



The Friends Quarterly



Welcome to the Friends Newsletter.

On the 1st August 2019 we welcomed Revd. Dr. Michael John Lakey as minister for St Mary's, Chalgrove and St Helen's at Berrick Salome. Our front cover shows Revd. Michael at the service of Institution, Induction and Installation with Bishop Colin Fletcher representing the Diocese of Oxford.

Friends Update & News Report

There is good news to share! Thank you all – we have achieved our objective to cover the full cost of enabling St Mary's sound system to be upgraded. The PCC is delighted and very grateful. In the next Quarterly we hope to have more information about items that Friends could donate to the church from the funds we raise through membership and events.

And not unrelated to this – the November Quarterly is the time of the year when we remind you about membership renewal at the end of January 2020. If you donate via Direct Debit, we shall assume that you wish to continue your current arrangement unless we hear to the contrary. Those members who pay annually by cheque will receive a further reminder in January, unless of course we have already received your renewal.

There is one more event this year that Friends is promoting. We look forward to welcoming you to "Musical Medley and More" on Sunday November 24th at 3pm. Do come. It promises to be a lovely concert of light entertainment.

Lynn Baker Membership Secretary

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Revd. Dr Michael John Lakey

It was a lovely warm summer's evening on 1 August when St Mary's was filled with a congregation for The Institution, Induction and Installation of our new vicar. The service, led by Bishop Colin commenced with a very poignant hymn 'Thy hand, O God, has guided'. Cllr Ann Pritchard and Charles Baker ably delivered the two readings and Bishop Colin gave a warm and light-hearted address. This was followed by the choir singing the anthem 'Day by Day'; a wonderful sound echoing around our church.



on behalf of the Methodist Church.

The dedication of the Ministers and People then followed when from St Mary's, Churchwarden Patricia Hunt presented water for baptism, Churchwarden Barry Spicer presented a large Bible and the Vice-chair of the PCC Andrew Davis presented a copy of the Book of Common Prayer. From St Helen's, Churchwarden Marian Shaw presented the oil of healing and the Vice-chair of the PCC Roger Derbyshire presented bread and wine. Lastly Revd. John Anderson presented a cross

The service continued with the Declaration and Oaths, followed by the Institution, the Induction when Father Michael was presented with the keys of the two churches by the Churchwardens, and finally the Installation and the Welcome. The choir sang another lovely anthem 'Jubilate' and the service closed with the stirring hymn 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer'.

It was a very special service. Members of the congregation from both churches supplied plentiful light refreshments, which gave everyone the opportunity to mingle, relax and reflect on the evening.

Margaret Molloy

CONGRATULATIONS

Reflections on the marriage of Jonathan O'Hara and Faye Butterly 3rd August 2019

"Please come to the church and join the fun". That was my informal invitation to the wedding of Faye and Jonathan (alias Jono!). As I stepped onto the church drive that day, I heard it – a Brass Band playing jolly tunes including the Floral Dance – so familiar with brass bands. Thinks "I wonder if Nina and Faye will be playing?" – of course not – they had much more important roles that day!

The atmosphere in the church was already building up to a crescendo of sheer joy with Jono waiting expectantly – looking slightly nervous – for Faye to arrive but when, in she walked there were whispers of "gorgeous, beautiful, stunning, etc". My gasp was "so pretty" – which she still is!

Revd. Dr Michael Lakey met them at the chancel steps. His first words to them were "You will remember this day for the rest of your lives." He then added, "So will I" – it was the first marriage he had solemnised in St Mary's Church since his Induction two days before



We all sang Jerusalem lustily and from thereon in there was a relaxed atmosphere. There were several poems and readings. The mood changed when Michael Vidon read a tribute he had written called "This is why". We were all asked to respond with "Because we all love Jonathan and Faye". Basically, it was anecdotes of their life together – mainly of Jono. Every time Michael said, "This is why" we all responded as requested. It was so amusing!

The choir's rendering of Howard Goodall's version of "The Lord is My Shepherd" was beautiful. If anyone were expecting the Vicar of Dibley to walk in at that point, they would have been disappointed. The final hymn "Love Divine, all love excelling" was a perfect end to a joyful service.

Jono and Faye walked down the aisle looking relaxed and so happy. The Brass Band struck up and played Mendelssohn's Wedding March from "A Midsummer Night's Dream". There was much toe tapping until everyone had wandered outside to meet the new "Mr and Mrs". Sometime later everyone heard a shout "Jeanette is serving tea and cake NOW!" – an invitation not to be ignored. What a lovely afternoon! It was a privilege to have been invited to the Church. Thank you both.

