

Residents are invited to attend the Bardwell Annual Village Meeting

Date: Saturday 11th April 2026 Time: 9:30am

Venue: The Tithe Barn, Bardwell Village Hall, Up Street, Bardwell IP31 1AA

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair, Cllr David Ruffles
2. To receive apologies for absence: Andrew Seddon, James Fletcher
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2025
4. David Ruffles, Chairman, Bardwell Parish Council: Achievements 2025/26
5. To receive a selection of short presentations and question-and-answer sessions from the following locally organisations and businesses:
 - 5.1 Goat Café
 - 5.2 Simon Kelly, Chair, Bardwell Sports & Community Club
 - 5.3 Dave Ray, Friends of Bardwell Church
 - 5.4 Ali Compton, Community Speed Watch
 - 5.5 Sarah-Jane Clarke, Better Recycling, West Suffolk Council
 - 5.6 Mike Jones, Ixworth Youth Club
6. To note, written reports from the following village organisations are available to read online at bardwell-pc.gov.uk.
Any other village organisations wishing to submit a report are welcome to do so. Please submit details by 7th April to: clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk
 - 6.1 Bardwell Charity Trustees
 - 6.2 Bardwell Parochial Church Council
 - 6.3 Bardwell Village Hall Committee
 - 6.4 Support Our Buses Task Force
 - 6.5 Bardwell Volunteer Work Party
 - 6.6 Footpaths Working Group
7. Bardwell Parish Council: Cllrs Karen Witton and Cllr Margaret Berrill - Plans for the coming year.
8. Questions or matters for discussion on any other parish related matters, invited from members of the public.

In the hall there will also be displays by the West Suffolk Council Better Recycling Team, and Bardwell Village News.

Tea, coffee and informal conversation will conclude the event.

Agenda issued: 29th March 2026
V2. Updated 10 April 2026
Cllr David Ruffles, Chairman
david.ruffles@bardwell-pc.gov.uk
Bardwell Parish Council

Written reports received for the Bardwell Annual Village Meeting Saturday 11th April 2026

5.1 Bardwell Charities Annual Report - March 2026

During 2025 the Relief In Need Charity was able to provide immediate emergency funding to several families living in the parish

During the summer we provided supporting grants to a number of University students, struggling with the high cost of necessary expenses when taking up their further education.

In the autumn we responded to an appeal from Bardwell Primary School who were looking to improve and update their library, especially for the early intake children. A grant was provided and we recently received confirmation that the library is up and running. It was very rewarding to receive thank you letters from the children.

Stocks Fair decided not to visit Bardwell last year and we've not been approached for this year either. It would seem they've found pastures new for their fairground.

A survey of all the trees on the Green was completed, following which some remedial work was undertaken to remove a dead Willow, and a drooping bough from a tree next to Booty Hall.

The wood from the Willow tree was left for the use of residents to use for their heating needs.

The Green held up well last summer and has been improved with the aid of the Village Work party, planting hundreds of bulbs. Our thanks go to Karen Witton and her team of willing volunteers for all their hard work. There are plans to plant some more trees at the back of the Green, next to the long ditch.

Barry Felton (Chair)

The Bardwell Charities

25th March 2026

5.2 Bardwell Parochial Church Council

Annual report available: Please visit the Bardwell church website at www.bardwellchurch.org

5.3 Bardwell Village Hall Committee

TITHE BARN AGM 2026 11 March 2026

Hello all, and welcome to this AGM. I'm starting by thanking this committee for their ongoing support to the upkeep of this wonderful village hall and special thanks goes to Tony Stokes for all his endeavors in getting us grants for the warm space and sorting out many other administrative challenges.

There has been a lot of effort gaining quotes and deciding the way forward for completing the improvements. It was decided that the demolition of the shed and its replacement would be funded out of the Tithe Barn coffers.

So last week the shed was demolished, thank you to all those who helped to empty it and to Paul Almond and his sons who demolished it. Hopefully work will start soon on its replacement. We have a new Project Manager who has taken on this from Karl Ives who cannot continue due to his full-time job away from Bardwell. Thank you for all his inputs and welcome to Tony Reeder who has already imparted many good ideas for the way forward. The work commencing shortly on the new shed will

keep our planning permission for all the forthcoming projects. Once quotes have been accepted then grants can be sought by our grant-getter.

