



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



**Annual Report 2024**

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

Front cover

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

Approaching St Mary’s from the gardens of Court Place. In 2023-4 The Friends of St Mary’s supported the development of this new route and other plans for improving access to the church and churchyard. Photo: Susan Walker

**President:** The Reverend Andrew McKearney (to May 21, 2023);  
the Reverend Clare Hayns (from April 2024)

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

### **Committee Members (September 2023-24)**

Susan Walker, Chair

David Wiles, Vice-Chair

Ruth Dixon, Treasurer

Anna Di Stefano, Membership Secretary

Juliette Gammon, Publicity

Hilary Pearson, PCC Representative (to May 2024); David Patrick (from June 2024)

Penny Tyack, PCC Representative (to May 2024); Anne Wagner (from June 2024)

David Broughton, Website Manager

Liz Julier

Sue Trevor-Wilson

**Report Designer:** Ed Pritchard

**Report Editor:** Susan Walker

**Charity Number:** 1094969

## Membership List as of June 2024

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

## Report from the Chair

Five years have elapsed since I became chair of the Friends of St Mary's and, under the constitution of the Friends, my time as Chair is nearly up. It has been quite a journey, not least with the pandemic to navigate. I am proud that we kept all our winter events going online through 2020-2021, with a showing of key events in the Church Hall for those with no internet access, as soon as it was possible to meet indoors, albeit with social distancing. In recent years we have gradually rebuilt live audiences, a pleasure to see.

We have enjoyed an excellent programme of archaeological and historical treats at our annual AGM lecture; fascinating accounts by Friends and guests at Friends' Forum; wonderful quizzes by the late, much-lamented Fran Deacon and (online in 2021) Stilly; entertaining and moving poems at Poetry and Puddings. Our summer parties have migrated to the Church Hall since our former chair Helen Potts moved to Woodstock; we miss Helen's wonderful garden, but the parties have acquired a style of their own, with a buffet supper provided by the committee and beautiful garden flower arrangements by our Treasurer Ruth Dixon.

This year we have gained ten new members and a new President in Clare Hayns, our new Vicar! We warmly welcome our new members and Clare and her family to our community, and we look forward to supporting future projects as they arise in and around the church. In the past year, we have funded repairs to the frames of the stained-glass windows and contributed to the feasibility study for the churchyard occasioned by the university's redevelopment of Court Place, including a topographical survey. It is pleasing to see that the Friends' income has risen in the past



*Susan Walker at her final summer party as Chair of the Friends of St Mary's.*

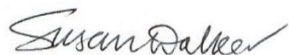
*Bouquet and photo by Ruth Dixon.*

year, partly as a result of the generosity of our members and enterprising fund-raising activities, for which I thank Ruth Dixon, Corinne Grimley Evans and Sally Levell.

I have been very struck by the loyalty of the Friends and by the extraordinary lives they have led, in some cases their achievements only becoming widely known after death. Our deceased Friends are remembered in each edition of the Annual Report. This year, very sadly, we have lost two key members of the Committee: our Vice-Chair Mark Phythian-Adams and our Quizmaster extraordinaire and Minutes Secretary Fran Deacon. Brief obituaries catch only a glimpse of the lives of these two remarkable people. We also remember three Friends who made notable contributions to the community: Lydia Penwarden, Patricia Michael and Joanna Matthews.

I would like to thank our current and former Presidents, Reverend Clare Hayns and Reverend Andrew McKearney, for their wise guidance, and all my fellow committee members, who have proved a tower of strength throughout these years, not least those representing the parochial Church Council, Hilary Pearson and Penny Tyack. They too have retired by rotation, and we welcome in their place David Patrick and Anne Wagner. My thanks to Dave Broughton for extensive improvements to the Friends' website [www.iffleyfosm.org.uk](http://www.iffleyfosm.org.uk). I thank our Parish Administrator Janet Low for all her support.

Above all I would like to thank all the Friends who have contributed so much to the church and our community over these five years. I hope that you find your membership as rewarding and enjoyable as I have found the chairmanship!



Susan Walker  
July 2024

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.



## 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

## *First Report to the Friends of St Mary's Church*

As I write, I have been vicar of St Mary's Church for exactly three months, and we moved into the Rectory in Mill Lane one month ago. At my welcome service I told everyone that a clergy friend of mine had said that I'd 'won the church lottery' by becoming Vicar of St Mary's Church, and I have to say, after a few months, I quite agree!

I first visited St Mary's Church a few months before my ordination (2011) when I was looking for a curacy placement, and Andrew McKearney kindly showed me round. I remember being charmed by the beautiful building with its warm honey stone and the village tucked away within the City of Oxford. The curacy here didn't happen for various reasons, and I went to Woodstock and Bladon instead, another lovely part of Oxfordshire.

I next visited St Mary's Church in 2021 whilst I was a College Chaplain at Christ Church. I would often take chapel students on little trips to get them away from the stresses of term life, and one Sunday I brought a small group on a mini pilgrimage up the river where we were given a fabulous Living Stones tour by Penny and Geoffrey Tyack. It is an absolute privilege to now be able to call this place our home, and to be given the responsibility of caring for this church and community for, I hope, many years to come.

I'll tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Edinburgh, but my parents moved south when I was four and so my home for most of my childhood was a small village called Adstock, between Buckingham and Aylesbury. My childhood was more pony club than church youth group, and although now two of my three siblings are also vicars (!), church didn't feature a great deal in our lives until I was in my early 20s.

