he says: 'Therefore my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, stand firm in the Lord'. Paul writes from a distance to people he loves, just as many of us have been separated from people we love. We too, are seeking to stand firm through continuing restrictions and anxieties. In the process we have discovered new ways to connect and care for each other and I wonder why we didn't think of them before? The livestreaming of services will continue as a way to connect with people for whom getting to church is difficult and reaching out to new people. Through street WhatsApp groups we are more aware of the needs of our neighbours. With social events impossible, most of us have learnt to use things like 'Zoom' – and while there is such a thing as a 'Zoom fatigue' – it can also be an extremely useful tool. I miss our weekly Zoom coffee! Physical presence is and always will be essential to the Christian life, but the discovery of ways of being together when also apart has been something of a revelation.



Co-workers in the Gospel

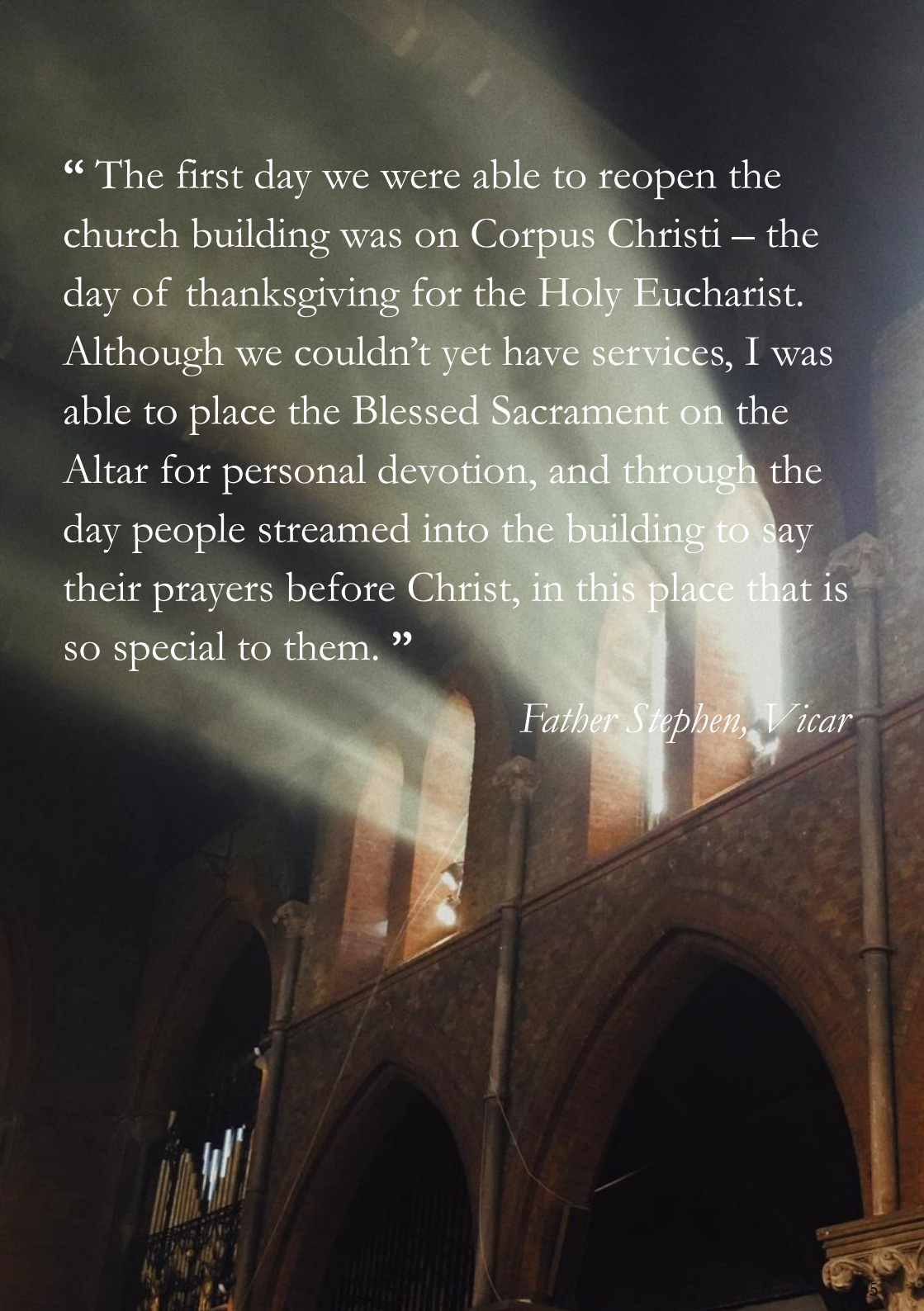
St Paul also speaks of his ‘co-workers in the Gospel’ and I want to mention some people in particular. I can certainly see God’s providence at work in sending us an I.T. expert and a journalist-presenter as Churchwardens – just when we need to get to grips with filming and streaming services online. Thank God for that! I also thank Sam Turner and Robbie Lyon who spent many hours – sometimes into the early hours of the morning – editing our recorded services during lockdown. Jane Bennett-Powell also used technical wizardry to keep the Choir singing together despite being in different places!

