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**Registered Charity 1130860**  
**High Street, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6DE**  
[www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk](http://www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk)



# Annual Report 2015

*Reports and Accounts  
for last year*

Registered Charity 1130860



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

The Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meetings  
will take place at **12.15 p.m. on Sunday 26 April 2015**  
in the Parish Church, Dedham

*A Table of Contents is on the back cover of this booklet*

## **AGENDA**

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Re-election of Church Wardens
2. Agreement of Minutes for Annual Meeting held in 2014
3. Church Warden's Update
4. Fabric Update
5. Election of 1 (one) representative to the Parochial Church Council
6. Presentation of Financial Report and Accounts
7. Q&A
8. Prayer to close

## **DUCHY BARN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Use** The Duchy Barn continues to serve as a centre used by the community. Our volunteers' warmly welcome visitors and locals on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings for coffee and tea (between 10.30am – 12noon) and the Veterans Association, 'Comrades in Arms', meet on the last Friday of each month. The Youth Club continues to meet on Friday evenings. During the week the barn is regularly used for Art and Bridge. Poppy Farm selling a wide range of seasonal fruit, vegetables, eggs & home cooking continues to be at the barn every Wednesday morning between 8.30am and 12.30pm (please try and support them as much as you can). The Parish Council hold their monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month. Bookings can be taken for small private parties, meetings and AGM's and the Barn is regularly used for Children's parties with it's close proximity to the children's playground.

**Volunteers** We wish to thank all our volunteers and again sincere thanks go to Eve Jones for organising the rota, Anne Rowledge for being our Treasurer as well as the role of bookings secretary. We welcome Mark Dempsey and Kate Ranson onto the committee who represent the Youth Club. We also wish to thank the Friends of Dedham Church for their continued support.

*Beth Mitchell*  
Chairman

## ASSEMBLY ROOMS

**Who runs it?** The Vicar is sole trustee of the Assembly Rooms and with the Churchwardens, as co-trustees, he is responsible for the *Hewitt Memorial Fund*. The Clerk to the Trust manages the rooms and the trusts. The building is looked after on a daily basis with dedicated care by a small team of caretakers, cleaners and a maintenance man. Their hard work and commitment is very much appreciated.

**How is it funded?** The Hewitt Memorial Fund was established by the will of William Wilkins Hewitt, of Lower Park, Dedham, former Churchwarden of Dedham Parish Church, in 1917. He left the sum of £3000 for the upkeep of the Hewitt Memorial Hall (as it had been renamed in memory of his late brother), together with a further £500 for Parish Church chancel repairs. Hewitt Cottage was sold in 2004 and the proceeds invested to provide a long term maintenance fund. Day-to-day maintenance, insurance and running costs are covered by income from charges, all users pay to use the rooms but the full cost of community and charity use is heavily subsidised by others. During 2014 the process was set in place to amalgamate the two trust in a new trust called the Assembly Rooms Trust. The trustees of the new trust will be the Vicar, the Churchwardens and the PCC of Dedham

**Use** The Rooms are available for the whole community. They are used regularly by Smartys preschool, an art class, the Ladies Fellowship, the Brownies and Guides, the Horticultural Society, the Film Club and Dedham players for their regular meetings. A new regular activity is Pilates on Friday mornings. During the year there have been various fundraising events and fairs as well as private functions. Dedham Films Live have screened some very popular live broadcasts and have also held screenings for other community groups.

*Tracy Woods*  
Clerk to the Trust

## MINUTES of APCMs 2014

**Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Dedham Parish Church, 12.15 p.m. Sunday 6 April 2014.**

### ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

**1. Election of Churchwarden** There are no vacancies either churchwardens or deputy churchwardens. The two churchwardens (Richard Hopkins and Quinlan Terry) and one deputy churchwarden (Suzanne Woods) had been appointed at extra-ordinary church meetings during the last year.

**2. Prayer for the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwarden**

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

#### 1. Apologies

33 church members were present. Apologies for absence were received from David and Vee Druitt, Martin and Joanne Hole and Liz Maythan.

#### 2. Agreement of Minutes of APCMs held on 21 April 2013 and Extraordinary APCMs held on 12th May and 20th October 2013

These were duly approved.

#### 3. Election of Representatives to the PCC

There are four vacancies for representatives for the Deanery Synod—Richard Hopkins and the Vicar were members, Brian Moore volunteered—one further vacancy remains outstanding. There are five vacancies for the PCC. Antony Watson (proposed Sue Vinter, seconded Ian Sutherland) and Ruth Higginson (proposed Ann Shaw, seconded Christine Moore) were elected, leaving three vacancies.

