



News from the pews at St Mary's

April 2022

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022.

Some big changes within the CCT (churches conservation trust). Peter Aires left and is now Master of the Charter House, a 400 year old almshouse charity. We now have Mrs. Elizabeth Pearce CBE as Executive Chair with the Queen's approval taking Peter's place.

Our local volunteer officer has gone on maternity leave and we now have Mr. Henry Moore. He has 26 churches to oversee, with us being one of them. He came on a site visit last month and was impressed with all that we do and how clean the church is.

Plenty of things going on behind the scenes even when there are no events going on. Our churchyard work continues after a break over the winter months. I am extremely pleased to tell you that the scouts will be coming on 30th April for another work party. Thank you once again to Mike, the scout leader for making this happen. If you would like to join us then please come along at 10.00 on 30th April armed with your tools and gloves. I am sure we will find plenty for you to do.

I have contacted the Parish Council and hopefully the grass cutting will start very soon. We do have some trees that need attention too and I am hopeful that all of these things will be addressed. The aim is to make the churchyard easier to walk around without falling over grave surrounds.

Thank you to all of you wonderful people who have given me information and photographs of your loved ones buried here. It is lovely to be able to remember the person and not just see a stone. I have managed to research some of them and find photos myself too. And Ralph Phillips has been extremely helpful in my quest, thank you Ralph.

Many thanks to Carole from 'Stansted is well read' for organising a quiz night at the Dog and Duck with all money raised going towards our new boiler/ heating fund. This was launched at our first meeting in January and although we have a long way to go we have £200 from the quiz night and £500 in a restricted fund already. So all very positive with a lot more to raise yet. The church boiler is over 60 years old and we desperately need to update it. If you can help with this we will be very grateful.

Champing season started this month with bookings running until the end of October. There are 12 CCT churches and 6 partner churches working this year as far south as Devon and right up to the Orkney islands. If you would like the full list please ask me or contact the Champing team at www.Champing.co.uk

Dates for your diary;

1st May Open Sunday with refreshments 2-5pm
AGM at 3pm

14th May 1pm Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Live theatre in church
Tickets in advance from www.thisismytheatre.com
£15 general, under 16's £12, discounts for friends at checkout.

5th June Open Sunday 2-5pm with refreshments.
Stansted U3A singers at 3pm to entertain us for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Party atmosphere in the afternoon.

July 3rd Open Sunday 2-5pm with refreshments

August 7th Open Sunday with refreshments.

August 13th The Railway Children. Live theatre in church.
Tickets by advance booking from the website, see above.

September 4th and October 2nd Open Sundays 2-5 with refreshments.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that membership subscriptions are now due. Still only £5.00 per person per year. This helps us with our costs and to help pay towards our utility bills and maintenance costs. It costs over £50 per day to have an open church. We as a friends group help towards these running costs. If you would like to renew your membership it can be done by cheque made payable to:

The friends of St Mary's Stansted Mountfitchet
% L. Dale
Church Cottage
Burton End
Stansted Mountfitchet
CM248UB
Or by BACS
Sort code 20-36-98 A/C no: 73879410

But equally should you wish to cancel could you please let me know for my records.

I do hope that I get to welcome you to St Mary's church for one of our many events.
If you would like to help by volunteering yourself you will be very welcome, be that in the church or in the churchyard.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have helped by volunteering this year. I have some wonderful people volunteering with me. Welcome to Val who has joined our committee this year. Our thanks to Tony for all of his hard work as secretary but sadly resigned this year. For now Steve has taken on this role as interim secretary until this role is filled.

I look forward to meeting you all in church.

Lynda Dale
0771609947