

Ardleigh Parish

Annual Report

Year End December 2025



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 19th April 2026

St Mary's Ardleigh

2025 Annual Report and Accounts

For the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh

The draft accounts within this report were approved by the PCC at its meeting on

25th April 2025

1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has responsibility for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church.

2. Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- a. Regular public worship, open to all
- b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation
- c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools and pastoral and evangelist work with children and families
- f. Working with ecumenical partners in the village

PCC Membership

We have a small PCC made up of Richard Culley, Rosemary Kleingeld and Susan Carne. This is not satisfactory as three people are taking decisions for the whole church. Whilst our meetings are enjoyable and business is got through fairly rapidly, we try to make sure that we consult as many people as possible about changes or new ideas. The Reverend Phillip Young chairs most of our meetings which ensures we have a broader view over our work, and we invite people to join us for meetings or send reports to us if they cannot attend.

This year we have been forming Working Parties under areas of interest. Caroline (Safer Recruiting) and Susan (Churchwarden) have been interviewing all our volunteers to create their unique volunteer role descriptions. Lead volunteers now organise different areas and report to the warden and PCC as and when necessary.

3. Achievements and performance

a. Regular public worship for all

Sunday Services

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

Our Sunday services offer a variety of forms including Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer as well as a more contemporary style. Our Café Church offers a more informal and relaxed introduction to church for all ages.

We are very grateful to our Organist, Geoffrey Boyle, for his beautiful organ music each week. Alison Buttery, on the keyboard, continues to play regular hymns as well as introducing some

more contemporary ones

BCP COMMUNION SERVICE

This monthly traditional service remains an important part of the Church's overall worship. Recently, we moved the service to the Chancel, using the High Table and choir stalls. This has helped to enhance the feeling of inclusiveness and togetherness.

Attendance at the service has remained good, even on dark, cold Winter mornings -- when the new heating system has been a real blessing!

Attendees have been generous in their giving with many donations being gift aided.

I would like to thank Judith Molyneux for her regular Bible readings and John and Richard Culley for welcoming people to the service.

David Wright

Church Membership

The Electoral Roll has been revised in 2025. We have 26 members on the roll. With 19 residential, and 7 non-residential.

Bellringing

Following on from last year's report our two new bells arrived at Ardleigh on March 31st and were stored safely in the ringing chamber in full view to the church.

On Friday of that week the bells were lowered to the church floor and placed near the font ready for the dedication service on Sunday April 5th.

Work progressed with the bells raised up into the tower on the next day and were placed in the modified frame and made ready for ringing.

Our first service ringing of the ten bells took place on Sunday May 18th which appropriately was designated Bell Sunday by the Church of England being the nearest Sunday to the feast of St Dunstan, Patron Saint of bellringers.

Since that memorable day we continue to ring for services on the first and third Sundays of each month, also holding our weekly training practices. We have installed a computer programme on one of our laptops called Hawk Ear, which is used for training purposes. It records the ringing via a microphone in the bell chamber and marks the performance of each piece of ringing. The results can be seen on the screen within two or three minutes of the end of the ringing. No excuses, all mistakes show up on the screen! It's quite brutal in its judgements with an accuracy of plus or minus 7 milli seconds from perfect, it takes you 100 milli seconds just to blink your eye.

The first peal on the ten was rung on May 26th by a band all with local connections and since then there have been four quarter peals rung, one of which was Little Erith Major rung in memory of Philip G Erith son of a former tower captain and joint donator of our new treble bell, a ringer here for 50 years. A further five full peals have been rung. One of these by a band from the Ancient Society of College Youths founded in 1637 who man the bells at St Pauls Cathedral, St Mary le Bow, Southwark Cathedral and several other famous churches in central London. They are one of the two prestigious societies of extremely good bell ringers, the other being the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths founded in 1747 by the Duke of Cumberland.

We are in the process of installing cameras in the bell chamber and a TV screen next to the glass screen so that the public can actually see what is happening at the other end of the bell ropes as we ring.

