

St John the Baptist, Snape

Snape Parochial Church Council (PCC) Members.

Chair.	Vacant
Church Warden	Mr Brian Boulton (and Fabric Officer)
Vice Chair.	Mr Alan Edwards (Treasurer and Deanery Synod Representative)
PCC Secretary	Mr Graham Woodcock (Electoral Roll Officer, Deanery Synod Representative)
Elected Members.	Mrs Sara Hinton Mrs Brenda Mayhew-Frost Mrs Kitty Waddell

Departure of Rev Rachel Cornish

In March we were sad to say farewell to our Rector, Rev Rachel, as she left us to take up a new living in Sussex. We will miss her cheerful leadership and wish her good health and success in her three new parishes.

Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll remains at a total of 35 (Residents 20, Non-Residents 15). The average age of the members on the roll remains a concern for the future ability of the congregation to sustain sufficient people to fill the roles of Churchwarden, Treasurer etc and to support the regular church activities such as church cleaning. An outstanding contribution in this respect is the work of the churchyard working party under the charge of the Church Warden (Boulton's Boys). By their efforts throughout the year the churchyard is kept in immaculate condition and they also carry out a variety of general maintenance tasks to the fabric of the church itself. Many favourable comments are made by visitors on the appearance of the church and its surroundings.

General Report

The COVID Pandemic has continued to be a major factor in the life of St John's. However, as in 2020, whenever possible the church has been open for private prayer and as a place of peace and quiet. During the year, "on-line" services were provided on a Benefice basis during periods of lockdown and other pandemic restrictions. A total of 56 services were held at the church. This total includes services of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer, 9 Benefice Holy Communion services, a school harvest festival, the annual village Light of the World service and the annual Remembrance Sunday service. An additional short Remembrance Service, during which pupils from the school took a major and active part, was held on the village green on 11-11-11. There were 9 funerals and 2 Interment of Ashes. The pandemic has also had a considerable impact on our plans to provide a toilet at the church, a project on which the Parochial Church Council has been actively working for several years. A final solution is hopefully imminent but the expected final cost to completion has significantly increased. In addition to these activities, members of the congregation have played an active part in supporting the community life of the village and in the Benefice.

We are all most grateful to Rachel, and her team for the leadership and encouragement that they have provided for us all over this past turbulent year.

“Donate by Card” terminal in the church.

A Card Donation Terminal was installed in the church in September as part of a Suffolk Diocese trial of this manner of giving to the church. In the three months up to the end of 2021, a total of £403 was donated in this way. However, this is not all “new money” as it is known that some people are giving in this way instead of the more traditional way of “cash-in-the-plate”. This fact must be remembered when the decision is taken on whether to purchase and permanently instal a terminal in the church later this year.

Outreach.

Regular liaison has continued with the village school. For the Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride and Stride event in September the church was open as a recording centre and a place of refreshment and simple machine maintenance. Members from the congregation have also taken an active part in Alde River Benefice wide events such as the popular “Messy Church” meetings and the successful Alde River Benefice Classics Cars event held at the Riverside Centre at Stratford St Andrew in August 2021.

Thanks to our Volunteers.

The appreciation and thanks of the PCC and all parishioners is again formally recorded for the efforts of our volunteers with the maintenance of the church and both churchyards, for flower arranging and church cleaning. They contribute so much both to the life of the church and its place in the village community.