Mother Judith and Father Martin have also worked incredibly hard during this time, sharing the pastoral work of the parish with me as we tried to keep in touch with as many people as possible, but especially the vulnerable and elderly. Another blessing has been the appointment of Clover Summers as our Children’s Ministry Leader. Her kind offer to help shape and direct what we offer for children and families at such a pivotal time just goes to show one thing – never tell the Vicar you’ve got some spare time on your hands! I also want to thank Ismail Mardin, our Honorary Organ Scholar, who recorded an organ voluntary for our recorded services nearly every week over a long period.

Prayer and supplication

St Paul also reminds the Philippians that ‘prayer and supplication’ is at the heart of the Christian life. And although the cancellation or deferral of many important parish events such as the Midsummer Fete and Pilgrimage to Rome is disappointing, it has been a reminder that the primary focus of our life as a Church is always the worship of God. In the depths of lockdown we rediscovered the importance of praying at home in various ways. One Sunday morning during lockdown – I shall never forget this – I was undertaking an essential errand, when I heard a parishioner singing along and the top of her voice to the hymns while watching our service online! It was wonderful.

For many, one of the most difficult aspects was not being able to receive the Eucharist for such a long time, something that is at the heart of our faith. I pray that this time of privation may be a source of renewal. With this in mind it was providential that the first day we were able to reopen the church building was on Corpus Christi – the day of thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist. Although we couldn’t yet have services, I was able to place the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar for personal devotion, and through the day people streamed into the building to say their prayers before Christ, in this place that is so special to them. Through all this we have been reminded of the importance of sacred space and ever since then I seem to have noticed an increase in the number of people coming to pray in church.

A photograph of a church interior, showing a series of tall, narrow windows that allow bright light to stream in, creating a dramatic effect. The architecture features dark stone walls and pointed arches. The light from the windows illuminates the interior, highlighting the texture of the stone and the height of the space. The overall atmosphere is one of reverence and tranquility.

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Father Stephen, Vicar

Of course, we all miss singing hymns together, but at least we can have the Choir again. When services first restarted but without the Choir someone said to me – ‘it’s a bit dull isn’t it?’ A period without so much music has reminded us how important it is to our worship. For this reason, I am glad we continue to strengthen our choir with our emerging Choral Scholarship scheme.



Rejoice in the Lord always

The short-term impact of the virus has been very significant – one of these is the temporary pause of our Church Hall project. All the structural issues remain acute – just now isn’t the moment to initiate a major fundraising appeal. But as the pandemic continues, it is the long-term consequences we need to be most mindful of. Already, I know a number of parishioners who have lost their jobs, and for some this has meant a move away from Barnes. The likely redundancies over the coming months and years will bring with it many problems such as financial insecurity, community instability, declining mental health and increasing need.

This will be disturbing, but in the midst of crisis, there are perhaps even more opportunities for the grace of God and the hope of Christ to shine through the ministry of the Church. That’s why I want to thank so many of you for continuing to give to the work of the Church through planned giving. The lockdown emphasised the importance of giving by standing order when collections in the plate were impossible. It continues to be essential as people self-isolate and the vulnerable remain at home. So I urge you, more than ever, to contribute directly to the ministry of this church – your church – by standing order. It’s the only reason we’ve been able to continue as we have. Nevertheless - through all this, and even though it looks like things will get worse again, before they get better – nevertheless we are to ‘Rejoice in the Lord always’ as St Paul tells us. For even in the most difficult of times our faith can give to us that ‘peace which passes all understanding’.

