

**Bardwell Annual Village Meeting**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**10am**

**The Tithe Barn, Bardwell Village Hall**

**Reports Pack**

**For further information contact**

**The Clerk, Bardwell Parish Council**

**[clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk)**

**[www.bardwell-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bardwell-pc.gov.uk)**

## **Residents are invited to attend the Bardwell Annual Village Meeting 2025**

**To be held on Saturday 29th March 2025 : Commencing at 10.00am  
Venue: The Tithe Barn, Bardwell Village Hall, Up Street, Bardwell IP31 1AA**

*Arrive early for refreshments: Coffee & cake available from 9.30am*

### **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Welcome and introduction from the Chair Cllr David Ruffles
3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
4. Update on Bardwell Parish Council activities over the last 12 months Cllr David Ruffles
5. To receive a selection of short presentations and question-and-answer sessions from the following local organisations and businesses:
  - 5.1 Bardwell Sports & Community Club Simon Kelly, Chair
  - 5.2 Bardwell Post Office Phil Boarder - *Apologies received since agenda issued*
  - 5.3 Friends of Bardwell Church Dave Ray, Chair
  - 5.4 Community Speed Watch Ali Compton
  - 5.5 The Tithe Barn, Bardwell Village Hall Andrew Smith
  - 5.6 Dun Cow Kevin Bird
  - 5.7 Bardwell Volunteers Cllr Karen Witton
  - 5.8 Support Our Buses Task Force Cllr Karen Witton, Chair of the Task Force
6. To note, written reports received in advance of the meeting and available on the Bardwell Parish Council website at [www.bardwell-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bardwell-pc.gov.uk) Available: 9pm, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Reports received at the time of issuing the agenda

  - 6.1 Bardwell Charity Trustees Barry Felton, Chair
  - 6.2 Bardwell Village Hall Committee James Fletcher, Chair
  - 6.3 Bardwell Church Dave Ray, Chair
  - 6.4 Ixworth Patients Association Dr Graeme Norris, Chair
7. Bardwell Parish Council: Plans for the coming 12 months Cllr Karen Witton, Vice Chair and Cllr Margaret Berrill
8. Questions or matters for discussion on any other parish related matters, invited from members of the public.

#### **Meeting convened by:**

Cllr Margaret Berrill [margaret.berrill@bardwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.berrill@bardwell-pc.gov.uk)  
Cllr Karen Witton [karenwitton285@gmail.com](mailto:karenwitton285@gmail.com)

**Agenda issued 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**  
**[pas/190325](#)**

To submit a written report for inclusion in the on-line pack, please email: [clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk)  
Or phone: Pauline Smith, Clerk to Bardwell Parish Council: 01359 221934

Reports  
Bardwell Annual Village Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2025

- |                                                             |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Chair's Welcome and Update on Bardwell Parish Council    |            |
| Activities over the last 12 months                          | item 2 & 4 |
| 2. Bardwell Amblers                                         |            |
| 3. The Bardwell Charities Trust                             | item 6.1   |
| 4. Bardwell Community Speedwatch                            | item 5.4   |
| 5. Bardwell Sports and Community Club                       | item 5.1   |
| 6. Bardwell Village Hall                                    | item 5.5   |
| 7. Bardwell Volunteers                                      | item 5.7   |
| 8. Friends of Ixworth Library                               |            |
| 9. Ixworth Surgery Patients' Association                    | item 6.4   |
| 10. Support Our Buses Task Force                            | item 5.8   |
| 11. Friends of Bardwell Church                              | item 6.3   |
| 12. Suffolk County Councillor, Joanna Spicer Report         |            |
| 13. Dun Cow                                                 | item 5.6   |
| 14. Bardwell Parish Council: Plans for the coming 12 months | item 7     |
| 15. Bardwell PCC                                            | item 6.3   |



Welcome

Good morning and Welcome to you all today

- The purpose of today's meeting is to hear shortly reports from various groups and businesses within the village, and whilst some groups are not giving a verbal report here today, they have submitted a written report.
- Also, I would like to welcome here today Kevin Bird the new landlord at The Dun Cow, and whilst this is 6 months late Kevin officially welcome to the village from the parish council, and we wish you success.
- I look around this room today and see so many faces and not just parish councillors and our hard working clerk who work tirelessly often in the background making this village what it is today, which goes to show the enormous community spirit we have here in Bardwell.
- As a small village we have so much to be proud of, from a thriving sports club, a post office when so many don't have one of these days, three pubs, a café, and our much-cherished community field and play area, a well maintained historic church, this village hall and our beloved primary school, and not forgetting one of our crown jewels the village green.
- For all of the above I am extremely honoured to be chair of this parish council and being a Bardwell boy I am also proud of what this little village achieves, and the community spirit here is well and truly alive when it comes to getting things done.
- So, it's a heart felt thanks from the parish council, to all those who make this village tick on so many fronts, and I hope you all find the meeting today interesting.

## Bardwell Parish Council the Last Year

- The biggest challenge we faced without doubt, was the sudden announcement very late in July last year, that we was within days completely losing our bus service all together and make no doubt that as a council we were horrified at this prospect and knew instantly the devastating impact this would have on residents who used the buses.
- And I can't make it any clearer when I say we really was on the brink of losing the bus service and very quickly as well.
- Instantly we started a plan to retain some sort of service, and with the excellent support of our county councillor Joanna Spicer, we started to formulate an action plan, to save our buses.
- Shortly Councillor Witton ,became chair of the save our buses committee is going to talk more about this subject, and I would like to take this moment to thank Councillors Witton, Smith, Ives and Berrill and our clerk Pauline Smith and not forgetting Joanna Spicer for the enormous amount of time and effort put into what turned out to be a very successful campaign, but I can assure you all that it was not an easy campaign far from it.
- Another success story has been the new footbridge over the river, completed just over two months ago when we had a very well attended official opening in January to welcome back our much missed bridge over the previous three years, and yet again we have to say our county councillor Joanna Spicer played a major part in getting Suffolk County Council to fund a new bridge, which by the way it was not cheap I might add.
- It's not all been about buses and bridges over the last year, we have formed a village work party to tackle various maintenance jobs around the village, which so far has achieved so much since it first started last year, there's more to and new members always welcome, which councillor Witton will talk about the work party shortly.

- One of the tasks the work party took on was litter picking in the actual village, which sadly meant that we had to let our litter picker for the last 20 plus year's Maz Endicott go, we are grateful for all Maz has done over the year's and wish her and Jerry well going forward.
- Our income is not a bottomless pit, and we have to consider very carefully where we spend council taxpayers' money, and whilst we might have saved on litter picking wages, there is always something that needs money to make it happen.
- One such case is speeding, something we constantly get told about, and whilst we will never stop it, we will do our utmost to get the message out there to not speed in our village, this is something our speed watch coordinator Ali Compton will talk about shortly.
- We have invested in the last year, in a new VAS unit to add to the one we already had, the new one is situated in Low Street just as you come into the village, and only two weeks ago we finally had a new taller pole installed so that the solar panel was added to stop the need for keep charging the batteries.
- Litter picking, another hugely successful day last week on the outlying roads, with an unbelievable amount of rubbish collected including 17 tyres, whilst the collection was a great success it is also very annoying that so many thinks it's acceptable in many cases to chuck their rubbish out of a vehicle window, it's not clever or funny, take it home and put it in your bin. Thank you to all those who helped last week to walk the roads to clean up.
- Planning, not really a great deal to report on this over the last year, no new build applications mainly improvement works to domestic properties, quite a few tree work applications mostly all approved.
- Which brings me onto the conservation area in the village, which by the way for those who don't know, this area is not in a defined straight line, and it juts it's way around the village, the conservation area also includes trees as well, which means tree owners have to get permission for any tree works, which made it very annoying when a large number of mature trees were

suddenly cut down without permission in Knox Lane, this matter is far from over, and enquires at West Suffolk Council are ongoing.

