

## **Jackie Kingsley, 1936 – 2025**

*Jackie died peacefully at home on 27th April. She was adored by her family and will be more than greatly missed. Her funeral will be held at 12.30 pm on 22nd May at St Mary's Church. All are welcome.*

*Jackie Kingsley (née Schofield) was born in St Albans on Sept 16 1936, the eldest of 3 children. Her siblings were Judy Chaplin (MP for Newbury 1992) and Simon Schofield.*



*Jackie experienced a wartime childhood, with the freedoms this brought. Judy had total belief in her big sister; when challenged, aged 7 and 4 by some local boys, they jumped off a bridge. Judy said later, "You told me to do it - so I did." When returning as adults they were shocked to see the height of the bridge! Another childhood tradition was reciting poetry to their grandfather. This culminated in Jackie learning the whole of Tennyson's Lady of Shalott at only age 7. She could still recite all 20 stanzas, 180 lines, last Christmas.*

*Jackie was an energetic, sporty child and when she attended Wycombe Abbey school (1948-55) she was captain of lacrosse and tennis. She played for Harpenden, East of England and West Berkshire. She also enjoyed riding and water skiing. She continued her education at Girton College, Cambridge where she read law. Whilst at Cambridge, she gained blues for both tennis and lacrosse, and also met and married Peter Kingsley.*

*After qualifying for the Bar she became a mother to 4 children: Anthony in 1961, Amanda and Veronica in 1962 and Simon in 1966. Jackie has always been credited with a great sense of humour. During her second pregnancy she did not realise she was expecting twins. The news was broken to her after delivering Amanda. She simply said, "This is not a time to joke!"*

*She moved to Whitchurch in 1969 to work as a Latin teacher at the Oratory Prep school. Alongside teaching and raising 4 very young children, she became a Green Shield Stamp tennis coach and won mixed double tennis at Pangbourne Tennis Club. From 1979-1996 she was headteacher at Abbots Hill School in Hemel Hempstead. Several of her former students will be attending her funeral. On retirement she became a temporary head in Hazlemere, and then helped at more local schools, including invigilating at Langtree School.*

*During her retirement, Jackie joined the trustees of Whitchurch United Charities, in April 2003. She became Chair in 2010, serving in this position for 6 years; her colleagues noted that she was very conscientious. Jackie also was a valued member of the church community. Although her heart was in the quietness of the 8.00 Eucharist she came to be a regular at the St Mary's Family Communion, sometimes reading the lesson and evidently enjoyed time with young and old.*

*In her spare time Jackie enjoyed walking holidays and completed the Pilgrims Way. Sadly, this stopped in 2008 when she had knee and hip operations which both went wrong, causing her chronic pain.*

*Jackie was a lifelong, avid reader. During the war she read the whole of the Arthur Mee's Children's Encyclopaedia-in several volumes- to her younger sister. In recent years she really enjoyed the weekly book club she attended. Her fellow members will miss her sharp insights, prodigious memory and not least her hilarious sense of humour.*