

Church of Saint John the Baptist

REPORT TO SNAPE PC ANNUAL MEETING 2021

As with every aspect of life in 2020/21, the COVID Pandemic has had a considerable influence on the activities of the parish church in Snape. However, one thing should be remembered. Apart from the statutory periods of closure imposed by the Government, St John the Baptist church in Snape has continued to remain open during daylight hours for private prayer and as a place of peace and quiet for the contemplation of the challenges that everyone has been facing during this period, a tradition that has been in place here in Snape for 800 years.

As the result of these statutory restrictions the church had to be closed for a total period of 27 weeks following the initial lockdown in March 2020. A total of 30 services of various kinds, and all “socially distanced” were subsequently held in the church during the summer months prior to the second lockdown in September 2020. However, a successful and popular village Christmas Carol Service was arranged with pre-booking and “social distance” rules in place. Latterly during the recent lockdown period, St John’s has participated in a programme of “on-line” services, co-ordinated by our Rector, Rev Rachel Cornish, and in partnership with the other churches in the Alde River Benefice. This programme has provided worship by pre-recorded You Tube or ZOOM services. Publicity of the Sunday “on-line” services was included on the Snape village website.

There has also been a considerable impact on the two major projects which the Parochial Church Council has been actively working on for several years. The projected new kitchenette facility at the back of the church was completed early in 2020 but the planned activities to use it have had to be put on hold due to the current COVID regulations. Work on the proposal to provide a toilet at the church has progressed slowly. Hopefully, a final solution is in sight but unfortunately it is possible that costs will have continued to increase during the past year.

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 throughout this last year.

We are all most grateful to our Rector, Rachel, and her team for the leadership and encouragement that they have provided for us all over these last turbulent months.