



## Meeting Notes / Minutes

### **All Saints Church, Walsoken: Protecting the past, nurturing the present, building the future**

#### **You're Invited: Community Meeting**

**Date & Time: 11/12/25 at 19:00**

Location: All Saints Church, Church Road, Walsoken

Purpose: To discuss the future of our historic church and how you can help shape it. Join us for a festive community event celebrating the past, present and future of our church. It will be a chance to celebrate our church, join this Christmas season, and look forward to a vital project for our parish church.

#### **A Church of National Importance and Local Heart**

All Saints Church, Walsoken, is a Grade I listed building, described by Pevsner as "the grandest Norman parish church of Norfolk." Dating from c.1146, it features seven-bay Norman arcades, a 13th-century tower and 15th-century spire, a hammer beam roof with painted medieval figures, and a Seven Sacraments font from 1544. Set among orchards and once part of a Roman sea wall settlement, All Saints is a glorious parish church.

#### **Why We Need Your Help Now**

It takes a lot of work to look after our church building, and despite the dedication of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), the church faces serious challenges:

- Urgent structural repairs to the nave roof, tower, and parapets
- Active deathwatch beetle infestation in roof timbers and floors
- Deteriorating rainwater goods (gutters, drains, downpipes) and drainage systems
- Accessibility limitations for disabled visitors
- Aging volunteer base and limited resources

Our architect's Inspection Report estimates over £250,000 of essential works needed over the next five years, with £35,000 of urgent repairs required immediately.

#### **Our Vision for All Saints**

We believe All Saints can be more than a monument—it can and should be hub for:

- Worship
- Community events and exhibitions
- Heritage education and tourism
- Music, arts, and bell ringing

We aim to repair and conserve the building, improve accessibility, and create flexible spaces for wider community use.

## **Join the Church Renovation Group**

To support these repairs, we are forming a Church Renovation Group - a team of local volunteers who care about the church's future. You don't need to be a churchgoer - just someone who values heritage and community.

The group will help with:

- Planning and liaising with architects and heritage bodies
- Fundraising and grant applications
- Organising events and community engagement
- Supporting practical maintenance and upkeep
- Shaping the future vision for the church

There are grants available for us to repair and improve the church building, but we are small team and we need your help to secure the funding, make the necessary preparations, and help us to manage the project. If you can help in any way, please register your interest.

## **Regular Activities at All Saints**

- Weekly Bible Study and Choir Practice
- Fortnightly Coffee Mornings
- The church is open daily for prayer, reflection, and visiting
- Bell Ringing School and ART Teaching Hub
- Sunday Worship including Holy Communion, Morning Worship, and Family Services
- Community events including quiz nights, and festivals
- The school regularly visits our church

We love and value our magnificent building, but this project is not just about protecting the building for the building's sake. It's about guaranteeing that everyone can still visit our church, enjoy its architecture, meet for community events and have a place to call 'my church.'

## **Have Your Say**

To support our efforts, we want to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete our Community Survey. Your views will help shape the future of All Saints. It also includes a space for you to register your interest in joining our Church Renovation team.

Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/QCtXGVN9Vb?origin=lprLink>.

Paper copies will be available in the church and at the meeting.

## **Come to the Community Meeting**

Join us to learn more about:

- The church's history and architectural significance
- Its current condition and urgent needs
- Our plans for restoration and renewal
- How you can get involved and support our vital repair project

Together, we can preserve this extraordinary building and ensure it continues to serve Walsoken for generations to come. We look forward to seeing you on December 11th.

*Protecting the past, nurturing the present, building the future*



The Church of England  
Diocese of Ely

All Saints' Church, Walsoken  
Renovation Project