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## St Mary's Church

LYDIARD TREGOZE

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### Summer News Letter July 2022

Summer seems to have been with us for such a long time and yet we're not in August just yet. A look back over the last couple of months shows a hive of activity and positive post-Covid recovery with school visits and visitor numbers rising dramatically.

**Schools** - May / June saw summer visits from Drove, Tregoze and Brookfield Primary Schools with 150+ children, teachers and helpers coming to St Mary's for both History and RE topics. Our small team of School Volunteers enjoyed these very special days and look forward to more in the Autumn term. Plans are already laid to involve local children in some Remembrance and Christmas Activities.

**Opening for visitors** - We now regularly open Friday and Sunday afternoon every week and monthly on Saturday mornings. We also managed special additional openings for Race for Life Saturday, Lydiard Park Steam Rally and during the Jubilee celebrations. Most recently we opened Friday and Saturday 11am – 4pm and Sunday afternoon for the St John Polyptych 407<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration weekend with 137 visitors coming in during this very special event.

**Strawberry Teas** - Pat, Pauline and helpers are producing delicious Strawberry Teas every Sunday afternoon during July and August. These are delicious (I have sampled) and proving popular with our regulars and visitors. Do come along and enjoy one too.



**WhatsApp** – A WhatsApp group has now been set up to enable us to fill vacant stewarding slots more easily and also to add in some additional slots at short notice to cater for coach trips and general busier periods of activity in Lydiard Park. The number for this if you wish to join is 07592663791.

**Volunteer News** – Sadly our lovely Volunteer Coordinator Debra and her friend Jenny had to step down from some duties due to illness and personal difficulties but we are glad they are able to continue as volunteer stewards on Saturday mornings. We hope to enjoy their company and help regularly. And our best wishes go to Paul as he recovers from illness.

**Videos** - Check St Mary's website and see a few familiar faces – Paul, Pauline, Sue, Ann on a range of newly added mini videos featuring the church as a place of worship, it's history and art, school visits and volunteering. We would like more of you to feature in these little insights into the life and work of the church – please get in touch if you feel you could talk about a St Mary's topic close to your heart. Nothing will be published without you giving it the 'go ahead'. Don't be shy.

We hope to enjoy a get-together later in the summer if a suitable date can be found.