

St Peter's Church, Baylham

**Annual Report
and
Financial statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended 31 December 2008

Priest in Charge:
Rev Canon Roger Dedman

Bank:
Barclays Bank plc.
Market Place
Stowmarket

Independent Examiner:
Mrs J. Dyes
East Farthing, Upper Street
Baylham
Ipswich

St Peter's Church - Annual Report for 2008

Aims and Objectives

St Peter's PCC works with the Priest-in-Charge in maintaining regular worship and a Christian presence in the parish and in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for maintaining the church fabric and churchyard.

Membership

During the year the following served on the PCC

<i>Priest in Charge & Chairman:</i>	Rev Canon Roger Dedman
<i>Church Warden</i>	Miss Hilary M Ritchie
<i>Representative on the Deanery Synod:</i>	vacant
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Mr Mark Bailey Mr Derek Beaumont Miss Beryl Emsden <i>Secretary</i> Mrs Wendy Lindley <i>Treasurer</i> Mrs S Richards Mrs Elsie Scopes Dr FWS Webb + one vacant
<i>Lay Elder</i>	vacant

Review of the year

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is now 28 people.

Church attendance and services

The church was reopened on 10 Jan after the Independent Examiners' report stating that there was no asbestos in the church was accepted by the PCC and The Friends at a joint meeting held on 9 Jan 2008.

The regular pattern of weekly services was adjusted to one service a month - Holy Communion at 11 a.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Ordinary Sunday Attendances during year was 186 over 12 Sundays giving an average of 15.5.

Additional services and attendance numbers:
29 Jun St Peter's Day – United Service – attendance 20
6 Oct Harvest Festival – attendance 20
14 Dec Candle Light Carol Service – attendance 79
Also 3 services at Greenacres and Whitewheat – attendance 9

We have been grateful to Mrs. Sylvia Webb for playing for our services when she has been available and also to Mr Peter Jackaman & Mr Malcolm Beaumont for playing at the additional services.

Public Meeting

The Archdeacon attended a Public Meeting in the village hall on 4 Mar to discuss “the viability of our Parish and Church as an independent unit” after the Church Warden resigned on health grounds. After the meeting Hilary M Ritchie spoke to the Vicar as she was interested in taking on the role of Churchwarden.

PCC Meetings

The PCC met five times during the year.

The remaining 4 existing PCC members were re-elected at the AGM with the addition of two new members and Dr Webb. Hilary M Ritchie was elected as Churchwarden.

Our Churchwarden met with other Churchwardens from the group (Bramford, Little Blakenham and Nettlestead) in March, but was unable to attend the other two meetings. In this way we keep informed, share ideas and plan services.

Health & Safety Issues: Church Organ

After the joint meeting of the PCC and the Friends of Baylham Church on 9 Jan 2008 the Independent Examiners' report stating that there was no asbestos in the church was accepted and the church reopened the following day.

As a result the organ requires a new blower and blower box. The PCC is investigating the cost of obtaining a new or second-hand blower and blower box.

Charitable giving from the church comprised £15 to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, £5 Historic Churches Preservation Trust. We gave our Harvest Festival donations to the Women's Refuge in Ipswich; they were very grateful and send us a letter of thanks.

Churchyard Work – The Churchwarden contacted the Probation Service on recommendation from one of the other group Churchwardens, to see if they would be able to cut the grass and the hedge in the churchyard. They were very keen to undertake the work and they came four times from Jul-Sep. The work they did was very much appreciated and it is hoped they will agree to come again in 2009.

Church Fabric – As a result of the Quinquennial Report of Sep 2006 woodworm was found in many of the pews. Quotations have been obtained to carry out spraying of the church at a time suitable as not to harm the bats.

Much discussion during the year was on the subject of providing a kitchen and toilet in the church. It is hoped to make progress on this next year.

Open Churches Week - 14-20 Jul 2008

Hilary Ritchie and Sue Richards and other members of the PCC and The Friends organised a Flower Festival in the church on 19 Jul. This coincided with the Village Fete.

28 people signed the visitor's book and there was £8 in the collection box. We had some encouraging comments too.

We received lots of donations of cut flowers and loans of pots of plants for the weekend. Our thanks go to Mrs Richards who did most of the work of decorating the church and collecting pots etc. and to Mrs Rogers, Mrs Excell, Miss Emsden, Mrs Scopes, Mrs Williams and Miss Grosvenor for the lovely flower arrangements and many thanks to all who gave or loaned flowers and displays for the weekend.

Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride

In September, our church was open for the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride. This year we welcomed 12 visitors. Our thanks go to Mrs Wolton for organising the paperwork etc.

Friends of Baylham Church

The PCC is grateful for their continued support.

Cleaning and flowers

We thank all those who are kind enough to help with the flowers and cleaning.

Lastly we thank Jan Dyes for examining our annual report and financial statement.

Rev. Canon Roger Dedman (Chairman)

Date: Jan 09