Other works services completed were the servicing of the emergency lights and check and testing of the Fire Alarm system. Portable appliance testing was also carried out, thank you to Dave Ray for organizing this. Electrical work was required on the red bulb warning system where two connectors had blown, and a faulty time switch had to be replaced which served two double electrical sockets. There is work required on part of the roof adjacent to the bottle bank which has fallen off. A contractor has been found who is willing to take this on.

The new ladies toilet pans are a great improvement and hopefully will remain when the toilets are improved.

We will be losing the bottle bank money from 2029 so that will be a big loss to our income. Tony with some help from Karen has managed to obtain two further grants for our safe space coffee mornings, thank you for that. Thanks also go to all those who help make this a success and to Jerry and Mazz who no longer help but thanks for their past help. We had a visit from the council who were very impressed and pleased to see what we were doing and to the continued support for the people who attend. They were pleased that the grant money was being used to support this local community.

The Table Tennis club is a great success achieving around £520 a year and this is their 3rd year. Thanks to all who attend this every Thursday evening.

The 200 Club has been refreshed, thanks to Karen and Julia for overhauling the system, streamlining it and making payments easier for its contributors. Thanks to the collectors too for their continued support.

The booking system has seen some teething problems but thanks to Tony most have been resolved and it is performing well.

We have increased the cost of the Tokens for the electric heaters from £2 to £3.

We entertained the Common Ground Theatre group again which was a great success and made us much welcomed cash from part of the gate takings, the bar and raffle sales, thanks to Andrew for organizing this and to Edna for doing the raffle.

The Tithe Barn was opened up at 08.00 for the Cars On The Green Day and through lots of hard work and many wonderful cake donations we made over £1000. We will be participating again this May too. Thank you to those who worked all day in achieving this result and to those who contributed cakes: we will be asking again for donations for this year's coming event.

Our wonderful scrubbers must be thanked for their work every Monday morning and to Marion and Phil for their continued support in issuing the key and helping advertise and sell tickets to our events, thank you both.

Kevin and his staff at the Dun Cow are helping and supporting this barn and raised £300 from a quiz night for our coffers, thank you all for all you do.

I would also like to thank Bob Bowman for his hard work in keeping the outside barn area free from weeds and cutting the grass out the front, thank you Bob.

Finally thank you to Barry Felton for auditing our books, it's much appreciated.

James Fletcher, Chairman

Village Hall AGM Report.

11th March 2026

5.4 BUSES TASK FORCE - support our buses

Maintaining a bus service through Bardwell (and many local villages) remains work in progress. It is still the case that the bus service is only commercially viable WITH Suffolk County Council financial support. The current funding will be exhausted 31st December 2026. We continue to have positive and constructive discussions with Suffolk County Council and we remain hopeful that there will be continued funding into 2027 and beyond. This funding cannot be guaranteed indefinitely and we as a village need to use the bus AS MUCH AS WE CAN. Our longer term goal is to make the bus service financially viable without subsidies or with much reduced subsidies. In a nutshell the more we use the bus the more chance we have of a continuing service. My ask is twofold

1. Make a determined effort to use the service
2. Let us know any thoughts - good or not so good. We always have the chance to make changes and if changes will increase use then that is good news.

Thank you.

Karen Witton, Chair

Support our Buses

5.5 BARDWELL VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteers group continues to increase in numbers and in this 3rd year we have in excess of 40 villagers who turn out to undertake numerous tasks. the masses of bulbs have been planted over the last 2 years and complement the bulbs individuals had planted before. This will continue over the coming years. I would like to thank the kind individuals who donated money for bulbs as well as the Bardwell Charity Trustees for allowing us to plant hundreds of bulbs on the Green.

Bardwell village has embraced the Self Help Scheme as supported by Suffolk County Council and this enables us to get much more maintenance completed around the village. In addition the new village gateways are often commented on and they are a lovely welcome to our village.

We have been working on the Low street bank for the past 2 years and the fruits of those labours are now evident - it should now develop into a colourful bank and I have certainly enjoyed the colour from the bulbs starting in Jan with the snowdrops and aconites.

