

Friends of St Mary's Kidlington News

We are Up and Running!

Welcome to our first summer newsletter.

We are delighted to say that we now have 75 members.

St Mary's is loved by so many people near and far. Thank you all very much for your enthusiastic support and generosity.

We have an exciting programme of events coming up this autumn which we hope you and your families will enjoy. Details are in this newsletter. Please tell others about all the things that are going on and invite them along too.

In the last few months we have been getting ourselves set up as an organisation with a trustee body, constitution, bank account, database of members, web site (fosmk.org) and a facebook page (Friends of St Mary's Kidlington) so if you are ever looking for information about the Friends please don't forget to look there. If you don't find the answer then feel free to contact Felicity or Margaret Day.



Annual Friends Dinner Friday September 29th

Our Patron, Professor Sir Rick Trainor hopes to join us and speak at our annual dinner on 29th September in the Rector's Lodgings at Exeter College.

Tickets are £55 each at cost price for Friends, and £60 for guests. (Friends wishing to add a donation on top are welcome).

Numbers are limited so please contact us asap to book your place. Special diets catered for. This will be a superb evening with beautiful food in very special surroundings. We are grateful to Sir Rick and Exeter College for this evening. Tickets from Felicity before September 20th please.



The Osiligi Maasai Warriors

It's not every day that the Maasai come to Kidlington but the *Friends of St Mary's* are delighted to welcome this seven-piece troupe from Southern Kenya at St Mary's at 7.30pm on **Friday 13th October** (not Friday 6th October as originally announced).

They perform authentic and exciting Maasai tribal song and dance plus the world-famous Maasai jumping.

This will be an evening to remember and because we would like to give local children an unforgettable experience, under 16s go free with an adult. This is a *Friends* event so we would value your assistance with refreshments, welcome on the door, and general help.

Tickets for *Friends* are £10 from Margaret Day only, and £12 for the public from shops (Alison's Animals and Freelance Fabrics), Margaret or the web site. We expect this to sell out.....

“The Troupe’s music is incredible, mesmerising to hear and certainly fascinating to watch.”

Friends Annual Lecture and AGM: Saturday November 18th, 7pm and 7.45pm

‘The Stones of Kidlington. St Mary’s: History before your Eyes and Under Your Feet’ by Katherine Eustace FSA

The *Friends of St Mary's Kidlington* exists to help raise funds to maintain and improve the fabric of the building and improve community access. As we approach its 800th birthday in 2020 Katherine Eustace, local resident, former curator at the Ashmolean, and expert in art and sculpture will unfold some of its hidden story.

This fascinating presentation will follow a brief annual general meeting at 7pm with refreshments at 7.30pm and the presentation at 7.45pm. The AGM will be short and simple but it is also your opportunity to get involved with ideas for future *Friends* events, fund raising, or the running of the organisation.

As a new and fresh organisation we need and appreciate your help! Thank you!

A wonderful Day out in Tewkesbury and Gloucester

Joyce Morris writes:

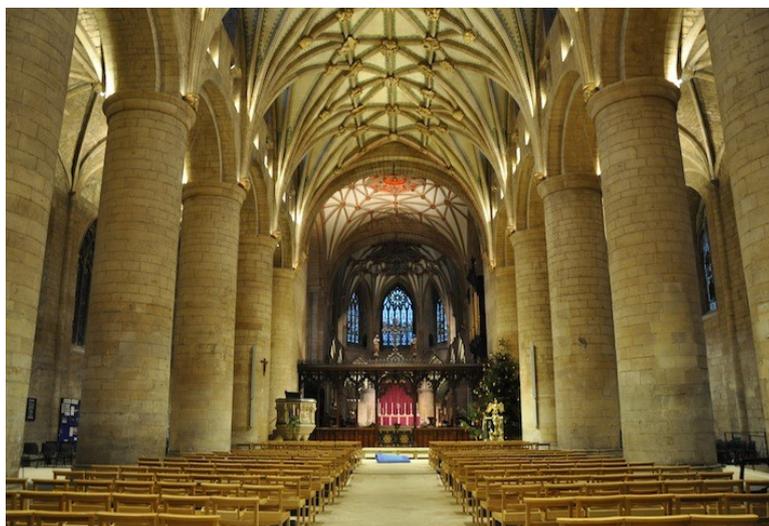
It was a dry bright morning as we boarded the coach for the visit to Tewkesbury Abbey and Gloucester Cathedral. A pretty drive through the Cotswolds took us first to Tewkesbury. As we walked through the Abbey grounds the strength and grandeur of this Norman abbey church was immediately apparent from the massive structure of the outside walls. Inside, the first view looking up the nave towards the choir and chancel was breath taking. Fourteen gigantic Norman columns line and support the nave. Above these are 15 central roof bosses which represent the life of Christ. Angels playing mediaeval instruments stand at either side. They, and all the features of the abbey have been carefully preserved so that they are clearly visible to the naked eye. We moved towards the misericords. They were more ornate than those in St Mary's Kidlington but we can claim to have the oldest in a parish church in this country. The Abbey was bought by the townspeople of Tewkesbury for £453 at the time of Henry VIII and since then has been their parish church.

