



Saint Mary's Festival 2024

Saturday 22 June

Fish From Oblivion

Our opening concert features Stafford's World Music group Fish From Oblivion and their larger offspring, Big Fish, with songs of weavers and weaving, of exile and reconciliation, and of dreamers and dreaming.



Tickets £10 at the door and at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

7:30pm

Sunday 23 June

'Come and Sing Choral Evensong'

Fancy singing Choral Evensong with the Choir of Saint Mary's? This could be your chance! Come along for an open rehearsal at 3:00pm, followed by refreshments before the service - all welcome to join the service which begins at 6:30pm.



Please e-mail to register for this event: parishoffice@stmarysstafford.org.uk

**Come and Sing Rehearsal 3:00pm
Choral Evensong 6:30pm**

Monday 24 June

Jackie Oates Trio

Jackie Oates is a central figure in English traditional music and hails originally from Stafford. Winner of two BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Jackie is joined by multi-instrumentalist Mike Cosgrave and player John Parker on double bass. There will be plenty of favourite songs and tunes on the theme of Weaving Dreams.



Tickets £15 at the door and at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

7:30pm

Tuesday 25 June

Jill Crossland (piano)

Jill Crossland has performed in major concert halls throughout Europe. We are very pleased to welcome her back to St. Mary's for a programme including Beethoven's Sonata no. 17 in D minor (The Tempest) as well as a selection of Bach Preludes and Fugues.



1:00pm

Wednesday 26 June

Vocabella & The Men From Off

We present two a cappella vocal groups - one all-female, one all-male. Their singing in a variety of styles is certain to entertain, amuse, and impress you. VocaBella are currently semi-finalists in Midlands Choir of the Year 2024!

Tickets £10 at the door and at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

7:30pm

Thursday 27 June

Peter Martin (lute)

Following his Coffee Concert last year, Peter Martin returns this summer to Saint Mary's with a programme of 16th century music for solo lute from England, Spain and Germany.



1:00pm

Friday 28 June

Bread Church on Tour

We welcome members of The House of Bread to share food and worship in our beautiful building.

11:00am

Rock Choir

Rock Choir is arguably the most well-known contemporary community choir in the country. We have six Rock Choirs in the local area, all led by Beverley Mason, singing those popular songs you sing at home and in your car, but in wonderful harmony!



1:30pm

Carol Ann Duffy

Carol Ann Duffy was born in Glasgow. She grew up in Stafford and then attended the University of Liverpool, where she studied Philosophy. She has written for both children and adults, and her poetry has received many awards, including the Signal Prize for Children's Verse, the Whitbread and Forward Prizes, as well as the Lannan Award and the E. M. Forster Prize in America. In 2012 she was awarded the PEN Pinter Prize. She was Poet Laureate from 2009 to 2019.

Tickets £20 at the door and at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

7:30pm

Saturday 29 June

Simon FitzGerald (organ)

Simon's colourful programme of 17th and 18th century German and Dutch organ music is designed to capture the inspiration and freedom with which the composers treated both sacred and secular tunes. Composers include J.S. Bach, Sweelinck, van Noordt and Buxtehude.



11:00am

Master Byrd

The year is 1611. William Byrd rehearses a makeshift choir in his patron's house in Ingatestone, Essex. In a series of 6 short monologues, Byrd reflects on his life, his music, his marriage and his religion. Performed by writer Brean Hammond with Melismata choir conducted by Philip Robinson.



Tickets £12 at the door and at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

7:30pm

Weaving Dreams

Sunday 30 June

Sanctuary - a reflective service for evening prayer

4:30pm

Monday 1 July

Manchester Reed Trio

The Manchester Reed Trio are favourite performers from our coffee concerts. We're delighted to welcome them to Saint Mary's Festival with their superb combination of oboe, clarinet, and bassoon. They will play a varied and exciting programme with music from Mozart to Mancini.



1:00pm

Tuesday 2 July

Jenny Jones (violin) & John Savage (piano)

Local musicians Jenny Jones and John Savage present a delightful programme in which Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata will be surrounded by violin favourites including Massenet's "Meditation" from "Thaïs" and Kreisler's "Praeludium and Allegro".



Tickets £10 at the door and at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

7:30pm

Wednesday 3 July

Felicity Vincent (cello)

Felicity Vincent, a former member of the Hallé Orchestra, has played and taught on both sides of the Atlantic over many years. Her programme will feature the D Major Suite for unaccompanied Cello by J.S. Bach as well as other music exploring sound and the dance.



1:00pm

Thursday 4 July

"What is love? 'Tis not hereafter"

A unique combination of local performers with a selection of songs from Twelfth Night and other works, to settings ancient and modern, with readings to complement this year's Stafford Shakespeare play.



1:00pm

Friday 5 July

Organ Duets with Margaret Outen & Tim Sagar

Come and enjoy a programme of organ duets, including works by Merkel, Soler and Sousa.

1:00pm

Children's 'Come and Sing'

All school-age children are welcome to join Saint Mary's Children's Choir for a workshop and rehearsal.

4:45pm to 6:00pm

Saturday 6 July

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

All school-age children are welcome to join a free workshop production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic work culminating in a performance at 2 pm to which all are welcome.

