



The Friends of
St Mary's Iffley



Annual Report 2025

Front cover, and pages 7, 13, and 22: linocuts by Gayna Wiles

Report from the Chair



I have much enjoyed my year as Chair of FoSM. Susan Walker was a hard act to follow and I'm grateful to her for inducting me patiently into the mysteries of the role. My respect is boundless for all that she achieved in her five years of service. We remain a small committee, and it was good to recruit two enthusiastic new members in Kathryn Wilkinson and Lola Rodriguez. I'm grateful to my colleagues for their hard work, most especially our Treasurer Ruth Dixon, who has devoted enormous time and patience to navigating the banking system and online sales. I have relied on her wise advice at all times. Our caterers-in-chief, Dave and Anna, have ensured that we eat splendidly, Lola is a genius with the dishwasher, Juliette has seen to the posters (printed and laminated by Janet and now Ruth), Liz is a fund of ancient wisdom, and Kathryn has sculpted conversations into elegant minutes. We have appreciated Clare's active engagement in FoSM activities, and the input from our PCC colleagues.

We followed the established pattern of activities.

- In the 'Friends Forum' slot, an interview format seemed a good way to bring two distinguished local figures into conversation without the burden and formality of a lecture format.

- On quiz night, Stilly proved himself an able replacement for the sadly missed Fran Deacon, bringing his own very different creative humour to bear on the task. Putting questions up on a screen put an end to the chorus of 'Please would you repeat that!'
- The Poetry & Puddings evening proved a big draw, and we had more offers of readings than we could accommodate. Committee members provided a rich variety of desserts for a Shrove Tuesday indulgence.
- We gave much thought to the question of how to maintain the principle of a summer excursion, while avoiding the astronomic cost of coach hire which exposed FoSM to the risk of financial loss. Although many members had been to Waterperry before, it is in the nature of gardens that they are never the same twice. Few had seen the Indian frescoes, or made a close study of the mediaeval church where, as in previous years, we had the benefit of Geoffrey Tyack's expert guidance. Many of us went on with Geoffrey to decipher the riddles of Rycote chapel. Using private cars for the excursion was an experiment, and we wanted participants to have the option of a shared taxi. In practice no one availed themselves of this option, so it would be feasible in future years to go further afield.
- The summer party was a popular event, much enriched by two wonderfully versatile singers and by the chance to mingle beforehand in the vicarage garden. There was much debate in the committee about the comparative merits of supermarket strawberries versus those from Rectory Farm, but there were certainly no complaints about the Farm strawberries provided.

Last year members voted through various changes to the constitution. The change to the essential charitable object, viz. 'the advancement of the Christian religion' needs the formal approval of the Charity Commission, which in practice means hiring a lawyer, because no one knowledgeable is available on the phone or responsive to emails, and the 'advancement of religion' turns out to be a standard formula. So that clause remains in place.

As I have explained to Friends, I will be standing down at the AGM. I took on the role of Chair to support the social life of the village, but also because of my affection for a beautiful building and its environment. FoSM's core task is the preservation, beautification and improvement of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, and my interpretation of that mission entrusted to me is not compatible with present plans. As I have explained, a radical change to path surfaces was made after FoSM had committed funds to the churchyard project. My objections are threefold: 1) a disproportionate extra expenditure; 2) a conscious sacrifice of beauty to utility; 3) the use of heavy-duty plastic-based materials inappropriate in a world which now recognises plastic as a disastrous pollutant. I cannot be the public face of fundraising for a project about which I now have such profound reservations.

The role of FoSM is important not least as a bridge between those who worship at St Mary's and secular members of the village, so I hope that a way forward will be found. I much regret that this situation has arisen.

David Wiles



Susan at her final AGM

Report from the President



I have just passed my first anniversary as Vicar of St Mary's Church, and I can only say that I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the community in this beautiful part of Oxford. Much of the focus of the first year in this kind of role is to get to know people, and I have appreciated the many Friends of St Mary's events over the year which have given me an opportunity to meet people who don't necessarily come to regular services, but who are nonetheless committed to maintaining and supporting our beautiful building and churchyard.

I had heard good things about the infamous 'FoSM Poetry and Puddings' and the rumours were correct—I had a delightful evening enjoying the varied poems and plenteous puddings. I was delighted we could host the FoSM Summer Party with drinks in the Rectory garden in June, and we were fortunate to have glorious sunshine and enjoy the music of the enormously talented Rey and Victoria.

We are enormously grateful to the Friends for their financial support to St Mary's, which enables us to undertake projects to maintain the church and its surrounds. We are currently developing our churchyard to improve the paths and lighting to enable more people to enjoy the beauty of this space. We are extremely thankful that FoSM has supported us in this project and hope to begin work in the Autumn.

