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Have Your Say

The Oxford Mail is currently looking to recruit readers to take part in focus groups to help shape the future of your daily newspaper

We want to know what you think about the paper - what you particularly like about the paper, and what you would prefer not to see. These sessions are a great opportunity to discuss opinions on all aspects of the Oxford Mail.

- Focus groups will take place between 6.30pm and 8.30pm at:
- Tuesday, May 21: Oxford Spires, Four Pillars
 - Wednesday, May 22: Oxford Spires, Four Pillars
 - Thursday, May 23: The Oxford Hotel Godstow Road

Each person taking part will be paid £20 for their time and there will be tea, coffee provided. We value the opinions of our readers and do hope you take up this opportunity.

To register simply call Jo Coady on 01865 425521 or email jo.coady@nqo.com

Make your opinion count

News | Sport | the Guide | Business | Property | Jobs

mass deportation of Hungarian Jews in 1944.

In 1946 he took the decision to walk out of Hungary, which he felt had tolerated, and partly engineered the horrors of 1944.

Crossing frontiers illegally, he migrated westwards, passing through Austria, the devastated southern Germany and France, joining the order

In 1957, having left the priesthood, he was appointed to a lectureship in divinity at the University of Newcastle, and it was there that he published with Penguin in 1962 the first edition of *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*.

He was appointed Reader in Jewish Studies in Oxford and a Fellow of Hfley (soon to be Wolfson) College in 1965,

throughout his life, would like to transform his work and was rebuilding the picture of the historical Jesus had long been considered beyond any scholar's means.

Christianity had lost sight of the real Jesus as early as the end of the first century, he argued, adding: "He was an eschatological prophet but

Dead Sea Scrolls in English. Prof Vermes' wife Pamela died in 1993. He is survived by his second wife Margaret Uharska, a stepson and two stepdaughters.

A private funeral will take place next Thursday, with a memorial event happening later this year. Prof Vermes died on May 8.

Generous dad and activist

Malcolm Harper

A COMMUNITY man described as a "tireless human rights activist" has died at the age of 73.

Malcolm Charles Harper from Charlbury died at the Churchill Hospital in Headington on May 16 after suffering a pulmonary embolism. He was being treated for the blood cancer lymphoma. He leaves behind his wife Ann, children Clare, Kate and Charles, and two-year-old grandson Samson.

His children paid tribute to their "beloved dad who was so full of love, kindness and energy" saying they were devastated he had gone.

They added: "He was a loving and loyal father, generous with his affection and always supported all three of us in whatever we chose to do. He absolutely adored being a grandfather. His loss leaves a huge gap in all our lives."

Mr Harper was born to Leonard Robert Harper and Enid Harper in London on June 21, 1939.

After studying history and theology at the University of Cambridge, Mr Harper considered entering the church. But he decided he could make more of a differ-



■ Ann and Malcolm Harper

ence working for Oxfam, then based in Banbury Road. He spent 18 years at the charity - now in Cowley - from 1963 to 1981, including as their emergencies officer and communications director.

After marrying Ann in 1966 he moved to Africa where he monitored the work of Oxfam and smaller charities across 12 countries in east Africa.

There he made sure charity money was being spent correctly on worthwhile projects.

He was also one of the first people who

flew out to Cambodia in 1979 to help rebuild the country after the devastation of the Pol Pot regime.

Oxfam said: "Malcolm Harper was greatly appreciated by those who worked with him for his many talents and qualities as a communicator, colleague, fellow cricketer and friend. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

In 1981 Mr Harper left Oxfam to take up the role of the director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain (UNA) where he stayed for 22 years.

In 2000 he went to Buckingham Palace with his wife to receive the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George.

Efforts closer to home saw him spearhead a successful campaign in west Oxfordshire to raise £30,000 to help clear minefields in Mozambique in 2002. He was also a governor of Burford School.

Mr Harper organised the fundraising of £100,000 for a new pavilion at Charlbury Cricket Club last year.

He had been the president of the club since 2006. Chairman Colin Olliffe said: "He was a pillar of the community."

All friends and family are welcome to attend his funeral on May 23, 2pm, at St Mary's Church in Charlbury.

HAS A CLOSE FRIEND OR RELATIVE RECENTLY DIED? DID THEY LEAD AN INTERESTING LIFE? TELL US ABOUT THEM. CONTACT US ON 01865 425500 OR news@oxfordmail.co.uk

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