Finally Beloved

I began by asking – what can I say? Well, quite a lot It seems! We will all be reflecting on what this means for many years to come, a time that has been difficult and painful, but also creative and formative and through it all, we give thanks for God's presence with us and amongst us. So, I can perhaps do no better than conclude by repeating the encouraging words of Saint Paul from today's epistle:

‘ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. ’



Church Fabric

“ Upkeep of the church fabric is a key function of wardenship, helping to keep the church beautiful and welcoming. ”

Jane Bennet-Powell, Churchwarden

Work undertaken recently:

- Lights replaced and high-level cleaning.
- Sound system update and wi-fi extended.
- Carpet in choir stalls replaced.
- Dry rot in Sacristy removed and Sacristy reorganised.
- Stained-glass surveyed and wobbly pews repaired.
- Pruning of churchyard trees.
- Approval for exterior stonework repairs.
- Faculty received for new Choir Lights.

CHURCHWARDENS



Left to right: Fr Stephen recording Mass, Jane Bennet-Powell roping off pews, Andrew Childs, livestreaming a service.

Recording and Livestreaming Worship

During lockdown Fr Stephen broadcast Mass and Morning Prayer from the Vicarage dining room and later from church. Andrew Childs rigged up the cabling and streaming kit and Jane Bennett-Powell worked her camera. With a Diocesan grant and church funds, Andrew was able to transfer the system to the main church with Andrew at the computer and Jane on camera.

“ Training is now offered to anyone who wishes to develop their computer or camera skills and help continue the outreach afforded by live streaming services, especially valued by those isolating at home.”

Keeping everyone safe

As the church reopened, risk-assessments were completed, taking account of government regulations. Fr Stephen and the Wardens met to plan how distancing and hygiene could be managed to keep people safe in the church, Community Centre and Hall.

Some highlights of the last year

Our participation in the **Barnes Music Festival** has opened our doors to many who hadn't known of our whereabouts, and introduced them to our beautiful music-making.

Last October's **Variety Show** involved twenty talented - and surprising! - performances from among the congregation.

The **Barnes Art Fair** in November doubled the number of artists exhibiting their work as well as art lovers, some of whom had never stepped inside the church before and were amazed at its beauty.

FINANCIAL

In February we reviewed the accounts and reflected how successful 2019 was, regular giving was up, lettings had risen in all areas and there was a small surplus left over after church costs. 2020 started well with good fundraising, from the Parish Quiz and Barnes Music Festival. By March the situation was very different, but with sensible decisions to reduce costs and because the majority of our church income comes from standing orders, we hope to come through it relatively unscathed. This was very much helped by several one-off donations, which we are incredibly appreciative of, and which have made a real difference. We miss our blue envelope giving and our lettings, we will be weaker, and we will need to draw on all funds to help us support church costs, but at the moment I am confident we will be OK.



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Jacqueline Russell, Treasurer

Income

- ◆ **Total Income in 2019** was £251,320 compared to £238,805 the year before.
- ◆ **Regular giving is up** to £78,584, a growth of almost 6%.
- ◆ **Grants, appeals and legacies** recorded at £10,649, of which £3,125 is restricted for our choral scholarship fund.
- ◆ **Income from fundraising** was up to £19,097 from £11,684. The surplus from music events, £4,704 in 2019, is ring fenced for the music fund.
- ◆ **Income from 41 Elm Bank Gardens** has grown to £36,744 from £35,886, however with costs growing to £13,175 from £10,341 for Elm Bank Gardens, and £12,186 on church maintenance, the net return to the Fabric fund fell to £11,383 compared to £21,470.
- ◆ **Investment income was up** due to reinvesting some of the Arthur Ford funds and income was £4,417. With strong growth at the year end the capital value reflected a £21,012 gain compared to last year's £10,101 loss.
- ◆ **Church Hall and Community Centre rental incomes have continued to be strong** at £36,528 and £39,541 respectively, compared to £32,078 and £35,170 last year. Income we are going to really miss in the months shut from Covid-19, although bookings are starting to return.

