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Thank you for reading our Parish Profile. We are excited about discovering who God is calling to be our new vicar and discerning together the next stage of our communal life in Christ. We hope that you enjoy learning about our church and parish and we pray that as you read about us God will guide your thoughts.

We think of St Mary’s as ‘the Church at Islington’s heart’. This is true historically - the settlement of Islington had its beginnings around the site of the church. It is also true geographically - the boundaries of the London Borough of Islington are basically the boundaries of the original parish of St Mary’s, established sometime after the foundation of the Diocese of London in 604 AD. It is also true that St Mary’s is at the heart of Islington in practical terms, the Town Hall is a stone’s throw from the Church and the main council offices nearby. If Islington was a city in its own right (and the Borough’s population exceeds that of other cities such as York, Norwich and Oxford), then the ‘city centre’ would be Islington Green, the city’s high street would be Upper Street (both being in the parish), and the city’s big central church would be St Mary’s.

As we have prayerfully sought to hear God through this vacancy, we have been encouraged to focus on the potential we see in the ‘Church at Islington’s Heart’ and the opportunity for growth in a number of ways - how we can be more engaged with our faith and how we put that faith into action so that we are more fully and deeply devoted to extending His kingdom. If what you read here resonates with you and you feel God calling you to lead us on the next stage of this journey, we would love to hear from you!

“A place of encounter with God, with friends”
Causes for celebration

There are many aspects of our church life to celebrate that are highly valued both by the congregation and the wider community of Islington. We believe that we are a welcoming church, with a warm atmosphere and a place where many people make lifelong friendships. We are a diverse and inclusive church – our doors are open to all both literally and metaphorically – and we value that diversity and the contributions of all God’s children. We enthusiastically live out our faith, for example through the work of our partner charity Mary’s and our Soul in the City Festival. We respond empathetically to the challenges of inner-city life, for example, by providing a space for our community to mourn those lost to knife crime.

We are confident in our faith and are committed to an open, inclusive and challenging evangelicalism that goes back almost three centuries. We celebrate the historic figures that have contributed to church life. Charles Wesley acted as curate here, although he was expelled from St Mary’s by the churchwardens who were offended at his preaching.

The first Conference for Evangelical Clergy in the Church of England was held in 1827 at St Mary’s. Samuel Ajayi Crowther, the first black African bishop, was educated at St Mary’s School and ordained here. Eileen Lake, the first British-born black woman to become a deacon, was one of our curates. Some of our previous clergy have gone on to prominent roles in the wider ministry of the Church of England. The story of Anglican Evangelicalism is our story and we are proud of the role we have played.

“There is something special about St Mary’s. It is such an accepting place, no matter who you are, where you are from or what you enjoy.”
Opportunities and challenges

Islington is a dynamic place. We have an equally dynamic history, but we feel that we could challenge ourselves more in a number of areas, perhaps pushing ourselves out of our comfort zone. While we feel that we have grown and developed as a worshipping community, we think we are now ready to take a new step forward with someone who will help us identify fresh opportunities and call us to action here and now … in the name of our Lord.

Being at the heart of an urban inner-city area means that we have a transitory population. While we do have church members who have been an active part of the St Mary’s family for up to nine decades, many in our congregation stay in the area for a couple of years and then move on either for work or family reasons and this is reflected in our electoral roll, with joiners and leavers in total being between 15% and 25% annually. This could be seen as one of the challenges of an urban parish, but we see it as an opportunity - a constant stream of new people looking for spiritual sustenance who we can support and nurture on their personal journeys of faith and discipleship, even if they are only with us for a short while.

Although we have new people joining our congregation all the time, the number of younger adults engaged in the church is lower than we would
like. Yet we have good links with local schools and a range of other organisations in the community on which we can build. We have seen encouraging growth in attendance at some of our Christmas services, as we have provided greater variety and opportunities to worship, but this has not yet translated into greater regular Sunday morning participation. We feel we are welcoming and that we reach out - events like Soul in the City are well attended - but we wonder if we could do more to build relationships with the hundreds of people who use our crypt and Neighbourhood Centre every week and the wider circle of our local community. We see the opportunity to draw new people into faith and into our church.

For people who are already part of our congregation, there is thirst and an openness to find ways to deepen their faith, for example, through new chances to learn, more occasions to share fellowship outside Sunday mornings or through different forms of worship. We also feel that there is a need to reinvigorate how we do mission, to help us discern what God is calling us to as a church and build the platforms to realize this. The opportunities are both to think creatively about how to enable a diverse church family to grow in faith and provide new ways for us to live out that faith and extend God’s kingdom.

