



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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, 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. Founded fifteen years ago, the last year has been especially successful raising over £45,000 for the Friends fund due largely to the great success of *The Barnes Charity Ball*, the *Pullman/Harries Debate* and *An Evening with Tim Rice*.

Our events always involve people associated in some way with Barnes. These have included local celebrities such as Gyles Brandreth, Aled Jones, Patricia Hodge, Chris Patten, Jan Ravens and Peter Snow and local themes such as *Composers of Barnes* and *Spirit of Man*. We celebrate every year with a Choral Evensong and our guest preacher last year was the Rev'd Canon Professor Ben Quash, Professor of Christianity & the Arts at King's College London who gave us an address of great spiritual and intellectual depth on the



role of Arts in Christianity. Then in November we were delighted to host a *Harpsichord by Candlelight* recital by Christopher Bucknall, Director of Music at St Mary's. The format of the church lit by candlelight and a free glass of wine greatly enhanced the occasion and the

event contributed £400 to the Friends fund.

In February, we held the *Barnes Charity Ball 2010* following on from successful events in the previous three years. The 300 guests, many dressed to the theme of Indian Nights, enjoyed a champagne reception in Kitson Hall accompanied by sitar music and Bollywood films, followed



by Diva Dancers and a candlelit dinner in St Mary's with live and silent auctions and dancing into the early hours. The total surplus made was over £60,000 which was spread between Under Tree Schools in Sudan, local charities and St Mary's with the Friends fund

benefiting by £37,000. We are very grateful to the Ball organising committee (*see picture*) for making this another enjoyable and successful event.



In April we hosted an *Election Hustings Debate* for a packed church of 450 people. This featured all seven candidates for our local constituency of Richmond Park including Zac Goldsmith who was elected as our new MP a few days later.

The *Organ 25th Anniversary Concert* in September celebrated the role which the organ has played in inspiring music at St Mary's over 25 years. The programme of organ, choral and violin music featured the St Mary's Choir and the organ and choral scholars, with previous Rectors, Directors of Music and the organ builder Peter Collins as our guests, raising £950 for the Friends fund.



In October we hosted a high profile debate between Bishop Richard Harries and Philip Pullman based on his latest book *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ*. It was an intensive debate with an audience of 200 who came from a wide spectrum of views and religious beliefs. A



A few days later we welcomed another local celebrity for *An Evening with Tim Rice* (*see front cover*) in which he talked about his amazing career as a lyricist with songs from his shows such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita and Lion King performed by West End singers and instrumentalists. The audience of 200 enjoyed a great evening and the two events of the *Debate* and *Tim Rice* together raised over £7000 for the Friends fund.



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. Over the years, 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 the initial costs for the new heating system and we anticipate being able to fund over 75% of the total heating system costs estimated to be £120,000.

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 Friends Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes, comprises Patrick Findlater (Treasurer), David Barrie, Peter Boyling, Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Rosie Findlater, David Greenwood, Charles Haswell, Christopher Morgan and Derek Senhern 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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