- ◆ **Total Income** (removing the one off grants and legacies which we can't rely on) including net return from fundraising rather than the gross fundraising income was £220,584, an increase from £199,808, the equivalent of £4,242 a week compared to £3,842 last year – a strong 10% uplift.

Expenditure

- ◆ **Total expenditure grew this year** to £212,829, from £206,458 predominately because of maintenance items for the church which increased to £12,186 from an unusually low level of £4,075 last year.
- ◆ Our **underlying expenditure trend shows an increase of 10%** but remains less than in 2018 (ignoring depreciation and removing the costs of fundraising).
- ◆ We are **averaging expenditure of £3,436 per week**, compared to £3,120 and are in surplus, in 2019 by £41,914.
- ◆ However, much of our **income and cash growth is due to rental monies** from 41 Elm Bank Gardens, and ring-fenced for the Fabric Fund or from Hall income which is set aside for the new Church Hall project.
- ◆ The good news is that the church loss is entirely covered this year by the Community Centre, with a **small surplus of £5,986** remaining which reflects our increased stewardship, fundraising and lettings.

Review of 2019 Stewardship

- ◆ Through regular discussions on stewardship **we have steadily increased our planned giving.**
- ◆ The **number of parishioners in regular planned giving has increased** to 66 from 56, with the majority (around 70%) giving via standing order.



- ◆ We have seen a **growth in the total number of donations**, especially around £20-£49.
- ◆ **Average giving has remained stable** with October 2019 at £45 compared to the 2018 levels of £46.
- ◆ We have **more individuals giving** which is a very encouraging trend.

Outlook for 2020

Our new challenge is how we protect our income in 2020 with blue envelope giving ceasing. Despite reduced Parish Office costs, most of our costs remain fixed, namely our contribution to the Diocese and utilities. With on-line services, fundraising continuing and giving via text the opportunities are there but with many facing tough financial situations in their personal lives this is going to be a challenging year. The drop in lettings income will have a significant effect as the church will now be unable to rely on income from the Community Centre to subsidise it. Surplus funds from all sources will need to be re-directed to support core church activities in 2020. If we re-direct all surpluses we will hopefully survive the current crisis and be in a stable position at the end of 2020. We will need to constantly monitor this as we go through the year.

£3436

expenditure per week

10%

underlying expenditure trend

£45

average monthly giving

£3125

raised for Choral Scholarships

66

people are on planned
giving via standing order

6%

increase in regular giving

CHILDREN and FAMILIES



“This time is an opportunity to reflect and rethink the way we approach children’s ministry and whether we should take a different approach. To give more focus to this ministry, the role of Children’s Ministry Leader has been created, and my first task is to spend the last few months of 2020 considering our approach, ready to restart activities in 2021.”

Clover Summers, Children’s Ministry Leader



“Protecting your child is as much a priority for us at St Michael's as it is for you: we do all we can to create a safe, secure and happy environment for children.”

Camilla Harries, Safeguarding Officer





**Good Friday
Children's
Service**

**Pet
Service**

**Sunday
School**

**Baptism
Families
Party**

**Family
Nativity
Service**

**Youth
Social**

**Children's
Mass**

**St Paul's
Christian
Union**

Christenings

School Services
Barnes Primary
Montessori Pavilion
Saint Michael's Nursery
Paddock
Ibstock

**All-Age
Family
Mass**

**Junior
Servers**

**Palm Sunday
Donkey**

Assemblies

Confirmations

**Bonfire
Party**

MUSIC



“ In the past 12 months there have been some memorable services including for All Souls the Fauré Requiem, and outstanding performances with the English Chamber Singers such as the Bach B minor Mass in March. ”

Martin Neary, Director of Music

Music is at the heart of our life at St Michael's, which has an excellent choral tradition going back 150 years. The Choir is always pleased to welcome new members - don't be shy! If you would like to join the choir, please make yourself known to the Director of Music or any member of the Choir.

