



Dear Volunteers, changing leaves in the park and darker nights are now upon us and summer is becoming a memory. However, much was accomplished and we should feel pleased that we have had much to share with the visitors who came to St Mary's. This is probably the longest list of events and achievements I have written to date – well done. See above the Harvest Display by Constance (one of our volunteers).

Strawberry teas – June saw the start of a summer of the ever-popular Strawberry Teas on Sunday afternoons. Our volunteer visit to Lydiard House with a talk given by Frances Bevan was followed by one of these delicious teas. Much appreciated.



Visitors were also very complimentary of these so a huge thanks to Pat, Pauline and helpers. This has brought in much needed funds. The Stable Room is now closed for a couple of months while the stone roof tiles are replaced.

School visits, OTB, children's art and video – Several schools visited just before the summer holidays and children enjoyed learning both the history of the church, how it has been used for worship in the past and how its faith and traditions continue today.

Every fortnight volunteers from St Mary's go into Tregoze Primary school as an **Open the Book (OTB)** team and take a school assembly enacting a bible story for the whole school. The children love these dramatic and colourful assemblies (if you would like to help with this please ask).



We have also worked with the **Art Club at Tregoze school** who illustrated and recorded the Good Samaritan story and learned the importance of being a good neighbour. Their art for this story was displayed in church during the 'Triptych Birthday' weekend and was much admired by visitors. This video is

on the church website (see link below). This week we have been in school again and started The Christmas Story with the new cohort of Art Club – watch this space.

We also ran an art project for visiting children for a few weeks over the summer based on the **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stained-glass window**. A poster sized copy of the window was available for children to colour and stick mosaic type papers to – see photo. This enabled them to learn the story as it's not well known and several parents have asked that we repeat this so another one based on the 'Christmas' window will be available from the end of November.



Four different '**Welcome leaflets**' were produced by pupils at Oliver Tomkins School thanks to a project carried out by Andy B. Art work was judged by age and the winning design in each of the four age groups has been printed and used in church.

The new 'church trail' leaflet produced by Robert has been very popular with visiting children and families, as are the bookmarks showing two of the stained-glass windows. Thank you, Robert. Angelina Churchmouse continues to hide around the church to the joy of visiting children.



Triptych Birthday weekend (incl display of Tregoze school art) – the last weekend in July saw around 250 visitors come from far and wide to view the opened St John Family triptych. It was a lovely weekend and great to talk to so many visitors who enjoy this wonderful church. Children's art as explained above was displayed and available throughout the weekend.

Conservation day – a conservation cleaning day was held in early August with several enthusiastic volunteers who cleaned the whole church floor, windows, pews, brass artifacts and the altar rail. This was a fantastic effort which yielded 'sparkling' results and gave us a chance to 'chatter' and get to know each other. To cap it all Pat and Pauline provided us with a well-earned lunch in the Stable Room.

Heritage weekends September – the church was open both weekends, all day Friday and Saturday and also Sunday afternoons. This also included a very exciting reenactment of **Queen Elizabeth 1** visit to Lydiard House in September 1592 in full period costume. Strong visitor numbers both weekends despite a very wet Sunday afternoon on the second week. **Ride and Stride** took place during the first weekend with several very tired but jubilant participants coming into church to celebrate their achievements. Well done to those who took part.

Bellringing and Open Tower – bellringing numbers continue to grow and the 'Open Tower' events most Sunday afternoons throughout the summer allowed many visitors to learn about and ring our historic bells.

Historic group visit – Sunday afternoon a historic group visited the church in period costume (circa 1810). They enjoyed learning about St Mary's, its history and the wonderful art and artifacts on view. Thank you, Mat, for an excellent tour.



Planned events for Autumn – coming soon. Translations of St Mary's history will soon be available in several languages. We are still looking for a Portuguese translator so if anyone can help with this please get in touch. The Garden of Remembrance and Remembrance Sunday is coming round soon, if anyone can give extra help to allow us to open to those who want to remember and reflect that would be much appreciated.

Thanks to everyone for your help, support and above all your commitment and availability. We really couldn't do it without you.

<https://www.stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk/for-children-and-families/>