After school and bit of travel, I went to the University of Warwick where I studied Comparative American Studies, and then to Royal Holloway to study Social Work. I worked in this field for several years, working with young homeless people in London, and with a Drug and Alcohol Team for Wandsworth Social Services. My husband John is a performer, and mainly works as a magician and children's entertainer and, when our children were young, I left social work, and we set up an entertainment agency together.



*Reverend Clare Hayns*

I came to faith in my early 20s and, alongside my job, I set up a little community with a group of friends where we prayed together and visited elderly people in a big housing estate in Battersea. This little prayerful group, and the older friends we visited each week, had an enormous impact on me. I found I loved leading people in prayer and building community, and this practical kind of faith inspired me, and in time I felt called towards ordained ministry in the Church of England.

We have three sons, all of whom are now adults. Micah (26) is an artist specialising in portraits, and he works from a gallery in Templars Square shopping centre called The Jungle (do drop in to say hello if you are passing). Micah and I have collaborated on a couple of book projects with the Bible Reading Fellowship, one on women of the Old Testament (Unveiled) and the other on the psalms (Garden Song), which is due out in October this year. Sim (23) loves working with young people and being outdoors, and is currently helping us tame the Rectory garden. Daniel (18) has just left school and will be heading off to study musical theatre at Arts Educational School in London this September. We are all loving living here and getting to know this part of Oxford.

What I have noticed since beginning this role is how deeply people love the church, and not just those who attend services on a Sunday or Wednesday. Now we are in the Rectory I can see for myself how many people come each week to enjoy the beauty of the space. There is almost always a person sitting on a bench quietly in the churchyard, or someone popping in to think or pray in a pew, or volunteering to help by mowing, weeding or tending to the church and its surroundings.

I hope that all those who love St Mary's, whether they come to church regularly for a service or not, will know they are valued and important members of our community. We are so thankful for the Friends of St Mary's who work so hard to raise funds in order to help me and the PCC ensure that this beautiful church, surrounding area, and hall are all maintained so they can continue to be enjoyed by congregants, visitors and pilgrims for many years to come.

Finally, thank you for your welcome, and if we haven't yet met, I hope we will do so soon. I look forward to coming along to the various events and trips organised by the FOSM team for 2025.

Clare

Reverend Clare Hayns

President, Friends of St Mary's, Iffley

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.

### 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

## *'Iffley, Oxford and the World: How the Victorians Changed the Church'*

*Summary of the lecture given at the Friends of St Mary's AGM, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023, by Professor William Whyte, St John's College, University of Oxford*

Victorian Britain was an age of steam and steel and overseas expansion. It was an age of industry and empire. It was, notoriously, a time of religious doubt, as modern life and modern thought raised questions about ancient beliefs and traditions. But Victorian Britain was also an age—perhaps the greatest ever age—of church building, with the Church of England alone erecting rather more than 6,000 new churches across the nineteenth century. Collectively, the other denominations built still more. And where they could not build, the Victorians restored, which, effectively, meant rebuilding. By the time of Victoria's death, in 1901, scarcely a church in the country stood unchanged. The Victorians had torn down centuries old structures and ripped out ancient fabric, transforming church buildings—and church life—irrevocably. Indeed, their impact was so great that British churches have never quite escaped it. Whether as visitors, worshippers, or just passers-by, whenever we encounter a church building today, we are—in effect—still experiencing the Victorian church.

My talk was an attempt to explain why: why the Victorians built so much; why they rebuilt so enthusiastically; why this age of doubt was also a time of such unprecedented architectural enterprise. I also sought to provide explanations for a series of other issues, not least the surprising fact that this age of steel and steam should find its expression in thousands of churches built to look as though they had been erected in the middle ages. What was it about Gothic buildings, in particular, that seemed so appealing to clerics, architects, and lay patrons alike? Why did they seek to attract the people of the most modern society in the world with art and architecture inspired by centuries before?

Above all, I tried to uncover the effect these projects actually had on the people they were built for. I wanted to understand how the Victorians themselves experienced their churches. That these were places intended to do something is clear. The millions of pounds lavished on buildings, on furniture and fittings, on some of the most exquisite art of the era: all this was intended to attract congregations; to bring them to church and to instruct them in the faith. Churches were built or transformed in the hope that this would make them more effective; better vehicles for evangelizing a population which, it was feared, would otherwise drift away. But did it work?

In answering these questions, I tried to offer a new way of understanding Victorian architecture as well as a new argument about nineteenth-century belief. Far from being peripheral or merely a matter of taste, the Victorians' keenness to build was the product of a new understanding of architecture, one that saw buildings not just as the passive receptacles for worship but active agents in the dissemination and deepening of faith. Churches were thus re-imagined: first, as a sort of religious text, designed to communicate spiritual truths; second, as engines of emotion, intended to bring people to their knees. The impact of these new ideas was enormous, transforming not just what was built, but also how it was understood and experienced.



*St Andrew's, Sonning: a church visually transformed in the Victorian era. One of three East Berkshire churches visited by the Friends of St Mary's in 2024.*

*Photo: Caroline Pond*

## **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.



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 2024.

