

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Friends of St Mary's Barnes raise funds for the upkeep of the church building and churchyard and promote public awareness of the church's place in the history and life of Barnes. They also ensure that it is open to the public every day. Our programme of events raises funds for the continuous care of the church and for capital projects. The last year has again been financially successful raising £50,000 for the Friends fund as well as considerable sums for other charities, due largely to the great success of the *Barnes Charity Ball*, *St Mary's Archaeology* and the *Barnes Charity Fashion Show*.

Our events always involve people associated in some way with Barnes. These have included local celebrities such as Tim Rice, Gyles Brandreth, Aled Jones, Patricia Hodge, Chris Patten and Peter Snow and local themes such as *Composers of Barnes* and *Spirit of Man*. We celebrate every year with a Choral Evensong and our guest preacher last year was Canon Tim Marwood who stood in at the last



minute for the Dean of Southwark, Colin Slee who was seriously ill (and sadly died a few weeks later). Then in December we were pleased to welcome back the Music

Makers for their seasonal concert of choral music *Trumpets & Angels* and this delightful event contributed £650 to the Friends Fund.

In February, we held the *Barnes Charity Ball 2011* following on from successful events in the previous four years. This year the theme was *Ice Ball* with St Mary's and Kitson Hall decorated magnificently to the icy and snowy them. The 300 guests enjoyed a champagne reception and candlelit dinner with Russian music and dancing and an auction led by rugby star Martin Bayfield followed by dancing into the early hours. The total surplus made was over £70,000 which



was spread between Under Tree Schools in Sudan, local charities and St Mary's with the Friends fund benefiting by £43,000.



In June we were pleased to host the Le Pecq Contrepoint choir from our twinned village in France along with the Barnes Choir for a joint summer concert with fine singing in French and English. This

contributed £750 to the Friends fund and to the Barnes Choir funds. *An Evening of Baroque* in July featured the St Mary's organ scholar George de Voil along with oboist Helen Bickley and generated £470 funds for the Friends and for the Don Bosco Institute in Rwanda.



All these events have not only encouraged greater awareness of St Mary's and brought many Barnes people into the church building but they have also raised significant funds. Over the years, these have been used to pay for the engraved glass door, 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 we have funded the final costs for the new heating system, which has now been installed at a total cost of £120,000, as well as the refurbishment of the organ and the Steinway piano.

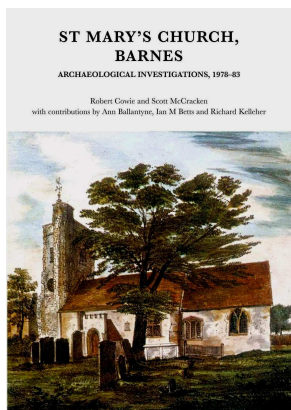
The Daily Friends continue to do a wonderful job welcoming the public to the church during the day and keeping it clean and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help with this important task. The Friends Advisory Council, drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes, comprises Patrick Findlater (Treasurer), David Barrie, Peter Boyling, Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Rosie Findlater, Charles Haswell, Christopher Morgan, Derek Senhenn and Richard Sewell and I am grateful to them for their enthusiastic participation in the planning and running of all 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 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*

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In September the book of *St Mary's Church Barnes Archaeology* was launched with an archeological tour (see cover photo) and lecture by authors Scott McCracken and Bob Cowie. Many people associated with the rebuilding of the church including former Rector Canon Juergen Simonson and architect Ted Cullinan were present. With support from English Heritage and the Irene Rawkins fund, this event raised £1560 for the Friends fund.

The first *Barnes Charity Fashion Show* took place in St Mary's later in September jointly organised with the Barnes Community Association. The packed church of over 250 people enjoyed the latest fashions from the local boutiques of Barnes displayed on the runway by professional models. The show was introduced by local MP Zac Goldsmith and generated over £2000 for local charities and the Friends fund.

