

Report to Parish Council AGM 2026

In the past year, 2025, there have been 20 services at St Bartholomew's including one Baptism (in Service), one Wedding, one Funeral and a Celebration of life. Average Sunday attendance for our monthly services was 20.

Our Easter morning 8am communion was well attended, as was the Carol Service. The church has been kept clean and tidy by a number of volunteers and we are most grateful to them and the Ladies Guild, who provide beautiful seasonal flowers.

There are frequent comments in the visitors book to the effect that the church is so well cared for.

The churchyard grass has been cut regularly by Chris Tanton, and we are most grateful to Waltham Parish Council for a substantial grant towards the cost of his work.

There have been fewer churchyard working parties in the past year and work is still needed at the east end.

£10,000 of the Fabric Fund reserves was spent on a new electronic organ from Viscount of Bicester.

The previous one, donated by Daphne ten Hove in 1993 in memory of her late husband Jan, was becoming increasingly unreliable and costly to maintain. I think that it is fair to say that our organist, Ruth Goodsell, is delighted with the new one and still exploring its many features.

In Lent two charity lunches were held and donations passed to the Thanington Resource Centre, for which the CEO expressed his gratitude at the recent talk here in the village hall.

Other donations were made to the Royal British Legion and the Children's Society. Another quiz evening was held in November, raising over £500. Thanks are due to Adam & Jo Harvey for an imaginative and challenging set of questions.

More fundraising will be needed in the future as our architect, Katharine Rutherford, has provided a new Quinquennial Report on the fabric of the church, detailing many items in need of attention.

Chris Cox
Churchwarden