Bell ringing is an extremely enjoyable hobby and can be enjoyed from around 10 years old to over 90, a team effort using both physical and mental skills with a fantastic camaraderie and the chance to see areas of churches where the public never get to!

If you are interested in learning to ring please contact me on 07817 094426.

David Culham

Flowers in Church

'Wow! Aren't they beautiful'. 'Look at this amazing display. Isn't it wonderful?' 'Aren't we fortunate to have such wonderful flower arrangements in our church'. These are just some of the remarks we have heard as people are blessed with the wonderful skills shown by Sue Hulbert

and Rita Randall. They make such a huge contribution to our celebrations for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day, the Advent Ring and Christmas; not just with flowers but decorating our spaces too.

In summer, when it is very hot the flowers are not lasting, so sometimes just foliage can look just as wonderful.

Thank you to Rita Randall and Pat Newton for all their commitment throughout the year, ensuring the flowers are well presented and are watered weekly.

b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation

An important part of the PCCs responsibility is to maintain the fabric of the church so that it is open to all for public worship and private prayer. We are very pleased to be able to have the church open all day and are often thanked by visitors who come in to enjoy our beautiful building. People can often be found sitting quietly in the main body or side chapel having a quiet moment of prayer or contemplation. We have visitors from across the country and world popping in to trace their relatives too. David Wright and Jill Hamblin (the Village Archivist) have been able to help trace family members. Others come to visit their relatives' graves in the grounds or in the Garden of Remembrance.

Benefice Prayer Gathering

To the Philippians, St Paul wrote: 'but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' (Phil 4. 6)

That is what we seek to do when we have the weekly late afternoon Monday Benefice Prayer gathering. We meet usually on zoom at 5pm for about 35minutes though once a month we meet in person in either Ardleigh or Dedham Church. It is led by different people who suggest topics for prayer for the life of our churches, communities and wider concerns. It good, too, to offer thanks to God when prayers are answered.

You may feel nervous about the thought of praying out loud but there is no pressure to do so and can just offer your prayers in silence. There is a real value in joining together.

You may think praying on zoom is a bit weird but it seems to work well and of course there is no travelling. We are a small group but would be delighted and thrilled to have others join us and partner with us in prayer. If you'd like to give it a try, contact the parishes office who can give you the link to join in on zoom. Prayer is our privilege, and we need to ask God to direct and bless us in our ministry and mission that we may see the Kingdom of God grow.

Merv McKinney

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Buildings and Maintenance Report

2025 was the year of our Quinquennial Inspection. It happens every 5 years and is undertaken by a qualified architect. It is quite costly but the good news is that it is funded by the Diocese. Our last inspecting architect, Simon Marks, has retired and we have appointed David Whymark of Polstead. His inspection is very thorough and covers all the fabric (the building and roof) and includes boiler and heating, electrics, fire safety and structures outside. We are working through the recommendations for items requiring attention which have 3 levels of priority, A within 12 months, B 2-5 years and C next Quinquennium.

One immediate requirement was to attend to the Frederick Cox Bishop d.1848 memorial in the North aisle which was in danger of collapse. This was taken down and has now been restored and replaced with costs covered by a grant from the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation.

Gutter cleaning and roof inspections through the year will be undertaken by Lodges.

The PCC has been considering the state of the overgrown Irish yew trees lining the approach to the church which have, we felt, caused problems of access for coffin parties at funerals and also created a rather forbidding aspect which deters visitors, on whom we depend for donations towards upkeep. On our behalf Paul Molyneux has been indefatigable in approaching the various bodies who need to be consulted, the Diocese for a Faculty for works, the Parish Council for approval and Tending District Council as the church is in a conservation area. We are now able

to move forward with our suggestions which have been outlined in detail on the Parish Council website.

Our gardening team have been working tidying up the paths and Garden of Rest and overgrown ivy, planting around some graves and the West door beds and we are grateful to Alan, Paul and John and Richard Culley, among others.

