

Blundeston Parochial Church Council

When Father Glen Brooks first started working within the Benefice of Somerleyton it was as Priest in Charge; however on Sunday 4th March 2018 a service for the Institution and Induction of Father Glen as Rector of the Somerleyton Benefice took place. This has been seen as a positive sign for the continuation of the ministry throughout our villages.

Due to the amount of structural work which was identified in the Quinquennial Report 2016 as needing to be undertaken, the PCC was fortunate to recruit John Smith as a new member. John's expertise and commitment has been much appreciated and he will continue in his specialist role as Building Maintenance Co-ordinator for repairs during the next phase of works.

Gill Williams was invited to attend all PCC meetings in her role as the nominated Safeguarding Lead for the Benefice.

Blundeston Parish Church Council spent time looking at the implications of the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and found that they were compliant with the new regulations. A regular check is made on Data Protection matters at all PCC meetings.

In addition to their usual duties both Churchwardens have been busy raising funds for the church throughout the year. Activities include the making of cakes and the ever-popular beetroot chutney, chocolate making demonstrations and the production and selling of Russian cushions.

Positive feedback and a Commended certificate were received from the Open Churches Awards with some suggestions for improvement which have been implemented, including the placing of a hospitality tray at the back of the church. It is hoped that all visitors feel welcome when they call in to look around our historic church.

Historical displays relating to the village and church were exhibited in the church on Thursdays during September and were well received. The displays varied each week and provided the opportunity for people to share memories and for others to learn new things about the area they live in.

A request for additional benches in the churchyard was made and following an appeal to the village enough funds were raised for one new bench to be bought and another has been offered from Somerleyton. These additions will allow people to sit and reflect in the well-maintained churchyard without competing for space.

To mark the final year of the World War One centenary some Perspex silhouettes to symbolise the communities that took part in WW1 were purchased and displayed in the church as a reminder of the sacrifices made during the war. Permission to place a sign showing there is a war grave from the Great War in the churchyard was also forwarded to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.