



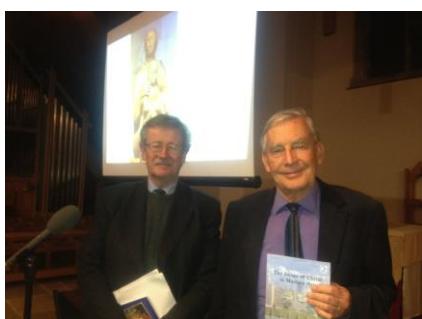
**THE
FRIENDS
OF
ST MARY'S
BARNES**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2014**

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, for capital projects and for local and international charities. The last year has again been financially successful, raising over £40,000 for the Friends fund as well as considerable sums for charities due largely to the success of the *Barnes Charity Ball*, the *Barnes Music Festival* and the *Barnes Charity Fashion Show*.

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 with fine choral music from the St Mary's Choir and last year our guest preacher was the Bishop of Southwark, Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun.

In October, we held the third Barnes Charity Fashion Show in St Mary's in conjunction with the Barnes Community Association. The show opened by local MP Zac Goldsmith showed off the latest fashions from the boutiques of Barnes. There was an After Party in Kitson Hall with pop-up boutiques from the fashion retailers and the raffle drawn by TV presenter Kate Singleton. The show and after-party were much enjoyed by the 270 guests and raised £4,000 for the Friends and local charities.



In November we hosted the launch of Bishop Richard Harries' latest book *The Image of Christ in Modern Art* with a response by Professor Sir Christopher Frayling. The book and debate at the launch generated much interest among the 80 guests and raised £350 for the Friends fund.

In December we held a Christmas Concert with rising star Mary-Jess who was joined by Isabel Suckling and the Harroddian School Choirs. This event attracted an audience of 200 and raised £800 for the Friends fund.

2014 started with the eighth Barnes Charity Ball in February with the theme *Saturday Night Fever* featuring music, fashion and food from the



1970s with the 300 guests enjoying themselves more than ever. Through both the live auction led by Martin Bayfield and the silent auction run for the first time on i-tablets, £65,000 was raised for the Friends fund and local and international charities.

The second Barnes Music Festival took place in March/April with 19 events over two weeks at venues across Barnes centred on St Mary's. Highlights included the opening event from Cantabile, the première of David Bednall's *Three Festival Anthems* sung by the newly-formed Barnes Music Festival Chorus, world-renowned cellist Julian Lloyd Webber playing with his wife Jianxing and the Verter Trio and the final Choral Evensong with the joint St Mary's and St Michael's Choirs. Audiences totalled 2500 and through live-streaming reached national and international audiences. The festival was a wonderful community event which brought many people into St Mary's and enhanced our partnership with a wide range local organisations. Overall the Festival made a small surplus and contributed £3600 to the Friends and local charities.



In June we hosted another Scholars Concert this time with the theme *Voyage à Paris* showcasing the instrumental and vocal talents of the St Mary's Music Scholars and Choirs and generating £1100 for the Music Fund and sponsorship for Director of Music Daniel Turner's Opera Course.

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. These funds now pay for all maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's which this year have included a new audio-visual system, new locks, organ renovation, new signboards, churchyard tomb repairs and renovated lighting.

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, Patty Darke, Charles Haswell, Ted Muxworthy, Derek Senhenn, Rev'd 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 funds.

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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