## Annual Report for the Parish of Reedham

**PCC Annual Report for 2024**

**Background** The Parochial Church Council for St John the Baptist, Reedham has the responsibility of planning with the incumbent the whole task of the church in its caring, witnessing, social and ecumenical work. The responsibility includes the maintenance of the church building and churchyard. The Reedham Parish Council has until this year arranged and funds regular mowing of the church yard.

**Membership** Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

* Incumbent: The Reverend Martin Greenland
* Wardens: Mrs Kathleen Cowen (Secretary of PCC); Mr Jonathan Lonsdale (Vice Chairman of PCC)
* Deanery Synod Rep: Mr Nicholas Cowen (Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod)
* Elected Members:-
  + Mrs Diana Gilder (Safeguarding Officer)
  + Mrs Rachel Holt (Electoral Roll Officer)
  + Mrs Charlotte Lonsdale (Treasurer)

**Report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2024**

The PCC held meetings in 2024 on 25th January, 21st March, 12th May, 4th July, 12th September and 14th October. Attendance overall was good, and several of the meeting took place via Zoom because of health issues or other problems.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens took place on 24th March and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 12th May.

There were 12 Services of Holy Communion (including a Joint Service with Freethorpe Churches Together) and 17 Services of Morning Prayer. There was also an Ash Wednesday Evening Prayer with Ashing, a Christingle Service and Crib Service and an Advent Carol Service with the Acle and Bure to Yare Choir. There were also two services held at the War Memorial – a Commemoration of the USAF Bomber Crash 80 years ago on 21st February and the Remembrance Sunday Service in November. In addition, a group based in Reedham organized ‘Compline by Zoom’ on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to December. This continues. The church also hosted the Reedham Primary School’s Nativity Play.

There were one wedding, five funerals and three burials of ashes.

Matters discussed at the PCCs included Fund raising ideas. As a result, a Board Games Day was held in the Church – enjoyable but not particularly popular or profitable – and, in 2025, a Pancake Party – very well attended and reasonably profitable.

Problems with the Churchyard mowing occupied much time. The previous Contractor decided not to renew the 3 year agreement with the Parish Council at the beginning of the year. Because of two changes of Parish Clerk, this was not picked up immediately and then the Council decided it could not afford any of the quotes offered for continuing the specifications originally agreed. As a result, only two rough cuts were managed in the year. The Council also decided that it should not be funding the cutting directly but only making a grant of part of the cost. Since the end of 2024, the PCC has found a contractor to continue with a modified specification, and the Bure Valley Conservation Group have agreed to do the Conservation area mow.

Another issue addressed was that of the costs of Outlook. From April 2024 the village wide free distribution of paper copies of Outlook ceased and residents’ choice was either to read it on-line either directly through the Benefice Website or by having an e-copy emailed to them, or pay a subscription. The cost is now 50p per issue.

Following continual problems with the Church Organ, an expert has been called out. Although not entirely confident that he has fixed the problem, it does seem to be behaving better since. St Faith’s Crematorium offered a small organ as a back-up, and this was accepted although it is not working perfectly. It is hoped it will after a good clean.

The dripping tap, leaking toilet bowl and defunct heaters for hand washing in the church toilets have also been fixed this year.

A revised Church Guide has been produced for the church and the results of the Archaeological investigations by the team from Reading University have been published – with very interesting results. Not only have substantial Roman walls been found suggesting a ‘mini-fort’ but also remains of the very early Anglo-Saxon church been discovered, as confirmed by dated carbon fragments in a crushed mortar floor and Thetford ware ceramics.

The Churchyard group continues to do sterling work doing that extra bit of tidying up which makes all the difference. At the end of the year, the Owl box blew down and broke, having had 4 owlets raised in it since Spring. This has now been replaced by a new box, but we don’t know yet whether it is occupied – many thanks to the Gilders who funded this.

Thanks, too, to the many and various people who do the small things which make such a difference, and particularly to Billy and Jean for their after-Communion catering and regular cleaning of the church.

KC