

St Mary's Church, Launton

Report to the Parish Meeting Thursday April 20th. 2022.

The year 2021 started in lockdown again due to the Covid 19 pandemic and services, as well as our PCC meetings, were held on Zoom.

During the early part of the year we were able to engage the services of organists to bring live music back into the church when we returned later in the year.

In April we heard that our applications for a COMF grant had been successful and we are very grateful to Launton Parish Council for their help with this. The money enabled us to have a support worker at the Community café which re-opened in September. We are also grateful to Launton Parish Council for their continued annual grant towards the mowing of the grass in the Churchyard.

Rev'd Peter has maintained the strong links with the school and regularly leads Assemblies for the children.

We ran some fund raising events during 2021 and these included Produce stalls (often shared between St Mary's and the Launton Parish Hall Improvement Project) and a St George's Day Scarecrow Trail (funds from this were divided between St Mary's Church and the Bicester Refugee Group). The annual Ride and Stride took place again this year too. Many thanks to all who helped with these events or took part in them.

During 2021 we heard that our Team Rector Verena Breed was leaving in September to become Archdeacon of Barnstaple in Devon, she will be greatly missed. So we ended the year with the Rev'd Peter Wright carrying on as Team Vicar but also becoming the Acting Team Rector.

Regarding our PCC officers we gained a new Safeguarding lead, our thanks to Deborah Beasley for all she did and we welcomed Lynne Harper back to the PCC in this position. We held our APCM on June 8th and were glad to hear that most of our officers and our two Churchwardens were happy to continue. Ongoing topics of discussion for the PCC include our energy bills, paying our Parish Share and continuing to improve the information about St Mary's on the "A Church Near You" site as well as Safeguarding and Communications.

Our regular monthly services include a Family service and we have a wonderful team of people who help to organise these with craft activities for the children, but the grown ups often join in as well. We also have Holy Communion services, a Morning Prayer service as well as Evensong each month. It has been wonderful to see people returning to church services. We aim to publicise these services and our events through Launton Lines and on our Facebook page.

Work that has been done during the year includes the trimming of the box bushes, having some maintenance work done on the Notice boards, updating the Clergy board as well as our annual churchyard clear up and the removal of a fallen tree.

Many thanks must go to all who have supported St Mary's through donations and giving, as well as those who help at the Community Cafe, clean the church, help with organising our services, and deal with any day to day issues.

Celia Evans (PCC Secretary)