

St Mary's Update - November 2021

As the days draw in and Christmas is not far away, taking stock of what we have achieved this year as a volunteer team allows for much celebration in our 'bounce back' after much Covid disruption. We have been able to open for visitors most Friday and Sunday afternoons and occasional Saturdays too. Increasing numbers of visitors have appreciated our beautiful church, it's history and the opportunity to view and discuss the conservation work completed over the last few years.



Family open days in July, August Strawberry teas and Open Tower events, Heritage weekends in September and recent additional October half term and November Remembrance openings have all been well-attended. It is a credit to our dedicated volunteer stewarding team that all this has taken place since Easter 2021.



Conservation cleaning training took place in the autumn and will continue regularly over the winter months. We are happy to train those who would like to join us in looking after the many historical treasures we care for in this church.

As we look ahead to the next few months of planned openings over the Christmas period for both Carol Services and church visit's we are reminded of the joy shared by many who know and love St Mary's. Carol Services followed by Cream Teas each Tuesday in December as well as the usual Christmas services and post-Christmas and New Year open days all contribute to allow many to experience the beauty of this place.

Bellringing has also resumed and a band of new recruits are making steady progress with weekly lessons.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers without whom none of this would be possible. Our planned cream tea in December will be a chance to chat, reflect, laugh and discuss the interests we share in this building and community.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers as Stewards, Conservation Cleaners and Education Volunteers we would love to hear from you. We will start to reopen from February 2022 on Saturday mornings and from Easter on Fridays too. Special conservation cleaning events and training will take place in January and February. School visits are planned for the near future too so please enquire about joining us for these, you will be most welcome. Contact – volunteer@stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk

Keep safe and share the joy!

Thank you.