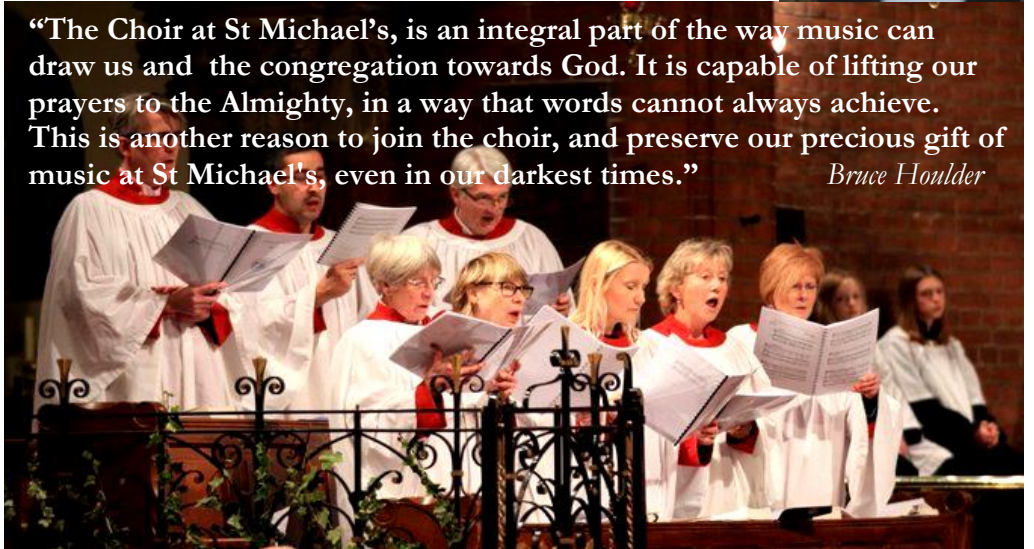
The Choir even continued to sing during lockdown, contributing a weekly anthem from home for the recorded services. Singers made individual recordings to an instrumental track, and emailed them in to be combined by choir member Jane Bennet-Powell on her laptop.

This year we have been delighted to appoint **Ismail Mardin** (pictured, above right) as honorary organ scholar and **Kilda Carpenter** (pictured, right) as soprano choral scholar. For more information about our Choral Scholarships take a look at the music section of the St Michael's website.



“The Choir at St Michael's, is an integral part of the way music can draw us and the congregation towards God. It is capable of lifting our prayers to the Almighty, in a way that words cannot always achieve. This is another reason to join the choir, and preserve our precious gift of music at St Michael's, even in our darkest times.”

Bruce Houlder



CHURCH FLOWERS and CHURCH CLEANING



“ At a time when it is essential to protect the congregation and any visitors to our church, we now have the capacity to ensure that St Michael's is a safe place, as much as a place of beauty and sanctuary. ”

Pat Reed-Boswell on the 'Holy Dusters' cleaning team



“ We all enjoy decorating the church – sometimes enjoying the quiet church when we are on our own or fun and fellowship when a group of us are working together. From time to time, we are joined by well behaved dogs! ”

Fiona Brannon, on the 'Flower Fairies'

PCC activities through the year

- ♦ Initiated our Choral Scholarship programme.
- ♦ Planned the new Church Hall project.
- ♦ Held an Away Day focusing on our Mission Action Plan.
- ♦ Took forward plans to install Choir Lights.
- ♦ Reconfigured the Parish Administrator role as a job-share.
- ♦ Appointed a new Safeguarding Officer and renewed our policy.
- ♦ Reaffirmed our commitment to being an inclusive church.
- ♦ Reviewed finances regularly and planned fundraising.
- ♦ Responded to challenges of the pandemic by reducing costs.
- ♦ Found new tenants for 41 Elm Bank Gardens.
- ♦ Discussed fabric and maintenance projects.
- ♦ And much more besides!





Fr Stephen Stavrou
Vicar

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

PCC MEMBERS



Frederick Appleby



Lucy Barnes



Jane Bennett-Powell
Churchwarden & Deanery Synod



Andrew Childs
Churchwarden



Gemma Curran



Lizzie Hackett-Brown



Phil Keightley



Marion Kreling



Charles Law



Simon Livingstone



Denise Poulton



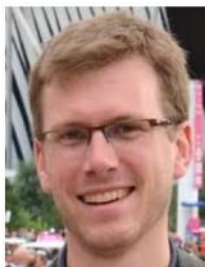
Andy Puddifoot



Jacqueline Russell
Treasurer



Eleanor Stanier
PCC Secretary



Bennett Summers
Deanery Synod



Andrew Turton

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

“Being so closely involved with the Eucharist is the greatest privilege”

