

# **Forncett St. Mary Church Friends update May 2022**

**Thank you to all the members of the Friends Group for your continuing support of St. Mary's. We welcome this year some new members and hope you all enjoy reading this latest update. The church continues to be open daily from 10 am to 4 pm.**



## **Autumn/ winter 2021**

2021 can only be described as the “nearly year”. After a long time of postponing or making alternative arrangements for church worship and events the end of the summer looked like we might be getting back on track with plans.

Services started taking place again with singing and we were even able to give the congregation a cup of tea or coffee without having to ask them to stand outside to drink it! There was a nod to covid in the decision to use individually wrapped biscuits on resumption of refreshments.

St. Mary's had the intention once restoration had been completed to run a monthly village film show during the winter and of course musical events and concerts have always been a regular community get together for a sing-along and a glass of something either in the church or the village hall. So, we looked forward to the darker nights for the films and started putting plans in place. Everything seemed fine heading towards Christmas and plans were made for the traditional carol services. The nights drew in but something else drew in as we all know. We were so close, the Christmas services did take place but with a new variant spreading face masks came back and people retreated away from public gatherings.



**Carol service at St. Mary's  
12th December 2021**

At least while the church was closed, we did manage to still get all the regular maintenance done and as part of our participation in the ECO church incentive, we put up bat and bird boxes in the churchyard and bird feeders in the designated wildlife area. There is also a bicycle rack near the shed for those doing their bit to reduce emissions and car usage.

St. Mary's is available as a drop-off point, along with the other churches in the benefice, for items for an additional recycling scheme. Full details are on the Forncett St. Mary website or the local collector's Facebook page “Eco living in and around “Wreningham”. The collector is Val and she collects items that normally go into landfill which in turn earns money for various charities so a very worthy cause to support please check the items which can be included on the church website, Val's Facebook page or in the file in the church and then leave the items at the back of the church.

2022



Unfortunately, it was not the calmest of starts to the year, three storms in one week and all that comes with it and we have to report the church did suffer some damage to the roof tiles. As all people who care for churches know what you do need is a friend with connections. Our sincere thanks to Jonathan who managed to secure all the equipment required to access the roof and replace the tiles at very short notice and on a Sunday morning!

The tiles had come off in the roof area right above the organ near the tower so had to be fixed before any damage was caused due to water ingress. This isn't the first time Jonathan has stepped in to save the day and probably won't be the last (sorry Jonathan).

In the calm after the storms, St. Mary's certainly burst into life with the first spell of unusually warm weather and the flowers made a quite early appearance.

Looking forward to warmer weather, we are now providing cold drinks in the church for visitors and those out walking or cycling if they wish to stop for a rest and some refreshment. There is a link to the Norfolk County Council footpath map on St. Mary's website.

The project for the summer is to improve the vehicular access and parking beside the church so it can be used more often in winter without damage and cars getting stuck.



We will be taking part in the Jubilee celebrations in Fornsett. Plenty of bunting awaits the June weekend and we will have a table in the village hall for St. Mary's on the 4th June from 1 to 4 pm where you can see information files, pictures etc and buy church history books.

St. Mary's is taking part in the **Heritage Open Days from the 9th to the 18th September**. The church will be open each day from 10 am to 4 pm with a large display of church and local village information and history with cold drink refreshments. On the 17th September from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm the very talented local musician Laurence Bennett will be playing the Charles Allen Pipe Organ and in his words it will be "an eclectic mix of pieces, from Bach to The Beatles, also including compositions by Elgar, Fauré, Peter Maxwell-Davies and Andrew Lloyd-Webber". Sounds brilliant so please do come and listen to the music with a cup of tea and cake accompaniment! If you can help out with a cake (either homemade or shop bought) for this event please let May know all support is appreciated.

Fingers crossed there should be a Christmas show again this year provisional dates of the 24th, 25th, and 26th November have been earmarked for this popular event. The village hall will be booked for car parking, toilet and bar facilities for pre-show and interval drinks, more details nearer the time.

**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

**2.30 pm to 3.30 pm**

**at**

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
FORNCETT ST. MARY**

**COME AND LISTEN TO  
LAURENCE BENNETT  
PLAYING THE CHURCH  
CHARLES ALLEN PIPE ORGAN.**

**LAURENCE WILL BE PLAYING AN  
ECLECTIC MIX OF PIECES, FROM BACH  
TO THE BEATLES, INCLUDING  
COMPOSITIONS BY ELGAR, FAURÉ,  
PETER MAXWELL-DAVIES  
AND ANDREW LLOYD-WEBBER**

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT  
DONATIONS FOR THE FABRIC FUND  
FOR THE FUTURE MAINTENANCE  
AND REPAIR OF THE CHURCH.**

**[www.laurencebennettmusic.com](http://www.laurencebennettmusic.com)**

**[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)**

**[www.forncettstmarychurch.org.uk](http://www.forncettstmarychurch.org.uk)**

**St. Mary's Church, Forncett  
Proud to be a member of:**