I look forward to seeing you at the various events coming up in 2025/6.

Clare

Reverend Clare Hayns

Annual Lecture

Saturday 14 September 2024

Nicholas Orme, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Exeter

Three blind mice, three blind mice,
Dame Julian, Dame Julian,
The Miller and his merry old wife,
She scraped her tripe, lick thou the knife:
Three blind mice.

Professor Nicholas Orme entertained the Friends with a description of Tudor childhood, based on his new book *Tudor Children* (Yale University Press, 2024). Rhymes like this, he explained, have retained their character with small modifications since medieval times. Games likewise:

King-by-your-leave: a play that children have, where one sitting blindfold in the middle hideth so till the rest have hidden themselves, and he then going to seek them, if any get his place in the mean space, that same is king in his room.

I (DW) remember playing this game often enough in childhood using trees and bushes for cover. Professor Orme used many other examples to support his argument that ‘childhood’ has been a constant, and he dismissed the claim of French historian Philippe Ariès that the otherness of childhood was the invention of Romanticism, and that Tudor children were essentially regarded as young adults. This was an old-style lecture holding our attention through the power of speech, with no concession to the modern devices of PowerPoint and microphone. All in all a rich journey back in time.



Hot Cockles—one of the many games described

Friends Forum

Wednesday 3 December 2024



For the Friends Forum David Wiles interviewed two distinguished writers who live in the village and are familiar faces to many—novelist Diane Setterfield and historian Julie Summers. A lively conversation touched on many issues. Since both are storytellers, would either switch to the genre of the other? No, said Diane, she can always find an alternative to the historical reality which pleases her better as a narrative. Julie wondered if the two of them could merge their creative skills. Then the conversation moved on to creating a sense of place. How do you write about Mount Everest when you’ve never been there, Julie’s task when she wrote about her great uncle Sandy Irvine? Well, there are other mountains you can climb. And in the matter of research, though Google can sometimes be helpful, nothing beats handling real artefacts and talking to real people to fire up a writer’s prose. We discussed editing, and the many, many drafts through which a book passes. Julie spoke eloquently about the creative joy of editing. It’s not the initial inspiration that matters, it’s what you do next. Diane and Julie have been friends for 10 years and give each other regular feedback. The most valuable thing for a writer, said Julie, is to have your ‘writing buddy’—‘Couldn’t agree more’, Diane responded.

Julie introduced us to her new book *British Vogue: The Biography of an Icon*. It might seem an odd choice, given her background in wartime history and exploring situations of human endurance, and she does not consider herself a fashionista. She traced the wartime background of *Vogue*, and how the inspired editorship of Audrey Withers fostered the extraordinary writing and images of Lee Miller. Patiently reading through every issue of the magazine put Julie in a position to write a new kind of cultural history of Britain. Meanwhile Diane gave us a reading from *Once Upon a River*, a novel inspired as she came to settle in Iffley by walking the Thames Path. Since the Church Hall is so close to the river, she decided to read us her evocation of the Thames in a chapter where nothing ‘happens’. We cannot understand a river from a map, she writes. ‘For one thing, the river that flows ever onwards is also seeping sideways, irrigating the fields and land to one side and the other. It finds its way into wells and is drawn up to launder petticoats and be boiled for tea. It is absorbed into root membranes, travels up cell by cell to the surface, is held in the leaves of watercress that find themselves in the soup bowls and on the cheese boards of the county’s diners. From teapot or soup dish, it passes into mouths, irrigates complex internal biological networks that are worlds in themselves, before returning eventually to the earth, via a chamber pot.’ Magical.



Annual Spring Quiz

2 January 2025

Andrew Stilborn (universally known as ‘Stilly’) hosted the 2025 quiz. For many years, members of FoSM enjoyed the quizzes devised and hosted by Fran Deacon, and her death is a sad loss. We are grateful to Stilly for stepping in to replace her. The new style included a screen, so the hard of hearing and even the slightly challenged no longer needed to ask for difficult words to be repeated.

Stilly’s questions were richly varied and challenging. Most members of the Friends coped with finding the odd one out:

GOOSE—WHEN

OWL—WHERE

DOVE—WHO

SHEEP—BETHLEHEM

[clue—the Piper window]

However, they fared somewhat less well when failing to realise they were being asked to place locations on the 1987 Iffley tapestry hanging before their eyes.

Questions ranged far beyond the local:

biology: ticks were the odd one out, an arachnid not an insect

popular culture: not so many familiar with the titles of Taylor Swift albums

sport: recognising the emblems of new Olympic sports

politics: countries with most and fewest voters going to the polls in 2024—not so many of us who think we are well informed keep up with the politics of Tuvalu

The Graeco-Roman gods proved controversial, but Stilly wisely instituted as rule number one that the host’s decisions are not open to challenge.

