



THE FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S BARNES



ANNUAL REPORT
2017/18

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes raise funds for the upkeep and renovation of our historic church building and churchyard and promote awareness of its place in the history and life of Barnes. Our series of community events raise significant funds which pay for renovations and maintenance, as well as fund-raising for local and international charities.

In 2017/18 we hosted a celebrity event with Virginia McKenna as well as three major events: *Barnes Charity Ball* in February, *Barnes Music Festival* in March and *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October. These have now become established annual events which have raised considerable sums for St Mary's and our nominated charities and have established a strong presence for St Mary's within the Barnes community.



The Gift of Christmas celebrity event in December 2017, organised by Anne Mullins, featured a series of readings by Virginia McKenna, Amanda Waring, Nick Waring, David Simeon and Elizabeth Counsell interspersed with carols sung by the capacity audience of 300. This was due to be followed the day after by a Celebrity Football Match at Barn Elms but this was sadly cancelled due to weather conditions and

has been re-scheduled for December 2018. The events raised £3000 shared between the Friends and Prostate Cancer UK.

The *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October 2017 featured two nights of the boutiques of Barnes showcasing their latest fashions to enthusiastic audiences to the background of Retro 70s music and entertainment. The shows were judged the best ever with both nights sold out and over 500 people attending, raising £10,000 for the Friends, AgeUK Barnes Green Centre and the Paddock School.



The *Barnes Charity Ball* in February 2018 with the theme *Highland Fling* had almost everything from north of the border: the music, dancing, decorations, food and whisky, many of the auction prizes and of course the costumes.



Entertainment was from the band Ceilidh Tree and the piper Alan Henderson with an open auction led by local auctioneer Nick Evans. The event raised over £30,000 for Under Tree Schools, Castelnau Centre, Glass Door Homeless, Activity Station and the Friends.

The *Barnes Music Festival* in March 2018 had a new Artistic Director, James Day, and a new theme *Peace & Harmonies* linking to the centenary of the end of the First World War but very much focussing on the power of music to console, comfort, inspire, excite and unite. The varied programme over two weeks had 30 events at 9 venues with an additional 5 Young Artists Soirées in private houses. The Barnes Young Musician of the Year returned for a second year with a much greater number of talented musicians applying, adjudicated by Hilary Davan Wetton. We experienced some outstanding performances from Guy Johnston and the Thames Youth Orchestra (photo on front cover), Barnes Concert Band, Howard Goodall, Alistair McGowan and Anthony Hewitt, Blondel, Fibonacci Sequence, Labuschagne Quartet, English Chamber Choir, Barnes Choir, Dvorak Society, Barnes Community Choir and also recitals from Henry Chandler, James McVinnie, Martin Neary and Josh Salter. The festival featured the four main oratorios: Bach *St Matthew Passion*, Haydn *The Creation*, Handel *Messiah* and Mozart *Requiem* and schools involvement included *Zimbe!* with Barnes Primary School and St Paul's School and the St Paul's School Jazz Band playing at Kitson Hall. One of the aims of the Festival is to engender a spirit of community through music performance and



appreciation and this was certainly achieved with a total audience of nearly 4000 and 950 musicians taking part.

At the Annual Choral Evensong in October 2017, our guest preacher was Ven John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth with fine choral music led by the new Director of Music Henry Chandler.

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 both for the church and for nominated charities which have amounted to over half a million pounds over the last twenty years. This year the funds have been used to install the Magna Carta Memorial Window, further upgrades to the lighting and sound systems and renovation works to the tower. The Friends Fund also pays for all utility costs, church and churchyard maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's.



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, Charles Haswell, Fouki Heller, Ted Muxworthy, Rachel Skilbeck, Isobel Woolf and the Rector 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

October 2018