During the year we continued with our programme of annual safety inspections for the Roof Alarm, electrical wiring, emergency lighting, fire extinguishers, heating etc.

Tower clock: although maintenance is the responsibility of the Parish Council, we need to pay for the disturbance caused by installation of our new bells and will be seeking funding for this purpose. As can be seen the clock is not currently working!

A reminder that the buildings/maintenance team meets every two months. It's an informal meeting open to anyone in the village to come along to report anything that they feel needs doing. Please do join us! We need suggestions that will help our village church become more accessible and welcoming.

Martin West

c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved

Friendship Group

Overview

The Friendship Group continues to be a vital part of our church community, providing companionship, social connection, and mutual support to members of all ages. The group meets fortnightly and offers a welcoming space for fellowship, conversation, and refreshment.

What Members Value About the Group

Members consistently emphasize the group's multifaceted role in our church life. The feedback below reflects the meaningful impact of this ministry across several key areas:

Combating Isolation and Loneliness

The primary draw for many members is the opportunity for meaningful conversation and companionship. As one long-standing member shared: "I come here mainly because the company, you know, I live on my own." Another member expressed: "It's just nice to sit and chat with people and catch up... I don't see many people."

The informal, welcoming atmosphere encourages regular attendance and provides essential social connection in an increasingly disconnected world.

Creating a Sense of Belonging

For some members, the group represents more than social interaction—it embodies a sense of home and continuity. One participant reflected: "Oh, it's like coming home to me and to you... we were brought up... we were born here."

Members value the group as a space where they truly belong, reinforcing their connection to the church community and to one another.

Providing Emotional Support

The group provides crucial emotional support, particularly for those managing anxiety or social challenges. One member shared: "I have to buck up courage to come out somewhere on my own... And I find if I can take the dog... I feel much better about coming out."

The welcoming environment gives members the confidence to engage socially and supports their overall wellbeing.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

The group's commitment to accessibility has proven particularly valuable. The dog-friendly policy was specifically highlighted: "Being dog friendly... it makes you always feel better when you've come out." This inclusive approach removes barriers to participation and makes socializing easier for members with different needs.

Hospitality and Practical Comfort

Members appreciate the warm, welcoming environment and the practical hospitality offered. One participant noted: "It is nice and warm in here... Thank you for having us." Another member summed up the appeal of the group's simple offerings: "You just put what you can afford in the middle and have cake and tea. What's better than that?"

The group's emphasis on friendship, conversation, and genuine care creates a space where members feel valued and cared for.

Conclusion

The Friendship Group exemplifies our church's commitment to pastoral care and community building. By providing a safe, inclusive, and hospitable space for connection, the group addresses real needs within our congregation, and the wider area, and strengthens the bonds of our faith community. The consistent positive feedback demonstrates that this ministry is making a genuine difference in members' lives.

We are so grateful to Pat and Rita and their team of helpers that set this up and run it. This report shows what a tremendous ministry they have had over the years and how their friendly approach has built this group up from half a dozen to more than twenty visitors over the years.

The tables and chairs gifted through The Friends of Ardleigh provide a café atmosphere: especially with the addition of cushions also through The Friends. We may be reaching a stage where we need some tables!

In July the promised repeat of the fabulous Strawberry Tea which saw the café area as packed as last year and, of course, the request went up for another one in 2026.

Everyone offers a huge THANK YOU for all the effort that goes into this group and also to Pat for her faithful provision of refreshments Sunday by Sunday, and at other events too.

WALKS

I have led a couple of walks to raise funds for the Friends of Ardleigh Church:

Colchester City Walk 15 August 2025

On a hot sunny day, I led a group of 12 on a walk around part of the city centre. I reminded them that Roman Emperor Claudius had decreed that Colchester should become Britain's first Roman city. Although it was destroyed in AD 60 by Queen Boudicca, the city was rebuilt and then protected by a mighty defensive wall with access and egress controlled by 6 gates. We started the walk from where the East gate had been and made our way along Priory Street, walking close to the wall.