- The conservation area also includes The Green, and the parish council, is fully focused on what can only be described as an eyesore at one property, this is a complicated case one which is proving difficult to resolve and as a parish council we are very limited in what we can do, but we are certainly doing all we can, but again this is something West Suffolk Council is very aware of and is ongoing.
- **Housing**, the village has not seen a new build domestic property for over 10 years now which to some is good news, but going forward this is highly likely to change.
- The parish council has had encouraging conversations and meetings with the landowners Suffolk County Council in School Lane just past the school about the field they own.
- It is highly likely that this land will be included in the new local plan due out around July this year, for 15 properties to be built, some being social housing for local residents.
- If as expected this will be included in the local plan, this does not mean building work will start a few weeks later, a process and full planning application will have to be submitted and discussed. But the final decision will not lie with this parish council, not that we will be quite on this subject for sure and will be inputting ours and resident's views.
- As a village we must recognise the need for affordable housing, as Bardwell is not the cheapest place to live and many who do want to live here do not have the budgets to afford a property here and going forward, we do need young families living here to keep the village moving forward and keeping our school alive.
- Look at the 8 new properties built in Spring Road in 2012, in partnership with a housing association these have blended in well and have been a great success, with 6 out the 8 original occupiers still present.
- **The Village News**, we have over the last year looked into ways to improve the monthly publication, and whilst it was discussed at some length we are keeping to the monthly publication, apart from January when there has never been an issue printed anyway.

- Many of you will have noticed the colour cover, which we hope you find an improvement.
- Our thanks go to the editor Ali Compton who has done and still is doing an excellent job with this valued community assert sharing and promoting Bardwell news and events.
- Ali was supported with the work preparing the village news by Gordon Burns, who has now stood down from this role, our thanks go to Gordon for his help our the years.
- We welcome John Gilson, who is helping with the IT side of the publication, and credit to John for the smart colour covers we now have.
- Ali is always looking for new and interesting items for the village news, and new ideas and articles are always welcome.
- **Village Gateway**, hopefully the new gateway installed last summer by Bardwell Hall has been noticed by you all, this was designed to enhance the entrance to the village, as well as making drivers aware they were now entering a 30mph zone.
- We very much hope to install another gateway in another area within the next year.
- I mentioned in my welcome about The Green, being one of our crown jewels, well there is another being the community field.
- This area has become very popular for children using the play area or playing football, well used by those out walking with or without dogs, somewhere to take a break on one of the many benches dotted around, the trees planted when the area was first opened, are now well established, and the allotment plots are all fully taken, and well used and looked after.
- We have a change of grass cutter this season, as Graham Hunt has stood down from this role, thank you Graham for your efforts.
- The new grass contractor is the sports club, as they already cut the football pitch, it made sense that they cut the rest of the area and also keep the money we pay for grass cutting in the village, which also helps with the sports club fund the various sports activities they run.
- Last June, saw a village event for the anniversary of D Day, of which the parish council gave a grant towards the costs to stage the event.

- The event was very well attended, with a display here from Bardwell School, and a very entertaining evening also in here with a fish and chips supper, beacon lighting on the green, and the last post performed by Geoff Davies on his bugle.
- Also, a fine commemorative booklet was produced by John Gilson and copies sold around the village.
- Proceeds from the event funded two Tommie's now situated in the churchyard to honour the many service men and women involved in past wars
- A donation of £840 from the event was also given to The Royal British Legion.
- That concludes the parish council report on the last year, and I will now take questions if anyone has one.

### **Bardwell Amblers**



The Amblers Group is free to take part in and we get some exercise (barely noticed usually because of the social chatter), fresh air, get to see some new and interesting places, often linked to a tea/coffee stop or a meal out. We share lifts to minimise costs which is sorted out when we meet at the Tithe Barn. The monthly Amble is always on a Sunday, most not too far away and in the afternoon, but 2 or 3 times a year we go further afield and set off in the morning. The walks, generally up to about 3 miles, are planned and led by volunteers for this task, who 'practice' it beforehand to make sure that it is OK for the group, and they won't get lost on the day! New members always welcome. Contact Ali Compton 01359 252044.

Dave Ray

# *The Bardwell Charities Trust*

## Report to the Bardwell Annual Parish Meeting Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### The Green

The year started off very wet and by mid February we had two new ponds appear in the middle of The Green. Fortunately, they eventually soaked into the surface and disappeared. That wasn't our only water problem at that time, water in the long ditch (at the back of The Green) filled up to the brim due to a blocked drain in Up Street. Most people are aware that the very serious flooding we had some years ago was only resolved by creating an overflow from the round pond into the long ditch which in turn is piped under The Green and into the surface water drainage ditch by the village sign.

The Stocks family decided against bringing the Fair to Bardwell in May 2024 and, later in the year, indicated that they will not be returning for the foreseeable future. They have been struggling with the viability of running Bardwell Fair for a number of years. They might request a return in future years but it's looking unlikely right now.

Apart from COTG and the D-Day Beacon the rest of the year was relatively quiet until the autumn planting of bulbs.

### Other

Having helped with the original set-up costs, it has been very pleasing to see the on-going success of Warm Space (now known as Welcome Space) and the Table Tennis Club in the Tithe Barn.

Our thanks to the Parish Council for their support and help over the year.

Barry Felton – Chair  
The Bardwell Charities

Bardwell Community Speedwatch  
Report for Annual Village Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Community Speedwatch has had a presence in Bardwell for about 20 years. Our founder member has just retired and another sadly died, in 2019, at the age of 94, having continued into his early nineties. We were in need of a bit of rejuvenation in all senses of the word! A recruitment drive, instigated by the Parish Council Vice Chair, has resulted in over a dozen enthusiastic new members. All of these new recruits have been approved by the Police and most are now trained. We had a training session with the local Police Communities Coordinator, responsible for Community Speedwatch and our equipment was updated. We have had two new sites, in Quaker Lane, approved and have started a schedule of more frequent sessions throughout the village. We hope our increased presence will make drivers realise that we take seriously trying to improve road safety in Bardwell.

A Community Speedwatch Team consists of a minimum of three people and each session is usually one hour long. We go out year round but do avoid heavy rain as we do not wish not distract drivers, and it may not be safe for us either. Our presence is intended to encourage drivers to slow down and drive at a safe speed through the village. We report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the Police who will send them a letter. Further action may be taken by the Police if the same drivers are recorded speeding repeatedly. People sometime question us as to why we are recording their vehicle registration numbers (VRN) when they are not speeding. This is only so that we have enough expertise in recording all the details required (VRN, make model, colour, time and speed) when we do get excessive speeding. This can be quite difficult when a vehicle is travelling fast!. All of these record sheets are destroyed as soon as we have extracted those that need Police attention. **We definitely do not store** this information.