In summary, we believe that there is a desire for more people to connect with God more deeply. We are seeking the spiritual and practical leadership to work with us to release that potential to grow.
3. About you

The vicar we are seeking

We are looking for an inspiring leader with a heart for ministry in the inner-city who embraces challenges as opportunities and who can help us realise the potential we have to grow - in numbers and in faith - and extend God’s kingdom.

You will be:

Clear thinking, mature, wise and collaborative in your approach to leadership, with a richness of experience which might come from working in a variety of contexts;

Keen to seek the will of God and to shape our minds and hearts to serve God in mission;

Possessed of a deep, prayerful Christian spirituality and creative intelligence;

Inclusive in approach, reaching out to all and valuing the contributions of all God’s children;

A thoughtful preacher and teacher who will help us understand the Scriptures better;

A good communicator with the ability to relate to the diverse range of people who live in Islington;

A great team leader who can guide and encourage both lay and ordained staff and volunteers;

Pastoral in outlook - listening deeply, comforting and nurturing relationships in Christ.

How we would like to support you

We are committed to:

Praying for you often and supporting you so you can fulfil your calling to St Mary’s;

Working with you with energy and enthusiasm – we have a strong and engaged PCC, eager for growth and change;

Providing an enthusiastic team of staff and volunteers who will use their gifts to support you and your ministry;

Supporting you in your development with time for learning, reflection and retreat;

Sustaining your wellbeing so that you have time for both work and relaxation.

“St Mary’s has an amazing history of inspiring the people of Islington to love God and love our neighbour over many centuries. The new vicar has a wonderful opportunity to continue and renew this vision”
We currently have a full-time curate and two very experienced Licensed Lay Ministers. There are also three other experienced members of the Church who preach regularly. Our paid Music Worship leader is responsible for the music on Sundays, leading both the choir and band, as well as playing the organ. Our children’s and youth work is well established and we have a newly-appointed, experienced Youth & Children’s Minister. The office is supported by a part-time administrator who works four mornings a week and a member of the PCC who works three days a week (unpaid) on managing and overseeing the Heart of Islington Project. We also have a great team of volunteers who help make Sunday services happen – each Sunday about 20 people are involved in being communion assistants, sides people, reading scripture, leading prayers, playing music, offering prayer ministry, providing tea and coffee and supporting children’s groups.
5. Our parish - our patch of God’s earth

“When I first walked into St Mary’s God spoke to me and said ‘here’s the place’. I love the light through the windows”.

The Parish of St Mary’s is geographically very small (less than a square mile in area), extending from just north of the Angel about a mile to Highbury Corner and being made up of Upper Street and the streets either side of it. The Parish’s population is also quite small, at just over 6000, but is highly diverse in ethnicity, religion, language and culture. Because of high house prices, relatively few can afford to buy here, so many rent for a period before moving elsewhere. Like much of London, the parish has a higher than average proportion of young people, 42% in the 19-35 age range, and a relatively transient, ever-changing population as well.

Although the boutiques and restaurants of Upper Street suggest prosperity, the parish is actually one of the most deprived in the country. According to the Church Urban Fund, the parish ranks in the top 15% by measures of overall deprivation and the top 10% on measures such as child and pensioner poverty. House prices tell the same story; across the road from the church, the new Islington Square development offers studio flats at £0.7m and penthouses at £5m plus, whilst adjacent to the churchyard is the St Mary’s Path social housing estate – two worlds, side by side. Our parish is a cultural centre, with two famous theatres (Almeida, Kings Head), a world-renowned puppet theatre (Little Angel) and an historic cinema (Screen on the Green). There is also the Business Design Centre exhibition venue with adjacent hotel.
Our location

The Church lies within the Upper Street North Conservation Area and the Islington Business Improvement District. Hundreds of buses stop outside the Church every day (the voice on each bus tells you the next stop is St Mary’s Church), so we are highly accessible. As the Church is open every day, it is visited by passers-by, local workers and residents as well as tourists and the occasional person making some sort of pilgrimage or tracing their own family history. The Church features in a book of Quiet London places, as it rightly should, offering a haven of peace, tranquillity and light in the midst of the bustling city.

