



## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

### **Spring 2024**

Welcome to your News from the Pews newsletter, the first one of the New Year.

I had a look back over the previous year, both in church and in my private life and I thought to myself, how did you fit all that in girl? A trip to New Zealand, an Indian Pacific train journey across Australia, a family wedding in Cyprus and our Sapphire wedding anniversary all in one year and church things too!

Now, I'm busy planning this year and my head is whirling, but somehow it will all work out, I hope!

It is my 8th year as chair, 7th year as a champing venue and 34th year of St Mary's being vested with the Churches Conservation Trust. And I am always striving to find new and exciting things to engage you and hopefully encourage you to join us at our events.

So, what have I planned for this year so far?

Open Sunday's are changing to the **last Sunday of the month**. April 28th will be the first on this new schedule.

#### **July 6th. [THE POST FLOYD DREAM](#) (Pink Floyd tribute band)**

Doors open 7.15 band on stage 8pm.

Tickets £25.00

Available online or call 0333 666 3366

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-st-marys-stansted](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-st-marys-stansted)

There will be a laser show, live music and a bar.

Getting this band has been significant achievements for us, given they play at much larger venues, including Chelmsford Cathedral. I do hope you will come and support them and us.?

#### **7th July. THAT OTHER BAND**

Doors open 2.30pm for 3pm start.

Swing band playing a selection of music to get us all singing along.

Refreshments available.

#### **11th August An afternoon with NANCY MAY**

Doors open 2.30pm for 3pm start. Tickets £12.00

Tel. 01256416384/07795387108

[nancy@nancymay.co.uk](mailto:nancy@nancymay.co.uk)

Nancy came last year and her voice was amazing and filled the church and I am so pleased she is returning. Please, don't miss this.

Refreshments available.



**8th September. 5 CHILDREN AND IT performed by [thisismytheatre](http://thisismytheatre)**

2.30 for 3pm start

Tickets £15.00 adults, £10.00 under 16's

CCTFriend discounts at checkout.

Thisismytheatre are such a talented group who will, I am sure, delight us by their adaptation of Edith Nesbit's novel about Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and baby brother known as 'Lamb' and their meetings with a Psammead, a sand fairy.

With puppetry throughout, they will enchant us all.

I do hope that you will join us at one, some or all of our events. Tell your friends as well!

Other news:

- Champing resumes at the end of March and if you see the green signs on the doors then you will know that we have guests in church.
- Anglia in Bloom again this year and we are aiming for a Gold certificate to add to the Silver and merits that we won previous years.
- Our churchyard project continues and plants are always welcome. The churchyard is huge and as you know, we have created little pockets of garden to help the wildlife. There is an opportunity for you to give me information about your loved ones and a photo of them for my file. It would be fantastic to remember them and not just see a stone. So many loved ones already included.
- Storms over recent months led to tree branches falling but no damage to headstones. However, we did have roof tiles flying off but all has been rectified. Scaffolding went up on 1st February and work was done to replace tiles. We are wind and weather proof once more.
- We have a number of planned church visits from various groups.

Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that membership subscriptions are due from the 1st April 2024. It is with regret that we have had to increase the annual fee from £5 to £10 per person per year. We have held the fee at £5 for over 10 years, but we are running at a loss, which is not sustainable. The fees help us with our costs and help pay towards our utility bills and maintenance costs. It costs over £75 per day to have an open church. We as a friends group help towards these running costs and enable us to keep the church open for visits and quiet reflection.

If you would like to renew your membership it can be done by cheque made payable to:

**The friends of St Mary The Virgin Stansted Mountfitchet**

and posted to:

c/o L. Dale

Church Cottage

Burton End, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM248UB



Or by BACS

A/C Name: **The Friends of St Mary The Virgin Stansted Mountfitchet**

Sort code **20-36-98** A/C no: **73879410**

But should you wish to cancel, could you please let me know for our records.

My thanks to my committee who all put up with me and my demands. I could not make all of this happen without you.

I hope to see you at St Mary's sometime during 2024.

Lynda Dale (chair Friends of St Mary's)

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