

2022 All Saints report to the Annual Parish meeting

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) This year, no change:

Role	Name	Responsibility
Rector	Revd. Ruth Farrell	Chair
Elected Churchwarden	Jo Stark	Churchwarden
Elected members	David Medcalf	Vice Chair
	Tony Schmitt	Treasurer
	Lynne Woodward	Secretary
	David Ford	Fabric, Health and Safety, Maintenance
	Dave Woodward	Fabric, Health and Safety, Maintenance
	Sue Cousins	Magazine Advertising
	Sue Griffin	Rep. on Deanery Synod
Parish Safeguarding Officer (ex-Officio) attends as required	Astrid Gale	All Safeguarding Matters

Church electoral roll – has 42 members on it. Since the pandemic several have become too ill/frail to attend church. It was impossible to restart the once monthly Me, You and Breakfast 2, with the reduction in helpers, and the practicalities of serving food under pandemic measures. In 2021, all church services were available on Zoom. The pattern of services at All Saints was reduced to two services per month on 2nd and 4th Sundays when there is no Communion service in Woolpit, with a Benefice service on any 5th Sunday which alternates between the two churches.

Covid restrictions and the later work needed on the crumbling chancel ceiling meant the church was kept locked except for services until October – except the determined pigeon who found a means of access. Pews were roped off to maintain social distancing, no congregational singing unless outside, until June, when all services were face to face but also available on Zoom. No Salvation Army band either for Remembrance Sunday, so grateful thanks to Dr Ridsdill-Smith for playing the Last Post and Reveille.

By September, post service refreshments were able to be reintroduced giving a welcome return to normality.

Sadly, in October 2021 Brian Gunton had a massive stroke. After months in the West Suffolk Hospital he was transferred to Ford Place. His prayerfulness, faithfulness and commitment is greatly missed.

Fabric and fund raising dominated the year.

Fabric: a fall of plaster from the chancel ceiling in March meant that use of the chancel was limited. The repair project was completed in October. The west wall of the nave was cleaned of pigeon droppings and all entry holes closed.

Churchyard: Top Garden Services mowed the churchyard twice monthly. Sue Medcalf sprayed the gravel path to keep weeds down. Thanks to the village tree warden, Peter Holborn, for doing a survey of the churchyard trees and ensuring they are kept safe. Regular working parties have carried out his suggestions, including a plan to make space for nature to have its way with some bulb and wild flower planting, bird boxes etc. Thanks to the Fabric team of David Ford and Dave Woodward working hard all year to oversee everything.

Church Bells: A 2020 inspection had deemed the bells and bell frame unsafe to ring. In 2021 a subcommittee of the PCC was established to start the process of the feasibility of a fund raising and grant applications in the hope of having the bells recast and rehung.

Fundraising: Many people worked very hard in 2021 to raise funds and bring people together, isolated as many were through the pandemic. Much creativity was needed to work round Covid restrictions. Activities included a virtual Wine tasting organised by Nigel and Astrid Gale, a Zoom quiz organised by Jo Stark, Open Gardens – which was the most successful ever held by All Saints, a scarecrow trail organised by Astrid Gale, the Christmas Coffee Morning which required an enormous effort by Liz Schmitt, Sharon Edmondson, Rosemarie Ford, Maggie Beveridge, Jo Stark

and team but was a very happy occasion. December saw two wreath making workshop mornings run by Sue Medcalf and Christine Lambert.

Richard Edmondson used four photos of All Saints church and Drinkstone in general to produce photo greeting cards, which he donated to All Saints, to sell, which have proved very popular. One design was used to create the popular community Christmas card, which a donation enabled your greetings to be delivered to every home in the village.

Safeguarding:

Under Astrid Gale, the Benefice Safeguarding officer, Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults has remained a high priority and become imbedded in everything done by the parish. She has ensured that the Parish Dashboard has been maintained, that all relevant people have been supported in their training requirements and that all necessary policies as required by the C of E have been adopted.

And finally

We look forward to many things in 2022 including

- developing the current pattern of services and prayer
- looking to new ways to support the young people of the parish.
- continued training for the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, with the guidance of Astrid Gale
- continue the excellent work of fund raising through 2022
- supporting a Bell Restoration project.
- focus on Stewardship both within the church community and the wider village.
- completion of the organ restoration
- closer working links with St. Mary's, Woolpit.