

Parish Council AGM 2022 – Report from St. Mary’s Church PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) continues to support Rev. Daniel Harrison in managing and maintaining the Church of England presence in the village, including providing for the spiritual needs of the population and maintaining the building. In addition to our regular services the church conducts baptisms, weddings and funeral services when required.

Dan is responsible for 8 parishes in all. As a result, we perhaps don’t see as much of him in Somersham as we would like but his telephone number and email address are included on the back cover of the Link magazine each month so anyone can contact him if they want/need to.

We regularly hold 2 services per month; a communion service at 9.30am on the second Sunday and a less formal ‘Family Service’ at 10am on the 4th Sunday. Details are published in the Link magazine. Attendance at the regular services is generally quite low but a good number attend the ‘big’ services such as Harvest Festival and Carol Service and our Service of Remembrance which we share with the Baptist Church.

We have continued to maintain links with the school through our regular (weekly) ‘Open the Book’ sessions in which members of a team drawn from both St. Mary’s and the Baptist Church read and explain bible stories to the children. Our attendance in the school was interrupted during the recent pandemic but we have continued to provide this service by filming the readings to be shown to the children in the school. We are very pleased that we are now once again able to attend the school assemblies in person and hope that this will continue.

We are very grateful to people in the village for the support that they give to our fund raising activities throughout the year. Although opportunities for such events have been more limited of late, when we have been able to organise something it has been well supported. In the last year, we were particularly pleased with the response to our ‘mini’ Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar. Even so, we continue to struggle to meet all of the costs of the day to day running expenses and are once again very grateful to the Parish Council for their help towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard. We hope that you will be able to continue this support in the future.

Every 5 years, the church is subject to a ‘quinquennial’ inspection into its physical condition and measures are identified to ensure that it remains in a good and safe condition. A number of repairs to items classed as ‘category A’ (the most urgent) have recently been carried out and we are again grateful to those who have given financial support, including Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and the Russel Quinton Trust.

Steve Dines
21 April 2022

