

ST MARY'S PCC NEWS – JULY 2025

Topics discussed at the PCC meeting on June 23rd include the following:

Replacement for Treasurer - Everyone needs to consider and pray for a suitably qualified person, familiar with the the Church of England method of handling finance, to come forward. Anne Franklin has kindly agreed to remain Acting Treasurer until a Treasurer can be appointed.

APCM - This year, the APCM was held in the evening meeting in a relaxed atmosphere which proved popular. An Eco focus for the Annual Report will be presented at the 2026 APCM.

New Working Groups -

- We agreed to change the remit of the Communication/Website Working Group to include the technical needs of St Mary's such as improvements to the church sound system in the church and Church Room and investigating streaming services. The group will be called the Communications and Technical Working Group.
- A new working group will be set up to work on the handing over of the field, which Gus Christie has donated to be used for a new churchyard, into the ownership of St Mary's. The current new churchyard is likely to be full within 5 years.

A list of all Working Groups and their co-ordinators is displayed on the board at the back of the church. A full list of the Working Group members plus the remits of the Groups is to be found in the blue folder in the right-hand drawer beyond the hymn book shelves at the back of the church. This folder also contains the Minutes of the PCC meetings and other information.

Deanery Synod - We heard about the "Quiet Revival" of more young adults attending church at least monthly. Also, Clergy Pensions will be restored to the 2011 level when pensions were reduced. The speaker Rev'd Buff Forbes Stone, the Diocesan Environment Officer talked about Carbon Confidence and recommended some useful recent books about the environment. If you are interested in her presentation, email her at environment.officer@chichester.anglian.org and she will send you a copy of her presentation.

She suggested that we encourage our MPs to vote for the "Climate and Nature Bill" which focuses upon keeping global warming below 1.5C and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.

The Bishop's Certificate is being relaunched and there is a good ECO course obtainable from the diocese.

News from our Working Groups

- **Children Families & Youth** - Some churches now have a Family Service at 4pm on Sundays with tea provided and we wondered whether this would encourage young families to attend. The Toddler Group parents and carers will be asked for their views.
- **Worship** - There will be five Bible studies based on the words of Jesus in the autumn.
- **Welcome & Events** - The Summer Fair will be held on July 12th. Planning will begin in the autumn for the Christmas Festival.
- **Eco Church** - As we work towards A Rocha Gold Award, the group has undertaken a wildflower survey in both churchyards; finding ways to attract more birds and hedgehogs; grass-management; monitoring water and energy use; encouraging 50 members of the congregation to work out their carbon footprint and arranging three Eco talks in the Church Room on September 11th, October 9th and November 13th.

Friends of St Mary's

Congratulations to Deirdre and Richard Booth on their successful fund-raising wine tasting evening. A jazz evening is planned for October 18th and the film "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris," for January. Do support these social occasions.

Notes compiled by Margaret Sweatman July 2025