



*The Friends of*  
**St Mary's Iffley**



**Annual Report 2023**



Front cover

Original art work by Cynthia Gabrielle ('Gub') Low 1919-1999, used with permission from Jane Low-Gameiro.

Detail of stained glass panel and grille to be conserved, south window 3. Photo: Jim Budd

## Chair's Report 2022-23

Dear Friends,

This year has seen a major change for St Mary's in the retirement in May 2023 of the Reverend Andrew McKearney, our Vicar and President of the Friends, and Sarah McKearney, Licensed Lay Minister of the church. We wish Andrew and Sarah all the very best for their retirement, not so far away in Radley, and thank them for their devoted service to our church and our community. Please see Andrew's letter to all of you on p.3. We now await a successor, to be appointed in the autumn for a new start in Iffley next year. Meanwhile we thank all who are working so hard in the interim period to keep the parish going, especially Parish Administrator Janet Low and Church Hall Bookings Secretary Lucy Phillips, both ever willing to help with answers to every question thus far posed.

Two serving officers of the Friends' Committee have resigned this year due to illness: our Vice-Chair Mark Phythian-Adams and Minutes Secretary Fran Deacon.

Very sadly, just as the Annual Report was being made ready for setting and printing, news came that Mark had died on August 2 following post-surgery complications. His death is a huge loss to the village and St Mary's communities, to the Friends of St Mary's, but most of all to his devoted family, Anne, a former Membership Secretary of the Friends, James, Alexander and Harry, to whom we send our most sincere condolences.

I am pleased to report that, though suffering much decreased mobility, Fran is still up for devising an excellent quiz (see p.9). I am delighted to welcome Louisa Friedrichs to the Committee. Louisa has kindly offered to take on the arduous task of minuting our meetings.

We heard an excellent lecture at last September's AGM by Professor Naomi Sykes of the University of Exeter, whose interdisciplinary work on animals at the time of the Norman Conquest is both innovative and fascinating. At Friends' Forum in December 2022, we heard a most informative and entertaining paper by local historian Liz Woolley on the connections between local products and local politics in nineteenth-century Oxford. An abridged version appears on pp. 5-8. We enjoyed a particularly powerful edition of Poetry and Puddings in March 2023, and an interesting and very agreeable excursion to see four churches of West Berkshire at the end of April, led by the inimitable Dr Geoffrey Tyack. In May we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with an excellent programme of music and a tea in the Church Hall, organised by our fellow village societies the Friends of Iffley Village and the Music and History Societies. The Church Hall was also the venue for our Summer Party in June, the setting much enhanced by beautiful table decorations of fresh flowers, created by our Treasurer, Ruth Dixon.

Much has been happening with the church and churchyard. In this year we have funded further improvements to the church lighting, and, having also funded a survey of the stained glass of St Mary's, we agreed to contribute to the cost of consequent repairs, mostly to the fittings, frames and grilles. We have also agreed to help fund a survey of the church within its surrounding churchyard, a matter of particular significance as work on the redevelopment of the adjacent Court

Place proceeds and we shall need to welcome visitors who enter the churchyard from the south, having followed the new pathway through Court Place Gardens from Rivermead Nature Reserve. We are most grateful for donations to St Mary's made at the funeral of our late Friend, Barbara Nichols, and for a further donation in memory of our former Chair, George Locke. A tribute to Barbara from her children, first published in the March edition of the Parish Magazine, is included in the report. Also published here are tributes to other, much-missed Friends we have lost this year: Hamish Scott, Oonah Elliott and Kate Griffin, and an abridged version of a remarkable memoir written by the late Joe Olliver, who served many years as our Membership Secretary.

I draw your attention to an amendment agreed at the Annual General Meeting of 2022 to article 9b of the Friends of St Mary's Constitution (pp.35-39), which brings our banking practices into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I thank all members of the Committee for their tireless work on behalf of the Friends, and all of you for joining us in our work to help maintain our uniquely beautiful church. Please do encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Friends of St Mary's!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Walker

Chair, Friends of St Mary's, Iffley  
July 30, updated August 3, 2023

## President's Final Report

It has been a privilege to be the president of The Friends of St Mary's from 2006 when I arrived until 2023 when I retired as the vicar of Iffley. We've done a lot together in that time.

First and foremost, there's been our care for the building that we all love. For a number of years, the Parochial Church Council developed an enhancements programme to which The Friends contributed by paying for new internal lighting (£15k), further lighting improvements (£3.2k), internal lime plaster patching (£1.6k) and contributing towards the shelter coat of the West front (£5k) and repairs to the font (£1k). There have also been more routine repairs to two merlons (£1.3k) and a condition report commissioned on the glazing at St Mary's (£350), also funded by The Friends.

Another project that The Friends have funded has been the highly acclaimed new Guide book and associated archaeological survey together with the subsequent reprint (£11.1k).

Then in 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, the church suffered a break-in with entry being forced through one of the stained-glass windows. The finances of the Parochial Church Council were particularly tight because both the church and the hall had to be closed due to the pandemic. The Friends showed themselves to be true friends during the difficulties of the pandemic in two ways; by paying for the excess on the church's insurance policy (£500) for the stained-glass window repairs, and when the numbers of attendees at weddings, funerals and public worship were severely restricted, by financing the live streaming equipment, installation and attendant costs (£4.5k), that were and continue to be greatly appreciated.

Friendship has been at the heart of our relationship. There's been an institutional friendship between St Mary's as a church and The Friends as a charity which has resulted in some £43.5k being generously donated over these years by The Friends to the Parochial Church Council for the projects listed above. But that has been based on a friendship between people, built up through meetings, outings, quiz nights, lectures, poetry evenings and many other social and fund-raising activities. These have been both interesting and enjoyable and friendships have developed which have been of benefit not just to St Mary's and The Friends, but to the whole community.

It has been a real pleasure to be part of this as the president of The Friends. Thank you so much for all your support and friendship.

Andrew McKearney



## *Friends of St Mary's Annual General Meeting 2022*

### **Animals and the Norman Conquest Professor Naomi Sykes**

Naomi Sykes, Lawrence Professor of Archaeology at the University of Exeter, very kindly accepted the invitation to come to talk to the Friends of St Mary's at our AGM on 17 September 2022. Naomi's research focuses on interactions between humans, animals and the landscape and how these relationships inform the structure, ideology and environmental impact of societies, past and present. Her approach is to integrate archaeological data with wider scientific evidence (especially DNA and stable isotope analysis) and discussions from anthropology, cultural geography, (art) history and linguistics. She has undertaken extensive research on wild/introduced animal exploitation, particularly within the context of medieval Europe.

Naomi's work on the zooarchaeology of the Norman Conquest suggested that 1066 was not, as is widely perceived, archaeologically invisible but rather accompanied by clear social, ideological and ecological change.

A sparkling, pacy lecture covered a lot of ground very quickly, without leaving the audience stranded in a deer park!

If you'd like to learn more about Naomi's research, check Professor Naomi Sykes | Archaeology | University of Exeter and follow the link to her book, *Beastly Questions: Animal Answers to Archaeological Issues*, published by Bloomsbury in 2014.



A banquet with fish (then a novelty) is blessed by Bishop Odo, Bayeux Tapestry

## *Friends' Forum 2022*

Chair's note: Below is an abridged version of the informative and entertaining talk given by local historian Liz Woolley to FoSM members at Friends' Forum in December 2022.

We also heard a presentation by Muireann Speed on behalf of Oxford Food Crew, an alliance of nine grassroots organisations working towards a shared aim: that everyone in OX4 has enough food, is well nourished and can thrive. See <https://www.ox4foodcrew.co.uk> for more on this excellent project, itself well-nourished and thriving.

### **Beer, Sausages, Bread and Marmalade Beer**

Brewing has been big business in Oxford since medieval times. In the 1700s several great brewing families emerged, all related by marriage: the Tawneys, Halls, Treachers and Morrells. They employed many people, they were landlords, they did philanthropic work in their local communities, and they influenced how Oxford was run by sitting on the City Corporation and even becoming MPs.

