



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

Dear friends.

How time flies! Here we are in September with only three months left of 2018!

It has been a busy year so far what with theatre, concerts, Open Sundays, church tours and of course our Commonwealth day event which was enjoyed by all who came. Over 50 people were fed with a selection of Caribbean dishes inside church.

Some of you may not be aware but we are now a 'Champing' church and a very popular one too!! With bookings all through the Champing season we have been very busy and have had wonderful feedback and happy Champers. For those not in the know, Champing is camping in church and is a CCT idea to raise funds to keep redundant churches wind and weather proof. We are one of 23 CCT churches who Champ. The season runs from end of March till end of September. This does not interfere with church availability for our visitors.

There have been changes to the Churchyard and Cemetery rubbish collecting. The incinerator cage has been removed. There is a green bin for plant waste. Oasis and plastics in metal bins please. Please do not leave your rubbish in other areas. Help keep the Churchyard and Cemetery tidy.

2019 is a special anniversary for the CCT. It will be 50 years since the CCT formed. There will be special events running at all churches throughout the year. St. Mary's will join in with our own special celebrations too. News of this soon.

The Organ Fund is still ongoing and we do still need to raise funds. For those of you who have sponsored a pipe, thank you. For those of you that haven't done so yet could you please consider helping in our quest to save the church organ. Forms are available in church or contact Keith Turner (01487 823512) for more information on this project.

So.... what next?

**October 7th, 2-5pm**

**Open Sunday** with tours and refreshments available. Or just pop in for a chat. Reflective music and a warm welcome to all.

**November 4th, 2-5pm**

**Remember them.** We invite all to attend including ex-services men and women too. The U3A choir will be singing a selection of tunes at 3pm. WW1 pre recorded music and poetry to mark the anniversary of the end of the war. £2.00 minimum donation. Refreshments available.



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**December 7th, 6.30 for 7pm**

**A Christmas Carol.** Tickets available now from [thisismytheatre.com](http://thisismytheatre.com) or on the door. If you have missed previous performances by this talented group of people I do urge you to come along. You will not be disappointed!!

**8th/9th December, 1-5pm daily**

**Christmas Festival.** Our annual festive displays in church. Memory tree for messages for your loved ones too as well as exhibits from local organizations.

Our Carol Concert will be on 8th December, but please come early to get a seat. The church does get full!

I am in the process of booking in our theatre evenings for 2019 and also planning new events too. If you have an idea for an event in church then please come and let me know. This will be the last newsletter for the year. Please add dates to your diary.

Information is shared on the church Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchStansted](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchStansted)) and also our website

(<http://stmarysstansted.org.uk/>). Our new secretary does a splendid job in advertising in both the Link and Herts and Essex newspaper too. For those of you not local to the area please do keep an eye on the social media sites.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those people who gave time to help raise funds. Theatre, Strummers, cake makers and of course my committee! We are all volunteers, no wage and give our time for the good of St Mary's and the Conservation Trust. Without these people the church would not be as it is today.

There is always room for more volunteers and if you can help us by funding or practical help please do let me know.

I look forward to seeing and talking with you all over the next few months.

Lynda Dale

Chairman Friends of St Mary's

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