

The Church Of St Mary The Virgin, Bawdsey Annual Report Of The Parochial Church Council For The Year Ended 31st December 2024

1. Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in the centre of the village of Bawdsey, in the main street. It is in the Wilford Team Benefice, part of the Woodbridge Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, within the Church of England. Within the Wilford Team Benefice, there are three clusters and Bawdsey Parish is part of the Deben Cluster, which now comprises seven parishes.

Correspondence should, be addressed to the Revd Capt Simon Cake, 6 Rectory Road, Hollesley, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3JS.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until 31st December 2024 are:

Team Vicar	Revd Capt. Simon Cake	Chairman
Churchwardens:	Mrs Marilyn Turner Mrs Linda Cooper	
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mrs Susan Foster	
Elected Members:	Mrs Felicity Bridgwater Mrs Susan Foster Miss Rachel Lavender Mr Graham Turner	Vice Chair DSR Secretary Treasurer

2. Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules, with the following provisos.

In April 2004 the following Resolutions were adopted, with reference to the Synodical Government (Amendment) Measure 2003:

- (a) That the PCC will continue to have 6 Lay Representatives elected to the PCC in 2005 and thereafter.
- (b) That every place shall be filled by annual elections.

In April 2008, the PCC also passed this Resolution, lifting some restrictions on Churchwarden appointments.

- (a) That the PCC will set aside the provision of the Churchwardens Measure 2007 until a future Resolution re-instates it. In particular, the measure limiting the term of office of a Churchwarden is disregarded.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Church Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

3. Objectives and Activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Churchyard of St Mary's. Technically, the incumbent is the Team Rector. However, this role is delegated to the Team Vicar, when one is in post. So it is currently Revd Capt. Simon Cake.

Achievements and Performance

4. Church Attendance

At the end of 2023, the Church Electoral Roll stood at 25. Prior to the APCM, 2 new people applied to be on the Roll. Sadly, just before the APCM, Mrs Liz Mark died, so the Roll at the APCM was 26. It then remained at 26 until the end of December 2024. Of these 26 members, 24 are Resident and 2 are Non-Resident.

The average attendance at a Sunday Service, counted during the first 4 weeks of October 2023, was 6.0 (8.0 last year). This included two Sunday Services, a Holy Communion in Week 2 (which 6 people attended). There was also a School Harvest on 26th September, which 23 adults and 65 children attended. The average for a normal Sunday across the year was 6 (6.6 last year). For special Services this rose to 28 (24.4 last year), making an average for all services of 12 (12.2 last year). The Easter Day Service attracted 15 people (11 last year), the Carol Service attracted 30 people (36 last year), Christmas Day Service attracted 36 people (54 last year), there was also a school Carol Service with 62 children and 12 adults and Remembrance Sunday there were 4 children and 29 adults in attendance.

5. Review of the Year

The PCC met four times during the year. All meetings were Minuted and average PCC attendance was 86% (86% last year).

At the Vestry Meeting in April 2024, both Mrs Marilyn Turner and Mrs. Linda Cooper were re-elected as Churchwardens. At the APCM, Mrs Susan Foster was re-elected as the Deanery Synod Rep. The remaining PCC members were also re-elected at the APCM. At the first PCC Meeting, immediately following the APCM, Mr Graham Turner was elected to the role of Treasurer, Miss Rachel Lavender to the role of Secretary and Mrs Felicity Bridgwater to the role of Vice Chair.

The usual pattern of Worship continues to be Holy Communion on the second Sunday, usually led by Revd Captain Simon Cake and a "Morning Praise" Service on the fourth Sunday, usually led by Ms Helene Berry (Lay Elder). As mentioned above, most of the regular Special Services were held this year, namely: Easter Day, The Flower Festival - Songs of Praise, Harvest Thanksgiving, Carol Service and Christmas Day. Harvest again attracted a large number of items, which were subsequently taken to the Salvation Army "Food Bank" in Woodbridge. On Remembrance Sunday, a short Act of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial there was no Church Service but refreshments were served afterwards in the church which attracted many who had attended. The Carol Service and Christmas Day Service were both well attended. Bawdsey Primary School held 4 Services in the Church; an Easter Service, a Pentecost Service, Harvest Thanksgiving and a School Carol Service.

There was one Funeral Service. There were no Baptisms or Weddings.

Many of our regular events also went ahead: The Jumble Sale, Lunch for the Student Cross walkers, the Flower Festival in June with gardens open on either side of the churchyard, raised a record £1,893 including £145 at the Songs of Praise Service and a follow-up guitar concert in September raised £405.00 by James Woodrow. We were also heavily involved with The Christmas Tree Festival for the community held in Alderton church at the beginning of December. The PCC also managed to support the Poppy Appeal and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust cyclists. The bulbs planted by the children of Bawdsey School in the Autumn added colour during the Spring and a new bed in the churchyard was planted adding varied flora throughout the year. The Gift Day also went ahead in October 2024, raising the splendid sum of £1,695. The Carol Singing initiatives of 2022, namely; Carols in the Village Hall when the Christmas lights were turned on and Carols at the Boathouse Café, (but in the Village Hall as the café was being decorated) were repeated and again were very successful. Our Parish Share of £5,506 was paid in full as usual..

6. Financial Review (*See Separate Report*).

7. Conclusion

The PCC were again able to balance the books and have ensured to adopt the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy with all PCC members updating their safeguarding training.

Approved by the PCC for presentation at the Annual Church Meeting and signed on their behalf by Revd Capt Simon Cake (PCC Chairman).