

# **Congregational Bulletin.**

## **The PCC met on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

### **Finance.**

The Financial situation at St Swithuns Church is becoming very serious. The difference between the total amount of giving received and our total expenditure is a deficit of £2,000 every month. It is expected that the shortfall will be £20,000 by the end of September 2023. Cutbacks in Church expenditure have been targeted by the PCC for many years so It is not felt that further cutbacks are possible. An annual Stewardship Campaign will be launched in the Autumn. For 2023 the campaign is intended to achieve the PCC's stated aim of securing a balanced budget for the Calendar Year. The Campaign must, therefore, achieve 2 aims:

- a. Raise £20,000 to cover the anticipated deficit to end September 2023.
- b. INCREASE current Church Giving by an additional £2,000 per month for October, November and December 2023.

The campaign will invite all our Congregation Members to join us in Prayer as we seek growth in the value of Giving Received along with Prayer and thanksgiving for the Hard Work of our Fundraising Team.

### **Safeguarding.**

DBS checks have been completed against all members of the PCC. These checks must be renewed every 3 years so a programme of new checks against some Members must be completed again by the end of 2023. Checks are being extended to other groups within our Church including Junior Church Leaders, Open the Book and our Readers.

All PCC members must complete on-line training Courses run by the CoE Safeguarding Team, and be tested on their understanding of the training, to remain on the PCC. Again, we are encouraging other groups within our Church to undertake the same training.

### **Vacancy Arrangements.**

The Vacancy Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June was attended by 51 people including our Patron, Jonathan Pym, and representatives from the Town Council, our Town Schools, the Royal British Legion, Sandy Churches Together, Churches from Sandy and Beeston and The Need Project. The meeting was chaired by the Right Rev'd Richard Atkinson (Bishop of Bedford) with support from The Ven Rev'd Dave Middlebrook (our Archdeacon) and Rev'd Graeme Buckle (Head of our Deanery). The meeting considered, in some depth, the qualities that our Congregations wish to see in our new Rector.

A Profile about Sandy and St Swithuns Church is now being finalised with a description of the role our new Rector will have in our Church. Advertising for the vacancy will begin in September with the hope and expectation of appointing our new Vicar in January 2024. Elizabeth Gammell and Colin Osborne have been appointed as our two representatives on the Interview Panel.

### **Summer Fete – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 - (St Swithun's Day!)**

Everybody is warmly invited to attend our Summer Fete from 1pm. There will be stalls for Splat the Curate, Raffles, Crafts, Cakes, Plants, a Lucky Dip and Treasure Hunt. The Church Tower will be open from 1pm to 4pm so, for those with a reasonable degree of fitness, the tight and steep spiral staircase may be climbed to afford views of Sandy.

Volunteers will be needed to help out and we would be very grateful for any assistance that can be given from 8:00am onwards.

**Stephen Snow**

**Secretary, Sandy Parish Church PCC**

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