



News from the Pews

October 2023

Welcome to St Mary's Church Newsletter.

Dates for your diary for events in December:

Friday 1st December.5pm

Thisismytheatre. A Christmas Carol

Tickets available online now from www.thisismytheatre.com or by phone 07732253311

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

Apply CCTFRIEND at checkout.

Saturday 9th December.

Christmas Tree Festival 11am- 5pm

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

Carols at 3pm. Do come early to get your seat.

Sunday 10th December.

Christmas Tree Festival 11am-5pm

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

What we did this year so far:

- In March we had yet another film crew arrive to report on Champing which was shown on Anglia Television.
- The Champing season had only just begun and the report helped bring in lots of eager champers.Champing season will end on 27th October here at St Mary's.
- April was a busy month for church tours and we welcomed Saffron Walden U3A exploring churches group
- Friends of Essex churches came in May and commented on how clean the church is. Also in May, we had thisismytheatre performing The Wind in the Willows. Such a talented group and the puppetry was wonderful.
- June 17th was the wedding day of Henry and Georgie. The church looked simply amazing with all the flowers and the smell was glorious. We wish them a long and happy life together.
- July was a very busy month in church. Blue Skies Big Band entertained us with American songbook music followed the very next day by That Other Band with music for a Sunday afternoon.

- Evensong the following weekend with the Pheon Singers and Richard Carr organising it all. Huge thanks to them all.
- An overnight champing experience by a journalist led to an article in a magazine called Citylab, part of the Bloomberg group. The article went out to 23,000 people in America.
- In August we held a memorial and interment of ashes service for Malcolm Treacher MBE. Many of you will remember Malcolm from scouting days in Stansted and also as a lay preacher for both St John's and St Mary's churches. We also provided refreshments in church. RIP Malcolm.
- In September we welcomed Nancy May, a soprano cross-over vocalist who filled the whole church space with her beautiful voice.
- Anglia in Bloom judging day was in July and we served refreshments for the judges in church. Due to a glitch with our entry, we are still awaiting results. Fingers crossed we did well.

Many of you will be aware of the issues regarding funerals and services in St Mary's. After lots of negotiating we now have a revised list of criteria for funerals in St Mary's which I have included with my newsletter.

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.

Lynda Dale
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