

# FRIENDS OF GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH CHURCH

Registered Charity No: 1067435

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



## 2023 Annual Report

**2023** was our Silver Jubilee year! We celebrated in June by inviting our members to a very enjoyable Tea Party in the Oldham Hall.

The charity held many happy events in 2023:-

- “Tales from a Riverbank” talk by Jo Laurie in April.
- The AGM was held in the Parish Church on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- Silver Jubilee Tea Party in June, with live music.
- “Great Missenden Church School’ Bi-Centenary” talk by Paula Kitching, a Trustee, in September.
- Tabletop sales by the Library in June, October and December
- Attendance at the Church School Summer Fair in July and the School Christmas Fair in November, with preserves.
- Attendance at Sunday afternoon Cream Teas at the Parish Church raised £1889 from sales of Preserves.
- Participation in the Holy Trinity Church Bazaar in Prestwood in November.
- The Christmas Tree Festival over two days, with preserves, gifts and books raised over £1000. Maurice Taylor’s five large wooden church models were displayed in the Lady Chapel, representing the building’s development from its foundation in AD 1133.

**Income:** £14,648 was raised in 2023 thanks to our excellent Committee, kind members and supporters. Local shops and businesses have kindly helped again with publicity, raffle prizes and other support. We are most grateful for all this fundraising help. The Co-op, Oasis, Papillon, Big Sky and Prestwood Garage have given raffle prizes and Samways are always happy to sell tickets for our events. A Sum-up bank card reader was purchased in April and contributed nearly £1,000 in online sales. Sales of preserves, some cakes and gifts raised £7085. Fruit and sugar donations and the Eco-friendly re-cycling of jam jars and lids were greatly appreciated!

**Easyfundraising** donations have raised £304. More supporters would help to raise free donations from online shopping at over 8000 brands. There is no cost to the user and when £5 has been raised *easyfundraising* will double it. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fogreatmissparch>

**Grants to the PCC** totalled **£11,212** in 2023: **£4720** for the third tranche of stonework repairs to the Tower and south wall; **£5892** for repairs to the church boiler which should extend its life by 16 years; and **£600** for the regular annual gutter and downpipe maintenance and cleaning, to prevent water ingress and damage to interior wall plaster.

The **Quinquennial Inspection** took place in August 2023.

**Membership** now totals 145. Several new Friends were welcomed in 2023, including Missenden Abbey as a corporate member. We sadly lost several members, including John Martin, our former excellent Treasurer for three years. We record their kind support of our charity over the years. New members are always warmly welcomed and are necessary to build up funds for future repair and restoration grants to the PCC. Our current fundraising mission is “Raise the Roof Campaign”.

**Forthcoming 2024 events** – we do hope you can join us! Entry £10 (with Afternoon Tea)

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2024:** “**Life in Her Hands**” talk by Professor Dame Averil Mansfield DBE FRCS FRCP.

She was the first female Professor of Surgery and will talk about her illustrious and trail-blazing career.

**20<sup>th</sup> September:** “**Ukraine and East Europe**” talk by Paula Kitching, historian, researcher and a charity trustee.

**Your Committee members** work hard and continue to contribute many excellent fundraising ideas. They, and a few friends, very kindly contribute all the delicious food for our events, free of charge. Norma Gardner stepped down in November after nine years as a trustee and Nevil Coulson, our Treasurer, steps down at the AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 after seven years in post. Their work and support have been invaluable and have greatly helped the charity. Nick Moss was welcomed to the Committee as Assistant Treasurer in September 2023 and will be formally elected Treasurer at the AGM.

**Trustees:** Hon Chairman: Vivienne Davis; Hon Secretary: Avril Cobham; Hon Treasurer: Nevil Coulson; Hon Assistant Treasurer: Nick Moss; The Revd. Malcolm Chalmers; Ann Biscoe-Taylor; Jill Burton; Di Denney; Paula Kitching; Jill Pateman; Esther Rose.

*Our charity remit is to ensure that  
our much-loved, sacred and historic Parish Church continues to be a  
vital centre for Christian worship and many community activities.*

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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR, THE REVD MALCOLM CHALMERS**

Dear Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church,

In seventy-seven days, I will have been Vicar of Great Missenden with Ballinger and Little Hampden for two years. I really do not know where the time has gone, but one thing I do know, is that God has greatly blessed both Janet and I by calling us to this beautiful place, the focus of which is the beautiful Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul.

This historical landmark is also greatly blessed in having the *Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church* as such staunch supporters for its ongoing preservation for both the present and future generations to appreciate as a wonderful sacred and community space where Christians have worshipped for nigh on nine hundred years.

Thanks must go to Vivienne Davis and all the Committee, of which I am proud to be a member, for all the work that goes on behind the scenes as regards the organisation of the truly wonderful talks and events which take place each year, and which bring the Friends together as well as countless others who have attended over the years, 2023/2024 being no exception.

Thank you to you, the **Friends**, who continue to support this wonderful cause. Without your support, the Church would not be able to maintain the church's fabric and roof, thus making sure it stands the test of ever-changing weather, and thus continues to look proudly out over the village from the hill, reminding us of God's presence with us too.

Every blessing and many thanks

Malcolm Chalmers



#### **The Revd. Malcolm Chalmers**

Vicar of the Benefice of Great Missenden with  
Ballinger and Little Hampden

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