

Who are you?

Within South West Framland, the Burrough Hill, South Croxton and Upper Wreake Benefices are in a Cluster with shared administration. SWF is in turn part of the Framland Deanery, with its matrix of ministers sharing parochial responsibilities with a range of Deanery-wide ministries. Among us there is a willingness and openness to embrace changes.

Where have you come from?

We have worked collaboratively in the Southwest Framland group of 16 churches for more than 15 years. And share in the groups centralised administrative provision.

Where are you going?

- Endeavouring to respond to Diocesan strategy for (a) depth of discipleship (b) growth in number of disciples (c) serving the specific needs of our rural communities.
- Recognising that Diocesan leadership has stated its intention to invest in time, resources and a focus on equipping, we await to see results of this at the local level.
- Seeking to continue to find ways to serve and encourage our congregations and communities, including building sustainable relationships with young people and new residents in each Parish, and offering pastoral support throughout the Benefice.
- Seeking to utilise our resources to build an inclusive, sensitive and available church.
- Making more creative use of Church buildings as places which can be used for a variety of events, both Christian and secular. This will involve engagement with others to fundraise for ongoing repair, restoration and improvements to our churches, and thereby strengthen friendships and relationships

What are you doing now?

Rural parishes, renowned for friendliness and community spirit. All within about ten minutes' drive of each other.
Local economy revolving around farming, equestrian, and small service-based industries; there are pubs, which include restaurant facilities, as well as farm shops/cafes. National Cycle Route 64 weaves its way through the Benefice.
Beloved ancient church buildings.
Elderly congregations/church membership with most people in their 70s or above. This diminishes our ability to serve our churches and communities due to restrictions of time, health, personal finances.
Welcoming of input from Pioneers and other ministers in support of our local clergy.
Shared House for Duty Associate Priest
Services held on a rotational basis

Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

Good attendance/number of members proportional to residents in the village and attended by members of other churches in the parish

Keen community volunteers, and experienced PCC and members with a range of expertise which is used to benefit the church, (. Church members who are also on Parish Council provides strong community/council links.

Community fundraisers who focus purely on the maintenance of the church. Well-tended gardens which are used and maintained by local community,

Diocesan links through Safeguarding

Well-kept building and grounds, Enrolled on the EcoChurch scheme and have attained Gold in one section and Bronze in another.

Healthy, well managed finances and proactive approach for grant funding, parish contribution always paid to diocese, and increasing.

Church opens every day for visitors and private prayer

Kitchen and toilet area allows church to be the hub for community events.

Very good social media presence and receive many visitors due to social media and online archives, stained glass windows and other notable historical features

Links with local artists, businesses Good transport links to local towns. Links to local and national charities,

Our clock is the only timepiece in the near vicinity and chimes the hour. It is maintained by a local volunteer

Themed seasonal displays and events which attract visitors from inside the community and further afield.

Used by local community for weddings, baptisms and funerals

A craftsman built our much-respected organ has attracted professional musicians to provide concerts.

We have a rich heritage and well-maintained online archive, links with Brasenose College, the S Wigston records office and past families made by local archivist who is a church member.

A willingness and openness to embrace changes. We have worked collaboratively in the Southwest Framland group of 16 churches for more than 15 years. And share in the groups centralised administrative provision.

What are you hopeful for?

We hope to utilise our drive, ambition and experience of Associate Priest (JW) and the PCC to make outreach links with schools, and community using the adaptable space in the church building

What are you fearful about?

How you can pray for us.

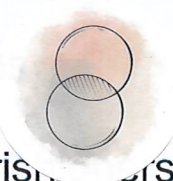
1 Church Name: St James Burton Lazars

Date: April 23rd 2023

Who are you?

Responses:

- Long term churchgoers from various denominations
- Some with access issues
- Mainly older generation, including many single parishioners
- Church in a semi-rural village of approx 400 people
- The demographic of the village is changing as more families move in to join a community of largely retired people.
- The younger generation to be looking to build a more vibrant social scene by coming together in a wide variety of ways. The only other public building is a very active village hall.
- We are trying to reach out to both sections of the community ie the younger families and the older generation many of whom live alone.



Where have you come from?

Responses:

- There has been worship on this site for 1,000 years and has a history connecting it to the old leper site nearby
- There are two important graves in the Church yard, one is the Squires Grade II listed monument and the graves of Count Zabrosky & his son, well-known racing drivers responsible for making the first Chitty Bang Car.
- Some members of the congregation value the more traditional styles of Anglican Worship while more recent members tend to come from a variety of church traditions, including charismatic & more evangelical backgrounds. Hence the different styles of Sunday services currently offered – 2 Traditional and 2 Connect Services each month.

Where are you going?

Responses:

- Our vision is “To share the love of Christ with the people around us and to make the Gospel relevant to today’s world.”
- Hopeful that stewards volunteer to open the church for private prayer on weekdays.
- Get clear signage of welcome for all to see, even travellers.
- Our strong desire is to see more families come to St James, we are trying to plant seeds in the mums and children to come to our ‘Stay and Play’ unfortunately most of us are too old to build close relationships with these families..
- Our refurbished building is enabling us to open our doors for a much wider programme and a more comfortable setting, but we need more willing and able helpers to lead new events.
- Looking to provide open space & activities for youth.

