

Annual Report for the Parish of Reedham

PCC Annual Report for 2025

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.

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 and Electoral Roll Officer)
- Deanery Synod Rep: Mr Nicholas Cowen (Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod)
- Elected Members:-
 - Mrs Diana Gilder (Safeguarding Officer)
 - Mrs Mary Blanche
 - Mrs Charlotte Lonsdale (Treasurer)

Report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2025

The PCC held meetings in 2025 on 9th January, 20th March, 11th May, 6th August, 23rd October and 11th December. Two of these were by Zoom. Attendance was good.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens took place on 2nd March and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 11th May.

There were 12 Services of Holy Communion plus 1 Communion by Extension (Easter Day) and 14 Services of Morning Prayer. There was also an Ash Wednesday Evening Prayer with Ashing, a Christingle Service and Crib Service and a Parish Carol. On Good Friday there was a Service of Readings and Music, based on Handel's Messiah with the Acle and Bure to Yare Choir. There was the usual Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial, led by the Rector, and a service for the School at the Memorial on Remembrance Day, led by Nicholas Cowen. In addition, a group based in Reedham organized 'Compline by Zoom' for the 3rd Wednesday of the month – this happened 7 times, the 8th failing because of technical difficulties. The church also hosted the Reedham Primary School's Nativity Play.

There were two weddings, five funerals and one burial of ashes.

Matters discussed at the PCCs included Churchyard matters once more. This year, a contractor was found for the general mowing and the Bure Valley Conservation Group agreed to do the Summer Mow and Rake of the conservation areas. The Parish Council made a grant of £1,500 towards the costs of mowing. Unfortunately, after this Grant had been applied for and agreed, it was found necessary to pay for the felling of the diseased Sycamore by the Churchyard Shed and a diseased Ash in the lower churchyard, at a cost of £3,720. To help raise funds for this, two events took place – the Pancake Party, mentioned in the last Annual Report and a Ceilidh. The Ceilidh, although well attended and enjoyable, did not raise a great deal because of the cost of the band, and the acoustics did not work well in the church. A further Ceilidh has been

under discussion for this year, but it has been decided to hold a Harvest Supper with games and possibly dancing instead.

Our policy on the reservation of grave spaces was also reviewed; the PCC considered that they should not accept this, but would do their best to meet Parishioners wishes as far as is possible.

Outlook finances were reviewed and it appears that a reasonable profit was made which will be shared with the other parishes towards the payment of the Benefice Share.

The Rope Guide in the Silence Chamber is in need of renewing; the costs of this are likely to be met by the Bell Fund, but the PCC agreed to underwrite if necessary. (Work now completed in April 2026.)

Future Services have been a regular subject of discussion, and towards the end of the year the decision by Freethorpe Parish to discontinue their Morning Worship Services led to a reconsideration of the Benefice Service Patterns. As a result, Reedham has a much simplified pattern, normally being Holy Communion on the first Sunday and Morning Prayer on the third.

Safeguarding has been discussed regularly, particularly the need to up to date training, and Data Protection regularly reviewed, and reports have been received from the Benefice Council and the Deanery Synod.

Church Warden's report.

The Churchyard Group continue to do sterling work and in July joined the Bure Valley Conservation Team in helping to rake the mowings from the Conservation Mow. During this enjoyable day, Purple Hairstreak Butterflies were spotted; this adds to a Pyramid Orchid found in the churchyard and grass snakes and adders noticed by our Mowing Contractor, suggesting that our Conservation efforts are paying off.

Many thanks to Billy and Jean George, both for their generous provision of refreshments after Communion Services and also regular vaccuming of the church carpet.

It was also good to get help with the church flowers – both Amanda Hampton for supplying vases of blooms from her garden and also Diane Jones for her help with decorating the church for Christmas.

A Spring Clean of the church is planned for the afternoon of 18th April, but there are still repair jobs which need to be done, of which more in the Fabric Officer's report. Many thanks to Edward Gilder for all he does by way of repairs and supervision.

Many thanks, too, to all who help in so many ways to the life of the Church – particularly Martin, our Rector – we are going to miss you while on Sabbatical, but hope that you find it profitable and spiritually and physically refreshing; and Diana Gilder, for leading many Services. Thanks to those who lock and unlock the church building evening and morning – Ann Thompson, Steve O from the Humpty Dumpty Brewery, Lyndsay Fisher, Nicholas and both the Gilders. Thanks also to Nicholas, who does so much in a quiet way; including keeping one at least of the Church wardens in order.