There is always ongoing work to be done from litter picking to ditch and drain clearances, leaf clearing, edging pavements, cutting hedges and trees - the list can be endless and it is thanks to our team of volunteers that this gets done. I would like to record our grateful thanks for everyone who have given their time for the good of Bardwell. This has been over 1000 hours so far. THANK YOU one and all

Karen Witton, Coordinator Bardwell Village Volunteers

The Diocese of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich



**Annual Report
and
Summary of Accounts**

of the Parochial Church Council of

Saint Peter and St Paul, Bardwell,
Suffolk

For the year ended 31 December 2025

GENERAL INFORMATION 2025

<u>Church</u>	St Peter & St Paul
<u>Address</u>	Church Road, Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 1AH
<u>Benefice</u>	Blackbourne Team
<u>Deanery</u>	Ixworth
<u>Diocese</u>	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
<u>Stipendiaries</u>	Revd. Dr Karen Burton, Team Rector The Vicarage, Commister Lane, Ixworth IP31 2H
<u>Non-stipendiaries</u>	Revd. Lesley Norburn, Associate Priest Revd. Sue Nutt (PTO) Revd. Tony Redman (PTO) Revd Jill Walker. (PTO)
<u>Bankers</u>	Lloyds Bank, Branch Bury St Edmunds Address to write to: PO Box 1000, Andover, Kent, BX1 1LT CAF Bank, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent
<u>Examiner</u>	Mike Dowson, Old West Stables, Bury Road, Barnham, IP24 2PL

CHURCH INFORMATION

Electoral Roll

Resident	34
Non-Resident	0
Average weekly adult attendance (all services)	11
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) Julia Steed
Ordinary Members	David Ray 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 2025.

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.

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 required expected for their roles.

Worship

The church is open for worship and private prayer, every day, throughout the year.

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 Associate Priest Revd. Lesley) with Morning Worship on the 3rd Sunday (co-led by Revd Lesley and Dinkie, 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 Blackbourne Team on the weeks when Bardwell doesn't have a service. The special festival services (Easter, Remembrance, Christmas) were well attended, with a significant increase in the number attending the Crib service on Christmas eve. The majority of people attending are now over 70 years of age although we are seeing more families coming to Messy Church.

In 2026 we plan to review the Morning Worship service on the 3rd Sunday of a month to make it more accessible and 'family friendly'.

Home Communion was given to three residents throughout the year.

The Blackbourne Team Ministry continues to live stream daily services of Morning and Evening Prayer through Facebook, at 9am and 8pm each day except Saturday evening and on Sundays. St Mary's Ixworth church also live streams their weekly service of Holy Communion

From the Registers:

4 weddings

No Baptisms

1 Funeral

1 Interment of Ashes

Ministry to Children:

Messy Church attendance has steadily improved since the summer when a Messy Church stall was held at the Village Fun Day. It is held about every six weeks and the model of holding a Messy Church in school holidays has proved to be popular. We have been further encouraged by the improved links with Bardwell School. Gifts, both financial and in substance, have been received from a few residents which have been a bonus to our creativity! We had a change of key helpers when Sam Elliot moved from Bardwell in the late summer. We are very grateful to Sam and she is much missed. However, seamlessly and wonderfully, Donna Bluett, another resident and mother of a young daughter, has stepped into Sam's shoes. I am very grateful to Jill Harrison, Sam and Donna for their support and wonderfully creative, messy ideas!

Bardwell CE Primary School:

Michelle Boyd resigned as Headteacher and left at the end of the summer term. Kelly Mayhew-Frost has been appointed as an Interim Headteacher for this academic year. As noted above, Mrs Frost is very keen to strengthen links with Bardwell Church and the church community. Between Revd. Karen and the Foundation Governors (Revd Lesley and Dinkie) weekly Collective Worship services have been held 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. Revd. Karen continues as Chair of the School Governing Committee.

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. In 2026 we are planning to return to holding some of the monthly coffee mornings in people's homes, particularly in the colder months, when homes would be more welcoming than the very cold church. Home coffee mornings stopped in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

The Porch Food Bank:

The food bank has continued all this year. Increasing donations of warm clothing and household goods have been received and have been much appreciated by the Meet 'n' Eat centre in Thetford.

