

Great Bentley PCC Finance Report March 2026

The accounts have been passed by an independent advisor, and you should all have received the detail. One thing has been changed: in the past the magazine advertising money has been accounted on the accrual system. This year the diocese thought it better to do it on the receipts and payment system. This means that this year the figures for the magazine account will look high, next year, low, and should be back to normal in 2027. Our advisor was happy that this was changed and is happy to continue as our auditor.

We have had no response as yet regarding the churchyard extension.

A recent bequest could be used for the stabilization of the head stones? Or put towards the electrical upgrade, which will soon be needed? When we have decided, I will let the family know, as a courtesy, as I had initially told them we were going to use it for the link doors.

The bell restoration project is now just awaiting the faculty, which hopefully will be in early April; then the Heritage Lottery Fund can give the go ahead, and the contractors will still have the slot from July available.

A Hospice visit was made, and was most interesting. They do much more than we know about, including a commercial cleaning service, and paid respite care. We are awaiting leaflets to publicize these aspects.

The “events” group are about to try their first new event, the flower arranging evening on Friday. Many thanks to those who organised this. Other ideas include an Art Show, separate from the Flower Festival, and a musical evening.

Organization of the May Fair is well under way, as is the popular baked potato lunch in April.

The coffee morning for the Bishop’s Lent appeal raised £258, and we are still getting a few donations, so I will hold it open till Easter, and submit the money after that.

The porch: a meeting was held with the architect in March. We have had a fair response from Historic England, and the next step will be to clarify precisely what we want, which will enable us to get a ball park figure of the overall cost. At the moment it’s Standing Committee and a member of the PCC, but if anyone else from PCC would like to get involved with the project, please let me know. We will have another meeting with the architect fairly soon when we

specify our needs, and they will then approach contractors for prices. We are a long way off starting work yet, and before that we will have some more expense with the architect, and perhaps a structural engineer. They will let us know their costs asap, and hopefully before PCC. I think we have enough in the kitty for these preliminaries, but will need to get grants for the actual work.

AHS

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