



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Spring 2023

Welcome to St Mary's church newsletter.

Time seems to fly by and here we are in March already. Thank you to all those who have paid membership fees. Those who have e-mail will already have been notified of details and those on postal newsletters will get details enclosed. Your membership helps us with our work.

Christmas seems so long ago now but what a simply amazing time we all had. The Christmas trees all looked wonderful with such creative ideas. Huge thanks to all who helped and took part in making it a very festive event. The Carol service was well attended and our thanks go to Anne and the choir from St John's for the beautiful music and singing. The Stansted Mountfitchet U3A Strummers had us all singing along to all the favourite songs. Always popular and always welcome to return!!

Theatre this time was "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" and as always, was absolutely fantastic. With live music, singing and puppetry I am sure all in the audience were spell-bound.

2023

The church calendar is already filling up. Champing starts again on 31st March with bookings until October already!!

- Saffron Walden U3A have a planned visit in April and also Friends of Essex churches are booked in for a visit in May
- Stansted 1st Scouts have a renewal of promise service on Sunday 23rd April at 2pm. Why not join us to support our local scouts. Refreshments available too.
- Open Sunday on the first Sunday of the month resumes in May. Do come along for a chat and a cuppa. I look forward to seeing you all 2-5pm
- The bells at St Mary's will be rung on Friday 5th May in celebration of our King's coronation. Ringing 3-3.45pm. Thank you to Edmund and the band of ringers.
- Thisismytheatre is returning on 27th May at 3pm. A date for your diary!!

The Wind in the Willows

Tickets available from www.thisismytheatre.com

Or by phone. 07732 253311

Costs, £15 adults. £10 under 16's. Under 4's free.

Concessions for CCT friends.

Written by Kenneth Grahame, a magical tale brought to life right here in church.

Ticket sales help with the cost of the upkeep of St Mary's.

- Saturday July 8th at 6.30 - 8.30pm, Blue Skies Big Band brings a selection of music to entertain us.
- Sunday July 9th at 3pm. "The Other Band". An afternoon of music.



- Saturday July 15th at 4pm Evensong with the Pheon singers. Back by popular demand! The singers love the acoustics in our beautiful church and we simply love to hear them too!! A definite note for your diary.
- Sunday September 10th at 3pm. A concert on a summer's afternoon, performed by Nancy May. Tickets are £10.00 and available from me or Goldings on Chapel Hill. Cash only. Nancy is a soprano and classical crossover artist.
- **St Mary's AGM, Sunday 21st May, 11am in the church. All are welcome.**

The churchyard was entered into the Anglia in Bloom competition last year and we won an award of Merit. We are taking part again this year and hoping for even better. We have addressed some of the pointers that we lost marks on last time and hopefully with our continuing work we will see a positive result.

The grass cutting contractors work on a three week cycle cutting the churchyard and cemetery. There are three of us who work the churchyard and we try to help with cutting when we can. The area is huge to maintain but we can see a marked difference from when we started two years ago.

Many thanks to the Scouts, leaders and parents who all come for work parties to help us in our quest.

Peter and Sue work alongside me most weekends to make the churchyard a safer place. The birds and wildlife are thriving and we hope that the bird boxes erected last year will be used again this year.

If you have photos and information about your loved ones buried here and would like them included in my ever growing file I would love to hear from you. And if you would like a tour of the churchyard to find out about all of these people do contact me.

A visitor to the church commented to me that it is amazing how close both the airport and motorway are but at St Mary's it is a little oasis of peace and tranquillity. How true is that!!

I am working to bring other events to St Mary's this year. If you have something you would like to share with us then please do get in touch.

I look forward to welcoming you all to St Mary's in 2023.

Lynda Dale.
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Chairman Friends of St Mary's