**Sproughton Annual Parish Meeting** 14th May 2024

**Report from All Saints’ Church Sproughton**

Many will be aware that the group of parishes which includes Sproughton has been without a Rector, or Priest-in-charge, since August 2022, when Canon Annette Shannon moved to Berkshire. Until the end of May last year, that group – or ‘benefice’ – consisted of six parishes. Bentley and Tattingstone have now joined Brantham and East Bergholt, leaving a benefice here of four – Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook and Belstead. In advertising for a new incumbent, this benefice is paired with a part-time mission role over the eastern half of Suffolk.

In this time, church services have continued virtually unchanged apart from some re-scheduling, which is unusual for a benefice in vacancy. We aim to have the building open in daylight hours through the week, though it has not always been practical. There is work we would like to do in the building to make it more welcoming, provided we can source the necessary funds – always a challenge for small rural churches! Despite national trends, we still welcome weddings and funerals in the church. In the case of weddings, we have been able to give curates from town churches the opportunity to discover this ministry.

Meanwhile, the Church Hall on Lower Street is home to a flourishing Toddler Group on Monday mornings, a Breakfast Club and After-School Club on weekdays in term, and is available for hire at other times.

The church has a strong relationship with Sproughton Primary School, involving regular assemblies, occasional services in church, and a special session in the Summer Term for Year 6 children preparing to move to secondary education.

Any queries you may have may be addressed to:

Stephen Spurgeon 01473 251193 stephenspurgeon@btinternet.com (churchwarden)

Phil Jones 01473 252624 jonesph7@gmail.com (churchwarden)

Rev Tony Wilcox 01473 461561 tony.wilcox@caringhandsru.org

Hayley Debenham 07904 972116 northsamfordbenefice@gmail.com (administrator)

Church Hall booking: sproughtonchurchhallbookings@hotmail.com, or phone Hayley