

## **Congregational Bulletin.**

**The PCC for St Swithuns Church met on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023.**

### **Finance.**

Ruth Lock has stepped forward to act as our Church Treasurer. Kevin, Malika and Valerie are providing help and support to Ruth as she settles down into this role. An annual Stewardship Campaign has been launched to reduce the deficit between donations received and expenditure (presently £2,500 to £3,000 every month). This is our first Stewardship Campaign in 10 years so please join us in Prayer about the value of Giving we receive

At the end of 2022 it was anticipated that there might have been a deficit of £1,100 per month throughout 2023, largely as a result of rising energy costs. This was factored into our budget, but the increase in fuel costs were significantly greater than expected as were insurance premiums. Giving to the Church also declined after a spike at Christmas. These factors have combined to produce the deficit of £20,000 that we presently have.

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

Steven Akhurst, our Tower Captain, joined the PCC to present a report about working conditions for our Bell Ringing Team. The lighting system in the Belfry is decrepit and in need of replacement whilst wiring to the Bell Chamber no longer works at all. Quotations for repairs are being sought.

It is important that our Ringers are allowed to practice at least once every fortnight to develop their understanding and confidence in the technicalities of ringing. Steps have been taken to ensure that this is possible in future.

Philip expressed his thanks to everybody in our Bell Ringing Team for the excellent service they supply to our Church.

### **St Swithuns Church Website.**

We are keen to transform our Church Website ([www.sandyparishchurch.org](http://www.sandyparishchurch.org)) by adding new pages or photographs. If you have anything to contribute please do speak to Matt Bushby.

### **Vacancy Arrangements.**

Advertisements for the role of Rector at St Swithuns have been placed in the Church Times. A shortlist of suitable candidates will be drawn up on 27<sup>th</sup> September and they will then be invited for Interview on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

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

### **Fundraising.**

Thank you to everybody who attended the Teddy Bear's picnic on 9<sup>th</sup> August and the Coffee Morning on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. We hope the everybody enjoyed themselves!

### **Harvest Festival Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.**

There will be a single service at 10:00am hosted by the Right Reverend Richard Atkinson – Bishop of Bedford – followed by a “bring & share” Finger Food / Cold Buffet Lunch. You are warmly invited to attend. Kindly add your name to the Sign-Up form by the Church Notice Boards to give an idea of numbers attending and who will be bringing what foodstuffs.

**Stephen Snow**

**Secretary, Sandy Parish Church PCC**

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