



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



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2009**

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes raise funds for the upkeep of the church building and churchyard and promote public awareness of its place in the history and life of Barnes, as well as ensuring that it is open to the public every day. We run a programme of events, fund-raising, grant-giving and continuous care for the church and 2009 has been another special year in which we have raised nearly £30,000 for the Friends fund thanks to the great success of *An Evening with Aled Jones* and the *Barnes Charity Ball*.

Our events always involve people associated in some way with Barnes. These have included local celebrities such as Gyles Brandreth, Peter Snow, Patricia Hodge, Dorothy Tutin, Jan Ravens and Chris Patten and local themes such as *Composers of Barnes* and *Spirit of Man*. We have celebrated every year with a Choral Evensong and our guest preacher last year was Ven Daniel Kajumba, Archdeacon of Reigate. His presence gave the congregation of 120 a wonderful and lively service and his sermon gave us a thought-provoking challenge on how we interact with our community.

All these events have not only encouraged awareness of St Mary's and brought many Barnes people into the church building but have also raised significant funds. These have been used to pay for the engraved glass door, paving, floodlighting, notice boards, the sound



system and repairs to the tower, weathervane, churchyard walls, clock and boiler. 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 significant tree works in the churchyard and a new candle table (*see picture*) beautifully crafted by Monty Brown. The major project for which we are now raising funds is the installation of a new heating system which will cost over £100,000.

*An Evening with Aled Jones* (*see front cover*) finally took place at the beginning of December after its postponement from September due to Aled's illness. It was a wonderful evening with 250 people

enjoying Aled's blend of singing, chat and answers to questions and with Aled himself greatly enjoying the occasion. There was also an auction expertly run by Ross Collins and the total raised from the event was £6000, from which a contribution of £1500 was made to Hope House Children's Hospices.



In February, we held the third *Barnes Charity Ball* following on from successful events in the previous two years. This year the 300 guests, many dressed to the Moulin Rouge theme, enjoyed a champagne reception in Kitson Hall followed by amazing entertainment in St

Mary's, a candlelit dinner with fine food and wine, live and silent auctions and dancing into the early hours. The total surplus made was over £55,000 – a wonderful result which is well up on the £44,000 raised last year – which goes to The Friends of St Mary's Barnes, Under Tree Schools and Home-Start Richmond. 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.

In March we were pleased to welcome the John Colet Singers and Orchestra (*picture right*) for a fine performance of Haydn *The Creation* which was much enjoyed by an audience of 120 and raised a surplus of £750 for the Friends fund.



In May, the Gwalia Welsh Male Voice Choir (*picture overleaf*) 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

(picture below) who gave us a fine concert of traditional Russian Orthodox music and Russian folk songs, raising over £300 for the Friends fund.



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 Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes, comprises Richard du Parcq (Treasurer), Fiona Barnett, David Barrie, Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Ross Collins, Rosie Findlater, David Greenwood, Charles Haswell, Christopher Morgan and Derek Senhenn 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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