Our tradition

St Mary’s is rooted in the Open Evangelical tradition, proclaiming the message of ‘Loving God and loving our neighbour’. We are welcoming and accepting of all, inviting all who ‘love the Lord a little and want to love Him more’ to be part of our worshipping family.
Sunday services

There are two services each Sunday at 11:00am and 6:00pm. There is also a BCP Holy Communion service at 9:00am on the first Sunday of each month. Holy Communion and Service of the Word alternate each Sunday between the morning and evening services. Our worship is currently liturgical (although it hasn’t always been so) and we use a series of service books that reflect the church year and seasons.

The 11:00am service is our main service, attended by 100 – 160 adults and children each week. On the second Sunday of each month the 11:00am service is ‘all age’ i.e. the children remain throughout. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, a healing service is held. The music uses the best of traditional and contemporary styles. Two Sundays a month we focus on contemporary worship music, led by our band, and two Sundays a month we have more traditional music, led by the choir. However, both hymns and songs are included in all morning services. Children go to groups in the Crypt, part way through this service (except at the monthly ‘all age’ service) and there is a soundproof creche in the Prayer Chapel at the back of the church where the service can be heard by parents/carers. Two members of the ten strong prayer team offer prayer ministry during the distribution of Holy Communion and at the end of morning services.

The evening service is a said service without live music. It is quieter and more contemplative, an opportunity to rest in God before the start of a new week.

The average total weekly attendance for 2018 was 169:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The annual average over the last three years for these services were:

- Baptisms: 12
- Weddings: 4
- Funerals: 7
Mid-week and other special services

Morning Prayer is said on Monday to Saturday at 9.30am in the Prayer Chapel. Baptism and marriage preparations take place by arrangement, normally over three sessions. Funeral, bereavement, hospital and other visits takes place through the week as needed.

On average, three members of the church are confirmed each year.

Holy Communion is delivered at home when required by arrangement.

There are special services and seasonal events that occur throughout the year and these include: a service of remembering (November) and an ecumenical service of witness on Good Friday which includes two hours of meditation.

“The Healing Service is good and makes a change in my day after the service.”
At Christmas we hold a range of services including a lunch-time carol service for local workers, a crib service and a Christingle service with carols. The Christingle and Crib services are very well attended, with many more families with younger children than would normally attend on Sunday mornings. The evening candlelit Carol Service is the best attended service of the year – come early or you have to stand!

Other occasional services include Pre-School and Church School end of term services and we also host services that act as focal points for our local community, for example the recent vigil to honour lives lost to knife crime.
Children and youth

Children and young people’s groups run concurrently with morning services every Sunday (except on the second Sunday). Starter Church is for ages 4-6, Kids Church 7-11 and Youth Church 11-14. We also run a youth club (SMS) for 11-17-year olds, which meets in the Crypt on Sundays from 5.30-7.30pm.

Our teenagers also have the opportunity to attend two residential breaks each year: over the Easter holidays they share a weekend together at Carroty Wood activity centre, and in the summer they join the Lee Abbey Youth Camp for an amazing week of creative fun, fellowship and worship.

“Lee Abbey is the most amazing place in the world!”


Pastoral care

A significant number of St Mary’s members look out for those in need and a pastoral team consisting of clergy, LLMs and our youth worker meet every week to consider and follow up on pastoral needs. In addition, there are currently four home groups with a total membership of about 50 adults that meet to pray and support each other in their faith journeys, providing practical and emotional support. Group studies, enquirer groups and courses on specific topics are held periodically. Recent examples include courses on ‘callings in retirement’ and ‘reading the Bible’. A range of social activities run during the week, including (but not limited to): welcome lunches, bring and share lunches, families’ lunch, ‘Young at Heart’ lunches, 20s and 30s group, organised walks and ‘Chat and Cuppa’ sessions, as well as the annual Christmas Fair.

“We are LGBT friendly!”

Average attendance for Sunday groups in 2018 was:

- Starters: 8
- Kids: 9
- Youth: 6
- SMS: 12

“My home group – a place for sharing problems and moments of joy, praying together and receiving the wisdom of others, a place where my faith has been strengthened and deepened.”
St Mary’s has a website and sends a weekly email newsletter to opted-in church members, both of which are managed by the Church Administrator and contain all information for the upcoming week and any notices of forthcoming events.

We are active on social media, with well-used Twitter and Facebook accounts and we are an enthusiastic member of the Islington-based community of tweeters.

