



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

St Mary's is at the heart of the community in Barnes and The Friends of St Mary's Barnes aims to enhance our community role as well as raise funds for the church and for charities. Our series of events throughout the year bring many people into the church, provide enjoyment and entertainment for people of all ages and generate funds which are used to maintain our special building as well as support local, national and international charities.

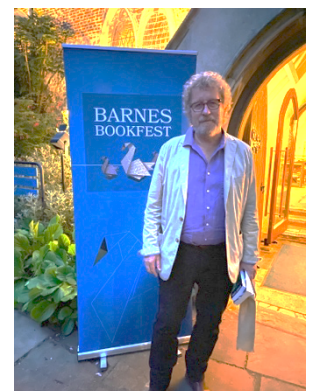
With restrictions on live indoor events being in place until May, many of our usual events had to be delayed or cancelled but in the second half of the year we have been delighted to run a good number of successful and high-profile events.

The **Barnes Music Festival** started on the first day in May when indoor events were permitted, one of the first in the country to do so. With the theme of *Music & Theatre*, the concerts focussed on smaller groups and distanced audiences, often holding two performances each evening to allow as many as possible to enjoy the fine music. Highlights included a striking performance of Stravinsky's *The Soldiers Tale* (photo on front cover), a modern telling of Holst's *Savitri* featuring Indian dance and music alongside Holst's score (photo), Gyles Brandreth with his *Musical & Theatrical Anecdotes*, and star Russian pianist



Daniel Kharitonov. The Barnes Young Musician of the Year was awarded to clarinettist Mila Mitrovic (photo) and Pop-Up Musicians appeared at care homes, schools, youth clubs, at the Farmers Market and Barnes Station and in residential streets. The festival concluded with a fine Choral Evensong with Revd Lucy Winkett as preacher.

One new event was the inaugural **Barnes BookFest** held in September, organised in conjunction with the Barnes Bookshop and Magic Productions. This weekend of talks and screenings saw some of Britain's best writers give insights into the way they work and the subjects that fascinate them. Authors included Sebastian Faulks (photo) Sir Michael Morpurgo, Andrew Graham Dixon, Simon Heffer, Richard Harries, Gyles Brandreth, Rukmini Iyer,





Hayley Mills, Edwin Mullins, Hadley Freeman, Laura Shepherd Robinson and Ian Williams with Chris Patten (photo). The total of 18 events drew an audience of 1100 with everyone enthusiastic about making this an annual event.

Previous to the Barnes BookFest, in July we hosted an event with Bishop Richard Harries presenting his latest book *Seeing God in Art* in conversation with Professor Ben Quash of King's College London at which the full audience greatly appreciated the erudition and interpretation of both speakers.



During the summer we hosted two art exhibitions at St Mary's. **A New Expression** held in July featured five artists displaying their interpretations of masters. **Barnes Common Artshow** was held in July/August in conjunction with Barnes Artists and The Friends of Barnes Common featuring paintings, photography, prints, sculpture and

ceramics inspired and observed from nature on Barnes Common. Both exhibitions attracted many visitors, especially at their Private Views, and resulted in contributions to the Friends Fund of over £2000. At the church's first Open Day in July, we also displayed the 900 *Years of St Mary's Barnes* exhibition which was first created for the Magna Carta Festival in 2015.



In early October we hosted a concert by **The High Heels, The Close Shaves & Friends**, two scintillating harmony groups and a chamber choir in an evening of well-known choral music and barbershop. The event drew a full audience of 150 with total proceeds of £3000 shared between Glass Door Homeless, Princess Alice Hospice and the Friends Fund.



After not being able to hold a live event last year, the **Barnes Charity Fashion Show** returned for two sold-out performances on 13 & 14 October 2021. The enthusiastic audience enjoyed the latest fashion on the runway from ten Barnes fashion retailers as well as music from Camille and plenty

of prosecco and champagne, sponsored by Lanson, Fine & Country and Onside Law. The After Party in Kitson Hall featured further pop-up shops and the event raised considerable funds for FiSH Neighbourhood Care, Home-Start and the Friends Fund.



At our **Annual Choral Evensong** in 2020, we held a special service with fine singing from the St Mary's Choral Scholars, performances by the winners of the Barnes Young Musician of the Year 2020, Xenia Edwards *violin* and Tian Hsu *trumpet* and an address by the Rector on "St Mary's at the heart of the community?"

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 which have amounted to over half a million pounds over the last twenty years. Most recently these funds have been used to pay for the installation of live-streaming equipment and repairs to the churchyard wall. The Friends Fund continues also to pay for all utility costs, maintenance, repairs and capital projects for St Mary's.

The Daily Friends continue to do a wonderful job welcoming the public to the church during the day. The Friends Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the Barnes community, comprises Patrick Findlater (Treasurer), Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Charles Haswell, Fouki Heller, Ted Muxworthy, Rachel Skilbeck, 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 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 2021

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