Other measures to improve adherence to the speed limit are roundels painted on the road and the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which are placed at different entrances to the village. We recently installed a sign with a solar panel which will, hopefully need less attention than the battery operated ones which are of course, out of use when the batteries are being charged. These signs record speeds and times of vehicle passage. They do not record VRNs.

Please forgive us if we don't always have time to stop and chat when you are going by. We might cause a build-up of traffic or miss the next vehicle!

Ali Compton

28/03/2025

Bardwell Annual Village Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Verbal Reports: Brief summaries

Community Speedwatch Q & A - Following the Community Speedwatch Report.

- Q. Are there any plans to do speed watch sessions during the evening?
- A. No: We are not permitted to carry out sessions during hours of darkness.  
However, potentially the ANPR camera (from the police) could be requested.
- Q. Some of the speeds recorded by the VAS are quite shocking: generally drivers leaving the village.
- A. We are unable to establish whether any of these vehicles are emergency vehicles.

There is a lot of interest in this subject and a lot we can and need to do to educate motorists. It is important for us to be providing more information, elevating the concerns, resulting in more people talking about it.

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### **5.1 Bardwell Sports and Community Club – Neil Kellett**

Neil Kellett provided an update on activities at the Bardwell Sports and Community Club (BSCC).

The cricket club continues to perform well, fielding men's teams alongside a growing ladies' squad and junior teams for both boys and girls. Improvements have been made to the cricket pitch. Neil also highlighted the croquet pitch and pétanque piste, expressing thanks to Aaron Hutchinson and Phil Boarder for their contributions to the latter.

Unfortunately, the football club has folded. However, Ixworth Football Club is making temporary use of the facilities.

A pool table has recently been installed in the Grumpy Goat and has proved popular. It is currently on a six-month lease while its long-term viability is assessed.

Em's continues to host a range of events and provides coffee and cake during the day. In the evenings, a variety of food vans are being trialled, including fish and chips and pizza vendors.

The BSCC committee meets monthly to review priorities and future objectives. Current considerations include improving the acoustics within the Grumpy Goat; potential solutions such as a mezzanine floor are being explored, though costs may be prohibitive. The committee is also investigating funding options for new cricket nets.

Work will shortly commence on the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), where a new surface is being installed. This project is expected to take approximately four weeks to complete.

The Club remains extremely grateful for the continued support of its many volunteers.

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# **BARDWELL VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL UPDATE 2025**

## **THE BOOKING SYSTEM FOR HALL HIRERS**

The new on line booking system to book the barn is going well with just a few minor issues we had to overcome. Thank you Tony Stokes for getting this up and running. The Spinning Wheel group and the Common Ground Theatre group plus any others are hopefully still coming to perform in the Tithe barn. Please check the village magazine and local notices for future productions.

## **CARS ON THE GREEN**

Bacon butties and cakes will be served again this year. Teas, coffee and soft drinks also will be on sale. Cake makers in or around the village are asked to donate cakes for this year please. Details will be in the village magazine. Last year it went very well thanks to many volunteers and cake makers, David Ruffles must be thanked for organising this wonderful event which showcases our beautiful village.

## **GRANTS.**

Grants are to be sought by our grant getter Sarah. Not heard anything as yet.

## **Improvements to the Tithe Barn**

When and if we get grants then we can hopefully finalise what the kitchen and bar areas will require along with the toilets and green room areas and how the works will be completed either in stages (most likely) or all at once, costings are also to be sought through either a Quantity Surveyor's report or by getting quotes from various contractors. Mr Ian Patterson will be asked to consider helping us with the kitchen refurbishment. Also some news is that hopefully we have a Project Manager who will agree to oversee and manage the overall planned works. Solar panels are also being in the process of buying and now we have chosen the system we want hopefully then money and grants can be arranged. After the refurbishments we will try to get the Barn registered as a Community Asset.

## **Bookings**

The number of bookings are still down however the Committee are now actively looking at new ideas and events that could be held in the Barn ie family bingo, beetle drives, table top sales, exhibitions and several other ideas. We have had several bookings for various parties so bookings maybe on the up. The D Day celebrations we held in the Tithe Barn in June was a great success and a big thank you goes out to all those wonderful people who helped make this event happen. The Dun Cow is hoping to host VE Day celebrations in the tithe barn with two

parties , one in the afternoon for children and one in the evening for adults and to serve sausage and mash to both parties. Hopefully volunteers can be found to help out with this worthwhile event. Details will be published in the BVN. The Warm Space event which we are still doing every Tuesday at 10 am to 12.30 is a great success with up to 35 people attending with free tea, coffee, biscuits and cake on offer and is proving very popular. It's an event that some really look forward to as they see very few if any people between these sessions. We hope to continue these sessions as long as the grants last.. Also the Table Tennis club which started on a Thursday evening which attracts up to 15 people is proving very popular and a third table has been bought, all attending really enjoy themselves. We are looking to increase the cost of the heating tokens from £2 to £3. Also hire charges are under review to keep up with rising costs. Alan our booking officer left us last September and we all wish him and Denise all the best in their retirement. Our accounts are now being audited by Barry Felton, thank you Barry for doing this. The 200 club is doing well with new members and Karen and Julia must be congratulated for their hard work in updating this.

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## **WORKS SERVICES COMPLETED**

Portable Appliance testing, fire alarm and emergency lights Checked. A mortise lock replaced the broken one on the front door, new keys have been distributed. Two quotes are being sought to supply and fit a plumbed in water boiler for hot drinks.

## **License**

Karen is navigating the bureaucracy of swapping over the license from Alan to Kevin, hopefully this will be completed very soon.

## **Thanks**

My thanks goes out to all on this committee who keep this Village Hall available for this and other villages to use and to our helpers who give their time and commitment freely.

### **5.7 Bardwell Volunteers**

This is the second year of the volunteer group, with work parties held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month (February–November).

A wide variety of task have been undertaken including edging pathways in The Croft, cutting back brambles and clearing the bank in Low Street.

About 60kg of bulbs have been planted in various locations including The Green, Church Road, Low Street, with funding provide by the Parish council. 10 bird boxes have been commissioned from Andrew Perkins to be located around the village.

The Area around Harling Bridge has been cleaned and tidied; roadside edges around the Green were tidied in readiness for the Cars on The Green event, and volunteers have also helped with Church work parties spreading gravel in the church yard.

Volunteer turnout varies, depending on availability and ranges from 10 to 30 participants.

Thank you to all of the volunteers: your hard work is sincerely appreciated.

***Cllr Karen Witton 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025***

## **Report from the Friends of Ixworth Library. March 2025.**

For over a dozen years the Library Service has been successfully run and developed by Suffolk Libraries (SL) an independent charity.

At its meeting on the 18/3/25 the Cabinet of Suffolk County Council (SCC) proposed to take the Library Service back under SCC control from the 1st June 2025. This followed the breakdown of the tendering process for the renewed contract by SL as the single tenderer and further negotiations by SL.

The abrupt cessation of negotiations and the submission of the SCC proposal has been the subject of much contention:- a petition of over 22,000 individuals and individual objections and a resolute rebuttal of the SCC position and proposals by SL (see Bruce Leeke at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/news/response-to-county-council-decision> and the possible results at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/news/what-suffolk-stands-to-lose>) produced no movement in the SCC position.

The SCC claims and proposals are available on their website <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

There is little point in rehashing the debate as it is believed that short of an intervention by the Council or the Department of Culture Media and Sport the proposals will go ahead.