The PCC has continued to meet formally, every 8 weeks, to manage usual business. In 2026 we plan to try to make these meetings more efficient by holding a Finance and Buildings meeting before the PCC to enable more time for discussion of all ministry, finance and fabric issues

Dinkie Williamson, Lay Elder

The Fabric

At the end of 2024, the project to clean, repair, and conserve 11 monuments in the chancel had been completed, but there was still some work outstanding on similar work on 2 nave monuments, in particular the replacement of the cross on the 'Clough' memorial, and the post-conservation report on both nave monuments. Sadly, efforts to contact the contractor, Aldis & May, were unsuccessful and we learned that the firm had been struck off the Companies House register in May 25. At the end of the year we had still not heard from them, nor had there been any progress with completing the outstanding work, although the company had applied to be restored to the Companies House register in Sep 25, and is now listed as active.

Following preliminary work on the new car park in the churchyard in 2024, work was completed in 2025, with the completion of the preparation work on the surface (laying of turf, minor levelling work, and compacting) laying of the 'Grassmat' reinforcing matting and the bounding of oak sleepers.

The following specific routine maintenance, repair, upgrade, and inspection work was carried out by contractors in 2025:

The sound system was upgraded in Apr 25;

The 4 year check of the lightning conductor, and necessary remedial work, was carried out in May 25;

The 5 year electrical wiring check was carried out in Jun 25;

The fire extinguishers were serviced in Jul 25;

The clock was serviced and repaired in Oct 25;

Electrical portable appliance testing (PAT) (high risk items) was due to be carried out in Dec 25, but due to contractor availability this was deferred until the New Year.

The Community Payback team attended on 11 occasions during the year. Most of their effort was devoted to work in the churchyard (see below), but they did carry out a few tasks both inside the church and on its exterior, including cleaning, oiling of some woodwork, and clearing gulleys.

Volunteers have replaced a CCTV camera and some camera power supplies, and repaired 'galebreaker' mesh in the old belfry which had fallen down.

Looking forward, we hope to restore and conserve two important C18th paintings in the church: the Royal Coat of Arms of King George II, and the hatchment for Charles Crofts Reade, died 1720, and initial planning work for this project was carried out late in 2025.

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

Cutting and strimming the grass areas in the church yard has continued to be carried out by Top's Garden Services throughout 2025.

The Community Payback team has continued to carry out tasks during their 11 visits in 2025, mainly in the churchyard. The team carried out most of the work on the new car park, including cutting and laying turf to level the ground, laying the 'Grassmat' grass reinforcement matting, and fixing the oak sleepers in position. Other tasks have included painting railings on fences and around graves, installing 2 'Tommy' figures, cutting ivy from a boundary wall and some trees, clearing earth piled up against a boundary wall, planting some sprigs, and clearing branches and other green waste.

Volunteers have installed Commonwealth War Graves Commission signs, replaced posts on one of the notice boards, and have carried out minor tree work, mainly to crown lift trees to provide better access to graves under their canopies.

This work, together with the grass-cutting, has kept the church yard looking generally tidy. We are grateful to the volunteers and to the Community Payback team who continued to help with this work.

Looking forward, we hope to repair at least some of the churchyard walls in 2026, and some early preparatory and planning work was carried out towards the end of 2025

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 churchyard. 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 5 April 2025 which was as usual a very enjoyable evening. The Friends again sold cash draw tickets at the Cars on the Green (COTG) event on 25 May 2025 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.

For the first time since 2019 the Friends ran an Open Gardens event on 15 June 2025. This was very successful with a record number of visitors (220): the gardens and both refreshment points (in the Church and in the Tithe Barn) were kept busy throughout the afternoon. A record amount (for an Open Gardens event) was made for Friends' funds.

At short notice, the Dun Cow proprietors kindly offered to run a Quiz Night in the pub on 21 September in aid of Friends' funds. The Friends entered 3 teams (none of whom won), gained 2 new members, and raised a useful sum. We are very grateful to Polly and Kevin for this event.

Our main event in 2025, both in terms of effort and return, was the 'Twentieth Century Songbook' concert in the church on 25 October. We are very grateful to Chris Ingham and Joanna Eden for kindly performing yet another concert. The Friends arranged the promotion of the event, the ticket sales, two bars, and all the other organisation. It was a very enjoyable evening, and a very useful sum was made for Friends funds.

