

# **Congregational Bulletin.**

## **The PCC for St Swithuns Church met Tuesday 5th December 2023.**

### **Bell Chamber and Belfry.**

Thank you to everyone who supported Steven Akhursts's sponsored Bell Ring on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Some £2,400 were raised and electrical repairs in the Tower will commence shortly.

### **Vacancy Update.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of advertisements for our Rector will commence in *Church Times* and *Pathways* at the end of December. Advertisements are already in place on the Church Website and St Albans Diocese Website. A shortlist of Candidates will be drawn up on 1st February and they will have the opportunity to visit St Swithuns School during week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> February. Formal interviews will then be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Please join us all in Prayer that a suitable Candidate may come forward in the New Year.

### **Church Website.**

Our Church Website has been fully revamped and we would love you all to pay us an on-line visit to view our new Site for yourselves. ( [sandyparishchurch.org](http://sandyparishchurch.org) ). The Site is subject to continual additions and updates so don't forget to pay us a visit regularly!

### **Safeguarding.**

All PCC Members have fully completed the mandatory Safeguarding Training that has been compiled by the Church of England Safeguarding Team.

### **Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Tree Festival.**

Thank you to everybody who came to our Christmas Bazaar and/or the Tree Festival and for your donations. We hope that everybody enjoyed themselves and were made to feel welcome. The PCC express their thanks to Karen Varley, Lynsey Sheppard, Corrinne Hetherington, the Stall Holders, the organisations who displayed a tree and to the "gangs" of people who took part or who prepared the Church Building for both events and cleared up afterwards!

### **Curate's Report.**

The Church of England have been questioned for many years on the matter of single sex marriages and the General Synod have brought in a liturgy to bless people who are in a single sex relationship. It should be noted, however, that the doctrine of marriage has not technically changed and the marriage service liturgy remains the same, these new optional services technically bless the people and not their relationship. The CoE recognise that many LGBTQIA+ people are also Christians. Philip asks us all to continue to pray for our Bishops, and the General Synod, and the whole of the Church of England through this time.

### **Future Events – we would love to see you there!**

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Lessons and Carols Service – 6pm.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Combined 10am Communion Service.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm Crib Service, Nativity.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11:30pm – Midnight Communion.
Christmas Day	8:15am Said Communion.
Christmas Day	10:00am Family Worship.
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	8:15 & 9:30 services as Usual. <b>11:00am Christingle Service.</b>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	6:00pm Candlemass Evensong.

### **Stephen Snow**

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