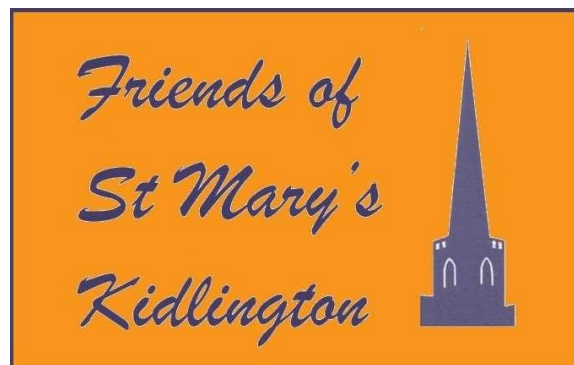


News Sheet Autumn 2024

Thanks for your kind support,
we are back with an exciting
programme of events.
Keep up to date through our website
www.fosmk.org.uk



Our first event of the year was a reception at Exeter College and tour of the newly refurbished library.

Professor Sir Rick Trainor hosted us at one of his last events as college Rector, and spoke warmly of the close relationship between the college and Kidlington through the centuries.



Autumn Talks continue in St Mary's at 6pm:

Prue Leith 19th October

Star of *Bake-off*, Prue will talk about life as a cook, business woman, TV star, novelist & journalist, and share her views on the end of life.



Debbie Dance 16th November

Former Chair of *Oxford Preservation* and Chair of *Oxford Playhouse*, Debbie will talk on Church buildings and their stories.



Please book in advance through our website (above).

PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD: We are planning a diverse feast for you to enjoy. Some dates are fixed, others are 'works in progress', and all would benefit from your active involvement. Check dates nearer the time.

Nov-Dec James Hamilton selling paintings of Kidlington: 20% to FOSMK

1st March 2025: Words and Music on 'The Seven Ages of Man'

12th March: Talk on 'Spitfire Jackie' by her daughter at the Airport

3rd May: 'Springtime Food and Friends' – A feast of international food

28th June: Indian Dance and Music event.

Thank you Joanna for organising all of this. Can you help too?

St Mary's was full when **Sir Philip Pullman** and **Jeremy Spafford** (founding Director of The Old Fire Station) spoke on Storytelling. This was a truly wonderful evening where we rejoiced in a story of the importance of every tortoise, and heard how story-telling formed Sir Philip. Jeremy spoke too of the healing power for refugees of telling their stories.



It felt like a huge privilege to be read a Brothers Grimm story by Sir Philip and there was lots of time for fans to ask questions and collect autographs.

We are very grateful to Sir Philip and Jeremy for visiting us, and to Joanna for making it happen.

What are FOSMK funds for?

The aim of The Friends is *"To raise funds to assist the Rector and Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle in maintaining, improving, protecting and ensuring the future of the fabric and fittings and in extending community access to St Mary's Church Kidlington and its.... hall."*

The PCC's current priorities are to make the building water-tight, safe, and accessible. Mending the roof is the first expensive priority. Levelling the dangerous floors and renovating the N Transept follow, so we need to raise a lot!

In the meantime, FOSMK trustees have approved £4,000 to replace the clock chime mechanism if diocesan permission is granted to do this.

Friends: Members and Trustees

Everyone is welcome to our events but members get reduced prices. By joining *The Friends* you are helping preserve and make the best use of one of Kidlington's treasured assets. You do not have to be a church-goer or a Christian to be a Friend. Annual membership for one person is £25. You can join the through the website or by email.

The Friends are separate from the church and Trustees are an equal number of church and community reps, plus the Rector as chair. We would welcome more trustees.

Above all, we need active members willing to get involved in making our wonderful events happen: logistics, communication, chair moving... We would love to hear from you.

friendssmk@gmail.com

Thank you very much