REPORT ON CURRENT WEBSITE USAGE AND PURPOSE
JANUARY 2025

History - recap

Our website was set up in 2014 by Virginia Barnard, a friend of Terry Jones, to replace the original not-fit-for purpose one then in use. It uses Wordpress, but with bespoke elements. It was run jointly by me and Helen Kirby, who is now not involved. In 20152016 I trained Andy Parris to take over as admin when I walked to Rome, and then in late 2019 I took over the role of admin again when Andy resigned.

The website took on special importance to the parish during the lockdowns of 20202021, and again during our recent period of upheaval (the stats for 2024 are revealing). However, in the 21st century a website is a necessity at all times (see 'Purpose' below).

In the summer of 2023 I embarked on a complete redesign of the site to bring the 'look' and aesthetics up to date (see 'Design' below). I am proud that our parish receives plaudits for the site.

Dual purpose of St Edmunds RC Bungay website

1. Clearly, the primary purpose of any website is the dissemination of information, both 'static' and time-limited. Our site is updated several times a week in the sections 'calendar', 'latest news' and 'newsletter'. Readings for the forthcoming Sunday and Sunday Plus are uploaded on the preceding Wednesday. Other updates are made as necessary.

2. However, the remit of our website is, and has always been, more than this. It is the window through which the outside world glimpses the life and ethos of our parish, our faith and works, and as such plays a part in evangelisation. It is also a means whereby our parish community is bound together, not merely by knowing what is going on, but by celebrating the events, life and people of the Church family.

These two facets are reflected in the stats (see appendix) in that people look for both current information and 'human interest' stories, especially parish interviews.

Design

This is of utmost importance in both the dissemination of information and in reflecting who and what we are and what we represent.

In showing our face to the world (ie in designing our site) my watchword is the instruction attributed to St Francis: "Preach the Gospel at all times; use words when necessary." People need to see what we do, and then feel "That is somewhere I want to be." I try always to illustrate news reports with photos, within the constraints of

privacy, and preferably of people enjoying themselves. My aim is a clean and simple design, uncluttered and easily navigable on all platforms. It is not only unnecessary and untidy but possibly counterproductive to litter the site with quotes and mottos.

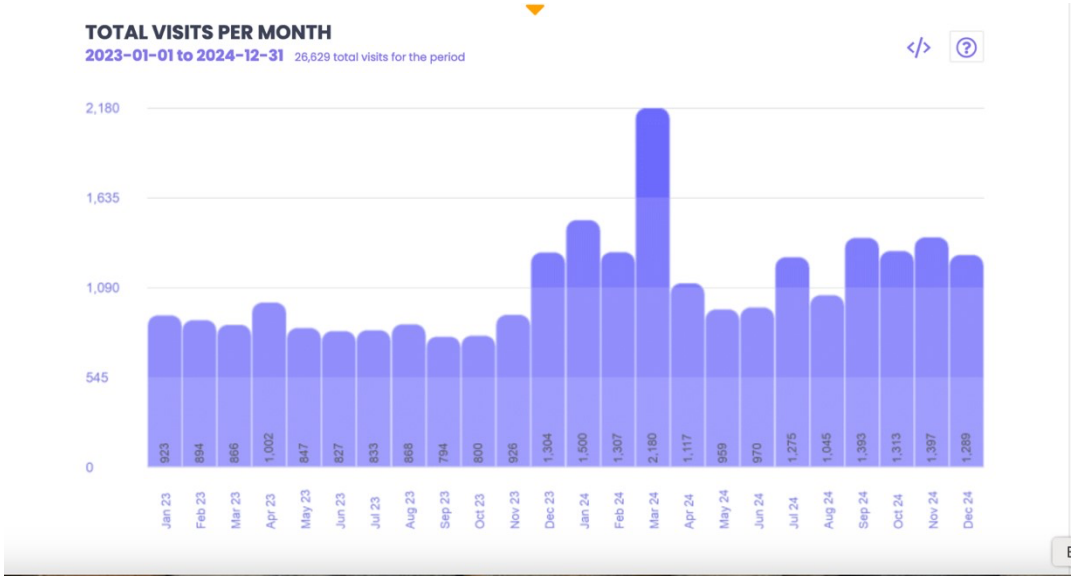
Future
I was given to understand by Pamela Saint-Mart, the Beccles treasurer, that the Bungay site would absorb the Beccles information when the parishes are merged, and I am currently working on a 'merged' site, which will adhere to the design principles I have described above.

