

The Church Of St Mary The Virgin, Bawdsey Annual Report Of The Parochial Church Council For The Year Ended 31st December 2023

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 2023 until 31st December 2023 are:

Team Vicar	Revd Capt. Simon Cake	Chairman
Churchwardens:	Mrs Marilyn Turner Mrs Linda Cooper	From April 2023
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mrs Marilyn Turner Mrs Susan Foster	Until March 2023 From April 2023
Elected Members:	Mrs Felicity Bridgwater Mrs Linda Cooper Mrs Susan Foster Miss Rachel Lavender Mr Graham Turner	Vice Chair Member until April 2023 then CW Member until April 2023 then DSR Minute Secretary Secretary and 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. The incumbent is the Team Rector, Revd Giles Tulk. However, this role is delegated to the Team Vicar, when one is in post. So it is now Revd Capt. Simon Cake.

Achievements and Performance

4. Church Attendance

At the end of 2022, the Church Electoral Roll stood at 19. Prior to the APCM, 7 new people applied to be on the Roll. Therefore, the Roll as reported at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in March 2023 was 26. Sadly, in December, Biddy Sproston died and so the Roll is 25 as of end December 2023. Of these 25 members, 23 are Resident and 2 are Non-Resident.

The average attendance at a Sunday Service, counted during the first 4 weeks of October 2023, was 8.0 (9.0 last year). This included two Sunday Services, a Holy Communion in Week 2 (which 6 people attended) and a Harvest Service in Week 4 (which 10 people attended). There was also a School Harvest on 13th October, which 30 adults and 65 children attended. The average for a normal Sunday across the year was 6.6 (7.7 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 11 people (21 last year), the Carol Service attracted 36 people (43 last year) and the Christmas Day Service attracted 54 people (51 last year).

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 March 2023, Mrs Marilyn Turner was re-elected as Churchwarden and Mrs Linda Cooper was elected to join her. At the APCM, Mrs Marilyn Turner stood down as Deanery Synod Rep. and Mrs Susan Foster was elected as the new 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 Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Rachel Lavender to the role of Minute Secretary and Mrs Felicity Bridgwater to the role of Vice Chair. These again were all unchanged from 2020.

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 very 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 but again there was no Church Service. The Carol Service and Christmas Day Service were both very well attended. Bawdsey Primary School held 2 Services in the Church; an Easter Service and a Harvest Thanksgiving. The younger children also visited the Church to hear about Holy Communion.

There were two Funeral Services, both including burials in the Churchyard. There were no Baptisms or Weddings.

There were 3 new PCC initiatives this year: A Guitar Concert by James Woodrow, in memory of his mother. This was attended by 35 people and was enjoyed by all. Bawdsey Gardeners' Question Time, a team of four local experts offered answers and advice to questions from a packed Village Hall. "Saturday Natter" a series of coffee mornings in the Village Hall for anyone to attend. Many of our regular events also went ahead: The Jumble Sale, Lunch for the Student Cross walkers, the Flower Festival in June, which raised a record £1,598 and the Harvest Supper. The PCC also managed to support the Poppy Appeal and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust cyclists. The Gift Day also went ahead in October 2023, raising the splendid sum of £1,460. The new Carol Singing initiatives from last year, namely; Carols in the Village Hall when the Christmas lights were turned on and Carols at the Boathouse Café, were repeated and again were very successful. With our new Vicar in post, our Parish Share rose to £5,3502 (£3,799 last year). With Grants totalling £2,000 obtained via the Parish Council, two new buttresses were added to the Churchyard Wall and some limited repointing was undertaken. Further maintenance work is required when money can be obtained.

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

7. Conclusion

With a mix of old and new initiatives, the PCC were again able to balance the books and grants enabled us to make some Churchyard Wall repairs. In late December the Quinquennial Inspection occurred and we await the Report!

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