

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes Advisory Council
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The Music Makers

Front cover: Springs Dance Company

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes



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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Annual Report 2006

After a busy tenth anniversary year last year, we have continued in 2006 with our programme of events, fund-raising, grant-giving and continuous care for the church. The aims of The Friends of St Mary's Barnes continue to be:

- to raise funds for the upkeep of the church building and churchyard,
- to promote public awareness of its place in the history and life of Barnes,
- and to ensure that it is open to the public every day

Our events have always tried to involve people associated in some way with Barnes. Our first *Stars of Barnes* event was held in 1996 hosted by Peter Snow and featuring Patricia Hodge, Dorothy Tutin, Julian Glover and Anneka Rice among others. Our concerts have included rhythm'n'blues star Alan Price in 1997, the *Composers of Barnes* series in 2002 and *The High Heels and The Close Shaves* in 2005. We staged a spectacular son et lumière *Spirit of Man* in 2000. Lectures have been given by Lord Chris Patten, architect Ted Cullinan, archaeologist Scott McCracken and entertainer Jimmy Perry. We have hosted a *Berrys Wine Challenge*, a *Bonham's Valuation Day* and an art exhibition *Painting by Numbers* by Raimund Schmolze. We finished last year with our second *Stars of Barnes* event hosted by Gyles Brandreth and featuring Moray Watson, Isla Blair, Kevin O'Brien, Carolyn Allen, Paul Smith, Laura Mayhew and Jan Ravens.

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 amounting to nearly £50,000 over the ten years. These have been used to pay for the engraved glass door, stone paving, floodlighting, notice boards, the induction loop and repairs to the tower, weathervane, churchyard walls, sound system, clock and boiler and for high-level cleaning of the church.

This year we also took on responsibility for funding all maintenance of the church so that the regular giving of the church members could be fully used for the church's work in Barnes and in the diocese. This amounts to an additional £5,200 per year and covers all the cleaning, all the costs of the garden and a contribution to the quinquennial fund which pays for major repairs.

This year started in December with a concert *In Celebration of Winter* by The Music Makers. This outstanding *a capella* choir, who rehearse in the church every week, gave us an entertaining and enthusiastic performance of seasonal chamber music from Venezuela to Finland, the Czech Republic, Latvia, France, Scotland, Hungary, England, Spain and Wales and raised £700 for our funds.

In March we turned the church into a dance studio and welcomed The Springs Dance Company for a performance of *Without Words*. Springs is Europe's foremost professional Christian dance company and they gave us a stunning performance, both highly artistic and strongly spiritual, including *Song of Indifference* with music by Bob Geldof. After fees and expenses, the performance made a small contribution of £100 to our funds.

Later this year we are welcoming back The Music Makers on 9 December for *A Seasonal Celebration*. In 2007 we are planning *The Barnes Ball*, a special black tie event with Kevin O'Brien and his band, to take place at St Mary's on 9 February. In May we will be hosting a concert by the Lyra Choir from Russia.

The Daily Friends continue to do a wonderful job welcoming the public to the church during the day and keeping it clean. They would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help with this important task. The Advisory Council of the Friends of St Mary's Barnes is drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes. I am grateful to them all 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 2006