**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

1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

## *Friends' Forum 2023*

### **The intelligent eye: drawing Iffley church**



*The ceiling boss of the sanctuary, St Mary's, Iffley.*

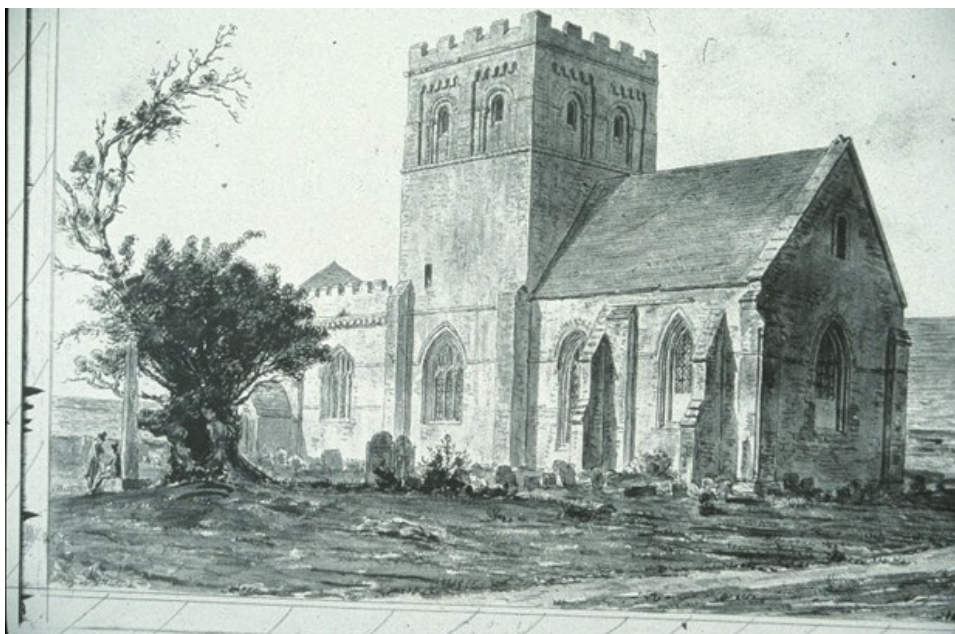
This year we turned the Forum over to our artist Friends Sally Levell and Phil Whiting, and architectural historian Geoffrey Tyack. Both artists gave talks on what drawing St Mary's means for them and why it can be revelatory. As one of many who has enjoyed drawing St Mary's under their tutelage, an annual event in the Living Stones programme (see Iffley Parish Magazine, August 2024, pp. 10-11), I much appreciated what they had to say, as did the large audience, several of whom declared this to have been the best Friends' Forum they could remember.

Phil observed: ‘... what a truly marvellous building it is to focus on and to respond to. A time machine going back nine hundred years into our history and heritage.’

Two memorable paraphrased thoughts from Sally: ‘You only put into your artwork what you take from the subject’ and, comfortingly, ‘There’s no need to be awed by the whole building. Just draw the bit you like.’

A splendid example of selection by Sally appears on p. 7.

After a brief break, Geoffrey enlightened us with a fascinating account of historical drawings of St Mary’s and what we can learn from them. They are bearers of evidence of changes to the church over time, and they often raise questions that encourage us to revisit a part of the church that we thought we knew and understood.



*St Mary, Iffley, from the south-east before restoration.*

*This shows the church in the late 18th century when the yew tree was much smaller than it is now, and before the chancel was restored and the nave roof raised to its present height.*

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

##### Balance Sheet as at 31/05/24

CURRENT ASSETS	2023-2024	2022-2023
Current Account, Barclays	£1,668.93	£3,371.69
CCLA CBF CofE Deposit Fund	£32,910.01	£38,672.56
CCLA CBF CofE Investment Fund	£36,642.38	£33,306.59
Float	£2.00	£2.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>£71,223.32</b>	<b>£75,352.84</b>

##### TRANSFERS

Credits to Barclays Current Account	£7,500.00	--
(Debits) from CCLA CofE Deposit Fund	(£7,500.00)	--

##### RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

Opening balance	£75,352.84	£78,323.37
Surplus (deficit) after unrealised gains	(£4,129.52)	(£2,970.53)

<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>£71,223.32</b>	<b>£75,352.84</b>
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*Ruth M. Dixon*

Ruth M. Dixon  
Hon. Treasurer

Note: Grants to St Mary's PCC in 2023-24 financial year

Work on stained glass windows	£4,600.00
Contrib. to churchyard development plan	£8,000.00
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>£12,600.00</b>



## Quiz Night 17 January 2024

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, IFFLEY

### Income and Expenditure Account 01/06/2023 to 31/05/2024

Income	2023-2024	2022-2023
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
Subscriptions and life memberships	£2,265.50	£1,865.93
Donations	£675.42	£235.00
Tax Refund from Gift Aid	£423.13	£686.53
Interest	£1,739.61	£811.14
Functions		
Summer Party	£557.00	--
Forums/events	£588.00	£590.00
Annual Excursion	£2,147.05	£1,765.00
Fundraising		
Sale of cards/artwork at Forum	£107.00	--
Sale of Christmas puddings	£553.88	--
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Leaving gift for Andrew and Sarah McKearney from committee and Living Stones	--	£250.00
<b>Income total</b>	<b>£9,056.59</b>	<b>£6,203.60</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
Grants to St Mary's PCC (See Note)	£12,600.00	£6,916.14
Insurance	£328.83	£328.83
Web and Zoom expenses	£143.82	£170.04
Office expenses	--	£14.14
Barclaycard reader and commission	£40.31	--
Functions		
AGM	£368.01	£306.51
Summer Party	£269.11	--
Forums/events	£271.75	£209.81
Annual Excursion	£2,112.30	£1,753.30
Christmas puddings	£387.77	--
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Leaving gift for Andrew and Sarah McKearney: Framing of etching donated by Sally Levell	--	£211.40
Contribution to PCC's leaving gift fund	--	£38.60
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>£16,521.90</b>	<b>£9,948.77</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(£7,465.31)</b>	<b>(£3,745.17)</b>
Unrealised gains on investments	£3,335.79	£774.64
<b>Surplus (deficit) after unrealised gains</b>	<b>(£4,129.52)</b>	<b>(£2,970.53)</b>