Please e-mail to register your child for this event: parishoffice@stmarysstafford.org.uk

**10:30am to 3:00pm
Performance at 2:00pm**



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

Students from The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, some of this country's leading young musicians, present a gala performance of the Dvorak Piano Quintet and more.

Tickets £10 at the door and at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

7:30pm

Sunday 7 July

Festival Family Barbecue

A final festival fling! Come and enjoy some traditional barbecue favourites together with some less familiar delights.

Tickets £10 adults, £5 children under 12. Available until Wednesday 3 July

12:30pm

by Lisa Henderson

"Weaving Dreams"



Weaving Dreams

Saturday 22 June - Sunday 7 July

Saint Mary's Church, Stafford

There will be informal poetry readings on the Festival theme as a prelude to some of the lunchtime concerts, fifteen minutes before the scheduled start. Please feel free to enter while these are in progress.

The lunchtime concerts are free but we would welcome donations.

Dvořák Piano Quintet
Saturday 6th July 7:30pm



Jenny Jones & John Savage
Tuesday 2 July 7:30pm

Master Byrd
Saturday 29 June 7:30pm



photograph: deminah kuhfeld



Carol Ann Duffy
Friday 28 June 7:30pm

Vocabella & The Men From Off
Wednesday 26 June 7:30pm



Jackie Oates Trio
Monday 24 June 7:30pm

Fish From Oblivion
Saturday 22 June 7:30pm



Full details of our programme of events can be found inside

Sunday 7th July 10:00am Festival Family Eucharist

Sunday 30th June 4:30pm Sanctuary

Sunday 23rd June 10:00am Festival Eucharist

Opportunities to Worship

Our festival is proud to support the work of: the Farming Network Community the World Land Trust.

Charities

Stafford Camera Club, whose members' work has been recognised in national and international photography competitions, displays a selection of photographs based on the Festival's theme.

Prize winning artist Lisa Henderson is showing a selection of collages on the theme of dreaming

A spectacular coat for Joseph created by the congregations and visitors of our 3 churches. Each patch is unique, rather like us.

Artwork designed by local school children based on the Old Testament story of Joseph and their take on "Weaving Dreams"

Visual Arts Exhibition

Musical Workshop
Children's Workshop
production of
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Saturday 6 July



Saint Mary's Festival 2024

It is a great pleasure to be able to invite you to join us for the second Saint Mary's Festival, a celebration of musical and visual arts in the heart of the town. This year the festival is themed around the well-known story of Joseph, his brothers, his coat, and his dream interpretations.

We are pleased to be working with a number of local partners to present a varied programme of entertainment and exhibitions. There are opportunities to share food and drink and to worship in this historic church building. At the centre of the Festival will be a coat of colour, created by our congregations and the wider local community. Around the coat there will be artwork produced by children from primary schools, as well as work by local photographers and artists.

Musical performances will be provided at lunchtimes and in the evenings over a 2-week period. Many of these are by musicians well-known in the local area. We are also pleased to welcome former Poet Laureate and Stafford resident, Carol Ann Duffy, back to Saint Mary's.

There are opportunities for you to get involved too: singers are welcome to join in our "Come and Sing Evensong" event, while youngsters can join our Children's Choir for an open choir rehearsal for our Sunday service. On Saturday 6th July children from local schools will gather for a workshop and performance of Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Our daytime events are provided free of charge, although we welcome donations to help defray costs. Evening events are ticketed and can be purchased on the door or at

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-festival>

We hope, through your support, to be able to make donations to our chosen festival charities: Farming Community Network and World Land Trust. You are also welcome to join us for our Festival Eucharist on Sunday 23rd June – a choral eucharist to open the Festival and on Sunday 7th July – a Family Festival Eucharist supported by our Children's Choir and Music Group.

So whether for a concert, to view the exhibits or for worship, I look forward to welcoming you to the Saint Mary's Festival 2024.

Richard Grigson
Reverend Prebendary Richard Grigson, Rector of Stafford

Travelling to Saint Mary's

By train

Saint Mary's Church is a short walk across Victoria Park from Stafford railway station (West Coast Main Line).

By road

From the M6 motorway, exit at J13 and follow A449 Wolverhampton Road, or at J14 and follow A34 Stone Road, towards the Town Centre. Convenient public car parks can be found at Waterfront (ST16 2HQ), South Walls (ST16 3AQ) and North Walls (ST16 3AD). Road access to Saint Mary's is limited.

Walking

Saint Mary's Place is off Greengate Street, just south of Market Square. It can also be accessed via Mill Street or Tenterbanks if approaching from Victoria Park or Stafford railway station.

Stafford Churches



Saint Mary's is part of the Stafford Churches family of churches, along with Saint Chad's, on Greengate Street in the Town Centre and Saint Leonard's in nearby Marston. Find out more about our churches on our website: www.staffordchurches.uk

Inclusive Church



Saint Mary's Church is a member of the Inclusive Church Network. We welcome all people, regardless of gender, race, sexuality, disability, mental health, neurodiversity, and social or economic status.

Saint Mary's Festival is promoted by the PCC of The Collegiate Church of Saint Mary Stafford. Whilst every effort will be made to avoid cancellations or changes to the published programme, events included in this brochure are subject to change with little or no notice.

Cover artwork detail from "Weaving Dreams" by Lisa Henderson