

Congregational Bulletin.

The PCC met on Tuesday 1st August 2023.

Finance.

The Financial situation at St Swithuns Church is very serious. The difference between the total amount of giving we receive and our total expenditure amounts to a deficit of £2,000 - £3,000 every month. An annual Stewardship Campaign will be launched in September. This will be the first time that such a campaign has been held in St Swithuns for the last 10 years so the PCC are anxious to ensure that this is done correctly. The campaign will ask our Congregation Members to join us in Prayer about the value of Giving we receive and to consider if they can bring any additional giving to help reduce the value of our debt which is building up very quickly month after month.

Safeguarding.

The PCC have formally adopted a Policy for Dealing with Domestic Abuse. Our written Policy is identical to that held by St Albans Diocese and this will be upheld by all PCC members. Any Congregation members who have concerns about Safeguarding matters for anybody at our Church are asked to speak to Sandy Stopher, our Safeguarding Officer.

Vacancy Arrangements.

A Profile about Sandy, St Swithuns Church and the role our new Rector will have has received the full approval of our Archdeacon and will be used when we start to advertise the vacancy at the end of this month. A shortlist of Candidates will be drawn up and interviews will be held on 17th October.

Whilst the Rectory is vacant there is a need for help with tending the front and back gardens and some minor DIY jobs around the house. If anybody can help – even for an hour or two - please do speak to Philip, Colin or anybody on the PCC.

As the Archdeacon reminded us during the Vacancy Meeting in June many of the Rectors who consider applying for our Vacancy will visit our Web Site (www.sandyparishchurch.org) and this is likely to be the first impression they have of St Swithuns. For this reason, we are looking to add some dynamism and impact to our Site and to make it more usable and informative. Additions and changes will be discussed at the September PCC meeting.

Fundraising.

Thank you very much to everybody who came to our Fete on 15th July (and to all those who helped out) making the fete such a resounding success. The Fete gave a profit of nearly £1,500 and it was felt that the Church building was really buzzing for the duration of the afternoon. The PCC wish especially to express their thanks to Karen Varley and Lynsey Sheppard for all their hard work with this.

A Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 2nd September from 10am until 12 Noon.

A Craft & Chatter evening will be held on Friday 8th September from 7:30pm.

A Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday 18th November** – more details anon!

Net Zero Carbon Audit.

Ruth Lock, our NZC Officer, will be applying to the Diocese for a grant to help fund our audit of the Church Building and Rooms.

Stephen Snow

Secretary, Sandy Parish Church PCC

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