### **What does this mean for our library at Ixworth?**

The SCC proposals indicate that all current libraries will remain open for the same hours for the next year and are 'secure in their position in future'.

To quote our patron, Lady Carla Carlyle: "Libraries are a nation's richest repositories of knowledge and resources... One of the Suffolk Libraries is in the village of Ixworth. The Friends of Ixworth Library work tirelessly to make their library the heart of the village—and it is. The volunteers have a bookstall at the Wyken Farmers' Market where they sell donated books, spreading the news of the library ('It's a charity!') and on special occasions provide live music that gets feet tapping... What on earth makes us believe that Suffolk County Council wouldn't start closing our libraries all over again?"

That is the position as we know it at 21/03/2025. We will continue to update the Bardwell Village News (BVN) about our library and changes in future editions.

*Jim Murray*

*Chair of the Trustees of the Friends of Ixworth Library.*

## **Ixworth Surgery Patients' Association**

The Patient Association is a registered charity and has appreciated the donation we have received from Bardwell Parish Council. With the help of volunteers we have been able to:

- Continue offering a taxi service to frail patients unable to drive to appointments.
- Fund a health kiosk to take basic health measurements.
- Promote and organise flu jabs.
- Support the development of a Woman's Health App.

### Volunteer transport Service

The transport service continues to be busy and we are seeking more volunteer drivers to meet the increasing demand for help. Mileage claims will be met. Please contact Sarah at the Surgery 01359 230252 or Ray 01842 898414 for more information.

### Health Kiosk

The "health kiosk" is in the Surgery's Reception area and offers a walk-in blood pressure reading, body-mass calculation and access to health information using artificial intelligence software.

### Artificial Intelligence comes to Ixworth

During this year, all GP practices nationally will be contractually required to adopt digital consultations to improve patient access to services. The aim is for patients not to ring to get an appointment with a GP but to ring and get advice in as short a time as possible - which may then lead to an appointment (that day or later depending on urgency) with the appropriate GP, Nurse or Hospital Consultant.

Ixworth Surgery have already installed a new cloud-based telephone system to speed response. A new website has been launched to make it easier to find the information you seek. The system is called *Anima* and initially will be used to streamline back-office tasks like the editing of notes and letters received from Hospitals onto patient records. The real power of the AI software is that it can also provide a secure and easy to use online system to help patients get the care they need more quickly and conveniently.

You will still have access to your practice by telephone or in person. We believe that as more patients use *Anima* it will reduce demand on our phone lines, making contact easier for all. Do not worry if you do not have access to a computer or the internet, if you telephone the surgery, a senior Nurse Practitioner will triage your concern and make an appointment.

## Flu Jabs

The Surgery had been proactive in offering flu, covid and RSV jabs as vaccines became available. Don't hesitate to use the NHS App to identify other vaccination centres you might find more convenient to reach.

Please remember, estimated vaccine effectiveness against all influenzas is about 65% among children aged 2–17, about 55% among adults 18–64 and dropping to 40% to 50% among adults aged 65 and over.

## Women's Health App

A new App is being launched to give advice and guidance on breast screening, cervical screening, contraception, menopause treatments, pelvic organ prolapse, pre-conception care, sexually transmitted infections and gender identity concerns.

The advice and video clips are written by NHS doctors to provide accurate information to women and girls. Download from the App Store or visit [hciconnectplus.page.link/snee](https://www.nhs.uk/healthconnectplus/page/link/snee)

*From Graeme Norris, Ixworth Patients Association*

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### 5.8 Support Our Buses Task Force

In July 2024, Bardwell Parish Council was informed that Bardwell's bus services were to be **reduced from 9 to 0**. Transport Made Simple had purchased Simonds (the bus company) with prior knowledge that this route was not financially viable.

Within four days of this announcement, a village meeting was convened. This was attended by approximately 60 members of the public, including residents from neighbouring villages also affected by the proposed changes. Representatives present included Peter Nathanail, Managing Director of Transport Made Simple, and Simon Barnett from Suffolk County Council.

Following this meeting, a task force was established, led by Bardwell Parish Council, chaired by Cllr Witton and involving representatives from other impacted villages along the route.

Through the efforts of Cllr Spicer, emergency funding was secured from Suffolk County Council to maintain a reduced service through to December 2024. At the same time, the task force worked collaboratively to prepare and submit two funding bids for the 73 and 73A services. These bids were successful, securing funding initially for a one-year period, with the hope that this can be extended to two years. Particular thanks are due to Cllr Berrill for her work on the bid submissions.

Rural bus services remain a vital lifeline for communities and are unlikely to ever become commercially self-sustaining. We are grateful to West Suffolk District Councillor Andrew Smith for raising this issue with West Suffolk Council, as a result of which a meeting of WSC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held in Stanton Village Hall in December to discuss the challenges of rural bus transport across West Suffolk, at which Cllr Witton was invited to speak. A West Suffolk Council Rural Bus Service Task force was subsequently implemented.

A revised timetable was introduced in February, following feedback from bus users, which it is hoped will address some of the issues previously experienced.

One of the ongoing objectives of the task force is to secure the introduction of a Saturday service.

However, the continued viability of these services depends heavily on community support. It is essential that residents make use of the buses wherever possible and provide feedback on any issues or suggestions for improvement.

While progress has been made, there remains significant work ahead. The key message remains: **use the service and share your feedback**.

## **The Friends of Bardwell Church – Chairman’s Report on 2024 – Annual Village Meeting 2025**

The Friends of Bardwell Church (FOBC) seek to raise funds and provide volunteer help with repairing, maintaining, and improving the church building and church yard. Members of Friends are people who value our magnificent Grade I Listed church building and its surrounding churchyard and want to preserve both for future generations to enjoy; some are members of the church community, but others follow different faiths or none – membership is open to all.

The Friends ran a successful Safari Supper on 20 April which was a very enjoyable evening. Once again, the Friends sold cash draw tickets at the Cars on the Green (COTG) event on 26 May in exchange for a share in the profits. We sold tickets both before the event, and on the day, thus helping to boost overall sales and produce some useful income for the Friends.

We had hoped to run an Open Gardens event on 9 June, which would have been the first since 2019, but sadly it appeared that there were not sufficient gardens to make the event worthwhile and we took the decision not to run it.

Our main event in 2024, both in terms of effort and return, was the ‘1960s Songbook’ concert in the church on 28 September. We are very grateful to Chris Ingham and Joanna Eden for kindly performing another concert for us at a very reasonable rate. The Friends arranged the promotion of the event, the ticket sales, two bars, and all the other organisation for the event. Nearly all the tickets were sold, it was a very enjoyable evening, and a very useful sum was made for Friends funds.

During the year, the Friends provided £4000 towards the cost of the repair and conservation work on monuments in the chancel.

Apart from helping with funding for work, we support the fabric of the church and churchyard through physical help by volunteers; we supported two work parties on 20 July and 12 October, as well as a number of informal ones where a few volunteers helped out with some urgent tasks. During the year cut long grass was cleared, general strimming and tidying work was carried out, a number of runs to the tip with green waste were made, and a yew tree stump was removed from the area for the new car park. We also helped inside the church in support of the conservators working on the monuments in the chancel and nave, mainly by moving furniture round, erecting and dismantling a tower scaffold, and general cleaning and tidying work. After the redundant oil tank was sold, we provided manpower to move the tank from the back of the church and load it onto the buyer’s trailer.