Beer had always been the popular drink of the masses—much safer than water before the advent of a proper mains system, and in the 19th century beer was promoted by those keen to see a reduction in social disorder. The Beerhouse Act of 1830 abolished duty on beer and encouraged an increase in the number of outlets selling the drink, while the arrival of the railway in Oxford in 1844 allowed the establishment of new breweries.

By 1875, there were eight large breweries. Many colleges had their own brewhouses, as did the Radcliffe Infirmary, brewing small beer for patients and ale for the staff. Any strong beer not fit for drinking was used for poultices.

Oxford's population doubled between 1851 and 1901. By 1883, at least 319 licensed premises in Oxford served a population of about 42,000. St Thomas to the west of the city centre had been the centre of Oxford's brewing industry since medieval times. With streams to provide water both for liquor and for power, by the late 19th century four main commercial breweries were established there: Swan, Eagle, Lion and Philips Tower.

The Lion Brewery was built on a site which had housed commercial brewing since at least 1597. Richard Tawney took it over in 1743. His younger brother Edward Tawney built a fine town house near the brewery, on Fisher Row. Like his father and brother, Tawney was Mayor of Oxford, in his case three times. He built almshouses and left £5,000 for their upkeep. Shortly before he died in 1800, Tawney took Mark and James Morrell into partnership, and they bought him out of the business.

Thus began the great Morrell brewing dynasty which remained at Lion Brewery for over 200 years. Morrell's relied initially on waterpower, with several water wheels onsite, of which only one remains today. In 1901 new coal-fired boilers were installed. One chimney has been retained and restored in the housing development which now occupies the site following the closure of the brewery in 1998.

By the late nineteenth century, Oxford had been developed as a tourist destination. The city's breweries were quick to advertise their products to locals and visitors.

Many who worked at Lion Brewery also rented their houses from it. As many employees went to fight in the First World War, from 1916 the company was obliged to employ women. Dressed in

heavy leather aprons, gaiters and clogs, they were mainly employed in bottling. The Morrells were prominent, philanthropic and charitable citizens. Most people in Oxford at least would have known their name, if not enjoyed some direct connection with the family.

James Morrell moved into Edward Tawney's town house near the brewery. But after his wife died, he moved his three surviving children to a healthy country estate in Headington, where he built what was to become Headington Hill Hall, the family seat until 1953. Herbert Morrell became High Sheriff of Oxfordshire and MP for MidOxfordshire in 1895. Morrell Avenue was built at the southern side of South Park, land given by the Morrells to the city.

Adjacent to the Lion Brewery in St Thomas's was the Swan's Nest Brewery, first recorded in 1718. In the later 18th century, the Swan Brewery was owned by Sir John Treacher, alderman and mayor of Oxford. He sold it, with associated pubs, to William Hall in 1795.

Hall's brewery prospered, and towards the end of the 19th century took over all but Morrell's breweries in Oxford.

Like the Morrell family, the Halls were involved in politics. In the 1874 parliamentary election the two sitting Liberal MPs were opposed by the brewer Alexander Hall, a Conservative. Local publicans, traditionally Liberal voters, defected *en masse* to the Tories: 380 of 400 voted for Hall and he was elected as the first Conservative MP in Oxford for almost 30 years. Men's voting preferences were often influenced by their employers, and candidates were not beyond trying to curry favour with other voters, too. The campaign of 1880 was dominated by allegations of electoral malpractice on both sides.

In the late 19th century, Hall's took over Hanley's City Brewery, founded in the 1850s by Daniel Hanley, later Oxford's first Catholic mayor. Hanley's 'Square Room' fronting onto Pembroke Street, was designed by the prolific Oxford brewery and pub architect, inappropriately named Mr Drinkwater. In 1966 it became the Museum of Modern Art (now Modern Art Oxford).

## Sausages

Oxford was a county town with an agricultural hinterland. A market centre for locally produced goods, Oxford was particularly known for 'The Oxford Sausage'. An Oxford Alderman was asked by a parliamentary committee: 'Do you have any manufacturies at Oxford?' 'Oh yes sir,' he replied, 'we have two—parsons and sausages.'

The Oxford Sausage was said to have been invented by Dorothy Spreadbury in the mid- 18th century. She used a mixture of pork and veal, seasoned with lemon, herbs and spices. The sausages were skinless, hand-formed into a crescent shape and floured before frying.

Mrs Beeton chose the Oxford as the ideal sausage in her 1861 *Book of Household Management*. The recipe thereby reached a much wider audience, and thereafter many more Oxford butchers began to produce Oxford Sausages.

## Bread

Oxford was also a market centre for grain. Twenty corn merchants were listed in the Oxford trade directory of 1875, several of whom, like the brewers and butchers, were involved in local politics. As mayor, Isaac Grubb refused to have 'that bauble', namely the city mace, carried before him when he attended Carfax Church. He also refused to don ceremonial dress because he had no mind to make a 'tom fool' of himself. Highly dismissive of the university, he boasted that he had never done a 'penn'orth of business' with the colleges, having 'no connection with the University, and nothing for which to thank any member thereof'. However, Grubb's business dealings



prompted one of Oxford's last major riots in 1867. Citizens claimed that bread was being sold by Grubb more cheaply to colleges than to the public. A detachment of Guards was sent from Windsor to quell the rioting and the issue was hotly pursued in the national press. Peace was soon restored by a reduction in bread prices.

This incident is an interesting illustration of the importance of food prices, particularly in a city like Oxford where wages for ordinary working people were notoriously low and widespread unemployment during the long university vacations was a chronic and debilitating problem.

Grocers and provisions merchants also included prominent citizens of political influence, such as Charles Underhill, Mayor of Oxford in 1887, and his son Sydney, mayor in 1910. James Hughes, co-founder of Grimby Hughes, was six times Mayor of Oxford. He presented the mayoral chain to the city, which is still in use.

## Marmalade

Another well-known 19th-century grocer was Francis Cooper, with a shop in the High Street, inherited by his son Frank in 1867. Seven years later, Frank's wife Sarah made 76lb of marmalade to her secret recipe, and what the family could not eat was sold in the shop. The strong-tasting marmalade proved popular, even attracting royal patronage. Mrs Cooper began commercial production of what Frank Cooper named the 'Oxford' Marmalade, moving in 1902 to a larger, purpose-built factory on Park End Street. Cooper attracted custom from the prominent location of the factory opposite two railway stations. Raw ingredients—sugar and oranges—were conveniently delivered by rail. Frank Cooper visited Spain annually to inspect the Seville orange groves before placing an order. The company employed up to sixty workers. Marmalade was despatched by rail across the country and the Empire. Frank Cooper vigorously promoted his products. He commissioned the well-known Oxford photographer Henry Taunt to produce a city guidebook, in which a chapter entitled '*Gastronomical Oxford*' makes brief mention of Oxford sausages but offers a longer account of Frank Cooper's marmalade. Cooper invited tourists to visit the factory. He emphasised the home-made purity and healthgiving properties of his marmalade, as well as its upper-class appeal. Captain Scott famously took Cooper's marmalade to the Antarctic, and the spy Kim Philby, after his defection to Moscow in the 1950s, was kept supplied with his favourite brand of Frank Cooper's Oxford marmalade by KGB agents operating in Britain.



Frank

Cooper's Marmalade Factory, detail of oranges on the façade Photo: Liz Woolley

In conclusion, the retailing of food in Oxford changed over the 19th century due to an expanding population, the development of North Oxford as a middle-class residential centre, and a burgeoning tourist trade. Families involved in the production and supply of beer, meat, bread, and groceries brought wealth into the city, and were employers, landlords, dispensers of charity, and politicians. Many are remembered in street names throughout the city. Their products supplied local markets within Oxford and across the county, but increasingly the city became known for certain specialities which were sold further afield, and to the growing number of visitors who could enjoy Oxford marmalade at breakfast, Oxford sausages at midday, and a bottle of Oxford beer with their evening meal.

