

# FRIENDS OF GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH CHURCH

Registered Charity No: 1067435

Silver Jubilee celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Fundraising for urgent restoration and repairs to this historic church, founded in AD1133

## 2022 Annual Report

### Jennifer Moss 1934 – 2022



It is fitting to start with a tribute to Jennifer Moss, our excellent Secretary for almost twenty years, who sadly died on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 in Oxford, after a serious fall in Great Missenden. Jennifer was born in Oxford, where her father, William Hume-Rothery OBE, FRS, was a university professor. A metallurgist and a materials scientist, he founded the Oxford Department of Metallurgy in the 1950's.

Jennifer and her mother were evacuated to Canada during World War 2; she later attended Cheltenham Ladies College and went on to study Physics at the University of Cambridge in 1953. She was a trailblazer there: the university had only accepted women to study science the year before and she triumphed with a Double First in Theoretical Physics.

Jennifer married Tony in 1956 and they had three children. To support the family while Tony changed careers to study to become a solicitor, Jennifer contacted an Employment Agency for Graduate Women (relatively few in those days) looking for part-time work that she could do home-based, to combine with children. She joined a London town planning practice and became a Demographer. In general, she had to say what, at dates in the future, there would be the number of people in a particular area, the number of them who would be economically active and the number of households they would form. Computers were very elementary then but it meant that Jennifer was always computer-literate. She travelled extensively with her work: Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. One of her last jobs – with Heathrow Terminal 5 planning – involved some 35 linked spreadsheets – one for each local authority area around the airport.

Jennifer was a magistrate at Aylesbury for over fifteen years and had a strong Christian faith. She was trustee of, and also on, the Inspection Committee of the Bucks Historic Churches Trust for many years. After retiring as trustee in 2021 she successfully applied on behalf of our PCC in early 2022, for grants from that Trust and from Sweet Charity in Prestwood. She also prepared the monthly Church Rota for St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, regularly attended services and was a sides-person at Little Hampden Church. Nick, her son, is now a sides-person at St Peter & St Paul and a “**Friend**”.

As our excellent Secretary, Jennifer did the normal practical secretarial work and had good ideas for raising funds and to encourage more membership. In addition, she became the third trustee/committee member to become an author when she compiled: “Personal Memories of World War Two”. She kindly donated the proceeds, after covering the costs, to the “Friends” and her family has recently kindly given us many extra copies for the same purpose.

Jennifer has left an excellent legacy and we are all very grateful to have known her. We sent our condolences and very best wishes to Pippa, Charlotte and Nick, her children, and to all her much-loved family: her weekly family Zoom sessions were sacrosanct! We are delighted to have welcomed Nick and Laura as members of our charity recently. Jennifer left a generous bequest and considerable funds were raised in her memory, very kindly donated by her family. She is greatly missed.

Jennifer's funeral was a moving celebration of her life and she now rests with Tony at Little Hampden Church

R.I.P.

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In **2022**, life began to open up at last after Covid. Our **AGM** was held in the Parish Church on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

The "Friends" had many successful and enjoyable fundraising events:-

- "Charing Cross to China" by Jo Laurie in April.
- "High Wycombe: Buckinghamshire's Premier Town" by Julian Hunt in July.
- The Damon Singers concert in October.
- Tabletop Sales with preserves and other items held in June and September.
- Participation in the Church's Science Festival in October and at the Christmas Tree Festival.
- Preserves were offered at Sunday Cream Teas and also at three Farmers' Markets at the C of E Combined School.
- A stand, with gazebo, at the village Platinum Jubilee Fete in June.
- The Church School Summer Fair in July.
- The Christmas Tree Festival stand in the Lady Chapel, with Preserves, books, tabletop items, Val Eaton Griffith's matchstick model of the Parish Church and Maurice Taylor's five wooden church models.

**Income: £17,442** was raised. A huge "Thank You" to the Committee, our members, local shops, businesses and so many other supporters for kind fundraising help, publicity and support. Especial thanks to Harriet Lemon at the Parish Office, Anna & Odette at the Railway Station, Julie Chandler & to Graham How of Wytham Stores, Oxford for preserves' sales.

**Easyfundraising.** Donations now total £238 from nine supporters: all very helpful!

Committee members do not take admin. expenses so that all proceeds go towards grants to the PCC for Fabric restoration and repairs, which now total over £158,000 since 2000.

**Legacies** in aid of our charity are greatly appreciated and we thank those who have supported our fundraising work in this way including the recent: Bequest and donations in memory of Jennifer Moss of £3250 and a Bequest from Chris Paine's estate of £2843.

