

ST MARY'S PCC NEWS - FEBRUARY 2026

Topics discussed at the PCC Meeting on 19th January 2026 include the following:-

Finance - We agreed that the Generous Giving event will be run annually to increase the response for financial and practical contributions by a greater proportion of the congregation. The church has made considerable savings by moving our insurance from Ecclesiastical Insurance to Trinitas Church Insurance Services and by switching to Octopus Energy for our electricity supply. A member of the congregation has volunteered to become Church Treasurer, and their name will be announced once personal circumstances enable them to assume this post.

Friends of St Mary's - The first year of fund raising has been successful and there is a provisional booking of the popular jazz band for 10th October. A summer garden party and another film night are being considered.

Reports from Working Groups

- Children, Families and Youth - There was an encouragingly large attendance at the Family Carol service on Christmas Eve. Contacts from the Wednesday Toddler Group will continue to be invited to services held at Christmas and Easter. Ringmer Nursery School attended the Christmas Festival and were enthusiastic about decorating their own tree next Christmas - as was the Primary School.
- Worship Group - All services have been planned until mid-April which include an Eco-themed service at 10.00 am on May 10th, Rogation Sunday; a combined area evensong at Newick Church on 19th July and, possibly, a Create Music concert on 28th June. There will be no organ voluntaries after evening services during the winter. John is giving organ tuition to two people for 3 months and then reviewing the situation. The 5-week Lent Study Group in the Church Room starts on Thursday 26th February at 3.30.
- Eco Church - Good progress has been made towards obtaining our Gold Level A Rocha Award. We are working on a more detailed Environment Policy which will need PCC approval. The eco group is setting reduction targets for water and energy usage, recycling, waste reduction and planning eco talks. We plan to maintain links with school's eco projects. Some of us will attend a Carbon Literacy Training at Church House on February 13th. Contact Rosemary Colbourn if you would like to attend this course. Later, we are planning a "no car" Sunday. We also hope to support local projects for wildlife protection and tree planting.
- Parish Magazine - The slight redesign includes four new pages with two for advertisements and two for extra articles. The price is increased to £7.50 a year or £1 for a single copy. 250 extra magazines with a printer flyer were distributed free to new houses. Payment by bank transfer will be explored for 2027.

Other Information

- The Rev'd Pat Brenton is now Associate Vicar of St Mary's Church. She holds a Bishop's Licence and the agreement of the PCC to support Rev'd David with parish work until 15th July 2028.
- Ray Brenton's Licence as Lay Reader at St Mary's has been extended until 31st December 2030.
- Nicki Bone has volunteered to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer from Deirdre Booth.
- The Electoral Roll is currently 86.
- The Rev'd David's new phone number is 07394 936545.
- St Mary's APCM will be on Monday 18th May.

Notes compiled by Margaret Sweatman