#### 4. Election of Sunday Stewards ('Sidesmen')

These were approved in accordance with the list circulated.

#### 5. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

Helen Carey is standing down this year. The Vicar expressed grateful thanks to all Helen's contribution over the years. The Vicar proposed to appoint Luc Ray-Mathur as someone known to him. Luc is a qualified accountant and is currently attending St John's in Woodbridge. This was agreed by the meeting and Luc will be introduced to the PCC in due course.

#### 6. Consideration of Statutory Reports

##### 6.1 Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and Church Electoral Roll

The PCC Review of the Year and Electoral Roll report were approved. Electoral Roll numbers had dropped considerably following the refresh this year (from 299 to 201) although the Vicar said that this was normal in a refresh year. This report was approved.

## MINUTES of APCMs 2014

### 6.2 Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The report was approved.

### 6.3 Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Parish and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013

Sara Marshall, the new financial administrator, was presented to and welcomed by the members of the Church. Sara confirmed that Helen Carey had checked and approved the accounts and a note to this effect will be added to the final version of the accounts.

A question was raised in respect of the drop in income from Tower Tours. It was explained that Neil McShane and Philip Erith had been instrumental in developing these but changes in circumstance meant that the Tower Tours had not had the same focus. Also it was thought the money was being put into the red safe rather than being collected separately. Katie Sambrook has taken over responsibility for the Tower Tours and other visits, and will put in place better processes for collecting money/information. In addition, there had been 22 weddings due 2013 which meant many Saturdays the church was unavailable.

A question was raised as to whether the church had paid its full parish share in 2013. The Vicar responded by saying that 11 months had been paid although due to a very generous donation and an increase in giving, the church did have the money to pay it in full. However, the PCC wanted to send a strong message to the Diocese that we believe the level of parish share for Dedham has been incorrectly calculated. Holding back one months payment allows this debate to discuss this.

A question was raised about the fundraising proceeds—Jill Strangwood and Sara Marshall to meet separately to discuss this.

Ian Sutherland expressed a vote of thanks to Sara and the finance team for all their hard work, and to recognise the real generosity of the congregation which has brought the church back to a place where we are in a better position to afford our costs.

The report accounts were approved.

### 6.4 Statement of the Funds and Property of the Parish Church

Suzanne Woods has taken on a role in the fabric team. The report was accepted.

### 6.5 Report upon the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Parish Church

The report was accepted with thanks. The following items were discussed:

- Toilets—it was noted that the Friends of Dedham Church had not yet agreed

## SAMUEL BARKER'S ALMSHOUSES

**Trustees** The Vicar & Lecturer *ex officio*; (Vacant)  
*Co-optative* Bernard Lambert *Chairman*,  
Lesley Sant *Treasurer*, Jane Adams, Nigel Lambert,  
Lynne Al-Sad; *Nominative* Jean Flewin *Secretary*.

**Residents** There has been no change to the occupancy of the almshouses during the last year

**Meetings** Two meetings of the Trustees were held.

**Maintenance** No major maintenance was carried out during the year.

*Bernard Lambert*  
*Chairman*

## LITTLEGARTH COTTAGES

**Trustees** The Vicar & Lecturer, Churchwardens *ex officio*,  
and Arthur Carter

**Clerk** Tracy Woods

**History** The four ancient Littlegarth Cottages in Princl Lane, Dedham, were the gift of the late Betty Mallett to this community. All income is used to maintain and improve the cottages. The terms of the Trust Deed include provision: "to house those in need or those who are elderly and in need"

**Residents** Renovation of cottage No. 4 was completed in February and the process to find a new tenant began. There were 6 applicants for the vacancy. The trustees had a difficult task in deciding whose needs would be best met by offering the tenancy to them. The new tenants moved in during May. The Littlegarth community finally returned to a tranquil place to live following a number of years of renovations and changes

*Tracy Woods*  
*Clerk to the Trust*



Great things can grow from a small decision...

Please remember  
Dedham Parish Church  
in your Will.