Opposite is the scoresheet, so participants can bask in appropriate pride, or resolve to do lots of homework for next year.

TEAM	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
STROPPY MAFIA	14	15	9	10
		29.	38.	48.
HOWARD'S WAY	13	16	8	12
		29.	37.	49.
ISIS	11	9	6	10
		20.	26.	36.
CURVI-LINEAR	16	11	5	14
		27.	32.	46.
LEGS 11	13	11	7	10
		24.	31.	41.
UNCLASSIFIED	13	9	6	9
		22.	28.	37.
AMNESIACS	9	17	6	11
		26.	32.	43.
WILDCARD	15	13	9	10
		28.	32.	42.
THE HOMETEAM	12	11	9	11
		23.	32.	43.



Team Howard's Way were rewarded with the FoSM trophy, won by a whisker. We hope it enjoys pride of place on one of the victors' mantelpieces.

Poetry & Puddings

Shrove Tuesday, 4 March 2025

Forty-eight Friends and others gathered in the Church Hall for the customary evening of poems and puddings. The plan was to take celebratory poems first, before the Shrovetide *grande bouffe*, then offerings in a more Lenten mood after the banquet. It was not easy given the current state of the world (in the course of the previous week it appeared that NATO had collapsed) to find many ready to reach for poetry as a source of joy, but sharing feelings can also be a source of comfort, and all poems were received with rapt attention. Tennyson's 'Morte d'Arthur' (read by Christopher Palmer) summed up the sense of collapsing civilisation. Perhaps the wackiest contribution was a poem by the early scientist Erasmus Darwin about the sexual life of plants, a contribution to public education unearthed by Caroline Pond. Stilly's saga of a fake pie illustrated by projections of his drawings cheered our spirits before we tackled the array of authentically home-made puddings.



In the second half, John Harris's poignant poem written over 30 years ago, 'To a Daughter, Born Prematurely', was one of five read by their authors—a most welcome feature of the evening.

Emerged a hand-size blood-smeared grey pink doll
Two scant pounds of symptoms quickly wrapped in foil
One piercing sharp and pleading squeak
I thought: the only word you'll ever speak
Your brittle limbs now pierced with drips and drains
A mouth-tube stilling cries of begging pain
Your eyes sealed shut this scene you're meantime spared
Masked medics ministering early paediatric care
Then in the hot-room next we numbly meet
Your lifeline links to replicated womb-life all complete
A dozen other tiny hopes in plastic tents
Neonatal babies on electronic respirator vents.

Life's second Monday as we watched, your gathering nearest came
A leafy-feeble lung split under oxygen's soft strain
Appeared a doctor, bearded, looming, vast, a man
Whose dainty skill out-danced death's deft pavane
Not every minute foetal pal did fare so well
As empty cots and brave faced nurses quietly would tell
But we all made it. Why us? We dared not ask
Sixteen weeks, six safe pounds, and carers ceased their ceaseless task
To us intense but undiminished the long parental lot:
Now lambent lightfoot lady—then tearful tearing tot.
And in a decade when you've heard this all too often from me
You'll think it much more mine than your reality.

John's daughter, Robyn, was present for the reading.

The full programme was as follows:

Edmund Gray. 'Night Mail', by W. H. Auden.

Caroline Pond. 'Whales, Humankind's Faculties, and Floral Sex', by Erasmus Darwin.

Christopher Palmer. Extract from 'Morte d'Arthur', by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

David Wiles. Extract from 'Philip Sparrow', by John Skelton.

Peggy Seeger. 'Sit Down Honey', by Peggy Seeger.

Susan Walker. 'Atlas Goes to See his GP', by Carole Bromley.

Andrew Stilborn. 'Wickersley Pie', by Stilly.

Julia Smith. 'Daffodils', by Ted Hughes.

John Harris. 'To a Daughter, Born Prematurely', by John Harris.

Clare Hayns. 'God's Grandeur', by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Roger Wagner. 'On Finding my Poetry in a Broken Photocopier', by Malcolm Guite, and a villanelle by Roger Wagner.

Susan Biddle. 'First They Came...', by Pastor Martin Niemöller.

Richard Vernon 'Why?', by Esther Philips, and 'Don't Send Help', by Karen Shragg.

Graham Low. 'Rocket in the Room', by Oksana Maksymchuk.

Katrina Gaye Robinson. 'Wild Geese', by Katrina Gaye Robinson.

There were more offers of poems than we were able to include, so register your interest early for 2026.



