



# News from the Pews

October 2022

Welcome to St Mary's Church Newsletter.

Dates for your diary for events in December:

## **Friday 9th December.**

Thisismytheatre. The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

Tickets available online now from [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com) or by phone 07732253311

£15.00 general, £10.00 under 16's discounts for friends of the church.

Also available to book at Goldings on Chapel Hill, cash only.

## **Saturday 10th December.**

Christmas Tree Festival 11am- 5pm

If you would like to display a tree please contact me for a space allocation.

Carols at 4pm. Do come early to get your seat.

## **Sunday 11th December.**

Christmas Tree Festival 11am-5pm

Stansted U3A Strummers performing at 3pm to have us dancing in the aisles!!

With mulled wine, raffles and refreshments each day please join us and help to support St Mary's church.

And our news.

Firstly, you may all recall from my last newsletter that I informed you that Peter Aires at the CCT was leaving. His role has now been taken over by Greg Pickup who is the new CEO taking up his position in September. His back story is that he spent 6 years working for the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is also on the board of the Agricultural Heritage Fund. We wish him well. There were changes too with our volunteer officers since Megan went on maternity leave and Henry took her place. It has been an absolute pleasure to show Henry St Mary's church.

We have been busy in church again this year with various things going on. Open Sunday ran on the first Sunday of the month from May to October and I am pleased to tell you that we had plenty of people attend to eat the wonderful cakes made by my dear friend Kay. Church and churchyard tours were available for willing participants.

Our work in the churchyard continues and will be an ongoing project. Sue, Peter and myself are out there most weekends if any of you ever fancy coming to help. We are still finding

graves and researching the people who are at rest here. Special thanks to the local scouts group who have helped us too.

Many visitors with loved ones here are also helping me with photographs and the story of their lives. Then, we can remember the person and not just see a stone. If you have a loved one here and would like to include them in my file please do contact me. I will be more than happy to hear from you.

We were entered into the Anglia in Bloom competition in the churchyard section and we were absolutely thrilled to be awarded a certificate of merit for all of our hard work. This is available in church if any of you would like to see it.

The bells continue to be rung on a regular basis and we also have St Michael's bell troupe using our tower whilst work is being done there.

Edmund tolled the bell for our dear Queen Elizabeth and the bells also rang out to proclaim our new King Charles.

Champing season has been busy again this year with over 80 guests staying, including 10 children and 8 dogs. This was our 5th season and we still seem to be a very popular venue. Lots of overseas champers coming from New Zealand, America and Europe. We even had a family of four walk from Bishop's Stortford to stay for two nights. The children had a wonderful time. Champing is camping in church.

Thisismytheatre came to perform Alice's adventures in Wonderland and were wonderful as always. Back again in December.

Sadly, we said goodbye to friends of the church and our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

On September 8th we were the final destination for the CCT Historic Churches Tour. It also happened to be the anniversary date for the funeral of Sir Thomas Middleton whose tomb is to the right of the altar. Many thanks to Audrey Rodgers and St John's church for the loan of pewter plates used at his funeral wake. We supplied all 28 guests with refreshments and they all went away happy. Thank you to my committee for manning the many teapots and cutting the plentiful cakes.

As always St Mary's Church is open daily for you to come inside for prayer or solace. Under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust but looked after by volunteers. Special thanks to my committee who all help me to keep the church clean and welcoming for our many guests. If you would like to volunteer too I would love to hear from you.

If you see me in or around the church please do come and say hello. And always try to remember to sign in the book!! So very important since it helps with funding.

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