*Liz Woolley,  
December 2022*

## Quiz Night January 2023

We greatly missed the sparkling presence of our Quizmaster Fran Deacon, but I'm pleased to report that a debilitating illness has in no way dimmed Fran's skill at devising quizzes. This year's quiz was exceptional, set at just the right level for our participants to enjoy and feel ever-so-slightly tested. The session was jointly chaired by our former Vice-Chair Bill Beaver and the current Chair Susan Walker. Predictable chaos ensued, but our redoubtable treasurer Ruth Dixon provided a prize divisible in four so each member of the winning team could enjoy it.

After a close-fought context between Hoi Polloi, Pond Life and the Purple Pasties, the far-from-Hoi-Polloi were declared the winners! Congratulations to them and to all the teams, nine in total, for taking part and dreaming up such splendidly silly names.

For those of you who missed out, what was the occupation of Charles Dickens's father?





## Poetry and Puddings 2023

*This year saw a splendid choice of poems, including this excellent composition by Katrina Gaye Robinson, which is reprinted here with an introduction by Katrina.*

Iffley and Oxford are a long way inland, but the Isis/Thames flows directly into the North Sea. How we look after our watercourses large and small on our 'island of rivers' affects not only the seas and oceans surrounding us, but also those who make a living from them ' . . . *those in peril on the sea . . .*' as the famous hymn says. Some northern fishing communities – living daily with the sheer danger of their livelihood - knitted unique patterns into the jerseys worn by seafarers to identify them should they be lost – and many were. The poem's reference to this practice I'm hoping to excuse as 'artistic licence'!

I'm familiar with the Isles of Scilly – five of the many inhabited islands surrounding our coasts – and always go to special places there each time I'm lucky enough to visit.

The churchyard on the island of Bryher is one of those places, full of the names of local families over the centuries who lived by and from the sea in one of Britain's most dangerous maritime environments.

On a small plaque just inside the wooden gate into the churchyard is this simple memorial:

**Kenneth Sidney Crawley  
1928 – April 2005  
LOST AT SEA  
'Anything but Ordinary'**

At the age of 77 he was still a seafarer and in April 2005 joined many other Scilly islanders who died in their place of work and were never found and brought home. In a sense they were 'at home' because of the intimacy of the islanders' relationship with the sea.

Thinking about Kenneth Sidney Crawley and those who had this beautiful and simple memorial made for him, I wondered how people cope with the loss of someone who is never found – and their different ways of remembering those they loved. This short poem is just about one possible way of keeping memory alive and close . . .

## Lost at Sea

When the west wind warms the shore, it's a fine day!  
Wave crests sparkle and seabirds soar and cry.  
On a fine day too, sails set fair and fully burthened,  
your square-rigged clipper skimmed the sea,  
racing from view to far southern waters.  
Now my heart traces every thread of the wave-worn jersey  
brought back to me,  
your village, name and history close-knitted into every stitch,  
both talisman and testament of fate.

When the east wind pounds the bay  
the waves run white-capped, no birds fly -  
waiting it out, facing it out on sheltered harbour walls instead -  
like all who make a living from the sea.  
I see far oceans, distant shores where you breathed freely,  
felt the sun,  
now are swayed in cool kelp forests  
as our own woodlands held us once, in green-gold dappled shade.

Waves break, tides turn, seasons change -  
But you are still alive to me, bound by deep water  
as we ever were, tossed or rocked so gently in its embrace  
as in those arms I loved so much.

As years go by, until the winds cease to blow, waves break and tides  
turn, you will always be alive to me.

*Katrina Gaye Robinson*  
*February 2023*

## *Annual Excursion 2023 to the churches of West Berkshire*

Having discovered in 2022 that a short, more focused excursion delivers dividends of time, relaxation and a local focus on interlinked churches, the scope of a tour of Berkshire planned in 2020 was cut in two. On a sunny Saturday in late April we travelled to Avington, East Shefford, East Garston and Lambourn in the company of our expert guide, Dr Geoffrey Tyack.

At the Church of St Mark and St Luke, Avington, owned since 1981 by Lord Howard de Walden, we encountered an unexpected problem of access, soon resolved by Jonathan Jones's clever networking and the most affable help from the landowner Peter Czernin. Meanwhile we all enjoyed the churchyard and its bucolic surroundings, enhanced by birdsong and spring flowers. Once inside the small, largely unrestored Romanesque church, we enjoyed an architectural gem, with an ornately decorated chancel arch. The Norman, barrel-shaped font presents a splendid array of thirteen figures carved within an arcade. For eager puzzle-solvers, their identity is still disputed... Only the porch, with its nail-studded oak door, dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the vestry from the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The church of St Thomas, East Shefford offers a similarly bucolic rural setting at an ancient crossing of the river Lambourn. Here the nave walls may go back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and the earliest wall-paintings to about 1100. The church is dominated by monuments to the Fettiplace family, who are first recorded in 13<sup>th</sup>-century Oxford. We admired the tombs of John and Dorothy Fettiplace, commissioned about 1524 of Purbeck marble, and of Sir Thomas and Lady Beatrice, commissioned about 1450 in Derbyshire alabaster. We are very grateful to local landowners Myrle and Clive Povey for making us so welcome.

After lunch at the Queen's Lodge of the Queen's Arms, East Garston, we visited All Saints Church, adjacent to the manor house at the western end of the village. This church has a fine Norman south door and much-revised carving around the chancel arch but is principally of interest for the outstanding quality of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century wall-paintings and stained glass by Lavers, Barrauld and Westlake in collaboration with J. F. Bentley, the architect of Westminster Cathedral.

All Saints and St Michael's Lambourn, the latter our final destination, both fall within the parish of the Reverend Julie Mintern, and meeting the Reverend Julie was a highlight of the day! She hosted us for tea at St Michael's, a cruciform church at the centre of Lambourn built about 1175-90. The capitals of the nave aisles are very similar to those of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. There was much remodelling of this impressive, large church over the succeeding centuries, making it a microcosm of local history and English church architecture and furniture. Of many interesting monuments, a modest alabaster medallion of Charles I, one of three commissioned in 1649 to mark his martyrdom, somehow survived in the royalist centre of Lambourn.

Next year, we intend to pick up the east Berkshire arm of the tour. In contrast to Friends' events in Iffley, for the excursion we are dependent on coach companies and hostelries capable of accommodating large groups. This year we saw considerable price inflation on both fronts. We'll make every effort to alleviate this problem next year, without detracting from the quality of the tour.





Geoffrey Tyack addresses Friends visiting All Saints, East Garston





The bell-ringers of St Mary's perform at Iffley's Coronation Concert on 7<sup>th</sup> May

Liz Taylor-Awny, Eunice Martin and Judith English have enjoyed the summer party supper.

Flowers by Ruth Dixon, photo by Virginia Talbot, visiting from Massachusetts.





## *Hamish Marshall Scott*

12.7.1946-7.12.2022

*Francis Andrews, Thoughts from Scotland*

Everyone here will have their own memories of Hamish; each of his vast and varied circle of family, friends and colleagues will recall different moments of wise counsel, deep generosity; a man of great empathy and acute observation; happy memories garnered over dinner, a concert or a country walk, at a meeting or after a seminar; the twinkle in his eye. All I can do now is convey an impression, *something* of what a wonderful man he was.

