

Report of Parish Activities St. Mary's Church - 2025

St. Mary's Church held 29 services throughout 2025. Aside of the usual Morning Prayer and Holy Communion services, we also held Pentecost and Harvest services specifically for Helmingham primary School, had one funeral, and lastly, Remembrance and Carol services.

The church held five fundraising events during 2025 (coffee morning, Curry Night, Garden Party, Fete and Pub Quiz) raising £1,446.63 for church funds. We also held a village VE Day Celebration in the Village Hall which wasn't chargeable other than for drinks from the bar. Additionally, thanks to Revd. Susan's gargantuan marathon fundraising, another £184.24 was kindly received for church funds also.

Unfortunately, our Parish share for 2025 increased to £5,229.84; we were only able to contribute £3,500 though managed to cover all Insurance premiums, fire extinguisher checks and security Alarm maintenance.

Churchyard maintenance was kept under control once again due to Allister Compton's sheep. His girls will join us again at the end of April 2026 and leave just before Remembrance Sunday.

The flagpole renovation was finished in time for VE Day 2025 and flags changed just before and after Remembrance Day.

The Chancel roof continued to deteriorate, and internal Chancel areas became more weathered, damp and discoloured.

In May internal and external investigations were undertaken by the church Architect (Tim Buxbaum) Stuart Armitage and Peter Barnes to establish exactly what the condition of the chancel and chancel roof is.

The church made a successful application for funding to cover structural engineering investigations. Funding of £1,000 was

secured and provided in two tranches. More financial aid is required for a temporary solution to be installed on the south slope of the chancel roof.

In order to try and obtain emergency assistance and potentially funding, it was recommended that we apply for the church to be placed on the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register.

This we did and achieved HAR status almost immediately. Consequently, the year ended on a more positive note, as any further application made for funding, will have more credence and potentially more successful, due to being on the At Risk register.