

**Annual Report for St Barnabas Church, Great Tey
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

As the only Churchwarden for St Barnabas Church, Great Tey, after the retirement of Chris Percival, who was my co-churchwarden until our last APCM, I am pleased to give the following Annual Report. Please note that our Church year is the calendar year of 2024. Just in case there are some members of our congregation who have not been to an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM or AGM) for our Parish before, here is a reminder of the Aims, Membership and Church Attendance, before I give the Review of the Year.

Aims. The purpose of the PCC is to work closely with our Priest in Charge in growing and developing the Mission of Worship and Care in our Christian Community here in our Parish, as well as in our Villages, Benefice, Deanery and Diocese.

Membership. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected at the APCM or co-opted. The members who served in 2024 are stated on page 1.

Church Attendance. There are 41 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 30 of whom are resident within the Parish and 11 Non-resident. The average Sunday attendance in 2024 was 26.

Review of the year.

It was with some sadness that on the 27th October we said goodbye to Revd Ian Scott-Thompson and his wife Jane as they retired to Hampshire, they only having joined us on the 31st May 2022. We will remember their energy in rushing from Church to Church, so as not to let us down with our pattern of services, plus their kindness, spirituality and ability to fit in with our style of worship. Ian and Jane's legacy is shown in their introducing us to 'Open the Book' Bible stories for our Primary School as well as supporting us in our drive for 'Leading Your Church Into Growth', which will help us in our drive to attract more families with children and teenagers to our Churches. A big 'thank you' Ian and Jane.

We also said goodbye to Chris and Sue Percival as they retired to live in Devon. How can you begin to thank such an energetic and hardworking couple? Wherever their stardust was needed, they were there.

The Fundraising impact made by Ann Bartleet and the team of events organisers and helpers in expanding our Church outreach to our village communities is huge. These events include the ever popular 'Pop up Teas' held in July each year, Church Heritage Day and the Harvest Supper at Bucklers. We are working towards having a Church driven event every month - almost! We need more new people coming forward to offer their help both as organisers and helpers - your Church needs you NOW! Events don't just happen. Ann is also pivotal in a number of other initiatives in our Parish, such as recruiting and training a team of 'Meeters and Greeters' to welcome people to our services and supporting Carols at the Chequers.

Once again we thank you Valerie, for taking up the organisation of Worship Services - a wide ranging role, plus her monthly email, in addition to her other key activities of running the Choir and leading many of our services.

Peter Wakeling completed his training and is now getting to grips with his increasingly important role as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Peter is also our Deanery Synod Representative.

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After many years of immeasurable input as our Treasurer, Richard Bareham decided to resign, but has stayed on until this year's APCM - we will miss you, especially your eye for detail in dealing with our Finances. Richard has also been key in many of the Fabric needs of our Church. Ian King has been recruited to take over, although Richard will be around to give guidance and help. Thank you for everything Richard.

As ever, I want to make a special mention of Mary Dyer our Verger, we are only now discovering the massive range of, yet often hidden, facets of your vital role Mary, thank you so much for everything you continue to do.

A resounding thank you to our Ringers whose contribution continues to grow, especially in teaching young and older people to develop their ringing skills. Our Bells are a major witness in calling villagers to worship. The Bells' Service each May has now become a regular feature in our Churches' calendar. Your joyful efforts are much appreciated.

Other members of the PCC who have retired are Martin Ives, who with his wife Deb are moving to Suffolk. In the short time that they have been in the Village they have made a real impact, many of us will never forget Martin's thoughtful and amusing sermons. Martin is staying on as Chair of Governors at our Primary School. Mike Holliday has retired as well, thank you Mike for your contributions.

And finally, as I retire as your Churchwarden after 38 years, plus being a member of the PCC since April 1977 working with four different Rectors: Reverends Fordham Howard, Norman Cotgrove, John Richardson and Ian Scott-Thompson I would like to thank you all for helping and inspiring me in so many ways. I am retiring from the role as Churchwarden and as a member of the PCC knowing that you are in the safe hands of Ann Bartleet, Peter Wakeling, Jane Pearson, Mary Dyer and all the other members of our PCC plus the wider congregation, led by Valerie in her multitude of roles. I will continue to live in the village and do what I can at Worship Services in the Benefice plus Pastoral work when and where needed. God bless everyone.

I leave you with some uplifting words of St Paul in his letter to the Romans 15:13

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen".*