

**The Friends of St Mary's Barnes Advisory Council**  
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Ross Collins, Fiona Barnett, David Barrie, Philip Bladen,  
Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Angie Forster, David Greenwood,  
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## **THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES**



*The Music Makers*



*Lyra Vocal Ensemble*



*Barnes Charity Ball 2007  
(also on front cover)*



*Sing Barnes*



If you would like more information on The Friends of St Mary's Barnes  
or to make a donation, please contact Andrew Summers  
[friends@stmarybarnes.org](mailto:friends@stmarybarnes.org) 020 8876 6719

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes  
Church Road, Barnes, SW13 9HL  
020 8741 5422 [friends@stmarybarnes.org](mailto:friends@stmarybarnes.org)  
[www.stmarybarnes.org/friends.htm](http://www.stmarybarnes.org/friends.htm)

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

The aims of The Friends of St Mary's Barnes are 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. We actively pursue these aims with a programme of events, fund-raising, grant-giving and continuous care for the church and 2007 has been a special year which has included the first ever Barnes Charity Ball pictured on the front cover.

Our events always involve people associated in some way with Barnes. Our first *Stars of Barnes* event was held over ten years ago hosted by Peter Snow and featuring Patricia Hodge, Dorothy Tutin, and Julian Glover among others. Our second *Stars of Barnes* event was held last year hosted by Gyles Brandreth and featured Moray Watson, Isla Blair, Kevin O'Brien and Jan Ravens. Our concerts have included the *Composers of Barnes* series, rhythm'n'blues star Alan Price, *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 of Helen House and the High Master of St Paul's School.

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 over £60,000 over the last twelve years. These have been used to pay for the engraved glass door, stone 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 started in December with *A Seasonal Celebration* by The Music Makers, returning to St Mary's after their concert the previous year. Their fine singing of European music got everyone in the mood for Christmas and the event raised £650 for our funds.

In February the first *Barnes Charity Ball* brought 240 people into St Mary's, which had been transformed for the occasion into a candle-lit dining and dancing area. After a fine meal provided by the chefs from the Victoria East Sheen, entertainment came from crooner Kevin O'Brien and comedian Jan Ravens. An auction followed, expertly run by Ross Collins, and dancing continued until the early hours with everyone having a most enjoyable and memorable evening. The event raised almost £24,000 shared between the Under Tree Schools in Sudan and The Friends of St Mary's Barnes.

In May the Lyra Vocal Ensemble from St Petersburg, on tour in the UK, sang an enchanting programme of traditional Russian Orthodox Music and Russian Folk Songs which raised £800 for our funds. In July for *Sing Barnes*, part of the first *Sing London* festival, St Mary's was filled with people singing English Choral Classics, conducted by Cameron Burns, with a last-night style finale, which raised £500 for our funds.

Looking ahead to 2008, the *Barnes Charity Ball* will be back on Friday 1 February and we will be welcoming Aled Jones and friends for a concert on Friday 4 May.

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 2007