

## Parish Annual Meeting

### St Mary the Virgin Bawdsey

As we prepare for our AGM next week, the PCC would like to invite all on the Electoral Roll to join us as we celebrate the past year and look forward to the next. We always welcome ideas and suggestions. Our brilliant Treasurer, Graham, will be explaining the year's meticulous accounts and, as always, there will be refreshment. At the last AGM we acquired a new and enthusiastic member, bringing the PCC to 8 and there is always the exciting, though unlikely, possibility of an election.

As in previous years, and despite being small in number, we fully met our financial commitment, the Annual Parish Share, which goes towards funding mission and ministry across the entire Diocese. Sadly the misperception continues that the Church of England has vast financial reserves to look after its buildings, and as a PCC we are most appreciative of all interest shown in what we do to look after the Church and Churchyard - which are physically central to the village and which, with Bawdsey School and the Village Hall & Rec forms the foundation for meeting, learning and developing.

We have been very grateful for continuing help in the Churchyard, bringing it to life and adding interest for walkers. Our only disappointment is that one or two dogs have not yet persuaded their owners to read the notices.

Our current concern is renovation and redecoration of the North [internal] wall. Historic patching with exterior paint rather than lime wash has resulted in significant damage to the plaster: specialist firms are difficult to find but with Stevie's help we have obtained quotes and begun the process of applying for permission. The cost to replaster will be in the region of £50,000 from start to finish. Rachel, our Secretary, is looking into potential funding: meanwhile we look forward to a period of hard work and inspiration.

It's not all about Money! Three PCC members attended the inaugural Rural Church Conference in Diss which we found encouraging and useful: we came

away refreshed, knowing now to focus on doing what we do do to the best we can do.

Last year's events and activities included providing a lunch for the 30 Pilgrim Walkers on Palm Sunday, Rachel's innovative 'Sunday Teas in the Churchyard', James Woodrow's guitar recital, Bingo at the Village Hall and the Annual Flower festival.

There will of course be more of the same this year, including something special for Advent.....

Susan Foster

Diocesan Representative