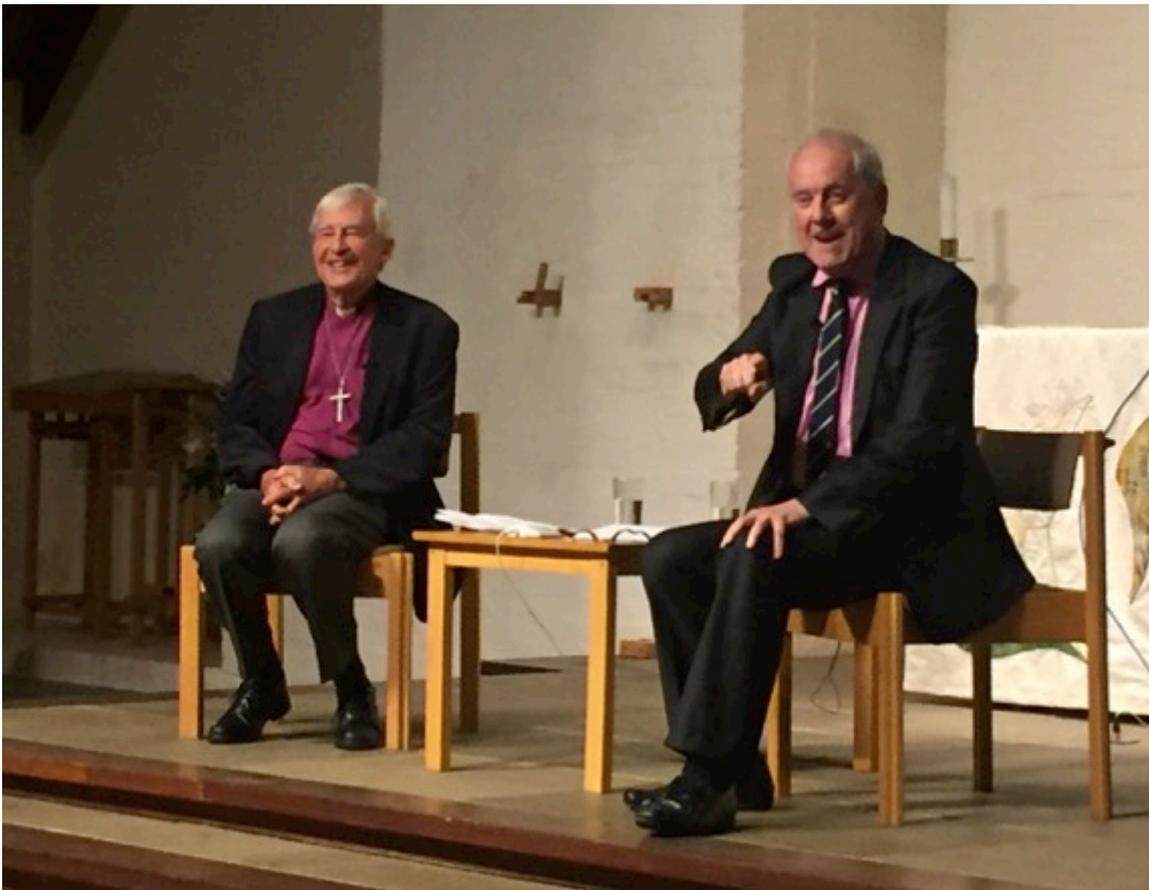




**THE FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S BARNES**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2016/17**

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.

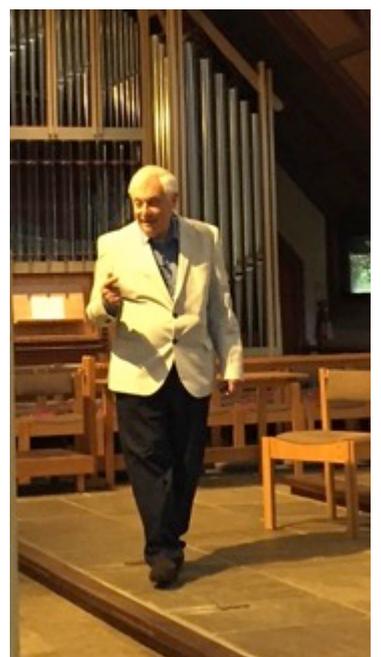
In 2016/17 we ran a number of high profile book launches and debates as well as three major events: *Barnes Charity Ball* in February, *Barnes Music Festival* in March and *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October. These have now become established annual events which have raised considerable sums for St Mary's and our nominated charities and have established a strong presence for St Mary's within the Barnes community.



The series of book launches and debates started in October 2016 with a debate between Bishop Richard Harries and broadcaster John Humphrys based on the theme of Richard Harries' new book *The Beauty and The Horror*. This was a packed-out event with over 300 attending and vigorous questioning of Richard Harries by John Humphrys.

This was followed in July 2017 by Chris Patten talking about his new book *First Confessions – A Sort of Memoir* in which he spoke to a spellbound audience of over 200 about his varied and high-profile career and the relationship between politics and identity.

Finally in September 2017, Richard Harries was joined by broadcaster Gyles Brandreth (see picture on cover) to debate *What Really is Happiness?* based on Gyles Brandreth's book *7 Secrets of Happiness* and a reprise of Richard Harries's book *The Beauty and The Horror*. A lively and amusing debate left the audience of 200 feeling much happier.



The *Barnes Charity Ball* in February 2017 with the theme *Carnival* combined the excitement of the carnival with glittering costumes, feathers, samba and Brazilian dancing. The 250 guests contributed generously to both the open auction and silent auction, helping to raise over £50,000 for church, local and international charities.



The *Barnes Music Festival* in March 2017 had as its theme *Music & Place* celebrating the way in which music enhances our appreciation of spaces and landscapes. Highlights at St Mary's included the opening concert with Tasmin Little, *Music & Poetry* from Madeleine Mitchell and David Harsent, Rautio Piano Trio, *Georgian London* with Fulham Camerata, *Come & Sing Gilbert & Sullivan* with Gyles Brandreth, Ashley Fripp piano recital, Brahms *Requiem*, and *River Thames* concert with Craig Ogden and James Gilchrist with local schools performing *Dodgson The Boat Race*. The festival also included events

at St Michael's and Holy Trinity, the first ever classical musical concert at the London Wetland Centre, a series of Musical Soirées in private homes and the launch of the *Barnes Young Musician of the Year*. 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 3500 and 750 musicians taking part.

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.



In November 2016, the *Capability Landscapes* exhibition was mounted by artist Alasdair Saunders with a launch event attracting 100 people to hear his account of how Lancelot Capability Brown changed the landscape of eighteenth century England.

At our Annual Choral Evensong in October 2016, we were pleased to welcome +Richard Frith, Bishop of Hereford with fine choral music led by our departing Director of Music Daniel Turner.

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 an organ humidifier and security cameras and for a major lighting project which has greatly improved visibility in the church for services and events. 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, Ted Muxworthy, Rev'd Richard Sewell, Rachel Skilbeck, Paul Teverson and Isobel Woolf 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 2017

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