

Report on the parish of All Saints Stibbard, 2022

The Churchwardens and PCC have been greatly encouraged by the support from the village and wider community for the appeal for funds to pay for the new LED lighting installation. There have been many donations of money and items to be sold to raise funds from supporters old and new, which has been most encouraging. The funds raised through donations for refreshments at village coffee mornings have continued to be very generous, and we feel that there is renewed interest in the building and churchyard generally.

The table sale, where goods are donated and paid for by donation via an honesty box, has proved to be extremely popular, and we continue to receive items for sale on a weekly basis. Although the lighting project was completed early in 2023, it is considered that the table sale continues to bring people into the building and maintain an income stream.

Our funds remain slender – we do not have any income from land, nor have we received any legacies, so All Saints exists purely out of income. Neither the Diocese nor the Government fund parishes – each church must support itself, and its share of the cost of providing a priest. We each get apportioned a share of the overall cost (worked out on a per capita basis based on 2011 Census population figures). We were unable to pay our full parish share in 2022 – we managed £2,000 of the £5,700 requested. This was due to all our fundraising efforts being channeled into the new lighting fund. We aim to do better this year. Our insurance cost £86 per month in 2022; our electricity and share of the Benefice administrator costs are around £1200 annually. We are grateful that we have managed to pay our bills this year, but we are concerned for the long-term, especially as we are responsible for the car park, churchyard and the church walk and lime trees.

We have been very fortunate to have a new volunteer on the church opening rota who stepped in during the autumn and now opens the building every day at around 8am. We are very grateful for the commitment of the rota volunteers, who ensure that our beautiful building is accessible to the public every single day of the year.

Don Seed continues to ring the church bell at every service, which is greatly appreciated; especially during the period of national mourning for the Queen last autumn, when he participated in a 15-minute national tolling of bells on our behalf.

We continue to have support from members of the community with flowers, churchyard and the maintenance of the church walk, and hope to extend this to an annual spring clean of the building and would like to set up a regular cleaning team.

We have two Sunday services every month – Holy Communion on 1st Sunday of the month, and a lay-led service on the 2nd Sunday. We have a weekly service each Friday morning. Father Michael Cartwright retired in November, and we only have our Team Rector, Revd. Sally Kimmis to look after all 13 churches in the Heart of Norfolk Benefice (group). We have just been given permission to begin the appointment process for a part-time Vicar to cover Stibbard, Wood Norton, Guist, Guestwick and Foulsham; until that time we will continue to have retired clergy on a service-by-service basis.

We continue to maintain our profile on social media on both the church and the village pages, and endeavour to keep our noticeboard looking lively, friendly and up to date. Our recycling efforts continue to raise both public awareness and small funds – we have now recycled 140kg of dental product waste under the Colgate/Terracycle Scheme.

Susan Moore,
PCC Secretary & Churchwarden
4th May 2023