



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes raise funds for the upkeep of the church building and churchyard and promote public awareness of the church's place in the history and life of Barnes. They also ensure that it is open to the public every day. Our programme of events raises funds for the continuous care of the church and for capital projects. The last year has again been financially successful raising almost £40,000 for the Friends fund as well as considerable sums for other charities, due largely to the great success of the *Barnes Charity Ball*, *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* and *Melvyn Bragg Debate*.

Our events always involve people associated in some way with Barnes. These have included local celebrities such as Tim Rice, Gyles Brandreth, Aled Jones, Patricia Hodge, Chris Patten and Peter Snow and local themes such as *Composers of Barnes* and *Spirit of Man*. We celebrate every



year with a Choral Evensong and last year we made this service a *Celebration of Herbert Howells* to mark the installation of a Blue Plaque on the Barnes house in which he lived. Our guest speaker was Howells' biographer Paul Spicer with special Howells choral and organ pieces performed by the St Mary's Choir with Director of Music Daniel Turner.

In February, we held the sixth Barnes Charity Ball. This year's theme was *The London Ball* with the 300 guests dressed to reflect the Best of British in this Diamond Jubilee and Olympic year. The Ball featured a Pearly Family, Queen Victoria and Lord Nelson living statues, a Marching Band with Rule Britannia and a successful auction again led by Martin Bayfield. The total surplus made was nearly £60,000 which was spread between local, international and church charities with the Friends fund benefiting by £30,000.



In March *The Golden Age of Song* featured Daniel Turner (tenor) Ilona Domnich (soprano) and Marc Verter (piano) giving uplifting performances of 19th and 20th century music. This generated a surplus for the Friends fund of £470. In July The Scholars Concert



brought together present and past music scholars of St Mary's along with the Senior and Junior Choirs. The programme included instrumental and vocal solos and choral works, all led by Daniel Turner, and contributed £350 to the Friends fund.

Later in July, Melvyn Bragg visited St Mary's to debate with Richard Harries the question "Do the arts have a spiritual dimension?". The answer was clearly yes and both speakers demonstrated a depth and breadth of understanding which gave the audience of 200 much to think about. The event contributed £2370 to the Friends fund.



In September we held the second Barnes Charity Fashion Show jointly organised with the Barnes Community Association and again introduced by local MP Zac Goldsmith. Professional models showed off the latest fashions from the boutiques of Barnes to a packed St Mary's of 250 people (see picture on front cover), helping to



boost local traders and raising £3400 for local charities and the Friends fund.

All these events have not only encouraged greater awareness of St Mary's and brought many Barnes people into the church building but they have also raised significant funds. Over the years, these have been used to pay for a new heating system, lighting and sound systems, notice boards, paving and repairs to the tower, weathervane, clock and churchyard walls. They also pay for the regular cleaning, the costs of the garden and a contribution to the quinquennial fund which pays for major repairs. This year we have funded renovation of the Langton Chapel mosaic floor and the refurbishment of the Melvill and Ellerton Rooms.



The Daily Friends continue to do a wonderful job welcoming the public to the church during the day and keeping it clean and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help with this important task. The Friends Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes, comprises Patrick Findlater (Treasurer), David Barrie, Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Rosie Findlater, Charles Haswell, Christopher Morgan, Ted Muxworthy, Derek Senhenn, Richard Sewell and Paul Teverson and I am grateful to them for their enthusiastic participation in the planning and running of all our events and the allocation of grants.

We regard all those who come to our events as the 'Friends of St Mary's Barnes'. Thank you for taking part and for your generous contributions. They have both made a big difference to the role which St Mary's plays in the village of Barnes and to our community. I hope you will continue to be involved.

Andrew Summers

Chairman, The Friends of St Mary's Barnes

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