Costs
The Bungay site is currently hosted by SiteGround. Compared to similar hosting packages this is expensive now the first-year deal has elapsed, and it concerns me that we are almost at storage capacity. Without this level of hosting I should not have been able to create the staging site which allowed me to redesign the site 18 months ago, and which also permits my current work on an amended site to include information from all four churches in the Waveney Valley Catholic Parish. Our current site is a large one and we could not downgrade without losing space and facilities. I recommend looking for a better deal which gives us more space.

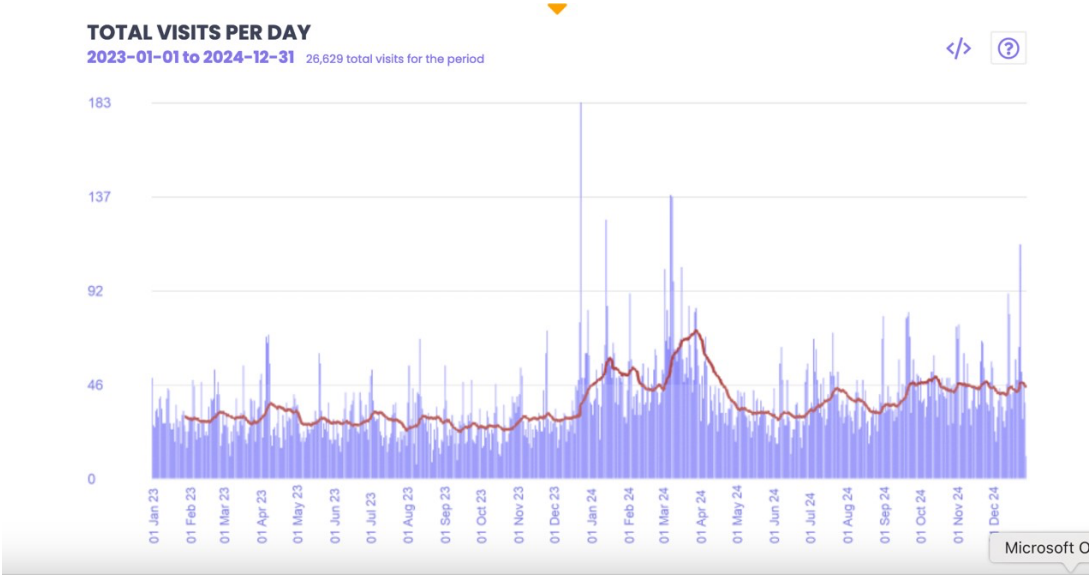
We employ a troubleshooting company, Fixrunner, to solve any problems which arise which are beyond my technical competence. If economies were needed I did suggest to the treasurer that we could employ Fixrunner on an ad hoc basis rather than pay for an account. His reply was that if this is what was needed to have a fit-for-purpose website then the expenditure was justified. However, with better support included in a hosting package we could perhaps dispense with Fixrunner, but the support would have to be tried and tested first.

Statistics: traffic and usage
Please see attached appendix (page 3) with statistics.

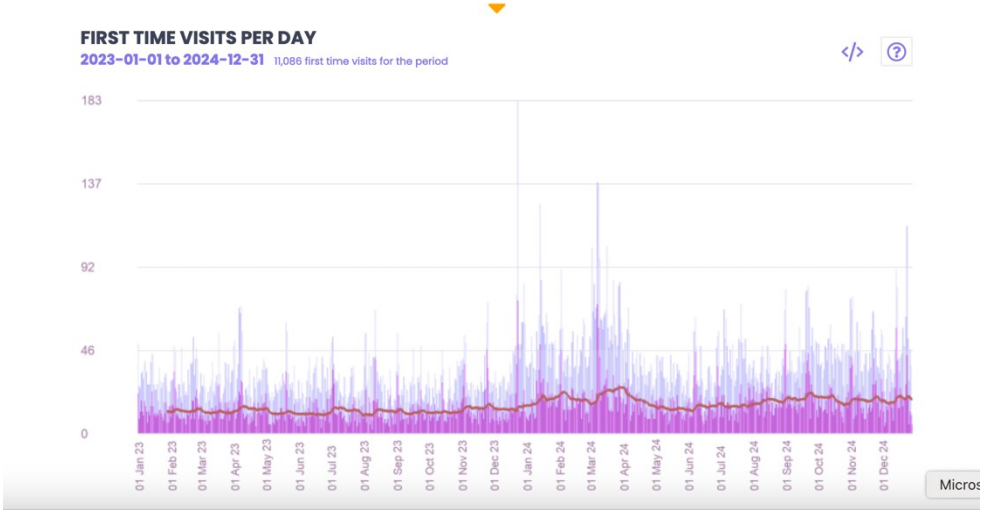
Traffic 1.01.23 - 29.12.24 This clearly shows the spikes around the events of Christmas 2023, the Bishop's visit in March 2024, and Fr Simon's arrival in September 2024. The increase in traffic since Fr Simon's arrival has been sustained.



