



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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 for 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 success of the *Barnes Charity Ball* and the *Barnes Music Festival*.

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 our guest preacher was the Dean of Southwark Cathedral, Very Rev'd Andrew Nunn who gave an excellent address on the subject of 'friends' with fine choral music by the St Mary's Choir.

In February, we held the seventh *Barnes Charity Ball*. This year's theme was *Tales of the Orient* enjoying the sensuous experience of



the East in decoration, food and entertainment. The Ball featured Balinese dancers, Chinese lions and dragon and a successful auction led by Martin Bayfield. The total surplus was over £60,000 which was spread between local, international and church charities with the Friends fund benefiting by £30,000.

In March we launched the inaugural Barnes Music Festival in conjunction with the Barnes Music Society, the Barnes Choir and the Barnes Community Association. The theme was *Holst & the English Tradition* celebrating the centenary of composer Gustav Holst living in Barnes featuring choral, instrumental, jazz and film performances at venues across Barnes centred on St Mary's.



Highlights at St Mary's included Julian Lloyd Webber and the Verter Trio, the John Colet Singers and the Barnes Concert Band performing *Holst and Britten* (on front cover), Piano Duets from Christabel Gairdner and Daniel Turner, the Tippett Quartet *Holst's Legacy in Barnes*, the Barnes Choir *Holst & his friends* and a final Choral Evensong including a performance on Holst's own trombone. It was a wonderful week of music led by Artistic Director Daniel Turner and a real community event with a special atmosphere which raised considerable funds for local charities and contributed £2500 to the Friends fund.



In June we hosted another Scholars Concert featuring vocal, organ and choral performances from the Music Scholars and the St Mary's Senior and Junior Choirs which contributed £445 to the Friends fund.



All these events have not only encouraged greater awareness of St Mary's and brought many 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 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, with the help of a generous donation in memory of Sir Frank White, the clock-face and sundial have been renovated to sparkling effect.

The Daily Friends continue to do a wonderful job welcoming the public to the church during the day and keeping it clean. The Friends Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the Barnes community, comprises Patrick Findlater (Treasurer), David Barrie, Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Rosie Findlater, Charles Haswell, Ted Muxworthy, Derek Senhenn, Rev's Richard Sewell and Paul Teverson and I am grateful to them for their enthusiastic participation in the planning and running of 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 community of Barnes and beyond. I hope you will continue to be involved.

Andrew Summers

Chairman, The Friends of St Mary's Barnes

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