## ECCLESIASTICAL LECTURESHIP TRUST

**Trustees:** *Nominated by the Bishop of Chelmsford:*

Ian Hunter Clerk, Richard Hopkins, Ann Shaw; *Nominated by the PCC:* David Druitt Chairman; *Ex-officio* The Archdeacon of Colchester, Ven. Annette Cooper; *Churchwardens:* Richard Hopkins & Quinlan Terry; *In Attendance:* The Lecturer

**Objectives:** Founded in 1577 to supplement the ministry of the Church in this parish. It is alternate Patron of this Benefice. Lectures addressing issues important to church and society are organised. It supports the Lecturer, who is now also the Vicar of Dedham. It may also do other works for the “*promotion of the principles and doctrines of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical parish of Dedham*”.

The **2014 Lecture** was given on the 16<sup>th</sup> October by The Right Reverend Sandy Millar, former Vicar of Holy Trinity, Brompton and his subject was “*Beautiful Minds*”, an insightful exposition into small-group bible studies and the growth of the Church world-wide.

The **2015 Lecture** will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September and we are very pleased that the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has accepted our invitation to give the Lecture.

During the year the changes to the Trust’s Governing document, referred to in last year’s report, were agreed by the Charity Commission. The main change gives the Trustees more flexibility in the distribution of income, whilst remaining faithful to the original objects of the Trust.

Following the Vicar & Lecturer’s move Bloxham School at the end of January, the Lectureship Trust has the rights of presentation of a new Vicar & Lecturer in its role as (alternate) Patron to the living. At the time of writing it is unclear what plans, if any, the Diocese has for the Parish, but if the Trust’s rights of presentation are not restricted, or the Benefice suspended, then it will in time nominate a suitable minister(s) with a view to presenting them to the nominated Parish representatives as a candidate.

*David Druitt*  
Chairman

## MINUTES of APCMs 2014

to support the toilet project as the report stated—they were awaiting further information from the church in respect of a reduced project.

- There is still some money set aside for the hospitality project.
- £2,000 had recently been spent on the heating but following a range of very expensive quotes to replace the boiler (either with another or with an eco-friendly alternative) all of which were in excess of £75,000, the PCC had decided to spend a further £2,500 keeping the existing system going. A question was asked as to whether there was any grants/funding for this kind of project, but the Vicar was unaware of any. Richard Hopkins and Ian Sutherland requested a copy of the recent report on heating options.
- Roof work and ingress of water—this was not due to the windows failing, but appears to be due to faulty lead flashing which is affected during strong winds. This will be investigated but because it requires scaffolding the plan is to wait until the next stage of window investigation takes place, unless it continues to be a big problem.
- The tree—a faculty application has been put in for the metsequoia, which will be removed. The future of the chestnut tree is still being discussed as the parish council had some concerns about it being taken down.

### 7. Consideration of any additional reports

- a. The Friends of Dedham Church have £50,000 and are waiting for the PCC to come forward with some projects. It would help with further fundraising if this money was allocated. All presented were invited to join the Friends, particularly as they are planning a 10th anniversary special event this year.
- b. Resource Centre—Be Burleigh and Lou Davison have taken on the running of the resource centre—the Vicar expressed his grateful thanks.
- c. Choir and Music report—this was received with thanks.
- d. Mission and Evangelism—Passion for Life had gone well.
- e. Flower Arrangers—this report was received with thanks.
- f. Pastoral—the Vicar expressed his gratitude for the work of this group, which has a very active ministry.
- g. Duchy Barn—contrary to the report there is only one part-time youth worker employed who runs an independent youth club. The roof needs replacing this year at an estimated cost of between £8,500 and £12,000. Fundraising will need to take place for this. Three separate restricted funds relating to the Duchy Barn were being amalgamated in their accounts.
- h. Primary School—we are very blessed by having this outstanding school in the village and for the very strong links with the church—over 200 children and parents were in church for the end of term service where the children told the Easter story.
- i. All other reports were received.

## MINUTES of APCMs 2014

It was noted, however, that a number of reports had not been received by the Vicar that the annual report and a request was made that groups do report back to the church on their activities. Of particular note was the absence of the report on the junior church and it was explained that they lacked clear leadership at the current time, and that fewer young families were coming into church. There was also no report from the bible study/prayer group, even though two such groups met last year.

### 8. Vicar's Report

The Vicar referred to three old pine trees at the end of the vicarage garden, one had been cut down and used in the church at Christmas some years ago, one came down in the storms in January and the third is leaning slightly, with its future uncertain. We have said goodbye to many people during this year, people who have had remarkable ministries, some with a life-time of Christian service behind them, remembered for their prayers and wisdom. These include Margarita Moate, Neil McShane and Caroline Merriam among others. We have also seen new people come into the church and we now look to them for loving Christian service. The Vicar expressed his thanks for all those who have helped with weddings, funerals and services, especially Paul and Lesley Southern, who have stepped into the breach—brought here under God's guidance. Betty Cox is owed a huge debt of gratitude for keeping the church office going through difficult times over the summer and autumn, ably supported by Be, Katrina and Sara in the office. Aella Gage's ministry was timely and valuable, and his focus on evangelism inspired others this year.