There were two significant developments in manpower available for work at the church in 2024. Firstly, the village volunteer work parties that now meet once in most months, can be asked to assist with work at the church, and they helped twice in the year, once by spreading new shingle on part of the footpath through the church yard, and once by helping to bag and move cut long grass ready to transport to the tip. Secondly, the church has been allocated a Community Payback team once a month starting in October, and this team has been helping with some of the tasks that might otherwise be undertaken by Friends’ work parties.

Other assistance has been provided by Friends helping to man the church for the two Heritage weekends in September.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to the Friends committee, to the Friends members, to all those who organised, helped at, and supported our events and work parties over the year, and to those who subscribed to, or donated generously to, our funds – without all of you much less would have been achieved.

Dave Ray  
Chairman, Friends of Bardwell Church Committee

## **Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer**

### **Annual Report for 2024-25**

#### **Bardwell**

I would like to thank the chairman and members of Bardwell Parish Council for making me welcome at their meetings throughout the last year.

Bardwell residents can be reassured that myself as county councillor, West Suffolk District Councillor (Andrew Smith), parish councillors and the parish council clerk (Pauline Smith) all work together to secure the best outcomes and services for your village.

This has been an eventful year for Suffolk County Council and the future looks somewhat uncertain. The county council was approached by the new government last November to be part of a priority area for devolution and local government re-organisation. This proposition has progressed rapidly and, currently, the government is consulting on a plan to having a new combined county authority for Norfolk and Suffolk with election for a Mayor for this new body to be held in May 2026.

Simultaneously the government are wishing to move to just unitary authorities for local government. This means abolishing county, district and borough councils in Suffolk and the creation of unitary local government. I, like the County Council, support the bid for one unitary for Suffolk but I am quite comfortable with any proposal for 2 unitaries (as long as they are East and West Suffolk). Government will conduct a consultation on their preferred model in the Autumn.

Otherwise it has been business as usual for the county council. We are relentless in our search for savings to ensure we balance the books. The budget set this year is over £800million. We actually have responsibility for over £billion with Suffolk partnerships. As has been the case for some years our budgetary pressures are almost all around supporting vulnerable children and adults. 77pence of every £ we spend is for services for child protection, special needs (SEND) older and vulnerable adults. This leaves only 23 pence for fire and rescue service, highways, waste management,

libraries and bus services and many other smaller services including county farms, trading standards, emergency planning and of course environmental issues

### Turning to Bardwell

This has been a very busy year in many ways! There was an unexpected crisis in July when Simonds buses announced huge cuts to bus services between Diss and Bury St Edmunds which left Bardwell with no buses at all. All credit to Bardwell Parish Council for hosting a meeting within a few days attended by almost 100 people. I am hugely grateful to Karen Whitton, vice chairman of your parish council, for chairing our urgent “save our buses” task force. I persuaded the county council to agree a short term rescue package and then in November our bid for funding a service for the next year was agreed. Re launching the services (70,70A, 73 and 73A) has not been straightforward with timetable adjustments made at the February half term. But Karen and the task force are working with Simonds and SCC to settle the service down. Moving forward we are now “support our buses” and will be working hard to increase daytime usage and possibly make a case for a Saturday service.

For some good news – as promised the county council have erected a new footbridge at Place Farm and we had a happy village celebration there in January. Highways have continued with maintenance, re-surfacing and drainage work. Your village school is one to be proud of and I am pleased to report continued liaison with SCC County Farms around their Bardwell land

Joanna Spicer

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2025

## **5.6 Dun Cow**

Kevin Bird appreciates the welcome received from residents. His niece, Polly, has now moved into the premises, and there are six family members involved in the business.

Significant investment has been made over the past year, including new commercial refrigeration, upgrades to the sports bar, refurbishment of the exterior, and the creation of a new rear garden seating area. Additional sound insulation has been installed, and noise levels are monitored during events to ensure compliance.

The pub has been well supported, serving 386 three-course meals over the Christmas period. Sunday lunches are regularly fully booked. The venue has also hosted four wedding receptions, a wine event, and will be hosting two afternoon tea events later today.

Approximately £2,000 has been raised for charity over the past year, with proceeds from Sunday quizzes supporting local causes and the wider community.

Mr Bird noted he also operates a building company and is willing to assist local organisations where possible.

The current tenancy is expected to continue for a period of five years.

## **7. Bardwell Parish Council: Plans for the Coming 12 Months**

**VE and VJ Day :** Bardwell will celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, with an event in the Tithe Barn.

The menu will include Sausage and Mash and a trio of deserts, Cake Cutting with a toast and live music. Tickets@£20 each will be available from the Dun Cow, Grumpy Goat and Bardwell Post Office.

The event is being organised by Cllr Witton.  
Volunteers are being sought to help set up on the day.

**Footpaths:** A small working party will be established to explore options for additional footpaths in and around the village.

**Speeding:** The Parish Council will continue to investigate measures to reduce speeding.

**Devolution:** The Council is closely monitoring the devolution process and is seeking to understand how a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk would be beneficial for residents. A formal consultation period is currently in progress and closes on 13th April.

**Community Events:** Cllr Berrill referred to several community events (not organised by the parish council) which will be taking place in the near future:

- *Cars on the Green*, where the PTA and Friends of Bardwell Church will jointly sell cash draw tickets, benefiting all three organisations (including Cars on the Green).
- The BPFA Funday will take place on 29th June at the playing field.

*Finally*, the Parish Council will explore participation in the *Best Kept Village* competition in 2026.

The meeting closed at 11.45am

## **GENERAL INFORMATION 2024**

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Church</u></b>            | <b>St Peter &amp; St Paul</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b><u>Address</u></b>           | Church Road, Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 1AH                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b><u>Benefice</u></b>          | Blackbourne                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b><u>Deanery</u></b>           | Ixworth                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b><u>Diocese</u></b>           | St Edmundsbury and Ipswich                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b><u>Stipendiaries</u></b>     | Revd. Dr Karen Burton, Team Rector<br>The Vicarage, Commister Lane, Ixworth IP31 2HE<br>Revd. Catriona Brinkley, Curate (until July 2024)<br>Glebe House, Blacksmith Lane, Barnham, Thetford, IP24 2NE |
| <b><u>Non-stipendiaries</u></b> | Revd. Lesley Norburn, Assistant Priest<br>Revd. Sue Nutt (PTO)<br>Revd. Tony Redman (PTO)<br>Revd. Jill Walker (PTO)                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Bankers</u></b>           | Lloyds TSB plc., Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds<br>CAF Bank, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent                                                                                                         |
| <b><u>Examiner</u></b>          | Dr Stephen P Mann, The Elms, 7 High Street, Ixworth, IP31 2HH                                                                                                                                          |

## **CHURCH INFORMATION**

### **Electoral Roll**

|                                                           |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Resident                                                  | 36 |
| Non-Resident                                              | 2  |
| Average weekly adult attendance (all services)            | 8  |
| Average weekly young persons attendance (normal services) | 0  |

### **The Parochial Church Council consists of all clergy listed above plus the following elected Lay Members**

|                  |                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Churchwardens    | Dinkie Williamson (Lay Elder)<br>Julia Steed |
| Ordinary Members | David Ray<br>Andrew Smith                    |
| Secretary        | Julia Steed                                  |
| Treasurer        | Malcolm Steed (not on the PCC)               |
| Deanery Synod    | Dinkie Williamson                            |

### **Aims and Objectives**

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility for the care of the Church building and churchyard and for cooperating with the Team Rector, all the Team Ministry in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

### **Committees of the PCC**

**Standing Committee:** This is required by law. It has power, subject to any directions given by the PCC, to transact the business of the PCC between meetings.