We dropped down to see the remains of St. Botolph's Priory, England's first Augustinian priory. This clearly had been a magnificent building before it was severely damaged during the Civil War. Our next visit was to the Firstsite Gallery and then The Minories-- the latter being a hidden gem with a cafe and a beautiful walled garden. From there, we walked passed the Castle to Tymperleys in the city centre. This is a magnificent Tudor house which was once the home of William Gilberd, who was physician to Queen Elizabeth 1.

We made our way to the High Street to see the artwork depicting sisters Jane and Anne Taylor. Jane wrote the famous nursery rhyme "Twinkle, twinkle Little Star....". The depiction was created by Mandy Pratt -- a former church warden of Ardleigh Church.

We finally explored the Dutch Quarter. Here we saw the remains of Colchester's Roman theatre and the adjacent St. Helena's Chapel -- St. Helena was the mother of Constantine The Great, the first Christian Roman emperor. As such, she is the patron saint of Colchester.

As always, the group gave generous donations to aid the Friends of Ardleigh Church.

Wrabness Walk 14 December 2025

This was the annual pre- Christmas walk. Although it was a glorious Winter's day (mild with sun and blue sky), the group totalled only 6 together with 3 very energetic dogs.

We walked around the Wrabness Nature Reserve and then along the privately owned section of the south bank of the River Stour. The river looked magnificent.

On the return leg of the walk, we stopped at Wrabness Church's outside bell cage. In the Middle Ages, the Church had a bell tower but this repeatedly collapsed. Legend has it that these disasters were considered to be the work of the Devil and in desperation the Church decided to keep the bell(s) safe and sound on the ground and in a cage!

Future Walk Friday 17 April 2026, starting at
10.00 am from Greyfriars car park

This will be around another part of Colchester City Centre and will include a visit to the Colchester Roman Circus centre (entrance fee £ 5.00). This illustrates how Britain's only known chariot racing track would have been. I found it fascinating.

MUSICAL EVENINGS

In September the church was used during the Roman River Music Festival. We hosted the Armonico Consort for their performance of The Rachmaninov Vespers. Beautifully lit with candles all around we were treated to a soul touching performance. The acoustics of our church were amazing and you could feel the happiness in the stones of the building as the music soared up and around us all.

In November we had another stunning evening when we invited the Chorus Iceni (of which Alison is a member) to come and perform a medley of songs. Alison and Steve organised drinks and church members provided an array of delicious cakes and snacks for the interval.

On both occasions it was wonderful to see our building full and to see new visitors looking in awe at the beautiful interior.

d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups

We continued our usual pattern of services following the Common Worship Lectionary with a few out of the box themes. After exploring various options, we obtained a busker unit and a TV in a flight case through a grant from the Mission Opportunity Fund and a top up from The Friends of Ardleigh Church. The busker unit has made the keyboard much more useful both inside and outside the church. The TV will enable us to offer small groups the opportunity to join the Alpha or Christianity Explored Courses, enjoy further Bible Society DVDs and help us bring more variety into our services.

Usage of TV

Date	Event	Adults	Children
7/9/25	Café Church	12	5
21/9/25	KSO in HC		0
22/9/25	Alpha Intro	5	
5/10/25	Café Church	8	3
20/10/25	Alpha	8	
27/10/25	Alpha	9	
2/11/25	Café Church	11	4
10/11/25	Alpha	8	
16/11/25	Songs displayed in Morning Praise	21	
17/11/25	Alpha	7	
23/11/25	Mark Wood from KORBAN used it for his presentation in sermon slot	18	
24/11/25	Alpha	8	
30/11/25	Light Up Advent Service	16	9
7/12/25	Sunday service Christmas cartoon and words for songs	15	3
19/12/25	Primary School, Staff and Parents	50	86
21/12/25	Sunday Service Words for hymns	20	

A small beginning but we are excited about the many different ways we will be able to use it in future as we develop our skills.

Susan Carne

e. Taking of religious assemblies and work with children and families.

Children & Families Ardleigh

Sunday Services for Children & Young families

Cafe Church each month continues to be popular with many adults choosing to attend this service as well as families.