The public, abbreviated version of Hamish's career runs from School and University in Edinburgh; postgraduate research at the LSE, teaching at the University of Birmingham in the 1970s and then 30 years at St Andrews, retiring as Wardlaw Professor of International History, that 'Wardlaw' tag a mark of esteem from the University after his election as a Fellow of the British Academy. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a member of the European Academy, and in recent years he was a Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College, here in Oxford. It was a full and impressive career, but there was so much more to Hamish than this. Wherever he went he was a builder of community and of strong friendships. Colleagues from the 1970s describe very happy times working and socialising together, shared picnics, Hamish reliably going out of his way to help, whether hands-on with a house move—the man with the van—or accompanying a new member of staff to their first lecture.

Hamish was always an inspirational teacher. Janet Hartley recalls Dr Scott coming to her all-girls school in 1971, 'young, handsome and a *man*', with whom all the girls 'fell in love on the spot'. Over fifty years on she can still remember his talk, one that replaced the usual repetition of facts with an *interpretation*, a 'revelation that this was what history could be'. Robert Frost writes of him arriving in St Andrews and turning out to be a 'terrific teacher, because he had the patience to listen, was always judicious in his advice, and had a way of telling you that you were havoring while seeming to praise you'. Despite his own dedicated work routine and voracious reading, from detective fiction to the latest Past & Present, Hamish enabled the careers of innumerable other historians, from emeritus professors to current doctoral candidates. As a mentor, a brilliant editor, or an ear in a crisis, Hamish spent much of his life attentive to others, including retired colleagues: in St Andrews, he regularly drove a beloved former colleague, Peter Branscombe, to concerts. There were innumerable other such acts of selfless generosity. But Hamish, always self-deprecating, made little of this.

My own knowledge of Hamish began only in 1995, when Julia and I joined St Andrews on the same day. I soon got to know him as a supportive senior colleague, one with whom I could discuss our newly fledged School over chatty lunches in town, on hill walks, or at concerts, always with a lively critique of the music on our return journey. Indeed, music was a very important part of who Hamish was, his tastes ranging from baroque recitals to vast Wagnerian set pieces. Our conversations sometimes surprised me: on one occasion he revealed that he loved digging. Having not long since acquired a garden, I was very happy to oblige and Hamish turned up with immaculate boots and proceeded to turn our vegetable patch into a marvel of order. He declared

this insufficiently strenuous exercise, however, and moved on to dig a deep pond: it still flourishes and has ever since been affectionately known as Hamish's Hole.

After Julia and Hamish got together two decades ago, it was a joy to be a witness to their wedding in the romantic heart of Venice. Characteristic of their kindness was the invitation to stay with them in the city, even including a gloriously giddy gondola trip. But Hamish was of course ever the historian, keenly interested in the history of the city through which we were floating.

Hamish understood where the boundaries between public and private lay. British Academy colleagues recall his sound advice and wisdom, his ability to get to straight to the heart of the matter. One contrasts the 'judicious, calm, and conciliatory' Hamish of meetings, 'gently cooling down heated discussions and making constructive suggestions', with the private Hamish afterwards: 'gossipy, [and] amusingly perceptive on the personalities, and issues beneath the surface'.

Let me end by saying that the private Hamish was a kind, loving man, a wonderful husband to Julia, a good cook, a reliable friend and generous mentor. He left us in the midst of busy-ness, living a well-rounded life. It is hard to take in that he is not here, ready to offer advice and support and make us smile once more.



Hamish Scott in Somerset, 2021

## *Barbara Elizabeth Nichols*

14.6.1929-25.1.2023

*From the funeral eulogy by her children*

Our mother was amazing! Wonderfully humble, terrifyingly bright and a constant support to us all.

Born in Bromley, Kent, on 14 June 1929, a sister to Kay and John, Barbara was a real beauty. Her schooldays on the Wirral, where the family moved with her father's job in the bank, were filled with a fierce love of PE, particularly hockey, and yet she also excelled in the classroom. She was one of those wonderfully annoying all-rounders— brilliant at everything and also lovely, and was inevitably head girl at West Kirby High.

When mum was only 17 her own mother—of whom she always spoke with great tenderness—died of a heart attack. By this time Kay and John had left home.

Mum wanted to follow her love of PE but her very traditional and ambitious father insisted on a more academic route, and so she studied maths and then gained a teaching qualification at Bedford College, London University.

It was in London that she met Raymond Nichols, a keen sportsman with a winning smile and a love of Jesus—the perfect match, although not according to her father and stepmother! They were married in 1953 and moved to Childwall in Liverpool to take up dad's first position in the church. Two years later their first child, Suzie, was born.

Then, with Suzie just 14 months old, mum and dad left the familiarity of Liverpool for the foothills of Mount Kenya, where dad served as chaplain in two churches 100 miles apart, tirelessly supported by mum. This move has always been talked about in our family in such a matter-of-fact way, but how brave to travel so far to such a remote place with a young child!

Over the next four years, as dad continued his work in the church in rural Kenya, the family grew—Janie, born in Nanyuki in 1957 and Paul in Nyeri in 1959—with mum, as always, supporting everyone. A move to Nairobi came in 1960 and Deb arrived to complete the family in 1963.

This time in Kenya must have been incredibly hard for mum, away from family and friends, with a growing family of her own, but she loved it! Throughout her life she proudly responded in Swahili to various situations and continued to give prayerful and financial support to various projects.

Back home in Mill Hill, London, in 1964, dad worked for the Christian publishing company SPCK in a role that required him to travel extensively and for long periods. During these ten years living in Mill Hill, with dad so often away, mum's life was extremely busy looking after the four children, whilst also teaching maths at the local St Mary's Abbey School.

Family holidays in the Lake District at Easter and Wales in the summer were precious times together!

The next move in 1974 to the Abbey Church in Dorchester-on-Thames saw mum teaching full time at Our Lady's Convent School in Abingdon, caring for teenage children, singing in the Abbey choir and being a Vicar's wife—that's at least three full-time jobs.

In their so well-deserved retirement, starting in Cerne Abbas in 1987 with their beloved dog Bracken and later in Iffley from 2008, mum and dad enjoyed indulging in two of their great loves, music and travel. Together they set up the Cerne Abbas Music Festival with the Gaudier Ensemble, mum sang in various choirs, and they travelled to see friends around the world, back in Kenya, and to the Cayman Islands, America, Menorca and Canada. Gatherings of the ever-growing family, for anniversaries and Christmas, gave mum huge joy!

Following dad's death in 2014 mum's own health began to deteriorate and, following a fall in 2017, she spent much of her final years being wonderfully cared for in the Sanctuary Care Home in Iffley, visited frequently by the family and friends who she loved so dearly.



Barbara Nichols



## *Memories of My Early Life*

by Joe Olliver

29 July 1929 – 2 February 2023

I was born in the European Hospital, Tabora in Tanzania, then Tanganyika, on the 29th of July 1929 at 2 o'clock in the morning. At that time there were no European doctors or nurses around and I was ushered into the world by Miriam, a very large and jolly African midwife. I used to meet her many years later and she would say 'Eh, Bwana Joseph, mtoto wangu, nakukumbuka vizuri sana, kwa sababu ulikuwa mtoto mkubwa kweli'—'Joseph, my pet, I remember you very well—you were truly enormous.' At 10 pounds and a bit I probably was a bit bigger than the infants she delivered in her shifts at the African Hospital.

My father George Olliver was an Assistant Superintendent in the Tanganyika Police. He had served throughout the Great War in the Grenadier Guards, got a battlefield commission at the age of 21 and spent some time as an ADC to the Prince of Wales. He received shrapnel wounds, one fragment of which was to cause his death some 45 years later. He left the army in 1920, having been to Russia as part of the curious British contingent sent there in the aftermath of the Revolution, to join the British Somaliland Police. Here he was engaged in another small war against the so-called Mad Mullah— they had fanatical jihadists even in those days. In 1925 he transferred to the Tanganyika Police. On the boat out he met my mother, Adelaide Elizabeth Davy, who was on her way to visit friends on a farm at a place called Equator in Kenya. I have no idea how they managed their intervening courtship, but they were married in London in 1928. My father was the usual casual Anglican, but my mother was a devout Catholic—a mixed marriage which was to have a significant effect on my life.

