

# ST MARY'S PCC NEWS – MARCH 2026

## Finance -

- The new Treasurer will be announced and elected formally at the APCM on My 18th. He is currently liaising with Jonathan to familiarize himself with the requirements of this post.
- St Mary's bank accounts are moving from Barclays to the more ethically aware Co-operative Bank.
- The budget for 2026 shows a welcome reduction from the predicted deficit of £30,000 based on previous years' deficits to £3,292. We are hoping for increased income from money raised at the Christmas Fair, increases in Church Room users' donations and by keeping expenditure to a minimum.
- We need a vision for the church and a determination to raise funds to support it.

## Safeguarding -

- Nicki Bone, the new Safeguarding Officer, will complete her training and assume the post after the APCM.
- We are working through a Safeguarding Level 2 Action Plan and have already completed most of the requirements. After that, St Mary's will be provided with a Level 3 Plan by the diocese.

## Other news -

- After the swearing in for Rev'd Pat's extension of licences has taken place, her new title will be announced at a morning Eucharist.
- The churchwarden, Anne, will continue to maintain responsibility for Health and Safety until someone suitable can be found to take it on.
- The Summer Fair is confirmed for July 4th from 2pm to 4pm.
- Friends of St Mary's have booked the Jazz Band for October 10th.

## Deanery Synod -

- Chichester Diocese will receive £12.3m from SMMIB (Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board) a national board supporting the Church of England's strategy for growth especially around younger, more diverse and undeserved communities.
- Bishop Will Hazlewood becomes Acting Bishop of Chichester when Bishop Martin Warner retires in May.
- The Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches is back to full strength which, hopefully, will mean that applications for grants will be more speedily dealt with.

## Reports from Working and Project Groups -

- Children, Families and Youth - The first Sundays to September will have eco and family themes. The Family Fun afternoon is on Sunday 10th May.
- Pastoral - Monthly Friday soup lunches in winter and Sunday teas in summer will continue. Care homes receive monthly communion services and the intercessory prayer group meets monthly in the Lady Chapel. Unfortunately, candles cannot be lit during the daytime because of antisocial behaviour but candles will be lit at the end of the day by whoever locks up the church.
- Worship - A Rogation Sunday service will be held on May 9th with the theme farming and agriculture. We are planning a joint service with the Baptist Church on the Green for Pentecost on May 24th.
- Fabrics and Facilities - Plans for installing CCTV outside and inside the church are progressing.
- Eco Church - Wildflower seeds have been sown in both churchyards. A Big Plastic Count of church waste is planned. St Mary's will join a national count of birds and butterflies in the churchyards in May. Tentative plans are being explored for putting solar panels on the west-facing area of the church room roof. We need to explore the possibility to obtain a Gold Eco Award.

*These notes are compiled by Margaret Sweatman*