



**Friends of St Mary's Church
Stansted Mountfitchet**

Chairman's Report for AGM, 21st May 2023

Welcome to Saint Mary's 2023 AGM

It is all change again at the CCT. Henry Moore, our volunteer officer has left. We now have Dean Wigzell, who I haven't met yet I will be meeting with him and Simon Wiles in June. We will talk about how I can move forward with St. Mary's

Most of you will have heard by now about the funeral service ban imposed by St. John's PCC. All I can say on this at present is that we have a first funeral of the year this Wednesday, 25th May. I was hoping that I may have something more to tell you, but as soon as I am officially told about what is permissible going forward, I will relay that information to all members.

Church life. In the year April 2022 to April 2023, we recorded 3,339 people coming into the church. That equates to 23,373 people because we multiply signings by 7 since not everyone signs-in. it is so important that you all sign in every time you visit, please!

Champing. We are now in our sixth season and still a very popular venue, with guests coming from all over the world literally! The governor of Mauritius stayed here last year and we get both locals and international visitors bookings right up until October this year.

Anglia in bloom. This will be a second entry having been awarded a Certificate Of Merit last year. We have addressed many of the points we lost marks on last year and hope for bigger and better this year. We are entered into two categories this time; 'Virtual', 80 words and 8 photos plus a visit on judging day. Donations of plants always welcome and volunteers to help would be especially welcome. There are currently only three of us who work in the churchyard. Help from the Scouts also, when they are available.

We have made an application to the Stansted Airport Community Fund for £7000.00 to contribute towards the cost of a replacement boiler. This amount to be topped up from our accounts to meet the final cost. Our current heating, an oil-fired boiler has been condemned after 35 years of use and is predicted to fail completely within the next 12 months. We hope to hear from the Fund by the end of May 2023.

Looking back of the past 12 months, it has been a quite a busy year. This is a list of some of the events held at Saint Mary's during the past year:



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- March - Dog and Duck Quiz (£200 donation to St Marys)
- April - photo shoot
- May - Theatre 'Alice in Wonderland'
- June- Evensong
- July - Anglia in Bloom
- September - Curch Tour
- December – Theatre 'Nutcracker and The Mouse King'
- December – Christmas trees and Carol service
- 6th May 2023 – Peel of Bells for the new King and Queen

Plus: Seven Funerals; Open Sundays May – October; Champing, March – October.

Forthcoming events.

Saturday 27th May at 3:00PM. ['thisismytheatre'](#) performing Wind in the Willows.

Saturday 8th July, 6pm-8pm – The Blue Skies Big Band, a celebration of the 4th July with American Songbook music.

Sunday 9th July, 3pm – 5pm – The 'Other Band', an afternoon of music for Open Sunday

Saturday 15th July at 4pm - Evensong, with the Pheon Singers.

Finally, a word of thanks to the Scouts who have gifted us a £100 donation.

Also, please donate any Legacies to the Friends of St Mary's Stansted Mountfitchet.

Thank you to the Friends Committee for all their support throughout the year, and a special thanks to Peter and Sue.

Thank you to all the Friends of St Mary's for your continued support in 2023/4.

Lynda Dale
Chair, St Mary's Friends Group