I duly arrived in 1929, but did my best to effect an early departure at 4 months by swallowing a fly, leading to an attack of dysentery. I was told that at six months I was back to my birth weight, and that my survival was despaired of. At this point my father was transferred to Dar-es-Salaam, a two-day rail journey away. It was the rainy season and halfway there the line had been washed away, leading to a further 48-hour delay. Drinking water ran out and passengers, including me, were supplied with water from the engine. From then on I started to thrive again and never looked back.

Colonial service in those days was punctuated by 6 months leave every 30 months of service, during which postings to several different stations were the rule. My first real memories are of a place called Arusha, in Northern Tanganyika, within sight of Kilimanjaro. We lived in the Boma—the fort-like administrative centre built by the Germans. I had acquired a sister by then, Anne, born in Dar-es-Salaam in March 1933. I still remember with affection our nurse maid Alida, a young Afrikaner girl from the strange reclusive settlement of South African Boers that survived from German times.

My strongest early memories begin at a place called Kigoma, a port on Lake Tanganyika. It was an exciting place to be for a 6 year old, as it was the gateway to the Belgian Congo, with lake steamers constantly coming and going. I had several short trips on the 'Liemba'—the ship which appeared in the 'African Queen' film—which had once belonged to the Germans. I can remember hearing of the death of George V, the accession of Edward VIII, and the accession of George VI. There were

about three other European children in the town, all younger than me. My education consisted of one-to-one lessons from a French nun at the Catholic mission. From Kigoma we moved to Dar-es-Salaam for a few months before going on leave. This was another well remembered journey—home via the Cape, calling at many places on the way. Lourenço Marques, like a European city, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, where we went up Table Mountain by cable car. At St. Helena I walked up Jacob's Ladder, the 600-step stairway leading to Government House and had afternoon tea at the house where Napoleon was imprisoned and died. Then to Ascension Island, where we were not allowed to land, Las Palmas and finally Southampton...

...I left school with a distinction in maths and, as I was due for military service when I was 18, the problem was finding something to do. My father was friendly with the Director of Surveys, who, when he heard of my situation, offered to take me on for 6 months.

On the 2nd of January 1947 I arrived in Dar-es-Salaam to take up the post of acting Junior Surveyor in the Survey Department at a salary of £230 a year. I was met, and taken to the Junior Surveyors Mess, the first floor of an old Arab building just outside the dock gates. It was built of coral blocks, with walls 6 feet thick. It didn't have glass windows, only wooden shutters which, for the sake of coolness, were never closed. The cement floors had a concave dip in them, so when it rained we acquired a lake in the middle of the floor. My father had worked in this same building 20 years before, when it had belonged to the Police, but they were moved out because it was condemned. There were no cooking facilities, but I had all my meals at the nearby Splendid Hotel, which charged me a special rate of Shs.140/- a month, because the Greek owner knew my father. The only bathing facility was a cold shower, but that was not a hardship in that climate.

Work consisted of accompanying a senior surveyor engaged on producing a detailed large-scale contour map as a basis for the town planners to produce a scheme for the post-war development of the town. I got to learn the handling of instruments, how to take measurements and how to do the calculations involved. There were mechanical calculating machines then, but I didn't qualify for one, so it was all done using thick tables of 7-figure logarithms. When I mentioned the fact that I would be called-up shortly I was told that I was in a reserved occupation and would be doing my service in the Department. I was regarded as being sufficiently trained to do some useful work, and on my 18th birthday I was sent to an area on the edge of Masailand to produce a plane table map of the northern unit of the groundnut scheme. This was my first safari, and on arrival at my first camp site my staff knew exactly what to do. They put up the tents, mine and theirs, and built a kitchen and a lavatory for me. Locals soon appeared bearing chickens and eggs and even a goat for sale. Chickens were 50 cents (6d) each, eggs a hundred for a shilling, the size of pigeons eggs and many of them beyond their use by date. My cook, Juma bin Alimasi, who had been with the family since I was a baby, and had been sent by my mother to look after me, bought half a dozen chickens. A stout enclosure of thorn branches was built for them. After dinner I went to bed, and to sleep. Shortly afterwards I was awoken by the sound of panic-stricken chickens running around the clearing. Their pen had obviously been broached by a leopard, who was intent on catching his dinner. I was disconcerted by the attempt of one chicken to gain safety in my tent. Alas, to no avail. The leopard caught it at a point between the inner and outer fly of the tent, separated from me by a thin canvas wall. I had to lie there listening to the creature crunching away at his prey just inches from my head. I spent the rest of the night hoping that his thoughts would not turn to a meatier prey lying behind a flimsy layer, although in reality leopards are rarely man-eaters.

Back in Dar-es-Salaam I returned to township projects for a while, the main one setting out the highway to the new international airport. A lovely long straight line. The route passed almost entirely through coconut plantations. If a tree obstructed the line of site I just had it taken down—a tree was just a tree. Bad move—a coconut palm is valuable property, and compensation was involved. Questions were asked in Legislative Council, and I was severely carpeted. Thereafter I had to adopt the appropriate and tedious strategy of setting out a straight line through obstacles.

In July 1948, by coincidence on my nineteenth birthday, I was sent to produce a topographical map of a half-degree square (approximately 1,000 square miles) in an area near Lake Victoria. It was reckoned to take 9 months. Mapping from aerial photographs had only just started and was very expensive, much more than a junior surveyor's salary for that period. The map was required for planning the development of part of the Sukumaland Federation, a co-operative assembly of some 20 chiefs. I had with me a permanent staff of five Africans—a headman and four chainmen. The area to be covered was divided between cultivation and a type of open savanna forest known as miombo, swarming with game and tsetse fly. Since there was only one road through the area it was decided that a motor vehicle was not required and movement and transportation would be by locally recruited porters.

It was a very malarial area and I had several bouts of it and eventually succumbed to an attack of jaundice, for which Ramathani hired a lorry from an Indian trader and drove me to hospital in Mwanza. I had only half-finished the task, but was pulled off it and given sick leave, which I spent with my family, once again in Tabora. Unbeknown to me my mother fired off an indignant letter, castigating the Director for lack of what would now be called duty of care.

The rest of my tour was spent on township work in various places—Dodoma, Shinyanga, and finally, a very pleasant spell in Mwanza.

In September 1949 my tour of duty was complete and I was entitled to six months' 'home leave'. However I had obtained a government grant for a three-year degree course in mathematics at Nottingham University. My journey to England was quite interesting, by one of the last flying boat flights of BOAC. We took off from Dar-es-Salaam harbour at 6 a.m. and flew to Lake Naivasha in Kenya where, after a launch had traversed our landing path to make sure it was clear of hippos, we landed and disembarked for breakfast at the Lake Hotel. Our next stop was Khartoum, where we landed on the Nile at four o'clock in the afternoon. The temperature was well over 100°, and the launch that was to take us ashore had broken down, so we sat in this unair-conditioned plane rocking gently on the river for half an hour until it was fixed. Then we were taken ashore to a completely open-sided palm-thatched shelter on the river-bank, to be served with afternoon tea and sandwiches. From Khartoum we flew on to Alexandria, where we landed on the Nile again, this time at midnight.

Here we did some more rocking on the Nile for two hours while the Egyptian officials sorted out alleged irregularities in our transit visas. Even in those days occupation of the Canal Zone was a source of dissatisfaction to them. During the next leg, to Augusta in Sicily, dawn broke over the Mediterranean, the rosy-fingered dawn of the Odyssey (ροδοδάκτυλος 'Ηώς). From our maximum altitude of 10,000 feet, very low by today's standards, the mountains of Crete with their pink-tinted clouds were a beautiful sight, and I vowed one day to return—it was to be 30 years before I could manage it. At Augusta we were taken to a luxurious hotel owned by BOAC, given rooms

where we could shower and clean up, and then a very fine breakfast. From there on it was a straight run to Southampton, closing the loop that had begun nine years earlier. From there we were bussed to London, where we were discharged to our own devices, and I made my way to Nottingham.

