

ST MARY'S PCC NEWS - JANUARY 2025

At this meeting, we approved unanimously to renew the Authorised Lay Ministry of Sue Howes for Pastoral work and Marisa Hayes for Children, Families and Youth work.

Finance

We urgently need to find a qualified replacement Treasurer who agrees with the aims and objectives of the PCC. There is deep concern about the shortfall in funds with a current loss of £100 daily. Ideas for fund-raising are being put forward, including encouraging members to consider adding a gift to St Mary's in their will. We are planning a Stewardship Sunday later in the year. Friends of St Mary's is being re-launched to raise funds for repairs and maintenance of the church building.

Friends of S Mary's

The launch of the Friends is planned for Saturday 15th March and will consist of drinks and nibbles in the Church Room and a talk by John Kay as well as a chance to look inside the bell tower. It will soon be possible to donate to the Friends' account through our church website.

Reports from Working Groups

Children, Families and Youth - St Mary's Toddlers on Wednesdays continues to be appreciated by parents, carers and children. Rev'd David visits the primary school on a regular basis and Rosemary Colebourn is working with the Eco Co-ordinator of King's Academy. She arranged a successful school choir visit to Coffee break in December.

Many families attended the nativity service, Christingle and carol services.

Pastoral Care - Winter Warmers monthly Friday lunches are appreciated by those who attend, and will continue until the clocks change to summer-time.

Worship - Creation Sunday will be on February 23rd. Weekday afternoon courses have been planned until the end of June and include the current six-week course on 'The Lord's Prayer', a six-week Lent course from March 6th, a six-week Eco-themed course "Tenants of the King" from June 5th and a 'read through' Bible Study from June 12th. From June 5th Rev'd Pat will also lead an evening house group for those less used to our usual study groups. Our Festival Evensong will be on 29th June.

Welcome & Events - exciting plans are being made for a different Christmas Festival on 13th & 14th December. Details will follow...

Fabric & Facilities - The clock and Springett Chapel repairs are now complete. Adjustments and repairs to the sound system are continuing.

Training Opportunities - Chichester Diocese invites members of the congregation to make use of some of the training opportunities they provide:
<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/training-brochure>

Sponsorship of Joi, an Indian midwife trainee - On February 2nd, Margaret Sweatman will give a short, illustrated presentation about supporting the cost of training Joi. Once trained, she will gain experience before returning to her Christian tribal village to provide basic assistance to mothers and babies in a remote area of North-East India with no medical facilities. Donations will be given

via Nations Trust - a recognized UK charity. Our contactless system will display the destination for donation to Nations Trust for that day.

These Notes were compiled by Margaret Sweatman