Annual Excursion

Friday 9 May 2025

Waterperry Gardens and Rycote Chapel



We decided that coach trips were no longer viable because the cost has risen exponentially, and FoSM could not expose itself to the financial risk. We proffered the option of booking collective taxis, but in the event everyone travelled by private car. A group of 27 Friends began by visiting the gardens, where the wisteria and banksia were in fine bloom. We strolled along the banks of the Thame, and up splendid avenues. We heard about the now semi-mythical figure of Miss Havergal, who purchased the gardens from Magdalen College in order to establish a ladies' school of gardening, and was an inspiration for Roald Dahl's figure of Miss Trunchball.



Geoffrey Tyack then gave us a tour of Waterperry church, with its Saxon arch, delicate medieval windows, fine brasses hidden under the carpet, and an eloquent 19th-century memorial, amid much else. We appreciated his eloquence and expertise.

After a buffet lunch in the Teashop, which included a sample of their excellent home-made cakes, we visited the Tudor/Georgian house, where Simon Buchanan, the steward of the estate, introduced us to the modern frescoes which run across three floors and have been executed on the basis of traditional fresco technique. It was quite a culture shock moving from the world of medieval symbolism to that of an Eastern meditation-based philosophical tradition where spirit and mind are regarded as separate things. It was an entertaining and informative tour.



Ten of us then proceeded after tea to Rycote, where Geoffrey introduced us to the beautiful box pews and converted rood screen of a chapel which reforming Puritans and Victorians had passed by, in a lovely rural setting. The sun shone upon us on a glorious day.



Summer Party

Saturday 29 June 2025

Some 40 Friends gathered in the vicarage garden where the late afternoon sun shone on the old stones. Some folk ventured down to the river, others were content to sip prosecco by the house. Two young professional singers, Victoria Couper and Rey Yusuf then led us in procession to the Church Hall as we joined in the refrain of 'Sumer is icumen in'.



It was a hot evening and half the party dined in the courtyard, with quiche and cold meat supplemented by a fine array of salads. We all then came into the hall, to be entertained by our two astonishingly versatile singers, whose range extended from Bulgarian drumming to Blues on the harp. A good time was had by all.



Helen Powell

27 July 1938 – 8 June 2025

Helen Powell was a long-standing resident of Iffley and member of the Friends. For many years Helen took the Committee minutes and wrote an engaging account of the Friends' excursion for the annual report. This is the Eulogy delivered by her god-daughter, Dr Helen Salisbury, at the service in Helen's memory at Iffley church on 24 July 2025.

Helen came into my life at its very beginning and was a constant presence over 61 years. She met my mother as a fellow student at St Anne's College and took on the role of godmother to me a few years later. I was named after her—and so in our family to avoid confusion she was always and forever 'Big Lady Helen'—even though I surpassed her in height in my early teenage years.

I have very happy memories of time spent with her as a small child, and later visiting her in the library at Queen's when I was a student, and her great skill and invaluable help when we made my wedding dress together.

Helen was a very private person but people who were privileged to know her appreciated her sharp mind and dry wit.

She was born in Abergavenny in 1938. She was an only child living with her parents and maternal grandparents—her father was a schoolteacher and her mother and grandmother kept the house between them. It was not entirely a happy home and her father and grandfather did not speak to each other.

Helen came to St Anne's College in Oxford to read History in 1956. Her studies were affected by depression, which ran as an undercurrent through much of her life. She settled back in Oxford in the 1970s where she ran the library at Queen's College until her retirement. One of the former staff there, Amanda Saville, asked me to share her memories of Helen:

Although we never worked together she was a regular visitor to the Library during my 18 years as Librarian and was extremely generous to me with her knowledge of the Library and its collections, especially in the early days.

Helen was kind and supportive and her extensive understanding of the Queen's special collections was clear to everyone who met her. Early on in my tenure she kindly invited my husband and I to her house to meet her mum, an occasion we all enjoyed.

Helen was a quiet presence I knew I could rely on and I feel privileged to have learnt from her. My whole team was very fond of her, as was I. I will miss her.

Helen was generous—she helped fund my late medical degree, but also gave widely to charities. She was also forgiving—when she was victim of a robbery at knife point (actually half of a pair of scissors) while serving at the community shop in 2013, she is