In my first term at Nottingham I met a girl called Sheila, at a dance class, of all places. She was studying English and came from a very different background from me—one that had been through the war with all its tribulations—but in spite of that we seemed to get on very well and three years later, immediately after graduating, we were married. I was required to spend a year with the Royal Engineers at the School of Military Survey before returning to my department in Tanganyika. We rented a house in Newbury and I spent the year on fieldwork on the Berkshire Downs, mapping from aerial photographs, making astronomical observations, lunching in pubs and watching racehorses galloping on their training runs. Meanwhile Sheila had signed up for a sociology diploma at Reading University. In November 1953 we were given a passage to Dar-es-Salaam on the Union Castle ship Durban Castle. We called at Gibraltar, Marseilles, Genoa, Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa and finally Tanga—all places I had been to as a 6 year old returning from leave in 1935.

My first posting was to a place called Sao Hill, to carry out title surveys for a number of European farms, ranging in size from 200 to 5,000 acres, with one really big one of 100,000 acres. The community was an odd mixture—retired naval commanders and Indian Army colonels, the son of Ernest Hemingway, teachers from the rather select primary school, a remittance man from the Vane-Tempest family, accompanied by a child said to be the by-blow of a member of the royal family, an aristocratic cattleranching family, and us—a bit like the Happy Valley crowd in Kenya, but not quite so extreme. Sheila got a job at the school where she was very happy and made some good friends. Sao Hill was a pleasant place to live—6,000 feet above sea level, marvellous climate, no mosquitoes, but it was a name on a map rather than a place. There was a Post Office and low-grade hotel, and miles away an African store round which there was a small African settlement. Miles away in another direction was the air strip and the Southern Highlands Club, the social centre for the Europeans. There was no Government accommodation available, but there were several empty, not to say derelict private houses to rent. We were initially taken by a very attractive cottage looking down a valley, in a grove of blue gum trees. Although it was a sunny day, the sound of the breeze in the trees gave it a sense of isolation and loneliness. The inside of the cottage seemed ideal but that, too, had a sense of sadness. We were struck by the absence of one of the large celotex ceiling panels. We discovered that this was the result of the previous occupant—one Gavin Strang, the son of a minister in Atlee's government—blowing his brains out with a shotgun; an indication of how loneliness can affect some people, although my African staff assured me there was another reason.

Nevertheless, although I am sceptical about the ability of people and events to have an effect on places, I have to say I was profoundly affected by this particular place, before I knew what had happened there. Eventually we ended up in a small unfurnished cottage near the hotel—the sanitary arrangement was dire—a pit latrine, and the kitchen had no oven. The water was carried up from a spring in the valley half a mile away and dumped in the zinc bath, part of our camping equipment, by a team of obliging ladies. The spring was the centre of much communal activity, to the detriment of the water quality. Bath water was heated in four-gallon petrol tins, the ubiquitous debe of East Africa. Sheila baked bread by heaping glowing charcoal round an upturned half debe



— just one of the many culinary miracles she achieved while we there, and it was delicious. Meat was bought once a week, sold from the back of a lorry by Lady Barbara Ricardo (née Lady Barbara Montagu-Stewart-Wortley-Mackenzie) granddaughter of the 7th Earl of Wharnccliffe and wife of a rancher, member of the Cavalry Club and itinerant cattle trader. Our milk came in a gourd which was washed out with a mixture of cow's urine and charcoal and always had a nasty looking slimy residue. Needless to say, our tea always tasted peculiar.

After two years I had completed my task there and was transferred to Mbeya, near the border with Northern Rhodesia. This was a very pleasant posting, this time a proper Government station with decent housing. Most of my work was in outlying areas—Tukuyu, close to Lake Nyasa, and Mbosi, the site of a late defensive stand by General von Lettow Vorbeck in his final retreat. There were trenches, dugouts and gun emplacements and spent ammunition all over the hillsides where I was working. One of my tasks was to make triangulation observations from two of the points forming the famous (to we geodesists) Arc of the 30th Meridian—a project started in the late 19th century to measure the distance from the Cape to Cairo very precisely, in order to determine the size and shape of the Earth. I spent a week camped on the summit of Mbeya Mountain, 10,000 feet high—in a very flimsy lightweight tent which only just survived the constant gale force wind. Sheila was employed as a Woman Education Officer, which involved teaching in term time at a girls' teacher training college, and in the holidays inspecting primary schools in the outlying districts—even though latterly, in a pregnant state. It involved travelling on dirt roads in ramshackle lorries and trekking through banana plantations on foot.

Because of the acute housing shortage in Nairobi, I went out first on my own to find somewhere to live. Government housing was scarce and was allocated on a points system and I was way down the list. Eventually I found somewhere to live, and Sheila and Cathy were able to join me. In Nairobi many civil servants owned their own homes, so we decided to have a house built for us. During the time involved we spent sixmonth spells house-sitting for various government officials while they went on leave. Building the house was not an easy process as we had terrible squabbles with the architect, as he thought things we considered essential would ruin his lovely design. In the end we got a beautifully designed house with everything we wanted. It was built by a Sikh contractor, who did a wonderful job, as did the Sikh carpenters who made our furniture. When we first arrived it was in the final days of the Mau Mau emergency and there were still the odd manifestations of it. Driving through the Kikuyu reserves one felt the tension, but on the whole most offences against Europeans were for economic reasons coupled with racial hostility.

Building the house left us less than well off, so when in January 1961 I was offered a job at Nairobi University at double my salary, it was an offer I could not refuse. I resigned at a day's notice, and the University stumped up all the penalties involved.

I think the next three years provided the happiest days of my life. I really enjoyed the transition to teaching, and in the run-up to independence Kenya was a very exciting place to be. However I did not believe that, with a young family, an independent Kenya would be a very congenial environment for them to grow up in, so in 1963 I began to think of moving back to England. I applied for a post of lecturer in the Department of Surveying at Newcastle on Tyne University, and was called for interview. There were five candidates for interview and after each session the candidate was asked to wait. When interviewing was complete I was offered the post at a very good salary, which I accepted. But far from feeling elated, I felt as if the gates of fate had clanged

shut behind me. Sheila says that as I came out of the building, the expression on my face told her I hadn't got the job. My feelings were echoed by little 3-year-old Lindsey, when three months later she said to Sheila, 'Mummy, I've enjoyed this holiday', untrue, 'but can we go home now?'

I end with a poem by Housman

Into my heart an air that kills  
From yon far country blows  
What are those blue remembered hills  
What spires, what farms are those?  
That is the land of lost content  
I see it shining plain  
The happy highways where I went  
And cannot come again.

## *Oonah Sophia Elliott*

11 March 1927 – 1 May 2023

Oonah slipped away on May morning, as the choir was singing from the top of Magdalen tower: a gentle, benign presence whose long life was full of interest.

Modest and self-effacing, she was never one to talk about herself and she was such a private person that it is understandable if people felt they didn't know her. But I have known her since I was 17 when she met and married my brother John, and over the years we became close.

Not only was she highly intelligent, she was extremely creative. She had a wonderful eye for art and design, which helped her create the beautiful garden in Iffley. She was an accomplished needlewoman. Round the dining table in the house in Iffley are six dining chairs for each of which she stitched a cushion cover inspired by an Aztec design—not taken from a pattern book, but in each case something she worked out for herself.

