



THE FRIENDS OF  
ST MARY'S BARNES



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2024/25**

St Mary's is at the heart of the community in Barnes and the Friends of St Mary's Barnes aim to enhance our community role as well as raise funds for the church and for charities. Our events throughout the year bring many people into the church and provide enjoyment and entertainment for people of all ages. They generate funds which are used to maintain our special building as well as support local, national and international charities. This year we have again had a full programme of events all of which have attracted numerous people into the church.



The **Barnes Music Festival** in March was the most successful yet with many outstanding performances, a high level of ticket sales a total audience of 6500 and 900 performers taking part. With the theme of *Music & Literature*, the many highlights included Pavel Kolesnikov with Samson Tsoy (pictured), Sir Antonio Pappano, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Shakespeare's Music with

Gyles Brandreth, Rachmaninoff Vespers from King's College London Choir, Opera Holland Park, Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, Roderick Williams and *The Dream of Gerontius*. All local schools were involved in concerts and workshops and the Barnes Young Musician of the Year was selected. Invaluable sponsorship came from Chestertons, Russell-Cooke and a growing number of Benefactors and Friends. We were delighted to be awarded the accolade of Best Local Music Festival in the Greater London Enterprise Awards 2025.

We contributed to the Piano Renovation Fund which raised £30,000 for the renovation of our classic Steinway D at St Mary's which is used throughout the Barnes Music Festival, for many other events and worship at St Mary's. Two concerts were held



to celebrate the piano with the Olympic Choir (pictured) in July and Alim Beisembayev in September



The **Barnes Artists Summer Show** was held in July, including over the weekend of Barnes Fair, bringing many people into the church to appreciate, and purchase, high quality painting and photography from local artists.

**Barnes BookFest** celebrated its fifth year in September, organised in conjunction with Barnes Bookshop and Magic Productions. Authors included Roger McGough (pictured), William Boyd, Gordon Corera, Adam Nicholson, Clive Aslet, Michael Morpurgo, Gyles Brandreth, Jonathan Sumption, Dolly Jones with David Gandy, Mishal Husain, Simon Hart, Aled Jones and Trevor McDonald. The final event featured the two Lords, Michael Heseltine and Chris Patten (picture on front cover). The 22 events drew an audience of 2300 with sponsorship from Laurent Residential.



At our **Annual Choral Evensong** in October 2024, our visiting preacher was Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark. In November we hosted the launch of **Bishop Richard Harries'** latest book *Wounded I Sing: Fron Advent to Christmas with George Herbert*.



Our final event of the last year was the **Barnes Charity Fashion Show** in October 2025. The enthusiastic audience enjoyed the latest fashion on the runway from six Barnes fashion retailers as well as music from Steve Wright and plenty of prosecco and champagne, followed by an Afterparty with PopUp shops in Kitson Hall. The show was sponsored by Attic Conversions. Wilfords and Onside Law and proceeds went to FiSH Neighbourhood Care and Home-Start as well as the Friends Fund.

All these events and activities 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. Most recently these funds have been used to pay for the audio-visual improvements, tree surgery, as well as maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's.

The Friends Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the Barnes community, comprises Michael Ross-McCall (Treasurer), Charles Haswell, Trisha Hawkins, Fouki Heller, Ted Muxworthy, Peter Siddall, Rachel Skilbeck, Paul Teverson, Isobel Woolf and the Rector 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 make 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*     Oct 2025

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