

Friends of Square Pianos
Chelveston 2024, 5th – 6th April



Domestic Arrangements and Programme

This year, by kind invitation of our new vicar, Mother Louise Bishop, and the Churchwardens, we will be meeting again in the lovely 13th-century church of St John.

Chelveston is a small village on the B645, a couple of miles south-east of the junction of the A6 and A45. The Church is surrounded by ancient trees and not easily visible from the road, but it is signposted along the Caldecott Road at the top of the hill just as you come into the village from the west, or just after you've been through the village if you've come from the east. For those with sat-navs, the postcode is NN9 6AT. There is an enormous redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) on the corner. The car-park in Caldecott Road, to the left of the Village Hall, is a shared resource – please use this for long-term parking. But temporary parking is OK on the road outside the church. For those dropping off instruments, or with mobility concerns, there is room for about two cars on the paved area in the foreground of the picture. It is a bit further from there to the door than it was in the Village Hall, but there will be a specially-designed handcart with nice big wheels. Please then move cars to leave room for someone else!

There is no public transport to the village. If you come by train, the nearest station is Wellingborough – less than an hour from London St Pancras. There are more trains from London to Bedford, but a taxi would be more expensive (but the rail fare less!)

Those of us who will be in the area on the Friday evening will be meeting for a meal at the Star & Garter in Chelveston at about 7.

For those needing accommodation, the situation regarding local B&Bs is unclear – two have closed - so I would suggest Wellingborough Premier Inn. Go towards Wellingborough on the A45, past Whitworth's flour mill, down the slip road, under the A45, right at the roundabout past Tesco, and left at the next roundabout. Premier Inn is on the right.



If a few of us stay there, there could be an opportunity for car-sharing on the Friday evening. Cars may be left in the church car park overnight.



There is a servery and a fully-accessible toilet in the church. The lunch will be a cold buffet, freshly-prepared by the Market Square Bakery in Higham Ferrers, as well as the usual tea, coffee, cookies, and biscuits. To minimise washing-up, there will be a souvenir mug for everybody, all included in the £25 fee.

(2023 design, taken from a square piano c. 1795 by Christopher Ganer)



Schedule

Friday 5th April

2.00 – 7.00: The Church will be open. Everyone is welcome to come along, chat, and play the instruments that have already arrived. Those who have brought instruments may leave them in the Church, which will be locked when we are not there. Help to set out the chairs, etc. would be very welcome, and I would appreciate help getting my instruments up to the hall.

7.30: Evening meal at the Star & Garter.

We need to pre-order this please. We will order and pay for drinks as we go, but I will pay for the food all in one go, and we will collect the money for this on the Saturday.

Saturday 6th April

8.00 – Church open. Tea, coffee, and biscuits available.

10.00 - Welcome. To allow plenty of time for music, can we please start the programme on time. If anyone really is late, that's not a problem, but we'll start anyway.

12.30 Buffet Lunch. Provided by Market Square Bakery, This will be laid out on the servery.

We will try to round-off the programme at about 5.00, but there is no rush to get away – we can chat and play the instruments until about 6. The church will be open until 7.00 to allow time for clearing up ready for the Sunday service – I would appreciate a little help.

Those staying overnight may leave instruments in the church, as long as we tidy them away in the north aisle. There will be a service in the church at 9.00, so instruments may be collected at about 10.30.

For those staying over for the Saturday night, David Glynn has offered to co-ordinate a meal at one of the many restaurants at Rushden Lakes www.rushdenlakes.com But I will excuse myself from this – I will be worn out, and spending a bit of time with my wife and the cat!

If I've forgotten anything, or if I can help in any way, please get in touch. It's going to be a good party!