



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
FRIDAY 31st MARCH 201

**The Chairman's Annual Report**

Can I welcome you to this sixth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's. We have returned to our previous format for several reasons; the temperature of the church can not always be guaranteed and this is a way via the quiz to introduce new people to what we do.

This is my first report as chairman. I can say that the role of chairman is much easier with a good committee and we are fortunate in that respect. Much of what we do is now spread across the committee and can I express my personal thanks to them. That said I do feel the role of Vice Chairman which we created last year has been a success, much mainly due to the untiring work of its first holder. She opens and closes the church, often cleans it and is that main focal point for most of what happens. It is true to say that the FOSM owes much to Lynda Dale.

Going on to what has happened over the past year.

Finding a place for St Mary in the community whilst maintaining strong links with St Johns

- New uses
- Organ refurbishment: Organ fund up and running, Keith Turner with Jim Rodgers' help have so far raised over £3000.
- Toilets: Ray Rogers investigated, but difficult and costly to install. The CCT are looking into eco-toilets.
- Gate: Return of a gate to prevent unwelcome night-time activity and to provide an additional security measure.
- Horses: Access for feeding horses is now at the top gate, to prevent wear and tear on the lane.
- Online payments: The account number is now correct which allows on-line payments.
- Website: Steve Dale has set up a website and continues to update. The webs address is: <http://stmarysstansted.org.uk/>
- School service: Forest Hall school came for the Christmas Carol Service.
- Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees: Our best-ever event. Thanks to everyone who participated.
- Xmas Card project is still running. Many thanks to Keith Turner
- Grass cleared around the car park.
- Rorkes Drift: An excellent presentation from Kate, a local historian.
- Funerals: Whilst of a sad nature, I've received nothing but complements on how well the church looks and more importantly, the atmosphere it generates.

Things in the pipeline

- 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm, Aylesbury Consort of Voices (Kelvin Turner).
- 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm, Macbeth, by [thisismytheatre.com](http://thisismytheatre.com), with Celtic music.
- 29<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm and again at 3pm, the local Ukulele Band.
- 29<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm, Heather Horner with a presentation on "roses".

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September, Heritage Weekend.
- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Festival.
- Please contact the Committee if you have ideas for other events you would like us to run.

Lastly, sadly Sally Argent has found she is unable to continue a secretary. Sally has been an excellent and dedicated secretary over this past year. Many thanks to Stephen Dale, for helping us on an interim basis, but we need to recruit an Officer for this position as soon as possible. if you would like to be considered for this post then please contact one of the Committee members.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you for your continued support.

- Mrs. Rosalind Francis.
- Mrs. Janet Hollis.
- Mrs. Stella Rodgers.
- Mr. Ray Rogers.
- Mrs. Carol Clements
- Mr. Keith Turner

Keith Ayres  
Chairman, Friends of St Mary's, Stansted 2015/6