

A Word from the Chairman

I can't believe it is twelve months since our last Newsletter this obviously means it has been yet another busy year.

Churchyard Cross and Lantern

This has to be the first item. After all the years of planning, fundraising and numerous discussions with various authorities, you will see from the photograph what a superb restoration has been carried out by Ward & Co. See Ed Lee's report for the full details, but I am sure you agree that it looks magnificent.

Church Gardens

The garden continues to flourish a reward for the hard work carried out by a small army of volunteers. This is not just our opinion as the picture shows Gerry Dudley, Helen Cliff and Trish Snape receiving a "Merit Award" for The Southwest "Britain in Bloom" Neighbourhood Scheme.



Work has continued throughout the year clearing and planting the rear of the garden with wild flowers. Who knows what we

will win this year!

Confessional Screen

The work carried out by Tim Jeffree from the Prinknash Abbey Workshop is superb and it looks as if it has been there for many years.

Cricklade Show

Another successful Show promoting the work of the "Friends of St. Mary's" the weather this year was warm and sunny so we had no trouble with the new gazebo. Our thanks go to Helen and Ed Lee for devising a superb participation competition to raise funds at the event where they presented cinema tickets to the winner. If you want to know the number of pieces in the stained glass window above the altar, then the person to ask is parishioner and Friend of St. Mary's – Pat Charlton as she was the winner!

Millennium Celebrations

Our "Son et Lumiere" preparations are nearing completion and you will see all the details regarding date and timings as displayed in this Issue and we look forward to seeing a large number of "Friends" at this celebration.

Church Open Day

Coinciding with Cricklade Carnival the Church was open and tea and cakes were served on the lawn on a lovely sunny June day. This was well

attended with many visitors to the Church and over £260.00 was raised for our funds. Thanks go not only to the organisers but to all the "bakers".

Proms in the Garden

This was one of the largest fundraising activities of the year. Our thanks go out to Seymour and Louise Aitken for allowing us to use the beautiful gardens of Brook House. The event itself was attended by over three hundred and was a huge success even the rain did not dampen their spirits. We have not seen so many different shapes, sizes and coloured umbrellas for a long time (picture page 4). The work involved in producing such a show was enormous and our sincere thanks go to Gerry Dudley and Trish Snape for a very special and successful evening.

It has been an enjoyable year although very active. Our "big" celebration will be in October and we look forward to seeing you there.

In conclusion on behalf of the "Friends" Committee and myself, thank you all for your kind and active support. Enjoy the rest of our "Summer."

Eddie Condon

Millennium Son et Lumiere

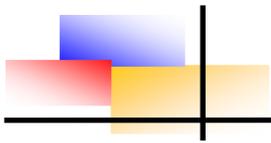
A pageant by the pupils of Prior Park School enacting 1000 years of worship on the site of St Mary's

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October 2008 at 7.15 pm

Join us to Celebrate this Wonderful Occasion

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St Mary's Cross Restored — by Edmund Lee

An historic moment for the Friends of St Mary's: the restoration of the churchyard cross has been completed in our tenth year! Yes, it was June 1998 (to be precise, the night England were knocked out of the World Cup by Argentina, after a certain young



The Cross in Scaffold

man called Beckham saw red) when the first meeting of the Friends, organised by Fr Richard Barton put together a list of things that needed doing. A 'bit of repair work on the cross' was one of them. Ten years on, and much fund-raising, discussion with English Heritage, our architect Tony Thomson, and the contractors

Ward and Co. and here we are, completion of the first major repair work for some 70 years.

The project was funded by the Friends, to the tune of just under £5,000 – so a huge thank you to all who have contributed over the years. We also had previously received a very welcome grant from the Waylands Trust towards a new photographic and historical display to be unveiled later in the year so that visitors can see the details of the figures on the cross up-close.



The Lantern Before Restoration

The pictures here, taken by the Friends own Tony Barratt,

show the work in progress, and also just how covered the figures on the four panels had become in grime and lichen. This was washed off, the damaged stonework at the top reinforced with a new lead capping, and the whole finished with a protective coat of lime. The lime will weather



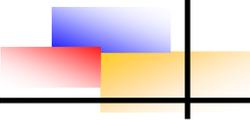
Looking as good as new

down naturally to a more subtle gray tone over the next few years, but for now the cross is a fresh white, a real landmark at the end of the High Street – exactly as the medieval masons intended it twenty generation ago.

Dates for your Diary

- Organ Recital Marathon by Anita Barrett (for new organ fund) 24th August 2008
- Cricklade Show 25th August 2008
- Heritage Church Open Day and Sponsored Cycle Ride 13th September 2008
- Millennium Son et Lumiere 9th and 10th October 2008
- Coffee Morning - Brook House 25th October 2008 10.00 am to 12 noon
- AGM - Brook House 11th November 2008 7.45 pm

We welcome contributions to the newsletter. Please send them to the Secretary Mrs G Dudley



Stories from the Graveyard — by David Tetlow

Olive Mills

In 2006 the gravestone for Olive Mills and his wife, Ann, were uncovered as part of the work clearing up the churchyard here at St Mary's. The description of the gravestone (well worth the read) was covered in Edmund Lee's report in the August 2006 Newsletter No 14, but what about Olive himself? Who was he?