**Finance and Buildings Committee:** As its name implies, concerns itself with all financial matters and the care of the building and churchyard. It meets as business demands. All are members of the PCC.

None of the above committees met during 2024.

### **Associated Committees**

**Friends of Bardwell Church:** Encourages all members of the parish to support our Grade I listed church and its surroundings. Its constitution provides that its committee is a sub-committee of the PCC and its finances form part of the accounts, but it operates independently of the Fundraising Committee. Membership includes people not on the PCC.

## **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

This report will provide details of this past calendar year. As chair of the PCC, I am very grateful for the generous support and expertise provided by each member of this PCC, the clergy of our Blackbourne Team, especially Revd. Karen and Revd. Lesley and from the large number of volunteers who support our activities in a range of ways. We were grateful for the support of Revd. Catriona Brinkley whilst she served as Curate in our Benefice and wish her every blessing as she now serves as the Curate in Charge at St Mary's in Walsham le Willows. Thank you.

Dinkie Williamson,  
Chair of the PCC

### **Safeguarding**

Our church is committed to being a 'Safe' church. All PCC members, bell ringers and Messy Church helpers have completed the safeguarding training required for their roles.

### **Worship**

The church is open for worship and private prayer, every day, throughout the year. Our Rector, Karen, and the clergy team have continued to live stream Sunday services via Facebook at 9.30am (Holy Communion –a service which is also held in St Mary's Ixworth) each Sunday. A team of our clergy and Lay Elders have also continued to support Karen in leading daily services of Morning and Evening Prayer, through Facebook, at 9am and 8pm each day except Saturday evening and on Sundays.

#### **Sunday Services and worship:**

The pattern of services has continued as in the last few years: Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month (led by Assistant Priest Revd. Lesley Norburn) with Morning Worship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (co-led by Revd Lesley and Dinkie Williamson, Lay Elder). Attendance has slightly increased over the past year with people equally attending Communion services and Morning Prayer. A small number of our worshippers do enjoy attending the services at other churches in the Blackbourn Team on the weeks when Bardwell doesn't have a service. The special festival services (Easter, Remembrance, Christmas) were reasonably well attended. The majority of people attending are now over 70 years of age. We have few young families or younger adults attending. This is a concern. Home Communion was given to two residents throughout the year.

#### **From the Registers:**

We had three weddings and no baptisms this year.  
Three funerals were held in the Church.  
Ashes were interred for one resident.

#### **Ministry to Children:**

**Messy Church:** Numbers attending this have fallen again this year, in part due to the children's and families' other commitments on Saturdays. After discussion with Revd. Karen, we decided, mid-year, to temporarily pause them and restart in 2005 during school holidays, when midweek times are possible. I am ever grateful to Jill Harrison and Sam Elliot for their support and wonderfully creative and messy ideas!

#### **Bardwell CE Primary School:**

Michelle Boyd continues as Headteacher. Between them, Revd. Karen and the Foundation Governors (Revd Lesley and Dinkie) have led weekly Collective Worship services at the school. The school holds a Collective Worship in the Church in the first and last weeks of every term and on significant Christian festivals. In April, Parent Governor, Stefanie Inger resigned as Chair and Revd. Karen was formally appointed Chair of the SGC in September. The school received an excellent report at its SIAM's inspection in May. Two of the Inspector's comments were: 'Bardwell's refreshed Christian vision accurately capture the ethos of the school. Nurture and warmth are a striking feature of this caring school'. We are very grateful to Mrs Boyd and the staff for their hard work and for Revd. Karen who, at very short notice, took on the role of Acting Chair of the governing body for this inspection.

#### **Coffee Mornings:**

Coffee Mornings have been held monthly with a key focus of providing an opportunity for socialising. Between 10-15 people come and we have been pleased to welcome some new faces.

**The Porch Food Bank:** The food bank has continued all this year. Increasing donations of warm clothing and household goods were also being received and have been much appreciated. Unfortunately, this has led to occasional misuse where large amounts of inappropriate items have been left.

The PCC has continued to meet formally, every 8 weeks, to manage usual business.

Dinkie Williamson, Lay Elder

## **The Fabric**

The main project in 2024 was the cleaning, repair, and conservation work on 11 monuments in the chancel carried out by Aldis & May for which faculty approval was granted in January. This work started with the installation of scaffolding in the chancel in February, and the work was formally completed in October with the issue of the post-conservation report. The improvement to the chancel monuments was very pleasing and the PCC decided to get similar work done to two monuments in the nave while Aldis & May were on site. Faculty approval for this new work was granted in May. The work included the partial dismantling of one of the monuments (Cecilia Crofts 1626). When this was being done, part of a wall painting was found behind the monument tablet. This necessitated a specialist wall painting conservator's report, which Andrea Kirkham completed in July; this recommended some stabilisation work before the monument was re-built, subsequently approved by the Archdeacon. Aldis & May carried out his work as a pre-cursor to completing work on the monument in December. At the end of the year, there remained some outstanding work on the other nave monument, and the associated post-conservation report on both nave monuments. Work on the monuments has been supported financially by grants from the Alfred Williams Charitable Trust, the Bardwell Charity Trustees, the Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement, ChurchCare, the Friends of Bardwell Church, and the Leche Trust.

A multi-faceted faculty submitted in March 2023 was eventually approved in August 2024; this included plans for a new car park, disposal of surplus woodwork, and the removal of the oil boiler system. Work started on some of this in the later months of the year with the sale of the oil tank, and the removal of a yew tree stump in the new car park area. Also, during the year, lighting in the church was converted to LED, with the fitting of LED lamps in the nave, porch, and spiral staircase to replace CFL ones, LED tubes to replace fluorescent tubes in the tower, and the replacement of the chancel metal halide light fittings with LED floodlights.

The following specific routine maintenance and inspection work was carried out in 2024:

The bells were serviced in April;

The fire extinguishers were serviced in July;

Electrical portable appliance testing (PAT) (all items) was carried out in December.

We continue to be supported by, and very grateful to, the volunteers who continue to help look after the church. We are also very grateful to the cleaners and flower arrangers who do so much to make the interior of the church so welcoming.

## **Church Yard**

The contract for cutting and strimming the grass areas in the church yard was put to tender early in 2024 and the contract was awarded to Top's Garden Services which has carried out the work throughout 2024. There were two church yard work parties during which volunteers carried out some tidying and clearing long grass after the long-grass areas were cut in late September. This work, together with the grass-cutting, has kept the church yard looking generally tidy. We are grateful to the volunteers who continued to help to look after the church yard. In addition, as mentioned under 'Fabric' above, work started on preparing the new car parking area with the removal of an old yew tree stump.

There were two significant developments in manpower available for work at the church in 2024. Firstly, the village volunteer work parties that now meet once in most months, can be asked to assist with work at the church, and they helped twice in the year, once by spreading new shingle on part of the footpath through the church yard, and once by helping to bag and move cut long grass ready to transport to the tip. Secondly, the church has been allocated a maintenance plan by the Community Payback Service. Their team comes on a full day a month basis and started in October. This team has been helping with some of the tasks that might otherwise be undertaken by volunteer work parties. Sadly, only one or two offenders were available for the three sessions held in 2024 so what could be achieved was limited. Although the team is likely to contribute most effort outside the church, they can also be used inside when required and have already helped with cleaning and polishing the brasses.

