

St Marys Church Report 2026

The church remains a festival church this means we can continue to only 6 to 10 services a year, Saints days and other main festivals, Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance etc. we are still open for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. This is because our congregation has dwindled to only a handful and cannot fully support the running costs. So we are looking for a new congregation, we also need bellringers as we do not have a team of our own, if you wish to learn teaching is available. We do not have a PCC as there is only 3 remaining members with no secretary in post.

The church building is open weekends from 9AM to 5PM for those who wish to visit, or go in for quiet contemplation, or prayer.

The church remains in great danger of closing and the building becoming a monument, although this is a fair way off, The Friends of St Marys are looking after the maintenance but do not pay the insurance.

The rev Rachel Dunn was then inducted in March 2025 and we had very successful services at Easter although she to spread herself very thin throughout the team. However, she has been absent for a long period of this past year and remains off sick for the foreseeable future. We are continuing to have services where possible with volunteer clergy. Our next service is the team service at the end of May and we are hoping to hold a songs of praise in August.

Our organist, Barbara Reed, has retired after in excess of 50 years. She will be greatly missed.

Finally we would like to thank the Parish Council for giving us a grant towards the cost of cutting the church yard grass, which costs in the region of £4500/year, so we are now unable to keep it as tidy as we would like and we will be seeking further help in the future. We did have 2 volunteers come from the National Trust to cut the whole yard. This took 2 full days from 2 people. We were extremely grateful.