Very sadly, this proved to be the last quiz to be compiled by our inimitable quizmaster Fran Deacon. The well-attended occasion was chaired by Susan Walker and David Wiles, who did their best to wreck Fran's carefully choreographed event. To test your memory and give a sense of the unique range, quirkiness and humour of Fran's last quiz, here are sample questions from each section:

#### Round A: Pot Luck

Jane Rebecca Yorke, a medium, was the last person to be convicted under which Act in 1944?

#### Round B: Buckingham Palace

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, what would a Nightman do at Buckingham Palace?

#### Round C: Fruit and Vegetable Idioms [complete these sayings by providing the correct endings]

The Top ...

#### Round D: Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany

At which German university was he educated?

#### Round E: Traditional British Dishes

A Scotch Egg was originally created in Manchester, Glasgow or Whitby?

#### Round F: Author Alan Bennett

What was the self-adopted name of the Lady in the Van who lived on Bennett's driveway for 15 years?

#### Round G: Some of my Favourite Music [name the composer]

Gymnopédies

#### Round H: European Palaces and Castles

Bran Castle in Romania was the mythical home of which character?

#### Round I: Dogs

What does the German Dachshund mean in English?

#### Round J: Oxford Trivia

Which Anglo-Saxon procedure takes place at certain Oxford perimeters on Ascension Day?

A: Witchcraft; B: Empty the cesspit; C: Banana; D: Bonn; E: Whitby; F: Miss Shepherd; G: Erik Satie; H: Count Dracula; I: Badger dog; J: Beating the bounds.



*Quiz Night 2020 with Fran in charge.*

Other fundraising initiatives included the silent auction of a drawing of the Rectory donated by Corinne Grimley Evans and the sale of cards donated by Sally Levell at the Friends' Forum. We are very grateful for these donations which together raised £107. The sale of Christmas puddings in Oct-Dec 2023 made a profit of £166.

The CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Fund account benefited from continued high interest rates and the CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund accumulation units increased in value over the year.

I am very grateful to the Committee for their help and support, and would like especially to thank our Chair, Susan Walker, for her amazing work over the past five years.

Ruth Dixon

Hon. Treasurer

July 2024



## Friends of St Mary's, Iffley Treasurer's Report on the Annual Accounts 2023-24

As of 31 May 2024, the balance sheet showed total assets of £71,223. This is £4,130 below last year's total of £75,353. This is because grants to Iffley PCC exceeded the Friends' income in this financial year. The total assets remain well above the £60,000 that the Committee has agreed should be maintained as a reserve for urgent and essential works.

During this financial year, the Friends provided £4,600 for work on the stained glass windows and contributed £8,000 towards the feasibility study for developing the Churchyard, a total of £12,600.

Encouragingly, this year's net income was considerably higher than last year's, reversing the decline seen in recent years.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Net income from subscriptions, donations, Gift Aid, events, fundraising sales, 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
2023-24	£5,135

There are several reasons for this increased income, and we are very grateful to members for their continued subscriptions and support of events and fundraising initiatives. Income from annual subscriptions was about the same as last year and we gained two new joint life memberships. Kind donations were received in memory of our much missed Vice-Chair, Mark Phythian-Adams.

We held a Summer Party in June 2023 (unlike in 2022) and, with the Friends' Forum in December 2023, the Quiz in January 2024 and Poetry & Puddings in March 2024, we raised over £600 from these events. The Excursion in April 2024—a fascinating trip around east Berkshire churches and Reading Abbey—just broke even despite another steep increase in the cost of coach hire. Very many thanks to everyone who helped organize and run all these activities, and especially to Fran Deacon, who prepared the Quiz. Fran was not well enough to present it, and very sadly passed away in February. One of Fran's poems was read by her son at Poetry & Puddings.

## *Poetry and Puddings 2024*

Held in early March, this was our first event to follow the death of Fran Deacon, who played as significant a role in poetry as she did in devising our annual quiz. (Not to mention Fran's much-loved lemon drizzle cake...) A section of the programme became a tribute to Fran, and we were delighted to welcome Fran's family to the event. Among many poignant memories came a reading by Fran's son Chris of her splendid poem *Night Games* (see over).

Another highlight of the evening was the reading by Marianne Puxley of two of her excellent poems, including this gem:

### *Unpopular*

Lopsided magpie  
one wing all awry,  
I know you eat nestlings and fledglings and other birds' eggs.  
You stomp round my lawn on larrikin legs,  
skewer the snails, poke holes in the moss,  
harry the squirrels to show them who's boss,  
snaffle the scraps I've left for the tits. Try to fly  
with an apple. Cock me an eye.  
I like you. You're smart.