On a practical note, the 8.30 a.m. service will remain once a month for the time being. During Holy Week and Easter there will be a service each night with a full range of services on Easter Day.

Giving over the past year has been very generous and the Vicar wanted to especially thank those who gave so abundantly to enable him, Lauren and Heather to spend time in Canada with Margarita's family and to pay for Margarita's funeral and memorial stone. He is immensely grateful for the love and kindness shown to him and the girls over this last year.

Practical love is a hall mark of a vibrant church, and this church has shown that in abundance.

The Vicar closed the meeting.

*Sara Glover*  
PCC Secretary

## DEDHAM C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Visits** There were many more visits that took place throughout the year. Year 4 visited the Roman circus in Colchester, Year 6 visited the Tower of London and Year 2 had a science day at Sandford Mill. 50 members of the KS2 choir performed at the O2 arena and KS1 all watched the pantomime at the Mercury Theatre following their own Nativity production.

**Support** Our parent groups continue to support the school through both fundraising and providing extra activities that help us provide an outstanding education for the children. This fundraising allows us to enter inter-school events such as the Science and General knowledge quizzes where last year we reached the semi-finals held in Chelmsford and only narrowly missed out on a place in the final. We would like to congratulate the quiz team along with all other pupils who have represented the school with enthusiasm and success in sporting and non-sporting events.

*Heather Tetchner*  
Headteacher

## WILLIAM BURKITT'S CHARITY

**Trustees** The Vicar, *Chairman*, Churchwarden: Richard Hopkins and PCC: Tim Sarson.



**History** The Charity was established in 1698 to help children to read the Bible, which was considered a basic Christian education.

**Activities** Once again the Charity funded a visit by the Year 5 children of Dedham C.E. Primary School to St. Paul's Cathedral, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, and to the Elizabeth Selby Infants School, Bethnal Green; The Trust also funded bibles and *It's Your Move* books for Year 6 children. The Headteacher acknowledged her appreciation on behalf of the children and staff. The Charity also sponsored several children to attend a Christian camps.

*Carolyn Clayton*  
Clerk to the Charity

## DEDHAM C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Results** The last academic year has presented lots of new opportunities and challenges at Dedham Primary School. Year 3 and 4 were the first to begin working from the new National Curriculum which sees raised expectations in both English and Maths, as well as geography and history topics not covered before, for example pre-history and the stone age. Year 6 achieved brilliant SATS results before leaving in July and we wish them every success at the many different secondary schools they moved on to. We also said farewell to some members of staff with Mrs Smith, Mr Mabbitt, Miss Veater and Mrs Buttery all moving on to the next stages of their careers, or putting their feet up and enjoying retirement!

**Arts** We are pleased to announce that we have again been awarded the 'ArtsMark' which recognises the strong emphasis put on music and performance throughout the school. Events such as the KSI Nativity, Speech & Prize ceremonies, and the KS2 summer production of Romeo & Juliet are just a small sample of performances that took place throughout the school year.

**Link Schools** Our partnerships with schools, both national and international, continue to develop. Miss Valentine visited Gatunduri Primary School in Kenya in May and we welcomed Francis Njue back in July. Through the generosity of the Burkitt Trust, we were able to bring 30 children from Elizabeth Selby Infant School in London to visit Dedham in September. Year 6 gave them a tour of the village before welcoming them back to our school for lunch. Our year 5 children were then able to visit London in the summer term, again thanks to the Burkitt Trust.

**Community** We welcomed many visitors to the school throughout the year, often to lead our collective acts of worship. One particular act of worship that stood out was our celebration of Pentecost at the community wild space (DEN site) by the Munnings Museum. Reverend Simon Heron from Lawford led a outdoor collective act of worship which included 200 children talking in tongues whilst holding flame coloured streamers above their heads on our D.E.N. site(the fields near Castle House)! Year 6 once again spent half a term learning about the old testament through 'Bible Explorer' with Pastor Eric Blowes, culminating in an assembly where they retold the stories from the bible with over 70 hand signs! The school has continued to work closely with the local community, visiting Blackbrook Nursing Home to entertain the residents, thanks to the support from The Friends of Dedham Church. We have also supported New Hope Orphanage in Kenya and many other charitable causes throughout the year through fund raising ventures that the children have organised and run themselves.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

As required by Church legislation, a full revision of the Roll was made in 2013, when all members were required to re-apply for inclusion on the Roll. There are currently 198 on the Electoral Roll of whom 112 are residents and 86 are non-residents. During the year 3 church members died and 3 moved away.

