

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes Advisory Council

Andrew Summers (Chairman), Richard du Parcq (Treasurer)
Ross Collins, Fiona Barnett, David Barrie, Philip Bladen,
Peter Boyling, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, David Greenwood,
Charles Haswell, Christopher Morgan, Derek Senhenn



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES ANNUAL REPORT 2008



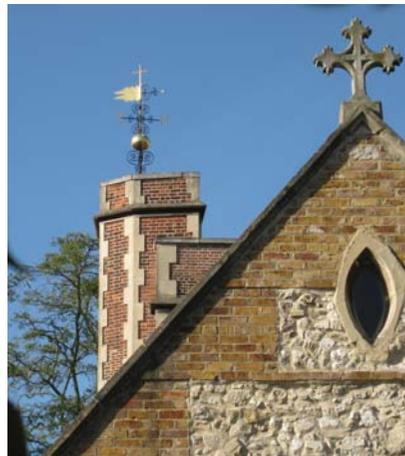
Barnes Charity Ball 2008 Auction



Antiques Valuation Day



New York Stone Paths



Renovated Weathervane

If you would like more information on The Friends of St Mary's Barnes
or to make a donation, please contact Andrew Summers
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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 2008 has been a special year in which we have raised over £25,000 thanks to the great success of the second *Barnes Charity Ball*.

Our events always involve people associated in some way with Barnes. Our two *Stars of Barnes* events have included Peter Snow, Patricia Hodge, Dorothy Tutin, Julian Glover, Isla Blair, Gyles Brandreth and Jan Ravens among many others. Our concerts have included the *Composers of Barnes* series, *The High Heels and The Close Shaves*, *The Music Makers* and the spectacular son et lumière *Spirit of Man*. Lectures have been given by Lord Chris Patten, architect Ted Cullinan and entertainer Jimmy Perry. We have hosted the *Springs Dance Company*, a *Berrys Wine Challenge*, a *Bonham's Valuation Day* and an art exhibition *Painting by Numbers*. We have celebrated every year with a Choral Evensong at which our guest speakers have included recently the Bishop of Hull, Sister Frances Dominica, the High Master of St Paul's School and the Bishop of Southwark.

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 been able to fund the new church paths (*see picture*) which have been paved with York stone and provide better access for wheelchairs and buggies. We now need major funds to pay for new church heating.

After its inaugural success in 2007, the second *Barnes Charity Ball* took place in February 2008 with a Mardi Gras theme. After a champagne reception in Kitson Hall accompanied by stunning dancing from the London Samba School, the 300 guests came through into a candlelit St Mary's (*see front cover*) and enjoyed fine

dining from La Tourelle Cuisine. After a highly successful auction led by Ross Collins (*see picture*), the Fabbagirls performed and had everyone dancing until the early hours making a most enjoyable and memorable evening. The event raised almost £44,000 shared between the Under Tree Schools in Sudan, Castelnau Centre Project and The Friends of St Mary's Barnes.

In June we held an *Antiques Valuation Day* organised by Caroline Georgiadis. She and her fellow experts (*see picture*) had a steady stream of visitors throughout the afternoon, as well as some home visits, valuing an array of paintings, jewellery, porcelain, silver, clocks and works of art, with the event raising £800. In October the Music Makers returned for a successful concert of sacred and secular music on the theme of *All My True Love* which raised £600.

In September we had expected to have *An Evening with Aled Jones* but he had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. However he is now booked to be with us on 5 December and we are looking forward to this pre-Christmas event. We are also planning the *Barnes Charity Ball 2009* in February, this time with the theme of Moulin Rouge.

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. I am grateful to the Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes, for their enthusiastic participation in the planning and running of all our events and 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

November 2008