Total visits per day for the same period



First time visits per day for the same period



Visits per day 29.11.24 - 29.12.24

Day	Visits	Visits (first time visitors)	Visits (repeat visitors)	Page Views (Plus)	Page Views per Visit ,en(Plus)
2024-12-29	11	5	6	30	2.73
2024-12-28	37	10	27	88	2.38
2024-12-27	46	12	34	144	3.13
2024-12-26	29	5	24	69	2.38
2024-12-25	52	20	32	92	1.77
2024-12-24	114	43	71	255	2.24
2024-12-23	64	27	37	122	1.91
2024-12-22	48	20	28	90	1.88
2024-12-21	48	19	29	88	1.83
2024-12-20	58	15	43	108	1.86
2024-12-19	44	21	23	95	2.16
2024-12-18	42	25	17	74	1.76
2024-12-17	34	14	20	70	2.06
2024-12-16	41	14	27	0	0.00
2024-12-15	80	40	40	0	0.00
2024-12-14	90	58	32	0	0.00
2024-12-13	46	25	21	0	0.00
2024-12-12	33	18	15	0	0.00
2024-12-11	25	7	18	0	0.00
2024-12-10	28	14	14	0	0.00
2024-12-09	35	16	19	0	0.00
2024-12-08	42	23	19	0	0.00
2024-12-07	44	17	27	0	0.00
2024-12-06	38	13	25	0	0.00
2024-12-05	30	15	15	0	0.00
2024-12-04	18	6	12	0	0.00
2024-12-03	23	4	19	0	0.00
2024-12-02	35	12	23	0	0.00
2024-12-01	54	23	31	0	0.00
2024-11-30	57	30	27	0	0.00
2024-11-29	47	13	34	0	0.00

Top 30 visited pages (note 'human interest' pages)

A1 Name Box | fx Entrance Page

Entrance Page	Visits	Page Views per Visit (Plus)
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk	10,232	0.08
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/readings-for-sunday-23-februaryt	1,100	0.01
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/mass-times	639	0.17
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/professor-john-charmley	334	0.02
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/calendar	299	0.16
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/andrew-scott	278	0.01
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/christine-webber	243	0.02
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/father-mike-brookes	233	0.03
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/statement-from-bishop-peter-collins-to-the-pa	181	0.00
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/lucy-cranfield-a-glass-half-full	180	0.07
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/peter-harvey-moral-theologian	124	0.06
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/whos-who-in-the-parish-a-z	121	0.06
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/clergy-contact-details	113	0.05
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/notes-on-the-posada	108	0.11
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/margaret-thorby-musician	106	0.04
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/st-edmunds-parent-and-toddler-group	102	0.00
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/my-life-and-times-father-charles	101	0.02
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/father-simon-blakesley	97	0.19
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/frances-mann-painter-and-parishioner	93	0.00
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/mary-kirk-the-interviewer-interviewed	87	0.05
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/•-carl-adekola-a-young-star-in-the-harleston-p	82	0.01
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/chapel-of-st-thomas-more	74	0.01
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/angela-and-david-paterson-through-turmoil-to	73	0.05
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/welcome-2	73	0.04
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/wp-admin/widgets.php	71	0.00
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/contact	61	0.00
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/guide	58	0.05
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/dr-helen-kemp-a-life-in-the-service-of-others	55	0.02
https://www.stedmundsrcbungay.org.uk/peter-smith-cullen-back-in-norfolk-back-in-the	55	0.00

• Please note the "readings-for-Sunday" dates do not refer to any particular Sunday, but the first Sunday for which the page was created