**Stanley, Southmoor & Tanfield - Missional Investment**

In 2024, the Diocese of Durham was awarded a substantial grant from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (who administer Church Commissioners’ grants to the Church of England) to resource our programme of Diocesan Transformation. This is a comprehensive, strategic vision to enable parishes to increase in mission, deepen in discipleship, and engage younger generations. While working through our Vacancy Audit, our Diocesan facilitator noted that Stanley, Southmoor and Tanfield included communities with many needs and without significant resources, so we were delighted to be told that St Andrew’s and St Margaret’s may be able to benefit from a Missional Investment through the Diocesan Transformation programme to enable us to serve our local parishes and share God’s love through our outreach.

We have been invited to work with our new minister and the Diocesan Growing Churches team to develop a missional plan for growth, building on our current outreach and specifically targeted at reaching people in our community who are not yet part of the regular congregations to begin a journey of faith and grow in discipleship. Funding of up to £150,000 over five years will be available to resource our plan, which could be used towards an employed role, equipment or activities. One of the key tasks of our new incumbent will be to work with the PCC and congregation to shape a vision and form a proposal, with the support of the Diocesan team, to be considered for this investment, and then lead on delivering this plan in the coming years.

We are looking forward to developing our vision and plans and reaching out to our community.