

Toby's Story



Fighting for a future free from the fear of bowel disease - Toby's story

At just six years old, Toby was diagnosed with Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome (PJS), a very rare polyposis syndrome that is usually inherited, although it can occur spontaneously. People with PJS develop polyps throughout the gut (anywhere between the mouth and the anus) which have the potential to cause fatal blockages and become cancerous.

Toby has undergone dozens of operations to monitor and remove polyps. At least two of these planned and emergency operations have been life-saving.

In December 2017, Toby underwent a seven hour operation which involved the removal of four polyps, the longest one measuring 4.5cm. Toby's mum, Rachel, explains: 'St Mark's assembled a team of world leaders in this specialist field to perform the most difficult and precise surgery on Toby, doing everything they could to avoid open surgery which is associated with several complications, including death. It was only later that they told us how worried they had been for Toby.'



[Read Toby's full story here](#)

A note from our Chief Executive, Jason Bacon.

Dear valued supporter,

I am honoured to share Toby's story with you in our seasonal appeal. Toby and his family are an inspiration to me and my Foundation colleagues, and especially to his medical team of specialist doctors and nurses.

The unique combination of expertise that exists at St Mark's Hospital across all areas of bowel disease enables us to continue to develop new and more effective techniques and treatments. The culture of continuous learning and commitment to surgical and medical innovation remains as strong as when St Mark's Hospital was founded in 1835. The research and clinical innovations borne out of this work is what directly helps patients like Toby.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease in its many forms impacts hundreds of thousands of people in the UK every year and colon cancer is the UK's second biggest cancer killer. We can only conduct the research necessary for life-saving and life-improving developments through the generous donations we receive throughout the year.

We would like to thank each and every one of you who have donated, volunteered and supported our work this year. Without you, we couldn't continue our fight for a future free from the fear of bowel disease.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Bacon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Bacon
Chief Executive
St Mark's Hospital Foundation

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