

The Church Of St Mary The Virgin, Bawdsey Annual Report Of The Parochial Church Council For The Year Ended 31st December 2025

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 2025 until 31st December 2025 are:

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| 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 Mr Stevie Timms | Vice Chair DSR Secretary Treasurer elected in April at the APCM |

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 2025, the Church Electoral Roll stood at 35. Of these 35 members, 29 are Resident and 6 are Non-Resident.

The average attendance at a Sunday Service, counted during the first 4 weeks of October 2025, was 6.0 (6.0 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 26 adults and 67 children attended. The average for a normal Sunday across the year was 6 (6 last year). For special Services this rose to 25.5 (28 last year). The Easter Day Service attracted 12 people and 1 child (15 last year), the Carol Service attracted 33 people (30 last year), Christmas Day Service attracted 21 people (36 last year), there was also a School Carol Service with 43 children and 20 adults and on Remembrance Sunday there was 1 child and 34 adults in attendance. We also held a special service for VE day where 13 people attended. So, although our Electoral roll and support for St. Mary's has risen the average attendance for Sunday services has remained constant.

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 2025, 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 and Stevie Timms was elected as a new member. At the first PCC Meeting, immediately following the APCM, Mr Graham Turner was elected to the role of Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Rachel Lavender to the role of Minute 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) or Mrs Judy Foulger (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 many items especially after the school service, 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 3 Services in the Church; an Easter Service, Harvest Thanksgiving and a School Carol Service.

There were two weddings in July, a baptism where two children were baptised in August and a funeral service. There were several burials of ashes in the Memorial Garden.

Many of our regular events also went ahead: Lunch for the Student Cross walkers on Palm Sunday, Easter Extravaganza for children on Easter Saturday, the Flower Festival in June, with an adjacent Open garden, raised a record £2,432.29 and a follow-up guitar concert by James Woodrow in November raised £390.00. This year also saw the churchyard being used every Sunday in August for teas and cakes which raised £682.56 for the redecoration fund, money was also added to this with another successful Gardener's Question Time in September -£193.02. Further to this we held two Bingo evenings in the village Hall. 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 of 2023 added colour during the Spring and the new bed in the churchyard which was planted in 2024 was extended adding varied flora throughout the year. The Gift Day also went ahead in October 2025, raising the splendid sum of £1,511.00. The Carol Singing initiative of 2022, namely-Carols in the Village Hall, was repeated and again successful. Our Parish Share of £5,605 was paid in full.

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

7. Conclusion

The PCC were again able to balance the books.

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