*Andy Pudlifoot
Head Server*



“ We dare to believe that our role as Servers extends beyond the logistics of the liturgy and into the indefinable realm of the aesthetic. As such, we hope that, before long, we will once again be able to play our full part in – to quote St Michael’s’ Value Statement – a celebration of worship in the beauty of holiness. ”

“ Stewards are St Michael’s ‘front line’ with first impressions lasting longest. Our Stewards do a fabulous job welcoming the congregation and visitors and looking out for new faces. It is a wonderful way of getting to know and to help everybody who comes into church. ”

Lizzie Hackett-Brown, Steward



“ We often think of prayer as being a private affair between ourselves and God, and I’m sure we all have a place for this, but I can only say that I have experienced a very special feeling when offering prayer on behalf of others, and I feel enormously grateful for the opportunity to do so regularly in the Mass. Thank you everyone for your support. ”

Sue Blenkinsop, Intercessor

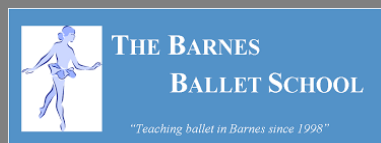
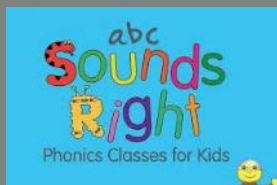
Readers, Stewards, Intercessors, Servers and Eucharistic Ministers

COMMUNITY CENTRE and CHURCH HALL



“ The aim of the Centre is to provide a venue for the diverse interests of the whole community and involve as many people and groups from different places in and around Saint Michael’s as possible. ”

Julie Law, Facilities Manager



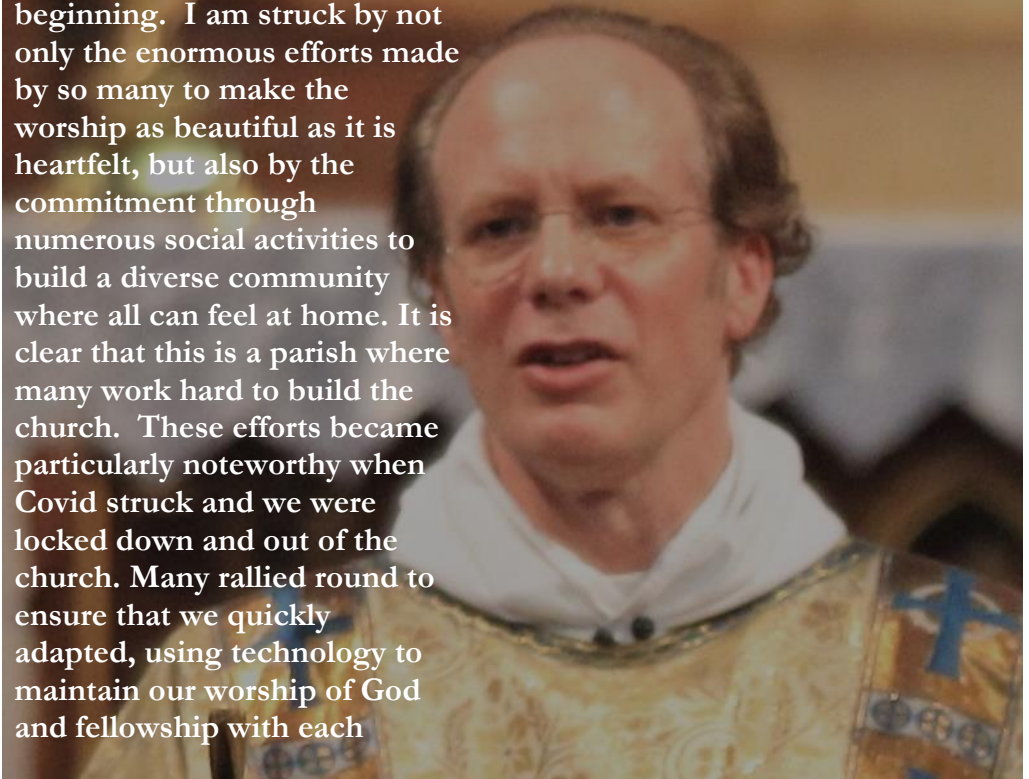
Above: Some of the groups using our Church Hall and Community Centre