In 2025, we launched Kids Step Out (KSO) on 3rd Sunday of the month. This was not well attended but rather than pull back, we have decided to resource KSO every week. Currently we have one family regularly attending this service and our hope & prayer that more families join us.

Community Connections

Connections with the *local primary school* continues to be positive despite another change in leadership in autumn 2025. We rejoice in the newly appointed Head of School, who could not be more welcoming. Alison and Caroline run Sing Together Collective Worship fortnightly. We now have consent to include CW content giving us more time for singing and include nuggets of teaching. Rev. Phillip runs collective worship monthly in term time.

Over the last 3 years, we can reflect with joy on the children's confidence to sing Christian truths, read from the bible and form their own prayers (at end of term services hosted at church).

In 2025, we ran an Easter Workshop in the school. Although hugely successful, we concluded that a full day was a step too far. As Alison, Susan and Caroline are now trained to lead 'Open the Book', we hope that this will be a regular alternative to the workshop day.

Connecting with the *Preschool* came to an abrupt halt in 2025 as it was forced to close. However, Caroline is developing connections with the new *Woodland House* nursery (reading / singing with the children) and we hope to support the new nursery due to open in the school from September 2026.

Little Steps toddler group has settled into a new monthly pattern, with some regular families and newcomers. Our prayer is to include some Christian input, along with songs & prayers, and that families will bridge over to Café Church.

Conclusion

We continue to praise God for all He is doing through this ministry and are grateful to every member of the Children and Families Ministry Team. Psalm 90;17 is a call to Him who 'establishes the work of our hands'.

Amen, we pray that He will continue to 'establish the work of our hands', this work and ministry for the sake of His glory and kingdom.

f. Working with ecumenical partners

Since the Methodist Chapel closed and the Roman Catholics no longer using our building we lack any ecumenical partners in the village. The Diocese is involved in discussions about the church's presence in the new developments being proposed near to Ardleigh in the future.

Deanery Synod

Alan Cowie is our representative on the Deanery Synod having been appointed in 2023. Both of the Tendring and Dedham Rural Missioners, Phillip and John, also attend meetings of the Deanery Synod. The meetings cover a wide range of topics in the Deanery, and further afield, and included discussions and reflection on issues relating to our area life

Churchwarden Report

We finished 2025 on an absolute high: celebrating Christmas with so many people. The school end of term service was so enjoyable and we were pleased to welcome Parents, staff and all the pupils. Alison and Caroline' singing assemblies are really making a difference to the confidence of the pupils' singing and their engagement in the Services.

We owe an enormous amount of gratitude to Steve and Caroline who brought together an outside crib for the Village to enjoy. With thanks to Rosemary who enabled us to move larger pieces around it is now safely stored in the mortuary ready for 2026. Everyone who attended the LIGHT UP ADVENT service enjoyed it as well as the activities and refreshments afterwards. We hope that next year we might be able to have an outside service again.

I think the wonderful thing about serving as Churchwarden is the enormous amount of support and encouragement I receive from those around me. Those who have done this job before know how extremely overwhelming it can be, especially for one person when there should be two Churchwardens. The leads and their teams have all worked incredibly well together. I want to express my deep gratitude to each and everyone of you.

Our PCC is small and dedicated. We have a wonderful time meeting together and talking through how we can help our church fulfil its commission. Phillip Young has joined us as our Chair and planning and decision making.

I am sure that everyone joins me in thanking out two Rural Missioners Phillip and John, and our 'retired' Merv.

We are blessed us every time they come to take services. By the end of the year we were able to have Holy Communion three weeks a month. We have also been blessed by the Ministry of Richard Hopkins as he comes to lead and preach on the fourth Sunday for our Morning Prayers Service.

We are very fortunate to have such a high standard of preaching the Word combined with the Gospel message.

Geoff Boyle, our organist, and Alison Buttery, on the keyboard, have both helped to lead our music and singing. We are very grateful to them both and we still are looking for more musicians to join us.

