

# THE GUILD CHAPEL

Recipient of the John Betjeman Society Award for the Protection of Ancient Buildings 2018

A FASCINATING GLIMPSE INTO MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

## GUILD CHAPEL WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

THE CHAMPAGNE corks have been popping once again for the team at Stratford's Guild Chapel– this time winning a prestigious prize at the 2019 UK Heritage Awards.

The awards were handed out at an exclusive ceremony celebrating the best heritage experiences and places to stay in the UK, hosted at Grocer's Hall in London on 25th March. The UK Heritage Awards are arranged by the UK's leading heritage, tourism and destination marketing company, Visit Heritage.

The winners of the UK Heritage Awards 2019 were crowned across twelve categories, plus Individual Awards for Contribution to Heritage, which were adjudicated by a panel of judges comprising of leading figures and experts on UK Heritage.

The Guild Chapel won the Judges Discretionary Award, picking up praise for the

ongoing conservation and education work surrounding its medieval wall paintings – some of the finest surviving in Europe.

Sara Aspley, Chief Executive of Stratford Town Trust, custodian of the Guild Chapel, and Pippa Brook, Volunteer Coordinator for the Guild Chapel, were in London to collect the UK Heritage Award trophy.

In February, its volunteer guides were named Team of the Year at the Pride of Stratford Awards.

Pippa said: "It's been an extraordinary time for the Guild Chapel, where we've really unlocked the door on an absolute hidden gem. The future is really exciting too, there is still so much to uncover and discover here. Our success has been thanks to a huge team effort and special recognition goes to our wonderful volunteers, who are so invaluable to what we are trying to achieve."

## VOLUNTEER LED TALKS LAUNCHED IN APRIL

VISITORS wanting to learn and discover more about the Guild Chapel, its history and medieval wall paintings are invited to drop-in to listen to a series of volunteer-led talks. The talks will be a regular event – for anyone to turn up and enjoy at 11am on both the last Tuesday and the 3rd Saturday of every month, between April and September. The talks are all free, with donations to support the Chapel welcomed. Upcoming dates are:

**June 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 7<sup>th</sup>**

## LAMMAS DAY

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019

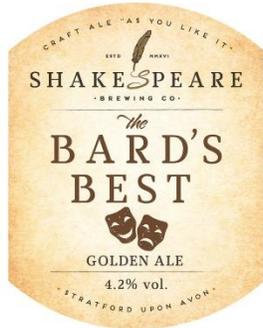
This year the Guild Chapel will be celebrating an old feast day, Lammas day – or 'loaf mass' – this is traditionally when people celebrate the first wheat harvest in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern

Ireland, and is noted as the first harvest festival of the season. Grains that are harvested at Lammas time include, wheat, barley, oats, rye as well as the plants meadowsweet, mint, sunflower and Calendula. The Chapel will be decorated to reflect the occasion by Avon Floral Art, do come and look.

Join us during the day for storytelling and corn dolly making and for a concert led by the medieval band Merrie Noyse in the evening at 7.30pm.

**For more information and to buy tickets please refer to our website**

[www.guildchapel.org/whatson/events](http://www.guildchapel.org/whatson/events)



We need a design for the label of our Lammas beer to be served at the event on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, bottles will also be available to purchase. All monies raised will go towards the ongoing upkeep and conservation of our beautiful Chapel. The beer will be provided by the Shakespeare Brewing Co. (logo is displayed). Your design would be in the centre where it now says Bard's Best. All entries to be emailed to [pippa.brook@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk](mailto:pippa.brook@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk) or delivered to the Stratford Town Trust Offices, 14 Rother St, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6LU. Closing date 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## The Telling

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December @7.30pm

The Guild Chapel will be hosting a very special carol concert on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. A candlelit celebration of Christmas in the medieval period with songs, poetry, dances and Christmas music. The music includes a selection of some of the most beautiful carols from this age, some of which are still sung today. To hear a taste of the Telling go to [www.thetelling.co.uk](http://www.thetelling.co.uk)

For more information about this event please refer to our website

[www.guildchapel.org/whatson/events](http://www.guildchapel.org/whatson/events)

The Chapel's history dates back to 1269. Its wall paintings have been described as amongst the finest in Europe – rediscovered hundreds of years after they were limewashed on orders given to Shakespeare's father after the 16th century English Reformation.

***For more information on visiting, the talks, tickets for events or on becoming a volunteer guide yourself, please see [www.guildchapel.org.uk](http://www.guildchapel.org.uk) or contact Pippa Brook: 01789 207117 or [pippa.brook@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk](mailto:pippa.brook@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk)***

Follow us on Facebook: @guildchapel

Follow us on Twitter: @guildchapel