She was a seriously talented potter, very bold and unconventional, with designs often inspired by Mexican or other South American artefacts. And of course there was the garden—the deep knowledge of plants, the perfect positioning of flowerbeds and shrubs so that everything was harmonious and a source of deep joy not only for her but for John and for all of us who were privileged to use it. Oonah was too modest ever to talk about herself but what an interesting life she had. Her father was a diplomat, her uncle the vice master of Trinity College Cambridge, and her formidable Victorian grandfather, Henry Montagu Butler, was headmaster of Harrow before becoming Master of Trinity and fathering many children. So on that side she grew up with an understanding of the world of academia, while on her mother's side there were Scottish and Anglo-Irish relations and many links with innumerable distant cousins. Oonah and her elder sister Katherine were born in London but when Oonah was seven her father was posted to Tehran, and Oonah had happy memories of growing up in what was then Persia. She wrote a delightful description of the annual pilgrimage of the women and children to the mountains, to get away from the heat, on mules. Later she was dispatched back to boarding school in chilly England, not such a happy experience. And when the war came she was sent up to Scotland to live with relations in a remote and beautiful place. From there she went up to Cambridge to read history, during the war. But then her father was posted to Washington, and then became ambassador in The Hague and later in Brazil, and each time Oonah went with her parents and made herself useful, showing distinguished visitors around or organising social events at the embassy. She was a good organiser and very practical. Those years gave her valuable knowledge of different countries and cultures, and as, in later years, she was always travelling with John—all over South America, to Japan, India, Indonesia, all along the Silk Road and of course always Spain, she had an extraordinary wealth of travel experience to look back on. Back in London, it was not long before she met and married John, and devoted herself for the rest of her life to supporting him and enabling him to focus on his work so that he was free to achieve his many astonishing successes as a historian. John and Oonah were always together. She travelled everywhere with him, listened loyally to speeches and lectures in the Spanish she never quite mastered, and endlessly entertained visiting scholars. After a brief period in Cambridge and a longer one in London they moved to Princeton, where they stayed for seventeen years—a time they both loved. This was

where Oonah first started to make pots, but she also became deeply involved with the Princeton Art Museum where she would lead tours, and here she did courses and learned particularly about pre-Columbian art. Back in England, they bought their beautiful house in Iffley and became part of the Iffley community. Oonah would do the flowers for the church. They frequented the Ashmolean Museum, where, again, Oonah would guide tours, and would go up to London for exhibitions, both of them passionately keen on art. Oonah will be remembered as a quiet presence, always at John's side. She might not have said much, but what she did say was always astute and insightful. She was a very generous donor and she reached out in kindness to many people. Before John died, she was already losing her memory, and afterwards she became increasingly confused. But what shone out, to the very end, was a sweetness of temper, a gentleness and thoughtfulness—even a few weeks ago she was saying can I help make the supper? and What can we do to amuse you? And unlike many people who suffer from dementia, she didn't appear to dwell on the past but retained the ability to enjoy the moment. Her face would light up with pleasure when a visitor arrived, or when she could look out at her beloved garden and see the magnolia in full bloom. And so we can remember a joyful smile and a good life. We shall miss you, dear Oonah..

*Judith Elliott*



Oonah Elliott



## *Kate Griffin*

*12 August 1943 – 21 June 2023*

Catherine Sarah Griffin (née Greig), ‘Kate’ to everyone who knew her, died on 21st June, two months before her 80th birthday, having lived in Oxfordshire for 54 years.

With a lifelong interest in helping people make the most of life whatever their origins or circumstances, Kate served as a volunteer, trustee and later co-Chair of the Agnes Smith Advice Centre in Blackbird Leys, which dispenses free and independent advice on welfare benefits, debt and housing problems. Kate was a Trustee at the Advice Centre 2009-22 and worked tirelessly and with great compassion and strong leadership.

As co-Chairman of the Trustees 2016-17, she led formulation of the charity’s Business Plan for 2017/20 which involved coordinating local partner organisations and various funders. She also contributed to similar voluntary organizations in Donnington and Rose Hill. Nearer to her home, she served as FOIV Treasurer for 15 years and cooked for their social events in Iffley Church Hall. In all these roles, Kate was the ideal public servant, hard-working, knowledgeable, scrupulous, practical, realistic and above all fair, a voice of honesty and compassion.

Kate grew up in Hampton (outer southwest London), where her physicist father, Roland Greig, worked for the nearby National Physical Laboratory. She attended Lady Eleanor Holles School and after completing A-levels, joined the Civil Service as a ‘school leaver’.

Soon after marrying accountant and entrepreneur Tim Griffin in 1966, they moved to South Oxfordshire, eventually to a spacious house with extensive grounds on the northern edge of the Chilterns where their sons Leo and Robert grew up with assorted pets including donkeys. For many years, she cared for her elderly parents in west London—her mother Fenella lived to be 99—and was close to her younger sister Helena, who died in 2021.

Once the boys were settled at school, she volunteered at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Oxford. This role progressed to obtaining academic qualifications in social housing, which equipped her for 20 years working for the Housing Associations *Cherwell Housing Trust* and *Oxford Citizens Housing Association*. This expertise was put to good use in her roles at the Advice Centre and other organisations.

During this period, she was also a trustee and passionate advocate for *BIRD*, a charity that helps children with neurological disorders and people impaired by brain injury, and spent six months in Kenya volunteering for the United Nations. Kate and Tim divorced in 1986, after which she moved progressively nearer to Oxford, living in Headington 1989-96 and at 27 Tree Lane 1996-2022. Kate knew Iffley as a child because her uncle, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and fellow of Brasenose College, lived at 11 Iffley Turn.

As well as all the voluntary work, Kate was an active grandmother to her sons’ families, both of which include a pair of twins, travelling long distances to help out when required and holidaying with them on the Pembrokeshire coast. Soon after she went to live with her younger son’s family

near Farnham, the cancer for which she had been treated in 2001 returned and she died surrounded by her family. Her own sons and six grandchildren, the many Oxford families whose life crises she helped to resolve and especially her Iffley neighbours will miss her greatly.

*Caroline Pond*



Kate Griffin in Kenya

## Friends of St Mary's, Iffley

### Treasurer's Report on the Annual Accounts 2022-23

As of 31 May 2023, the balance sheet showed total assets of £75,353. This is £2,970 below last year's total of £78,323. This was because grants to Iffley PCC exceeded the Friends' income in this financial year.

In February 2023, the Committee agreed that the value of assets kept in reserve should be increased to £60,000 from the £50,000 set some years ago. This reserve is intended for essential and urgent works on the Church. As our total assets are well above that level, the Committee agreed that grants to the PCC for new and/or non-urgent projects may exceed our annual income provided that total assets do not fall below the reserve value.

Accordingly, in 2022-23 the Friends funded reprinting the Church guidebook, surveying the stained glass windows, and updating the lighting in the Church, a total of £6,916. The Committee has also approved grants to the PCC of some £13,000 for work on the stained glass windows and a feasibility study for developing the Churchyard, expected to be paid in the 2023-24 financial year.

Although the Friends' reserves remain healthy, we should note that net income has declined in recent years.

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Net income from subscriptions, donations, Gift Aid, events, and interest, less admin expenses (excluding grants to PCC and appreciation/depreciation of investment fund)</i>
2019-20	£4,898
2020-21	£4,767
2021-22	£3,921
2022-23	£3,171

We are very grateful to our members whose regular subscriptions plus Gift Aid currently contribute over three-quarters of our net income. Membership decreased slightly in 2022-23 though we gained one new Life Member. Kind donations were received from members and from a collection at the funeral of Barbara Nichols.

There was no Friends' Summer Party in 2022, instead a village event celebrated Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Friends' events, as always, were interesting and enjoyable. The Friends' Forum in December 2022, the Quiz in January 2023 and Poetry & Puddings in March 2023 together produced net profits of £380. The Excursion in April 2023—a fascinating trip around west Berkshire churches—just broke even despite a steep increase in the cost of coach hire. Very many thanks to

everyone who helped to organize and run all these activities, especially to Fran Deacon who prepared the wonderful Quiz although she was not well enough to present it.

The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund account benefited from the recent rise in interest rates. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund accumulation shares showed a modest increase in value over the year, though the share price was very variable.