We also have a less well used Instagram account which we would like to launch properly as the portico work progresses.

“A place where love of God and love of neighbours is palpable.”
The number of individuals on the electoral roll is expected to be around 170 when the entirely new roll is completed in April 2019. This is roughly the same as the number on the roll when it was last completely renewed in 2013.

The turnover of individuals on the electoral roll is high, reflecting the ever-changing nature of the population in inner London. This represents both a challenge (the ‘core’ of long-term members of the Church is a relatively small proportion of the total numbers on the electoral roll) and also an opportunity – there are new people coming into St Mary’s all the time, an average of one person per week, those both familiar and unfamiliar with faith and church.
Finance

The total income for the Church in 2017 was £577,000 (up from £467,000 in the previous year). Total expenditure in 2016 was £315,000 and in 2017 it was £632,000 as more building work got under way. Over these two years, total income exceeded total expenditure £1,044,000 and £947,000 respectively. In 2018, we ran a small deficit as income was down slightly while expenditure was flat. Within the total of income for 2017, £140,000 came from regular giving, collections and donations for the general purposes of running the Church. There was additional income in ‘restricted’ funds mostly for specific building works. Grants from charitable and other sources totalled an exceptional £234,000 for the year. In addition to regular giving income, the Church received £50,000 from the rent on two properties and £50,000 in rent from our partner charity, Mary’s (this latter has always in the past been matched by an equal grant to Mary’s, although the grant will be £20,000 less than the rent in 2019/2020).

The major items of expenditure are the Common Fund (£88,500), staff costs (£58,000) and grants to Mary’s and other mission partners (£70,000) annually. Clergy expenses are paid in full.

The major capital asset of the Church is the Neighbourhood Centre building (including the first-floor flat which is let to tenants), valued at £2.4m. There are no other major assets nor any meaningful long-term liabilities.

We undertake ‘planned giving’ campaigns from time to time, roughly every two years. In 2016 we ran a special campaign to support the Heart of Islington project, which raised £180,000 to be spent on the Church interior (see separate section).

We are grateful for the financial support of Cloudesley, an independent charitable trust founded in 1517 under the Will of Richard Cloudesley, an Islington resident whose grave lies near the south west corner of St Mary’s church. The charity has given generously to St Mary’s over the years, including to the Heart of Islington project. It contributed to the repair of the steeple in 2016 and the roof in 2017 and is now giving substantial support to the portico project.
The site and church buildings

The Church building (Grade II listed) is located on Upper Street, set in the Church gardens. As you sit in the building, the clear glass of the tall windows allow light to flood in. There is an openness and a generosity of space that links you with the surrounding community and with God’s Kingdom.

The first recorded church building on the site was erected in the twelfth century, although it was completely reconstructed in 1483 and then again in 1754. Between 1902 and 1904 more changes were made, including extending the chancel. The main visible legacy of this period is the neo-classical portico, built in Portland stone and designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

The church was bombed in September 1940 and everything except the steeple and portico was rebuilt in 1954-6 on the 18th century plan in an adapted Georgian style. The ‘Access for All’ project in 2007, funded by the congregation and the Big Lottery, provided a lift to all floors, refurbished the crypt to provide first class community rooms and refurbished parts of the Neighbourhood Centre.
The Neighbourhood Centre was built in the 1970s. It is a large, mainly single-story building of blockwork construction, containing a sports hall, gym, computer room, youth club rooms, pre-school, large meeting room, offices, kitchen, toilets and shower.

The Vicarage is a substantial Victorian property in a prominent position on Upper Street adjacent to the Church. The property is over three floors with the ground floor incorporating the Parish Offices (self-contained with a separate entrance) and premises for a high-class florist. The upper two floors, with its own entrance, include five double bedrooms, two large reception rooms and a grand hall and staircase. It has a separate private rear garden. Parking space is available. Visit our website to view further details.

The Church’s most recent quinquennial inspection was in May 2015 by Kelley Christ of A&RMÉ, an accredited building conservation architect. Her report contained 77 recommendations for action of which 34 have now been completed and 26 more are either under way or have been part-completed. The Heart of Islington Project is enabling us to move forward with these works and substantially improve our church buildings.
Heart of Islington project

The Heart of Islington project is so named because, not only is our church located at the very heart and the historic centre of Islington, but because Islington holds St Mary’s close to its heart. Our vision is to open up our buildings and spaces to make them more accessible, welcoming, and useful for the congregation, our neighbours and the wider community so we are truly at the beating heart of our community. Our new vicar will play a key role in bringing this vision to fruition, supported by an enthusiastic team in place to oversee the building works and the day-to-day management of a complex project.

