

Parish Council AGM Church report 2025

At the beginning of 2024, we were in the second year of interregnum, with the weekly service pattern continuing with the help of retired Priests. The appointment of a part-time Priest-in-Charge (50%) to oversee the reduced North Samford Benefice of four parishes was still being sought by the Diocese. In June, Rev Natalie West was appointed as Priest-Charge and licensed at the end of September at a service at Copdock. We welcomed Natalie to Burstall for the first time at the beginning of October.

Burstall Church has a small friendly congregation, with numbers swelled at the Festival Services, especially at our Carol Service of nine lessons and carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall afterwards. An enjoyable village event. For the second year, a Festival of Angels was held just before Christmas with the church decorated with angels crafted from all sorts of media by village members and children. The church was also decorated with many hand-made poppies for Remembrance. Recently a very successful Easter Egg Hunt culminated in the church. The church remains open every day for private prayer and contemplation.

Fundraising for the church continued throughout the year with a coffee morning, cream tea, Harvest lunch and a Christmas Market. At the beginning of 2025, we held the Big Burstall Breakfast for the first time, which was very well attended. Thank you to everyone who supports us at these events, which all help to maintain the church building and services.

We are very grateful to the Parish Council for continuing to cover the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard. Thank you to everyone in the village who continues to support the church with flower arranging, decorating the church and porch and cleaning.

Sadly, Nick Fiske passed away in December. Nick had been a great supporter of Burstall Church and Churchwarden for over 55 years. He is greatly missed.

Gillian Gasper
Churchwarden