



## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

June 2021 Newsletter from St Mary's Church Stansted

Welcome to your newsletter from St Mary's Church. What a time it has been for us all!

Thinking back to February 2020, it seemed to be an isolated incident in China that couldn't possibly affect us here in the UK. I had big plans and had 30 events organised to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the church being vested with the CCT. Everything got cancelled!!

We had the AGM organised for when I returned home from our Caribbean cruise. Sadly COVID hit us all and any plans we all had were dashed. We returned home from a COVID-hit ship on a repatriation flight from Cuba, with more than half of our cruise cancelled, to join you all here at home with mask wearing, social distancing and hunting for toilet rolls!!

At that point we were still opening the church everyday for people to come inside. But then we had instructions from the Government and CCT (Churches Conservation Trust) to lock the doors!! Eventually we were allowed to let visitors in again wearing masks but all books and the signing in book had to be removed and hence we could not count any footfall in church. For those of you that are not aware, the CCT gets Government funding which is determined on footfall and so this was a huge financial impact for the CCT.

On a positive note and because we had a locked church, the organ restoration was completed. So this is very good news.

Champing restarted in July 2020 for single households only and we had happy Champers enjoying the building once again. But sadly we could not hold our Christmas Tree Festival or the Carol Service.

And so. What are we doing now? The doors are open again and we welcome you all to come. The signing-in book is back in use and we hope as many of you that can will please sign in. Champing has resumed again and we are now in our fourth season. We get some amazing feedback from our Champers who all enjoy our beautiful church and they see it as a great honour to stay for the night. Champing is camping in church and this year we are one of just 13 churches taking part.

Open Sunday dates are;  
July 4th  
August 8th  
September 5th  
October 3rd



I will be in church on these dates with the kettle on and refreshments ready. Please do come in for a chat between 2-5pm. I look forward to seeing you.

Theatre. I have managed to get a theatre slot for The Secret Garden from thisismytheatre on 21st August at 1pm. Tickets are available to pre order now from [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com) or by phone 07732253311. Please, to help us with seating and to keep everyone safe do pre order to avoid disappointment. For those of you that have not been to theatre in St Mary's you will be in for a real treat, being in close proximity to professional actors, and right here on your doorstep. And thinking ahead, I have also booked The Snow Queen for 11th December.

Thank you to all those of you that have kindly paid your £5.00 membership. For those still wishing to pay please send direct to me made payable to The friends of St Mary's or by Bacs 73879410  
Sort code 20-36-98

My address; Church Cottage,  
Church Road  
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We welcome some new friends who have joined us during lockdown. Welcome to Richard, Juliet, Nicholas and David.

Hoping for better times ahead and an end to the stresses of Covid. But hopefully with the splendid vaccination roll-out and falling R number we can look forward to meeting up and some kind of 'normal' again.

Best wishes to you all.  
Lynda Dale  
Chairman.