The project began in 2015 when three things came together: we had a long list of things to be done from the quinquennial inspection report, we also had the prospect of a very substantial Section 106 grant from Islington Council and a churchwarden who had recently retired had the time to give to managing the project!

Practically, the Heart of Islington project aims to transform three main areas: the 1970s Neighbourhood Centre, the Church itself and the north gardens located between the two buildings. In partnership with Islington Council and other key stakeholders, plans are well advanced to re-design and open up the north gardens, creating a new space for open-air activities. The majority of the section 106 grant of £744,000 will be used to fund the works in the gardens and the neighbourhood centre. We have raised and will be raising further funds to redecorate and improve the interior of the church to the glory for which it was conceived and putting right a whole list of problems, from leaking gutters to a fragile stonework. We don’t want Islington’s first church to remain on the national Heritage at Risk Register - we want it to serve God and neighbours for a long time to come.
Our role in the area

We play an active part in our wider community and the civic life of the Borough. The Vicar has attended the St Mary’s Ward Partnership Steering Group meetings and in the recent past has chaired the St Mary’s Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Panel. Participation in these groups has helped to build up good relationships with local residents’ groups, the business community, the local council and the Police. St Mary’s makes a huge commitment to the local community through the work of our partner charity, Mary’s (see separate section).

At the request of the Police, the church has been made available as a place of refuge for local residents in times of emergency, for example when there was a gas leak on a housing estate in nearby Essex Road. We have also reacted to the needs of our local community for a place of solace and connection. For example, the residents of St Mary’s Path estate, who are facing an uncertain future, have turned to the church as a place to meet and, as knife crime has become increasingly present in our community, we have held vigils and memorial services. The church has also hosted hustings for local and general elections and has hosted a BBC Radio 4 panel discussion on knife crime in the UK.
Soul in the City

Since 2011, St Mary’s has run the Soul in the City Festival, which brings together the people of Islington in friendship, companionship and community and demonstrates how inclusive and beautifully diverse Islington is. The festival is supported by Islington Council and dozens of enthusiastic volunteers from the Church – the feedback from participants highlights how much Soul in the City is valued by our community. It is an entirely free festival (no-one is allowed to pay for anything) lasting for four days, with everyone invited! Each year about 2,500 people have taken part enjoying quiz nights, evenings of music, opera and poetry, plus a family activity day with an open-air café. This has been followed, on the Sunday, by an outdoor contemporary worship service on the steps of the church. Local businesses promote the Festival and donate food and drink. Local charities working with children, refugees and those in need in London or overseas take part in the family day, including Amnesty International, Islington Refugees Centre and others.
Local schools

The parish primary school is St Mary’s Church of England primary school. It has a wonderful atmosphere that is matched by great results. The school is rated as ‘Good’ by Ofsted and in 2018 was in the top 1% of schools nationally for both ‘Attainment’ and ‘Progress’ (making it the top school in the whole of Islington). There is a close relationship between the school and the Church. The vicar is an ex officio Governor and the clergy from St Mary’s lead assemblies on a regular basis, as does the Youth & Children’s minister.

Our music worship leader also goes into the school to lead music and choir sessions. In December 2017, the school choir sang at a special service at St Mary’s celebrating the 150th anniversary of Scripture Union (founded nearby) in front of SU’s Patron HM The Queen. This was broadcast on Songs of Praise in January 2018.

‘A Church of England secondary school, St Mary Magdalene Academy, has been established relatively recently and already has a ‘Good’ Ofsted rating.’ Although not in St Mary’s parish, it is only a 15-minute walk away. We have built links with the school through our Youth & Children’s Minister, who runs, with others, a very popular ‘youth Alpha’ course.

www.smmacademy.org

www.stmarys.islington.sch.uk
Other local churches

St Mary’s is in the Stepney Episcopal Area and the Islington Deanery. Our Vicar is normally an active member of the Deanery Synod and Chapter. However, although relationships are good, there are few joint activities. Ecumenical breakfast meetings and lunchtime services with visiting speakers have ceased and this year the Good Friday walk of Witness will not happen – though we hope this will be reinstated when the new Incumbent starts. There is a Deanery School Leavers’ service.