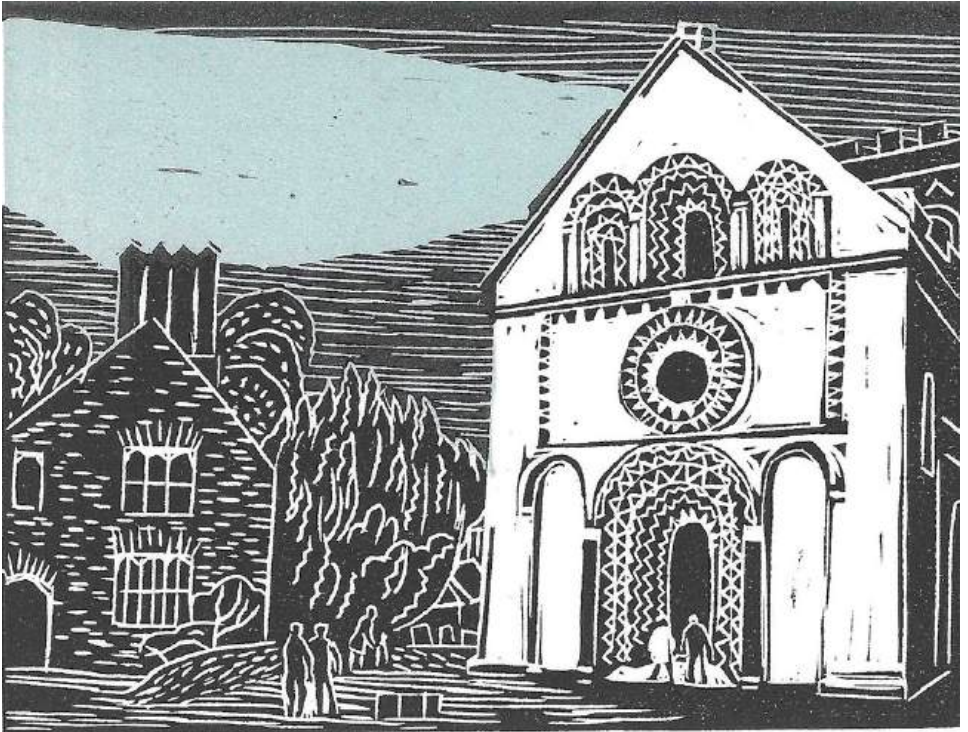
quoted in the local newspaper to be considering visiting the perpetrator in prison. She was academic and clever with a talent for writing. She was self-effacing to a fault—in later years she would still cycle across Oxford to post a letter through my door but never knock—and, if I was in, it was so disappointing to discover her silent visit after the event.

Helen was selfless, putting the needs of others before her own, and was a very dutiful daughter, looking after her mother for many years as she lived to over 100. This left little time for her own relationships but she found great happiness as companion to Siegbert Prawer, her colleague and friend at Queen's. She was also a great support to her friend Bridget in Kidlington and to her cousin June.

In the two last years of her life Helen was still a lively and entertaining conversationalist, even as her memory faded. After some difficult times in hospital she was looked after at home by the inestimable Emilia, with gentle firmness, endless patience and huge warmth and love. May we all be blessed with an Emilia at the ends of our lives.

Helen was a devoted member of this Parish, and the fact that her last act was to sing here at Evensong only hours before she died attests to a life lived on her own terms.





Friends of St Mary's, Iffley

Treasurer's Report on the Annual Accounts 2024-25

At the end of the 2024-25 financial year on 31 May 2025, FoSM's balance sheet showed total assets of £75,522. This is £4,299 above last year's total of £71,223. This level is well above the £60,000 that the Committee has agreed should be maintained as a reserve for urgent and essential works.

Iffley PCC did not request any grants during this financial year, in contrast to the £12,600 granted in the previous financial year. The Committee has, however, agreed to pay £13,500 towards the enhancements to the churchyard paths and paving. This will be recorded in the next financial year (2025-26).

Income from subscriptions, donations, and events remained healthy, though somewhat lower than the previous year. We are very grateful to members for their continued subscriptions and support of events. Gift Aid receipts were higher this year as they are based on last year's eligible donations.

Our regular events were well attended. We held a Summer Party in June 2024 and, with the Friends' Forum in December 2024, the Quiz in January 2025 and Poetry & Puddings in March 2025, we raised about £740 in total from these events. The Excursion in May 2025 was a very enjoyable trip to Waterperry Gardens and Rycote Chapel with expert commentary from Geoffrey Tyack. Expenses were considerably lower than in the previous year as we did not hire a coach. The excursion made a net profit of £76. We used the Ticket Tailor booking site, which proved very satisfactory and charged a lower commission than Eventbrite (which we used the previous year). Very many thanks to everyone who helped to organize and run these activities and to all who attended.

The CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Fund account benefited from continued high interest rates, though rates have fallen somewhat since last year. The CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund accumulation units increased in value slightly over the year despite unstable stock markets.

I am very grateful to the Committee for all their help and support, and particularly to David Wiles for his admirable work as Chair.

