



## Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2021

### All Saints Church Stradbroke Suffolk

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

26th March 2021

All Saints Parish church, Stradbroke is rurally located near Eye. It is part of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich within the Church of England.

#### Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of All Saints has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Susan Loxton in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for this imposing Grade II listed church building. The surrounding churchyard is closed and the maintenance responsibility lies with the Parish Council

#### Administrative Information

##### Incumbent

The Reverend Canon Susan Loxton  
The Rectory  
Doctor's Lane, Stradbroke, IP21 5HU

##### Bankers

Barclays Bank plc  
14 Market Hill, Diss IP22 4JU

##### Treasurer

Mrs Mary Ellis  
Pump Cottage, Queens Street  
Stradbroke IP21 5HG

##### Examiner

Jamie Pretty Chartered Certified Accountants  
Offices 5-6 Rickinghall Business Centre  
Willow Farm  
Allwood Green  
Rickinghall  
Diss, IP22 1LQ

##### Architect for quinquennial review

Nicholas Warns Architect Ltd  
64 Bishopsgate, Norwich NR1 4AA  
[www.nicholaswarns.com](http://www.nicholaswarns.com)

##### Correspondence

Mrs Jennifer Chetwynd  
The Old Byre  
New Street

## The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Members who have served during 2019 are as follows:

Incumbent:	The Reverend Susan Loxton	Chair
Wardens:	Peter Chetwynd	Ex-Officio
	Karen Ruth	Ex-Officio
Elected members:	Mary Ellis	Treasurer
	Jennifer Chetwynd	Secretary
	Graham Johnson	
	Margaret Norris	
	Julie Ward	

The Covid 19 pandemic affected the worship possible in the parish church from March 2020, when socially distancing measures were brought into effect. A robust Risk Assessment was written following Government and Church of England guidelines. This made provision for one service a month of restricted Holy Communion to be offered to the whole benefice in All Saints church and a space for supervised private prayer for the parish each Wednesday.

There were times through the year when Government ruling closed churches completely.

Revd Canon Susan Loxton had support for services from Revd Gini Williams, Curate to the Benefice and Jennifer Chetwynd, who continued as licensed Lay Elder within the Sancroft Benefice with particular support for All Saints church.

Remote worship options were developed as a Benefice which saw up to 30 households meeting through Zoom each Sunday, led and supported by the whole Benefice ministry team. Opportunities for weekday Morning Worship, prayers and an Evening Worship have been developed. These have been recorded along with each Sermon or Reflection and made available on the Sancroft Benefice website.

A new, electric heating system for the church was approved, and funds continued to be raised from the village to meet the extra cost. Work on installing the system will be considered for 2021.

The major task of re-ordering All Saints church has also been affected by circumstances of the pandemic, along with failure to secure more building grant funding.

The group Friends of All Saints Stradbroke, which drove most of the fund raising for the building, decided to close this year, but give the funds it held for the PCC to arrange the essential clerestory windows and wall repairs itemised in the Quinquennial Report from the church architect.

There was only one Funeral Service in church this year, no Baptisms or Weddings.

Church members, along with other villagers have continued to support Waveney Food Bank throughout the year with donations collected at The Rectory.

The Children's Society charity was also supported throughout the year through collecting boxes taken by individual members of the congregation and others in the village and beyond. Thanks to Alison Hackett for co-ordinating this giving, counting of monies and distribution of collection boxes.

Jennifer Chetwynd  
PCC Secretary

### **Financial report 2019**

The annual financial statements have been circulated to PCC members before this meeting and agreed as a true record.. These have been checked by an independent examiner, Jamie Pretty Chartered Certified Accountants.

The main points are:

- The amount of £5,000 was paid for Parish Share to the Diocese; last payment in December 2020 for £2,000 was not presented to the bank before the year end. The full Parish Share for 2020 was not feasible; after discussion with the Deanery Chair, a compromise was agreed. By the end of the year double that amount was possible due to generous donations.
- The loss of opportunities for most planned fundraising events had an impact on funds available.
- The Fabric Fund stands at £1,392
- We have 15 regular members of the congregation who make their giving by Direct Debit each month, which helps with budgeting.
- Successful, small grant applications for essential repairs have eased the financial burden but it has taken careful budgeting and management of other costs to keep as close to solvency as possible.

Mary Ellis  
Treasurer

### **Church Warden's Report**

It has been a difficult year with National restrictions that have kept the church closed for services and events most of the year. There was an occasional service allowed and one day a week open for private prayer.

A robust Risk Assessment was written and kept in place following Government guidelines.

Due to personal commitments Karen has stepped down as Churchwarden; I wish to thank her for her input.

During the year the following checks/servicing were carried out:

- Lightning Conductor
- Roof Alarm
- Gutters and drainage – repairs required to the tower turret to be actioned in 2021.

Projects:

1. The new church electrical heating installation will be started in 2021, ready for the winter months.
2. Preparations for repairs to the South clerestory wall and realignment of windows were started by the church architect, Nick Warnes. A faculty has been applied for and tenders to approved contractors are waiting for confirmation.

Project two is being funded by the Friends of All Saints, Stradbroke which will be their last before being disbanded. I wish to thank them for their support over the years, as their contributions have been invaluable.

Peter Chetwynd  
Churchwarden

### **Deanery Synod report**

Hoxne and Hartismere Deaneries met with a special open Zoom meeting on Weds 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to discuss a proposal to merge both Deaneries. A poll after frank questions and answers gave 42% in favour of a merger. The Rural Dean and Lay Chairs took a report of this meeting for discussion at the November

meeting of Suffolk Archdeanery Mission & pastoral Committee. This committee would then consult with both PCCs.

Meeting by Zoom on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020 focused on Parish Share and the ability for Parishes to meet the current year Share as well as proposals for 2021. All Parishes were reassured that individual discussions with the Lay Chair would be frank about a fair estimate of the portion possible for 2020.

Various feasible options were discussed for full payment in 2021.

Jennifer Chetwynd

PCC rep to the Deanery Synod

### **Fundraising Committee report**

The impact of the Government guidelines for dealing with Covid 19 through most of 2020 meant no events could be held after March 2020. Only £207 was raised this year in contrast to the usual £5,000

Mary Ellis

Chairman

### **The Friends of All Saints, Stradbroke (FOASS) report**

The failure to secure substantial funding from Historic England for the church was the final blow to members' morale. Subsequently, FOASS gave notice to the PCC that we have decided to cease to work to raise further funds. The current funds held of just over £50,000 would be given over to the PCC to continue the agreed repairs on the clerestory wall and windows.

Margaret Streeter,

Chairman