All is still, nothing stirs, he on his side, she on hers  
Sleep is coming, last words said  
*Now let go the heavy head*  
A distant siren's wailing, then all is quiet it seems  
Sleepers now let go, and take your place in dreams...  
BUT - *suddenly a quirky rhyme starts forming in her head*  
*Tries to stop it running - turns over in the bed*  
*Yet the demons keep advancing - the lines are shaping fast*  
*She dreads the final outcome - but now the die is cast*  
*The verse has neared completion - and feared of what comes after*  
*She knows she has to concentrate to curb the coming laughter*  
*Desperate to quell it, there's coughing, squirming, wriggling*  
*But pent up humour has to out in muffled, urgent giggling -*  
*Tragedy! Oh, tragedy!*  
The other half is woken  
With grunts and curses on the lips as his sleep is broken!  
Shame hangs heavy on her soul, she moves her guilty head  
The obvious solution - to swiftly quit the bed...  
So fumbling in nocturnal gloom, she creeps across the floor  
Finds solace in adjacent room, behind the fastened door  
And there, in perfect solitude alone with her affliction  
She can let her mind run riot *without fear of contradiction!*



Joanna, 1998

Two other headings:

### Education

My mother was, though not for long, a chemistry teacher. She told the story of a lesson to Brampton school students where she gave them test tubes of a clear liquid to drink. She then told them it was sulphuric acid and serve them right.

So, the acid was very dilute, of course. The lesson, good for their intellectual independence, doubtless, was think before you drink. The teaching style might reflect interwar progressive education. And the storytelling is reminiscent of Nan's anecdotes about herself.

Joanna really was better suited to being an active school governor in Brampton. She was involved in merging the grammar and secondary modern schools there, and in an exchange with a school in the coffee region of Tanzania, which brought African school students to Boothby, and sent her to Uru.

### For children

Joanna was a Preschool Playgroups Association organiser, with colleagues including Brenda Crowe, a role which included what we now call consciousness raising. She talked about giving advice to young women starting a playgroup on opening a bank account, at a time when banks weren't exactly falling over themselves to have them as customers.

She also took part in the Children's House organisation of the remarkable Olive Kendon, a nonconformist educator turned Quaker radical, much admired by the children's writer Leila Berg.

Jimmy died in his sixties, followed shortly by her father Wilfrid at 90, and Joanna moved south to Oxford after 35 years in Cumberland/Cumbria. Another blow was the death from cancer of Eileen Stammers-Smith, with whom she had shared digs while at Lady Margaret Hall.

She launched into work on garden history in the style of Mavis Batey, and for the Oxfordshire Gardens Trust. In the winter months she was busy with family history, and she became a figurehead in the extended family.

Joanna told me, when she turned 90, that she wanted to live to 100, and to write a book. These were two destinations to which she did not arrive. At 95 she was very frail, but still could rise to the occasion with visitors. She did author with me, not a book on walled gardens, but a memoir in seven chapters.

Life lands us in circumstances we don't choose, and then throws events at us. I say that it is fortunate to be able to engage, regroup and rise above. I see my mother Joanna's life as exemplary in those terms. Many will remember her, in their own ways.

## *The Friends of St Mary's Excursion to the Churches of East Berkshire, 2024*

This year we fulfilled the promise of last year's excursion to west Berkshire, to complete our larger tour of Berkshire churches abandoned in the pandemic of 2020 and subsequently divided between west and east.

Three interesting churches were visited along the banks of the Thames: St Mary the Virgin, once part of a Benedictine priory in the beautiful village of Hurley; All Saints, right on the banks of the Thames at Bisham, and St Andrew's, located below the Bishops of Salisbury's Palace at Sonning, where we also enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch at the adjacent Bull Inn.



*All Saints, Bisham. Part of a memorial to Margaret, Lady Hoby (d. 1605): swans from the family crest guard an obelisk.*

Both Bisham and Hurley are famous for their Tudor monuments, to members of the Hoby family, lords of the manor at Bisham, and to John Lovelace and his wife, who



acquired the estate of the priory at Hurley after the Reformation. Once again, we appreciated the detailed knowledge of our expert guide Dr Geoffrey Tyack. We also received much practical and informative help from Sheila Featherstone-Clark at Bisham, Jane Smith at Hurley and Magnus Smily at Sonning.

After lunch we continued to Reading Abbey, where we were treated to a brilliant, detailed tour by archaeologists Tim Tatton-Brown and Julian Munby. Several Friends remarked that their perception of Reading Abbey had been completely changed by Tim's lively account of its history and archaeology; they were inspired to make a return visit. Some of our group visited Reading Museum with Geoffrey Tyack, where important finds from the abbey are exhibited, including a series of capitals from the cloister with beakheads closely resembling those in St Mary's, Iffley. Others admit to recovering warmth and strength over a cup of tea at nearby Carluccio's.

Warm thanks to Caroline Pond for the illustrations.



*Friends visit Reading Abbey below memorials to the first abbot, Hugh de Boves, and the last, Hugh of Faringdon, who was hanged outside the gateway after the Reformation.*

## *Joanna Matthews*

A memoir by her son Charles Matthews

She was born Joanna Roberts in London in 1929 and spent her early years in a farmhouse near Lanercost in Cumberland. Her farmer father Wilfrid was in 1935 elected a Liberal MP, which meant a move from a dame school in Brampton to King Alfred's in Hampstead, well known as a progressive school. Wilfrid was an anti-fascist campaigner and Left Book Club activist.

For safety, Joanna and her younger sister Teresa were in 1940 sent across the Atlantic to be fostered in the family of Kenneth Webster, a Harvard professor. She went to a boarding school in Vermont founded by Max Bondy, a German-Jewish progressive educator persecuted by the Nazis. In 1945 Joanna was offered a place at Radcliffe College.

