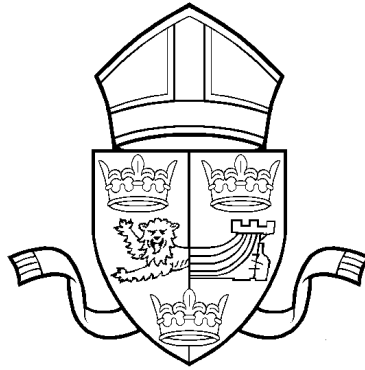


# The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich



Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of  
the  
Parochial Church Council  
of St Mary's Church  
Polstead  
Suffolk  
For the year ended 31 December 2007

## General Information

Church:	St Mary's	
Correspondence Address Postcode	Pond Street Polstead CO6 5BS	
Incumbent:	Rev. Michael Tillett	Chairman of the PCC
Wardens	Mrs Jill Lowe Mr Bill Wigglesworth	Vice Chairman of PCC
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Barrie Hall Mr James Sephton	
Elected Member(s):	Mrs Elsie Braybrook Mr Richard Bartlett Mrs Maggie Bird Mr Barrie Hall Mrs Fiona Knapp Mrs Joy Mattock Mrs Myra Reid Mrs Ruth Riddleston Mr James Sephton Mrs Doris Westbrook-Smith	Treasurer         Secretary
Co-opted Members	Revd John Fowler Revd Valri Armstrong	NSM Assistant Priest OLM

### **The Ministry Team of the Benefice.**

Those involved in leading and preaching at worship on Sundays.

Clergy	Revd Michael Tillett Revd John Fowler Revd Valri Armstrong
Readers	Mr David Rowe Mrs Elizabet Lynn Mrs Helen Mitchell Mrs Jackie Sephton ( Ordinand in Training)

### The Pastoral Elder Team

Involved in visiting and  
Pastoral care in the Benefice  
In support of the clergy

Elders	Mr Raymond Bond Miss Francis Mount Mrs Cecilia Hines Mrs Jane Addis Mrs Jean Kingsbury
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## **Church Electoral Roll and Statistics (as at 31st December 2007)**

At the end of 2007 the electoral roll stood at 82. The average attendance is 30.

There were 4 weddings and one blessing, 4 funerals and 2 baptisms during the year.

### **A review of the year.**

The full PCC met six times during the year in addition to the Annual Meeting.

The Standing Committee acts for the PCC when situations necessitate it doing so.

The Fabric Committee comprising Mr Bill Wigglesworth(Chairman), James Sephton and Barrie Hall have met through out the year and discussed and planned redecoration, lime concreting and carpeting the south aisle, panelling and new skirting board to south aisle, resizing and repositioning the pews and chairs, repair of the collapsed tomb, roof repairs, removal of tree stump and repair of church wall, ladder in church tower, survey of roof beams, wall paintings and bricks and extending the church yard.

### Main business discussed included:

- Electoral roll revision
- Ordinand Training of Mrs Jackie Sephton.
- Craft and Flower Festival.
- Replacement of Vicarage.
- Church fabric
- Extension of Church yard.
- Polstead Music Group.
- New Communion table for south aisle.
- Revision of Church Warden's measure.
- Appointment of Mr James Sephton as elder.
- Nativity Play at Carol Service.

In addition the PCC discussed ongoing matters of administration and finance.

## **Worship**

The service of Evening prayer was reviewed and it was decided to discontinue it for the time being. The Benefice singing group has sung at each Benefice service. All the baptismal families were invited to attend the Gospel Oak service. There were activities for children and refreshments and it was a great success.

The 'First Sunday' services at Leavenheath have been a great success with very good attendances of around 90 to 120.

The Christmas Communion service will alternate between Stoke by Nayland and Polstead and was held at Polstead this year. A nativity play was produced by Mrs Myra Reid with twelve children from Polstead for the Carol service. Overall the Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Services are well attended.

## **Nurture**

During the year successful Lent courses were held in the benefice on the Church's Characteristics.

## **Outreach**

A support group has been started for the bereaved by Mr B Orris and Mrs Jane Wilson which meets once a month. Numbers meeting vary from twelve to eight and a programme is being developed.

## **The building and the churchyard**

Following the completion of plaster repair and full redecoration, together with the reordering and carpeting of the south aisle, the church is looking magnificent. External plaster repair above the chancel is due to be completed shortly. A survey of the roof timbers during redecoration has revealed the need for extensive remedial work in due course, the implications of which are under consideration. Conservation work will also be necessary on the wall paintings. Meanwhile, work has been completed on waterproofing the roof and roofing repairs to the north and south porches. Priority is being given to creating safe access to the bell tower, to repair of the churchyard wall and repair of the collapsed Boutell tomb (with volunteer effort). We are in discussion with the Planning Authority concerning the extension of the churchyard, where an archaeological survey has revealed traces of an early Bronze Age fortified site.

## **Fund Raising**

We are very grateful for the funds generously donated by Richard Bartlett and family to cover the £15,000 cost of redecorating the church; and to the Friends of Polstead Church for donating over £5,000 towards the cost of maintenance and conservation work. Mrs Maggie Bird organised a Craft and Flower Festival with the help of The Friends and members of the church which raised £350.00 for church funds. The £1,100 cost of carpeting the south aisle was met from the proceeds of the collection in memory of Mrs Pattie Ashworth; and half the collection from the funeral of Mr Bert Scanlan was also donated

to the church. Barrie and Mandy Hall have generously met the cost of the timber for the new Holy Table in the south aisle; and David and Maureen Howard have donated the new oak bench in the south porch.

#### Diocesan quota

The Diocesan quota for the Polstead was £15,730 and equated to a third share of the Benefice quota. For 2008, the PCC agreed an increase in the quota to over £18,000 in order to reduce the Leavenheath quota to an affordable level and to assist less well off parishes in the Deanery. Meeting the revised quota, without exceeding current income, will require careful financial management..

#### Conclusion

Our parish, indeed our benefice, would not function without everybody playing their part. We should say thank you to church wardens, treasurers, secretaries, readers, Elders, choir singers, bell ringers, servers, lesson readers, intercessors, prayers, flower arrangers, cleaners, linen ironers and many others, but most of all the God without whose blessing, strength and power we can do nothing!

\_\_\_\_\_(Chairman)

16th April 2008