There are three other Christian Churches in the Parish; Cross Street Baptist Church, Union Chapel, Congregational and Redeemed Church of God. With the first two the relations are friendly but not close. The last church rents space on the St Mary’s site and is therefore a tenant. The vicar of St Mary’s is also the patron of Hope Church, Holloway Road; St Stephen’s, Canonbury and St James’, Prebend Street.

The multi-faith context

The Islington Faith Forum has membership from Christian (Roman Catholic and Anglican), Muslim, Jewish and other faith gatherings. It gives opportunity simply to gather together in friendship in the same room and around the same table. We have drawn on this fellowship to respond and support each other visibly and publicly at times of conflict, as following the attack against the Finsbury Park Mosque. The Finsbury Muslim Welfare House is supported by – amongst others – Anglican churches.
Mary’s

Mary’s is an independent charity set up by St Mary’s in 2008 with the mission to secure and grow the children, youth and community work previously managed by volunteer committees and governed by St Mary’s PCC.

Mary’s is well-established and integrated into the local community and works through partnerships with local schools, voluntary and professional organisations and businesses. Over the past 10 years Mary’s has built up a strong track record of helping children, young people and their families as well as supporting the community activities of hundreds of local residents through a wide range of groups using the spaces in St Mary’s Neighbourhood Centre and Crypt. Their services are a response to some of the pressing needs of Islington and neighbouring areas, such as child poverty which affects 40% of Islington children, among the highest levels in the country. Currently, Mary’s runs a pre-school, Play Scheme, Youth Club and rents out the meeting and other rooms in the crypt and Neighbourhood Centre.

Since its establishment, Mary’s has had two Chairs of Trustees, both of whom have been long-term members of St Mary’s Church and, currently, a majority of Trustees are Church members. Church volunteers have also initiated and run projects in partnership with Mary’s, for example, running a welcome cafe on Thursday nights that serves refreshments to the many participants of the anonymous groups, clients of the free legal advice service and other users.

In the last couple of years, the relationship between Mary’s trustees and St Mary’s PCC has developed some stresses and strains. With the aim of overcoming these tensions, both parties have entered into a mediation process facilitated by Bridge Builders Ministries. At the time of writing this mediation process is ongoing. The current agreement between Mary’s and the PCC is in the form of a 10-year lease (for the Neighbourhood Centre) and a licence (for the Crypt) which run until 2023. Discussions and agreement as to what longer term arrangements will be put in place will take place between now and 2023. The new Vicar will play a vital role in fostering constructive relationships between the two organisations and in guiding our discernment for the renegotiation of the church’s relationship with Mary’s when the current lease and licence end.

www.marys.org.uk
Mission giving

We are proud of St Mary’s missionary tradition - both home and overseas. Currently, in the UK, we support the Islington Food Bank, the CARIS bereavement service, the Homeless Winter shelter, the Children’s Society and the Refugee Centre in Islington. Overseas, we support two mission partners working in Pakistan and Uganda. An example of our longer term mission partners is Keith Waddell, who went from St Mary’s in 1966 to work in Uganda with Africa Inland Mission. He has specialised in Ophthalmology, and has set up primary treatment centres throughout the country, as well as carrying out extensive training and research. He has instigated treatment programmes for children with retinoblastoma - and sees more patients with RB per year than the rest of the world! We also support three children through Compassion, Hospice Care Kenya and a medical project in Gaza. The latter is the response to the Mission of the Year, the project selected by the congregation each year.

Partners:

Keith Waddell on a recent visit to St Mary’s
Further information about us

We hope you have enjoyed reading about us. This Parish Profile was created by a team of five people, after prayerful discussion in the PCC and after gaining the views of the wider congregation via a questionnaire. The quotations used throughout this profile are taken from the questionnaire.

If you would like to find out more about our church and parish, please follow the links below:

Our website is: www.stmaryislington.org

Our Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/stmaryislington

Our Twitter feed is: twitter.com/stmaryislington

You can read more about our history here: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5669abdo69a91ad6eca13648/t/599b2e1d1e5b6c1c1faaa2323/1503342154358/2004+History+of+St+Mary+Islington+++S+Allen+Chambers.pdf

More information about Mary’s can be found on their website: www.marys.org.uk

More information about St Mary’s primary school can be found on their website: www.stmarys.islington.sch.uk

More information about St Mary Magdalene Academy can be found on their website: www.smmacademy.org

“St Mary’s is an anchor to life at times of stress.”