She did not go to Radcliffe, the first of a number of roads not taken. Back in England she lived in London with her mother Nan, her parents having separated. She clashed with her mother (maths at Girton, teacher), over an ambition to be a psychoanalyst like Gertrud Bondy, Max's wife. After St Paul's School for Girls, it was chemistry at Lady Margaret Hall.

At Oxford Joanna met Jimmy Matthews of Brasenose College, her future husband, who then worked as a screenwriter. They were married in 1953 and lived at the top of Nan's house in Hampstead. Joanna was working on patents, absent encouragement in her final year from Cyril Hinshelwood to go on into science. She gave up a chance of patent agent training in Nottingham, because, as she told me, waiting for a family was not going to work.

In 1959, Joanna's grandfather Charles Roberts died. The Matthews family, by then of four, moved to his house Boothby, between Lanercost and Brampton. Jimmy, who had been in advertising, had a job on the Carlisle Journal, now owned by Wilfrid Roberts.

At Boothby Joanna was a passionate gardener, as well as a caring and resourceful mother. I remember her packing a trunk for me as I went off to prep school in 1963, a kind of furious concentration on her face, name tapes on everything including the toothbrush.

Joanna knew she was not only a mother and gardener. By 1966 Hubert, the third son, was of school age, and Roddy and I were at boarding school. Her ambition was to be an educational psychologist, but the dearth of tertiary education in Cumberland stopped that. She had read Piaget and other child development writers, but decided their theories didn't survive contact with real children. In consequence, I think, her intellectual independence increased.

Joanna became a magistrate and was for 20 years head of the junior bench in Carlisle.



was interviewed on Radio Oxford by Susie Dent about her involvement with the Oxford Playhouse and, together with her grandchildren Helen and Alexander, we performed a sketch written by Fran for the Pegasus Theatre playathon in 2012.

While Fran was always nervous of flying, she steeled herself to travel with Cliff to a few places which meant a lot to her—to Florida, visiting a late nursing friend's eldest daughter and to Russia to stay with the parents of a Russian friend in Oxford. Fran visited Red Square, St Petersburg and a dacha, satisfying her lust for history and culture. She even tried to speak Russian, though we're not sure she sampled the local vodka!

When Helen and Alexander were old enough, Fran loved to perform with them. Alexander being musical, there were plenty of impromptu jamming sessions. She loved to come and watch him play baseball, where she never quite followed the game but enjoyed chatting with other players' families. Helen became a debating partner on current affairs, and in-depth conversation ensued irrespective of the outcome!

Fran was a proficient cook—we've used her handwritten recipes for decades. Nonetheless she worried about whether the food was good enough; she was also nervous about the impact of her writing, though both rarely missed the mark.

Last year, Fran's persistence with writing culminated in a successful submission to the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *Friends on the Shelf*, a publication of true-life stories written by a range of authors including Charlie Higson and Harry Enfield. Sadly, she did not live to see her second story, *Le Franglais*, published in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition, having agreed the final edit the week before she passed away. We were proud and honoured to attend the launch event of this latest edition of *Friends on the Shelf*, in which we read aloud her story to an enthralled gathering in a Camden pub. We could only imagine how Fran would have captivated the audience with her rendition had she been able to deliver it herself.

The last year of Fran's life was impacted by her lung condition, reducing her normal active lifestyle to a sedentary existence. While this frustrated her, and she worried unduly about Cliff's burden of care, she kept her keen sense of humour. The staff in the hospital commented on Fran's sharp wit and engaging demeanour; since her death we have been inundated with messages of condolence from so many people who miss her friendly and lively personality.

Fran wished everyone attending the celebration of her life to wear something bright and colourful. We were blessed with a bright day, and those present reflected her habitual outgoing and playful nature, her flamboyant use of language and her love for art and colour.

We have Fran's treasured pink camelias to remind us of her; they formed part of the colour at her funeral. Of course she will remain in our hearts forever. Rest in peace, Fran.

*A picture of Fran illustrates the item on Quiz Night, which includes part of Fran's last quiz. Her poem 'Night Games' appears in the note on Poetry and Puddings.*

## *Summer Party 2024*

This year forty-three guests enjoyed the Friends of St Mary's Summer Party, held in unseasonably cold weather on June 15 in the Church Hall. Despite the chill, our guests enjoyed meeting friends in a relaxed atmosphere, eating the buffet supper supplied by committee members, and admiring the beautiful table decorations of garden flowers created by our Treasurer Ruth Dixon.



*Membership Secretary Anna Di Stefano and Greg Birdseye enjoy their Summer Party supper.*

*Photo: Virginia Talbot.*

## Remembering Our Friends

### Mark Phythian-Adams

24<sup>th</sup> February 1944–2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

Mark was Vice-Chair of the Friends of St Mary's from 2020 until illness prevented him from continuing in the role in February 2023. He was a most generous host to our committee meetings, and offered wise advice on matters legal and financial. We are especially proud to have supported the publication in 2018 of Mark's best-selling guidebook to St Mary's, written with the support of Geoffrey Tyack. For Mark loved St Mary's: the building, its history and above all its design and decoration, which he understood as a route map for the spiritual life, beginning from the baptistery at the west, and concluding with the altar at the east in a rising and narrowing architectural and sculptural frame recalling the route of a pilgrimage. I paraphrase here a sentence from our former vicar Andrew McKearney's moving sermon given at Mark's funeral, published in the Parish Magazine of October 2023.

