ST MARY'S PCC NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2026

Topics discussed at the PCC meeting on September 7th included the following:

General Items

- Health & Safety - The Churchwardens would remain responsible for Health and Safety until a suitable volunteer can be appointed.
- Friends of St Mary's had organised a Jazz Evening on 17th October. A glass of wine would be included with the admissions fee paid on the door. The winner of the Raffle would be given tickets for the Glyndebourne production of the "Barber of Seville" on 2nd November.
- Cleaning of Church Room facilities - It was agreed that SKM Cleaning Facilities would deep-clean the church kitchen and toilet for £210.
- The date of the APCM would remain 17th May 2027 to give adequate time for preparation.

Finance

The new Treasurer, Graeme Bone, had signed up for a new 2-year fixed rate contract for electricity with Octopus Energy. Completion of the switch to the Co-op Bank was imminent. A copy of the budget to the end of June had been circulated.

Reports from Working Groups

- Children, Families & Youth reported that the Wednesday St Mary's Toddler Group was thriving, and that the knitted teddies, supplied by Christine Harding for school starters, had been greatly appreciated. A Ringmer sings session in church, led by Joanna Songhi and facilitated by Rosemary had been a great success and would be followed by three more 45-minute session once a fortnight with parents being invited to the final one. Marisa and others were present at Ringmer Primary School on the first day of term for new children, to offer tea and support.

- Worship Group had planned a 6.30pm Advent Service on 29th November and a Christmas Carol service on 14th December. The choir singing anthems in the Springett Chapel during Communion was working well. Thanks were expressed to all who donated to the organ blower fund. A plaque would be installed to commemorate the years of service by A & M Howell in servicing the organ blower.

- Eco Church - The Eco group continued to be involved with management of the churchyards, contributing to Creation-tide at our harvest Service on October 12th, planning another car-less Sunday, focusing on Recycling, Repair and Re-use ideas in the pew sheet, launching a Ringmer Climate Support Group, planning another showing of the People's Emergency Briefing and meeting the vicar and churchwardens about the feasibility of installing solar panels.

- Parish Magazine - Financially, the magazine was doing well and at least £1,371 would be transferred to St Mary's bank.

- Communication and Technology - The Group was discussing renovating, or replacing, our audio system to enable live streaming of services and possibly purchasing a projector and fixed screen for the All-Age services and other events.

These notes were written by Margaret Sweatman