

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES

The aims of The Friends of St Mary's Barnes are to raise funds for the upkeep of the church building and churchyard, to promote public awareness of its place in the history and life of Barnes and, through the Daily Friends, to ensure that it is open to the public every day. 2009/10 has been another active year for the Friends and we are delighted to have raised £35,000 this year for St Mary's from our activities.

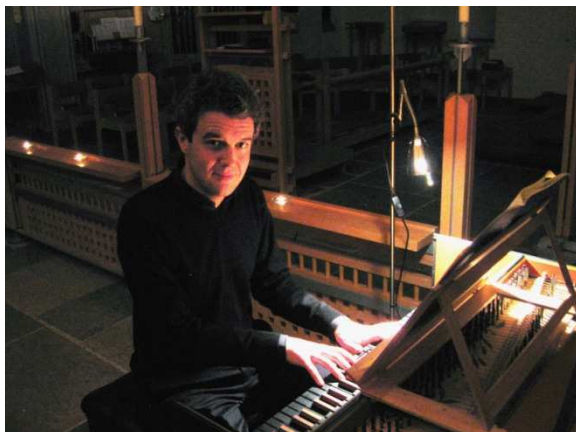


In May, the Gwalia Welsh Male Voice Choir came to St Mary's and filled the church with their rich music for an audience of 85, making a surplus of £350 for the Friends fund. In September we welcomed back the Lyra Vocal Ensemble from St Petersburg who gave us a fine concert of traditional Russian Orthodox music and Russian folk songs, raising over £300 for the Friends fund.

At our Annual Choral Evensong in October we welcomed the Rev'd Canon Professor Ben Quash, Professor of Christianity & the Arts at Kings College London who gave us an address of great spiritual and intellectual depth on the role of the Arts in Christianity.



In November we were delighted to host a *Harpsichord by Candlelight* recital played by Christopher Bucknall,



Director of Music at St Mary's. the format of the church lit by candlelight and a free glass of wine greatly enhanced the occasion and the event contributed over £400 to the Friends fund

In February, we held the *Barnes Charity Ball 2010* following on from successful events in the previous three years. The three hundred guests, many dressed to the theme of Indian Nights, enjoyed a

champagne reception in Kitson Hall accompanied by sitar music, henna tattoos and Bollywood films. Led by dhol drummers, the guests then moved through to St Mary's, which was decorated with Indian silks, elephants and umbrellas, for a candlelit dinner. After entertainment by Diva Bollywood Dancers, a highly successful auction was held before dancing continued to the sound of Katie Holmes and her band. The amount raised by the Ball was nearly £60,000, which was spread



between Under Tree Schools, other local charities and Friends of St Mary's Barnes with the Friends fund benefiting by £34,000. This was the fourth Barnes Charity Ball, originally inspired by Ross Collins, and a fitting tribute was made during the evening to Ross as he leaves Barnes. We are very grateful to the Ball organising committee (see picture) led by Christine and Gavin Chittick for making this another enjoyable and successful event.

This year the funds generated have been used to pay for all the church and garden maintenance as well as the annual contribution to the quinquennial fund. In addition the Friends this year have funded a new Candle Table beautifully crafted by Monty Brown, which was unveiled at the Choral Evensong, and have committed funds for the new Heating System. This new installation will cost £120,000 and the Friends have been able to commit to at least half of that sum from funds accumulated over the last few years.



The Advisory Council of the Friends of St Mary's Barnes is drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes and consists of Ross Collins, Fiona Barnett, David Barrie, Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Richard du Parcq, Rosie Findlater, David Greenwood, Charles Haswell, Christopher Morgan and Derek Senhenn. I am most grateful for their enthusiasm and support for all the Friends activities and we are looking forward to more enjoyable events in 2010/11 which will include a *25th Anniversary Organ Concert* in September, *An Evening with Tim Rice* in October, as well as the next *Barnes Charity Ball 2011* in February.

Andrew Summers
Chairman, The Friends of St Mary's Barnes