As I also function as Treasurer, I'm extremely grateful to David and Mark and our wonderful Financial Administrator Sara who helps keep our finances in good shape. I do extend a huge thank you to Sara who has been such a wonderful encouraging and helpful support for so many years to Ardleigh Church.

We had to say goodbye to Deb Turner, our Parish Secretary this year. She was showered with cards, presents and celebrations of thanks from us all for her years of hard work. In the autumn we were blessed with the arrival of Sianne Mann. She has taken on her task with great enthusiasm and her skills have been welcomed by all. We are very grateful for her 'go the extra mile' attitude and her fellowship at Ardleigh has been a great encouragement.

As we move forward into the coming year we will

- a) continue to concentrate on our work with the local school and nurseries and young families. This is an area where we are finding great cooperation and feel the Lord's blessing. We are looking to make our church and our services as family friendly as we can.
- b) look at how we disciple people who join us and how we can extend our study of the Bible midweek.
- c) plan to develop the side chapel into a room separate from the rest of the building so that it can be used as a prayer space as well as a meeting room for different activities.

Those who He calls He also equips.

Susan Carne – Churchwarden

Locking and Unlocking Report

A huge thank you to all who unlock the church every morning and lock up every evening.

I often read the comments book in the church and, apart from admiring our beautiful church the

main comment is always how much the fact that the church is unlocked during the day is appreciated. I know a lot of folk come in for private prayer during the day and this would not be possible without your help.

Rosemary

Ardleigh Craft Group

With a continuous supply of free wool (from TWAM via Sue McKinney) our group continues to meet twice a month and produce items for other charities. We have also been able to encourage people to refresh their love of crochet or knitting. We are open to everyone and regularly advertise our group around the village.

Craft Group Charity Contributions

	2025	2024	2023
Prem Baby Hats	212	164	68
Pairs of Fingerless Gloves	4	4	4
Adult Hats	92	74	37
Adult hat and scarf set			
Knee Blankets Blackbrook House & Copford	101	30	9
Twizzles		11	32
Fiddle Muffs		3	2
Scarves		1	
Pram Blanket		1	
Trauma Teddies	8		
Single size blanket for ACU Colchester Hospital			
ITEMS FOR RIDE AND STRIDE SALE			
SEPTEMBER 25			
ADULT HATS	28		
CHILDRENS HATS	13		
SCRUNCHIES	17		
SCARF	8		
PONCHOS	3		
BAGS	3		
Car seat blanket	1		
blankets	3		

Financial review

Risk management

Health and Safety

Checks are made that contractors' visits for various assessments are up to date. Annually, all Fire extinguishers and Blankets are checked. The First Aid box is checked, and its contents kept up to date. Any accidents are recorded in the Accident Book and a copy retained in the Parishes Office. Risk assessments are made on an individual basis for non-regular events in church. A visual check with the caretaker is made annually. In addition, any Health and Safety queries are brought to the Churchwarden or the Parishes Office.

People Management & Safer Recruiting & Safeguarding

Safeguarding and SR&PM are now inter-connected at St Mary's, Ardleigh. This is to ensure that everybody who serves in the church has a clearly defined role, accountable to the PCC and are supported and managed well. This includes identifying training needs and external requirements, such as DBS checks.

In September 2025, Caroline Allen, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) also assumed the role of Lead Recruiter (LR) and completed the required training. Previously Susan Carne, Church Warden (CW) undertook the role of LR. She continues to work very closely with the CW to fulfil this role; they meet and review role holders together. She then completes all necessary administration including managing DBS checks and training.

The Safeguarding Policy, with separate Safeguarding Procedures were initially ratified by the PCC on 25th January 2024 and re-ratified in November 2025.

Safer Recruitment & People Management Policy was ratified by the PCC on 25th January 2024 and re-ratified in November 2025.

All necessarily applications for DBS checks are completed by the PSO/LR. Those on the Update Service are routinely checked to ensure their ongoing suitability for roles requiring DBS clearance. The intention is that those re-applying and all new applications for DBS checks will also apply to be on the Update Service.

