

Parochial Church Council of Great and Little Tey

Annual Report for St Barnabas Church, Great Tey for year ending 31st December, 2025

In the absence of a church warden for St Barnabas, as acting churchman of the PCC, this report for St Barnabas has been written by Ann Bartleet, on behalf of the PCC.

Review of the year

The beginning of the year was dominated by the compiling of the Parish profile in collaboration with Little Tey, Wakes Colne, Chappel, Aldham and Marks Tey. This was to be the principal document used for the recruitment of a priest in charge for the 6 churches. Sadly, by the end of the year we were still without an incumbent.

At the same time the PCC said goodbye to John Carr after 38 years service as church warden at St Barnabas. His loss has been keenly felt as he has also played a key role in the pastoral work of the parish especially as we had no priest in charge throughout the year. The PCC is extremely grateful for all that he has done and wish him a very happy retirement.

Since John's departure, the PCC has succeeded in dividing up all the tasks that an incumbent and the wardens would otherwise have carried out. The chairman is very grateful for all the hard work that members of the PCC, ably supported by many members of the community have achieved.

The School

Thanks are due to Martin Ives, who, in spite of moving away from the village, has represented the church on the board of governors of Great Tey School and has served as chairman during the past year. Carolyn has kindly taken responsibility for taking 'Open the Book' into the school during the past year. The PCC is conscious of the debt we owe to Lucy, the Headmistress, for all that she does to keep alive the connections between the school and the church.

'Edward Bear'

Elizabeth Dance has continued to organise the Edward Bear Club for the PCC. A monthly get together for mothers and toddlers, all the participants have enjoyed their time at St Barnabas. However, all good things come to an end, and, after 12 years, 2025 will be the last full year that Elizabeth will be at the helm. The PCC would like to thank her very much for making such a success of Edward Bear. Elizabeth will be leaving at the end of the summer term.

Fundraising

2025 has been a successful year, not just in raising funds to help keep the doors of the church open, but in sharing the burden of the effort needed to achieve that success. Those events have included the Fete, Harvest Supper, Pop Up Teas, Mothering Sunday Celebrations, jam making, and gardens open. None of these could have happened without the organising help of the wider community, and attendance by so many residents.

Organising Services

Valerie Dyer has taken on the role of coordinating and organising services and the choir. No mean feat in the absence of a priest in charge and no resident organist in the village. Thanks are due to Kate and Celia, organist/pianist, who have managed to cover nearly all the regular services and a number of extra ones.

New PCC members

In the course of the year we welcomed Ian King who is now our treasurer and Bruce Knights who has taken on the role of 'clerk of works' for the fabric. Looking after the fabric of St Barnabas is an onerous task, as this building is a very important, over a thousand year old Grade I listed building. Thank you to them both.

Safeguarding

The church is very lucky that Peter Wakeling has taken responsibility for safeguarding in the church. As we are all well aware, everyone has to be very conscious of the need to keep safe the young and the vulnerable and Peter is helping to make sure that happens.

Bell Ringing

Bell ringing has continued to thrive up in our tower. It is wonderful to see the long history of change ringing alive and well. The call to worship with bells has been part of the village for millennia, and we would hate to be without it, so thank you. A Bell Ringing thanksgiving service is becoming an annual event.

The Verger – Mary Dyer

A very special thank you to Mary. Mary has just celebrated a landmark birthday but continues to play a pivotal role in making sure all church activities happen as they should and that the church itself is properly prepared to welcome everyone who enters.

Church Services themselves

We have been delighted to welcome more people than ever to our services. Highlights during the year have included visits from Bishop Roger and the Archdeacon, celebrations including Harvest Festival, Bell Ringing, Christingle, as well as the major festivals in the church year.

With grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed to another year of community worship and activity. I hope it has been uplifting and accompanied with a sense of wellbeing and laughter too.

Ann Bartleet

Acting chairman