Daphne Williams

The Wedding of Natalia Jacques and Jake Middleton

20th July

Natalia and Jake were married on July 20th in St Mary's to the joy of all the many friends and family members who were there to support them. There was a real feeling of abundance throughout the day – an abundance of love, support, generosity, humour and hospitality given and shared by all their family members both to the wedding couple and to all their many guests.



their wedding there.

Father Julian Dunn officiated at the wedding and his address to the couple was full of wisdom and sincerity of heart. And a rousing, and unaccompanied singing of all verses of the final wedding hymn "Jerusalem" more than made up for the "blip" at the end of the service during the reception. It brought a smile to everyone's face as did the amazingly vigorous performance of the Maori dance – the Haka – that also took place during the reception. Readers need to know that Natalia lived in New Zealand until fairly recently and her immediate family still live there, so for those family members and their friends the Haka came as no surprise!

Our good wishes to Natalia and Jake for their future life together, and we hope that from time to time they will enjoy coming to St Mary's again, bringing happy memories of

Lynn Baker

We remember.....

Phil (1926 – 2019) and Jean (1928 - 2019) Pym

"I saw Grandad and Grandma as one entity, a strong unbreakable team who showered Love, Wisdom, and Kindness upon us all. While incredibly sad to have lost them both so soon, it's actually quite beautiful, even death could not separate them from each other."

These were some of the words written by Pieter, a grandson, and spoken on his behalf by Father Michael. I am grateful to the family to allow me to share them here as I think they express what many may be feeling about the loss of this lovely "hand in hand" couple.

Jean died on September 15th and following complications after a fall at home, Phil died on October 22nd, one day after Jean's funeral. In moving tributes at both funeral services, family members witnessed to their love for these two very special people – their wisdom, generosity, creativity and warm heartedness. "There" for others, as well as hand in hand together, they inspired many and will be much missed.

Lynn Baker

PAST EVENTS

'Church Visitation' by Oxford Psalmody

On the 7th September forty members of Oxford Psalmody visited St. Mary's, the first of a tour of four churches in the area. The singers and instrumentalists came from many different parts of England and treated the audience to three quarters of an hour of West Gallery Music. West Gallery music is the term given for psalm tunes sung before, during and after services within rural churches in the eighteenth century. They were often composed by local, untutored musicians.

Oxford Psalmody involves members of the West Gallery Music Association formed in 1990 to revive music of the rural parishes and they have met one day a year since September 2000. The 7th September was the twentieth and final meeting of the group. The music for this year's 'Church Visitation' included pieces from Oxfordshire manuscripts.



Oxford Psalmody provided an amazing experience for all. The sound produced was impressive, helped by the splendid acoustics within the church. The musical competence of the members of Oxford Psalmody was remarkable, since the group only meet once a year. Some members may well have viewed some pieces of music for the first time - we can only assume they are highly proficient at sight-reading!

The group did invite the audience to sing along with them, although I felt that my participation would not be appreciated by others sitting nearby! However, I did notice a few from our church community singing well, particularly those who sing within our own church choir! I was lucky enough to hear my uncle play the instrumental accompaniment and my aunt sing within the Oxford Psalmody choir. Even though I have known about their love of historical music, it is always good to experience their obvious prowess first-hand!

Thank you to all of you who provided tea and coffee and delicious cakes - I know the singers and the audience appreciated them.

Louisa Kippin

Ride & Stride and Heritage Open Day

In the afternoons of September 14th and 15th the church was open for this national event. It coincides with Oxford Open Doors.

Bob Heath-Whyte has recently designed a new leaflet, which shows the digital images of all 44 paintings, as we believe they would have looked when they were painted in about 1320. The leaflet also describes how the paintings were recently cleaned and conserved and how these modern images of the ancient wallpaintings came to be made. This was a combination of historical drawings, modern photographs, Bob's deep knowledge, and our conservator Madeleine Katkov's detailed observations and expertise in the original colours involved. Finally came the technical wizardry of graphic designer John Cook.

Here is a comment by John on seeing the new leaflet:

"I think you have done a good job on the leaflet, if I was to comment I'd merely be being a pedant. You have let the medieval artists talk for themselves. I shall say no more."



The Saturday was fairly quiet, perhaps because the Ride and Stride countywide church fundraising event was also taking place. Our photo shows Bob Heath-Whyte and Patricia Hunt part way through their 12-mile Stride. Between them they raised £418.00, to be shared equally between St Mary's Church and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. The next day, Heritage Sunday, Bob was back in action at St Mary's. He had prepared a presentation of the new digital images, which he ran twice

over to the delight of many visitors. The Friends would like to thank him for giving his time and energy to this event – especially having "strided" many miles the day before! The visitors enjoyed tea and cake provided by Friends. A copy of the leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter and is also attached to digital versions. We hope that you will enjoy it and find it informative.

