



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



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015/16**

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. In 2015/16 the Friends were closely involved with the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations as well as running three major annual 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 for local, international and church charities and have established a strong presence for St Mary's within the Barnes community



The *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October 2015 was extended for the first time to two nights to meet the high demand for tickets and this proved most successful with both nights sold out. The total audience was over 500 and the shows, which featured a different programme of Barnes Boutiques for each night,

were judged as better than ever. The total raised was over £10,000 for the Friends and local charities.

The *Barnes Charity Ball* in February 2016 with the theme *The Great Gatsby* was a black-tie night of glamour and glitz celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barnes Charity Ball (photo on front cover). With everyone dressed for the occasion, the guests enjoyed a champagne reception in Kitson Hall before moving through to St Mary's for dinner and dancing to the Swing Zazou Electro Swing Band and both silent and open auctions. The event raised nearly £50,000 for church, local and international charities.



The *Barnes Music Festival* in March 2016 had as its theme *Handel & Composers of Barnes* celebrating the rich variety of composers who have lived and worked in Barnes from Handel to Holst, Howells to Dodgson, Jim Parker and Carl Davis to Howard Goodall and Roxanna Panufnik. To coincide with the Festival, the new book *Composers of Barnes - The Flow of Inspiration* written by Eleanor Oldroyd was published and an

innovative photographic exhibition *Visions of Handel's Messiah* was staged at St Mary's. The 25 events over two weeks at 8 locations across Barnes included many outstanding performances from individuals such as Alistair McGowan (pictured), Craig Ogden, James Bowman, Lars Tharp, Martin Neary, Christabel Gairdner, James Turnbull and Henry Chandler and from choirs and orchestras such as St Paul's School, English Chamber Choir, Barnes Choir, Music Makers and the English Chamber Singers with St Michael's Choir, not to forget the Come & Sing Choir and the Barnes Music Festival Chorus. 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 over 3000 and over 750 musicians taking part.



The Magna Carta Lecture in May 2015 was a very successful event as part of the St Mary's Barnes Magna Carta Festival with Professor Nigel Saul giving a powerful and informative lecture on *Magna Carta - why it matters today* in conjunction with the Barnes & Mortlake History Society. We published the timeline booklet *Over 1000 Years of Barnes History* which was widely distributed at other events in Barnes including the Medieval Barnes Fair. A history display *900 Years of St Mary's Barnes 1115-2015* was also mounted in the church for the Festival and other events.



We provided input to the new information board at Barnes Old Cemetery which was launched with an early morning open-air service in May 2015 and also organised the Election Hustings in St Mary's in April 2015 attended by 400 people. In September 2015, we hosted a lecture by Ted Cullinan as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his architectural practice in which he talked about and drew his design vision for St Mary's, drawing 200 guests from across the architectural community in London and Barnes residents.

2015 was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of The Friends of St Mary's Barnes and to mark the occasion, Canon Richard Ames-Lewis, who was instrumental in the formation of the Friends in 1995 as Rector of Barnes at that time, returned to give the sermon at the Friends Annual Choral Evensong in October. A display of programmes, posters, reports and photos from the twenty years of the Friends was mounted and a 1995-2015 timeline printed.

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 twenty years. These funds have been used to pay for heating, lighting and sound systems, notice boards, paving and repairs to the tower and churchyard walls as well as the upgrade of the church rooms. The Friends Fund now also pays for all utility costs, maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's, the most significant of which this year has been the upgrading of the pathway between St Mary's and Kitson Hall.

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, Patty Darke, Charles Haswell, Ted Muxworthy, Derek Senhenn, Rev'd Richard Sewell, Rachel Skilbeck and Paul Teverson 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 2016*