

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SNAPE

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting- May 2024

### Rector

Rev Robert Leveritt

### Associate Priest

Rev Bill Sokolis

### Snape Parochial Church Council Members:

Chair.	The Rector
Church Warden	Mr Brian Boulton (and Fabric Officer)
Lay Vice Chair	Mrs Virginia Spray (and Deanery Synod representative)
Treasurer	Mr Gregory Spray
PCC Secretary	Mr Graham Woodcock (Electoral Roll Officer, Deanery Synod Representative)
Elected Members	Mr Alan Edwards Mrs Sara Hinton

### Electoral Roll.

The number on the Electoral Roll totals 33 (Residents 20; Non-Residents 13). The average age of those on the roll continues to be a concern. The pool of those available, and willing, to be officers of the church community in the future is limited.

### General Report.

During last year, we were able to meet, and interview, two candidates to fill the role of our Rector. We are most grateful to them both for offering themselves to join with us and to lead our parish, and the Alde River Benefice, into the future. We are delighted that the Rev Rob Leveritt and his wife and family are now with us.

At this point it is proper to record our heartfelt thanks to our Associate Priest, Rev Bill Sokolis, and our ever-present supporter, retired Canon Rev Derek Johnson, for their leadership and care of us all for the past two years.

The church has remained open daily for private prayer and as a place of peace and quiet. The number of services at the church has necessarily been restricted by our circumstances, but 10 regular Benefice services of Holy Communion have been held at the church. Our services of Holy Communion, said according to the Book of Common Prayer, have continued in the months April to October and a weekly said service of Morning Prayer on a Friday morning remains on the programme. This latter service has been led by one of the Benefice Lay Readers or a member of the congregation. Other services during the year have included a service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, the Light of the World service on Christmas Eve, well supported by the village as usual, a Remembrance Service in church on Remembrance Sunday, a service on the Green in the centre of the village on the 11<sup>th</sup> November with a major contribution by pupils from the village school. There have been 12 funerals and two services of thanksgiving and celebration for the lives of parishioners, but no weddings or baptisms. We are fortunate to have an excellent resident organist to support us in our worship.

Progress on our major project to provide a toilet at the church has been slow. But success at last and it was formally opened, with due ceremony, on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**Finance.**

Overall, the General Fund shows a surplus of £3,133. However, the financial situation will change radically with the final expenditure on the toilet project. The card donation terminal in the church continues to prove a good source of income from visitors and the support of the charity, Friends of Snape Church, with their regular programme of fund-raising events is very much valued.

**Church Fabric.**

General maintenance of the church and the two churchyards has continued during the year. We are more than grateful for the “working group” activity of a team of supporters from the village who, one morning a week, regularly care for the two churchyards and do other general maintenance tasks. Life would be very different without them.

A Quinquennial Inspection has been completed in March 2024. The recommendations in the inspection report will require careful planning of the use of available resources. Several areas of the church, for example the soffits and guttering, need replacement/repair before they fail and cause other problems to the structure of the church and the internal decoration of the church is well overdue.

**Safeguarding.**

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

**Outreach.**

Regular liaison has been maintained with the village school. Members of the congregation play an active part in supporting the community life of the village and the Benefice through such activities as the annual Classic Cars event at the Riverside Centre in Stratford St Andrew, the Benefice” Messy Church” gatherings and the Snape village “Meet Up Mondays.”. The church was open as a recording centre and a place of refreshment and simple maintenance for the 2023 Historic Churches’ sponsored Cycle Ride and Stride.

**Thanks to our Volunteers.**

The appreciation and thanks of the PCC and all parishioners is once again recorded for the efforts of our volunteers, the weekly working group, the flower arrangers and for church cleaning. All contribute so much to the life of the church here in Snape.