

# News Sheet Spring 2025

Thanks to your kind support,  
we have had some amazing events.  
Keep up to date via our web site

[www.fosmk.org.uk](http://www.fosmk.org.uk)



## A Rich Palette of Speakers,

Joanna Foster organised a wonderful variety of speaker events over Winter and Spring.

Following the earlier talk by Philip Pullman we were delighted to welcome Prue Leith and Debbie Dance who, in conversation with Joanna, both told fascinating stories from their lives in business, cookery, television, and in the conservation projects within Oxford city.

A change of venue to Oxford Airport was appropriate for the next talk by Candida Adkins who told the story of her mother 'Spitfire Jackie' and the other 'Spitfire Girls' in the ATA who flew every type of military aircraft in WW2 in and out of local airfields including Kidlington, risking their lives on every trip.



## Poetry readers & musicians

Our concert on the first day of Spring featured KAOS, the Belles, and the Beaux, St Mary's choristers, Jason Hakin, soloists and groupings all celebrating the four seasons. A fabulous evening.



And hot off the press: news of the Food Fair on 3rd May. "**Tastes of Spring**" gave us delicious food from Syria, Turkey, Japan, Hungary, Spain, ... With workshops for children to learn how to make pasta or sushi and music by the delightful Lebedek Duo it was a great day.

**Coming Event: Wednesday 21st May FOSMK AGM 6pm**

## **Funds Raised so Far:**

It is very pleasing that events have each attracted different audiences. In this way FOSMK is reaching a cross-section of people from near and far.

### **2024 events:**

Visit to Exeter College £153.73  
Philip Pullman talk £2,495.04  
Prue Leith talk £2,645.84  
Debbie Dance talk £645.65

### **2025 events:**

'Seasons' concert £858.45  
'Spitfire Jackie' talk £1,436.08  
'Food Fair' to be confirmed

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR SUPPORTING THESE EVENTS**

## **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 priorities are to make the building water-tight, safe, and accessible. Mending the roof is an expensive priority. Levelling the dangerous floors and renovating the North Transept follow, but the urgent need became clear as winter darkness revealed how the lighting has failed, making the church impossible for people of all ages to read text or music, and dangerous with trip hazards from temporary floodlights which are needed throughout the building. Replacement lighting, with a slight upgrade will cost £25,000 and the PCC will be requesting help with this from the Friends.

## **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 through the website ([www.fosmk.org.uk](http://www.fosmk.org.uk)) 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](mailto:friendssmk@gmail.com)

**Thank you very much**

***Thank you everyone for your support  
and especially to Joanna and teams  
for making all this happen.***