What are you doing now?

Responses:

- Trying to build the church & serve our community
- Maintaining Weekly Sunday Services
- Using our refurbished building to provide a varied programme of events and services designed to reach the different groups of people in our community and congregation.
- Our energy is spent on fortnightly Coffee Mornings mainly for older people and Stay and Play for the younger families.
- Writing & organising Connect Services fortnightly takes a lot of time for the Pioneer Minister
- Some church members organise monthly Community ‘LINK’ meetings and monthly Men’s breakfasts
- Support Storehouse, TEAMS4U & Church Planting in Albania
- Focus on inviting people to join is for major festivals



Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?	What are you fearful about?
<p>Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play and Stay Group bringing parents and children into the church weekly. Hoping this will encourage more participation in church activities. • Popular fortnightly Coffee mornings reaching out to lonely people giving our church the opportunity to reflect the love of God. • A more positive image and connection with the community through better use of the Village Facebook page where we advertise service and events. • Increased opportunities to invite people to come and join us. • Albania in the village where we are helping to plant a church 	<p>Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fearful the elderly demographic of the congregation will lead to the demise of the church. • Fearful our village will get fewer services leading to gradual decline • Fearful of lack of volunteers helping at services and other events. • Fearful of getting sufficient people able to lead, teach/encourage members to lead intercessions and other ministries. • Not hopeful of getting a much needed Youth/family worker • That the church will end up being closed. • Loss of clergy to lead, teach, inspire & develop our faith journey • That the Minster Model will add to the workload of smaller congregations and DCCs and the extra bureaucracy will detract from worship, faith & community needs. • Resources to maintain our building and churchyard
What are you hopeful for?	How you can pray for us
<p>Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain a minimum weekly service at St James. • To re-establish a weekly prayer meeting • To re-establish a weekly home-group • To get all the Christians in the Village (of varying denominations) together to pray for our area. • To see our prayers for workers for the Harvest answered. • To see more people involved in the church and coming to faith. • To experience a spiritual revival. • Hopeful for Youth/family worker • Greater sharing of time, resources, finance & clergy to help struggling churches • More training, prayer and co-ordinated by leadership team. • Regular cross denominational meetings for prayer and worship 	<p>Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity and honesty in the Minster Process and the ability to take us all with it. • A deeper commitment of the congregation to the service of Jesus. • Prayer circle within St James (using I.T.) • More joy in Jesus • More energy, ideas and opportunities to reach out to people and meet them at their points of need. • A re-energised inspired band of pilgrims • A Spiritual awakening and Revival • More personal, direct contact with congregations from the diocese to enable a better grasp of the problems we face. • Positive response to new youth initiative. • Ability to sustain and improve communication links with community

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Church name: Church of St Botolph & St John the Baptist, Croxton Kerrial

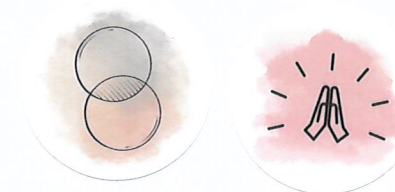
Date: 20th April 2023

Who are you?

We are a small rural village church. Average attendance 12-15 of which normally max of 6 from our village. 6 churches in High Framland Benefice, 1 Rector with responsibility for 11 churches over 2 Benefices. Services on rotation basis so not every month.

Where have you come from?

Traditional based services. Older congregation, many of whom are reluctant to embrace change.



Where are you going?

Aiming to improve church building to make it more welcoming e.g restoration of pews; in time, a new more efficient eco-friendly heating system; new tower roof; repairs to drafty windows.

We want to make the church more of a community building and successfully raised money to install a servery and WC in 2020/2021. Now want to make as much use of these facilities as possible to get more people into the building.

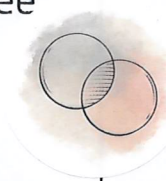


What are you doing now?

Trying to establish greater links with village. Have started monthly coffee mornings which are well attended. We put on occasional concerts.

Encouraging village school to use the building

Trying to keep positive and keep going with a very small band of helpers and dwindling income. We are shortly to approach all villagers asking for help (both financial and practical)

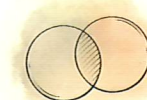


Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God emerging?

A hard core of people in the village, although they never attend church, are now very supportive of us.

What are you fearful about?

That when current PCC members (2 x 60+, 2 x 70+) are unable to carry on, there will be no-one to take over.
That congregation will dwindle to the point where there is no regular attendees (most are 70+ and a lot 80+).
That income will reduce further making it hard to pay regular bills and for regular upkeep. We have already lost a lot of regular donors.

**What are you hopeful for?**

That new people will move to the village who will attend church and take a role in running the church.

That some younger people will attend the church, we need an injection of young blood!

How you can pray for us.

Please pray that more local people will want to attend church regularly and become involved.

Please pray that our forthcoming approach to the village will be well received and we will get more offers of financial and practical help.

Please pray for those of us who work very hard to keep things going alongside jobs and other commitments.