The name uncovered

Olive Mills is to be found in the St Mary's parish registers, baptised Oliff Mills son of Thomas Mills on 13 April 1714. From what I can tell the Mills family were reasonably well off. From various records to be found in the Cricklade Museum archives it would appear that Thomas owned property in Cricklade and is referred to as "Gent", a term usually attached to someone who owned land (viz. "landed gentry"). What we do know is that Olive & Ann's gravestone is a significant memorial which would only have been possible from a family of some means.

Olive wasn't the only child of Thomas. We know that he had a sister and two brothers. It is probable however that he was the oldest surviving son and would have inherited his father's estate.

Olive married Ann Hall at Eisey in 1740. They had two children that we know of, both baptised at Wantage. The first was Thomas Mills after his father and the other was Ann Mills presumably after

his wife. There is no record of why they had their children baptised at Wantage except to note that Olive is described variously as being of Town Mill, Cricklade and Wantage. This suggests that Olive also owned property in Wantage as well as Cricklade, and presumably spent much of his time in Wantage.

Here in Cricklade we know that in 1774 Olive Mills was living at 114 High Street, Alkerton House, which was owned by Paul Benfield and we also know that his wife Ann was still living there in 1791. Whilst Olive did not own that property he did own No 58 High Street.

What we do know is that Olive died in 1788 and his wife, Ann, in 1792. Olive left a will in which he is described as being of the parish of St Sampson's. Whilst this might raise the question why was he buried at St Mary's the answer lies in the fact that St Mary's Churchyard is where his father and grandfather were buried. The Mills family graves were here.

The will appointed William Champernowne, alias Slatter, gent of Calcutt and Thomas Jenner, gent of Water Eaton, as his trustees and he made various bequests. His grandchildren feature significantly in these bequests and given the lack of reference to his son or any other grandchildren I think that it can be safely assumed that their son died in infancy and that their daughter's children were their only surviving issue. His daughter Ann died in 1787, the year before Olive died.

Ann married Richard Kinneir, an apothecary, at Wantage on 1 April 1773. Richard was himself from Cricklade, where he and Ann obviously met. He was the son of a surgeon, another

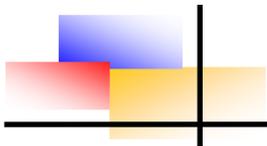
Richard Kinneir, and was baptised at St Sampson's church on 18 October 1749. They went on to have nine children all of whom were baptised at St Sampson's church, the last, Richard Kinneir, being baptised only some six weeks before his mother was buried in St Sampson's churchyard.

I do not propose to detail the lives of their children save to mention a few facts. Their first son was baptised John Mills Kinneir in 1774 and he went on to matriculate from Exeter College, Oxford and join the clergy. Rev.



An engraving on the tombstone

John Mills Kinneir died in 1843 at Childe, Okeford in Dorset. Their third son, Joseph Hall Kinneir joined the militia as a Captain on 25 December 1813 and served in Gibraltar. Elizabeth Hall Kinneir, their second daughter married Jonathan White of The Leigh and their son, John White, was a surgeon in Bath. Their youngest son, Richard Kinneir, became a surgeon in Cricklade and lived at 22 High Street for some time before moving to Cove House, Leigh. He became a feoffee of the Wayland Estates Charity in Cricklade.



Granny's Old Pink Vest - By Gill Orchard of Cricklade

It's cold right now, but I don't mind.
In a few weeks time I know I'll find
Snowdrops, crocus and a few daffodils
Growing strongly, giving us a thrill.
It's Nature's way for us to enjoy the colour
Without them, life would be much duller.

When the sun is shining, perhaps about May,
I'll visit St Mary's, if that's okay;
To see the churchyard Oh so smart
Thanks to the volunteers and their kind hearts.

As I get older, I realise,
It's memories that really surprise
Me – of my childhood visits down there
Just how much I really care.

Singing hymns, reading from the Good Book,
Kneeling to pray, often playing with the hook
Screwed into the pew to hold the hassock,
And listening to the Vicar in his white cassock.

My grampy, granny – my mother's family
Were brought up rather strictly.
Every Sunday, three times a day,
They were all sent to St Mary's, there to pray.

Sunday School was our delight.
We all joined together, and with all our might
We sang those lovely childrens' hymns.
We weren't preached at about our "sins".
As children it was like a club.
All children welcome – no one snubbed.

Mrs Orchard has written many poems and sold several booklets of them. She has very kindly donated some of the proceeds of these booklets to the churchyard improvement drive. The money to be used to buy plants for our "Wildlife corner".

The Friends of St Mary's would like to thank Mrs Orchard for her generosity.

I'm sat here wondering what to do.
Thought I would write this story for you.
It could be true, I'll do my best
To tell you about my granny's vest.

She loved her children. She had about ten.
That's the average for the size of family then.
She brought them up sadly on her own.
My granddad died young, but she didn't moan.

She was strict, but she was kind.
If not at home then we would find
We didn't really have far to search.
We'd find her at St Mary's church.

She cleaned this church from end to end.
She claimed it was her favourite friend
She loved spending hours in there
Looking after it with loving care.

She dusted polished, swept it through.
She had a secret, not many knew.
To get the windows to shine the best
Yes, granny used her old pink vest!

She always said "If it was good enough to wear,"
God in His wisdom wouldn't care
About her polishing with her pink vest.
He knew she was only doing her best.



Visit Our Website
[Http://welcome.to/friendsofstmarys](http://welcome.to/friendsofstmarys)
Virtual Tour
Photos
Church History
Parish Map



Proms in the Garden – Fantastic

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