During the year, the Friends provided £1225 towards the cost of the new car park in the churchyard. The need for physical help in the church and churchyard was reduced significantly during the year because most of the tasks needed were carried out by a Community Payback team which has visited once a month on most months during the year. Thus Friends' assistance has been limited to one or two people helping out with relatively small tasks such as taking green waste to the tip, and using a vibrating roller to prepare the ground for the new car park. Other assistance has been provided by Friends helping to man the church for the two Heritage weekends in September, and two tower open days during the year.

The Friends committee met five times during the year (in addition to the AGM). The committee was boosted by two new members at the AGM in March and one more during the year, and we are grateful to have these new members. Sadly our long-standing Vice Chairman and former Chairman, Andrew Smith, resigned from the committee. We are grateful and thank him for his past major contributions, and we are delighted that he has agreed to continue as the Friends' Treasurer.

As Chairman, 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.

We look forward to the challenges that 2026 will bring, which is the 20th year since the founding of the Friends in 2006.

Dave Ray
Chairman, Friends of Bardwell Church Committee

Bell Ringers Report

The Blackbourne Team looks after twelve churches and seven of them have ringable 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.

In 2025 the bellringing team supported Sunday service ringing at Ixworth and Bardwell and, when possible, at Ingham, Troston and Great Livermere. Regular practices continue to be held on Wednesday evenings with additional practices, outings and quarter peals to aid progression.

No peals were rung in 2025, and 10 quarter peals were rung by our local band. We have had no new recruits but we have supported a newly-formed band at Fornham St Martin. We are all members of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers and everyone has completed the Basic Awareness Safeguarding training, and the Tower Captain and another teacher have both completed Foundation and Leadership training.

The bells and fittings are in good repair. Several ropes have been repaired throughout the course of the year funded by donations to the Bell Fund. The bells will be serviced in the next few months.

Ruth Suggett (Tower Captain)

Ixworth Deanery Report

The Deanery Synod met 3 times across this year: 11th February 2025, Pakenham Church; 18th June, Stanton Church and 10th November, Ingham Church

In February, Revd Sarah Quantrill, Mission Enabler spoke on rural Mission; in June the theme focussed on Mission in the countryside: home grown mission, when each Benefice was invited to share two things happening in their areas, and in November the topic was Farming and the Church when three local farmers spoke of their connections and collaborations with the local church.

Other events in the Deanery were: Thursday 29th May Ascension Day, Mon 23rd June , Admission of Churchwardens, 19th October, Deanery Confirmation Service – at St Mary's Pakenham

Dinkie Williamson, Deanery Representative

Treasurer's Report

As in previous years I would like to start by explaining 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**

Interest earnings from bank balances dropped slightly from £243.05 in 2024. to £223.15. 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	£ 255.53
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust "Ride and Stride" **	£ 812.50
Christmas Coffee Morning with stalls.	£ 822.80
Coffee & Pancakes	£ 354.00
Funday proceeds	£ 714.06

In total net of costs, gross funds raised amounted to £4,083.77 (£3,591.56 in 2024)

** In total our cyclists raised £1,625, 50% going to SHCT and 50% being given to the place of worship nominated by the participant

- **Donations**

We have received by way of donations £8,454 being slightly up on last year's total of £7,208. The amount we receive from donations also affects the amount we can claim from HMRC via the Gift Aid scheme. 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:

Bardwell Parish Council	£1,200 to assist with grass cutting costs
The Suffolk County Council	£ 500 towards upgrading sound system

Bardwell Charities	£ 500	towards upgrading sound system
West Suffolk Council locality budget	£ 500	towards upgrading sound system
Church Care (Church Buildings Council)	£ 650	re monuments work (wall painting report)
Havebury Community Investment grant	£1,500	towards car park area being created
Friends of Bardwell Church	£1,225	towards creation of car park area
Bardwell Parish Council	£ 100	towards faculty costs re "Tommy" figures

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

As shown above, for the fifth-year running, Bardwell Parish Council provided a grant of £1,200 towards the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard which is greatly appreciated. This grant was originally approved for a five-year period which has now expired. As this is one the larger items we cover, we have approached the Parish Council to see if they are able to assist with this cost going forward

- **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 are shown earlier in this document.

