

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



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2018/19**

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. Our series of community events raise significant funds which pay for renovations and maintenance, as well as fund-raising for local and international charities.

In 2018/19 we hosted two book events and one celebrity event as well as our three major 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 our nominated charities and have established a strong presence for St Mary's within the Barnes community.



The first book event in November 2018 featured Richard Harries' new book *Haunted by Christ – Modern Writers and the Struggle for Faith*. He held an animated discussion on the themes of the book with Roger McGough who also read some of his own poetry. The second book event in September 2019 featured Gyles Brandreth speaking about his new book *Dancing by the Light of the Moon* and engaging the audience in learning poetry by heart. This was in aid of the new bell training facilities for the Bellringers and raised £1500 for their fund (see photo on front cover).

This year's Celebrity Event organised by Anne Mullins was a production of *Myra & Joyce Playing to the Gallery* with Stephanie Cole as Dame Myra Hess and Patricia Hodge as Joyce Grenfell. This played to a full audience of 250 and raised £2700 for the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Friends



The *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* in October 2018 featured two nights of the boutiques of Barnes showcasing their latest fashions to enthusiastic audiences to the background of music and entertainment from The Fabbagirls. The shows were judged the best ever with both nights sold out and over 500 people attending, raising £10,000 for Glass Door Homeless, Regenerate and the Friends.

The *Barnes Charity Ball* in February 2019 with the theme *Arabian Nights* spiced up the new year with a magical evening of exotic food, special wines, fortune-telling, belly dancers, fantastic decorations, a wonderful selection of auction prizes and some amazing costumes. Entertainment was from the The Arabian Nights Dancers with the open auction led by top auctioneer Jonny Gould. The event raised over £30,000 for Under Tree Schools, Association for Post Natal Illness, Castelnau Community Centre, Glass Door Homeless and the Friends.



The *Barnes Music Festival* in March 2019 had as its theme *Music & Invention*, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With 30 events over two weeks at 8 different venues in Barnes, the programme included the first ever opera to be staged in St Mary's, Britten's *Turn of the Screw*. Other outstanding performances at St Mary's were the opening

concert *Re-Composed* with rising star violinist Fenella Humphreys and the choirs of St Paul's School and St Paul's Girls' School, Henry Chandler's performance of Beethoven *Kreutzer Sonata*, Lucy Parham and Alistair McGowan presenting *Rêverie – the life and loves of Claude Debussy*, Tiffin Boys' Choir with Bach *St John Passion*, *Come & Sing Invictus* with composer Howard Goodall, Rachmaninoff *Vespers* with the King's College London Choir and *Byron Don Juan* musico-drama with Tama Matheson and Davina Clarke. The festival's Youth Programme included the third *Barnes Young Musician of the Year*, won by cellist Charlotte Comon, workshops in local primary schools which culminated in a performance of a newly-composed work *Leonardo & His Flying Machines* at St Paul's School and five *Young Artists Soireés* held in private homes. 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 4300 and 850 musicians taking part.





At the Annual Choral Evensong in October 2018, we were very pleased to welcome as our guest preacher the new Bishop of London, Rt Rev Dame Sarah Mullally, with fine choral music led by the Director of Music Henry Chandler.

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 last twenty years. This year the funds have been used for renovation works to the tower and the churchyard wall, upgrading of lighting and sound systems and contribution to new bellringing training facilities. The Friends Fund also pays for all utility costs, church and churchyard 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 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, 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*

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