Ruth Dixon

Hon. Treasurer

July 2025

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY

Income and Expenditure Account 01/06/2024 to 31/05/2025

Income		2024-2025	2023-2024
Subscriptions and life memberships		£1,735.50	£2,265.50
Donations		£24.72	£675.42
Tax Refund from Gift Aid		£590.38	£423.13
Interest		£1,630.89	£1,739.61
Functions	Summer Party	£613.42	£557.00
	Forums/events	£681.00	£588.00
	Annual Excursion	£978.73	£2,147.05
Fundraising	Sale of cards/artwork at Forum	--	£107.00
	Sale of Christmas puddings	--	£553.88
Other		£1.00	--
Income total		£6,255.64	£9,056.59
Expenditure			
Grants to St Mary's PCC		--	£12,600.00
Insurance		£328.83	£328.83
Web expenses		£122.27	£143.82
Barclaycard reader and commission		£2.41	£40.31
Functions	AGM	£403.95	£368.01
	Summer Party	£248.04	£269.11
	Forums/events	£307.61	£271.75
	Annual Excursion	£902.50	£2,112.30
	Christmas puddings	--	£387.77
Other		£21.00	--
Expenditure total		£2,336.61	£16,521.90
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		£3,919.03	(£7,465.31)
Unrealised gains (losses) on investments		£379.66	£3,335.79
Surplus (deficit) after unrealised gains		£4,298.69	(£4,129.52)

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY

Balance Sheet as at 31/05/25

CURRENT ASSETS	2024-2025	2023-2024
Current Account, Barclays	£3,961.54	£1,668.93
CCLA CBF CofE Deposit Fund	£34,536.43	£32,910.01
CCLA CBF CofE Investment Fund (605.33 accumulation units)	£37,022.04	£36,642.38
Float	£2.00	£2.00
TOTAL ASSETS	£75,522.01	£71,223.32
TRANSFERS		
Credits to Barclays Current Account	--	£7,500.00
(Debits) from CCLA CofE Deposit Fund	--	(£7,500.00)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Opening balance	£71,223.32	£75,352.84
Surplus (deficit) after unrealised gains	£4,298.69	(£4,129.52)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	£75,522.01	£71,223.32

Ruth M. Dixon

Ruth M. Dixon
Hon. Treasurer

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY
Charity number 1094969

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of St Mary's, Iffley

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st May 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stuart Bates FCA CTA

10 Broad Street
Abingdon
Oxon
OX14 3LH

18th June 2025

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S, IFFLEY

CONSTITUTION

(As approved at the First Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2002; amended on 17 September 2022 and 24 September 2024.)

1) NAME

The name of the association shall be ‘The Friends of St Mary’s, Iffley’ (hereinafter called ‘The Friends’).

2) OBJECTS AND POWERS

a) The Friends is established to provide for:

the advancement of the Christian religion—in particular through the restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement and beautification of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Iffley, in the diocese of Oxford, and the monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in the Church and Churchyard belonging to the Church.

b) In furtherance of the said objects but not otherwise the Friends may:

i) Arrange and provide for or join in arranging and providing for the holding of meetings, events and excursions aimed at fostering social togetherness.

ii) Collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the objects.

iii) Cause to be written and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise, such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documentation or films or recorded tapes (whether audio or visual or both) as shall further the objects.

iv) Raise funds by any lawful means and through any lawful activity and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscriptions and otherwise, provided that the Friends shall not undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for the objects.

v) Make grants of money and gifts of other property to the clergy, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Iffley, exclusively for the purpose of the said objects, and generally assist those responsible for the care and maintenance of the Church.

vi) Invest the monies of the Friends not immediately required for the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.

vii) Do all such other lawful things as are conducive to the attainment of the said objects.

3) MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the Friends shall be open to all who are interested in furthering the work of the Friends and who have paid the annual subscription as laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee established under Clause 5 below.
- b) Honorary members may be appointed at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Honorary members shall not be entitled to vote.
- c) Every member over the age of 18 years shall have one vote.
- d) The Executive shall have the right:
 - i) To approve or reject applications for membership, and
 - ii) For good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any person provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee before a final decision is made.

4) HONORARY OFFICERS

- a) The incumbent of the benefice of St Mary the Virgin, Iffley, or, if the benefice is vacant, the priest or curate in charge of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, shall be President of the Friends and a member of the Executive Committee ex officio.
- b) At the Annual General Meeting hereinafter set out the Friends shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other Honorary Officers as the Friends shall from time to time decide.
- c) The Chair and the Honorary Officers of the Friends shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next after their election but shall be eligible for re-election provided that no Honorary Officer shall hold office for more than five consecutive years. On the expiration of such period one further year must elapse before any former Honorary Officer shall be eligible for re-election.
- d) The Chair and Honorary Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Friends, the Executive Committee and of any other committee.
- e) The Trustees of the Friends of St Mary's shall include the President, Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer and they shall be formally registered in this role with the Charity Commission.
- f) The Friends shall appoint one or more qualified auditors and may determine their remuneration (if any).

5) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) Subject as hereinafter mentioned the policy and general management of the affairs of the Friends shall be directed by an Executive Committee (hereinafter called 'the Committee') which shall meet not less than twice a year.
- b) The Committee shall consist of:

- i) The Honorary Officers;
 - ii) Two members of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Iffley, appointed annually by the Parochial Church Council at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Friends; and
 - iii) Not less than three or more than ten elected members.
- c) The elected members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Clause 6.
- d) Election to the Committee shall be for three years. One-third of the membership shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election, the members so to retire being those who have been longest in office since the last election but not reckoning ex officio members. As between members who have been in office the same length of time, those due to retire shall be chosen by lot.
- e) In addition to the members so elected and to those serving by virtue of Clause (b) or (d) the Committee may co-opt up to 3 further members being members of the Friends, who shall serve until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after individual co-option, provided that the number of co-opted members shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Committee at the time of co-option. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Committee.
- f) Any casual vacancy in the Committee may be filled up by the Committee and any person appointed to fill such a casual vacancy shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for election at that Meeting.
- g) The proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect or any defect in the election, appointment, co-option or qualification of any member.
- h) The Committee may appoint such special or standing committees as may be deemed necessary by the Committee and shall determine their terms of reference powers duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such special or standing committees shall be reported back to the Committee as soon as possible.

6) MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a) The first General Meeting of the Friends shall be held not later than the 21 September 2002 and once in each year thereafter an Annual General Meeting of the Friends shall be held at such time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting) and place as the Committee shall determine. At least 21 clear days' notice shall be given by displaying such notice on the Church notice board and by such other means as the Secretary thinks fit. At such Annual General Meeting the business shall include the election of Honorary Officers; the election of full members to serve on the Committee; the appointment of an auditor or auditors; the consideration of an Annual Report of the work done by or under the auspices of the Committee and of the audited accounts; and the transaction of such other matters as may from time to time be necessary.
- b) The Chair of the Committee may at any time at his/her discretion and the Secretary shall within 21 days of receiving a written request so to do, signed by not less than 10 members and giving reasons for the request, call a Special General Meeting.

7) NOMINATIONS OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Only members of the Friends shall be eligible to serve as Honorary Officers or members of the Committee. Nominations for Honorary Officers or members of the Committee may only be made by members of the Association, in writing, and must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by show of hands.

8) RULES OF PROCEDURE AT ALL MEETINGS

a) **Quorum:** There shall be a quorum at the meeting of the Friends (including Special General meetings and Annual General Meetings) when at least 20 members of the total actual membership of the Friends for the time being are present.

There shall be a quorum at a meeting of the Committee or any Committee appointed under clause 5(g) when at least one-third of the number of members of the Committee are present at the Meeting.

b) **Voting:** Save as otherwise herein provided, all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote but in case of an equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

c) **Minutes:** Minute books shall be kept by the Committee and all other committees, and the appropriate secretary shall enter therein a record of all proceedings and resolutions.

d) **Standing Orders and Rules:** The Committee shall have power to adopt and issue Standing Orders and/or Rules for the Friends. Such Standing Orders and/or Rules shall come into operation immediately, provided always that they shall be subject to review by the Friends in a General Meeting and shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

9) FINANCE

a) All monies raised by or on behalf of the Friends shall be applied to further the objects of the Friends and for no other purpose provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the repayment to members of the Committee or of any committee appointed under Clause 5(g) hereof of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

b) The Honorary Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Friends.

c) The accounts shall be audited at least once a year by the auditor or auditors appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

d) An audited Statement of the Accounts for the last financial year shall be submitted by the Committee to the Annual General Meeting as aforesaid.

e) A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Friends with Barclays Bank plc, or such other bank as the Committee shall from time to time decide. The Committee shall authorise in writing the Treasurer, the Chair and one or two other members of the Committee to sign cheques

and to authorise electronic payments on behalf of the Friends. All cheques must be signed by two of the authorised signatories. All electronic payments must be authorised by two of the authorised signatories.

10) ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any alteration of this Constitution shall receive the assent of not less than two-thirds of the membership of the Friends for the time being, whether individual or representative, present and voting at a meeting specially called for the purpose, provided that notice of any such alteration shall have been received by the Secretary in writing not less than 21 clear days before the meeting at which the alteration is to be proposed. At least 14 clear days' notice in writing of such a meeting, setting forth the terms of the alteration, shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Friends, provided that no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Friends to cease to be a Charity in law, and provided further that no amendment is made to Clause 2, 11 or this clause without the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.