PARISH CLERGY

“I feel truly blessed to have been sent to St Michael’s. This is a very welcoming parish, and I am grateful for the warmth and encouragement that I have been shown from the beginning. I am struck by not only the enormous efforts made by so many to make the worship as beautiful as it is heartfelt, but also by the commitment through numerous social activities to build a diverse community where all can feel at home. It is clear that this is a parish where many work hard to build the church. These efforts became particularly noteworthy when Covid struck and we were locked down and out of the church. Many rallied round to ensure that we quickly adapted, using technology to maintain our worship of God and fellowship with each

“I feel truly blessed to have been sent to St Michael’s”

Father Martin Calderbank, Curate



A prayer from Mother Judith Roberts

Associate Priest and Hospital Chaplain

Loving God,
source of healing and comfort,
fill us with grace,
that the sick may be made whole,
that those who care for us may be strengthened,
that the anxious may be calmed,
and those most vulnerable protected;
in the power of the Spirit,
and in the faith of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.



CHARITIES

Each year St Michael's supports a local and international charity. In the period 2019-20 we chose the Richmond-based homeless charity SPEAR, and Jeel al Amal (Generation of Hope) school, Bethany in the Holy Land.



Above: *Pentecost Prayers tied to the church gates.*

Below: *The Easter Vigil in the Vicarage Garden during lockdown.*



The background image is a photograph of the interior of a church, likely Saint Michael's. It shows a wide aisle with wooden pews on either side, leading towards a large, ornate dome. The floor is made of light-colored wood in a herringbone pattern. There are some plants in pots on the left side of the aisle. The lighting is soft and even.

Mission – *declares our purpose*

Saint Michael's: A church for all ages. A faith for all people. A place for everyone

Vision – *expresses our objectives*

St Michael's is seeking to be the spiritual heart of the neighbourhood; creating a community of faith, of hope and of belief in the power of God's love. Come and join us.

Values – *shares our beliefs*

Holy - a celebration of worship in the beauty of holiness

Active - reaching out to our communities

Open - welcoming and engaging.



Who's Who at St Michael's

Vicar: Father Stephen Stavrou	vicar@stmichaelbarnes.org
Associate Priest: Mother Judith Roberts	revjr@blueyonder.co.uk
Curate: Father Martin Calderbank	curate@stmichaelbarnes.org
Churchwardens: Jane Bennett-Powell Andrew Childs	020 8563 2226, 0788 7635 957 andrew@childsfamily.org
Treasurer: Jacqueline Russell	Contact via Parish Office
Stewardship Officer: Sue Pandit	sue.pandit@blueyonder.co.uk
Parish Administrators: Rachel Skilbeck Lizzie Hackett-Brown	020 8876 5230 admin@stmichaelbarnes.org
Centre and Hall Bookings: Julie Law	020 8878 9591 enquiries@stmichaelbarnes.org
Director of Music: Martin Neary	martin@mneary.co.uk
Children's Ministry: Clover Summers	children@stmichaelbarnes.org
Safeguarding Officer: Camilla Harries	camilla.harries@mmc.com
Sacristans: Roger Needham, Robbie Lyon	Contact via Parish Office
Head Server: Andy Puddifoot	adpuddy@yahoo.co.uk
Rota Coordinator: Lizzie Hackett-Brown	admin@stmichaelbarnes.org

The Parish Office

c/o St Michael's Vicarage, 39 Elm Bank Gardens, London SW13 0NX
020 8876 5230 (Office) 020 8878 7589 (Vicarage)
admin@stmmichaelbarnes.org

Regular Services at St Michael's

Sunday	8.00am Low Mass 9.00am Morning Prayer 10.00am Sung Mass 11.30am Children's Mass (<i>except last Sunday of the month</i>) 6.00pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
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Wednesday 12.00pm Angelus and Mass

Saturday 9.30am Mass

Morning Prayer every day at 9am (except Friday)

For enquiries about Baptism, Marriage, Confession, Funerals &c. please contact the Parish Office.

The church is normally open every day from 8.45am until around dusk.



/saintmichaelbarnes



@stmichaelbarnes