



St Mary's News from the Pews March 2020

Welcome to my first newsletter for 2020 and also the first in this new decade. This is a very special anniversary year for St Mary's being the 30th year being vested with the Churches Conservation Trust and hence being made redundant. To mark this event I would like us to hold 30 events throughout the year. A huge task but I am confident we can all do this. They need not be massive but your input would be greatly appreciated. If you have events in mind or may like to take up the challenge of organising something then please let me know.

We held many funerals in church last year and our thoughts go to the loved ones. We also had many Champers camping in church who all loved the building and the experience of waking up in St Mary's. Great feedback from all of them. We will start our 3rd season on 4th April, so if the green signs are on the doors you will know that we have Champers spending the night.

Keith Turner's event in April was to help raise funds for our organ project, and I am pleased to inform you that work will commence in September. We are still a little short of funds and we hope you will help us reach our target by sponsoring a pipe. Only £20 per pipe and this will help us in our quest. Sponsorship forms are available in church or by contacting me.

Theatre. What can I say!! A wonderful group of people and so very talented. We were entertained with Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and The Snow Queen. They will return this year and I urge you to come along. You will not be disappointed!! More news of that later. Other things we have done include church tours from various visiting groups where Audrey gave of her very best making the tours so interesting for our visitors. Thank you Audrey.

Local schools have also visited for various activities and concerts during the year. We held our late summer tea party in September, and we continue to host the regular bell ringing. I love to hear them ring. Events to comeso far:-

- The AGM will be Friday 1st May at 7pm in the Day Centre. To be followed by a quiz with a half time break for a fish and chip supper. Please contact Ray Rogers on 01279 814210 or email rayrogers2@talktalk.net to place orders. Chicken, veggie, cod and haddock all with chips on offer at £9.00. Please order by 27th April to help Churchill's with ordering. I do hope to see as many of you who are able to attend for a fun evening of friendship but with a little competitive spirit too. Bring your friends and family too to help make up a table. And don't forget your own drinks and glasses.
- Open Sundays restart in May on the first Sunday of the month where I will be in church to make you a cuppa and have a chat. Do come along and say hello!! So if it



is the first Sunday of the month I will have the kettle on and be waiting to welcome you all between 2pm and 5pm.

- Theatre dates are : August 9th at 2pm, *The Three Musketeers*. We are promised sword fighting in the aisles!
- December 11th at 7pm - *A Christmas Carol*. A wonderful play that will for sure get us into the Christmas spirit.
- Our Christmas festival will this year be on 12th and 13th December. Last year's festival was simply amazing with such wonderful ideas. I do hope that all who exhibited will join us again this year. Can we beat last year's tree count? Perhaps individual families would like to enter a tree?
- I am still planning other events for the year which will include our tea party and Heritage Day but dates still to be finalised.

Membership will remain at £5.00 this year and is due in March. For those of you wishing to pay by cheque, please send to me made payable to Friends of St Mary's. Those of you who prefer BACs payments the details are:- A/C 7389410 sort code 20-36-98 [Barclays Bank Bishop's Stortford.

An appeal for help.

We are a small band of volunteers who all strive to keep St Mary's open for you to enjoy. We desperately need your help. If you are willing and able to spare even an hour to help us please do let me know. We really do need you!! Men and ladies!!

And finally. I would like to thank so many people. Carol, Ros, Stella, Janet, Tony, Ray, John ,Audrey, Keith, Anne, Rev.Paul, The Strummers and all the organisations who exhibit . Tony Wellings, my wingman Steve and all of you who continue to support us with membership. With your help we can go survive, and maybe even thrive!

Information overload , I know but at least now you can see just what we hope to bring. I'm waiting to hear from you all with renewal of memberships and offers of help!!

I hope to see you all soon!!

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