The PSO supports individuals through this process (and access necessary training).

The PSO submits regular reports to the PCC as required by the diocese. It is important that the PSO attends at least one PCC meeting a year and Safeguarding should be an item on each PCC agenda. Each interim report clearly indicates how activities are COMPLETED / IN PROGRESS / OUTSTANDING.

In 2025, Ministry Teams continue to develop. The imperative now is to ensure that each Ministry Team Lead fulfils their role independently and accountable to the CW & PCC.

We are so grateful to our God for leading us and making us a safer and increasingly fit church for the growth of His ministry to His people in Ardleigh.

Caroline Allen (PSO & LR)

6. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the churchwardens elected by the Parish together with members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. All who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Present PCC.

Churchwarden Susan Carne (elected APCM 2024)

Elected members Richard Culley (APCM 2021) Rosemary Kleingeld (APCM 2021)

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in The Street, Ardleigh, CO7 7LD. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Parishes Office, The Assembly Rooms, Dedham CO7 6HJ.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh
Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
Held on Sunday 18th May 2025 at 10.45

Those present: Geoffrey Boyle, Susan Carne (church warden), Judith Molyneux, Paul Molyneux, Alan Cowie, Christine Mingay, John Culley, Richard Culley (PCC), Gillian Campling, June Windsor, David Wright, Martin West, Rosemary Kleingeld (Clerk), Mark Kleingeld, David Barnard, Caroline Allen, David Culham, Pat Newton

Apologies for Absence. John Saxon, Anne Auld, Alison Buttery, Tony Windsor, Rosina Harman, John Allen

The meeting was opened in prayer by Caroline Allen.

1	The Annual Meeting of Parishioners	Minutes of APCM 2024 The Minutes of last year's meeting on April 18th were approved and signed by the Chair.
2	Election of Church Warden	One proposal for church warden: Susan Carne Proposed by Richard Culley Seconded by Martin West Mrs Susan Carne elected as Churchwarden
3	Any Other Business	None were raised
	Meeting closed with prayer at 10.55 and was followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting	

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda

1	Open in Prayer	
	Attendees as above with Susan Carne as Chair	
2	Apologies received as above	
3	Election of Officers. Appointment of tellers to count votes Richard Culley – Parochial Church Council Member Rosemary Kleingeld – Clerk and Parochial Church Council Member Alan Cowie – Deanery Synod Representative	Show of hand instead of tellers All proposed seconded and voted on the PCC The communications team to discuss how best to circulate this information and dates of meetings
4	Minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting	These were included in the APCM annual Report

5	Minutes	The Minutes of last year's meeting on April 21st were approved and signed by the Chair.
6	No Matters arising	
7	Electoral Roll Report	This was revised by RK and now consists of 26 (19 resident and 7 non-residents) Drop in residents of 1 and an increase in non-residents of 3 Record to be kept
8	APCM Annual Report	Accepted and signed
9	Deanery Synod	Alan Cowie proposed, seconded and duly elected.
11.	Church Warden Report	
	Financial report	Copies available for attendees Proposal for Acceptance: John Culley Seconded Susan Carne All in favour of adoption of accounts and retaining current auditor. All agreed
	AOB	Martin reported the Parish Share to be £7500.00. Building and Maintenance were discussed, including plans for glassing in The Lady Chapel, to make a quiet, warm place for prayers, meeting etc. Paul, on behalf of the PCC, was working on a project for the Yew Trees: to remove three trees on either side of the pathway to the church. This would leave two at the Lych gate and two near the church entrance. There was some discussion about moving the Font, which is considered a hazard by the fire officer. It blocks the fire exit at the West door and takes up a lot of our café area which is increasingly in use. First Sunday BCP Communion. Numbers were growing but cancellations have resulted in falling numbers. It was agreed that it should be every month in future: on the first Sunday of each month, at 8.30, before Café Church
17.	Conclusion	Meeting closed with prayer at 11.45.