*Be Burleigh*  
Electoral Roll Officer

## PCC REPORT — MEMBERSHIP

**Role of the PCC** The Dedham PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting the whole mission of the church in Dedham; which includes the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, financial and practical tasks of being the parish church in this place.

**Membership** Members of the PCC are either *ex-officio*, or *elected* by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or are co-opted by the PCC, for particular tasks for one year. During the year the following served as members of the Council:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Gerard Moate	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>ex officio</i>
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Richard Hopkins	<i>Vice chairman</i>	
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Quinlan Terry *		
<i>Deputy Churchwardens</i>	Be Burleigh		
	Suzanne Woods *		
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Vacancy		
	Vacancy		
<i>Elected Members</i>	Jo Hole		
	Heather Tetchner		
	Briony Lawton		
	Victoria Molony (term recently ended)		
	Tim Sarson		
	Sue Vinter		
	Ruth Higginson		
	Brian Moore		
	Antony Watson		

It is the policy of this church for elected PCC members who have completed a term of office to take at least 'a year out' before seeking re-election to the Council.

## STEWARDS

During the past year we are grateful to the Stewards (Sidesmen) who have helped welcome people to church on Sundays, receive the offertory and help clear up after the services. The following are proposed as Stewards for the year:

Peter Adams	Rosemary Kleingeld	Jason Partrick
Tony Blaxill	Bernard Lambert	Sharon Sarson
Lou Davison	Nigel Lambert	Tim Sarson
Sara Glover	Daphne Langton	Jill Strangward
Sally Gotelee	Lucy Marshall	Anthony Theodosius
Maria Johnston	Beth Mitchell	Sue Vinter
Graham Kitson	Liz Nickerson	

## PCC REPORT — COMMITTEES

**Standing** It currently comprises the Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens, and any other clergy licensed to the parish. It transacts PCC business between meetings (subject to directions of the PCC) and draws up the PCC agenda.

**Finance & Stewardship** Monitors PCC income and expenditure, budgets, encouraging stewardship and planned giving, and supervises insurances.

**Buildings & Fabric** Together with the Vicar and Churchwardens, responsible for the stewardship of the parochial church buildings and land.

**Junior Church** Co-ordinates the Christian education of the young on Sundays and assists in the planning and leading of Family Services.

**Mission & Evangelism** Supports and encourages Christian mission, maintains contact with link-mission partners, and has oversight of evangelistic initiatives.

**Social** Plans various social events, to enhance the fellowship life. These are deliberately not fund-raising activities.

**Pastoral** Develops care in the community, including counselling and bereavement visiting; it also compiles the parish Prayer Diary.

**Duchy Barn** Administers and promotes the use of the building of that name. As part of its work here the PCC employs two part-time youth workers.

**Fundraising** Established by the PCC as an adjunct to the Finance & Stewardship Committee; considers and implements ideas for increasing income through occasional events.

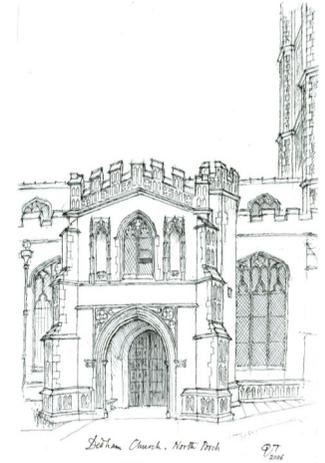
**COMMISSIONS** Established by the PCC for a limited period and purpose.

**Meetings** The PCC met in March, July, September and November with a PCC awayday in January 2015.

## MUNIMENT LIBRARY

Before leaving The Rev Gerard Moate, on behalf of The Churchwardens and PCC, invited Mr Michael Archer and Mr Mark Lockett to become members of the Council of Reference for the Parochial Library (Muniment Room) and, upon his departure, the PCC agreed to invite The Rev Moate to likewise join the Council. At the time of writing, we have no record of acceptances from any of these .

Several boxes of papers and records have been deposited in the Muniment Room from the Vicarage and these will take some time to sort out, file and catalogue.