After quick cups of coffee we moved on to Gloucester. The tower of the cathedral dominates the city sky line. We arrived so that those who wished could attend the late morning Communion service. Our time in Gloucester gave an opportunity to visit the Cathedral, have lunch and to explore other interesting places in the city. Gloucester Cathedral also dates from Norman times beginning as the site of a Benedictine Abbey. Its fame spread after Edward II was buried there when many pilgrims started to arrive and the cathedral had Royal patronage. Consequently, although the nave has massive Norman pillars resembling those at Tewkesbury, the south transept and the choir were converted to the English Perpendicular style in the 14th century, followed by the addition of the Tower in the 15th century. Simon Jenkins says that "Gloucester can only be understood through its split Norman / late Gothic personality".

Having looked at the Cathedral we moved to the cloisters. They are spacious, wonderfully carved and, surprisingly, enclosed with stained glass windows. In the middle is a lovely garden where we could rest tired feet.

At the end of the afternoon many of us gathered in the choir for Choral Evensong. The glorious sounds from the choristers rang through the building into the vaults of the roof. A most uplifting way to bring our visit to Gloucester to an end. We returned by an alternative Cotswold route enjoying the scenery and the evening sunshine. It had been a wonderful and informative day.

*The giant Norman columns
of Tewkesbury "took our
breath away".*



Getting organized for 2018

The *Friends of St Mary's Kidlington* exists

"to raise funds to assist the Rector and PCC 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 associated hall."
(constitution)

In the first year the trustees have been Cllr David Betts, Mr Danby Bloch, Miss Margaret Day (treasurer), Professor John Morris (secretary), and the Rev'd Felicity Scroggie (chair). We are very grateful indeed to the trustees who have got us going. We can now welcome new trustees and we also need a group of people to work together to organise *Friends* events and other fund raising activities. Could you be one of these people? At the **AGM on November 18th 7pm** there will be a chance for members to elect new trustees and a new events group. Please don't be shy - your contribution is valuable.

Need information?

We're on the web:
fosmk.org

Facebook:
**Friends of St Mary's
Kidlington**

Email:
fosmk@btinternet.com

Contact Felicity on:
07821 542182
felicityscroggie@gmail.com

Sandra Tipper took the plunge to come on the coach trip: "I was a bit apprehensive. I didn't think I would know many people, and I was right in that thought at the start of the trip, but by the end of the day I had talked to lots of people and was made most welcome."

.... And 2020 birthday celebrations

St Mary's will be 800 years old in 2020 and we plan to have a year of celebrations that involve the whole village. A pageant involving schools? A theatre production of *Murder in the Cathedral*? A royal visit? They are all possibilities.

But we also need to look to the fabric of the building. At the moment we are working on improving the electrics and lighting (BBC 'Any Questions?' backed out of coming this year because of this!), creating a comfy Welcome Area, and mending the leaky chancel roof (Thank You Exeter College).

We have two large building projects which we are linking with the 2020 celebrations:

- 1) mending the rest of the roof, and
- 2) building a new refectory appropriate to the needs of Kidlington's community and an active vibrant church.

The *Friends* will be vital in raising money to support these and other projects. To hear more about the plans for the 2020 projects and to be part of the consultation, you are invited to an open meeting on **Thursday November 2nd at 8pm in St Mary's**.