

St John the Baptist Church, Snape

Rector

Interregnum

Curate

Reverend Bill Sokolis

Snape PCC Members.

Church Warden	Mr Brian Boulton (and Fabric Officer)
Treasurer	Mr Gregory Spray
PCC Secretary	Mr Graham Woodcock (Electoral Roll Officer, Deanery Synod Representative)
Elected Members.	Mrs Sara Hinton Mrs Virginia Spray (Deanery Synod Representative)

Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll stands at a total of 32 (Residents 18, Non-Residents 14). The availability of candidates to fill the roles of Churchwarden, Treasurer etc and to support the regular "housekeeping" church activities, such as church cleaning, is of major concern. We do need some more help! One outstanding contribution to the current life of the church is the continuing work of the churchyard working party under the charge of the Church Warden (Boulton's Boys). Through their efforts during the year the churchyard is kept in splendid order. They also undertake a variety of general maintenance tasks to the fabric of the church itself. Life would be very different without them, and we acknowledge their efforts with gratitude. Many favourable comments are made by visitors on the general appearance of the church and its surroundings.

General Report

In the Spring of the year, we were saddened by the unexpected announcement of the resignation of our Rector. Reverend Rachel was a respected leader of the church here in Snape and of the wider Alde River Benefice. We were thereupon launched into our third Interregnum since 2010. We are being led through this period by the dedicated efforts of our Curate, Reverend Bill Sokolis. The Parochial Church Council is very concerned that advertisements of the vacancy in the Alde River Benefice have so far met with only one response. Diocesan action to resolve the problem seems to be restricted by outdated Church regulations. A solution to the problem in the short term is not evident.

As in previous years, the church remains open for private prayer and as a place of peace and quiet. Services at the church have included 6 Benefice Holy Communion services, 9 other services of Holy Communion, a weekly Morning Prayer (on a Friday at 9.00am), the annual Light of the World service, which is always very well attended, 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 6 funerals and 1 service to celebrate the life of a church member.

Progress on our major project to provide a toilet at the church, a project on which the Parochial Church Council has been actively working for many years, has been very slow. Work has started, but only intermittently, and the final cost has significantly increased.

A major development during the year has been the formation of an independent charity, the Friends of Snape Church. They are working to raise funds to meet the already identified, major costs of maintaining the fabric of the church building in the future, a vital and continuing task.

Finance.

Overall, the General Fund shows a surplus of £2028, an increase of £1078. However, some of this balance includes donations specifically for the toilet project. In fact, we are in deficit for the year with the costs of keeping the church open. The cost of keeping the church open in 2022 was £18,900. The card donation terminal continues to attract contributions from visitors.

Church Fabric.

General maintenance of the church fabric and the two churchyards has continued during the year.

Safeguarding.

The PCC has complied with safeguarding guidelines and has due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Outreach.

Regular liaison has continued with the village school. The PCC is very grateful for the four members of the village who "pedalled" to raise money for the church in the 2022 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. Church members also contribute actively to Benefice centred events such as the popular and successful Benefice "Messy Church" meetings and the Benefice Classic Cars event held at the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew in August.

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, and to our resident organist for the music at our services and on other occasions. They all contribute so much to the life of the church here in Snape. However, we would welcome a few more!