The Archivist has concerns about water ingress from the roof and is in consultation with Roger Barrell of Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects about how this may be remedied. There is a dehumidifier in place but this is not keeping pace with the dampness. A new blackout curtain is being hung in the window providing insulation from cold and light. Records of services,

Pew News and the Parish Magazine are being kept ongoing; together with copies of special service sheets, including funerals and weddings where possible. A copy has been rebound and is now in place in the Muniment Library.

We welcomed the Church Recorders last August—some 50 strong members listed to Mr Mark Lockett deliver a talk and guided tour of the Church and visit to the Muniment Room.

*Suzanne Woods*  
Archivist

## PASTORAL

**Members** Lynne Al-Sad, Ruth Higginson, Anne-Marie Partrick, Ian Sutherland, Heather Tetchner, Sue Vinter, Ann Shaw *Chairman*.

**Pastoral Care** The members of the Pastoral Group attempt to be aware of those who would welcome a home visit or who would like a lift to church services. Our Church Bereavement Visitors are Tony Blaxill, Vee DrUITT, Ruth Higginson, Carol & John Mitson, and Pam Tanner. A card is sent to the next-of-kin soon after the funeral, followed by a telephone call, and visits if requested. A card is sent if the relative is outside the immediate area. The annual Bereavement Service was well attended and well received.

**Prayer Diary** This is prepared by Anne Grave and Ruth Higginson.

**FairTrade Stall** Lynne Al-Sad organises this stall, with support from Jo Russell. Only *FairTrade* tea, coffee and sugar is served in church.

*Ann Shaw*  
*Chairman*

## PARISH CHURCH WEBSITE

[www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk](http://www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk)

**Visits:** During the last year the website received 18,076 'visits'. A visit is one visitor who 'arrives' at the church website and proceeds to browse. The location of a visitor is identified by the format of their Internet Service Provider's name, so it is frequently not possible to identify the visitor's actual country (for instance people browsing from work will often be identified as, for instance, abcd.com).

Where the country could be identified, the list of the main countries from which such visits were made (in order of number of visits) was:

*United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, Netherlands, Australia, China, Italy, European Union, Russian Federation, India, Portugal, Mexico, Argentina, Canada, Ukraine, Hungary, Belgium, Spain, Vietnam, South Africa, Colombia, New Zealand, Greece, Japan, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic, Norway, Romania, United States, Cyprus, Lithuania, Sweden, Ireland, Thailand, Chile, Austria, Finland, British Indian Ocean Territory, Paraguay, Denmark, Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Turkey, Balarus, Croatia, Bulgaira, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, Tuvalu, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Latvia, Mozambique, Kenya, Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Luxembourg, Seychelles..*

*Bob Cox*  
*Website Manager*

## DEANERY SYNOD

### Meetings and Membership

The departure of the Rev Gerard Moate and severe illness and bereavement has meant that during the past year the attendance of your representatives at Deanery Synod has been unavoidably poor. It is to be hoped that, from 2015, with a full number of newly-elected representatives, our involvement in and engagement with the Deanery of Harwich will be greatly improved.

## INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Luc Ray-Mather has served as Independent Financial Examiner for the last year and Luc will continue this role for the next year also. His details are as follows:



Mr. Luc Ray-Mathur A.A.T.  
Muriau, 2 Moorfield Close,  
Kesgrave  
Ipswich  
IP5 2YD

Luc is a retired local government finance officer, who has served both as a treasurer and a churchwarden in large churches in the dioceses of Canterbury and Southwark.

### Your contribution the next Annual Report

*If your committee, charity, trust or group has connections with Dedham Parish Church you are welcome to submit a report for inclusion in next year's Annual Report.*

**The deadline will be Ash Wednesday, 10 February 2016**

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS & ORNAMENTS

**Fabric** The condition of the fabric is dealt with in the Buildings and Fabric Committee report on the next page, and is subject to a Quinquennial Report, the recommendations of which the PCC addresses.

**Goods and Ornaments** A new inventory needs to be compiled of all the contents of the church. Offers of help with this considerable task will be sought.

**Thank you** The Churchwardens are very grateful to all who give of their time and skills to care for the building and churchyard, and to the *Friends of Dedham Church* who assist the PCC in finding the funds to do the necessary works.

*Richard Hopkins and Quinlan Terry*  
Churchwardens

## FRIENDS OF DEDHAM CHURCH

Last year was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends of Dedham Church and we celebrated by bringing the London Gospel Choir back to Dedham. We planned this as a birthday celebration and not a fund raising event, and thanks to the cost of the event being under written by two members we were able to keep costs of the tickets to a reasonable level. The church was packed and we were treated to a wonderful evening of music, praise and fun.

