

St Andrew's Church, Cotton

Despite the fact that we have been without a priest in the Bacton benefice, we have continued to hold our usual pattern of services- a communion service on the second Sunday (taken by a visiting priest) and morning worship on the fourth Sunday. On the third Sunday of each month, there is only one service in the Benefice when each parish in turn welcomes those from the other parishes.

During the year, we have replaced the curtains at the main door and behind the altar; bought a new CD player for use when we have no organist and had work completed on the bell frame which has enabled the bells to be rung again. We have been fortunate enough to have had new brass candlesticks donated for the altar and a handsome cabinet which contains the work done by John Tellford-Taylor on the details of those mentioned on the war memorial.. The cabinet was donated by the Parish Council.

Last November, the PCC worked with the Parish Council to mark the 11th November commemoration of the end of the Great War which involved many of the village. The recent rededication of the War Memorial, following its renovation by the Parish Council, by the Bishop of Dunwich was again a happy village occasion followed by a tea party in the church.

The PCC continue to work hard to run fundraising events – Our Bat evening was well attended, and the coffee morning at Church Farm was delightful – but it is a struggle. We are very grateful for all the help we get from volunteers for many jobs around the church and churchyard and the support for our events. However, we have to send over £10.000 a year to the diocese and the running costs continue to rise. We have got some reserves but they won't last forever. There are improvements we would love to make to the church but it all comes down to money The clearstory windows need re-leading, and the cost is going to be excess of £30k for which we will be seeking grants.

As a PCC we are always looking for ways to use the church for village activities and to encourage more people to come and worship with us.