

St John the Baptist, Snape

Report for Snape Parish Meeting – May 2025.

Rector.

Rev Robert Leveritt.

Associate Priest.

Rev William Sokolis.

Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll totals 33. 20 residents and 13 non-residents. The average age of those on the Roll continues to be of concern and the impact of the upcoming 2025 renewal of the Electoral Roll will be of more interest than usual. The administrative load on the remaining few volunteer officers remains significant.

General Report.

The arrival of our new Rector and his family was a high point of the year. We hope that they are enjoying their “Suffolk Experience” as much as we are enjoying their company and being “Under New Management”. We are also most grateful for the care and support of our Associate Priest, Rev Bill Sokolis, and other supporting clergy Canon Rev Derek Johnson, Rev Sheila Murray and Rev Nigella Youngs-Dunnett.

The church has remained open daily for private prayer and as a place of peace and quiet. It is remarkable how many visitors comment in the Visitors’ Book on the peaceful atmosphere of the church.

The number of services held is necessarily limited by the total requirements of the Alde River Benefice but can be summarised as follows:

Benefice Holy Communion-6; other services of Holy Communion-2; Morning Prayer (on Friday at 9.00am)-48; Special services, e.g. All Souls, the school harvest festival, Christmas Eve (Light of the World), Remembrance Sunday and a short service on the Village Green at 11-11-11, with participation by children from the school-7; Funerals and Burial of Ashes-5. There are no weddings or baptisms to record. A special service to dedicate the new toilet at the church was followed by a most successful garden party style event. This was attended by many from the village who are not regularly seen at church “happenings” and it is hoped to arrange a similar social occasion as a regular part of future summer programmes at Snape.

Finance.

Our financial affairs require comment from two aspects.

Firstly, income and expenditure.

Total income for 2024 was £23,601, helped by a very generous anonymous gift of £9,418.

Total expenditure was £31,139. A deficit for the year of £7,538.

In 2024, the church’s weekly running costs, to stay open, be warm, insured, well maintained and pay our Parish Share to the Diocese and our other Benefice commitments was £345. The forecast weekly cost in 2025 is £370.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is aware that our current financial position risks being significantly reduced in 2025, and beyond, by increases in the amount of the Diocesan Parish Share and essential repairs and upkeep to the church building. The required Quinquennial

Inspection was carried out in January 2024. The estimated cost of completing all the recommended repairs and maintenance over the next four years is approximately £83,000. It is hoped to begin repairs of the metal guttering, soffits and fascias in June 2025.

Friends of Snape Church.

This charity has continued to organise an active programme of events during the year to raise funds to support the care of the fabric of the church. This Report is an appropriate place to formally record the gratitude of the PCC and the congregation for this vital contribution to the maintenance of the church building here in Snape.

Church Fabric.

General maintenance of the church and the two churchyards has continued. Once again, we acknowledge the very valuable contribution of the regular “Thursday Group” of volunteers who carry out this work throughout the year.

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. There were no incidents during the year.

Outreach.

Regular liaison has continued with the village school. For the Historic Churches’ Sponsored Ride and Stride event in September the church was open as a recording centre and for refreshments. Church members also contribute actively to other activities in the Benefice and the village. As examples, the four well attended “Messy Church” meetings, the Annual Benefice Classic Car Show at Stratford St Andrew and the weekly Snape village “Meet Up Monday” meetings.

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 its surroundings, 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.

MORE VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN IN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.