**Preserves & some other tabletop items raised £6359** in 2022 including: Cream Teas: £1516; Events: £985; Tabletop Library sales: £688; Platinum Jubilee Fete: £558; Christmas Tree Festival: £891; The Pantry/Taxi Office at the Railway Station: £490; School Farmers' Markets & the Summer Fair: £483. Kind donations of fruit and sugar and the re-cycling of jam jars and lids have been most helpful: thank you!

**Grants of £8730** were made to the PCC in 2022: the second tranche of stonework repairs to the Tower & South wall: **£7190** Signage alterations on three boards with the Vicar's name: **£940**; and 2 grants for gutter and downpipe maintenance: **£600**.

The PCC has recently asked the Oxford Diocese for a Faculty for £10,000 more stonework and internal wall plastering repairs. An estimated £500,000 - £700,000 will be required for other major fabric repairs in the coming years. There will be a Quinquennial Inspection in a few weeks so we await details of further repairs to this historic church, founded almost 900 years ago.

**Fundraising items for sale:** available at the Railway Station Taxi Office or [tel: 01494 891312](tel:01494891312) / email: [avd@davis.f9.co.uk](mailto:avd@davis.f9.co.uk)

- “Personal Memories of World War Two” by Jennifer Moss: price £10: excellent reading and such a good present!
- Large cotton Tea-towels, in five colours, with the Parish Church design: £5 each.
- “Great Missenden has a story to tell... and so do the villages” by Val Eaton Griffith: £4.

**Membership.** We welcomed eighteen new members but sadly said farewell to others. Membership support is vital and we need to add to our number – do tell your friends of our important fundraising work and activities and invite them to join our happy and effective charity!

**Forthcoming events:** An invitation-only Silver Jubilee Tea Party for our members in June (invitations follow and we hope to see you there!); a Talk & Tea on 23rd September by Paula Kitching on the Bi-centenary of Great Missenden C of E Combined School; and a talk by Dr Beth Rogers on John Hampden, the great 17<sup>th</sup> century Parliamentarian, on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

**Committee.** Avril Cobham kindly volunteered to take over as Secretary at the 2022 AGM and Malcolm Chalmers, our Vicar, joined us in September 2022: both are warmly welcomed. We are a very effective “Merrie Bande” and I thank the Committee members and other kind helpers for all their support and hard work: our Afternoon Teas, after very interesting Talks or concerts, and with all their delicious and generously donated food, have become very popular and much-praised.

**Committee Members:** Hon. Chairman: Vivienne Davis, Hon. Secretary: Avril Cobham, Hon. Treasurer: Nevil Coulson, The Revd. Malcolm Chalmers, Ann Biscoe-Taylor, Jill Burton, Di Denney, Norma Gardner, Paula Kitching, Jill Pateman and Esther Rose.

***Our charity’s aim is to ensure that this sacred building continues to be a vital centre for Christian worship and other community activities.***

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### **A Message from Patricia Neale, LLM.**

The congregations and surrounding communities are overwhelmingly grateful for the constant fund-raising and enjoyable gatherings that bring the necessary funds to keep the Parish Church in such good condition.

Stonework continues to be diligently cared for, and replaced by, our stonemasons but the cost is generously covered through the “**Friends**” efforts.

Likewise, gatherings listen to good speakers, enjoy wonderful teas and the selling of Vivienne’s favourite Jams, bringing so much together with generous finance and the added bonus of friendships created.

Our thanks to the “Team” and the support of the communities.

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## Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church

*Registered charity no. 1067435*

### Accounts for year ended 31 December 2022

		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Opening	TSB	26,110		17,742	
Balance	Hampshire Trust	40,805		40,000	
			66,915		57,742
Income	Subscriptions	2,385		2,217	
	Preserves	6,359		6,024	
	Donations & sales	3,893		150	
	Events	2,214			
	JM books & sundry receipts	128		(48)	
	Interest	428		805	
			<b>15,407</b>		<b>9,148</b>
	Tax refund		2,035		1,225
Expenses	Church grants (maintenance & organ)		(8,730)		(1,200)
	<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>		<b>8,712</b>		<b>9,173</b>
Closing	TSB	34,822		26,110	
Balance	Hampshire Trust Bank (incl re-invested interest)	40,805		40,805	
<b>Total balances</b>			<b>75,627</b>		<b>66,915</b>

*N. C. Coulson*

*Nevil Coulson  
Hon. Treasurer*

*Howard Rose*

*Howard Rose  
Independent Examiner*