**Congregational Bulletin.**

**The PCC for St Swithuns Church met on**

**Tuesday 2nd January 2024.**

**Our Army of Volunteers and helpers.**

The PCC are anxious to express their heartfelt thanks to the army of people who helped us out during the Christmas Bazaar, The Christmas Tree Festival, The Sandy Secondary School Concert and all of the Christmas Services which, we feel, were a great success.

The Ven. Rev. David Middlebrook (Archdeacon of Bedford) attended this month’s meeting and thanked the…. “many others, both upfront and behind the scenes, who are doing extra just to keep the show on the road. Please do especially thank those who do the less obvious and upfront jobs, and who simply keep the mission and ministry of the church going. All the hard work is very much appreciated and valued and is not taken lightly”.

**Vacancy Update.**

Advertisements for the position of our Rector have been placed in *Church Times*, *Pathways*, on our Church Website and on the St Albans Diocese Website. A shortlist of Candidates will be drawn up on 1st February. They will have the opportunity to visit St Swithuns School during week commending 12th February with formal interviews on 19th February. Please join us all in Prayer for the Lord to find us a suitable Candidate.

**Safeguarding.**

The PCC are completely up to date with all required training. St Albans Diocese have promoted St Swithuns Church to level 3 (of 3) for our standard of Safeguarding. Congratulations and thank you to Sandy (our Parish Safeguarding Officer) who has worked tirelessly to achieve this and we are grateful for everybody’s help in our Congregations for keeping St Swithuns a safe Church to Worship at.

It is intended that a Safeguarding Sunday will be held in April – more details as soon as this has been finalised!

**Church Building Wi-Fi and General Giving to St Swithuns.**

We feel that it would be helpful to install Wi-Fi in the St Swithuns Church building. This would make our card reading machines for taking donations far more reliable. If anybody can help with this, perhaps as a pet project, we really would be very grateful. Please speak to Philip or any PCC Member.

Thank you so much to all who bring financial support to the Ministry of this Church. Plate collections in our Sunday Services are making substantial contribution whilst giving by Card Machines, Standing Order or the Parish Giving Scheme are a tremendous aid to us.

**Future Events.**

Sunday 21st January 10:40am Vestry Meeting.

Sunday 28th January World Leprosy Day. Chris Stratta from The Leprosy Mission visits us

Sunday 11th February 6:00pm Candlemass Evensong.

April Safeguarding Sunday.

**Stephen Snow**

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