Dave Ray, PCC Member

## **The Friends of Bardwell Church**

The Friends of Bardwell Church (FOBC) seek to raise funds and provide volunteer help with repairing, maintaining, and improving the church building and church yard.

The Friends ran a successful Safari Supper on 20 April which was a very enjoyable evening. Once again the Friends sold cash draw tickets at the Cars on the Green (COTG) event on 26 May in exchange for a share in the profits. We sold tickets both before the event, and on the day, thus helping to boost overall sales and also produce some useful income for the Friends.

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I would like to record my grateful thanks to the Friends committee, to the Friends members, to all those who organised, helped at, and supported our events and work parties over the year, and to those who subscribed to, or donated generously to, our funds – without all of you much less would have been achieved.

Dave Ray  
Chairman, Friends of Bardwell Church Committee

### **Bell Ringers Report**

The Blackburn Team looks after twelve churches and seven of them have ring able bells: Ixworth, Bardwell, Troston, Euston, Ingham, Great Livermere and Ampton. We are a team of ringers who collectively look after and ring at all the churches with bells in the group.

2024 was another successful year for the Bardwell bellringing team. We continue to support Sunday service ringing at Ixworth and Bardwell and, when possible, at Ingham, Troston and Great Livermere. Regular practices are held on Wednesday evenings with additional practices, outings and quarter peals to aid progression.

Two peals and 11 quarter peals were rung on the bells in 2024, almost all quarters were by our local band, including a first quarter peal for Wayne, one of our ringers.

Several of our new ringers were pleasingly elected as members of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers during the year. The band is lively and has a healthy age range. Marion Knight Dixon has taken on the role of Tower Correspondent and Martin Kirk the role of Treasurer. Everyone has completed the Basic Awareness Safeguarding training.

The bells and fittings are in good repair and in November the tenor rope was repaired.

Ruth Suggett (Tower Captain)

### **Ixworth Deanery Report**

The Deanery Synod met 3 times across this year: Tuesday 13th Feb 2024, Stanton; Weds 19th June, St Edmunds Station Church, RAF; Honington and Mon 11th Nov, Priory Room, Pakenham Church

The theme of the non-business part of the evenings was on Chaplaincies. Overall, we heard from three chaplains: Revd. Catriona, in February, in her role as chaplain to Honington Air Cadets. Secondly, on 19<sup>th</sup> June at RAF Honington, from RAF Chaplain, Revd (Sqn Ldr) Rachel Cook, who described her role and the many experiences of her ministry. Finally, in November, we heard from Revd Stephen Griffiths, Deputy Lead Chaplain, West Suffolk Hospital. He not only described the various parts of this ministry but also put out a plea for volunteers.

Other eve(nts in the Deanery were: Thursday 9th May Ascension Day – Pakenham, Mon 17th June, Admission of Churchwardens – Hopton and Sunday 17th November, Deanery Confirmation Service – at St Gregory's Barnham

Dinkie Williamson, Deanery Representative

### **Treasurer's Report**

As in previous years I would like to explain to anyone who is new to viewing church accounts, as well as a reminder to everyone else, that whilst the figures can sometimes appear quite healthy, a substantial proportion of the funds held, can only be used for specific purposes. I have therefore explained the difference between the 3 types of funds shown below:

**Unrestricted funds- General funds:** These are available for us to use for whatever purpose, without restriction

**Designated Funds:** These are funds the PCC has set aside for a specific purpose, and once designated cannot be used for another purpose, unless undesignated or redesignated for another purpose, by the PCC

**Restricted Funds:** These are funds whose purpose is specified by the donor or grantor and cannot be used for any other purpose, to do so would be illegal.

## **Receipts**

- **Interest and Investment Income**

We have increased interest earnings from £140.75 in 2023. to £243.05. We have no other Investments apart from the Tithe Barn (the PCC and the Diocese are the beneficial owners. A small annual ground rent is charged

- **Fundraising**

Through the continued efforts of a small group this area has continued to generate a further increase in funds this year, with particular reference to:

|                                                   |          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Tower Tours                                       | £ 126.20 |
| Suffolk Historic Churches Trust "Ride and Stride" | £ 820.50 |
| Christmas coffee morning with stalls.             | £ 275.30 |
| Coffee & Pancakes                                 | £ 629.90 |
| Funday proceeds                                   | £ 715.13 |

In total net of costs, funds raised amounted to £3591.56 (£4807.17 in 2023)

- **Donations**

We have received by way of donations £7208.82 being down on last years total of £9766.65 This also has the effect of reducing the amount of Gift Aid received. This is why making a regular donation to the church, can be so helpful, as even just a regular payment of £5 per month and by authorising us to reclaim gift aid from HMRC, (subject to being a UK taxpayer who qualifies) this would increase this donation value to £6.25, (or a £20 donation to £25). The importance and benefit derived from a regular donation provides us with an element of certainty of income, making it easier to plan, and allowing any larger one-off donations to be used on specific projects.

- **Grants**

The following grants have been received this year: all provided to assist in the conservation, repair and restoration of 11 chancel monuments and 2 Nave monuments.

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| The Leche Trust                  | £3000 |
| Friends of Bardwell Church       | £4000 |
| Alfred Williams Charitable Trust | £1000 |
| Belstead Ganzoni Trust           | £1000 |
| ChurchCare Trust                 | £4000 |

Bardwell Charities also provided £4,000 (received in 2023).

These grants are all gratefully received and we wish to thank the respective trusts for their assistance, without which the project to renovate and restore the monuments would not have been able to proceed

Additionally, for the fourth year running, Bardwell Parish Council provided a grant of £1200 towards the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard which is also greatly appreciated.

- **Gift Aid**

By being able to reclaim tax from the HMRC in relation to UK qualifying donors through Gift Aid, together with Gift Aid Smaller Donations scheme (GASDS) can make a significant difference to the amount of income that the church can benefit from. If the original donation is "restricted" for a particular purpose, then the Gift aid reclaimed is also restricted.

- **Friends of Bardwell Church (FOBC)**

The Friends of Bardwell Church raise funds to help with the cost of repairing, maintaining, or improving the church building and the churchyard. Full details of their activities is shown earlier in this document.

The FOBC was set up as a sub-committee of the PCC and whilst funds raised are not held directly by the PCC, these funds can only be used for Bardwell church and churchyard as per their constitution. They are therefore classed and shown as "restricted" funds, as the FOBC committee control when funds are released, and for what purpose.

## **Payments**

- **Parish Share**

In 2024 Bardwell paid £6000 being an increase of £500 over 2023, to the Diocese towards the Parish Share as it is only through contributing to the Diocese and wider church that the PCC can show its commitment to maintaining a Rector at Bardwell in the Blackbourne Benefice.

## **Insurances**

Being a Grade 1 listed building, the church is regarded as a building of exceptional interest, and of the highest significance, However, that puts an additional responsibility on the PCC to ensure the building is adequately maintained and insured. £1942 was the cost of insurance this year until renewal in October 2025  
The maintenance of this building is further complicated by the residency of bats, a protected species, which cannot be removed.