11) DISSOLUTION

If the Committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on the grounds of expense, or otherwise, it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Friends it shall call a meeting of all members of the Friends who have the power to vote, of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the Resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If such decision shall be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at such meeting the Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Friends. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the object of the Friends as the Committee may determine.

12) NOTICES

Any notice may be served by the Secretary on any member either personally, by electronic mail or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to such member at his or her last known address in the United Kingdom and any letter so sent shall be deemed to have been received within ten working days of posting.

Membership List as of August 2025

Barbara Alderson
 Emma & Peter Anderson
 Wayne & Annette Arter
 Kevin Michael Armstrong
 Anna Barnett
 Bill & Sarah Beaver
 Margaret (Meg) Bent
 Susan Biddle
 Greg Birdseye
 Christian Bosselmann & Dorothea Stark
 Lorna Bourdeaux
 Sally Brodhurst
 David Broughton & Anna Di Stefano
 Timothy & Anna Brunton
 John Bryden
 Toby & Deborah Burrows
 Tim Charlton & Jan Marshall
 Jill & Peter Collett
 Catherine Cooper
 Vivienne Davis
 Trevor & Heather Dawn
 Anne & Graham Deighton
 Margaret Ruth Dennis
 Sally Dorriy
 Terence & Judith English
 Rachel & Julia Falconer
 John & Susan Farnell
 Rob & Bridget Farrands
 Martin & Helen Foreman
 Joerg Friedrichs & Louisa Gnatiuc
 Susie Furnivall
 Juliette Gammon
 Mark & Rachel Gibson
 Ann Giletti
 Edmund Gray
 Corinne Grimley Evans
 Geoffrey & Jill Guinness
 Alison Haill
 Elizabeth Harré
 Margaret Harrington
 John & Sylvia Harris
 Ursula Harrison
 Phil & Liz Hart
 Maxine Hedworth
 Sarah & Brian Helweg-Larsen
 Susy Jepson
 Jonathan Jones & Ruth Dixon
 Liz Julier
 Richard & A. Marie Kendall
 Jane Kelly
 Stephen & Alice Lawhead
 Patrick & Dione Lawrence
 Rosemary Helen Lea
 David Leonard
 Bruce & Sally Levell
 Graham & Janet Low
 Yong Qing Ma
 Ian & Pauline Maclean
 Eunice Martin
 Sue Mason
 Henry Mayr-Harting
 Andrew & Sarah McKearney
 Michael & Maureen McNaboe
 Stephen Michael
 David Miles & Elizabeth Bennett
 Dougall & Susan Morrison
 Diana Nettleton
 Sylvia Neumann
 Michael & Bridget Newman
 Barry & Stephanie Newsome
 Sheila Olliver
 Andrew & Mary Page
 Christopher Palmer & Julia Smith
 Sue Peach
 Hilary Pearson
 Rosie Penna
 Lydia Penwarden
 Anthony & Vicky Phillips
 Anne Phythian-Adams
 Caroline Pond
 Diana Porteus
 Helen Potts
 Laurence Reynolds
 Nick & Rumi Ringshall
 Viviane Robertson
 Maria Dolores (Lola) Rodriguez
 Peggy Seeger
 Susie Seville
 Andrew Shacknove & Katrina Robinson
 Nick & Pemma Spencer Chapman
 Michael & Susan Starks
 Blanche Stiff
 Mary Joan Tate
 Elizabeth Taylor
 Jane Christine Holmes Taylor
 Joan Townsend
 Sue Trevor-Wilson
 Rhiannon Trowell
 William & Penelope Twining
 Geoffrey & Penny Tyack
 Richard Vernon & Jenny Sakamoto
 Elizabeth Wells
 Mike Wells
 Troth Wells & William Beinart
 Alan Whitaker
 Phil & Emma Whiting
 David & Gayna Wiles
 John Wilkes & Susan Walker (Wilkes)
 Kathryn & David Wilkinson
 Emily Williams

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S, IFFLEY COMMITTEE

President: The Reverend Clare Hayns

Vice-President: Professor Henry Mayr-Harting

Committee Members (September 2024-25)

David Wiles, Chair

[Vacant] Vice-Chair

Ruth Dixon, Treasurer

Anna Di Stefano, Membership Secretary + catering

Juliette Gammon, Publicity

Kathryn Wilkinson, Minutes Secretary

David Patrick, then Kevin Armstrong, PCC Representative

Anne Wagner, PCC Representative

David Broughton, Website Manager

Liz Julier

Sue Trevor-Wilson

Lola Rodriguez

Report Designer: Ed Pritchard

Report Editor: David Wiles

Charity Number: 1094969