During the year we held our annual golf day in April our Summer ball at the Talbooth in June, our members summer party in August and trip to Windsor Castle. Our fund raising events meant that our accounts were in a healthy position, but disappointingly we were able to spend very little of this money as the Church were unable to bring forward meaningful works which had the necessary planning approvals and which we felt we could support. I am pleased to say that now we have Suzanne Woods working with us we are able to have a much more meaningful dialogue and hope to be able to provide new toilet facilities ,and assist in repair works to the nave and helping to provide the new welcome facility.

We invite all to become members and enjoy fellowship with us and help to maintain the fabric of the our church.

*Peter Wilson*  
Chairman

## MISSION AND EVANGELISM

**Members** Lynne Al-Sad, Ruth Higginson,  
Anne-Marie Price-Partrick, Heather Tetchner, Sue Vinter

**Activities** This year a range of activities have taken place over the year, and have been very successful in raising double the amount of last year.

**Distribution** The amount available for distribution this year is £2,200. This will be allocated to Beacon House in Colchester and the Van de Ruits in South Africa. As a church we continue to support Beacon House with collections of toiletries, clothes, and sundries collected after each family service. Please continue to give these items, as they are always needed. A list of their current needs is posted at the back of Church.

**Thank you** to all who have supported and helped with Mission this year. A big thank you to all those who baked and came and bought cakes.

*Anne-Marie Price-Partrick*  
Chairman

## FLOWER ARRANGERS

**Thank You** Once again, we thank the volunteers for their commitment and the generosity in their time that they give throughout the year.

**Festivals** Donations for Easter Lilies and flowers at Christmas in memory of friends or family are gratefully received.

**Volunteers** More helpers are always needed, so if you enjoy arranging flowers at home, please come and join us. It is most rewarding and you will be made very welcome. Just contact Barbara or Sally.

*Barbara Ward and Sally Gotelee*  
Co-ordinators

## CHOIR AND MUSIC

Another eventful year of music-making at Dedham Parish Church. The choir has seen some new members join us in recent months, and the number of junior members is continuing to thrive, giving the opportunity to sing many services together, now as one choir rather than as two separate groups.

My thanks to the parents of the junior members for their continuing support, to Liz Maythan for her practical help in attending the junior rehearsals, and of course to the choristers of all ages for their support and skill in making the task of providing the music for worship Sunday-by-Sunday, a very enjoyable one. Thank you all.

There was a well-attended Christmas Carols Service in December, which included congregational carols, as well as contributions from the augmented Church Choir, the School Choir from Dedham Church of England Primary School, under the direction of Laura Valentine, and from The Dedham Songbirds, under the joint direction of myself and Tom Stapleton. A definite highlight of the year.

Revive@5 is now firmly established as a monthly fixture, with music of a contemporary style, led from the keyboard, and by Gabbie Watson and musicians from Lawford Church, to whom we are very grateful for their support and fellowship. Sarah Watson, who had previously led from the guitar has left us to start her music degree course at Bristol University, where she is already leading worship at Woodlands Church. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of Watson church musicians!

I am very pleased to report that the thumb tendon/wrist injury that, last year made playing the organ a real challenge has been successfully treated by Jill Guymer at BAPAM (The British Association of Performing Arts Medicine), after many months of visits to their clinic in Central London. I am eternally grateful to them for their help, and much relieved to have made an almost full recovery. No more hard DIY for me!

Martin Huggett has been a faithful friend to us as relief organist and in assisting when the choir needs a conductor. Although this happy association is set to continue, I congratulate Martin in his new appointment as Director of Music at East Bergholt Parish Church.

*Antony Watson*  
Director of Music

## BUILDINGS & FABRIC COMMITTEE

**Members:** Suzanne Woods, co-opted Roger Barrell

Michael Hughes retired as chair of this committee last year. Caroline Merriam subsequently had to resign because of her ill health. The contribution they have both made to the care of our church's estate has been very great indeed.

**Maintenance** Following last year's report, essential works were carried out to the existing boiler and heaters in the Church.

**Hospitality Unit** A meeting with the contractor and Friends of Dedham Church resulted in a change of specification for the hospitality suite. An amended request is being made to the DAC.

**Churchyard Trees** We have been granted a faculty to remove the Metasequoia tree and are awaiting a second quotation before proceeding with this work.

