

News from the Pews at St Mary's Church Stansted. February 2018.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year.

Firstly I would like to invite you all to our AGM which will be held on 23rd March at 7pm at the Stansted day centre. The AGM will last for 30 minutes maximum and be followed by the popular quiz evening with a half-time break for supper. Churchills have agreed to supply our food order but they do ask that we send in requests by 19th March.

The following food options are available: Cod, Haddock, Chicken or vegetarian options all with chips!! The price for the supper and the quiz evening is £8.50 per person. To order your food requests please contact Ray Rogers on 01279814210 or Email rayrogers2@talktalk.net. OR Lynda on 07716099474. Email lynnydale@hotmail.com
The cut -off date is 19th!!! Please bring your own drinks and glasses!!

So folks get your teams together to make up a table! Rope your friends and neighbours in too.... The more brains the better!!

And now for the news!

We still have a vacancy for a secretary. If this is something that you can help with please let one of the committee know.

The organ fund is still running and I hope that you will all consider sponsoring a pipe. Cost per pipe is £20. Please help us to preserve this beautiful instrument which really needs some work!!

May I also remind you all that membership renewals are now due. Only £5.00 per person for the whole year and this really does help us with our work. Bank transfer to Friends of St Mary's A/C 7389410 sort code 20-36-98 Barclays Bishop's Stortford. Cheques made payable to Friends of St Mary's. Post to: John Wrentmore, 29 Linkside Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM235LR

It has been a very busy year in St Mary's! We restarted open Sundays on the first Sunday of the month running from May to October 2-5pm and we've hosted 'Pew-top sales' and will run these again this year. Please come to buy and sell.

Stansted Strummers have been to entertain us and boy did they get our feet tapping!! They have agreed to come again and I for one can't wait!!

Blue Skies Big Band and 20cvox also came and had us singing along to some popular swing songs and they will return too.

Another amazing evening in church was a visit from Aylesbury consort of voices whose repertoire of classical and light choral pieces was simply spellbinding! They have promised to return in the not too distant future. Look out for that one...an evening not to be missed.

Theatre! We hosted 'Macbeth' in the summer and 'A Christmas Carol' in December. The audience at both of plays gave these talented actors a rapturous applause. I can't wait for them to return. And..... I have them booked in again on 1st and 12th June to perform 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Tickets will be available very soon.

We invited expert speakers to give presentations on the Zulu war and on rose pruning.

St Mary's hosted a Harvest Festival and Carol concert for St Mary's school and they came to do some work on a special places workbook. Christmas Festival and Carol concert as always led to a full to bursting church!! Everyone worked so very hard and the church looked simply delightful. A winter wonderland. I have also been running crafting sessions with children.... "Spooky Half Term" where we all made bats and spider webs. We will soon have an Explorer cart in church and children are very welcome to use it whenever they visit.

I am delighted to inform you that we have, after many years on the list, finally been granted "Champing" status. Champing is camping in church. If this is something you would like to do then please go to the CCT website for details and cost.

The diary is filling already but there are things left to bring. We will try to cater for all ages and tastes. If there is something that you would like for us to host then please let any of the committee know and we will do our very best to bring it to you.

The next event is for Commonwealth day. The CCT want 52 of their churches to represent 52 commonwealth countries. We will represent Trinidad and Tobago. I will give a short presentation about the islands, show you a selection of the many fruits and invite you to sample a filled roti. So please come along, wear your tropical shirts and sample a little Caribbean charm and the rum punch!! Please could you let me know if you would like to attend I need to make enough roti! The date will be Sunday 22nd April at 3pm. Donations very welcome!!!

And to finish. I was nominated for and subsequently won the Marsh Award for Volunteer of the Year for the southeast region. My thanks for all the nominations!! I am extremely honoured by this award and will continue to give my very best not only to the CCT but also to St Mary's Church.

Lynda Dale
Chairman. Friends of St. Mary's.
07716 099474