Charles Baker

Friends of St Mary's Concert

If you were at St Mary's concert on Sunday 22 September you will never be able to hear J.



S. Bach's Fugue (BWV 549) without thinking of the refrain, "Uncle Joe has lost his trousers." Organist Roger Derbyshire explained that the short, recurring melody of the piece sounds rather like that sentence. This was typical of the witty and informative introductions given by the musicians during the concert, which was staged to raise money for the Friends of St Mary's Church. Amongst the favourites were Nimrod from Elgar's Enigma

Variations played by church organist and choir master Christopher Devonport.

Harry Potter fans would recognise A Window on the Past by John Williams, which formed some of the incidental music from one of the films and was played by Alice Derbyshire. Perhaps one of the most enchanting pieces was Donizetti's Duet for Cornet and Euphonium played by Faye O'Hara and Will Grainger. The acoustics made the church resonate with music and captivated the audience. After the concert the best was yet to come with teas and cakes organised by Jeanette Barrington. The concert raised £458 to help continue the support given by the Friends to the life, work and fabric of the medieval church of St Mary's in Chalgrove.

Matt Clark

St Mary's Church Banquet



Our spaceship touched down at St Mary's Church Chalgrove with welcoming drinks and very good company at The Man on the Moon Banquet on Saturday 12th October. Planets decorated the church and flags were flying. A magnificent meal followed, served by Jeanette's

wonderful team. A variety of starters, followed by beef bourguignon and fresh vegetables, then desert & coffee, were all delicious.

The quiz was next when we were back in man on the moon days and on the Star Ship Enterprise and Star Wars remembering astronauts, comets and moon landings. What a knowledgeable crowd! Back to earth we sang a rousing Jerusalem, waving Union flags. A big thank you to all the organisers of this most enjoyable night, what a lot of planning and work went into it by a marvellous team; and thank you also to the flower crew for all the beautiful arrangements. As guests of our cousin Rachel at this special event, we did enjoy the company, food and beautiful surroundings in Chalgrove church. Many thanks

Dorothy & Bryan Allison

Bellringers Report

We have missed several of the team through holidays and illness but are now settling into the winter routine. Everyone is making progress in their own way. Faye and Jonathan have mastered the Treble to Bob Doubles. Emilia is ringing touches of Bob Doubles "inside" and is soon to attempt her first quarter peal. Andrew battles through Cambridge with his crib sheet along with Geoff and Mary's guidance. Margaret has had a setback health wise but has had a pull on a rope again. Others will hopefully be able to join us again soon, meanwhile Brian keeps us all in order!

Thanks, as always to Wendy from "down the road" and Gordon from Little Milton who regularly join us and contribute their skills to the bell ringing team. We will shortly "twin" with Marsh Baldon joining each other's practices to ring and socialise together. Marsh Baldon has five bells and are quite light and lively to ring compared to our heavy six.

Andrew Davis – steeple keeper and caretaker

Future Events 2019/2020

***November 24th Concert** in church 3-5pm.

“Musical Medley and More” will feature performances by Chalgrove Brass Ensemble; Bucks Voices; Marion and Massimo Nicolosi; and Glynn Leaney. Teas will be served in the interval. Entrance by suggested donation of £7. All are welcome.

December 7th St Nick’s Fayre. 11.00am – 3pm in the Village Hall.

December 24th Christmas Eve 4.30pm Carol Service & Blessing of the Crib
11.30pm Midnight Mass of The Nativity

December 25th Christmas Day 9.30am Communion

2020

***February 8th St Mary’s Quiz Night –**

This ever-popular event will be held on Saturday evening. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Further details will be in Link. Or contact Judith Bennett on 890958 nearer the time

April 18th Progressive Supper –

Annual Parish Progressive Supper. Please contact Jeanette Barrington on 890607 or email barringtonjeanette@gmail.com if you would like more details.

***May 8th Friday Bank Holiday - Chalgrove Village Festival –**

Friends will be there to welcome all-comers to the Church Stall where free muffins will await you!

***June 7th Friends Strawberry Cream Tea – 3 to 5pm. Make a note in your diary!**

***June 21st Open Garden Event –**

2 to 5pm Gardens will be open in the village and teas will be served. More details in the 2020 Quarterlies. But keep the date!

*Events marked * are promoted by Friends*

Our thanks to Kevin Poole for the front-page photograph.

Editorial Policy We welcome your contributions (up to a maximum of 500 words) to the newsletter but we reserve the right to edit them. We should also point out that the views expressed in ‘The Friends’ quarterly are not necessarily those of the editorial team, the incumbent or the PCC of St Mary’s Church.

Contact: Geoffrey....gsparish@gmx.com Lynn.....friends@chalgrovechurch.org Boblilm@chalgrovechurch.org