**Windows and Walls** The Friends have undertaken to help fund the repair and refurbishment of the 12 clerestory windows (those which were not repaired some years ago) and remove existing paint from the upper walls and clean and limewash these areas. Quotations are being obtained and application made to DAC for a faculty for this work.

**Porch** Advice is being sought on the ingress of water over North porch into Muniment room.

*Suzanne Woods*  
Chairman

## CHURCHYARD

**Thank you** The Churchwardens take this opportunity to thank Andrew Hodson who has maintained the churchyard to a high standard for another year. From time to time the groundsman has to deal with those grieving families who leave things on graves that are not permitted by diocesan regulations. Grief and anger being so very close, this is no easy task. The Church Office supports him in explaining and maintaining that 'private grief in a public place' is subject to some restrictions, for the good of all.

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**Members** Quinlan Terry, Sara Glover, Tim Sarson, Andrew McLaughlin, Richard Hopkins, Pam Tanner - *Stewardship Secretary* and Sara Marshall - *Financial Administrator*.

**Treasury and Management** The position and responsibilities of the PCC Treasurer are shared between the members of the Committee; however, during 2014 and the interregnum the churchwardens have, of necessity, performed much of this role supported by members of the team and, of course, Sara Marshall. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission as charity number 1130860 and our annual returns are available online through [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

**General Account** Keeping our finances in balance last year was a challenge. Our total income, net of legacies and exceptional items, dropped by £41,000 or more than a quarter with significant reductions from both cash offertories (down £37,000) and fees from weddings/funerals (down over £7,000). Overall, our expenditure exceeded our income by just over £11,000 so it was after very careful consideration, that we decided we should increase our contribution towards our Diocesan Parish Share to pay the full sum requested of £74,512 (we contributed £60,000 in 2012 and £68,592 in 2013). That said, when investment gains are taken into account we ended last year only £4,000 down on our closing position in 2013. Fundraising must remain a high priority but the Duchy Barn Youth Club deserves a special mention for raising over £10,000 in 2014.

**Expenditure** The £18,000 reduction in our expenditure is mainly explained by completion of the major works conducted in 2013 at a cost of £24,000. Our routine expenditure has been reduced significantly over recent years and remains tightly controlled via a “gatekeeper” system: Suzanne Woods for the Churchyard and Fabric and Sara Glover for the Parish Office, Resource Centre and Muniment Room.

**Reserves** The value of our Church endowment funds (effectively investment unit trusts managed by the Church of England) increased by over £7,000 in 2014.

**Stewardship** The most generous legacies the Church has received in recent years, combined with vital on-going support from the “Friends”, allows us to maintain the historic fabric of the building and to continue to adapt it to make it as useful as possible. Anyone considering bequeathing money to the Church is invited to contact Pam Tanner as Stewardship Secretary for further information or any other member of the Committee.

**Budget for 2015** Assuming we continue to keep discretionary spending to a minimum, with your help we should be able to maintain a balanced financial position.

**A big thank you** To everyone who has contributed to our financial health.

*Andrew McLaughlin*  
Chairman

## FUND-RAISING GROUP

**Members** Vee Druitt, Ruth Higginson, Beth Mitchell, Ann Shaw, Jill Strangward and Pam Tanner

**Activities** The merry band of fundraisers held 3 events this year:-

- Bank Holiday Monday - although the weather was most inclement with many people packing up after lunch we battled through until 4 pm and raised £900.
- Call My Bluff Wine Tasting - a fun evening held in September with delicious wines and supper raised just over £1100.
- Big Breakfast - held on the 8th November was considerably down on numbers attending, however we raised almost £700.

A truly successful Autumn of fundraising.

*Jill Strangward*  
Co-ordinator

## RESOURCE CENTRE

**Be Burleigh and Lou Davison** continue to keep the Centre well-stocked, attractive and useful to church members and visitors alike.

## PARISH OFFICE

**New Start** With Betty Cox retiring as Parish Secretary in September after 16 years, the new secretary had a lot to live up to but the welcome given to Claire by the Church Community has been tremendous. With the Vicar also departing in January, there has been a lot to learn very quickly but the support of the Office team and ministry has helped enormously.

**What we do** The Office has dealt with or forwarded countless enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals, group visits, tower tours, genealogies, church statistics, fabric maintenance, security, insurance, stationery - and lost property. On two mornings and one afternoon a week we aim to offer help, guidance and a warm welcome whenever we can.

*Claire Arculus*  
Parish Secretary