

Churchwardens' Report April 2026

2025 was a relatively uneventful year in the life of St Mary's. The annual round of Services followed their usual pattern, interspersed with occasions such as the Mayor Making Service, Remembrance Sunday and Holocaust Memorial Day. Our congregation numbers continue to increase slowly, albeit not yet back to pre-Covid levels, and it has been particularly pleasing to see a number of new younger people amongst the congregation.

We have run a small number of social events through the year, including our Mothering Sunday and VE Day teas. Our visitor numbers to the Church are increasing, year on year, possibly helped by of our new "Church Open, All Visitors Welcome" boards.

We ran two market stalls, one in August and the other at the Winstanley Christmas Market, to inform people in the town about our Church activities.

The two major projects in St Mary's this year have been the rehang of the newly recast bell, following a weekend when it was on display in the church and tea and cakes were served to visitors and, of course, the lighting project, culminating in the hugely successful Service of Light.

As usual, we are enormously grateful to the large team of volunteers who keep the Church going behind the scenes, to our Assistant Wardens and Vergers, to our Parish Administrators, and above all, to all our Clergy, whether from St Mary's or the villages, current, retired or lay.

**Simon Potter and Vivian Falk
Churchwardens**