The FOBC was set up as a subcommittee 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 2025 Bardwell paid £6,000 plus voluntarily, an additional amount of £750. This is an increase of £750 over 2024, 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.

- **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, £1986 was the cost of insurance this year until renewal in October 2026

The maintenance of this building is further complicated by the residency of bats, who are a protected species, and cannot be removed.

- **Utilities**

This figure has increased by just over £100 this year to £640 However we have renegotiated a 3-year Fixed Price Energy Plan which fixes the unit rate charged for electricity until April 2028.

- **Donations made**

In November £189.67 was raised at our Remembrance Service for the Royal British Legion and at our Carol Service £168 for YANA.

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 - 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
- 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 Rev Lesley and Lay Elder Dinkie Williamson offer communion to those unable to attend church and both make Pastoral visits, as needed. Our Church has strong links with Bardwell School. Two members of our PCC are active Foundation Governors at the school and take weekly services at the school and in the Church.

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.

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 Co-chair and 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 2024
On behalf of the PCC

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 2025.

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

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

Date: 27.1.26

Parochial Church Council of Bardwell
Sofa Separate Designated
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	8,223.06	-	1,850.79	10,073.85	8,941.62
Income from charitable activities	7,759.02	-	-	7,759.02	7,071.78
Other trading activities	3,085.78	-	90.00	3,175.78	3,284.01
Investments	223.15	-	-	223.15	313.05
Other income	1,300.00	-	4,875.00	6,175.00	17,197.00
Total income	20,591.01	-	6,815.79	27,406.80	36,807.46
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	127.63	-	-	127.63	171.16
Expenditure on charitable activities	327.65	-	-	327.65	-
Other expenditure	19,149.30	-	1,705.15	20,854.45	37,480.92
Total expenditure	19,604.58	-	1,705.15	21,309.73	37,652.08
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	986.43	-	5,110.64	6,097.07	(844.62)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,049.60	5,000.00	5,030.00	12,079.60	66,538.97
Gross transfers between funds - out	(4,940.00)	-	(7,139.60)	(12,079.60)	(66,538.97)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(1,903.97)	5,000.00	3,001.04	6,097.07	(844.62)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	17,680.36	3,730.07	11,253.67	32,664.10	33,508.72
Total funds carried forward	15,776.39	8,730.07	14,254.71	38,761.17	32,664.10
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General Fund	15,776.39	-	-	15,776.39	17,680.36
Designated					
Building Development & Repair Project	-	3,730.07	-	3,730.07	3,730.07
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Major Repairs/Redecoration To Church	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	-
Restricted					
Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-
Bells	-	-	479.24	479.24	237.99
Building Development & Repair Project	-	-	278.38	278.38	278.38
Buildings	-	-	3,246.54	3,246.54	1,752.15
Buildings - Monuments	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings - Wall	-	-	-	-	-
Churchyard - France Re Nellie Ward	-	-	297.00	297.00	207.00
Churchyard- Grasscutting	-	-	840.00	840.00	1,200.00
Clergy Expenses	-	-	110.00	110.00	110.00
Clock	-	-	35.00	35.00	35.00
DBF Fees	-	-	242.00	242.00	332.00
Flower Festival	-	-	-	-	-
Friends Of Bardwell	-	-	6,774.91	6,774.91	6,774.91
Grants	-	-	1,625.40	1,625.40	-
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve(Restricted)	-	-	-	-	-
School House Charity Fund	-	-	326.24	326.24	326.24

Parochial Church Council of Bardwell

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets		
101: Lloyds Bank plc Current account	2,051.93	1,999.90
102: Lloyds Bank plc Savings account	25,709.05	23,739.29
103: Cash	150.00	150.00
104: Friends of Bardwell Church	10,850.19	6,774.91
Total Current assets	38,761.17	32,664.10
Liabilities		
6699: Agency collections	-	-
Total Liabilities	-	-
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	38,761.17	32,664.10
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit) to date	6,097.07	(844.62)
Z01: Starting balances	32,664.10	33,508.72
Total Reserves	38,761.17	32,664.10

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	15,776.39	17,680.36
Designated	8,730.07	3,730.07
Restricted	14,254.71	11,253.67
Total	38,761.17	32,664.10

[Signature]

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