I had earlier known Mark as a most knowledgeable and enthusiastic student of late



Mark addresses a group in front of the west door of St Mary's. Photo: Living Stones

## Remembering Fran Deacon

7<sup>th</sup> October 1943–12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*This tribute to Fran was compiled by Chris Deacon and edited by Susan Walker.*

Fran was born during the Second World War in Luton, an only child, though with an extended family as her mother was one of nine. Her mother was the last of the family to work in Luton's hat trade, but she also worked at the local swimming baths where Fran enjoyed this recreational pursuit above other sporting activities, notably team games! With undisputed common sense and intelligence, Fran had a sociable, fun-loving personality and spent her early years among her cousins enjoying singing and theatre. Her childhood joy in words and language grew into a lifelong passion for literature and wordplay.

Having done well at high school, Fran moved to Oxford to enter the nursing profession. Her lifelong nursing friends fondly remember how she enlivened their training regime through song, with lyrics drawn from medical activities set to music, even operatic arias.

Having married Cliff, Fran stayed in Oxford to raise a family. She continued her love of the performing arts and remained close to her former nursing colleagues, who provided each other with much support and love during those years.

When Chris was born, she and Cliff moved from the Iffley Road to a house in Headington next to Oxford United's long-time home, the Manor Ground. On Saturday mornings Chris and his sister Alex would occasionally see early groups of fans trying to get into the ground through the closed entrances, only to be shooed away by some policemen; by the afternoon Fran became the crowd control 'operative', literally brushing away with a broom fans who were trying to cross the garden to get into the ground!

Fran's close and extended family fondly remember the jolly japes she would engage in as Chris and Alex grew up, playing 'Squeak piggy squeak', 'Consequences' or other parlour games. This was usually accompanied by an ode to a captive audience with a specially baked cake for sustenance.

In the following years Fran continued her nursing career in various roles while looking after the family. Then and later, after Chris and Alex left home, she continued with her literary ambitions, writing poems, short stories and evolving her wordplay with Scrabble tiles, producing amusing anagrams, often with anybody and everybody's names! No car number plate was safe from irreverent interpretation and spoonerisms were 'de rigueur' part of the family language.

Fran loved music, having performed in choirs at school. She enjoyed a wide variety of genres from classical to rock, of the latter, most notably Queen—and while the music was remarkable, Freddie Mercury's showmanship was a definite draw, Fran seeing in him a reflection of her own repertoire. Two prized recordings survive, a professional recording of her singing at around age 12, and an impromptu tape of a funny sketch about nursing duties, of which she was rightly proud. Theatre remained a passion: Fran



A lifelong Christian, Patricia always played an active role in the Church, here in the parish as well as the deanery and diocese, regularly opening our home for the local bible study group, house communion and lively Sunday school parties, which often overflowed into the garden.

Always a great listener, Patricia often would support friends with a kind ear, tea and homemade cake.

In 2011, Patricia became a grandmother with the birth of Jules and Marcus and we often travelled to Wales to see “her boys”.

Despite MS being a part of Patricia's life for many years, she always found ways to give back with her time and enthusiasm, including being a governor of East Oxford Primary School. Donnington Doorstep, a drop-in centre for young mothers and children was a passion of Patricia's in recent years as a board trustee.

After almost 60 years together, Patricia is most loved and will be missed greatly.



*Patricia and Stephen enjoy the Botanic Garden, Oxford, in 2022.*

antiquity and Byzantium. We both attended seminars on the subjects hosted by the university; he also enjoyed a close affinity with the Ashmolean Museum, where Anne continues to volunteer and their youngest son Harry worked with great distinction for several years.

To capture glimpses of Mark's very full life and interests I include excerpts from Andrew's sermon and from the eulogies given by Mark and Anne's three sons, James, Alexander and Harry. I am very grateful to Anne for her assistance in providing the texts of all four tributes.

To Mark's interests and experience mentioned above should be added literature, gastronomy and theology. Mark had a sense of humour and a huge sense of fun, joined with a very deep, serious and sincere sense of social responsibility and Christian faith.

The youngest of three brothers, Mark was born in Carlisle, and lived in the Abbey grounds of Carlisle Cathedral, where his father John was a Canon. In view of his later interests, it was only to be expected that Mark's childhood playground, as the cathedral became with its secret passages, walls and tunnels, instilled a great love of ecclesiastical buildings. Mark's lifelong interest in archaeology was also inspired by his father's years before ordination, when he excavated with John Garstang in Sudan and Palestine while living and working at the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. Mark became a member of the Palestine Exploration Society, to which his father has left his library, and a Friend of St Catherine's Monastery in Sinai.

Back in Carlisle, Mark's first holiday was spent nearby in the northern Lake District, where he photographed the mountains from the Isel Valley, to which he would return decades later with his family to buy and restore the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Hewthwaite Hall.

Mark attended Rossall School in Lancashire, where he had a narrow escape from disaster attempting to impress a visiting military dignitary with an unduly spectacular flight in the school glider. There, too, undaunted by a timetable clash, Mark taught himself Ancient History A-level, obtaining the best mark in his year. At Queens' College, Cambridge, Mark read law and made many life-long friends, before moving to London to work for the Inland Revenue in his first job after Articles with Charles Russell. Though he enjoyed working with colleagues and clients on tax law, Mark sought a faster-paced environment in Merchant Banking, working with Samuel Montagu, Ansbachers, and, later, Henderson Investors and Barclays Private Bank.

