

St Mary's Church, Launton

Report to the Parish Meeting Thursday April 18th. 2024

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for supporting the Rev'd Sarah Mortimer who, since January 29th 2024, is now Team Vicar at St Mary's and Rev'd Peter Wright who is our Team Rector and was our acting Team Vicar in 2023, in the running and management of the parish of St Mary's Launton.

We have 7 lay members on the PCC along with our two churchwardens Celia Manderson and Joan Packer.

There are many different tasks that happen during the year and here is just a sample from 2023-24; we have been investigating having a broadband connection in the Church, a Safeguarding Policy has been updated along with relevant training for the PCC members., Community Café has been open in term time with sessions for mothers and toddlers as well as families and all ages, and a major repair has been completed to the organ after the blower had burnt out. Regular churchyard clear ups have been organised and our thanks to all who have helped on those days. Also a big thank you must go Launton Parish Council for the grant which went towards the cost of paying for the mowing of the grass throughout the year.

On March 8th. 2024 we joined together with Friends of Launton Parish Hall to organise the Tythe Barn Quiz and this was a very successful evening, many thanks to Will and Emma Deeley for hosting us and to Chris Frost for the questions and Jon Spinage for technical support.

Over the May Coronation weekend we held a free event in the Church to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111. There was a great display of the King's interests and tea and cake was served. It was lovely to see lots of people in the Church enjoying the variety of exhibits and chatting over a cuppa!

We held the St Mary's Fayre in September and this proved to be a very successful event with a great atmosphere. Teas were served and people browsed the various stalls in the garden of the Old Rectory, many thanks to Tom and Becky Sowler for hosting us. In December the Community Choir held a Christmas Concert in the Church and this was once again a lovely occasion, our thanks to Nicky Roberts for leading this.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on May 16th 2023 in the Church and we were pleased to say our PCC members all remained in post. The PCC has continued to look at policies and procedures and updating our A Church Near You webpage as well as keeping the St Mary's Facebook page up to date.

Throughout the year we have held our normal pattern of services from BCP Holy Communion, Evensong, Morning Prayer and our All Welcome Family Service. We were particularly pleased to be able to welcome our new Team Vicar Sarah Mortimer in January this year.

Lastly thank you to many people, including our two Church wardens who do so much, all the PCC members and everyone who has helped with the day to day running of St Mary's, made donations or helped with our events. We are very lucky to have support from the PCC members and also from the church family as well as the wider community.

Celia Evans (Secretary St Mary's Church PCC) 09/04/2024