I am very grateful to the Committee and especially to our Chair, Susan Walker, and Membership Secretary, Anna Di Stefano, for all their help and support.

Ruth 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 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

**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 attention 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

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY

Income and Expenditure Account 01/06/2022 – 31/05/2023

Income	2022-2023	2021-2022
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>		
Subscriptions and life memberships	£1,865.93	£1,937.44
Donations	£235.00	£1,614.60
Tax Refund from Gift Aid	£686.53	£749.13
Interest	£811.14	£42.63
Functions		
Summer Party	--	£636.00
Forums/events	£590.00	£516.00
Annual Excursion	£1,765.00	£1,500.00
<i>Restricted funds</i>		
Leaving gift for Andrew and Sarah McKearney from current and former committee members and Living Stones volunteers	£250.00	--
<b>Income total</b>	<b>£6,203.60</b>	<b>£6,995.80</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>		
Grants to St Mary's PCC (See Note)	£8,916.14	£1,335.30
Insurance	£328.83	£310.21
Web and Zoom expenses	£170.04	£215.11
Office expenses	£14.14	£30.87
Subscription refunds	--	£54.00
Functions		
AGM	£306.51	£433.02
Summer Party	--	£254.83
Forums/events	£209.81	£274.97
Annual Excursion	£1,753.30	£1,501.60
<i>Restricted funds</i>		
Leaving gift for Andrew and Sarah McKearney, comprising Framing of etching donated by Sally Levell	£211.40	--
Contribution to PCC's leaving gift fund	£38.60	--
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>£9,948.77</b>	<b>£4,409.91</b>
 <b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	 <b>(£3,745.17)</b>	 <b>£2,585.89</b>
 Unrealised gains on investments	 £774.64	 £913.44
 <b>Surplus (deficit) after unrealised gains</b>	 <b>(£2,970.53)</b>	 <b>£3,499.33</b>

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY

Income and Expenditure Account 01/06/2022 – 31/05/2023

Income	2022-2023	2021-2022
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
Subscriptions and life memberships	£1,865.93	£1,937.44
Donations	£235.00	£1,614.60
Tax Refund from Gift Aid	£686.53	£749.13
Interest	£811.14	£42.63
Functions		
Summer Party	--	£636.00
Forums/events	£590.00	£516.00
Annual Excursion	£1,765.00	£1,500.00
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Leaving gift for Andrew and Sarah McKearney from current and former committee members and Living Stones volunteers	£250.00	--
<b>Income total</b>	<b>£6,203.60</b>	<b>£6,995.80</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
Grants to St Mary's PCC (See Note)	£6,916.14	£1,335.30
Insurance	£328.83	£310.21
Web and Zoom expenses	£170.04	£215.11
Office expenses	£14.14	£30.87
Subscription refunds	--	£54.00
Functions		
AGM	£306.51	£433.02
Summer Party	--	£254.83
Forums/events	£209.81	£274.97
Annual Excursion	£1,753.30	£1,501.60
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Leaving gift for Andrew and Sarah McKearney, comprising Framing of etching donated by Sally Levell	£211.40	--
Contribution to PCC's leaving gift fund	£38.60	--
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>£9,948.77</b>	<b>£4,409.91</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(£3,745.17)</b>	<b>£2,585.89</b>
Unrealised gains on investments	£774.64	£913.44
<b>Surplus (deficit) after unrealised gains</b>	<b>(£2,970.53)</b>	<b>£3,499.33</b>

**THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY  
CONSTITUTION**

*(As approved at the First Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2002.  
Amended paragraph 9e) approved at the Annual General Meeting on 17 September  
2022.)*

**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 exhibitions, meetings, lectures and classes.

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 Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other Honorary Officers as the Friends shall from time to time decide.
- c) The Chairman 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 Chairman and Honorary Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Friends, the Executive Committee and of any other committee.
- e) 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 Chairman 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 Chairman 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 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 three working days of posting.



## Membership List as of July 2023

Barbara Alderson  
Wayne & Annette Arter  
Montserrat Avello  
Bill & Sarah Beaver  
Margaret (Meg) Bent  
Greg Birdseye  
Lorna Bourdeaux  
Sally Brodhurst  
David & Anna Broughton  
Timothy & Anna Brunton  
Toby & Deborah Burrows  
Tim Charlton & Jan Marshall  
Jill & Peter Collett  
Catherine Cooper  
Ron & Diana Cosford  
Vivienne Davis  
Trevor & Heather Dawn  
Frances (Fran) Deacon  
Mary-Dawn DeBriac  
Margaret Dennis  
Peter Muir & Ariane Dickson  
Sally Dorrity  
Terence & Judith English  
Rachel & Julia Falconer  
John & Susan Farnell  
Robert & Bridget Farrands  
Ann Giletti  
Joerg Friedrichs & Louisa Gnatiuc Friedrichs  
Martin & Helen Foreman  
Susie Furnivall  
Juliette Gammon  
Edmund Gray  
Corinne Grimley Evans  
Geoffrey & Jill Guinness  
Alison Hail  
Elizabeth Harre  
Margaret Harrington  
John & Sylvia Harris  
Ursula Harrison  
Susy Jepson  
Jonathan Jones & Ruth Dixon  
Liz (Alison) Julier  
Patrick & Dione Lawrence  
Rosemary Lea  
David Leonard  
Bruce & Sally Levell  
Graham Low  
Yong Qing Ma  
Ian & Pauline Maclean  
Eunice Martin  
Sue Mason  
Joanna Matthews  
Henry Mayr-Harting  
David & Patti McCarthy  
Andrew & Sarah McKearney  
Michael & Maureen McNaboe  
Dougall & Susan Morrison  
Diana Nettleton  
Sylvia Neumann  
Fiona Nevola  
Michael & Bridget Newman  
Barry & Stephanie Newsome  
Joe & Sheila Olliver  
Andrew & Mary Page  
Sue Peach  
Hilary Pearson  
Rosie Penna  
Lydia Penwarden  
Anthony & Vicky Phillips  
Mark & Anne Phythian-Adams  
Caroline Pond (Janzen)  
Diana Porteus  
Helen Potts  
Helen Powell  
Laurence Reynolds  
Nicholas & Rumi Ringshall  
Maria Dolores (Lola) Rodriguez  
Peggy Seeger  
Susie Seville  
Mike Sinclair  
Andrew Shacknove & Katrina Robinson  
Julia Smith  
Julia Smith & Christopher Palmer  
Nicholas & Penelope Spencer Chapman  
Michael & Susan Starks  
Chris & Julie Steele  
Blanche Stiff  
Mary Joan Tate  
Elizabeth Taylor Awny  
Jane Taylor  
Barbara Topley  
Joan Townsend  
Sue Trevor-Wilson  
Rhiannon Trowell  
William & Penelope Twining  
Geoffrey & Penelope Tyack  
Richard Vernon  
Paul Wavell & Anne MacPherson  
Elizabeth Wells  
William Beinart & Troth Wells  
Philip & Emma Whiting  
David & Gayna Wiles  
Emily Williams  
John Wilkes & Susan Walker  
Kathryn & David Wilkinson

## THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY COMMITTEE

**President:** The Reverend Andrew McKearney (to 21 May 2023)

**Vice-President:** Professor Henry Mayr-Harting

### **Committee Members (September 2022-23)**

Susan Walker, Chair

Mark Phythian-Adams†, Vice-Chair (to 8 February 2023)

Ruth Dixon, Treasurer

Anna Di Stefano, Membership Secretary

Fran Deacon, Minutes Secretary (to 10 February 2023)

Juliette Gammon, Publicity

Hilary Pearson, PCC Representative

Penny Tyack, PCC Representative

David Broughton, Website Manager

Liz Julier

Sue Trevor-Wilson

**Report Designer:** Ed Pritchard

**Report Editor:** Susan Walker

**Charity Number:** 1094969