More accessible than the Lakes, the Cotswolds provided a retreat from the City in the form of restoration of two houses in Sibford Gower, reached by Mark in his bright yellow TR6, with sheepskin seats—the epitome of 1970s style!

Mark met Anne in 1976; they enjoyed a lifelong marriage based upon a shared love of art, interior design, entertaining, landscape, travel, and above all, the company of family and friends. The 1980s saw a return to holidays in the Lake District where Hewthwaite Hall was restored from a shell to recreate a handsome Tudor farmhouse and garden. Mark's love of Cumbrian history and geology spurred many family expeditions seeking out former gold, copper and lead mines. Meanwhile his passion for early Christianity, also a strong influence on his children, inspired family tours of churches in Rome and in northern France.

As a diversion in Mark's final illness John and I gave him Jane Ridley's entertaining and perceptive royal biography, *George V: never a dull moment*. This turned out to be more significant than we could have known, for Mark's father had served as chaplain to the king in his last years, one of four monarchs he was to serve in this capacity.

Mark's life was bound by history, faith and appreciation of the very best that life can offer, often only reached through mental and physical perseverance. He did indeed make of life a pilgrimage, and at its end he rested beneath the boss in the sanctuary of St Mary's, where once the altar stood.

'And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.' *Revelation* 22, 1-4.

*Susan Walker*

## *Patricia Lamond Michael*

1st January 1943–1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

*[The first part of this memoir is written by Patricia's brother Andrew Jones and the latter by her husband Stephen Michael.]*

*Andrew writes:* Patricia was born in Edinburgh on New Year's Day 1943. It was wartime and cold.

Not long after her birth the army sent her father to India. It was decided that she and her mother would go and live with her father-in-law, who lived near Shrewsbury. Patricia's mother couldn't drive, so her Aunt Doff took them the 250 miles, which took over 12 hours in the snow and ice, despite being advised by some lorry drivers not to make the journey. An exciting entry into the world!

In 1946, following her father's return from India, the family returned to Kelso, where her brother Andrew was born later in the year.

Patricia was blessed with long hair, which she often wore in pigtails. Unfortunately for her, her brother was inclined to use them as cords for church bells.

Always very caring, for many years Patricia helped to pick daffodils on one of the nearby large estates, which would then be sold on behalf of the Soldiers Sailors & Airmen's Families Association (SAAFA). Every year Patricia collected for her mother wild snowdrops and primroses from the woods by the River Tweed. And every Easter Monday, in the nearby ruins of Roxburgh Castle Patricia and friends would roll down the hill their hard-boiled hand-painted eggs.

At the tender age of 13 she was sent to Brentwood, a boarding school in Southport, some 180 miles from home. She did not like it. The one thing she did enjoy was a school exchange with a French girl called Edite. Whilst in France she stayed on Edite's parents' apple farm. There she made great friends with Edite's grandmother. As a result, Patricia was taken into the garden where a steel box was dug up. This contained a quarter bottle of Calvados which had been stored there since before the First World

War. It was then given to her, a great privilege and an insight into how Patricia was able to communicate with people regardless of age. Incidentally, Patricia's father and one of his friends drank the Calvados...

Patricia always wanted to be a nurse, but she was too young to start her training for a State Registered Nurse qualification, so, when she left school, she travelled to Penzance, some 523 miles from home, to be a nurse in the school where her godmother, Aunt Marjorie, was secretary. Her grandfather lived nearby in the village of Mousehole. This was an interim post as she soon left to train at the Wingfield Orthopaedic Hospital in Oxford.

Whilst training at the Wingfield she nursed the wife of the actor David Niven, which resulted in Patricia being offered the job of nanny to one of her patient's friends in Switzerland. This turned out to be the family of Peter Ustinov. Fortunately, she declined, otherwise she would have not met Stephen.

From Wingfield Patricia went to University College Hospital in London where she met her future husband, Stephen. When asked by her mother and father 'what is Stephen like?' the reply was 'he is a bit like Yehudi Menuhin'.

*Stephen continues:* Patricia and I first met in 1964 at a seedy party in London. Neither of us was keen to go, but thankfully I was persuaded by colleagues and Patricia by her fellow nurses. I almost left early, but Patricia came and spoke to me, and we chatted into the evening. I drove her home in a tiny 1930 Austin 7. As it was past curfew, she had to sneak in through casualty and slept fully clothed to avoid matron!

In our early twenties life was so much fun and full of possibilities. We were both music lovers but members of rival choral societies.

Our eventual marriage in Patricia's hometown of Kelso happened on an incredibly windy day—all our wedding photos have her veil horizontal. But no rain! Honeymooning in Austria, we enjoyed walking the beautiful hills and, following an unfortunate bee sting, rowing on the lakes.

Our first few months of married life were spent in a small, rented gardener's cottage on Halfpenny Lane in Cholsey.

Home for the next nine years was East Hanney, a small village just 12 miles south of Oxford but at the time felt many more. 'Tamarisk' was previously a 'home for paying guests', very old and falling apart, but we rolled up our sleeves and made it home.

An active member of the village, after the births of David and Patrick Patricia helped found the local play group and Sunday school, as well as helping to raise funds for the new village hall and community outdoor swimming pool.

Iffley welcomed our young family in the mid-70s and 'The Limes' has been our home now for over 40 years. Having New Year's Day as Patricia's birthday meant we had many lively all-day parties, the house full of family and friends.

At this time Patricia was the nurse at the Ormerod School for children with physical disabilities. Patricia was also a regular nursing volunteer at Sobell House and the children's hospice Helen House.