

Congregational Bulletin.

The PCC for St Swithuns Church met Tuesday 7th November 2023.

Finance.

Thank you so much again to everybody who support St Swithuns. With the arrival of colder weather we have had to start using the heating again in the face of high fuel costs.

Bell Chamber and Belfry.

Thank you to everyone who are giving financial support to the sponsored Bell Ring that our Tower Captain, Steven Akhurst, has organised for Saturday 25th November. The peal will begin from 9am. Electrical repairs in the Tower will begin shortly and an Architect has been commissioned to report on the condition of the Belfry Room Floor.

Vacancy Update.

2 Candidates for the role of Rector at St Swithuns were interviewed on 17th October. Nearly 40 people worked together as a Team on a day long exercise for this. Both Candidates had a guided drive around Sandy, met a Forum of Congregation / PCC members, had interaction with St Swithuns Vc Primary School, met a Forum of Community Members, enjoyed lunch in the Church Building and were interviewed by a panel of 5 people. The interview panel unanimously agreed, however, that, whilst both Candidates were very strong, neither was suitable as a Rector for our Parish. The intention now is to advertise the post again in January 2024 and interview Candidates at the end of February or early March. This unfortunately means we are unlikely to have a new Rector until June 2024 at the earliest.

The PCC are anxious to express their heartfelt thanks to Everybody who played a part in the "Team" on 17th October. The Bishop of Bedford, our Archdeacon and our Patron all commented on how well the Team worked together for the day. The PCC also wish to express their thanks to our Curate Rev'd Philip Macaulay, Rev'd Les Oglesby, Rev'd Andrew Holdford, Jane Godley and everybody who have worked in the Church Office to support St Swithuns through the Interregnum period.

Church Building Diary.

Hattie Haddow has kindly agreed to take over the running of this diary with effect from 1st January 2024. As this will be a soft diary, it may be viewed on line. The PCC are very grateful to Hattie for volunteering to help with this.

Church Newsletter.

Our Newsletter is now being sent around by email in the interest of sustainability, but printed copies are available on request. If you would prefer to have these by email, but are not presently receiving them in this way, do let me know.

Future Events.

- A combined Family Service will be held at 10am on Sunday 3rd December and the Celebrant will be The Right Rev'd Alan Smith - Bishop of St Albans. If anybody would like to help with preparations for this service please speak to a PCC Member.
- The Christmas Tree Festival will take place from Saturday 2nd December until Tuesday 5th December. Sat & Sun: 12-7pm. Mon & Tue: 3:30-7pm.

You are warmly invited to both of these events – it would be great to see you there !

Stephen Snow

Secretary, Sandy Parish Church PCC

E: snowleopard51913@gmail.com