- **Utilities**

This figure has increased further due to the cost-of-living price rises which together with the a full year of water charges however are not that far from the level expected. We are fortunate that we have a 3-year Fixed Price Energy Plan which fixes the unit rate charged for electricity until April 2025 and is currently being negotiated.

*We now have a range of ways to donate to the work of Bardwell church: 'Cash in plate on service days', Blue envelopes in the pews where donations that can be gift aided.*

*Using our webpage -[www.bardwellchurch.org](http://www.bardwellchurch.org) - where online payments can be made via 'Give a Little' Log on to My PGS - Parish Giving Scheme - where regular payments to our church can be set up  
NEW – make a card donation via our CollecTin device, which can be accessed every day in the church building and make a contactless donation in seconds.*

It is through your support of the fundraising events and the funds you donate, together with the efforts of the PCC to stage these events, whilst controlling costs, that enable the PCC to support the maintenance and ministry of Bardwell Church. In addition to the Sunday services, monthly Coffee mornings and "Messy church", our Assistant Priest and Lay Elder offer communion to those unable to attend church and make Pastoral visits, as needed.

Our church has strong links with Bardwell School. Two members of our PCC are very active Foundation Governors at the school and take weekly services there.

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank you, and the hardworking volunteers who organise and run these events, for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you!

Malcolm Steed, PCC Treasurer

## **Other Interests of the PCC:**

The Tithe Barn

The PCC, with the Diocese, is the beneficial owner of the Bardwell Village Hall (the Tithe Barn) and has granted a lease to the Tithe Barn Committee for a small annual ground rent, which may be subject to periodic review as specified in the lease. The PCC reserves, in the lease, rights of use without charge under certain circumstances.

## **Other Responsibilities of Church Members**

**The Rector and Churchwardens** are, *ex officio*, trustees of the three Bardwell Charities.

**The Rector and Churchwardens** are, *ex officio*, managing trustees of Bardwell School and House (currently 'leased' to the Tilian Academy).

**Dinkie Williamson** (Churchwarden and Lay Elder) is the PCC's appointed member of the School Governance Committee of Bardwell CE Primary School, acting, locally, as a 'Foundation Governor'.

**Andrew Smith** (PCC member) represents the PCC on the Tithe Barn Committee

**Dave Ray** (PCC member) is the elected Chairman of Friends of Bardwell Church.

**Lay Chairman, Dinkie Williamson**  
**March 2025, On behalf of the PCC**

**Parochial Church Council of Bardwell**  
**Analysis of income and expenditure**  
**Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

|                                                    | General          | Designated | Restricted       | Endowment | Total            |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
|                                                    |                  |            |                  |           | This year        | Last year        |
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>                 |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| <b>Donations and legacies</b>                      |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 1 - Regular Giving                                 | 3,334.82         | -          | 90.00            | -         | 3,424.82         | 3,654.07         |
| 3 - Collections at Services                        | 363.00           | -          | -                | -         | 363.00           | 570.76           |
| 4 - All other recurring & one off Giving/Donations | 2,171.36         | -          | 1,250.16         | -         | 3,421.52         | 3,119.60         |
| 6 - Gift Aid recovered                             | 1,566.03         | -          | 166.25           | -         | 1,732.28         | 1,649.84         |
| 7 - Legacies                                       | -                | -          | -                | -         | -                | -                |
| <b>Donations and legacies Totals</b>               | <b>7,435.21</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>1,506.41</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>8,941.62</b>  | <b>8,994.27</b>  |
| <b>Income from charitable activities</b>           |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 9 - Fundraising gross income                       | 3,590.96         | -          | 3,480.82         | -         | 7,071.78         | 8,331.16         |
| <b>Income from charitable activities Totals</b>    | <b>3,590.96</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>3,480.82</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>7,071.78</b>  | <b>8,331.16</b>  |
| <b>Other trading activities</b>                    |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 11 - PCC Fees                                      | 3,216.80         | -          | -                | -         | 3,216.80         | 2,474.00         |
| 12 - Trading Income                                | 67.21            | -          | -                | -         | 67.21            | 705.31           |
| <b>Other trading activities Totals</b>             | <b>3,284.01</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>  | <b>3,284.01</b>  | <b>3,179.31</b>  |
| <b>Investments</b>                                 |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 10 - Property, Investment Interest Income          | 313.05           | -          | -                | -         | 313.05           | 280.75           |
| <b>Investments Totals</b>                          | <b>313.05</b>    | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>  | <b>313.05</b>    | <b>280.75</b>    |
| <b>Other income</b>                                |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 13 - Other Income                                  | -                | -          | -                | -         | -                | 436.71           |
| 8 - Grants recurring and non recurring             | 2,997.00         | -          | 14,200.00        | -         | 17,197.00        | 5,200.00         |
| <b>Other income Totals</b>                         | <b>2,997.00</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>14,200.00</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>17,197.00</b> | <b>5,636.71</b>  |
| <b>Income and endowments Grand totals</b>          | <b>17,620.23</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>19,187.23</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>36,807.46</b> | <b>26,422.20</b> |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                             |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| <b>Raising funds</b>                               |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 17 - Fundraising costs                             | 171.16           | -          | -                | -         | 171.16           | 1,046.02         |
| <b>Raising funds Totals</b>                        | <b>171.16</b>    | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>  | <b>171.16</b>    | <b>1,046.02</b>  |
| <b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>        |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 18 - Mission Giving, Charitable Grants /Donations  | -                | -          | -                | -         | -                | 260.50           |
| 22 - Mission/Evangelism costs                      | -                | -          | -                | -         | -                | -                |
| <b>Expenditure on charitable activities Totals</b> | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>         | <b>260.50</b>    |
| <b>Other expenditure</b>                           |                  |            |                  |           |                  |                  |
| 19 - Parish Share                                  | 6,000.00         | -          | -                | -         | 6,000.00         | 6,200.00         |

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|                                                    | General          | Designated | Restricted      | Endowment | Total            |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
|                                                    |                  |            |                 |           | This year        | Last year        |
| 20 - Salaries/Honoraria                            | -                | -          | -               | -         | -                | 710.00           |
| 21 - Clergy Expenses                               | 2,020.80         | -          | -               | -         | 2,020.80         | 1,510.00         |
| 23 - Regular running expenses                      | 5,369.32         | -          | 594.82          | -         | 5,964.14         | 5,139.85         |
| 24 - Utility bills                                 | 533.98           | -          | -               | -         | 533.98           | 455.43           |
| 25 - Trading costs                                 | -                | -          | -               | -         | -                | 155.40           |
| 27 - Major repairs/ redecoration of church         | 18,158.67        | -          | 4,603.33        | -         | 22,762.00        | 200.00           |
| 28 - Majorrepairs /redecoraton of church property  | -                | -          | -               | -         | -                | -                |
| 29 - New Building work                             | 200.00           | -          | -               | -         | 200.00           | -                |
| 99 - Other Payments/Expenditure not already listed | -                | -          | -               | -         | -                | -                |
| <b>Other expenditure Totals</b>                    | <b>32,282.77</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>5,198.15</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>37,480.92</b> | <b>14,370.68</b> |
| <b>Expenditure Grand totals</b>                    | <b>32,453.93</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>5,198.15</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>37,652.08</b> | <b>15,677.20</b> |

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bardwell Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bardwell Parochial Church Council (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Mike Dowson

Relevant qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: Old West Stables, Bury Road, Barnham, IP24 2PL

Date:

25.1.25