

A report on the activities of the St Mary's Helmingham PCC for the year ending April 2026

St Mary's Church is the parish church of Helmingham. The PCC is responsible for the care of the ancient parish church, and meets roughly once every three months with occasionally a special meeting convened if events necessitate one. The PCC exists, as laid down by the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, 'to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

Despite a very small congregation, the St Mary's PCC is grateful for the generosity of the individuals who support the church. Income is generated from service collections, regular giving, collection boxes within the church and car park, scrap metal sales and occasional events organised by PCC members. We are also very grateful for contributions received from the parish council.

In 2025 the events organised by the PCC included a quiz at Helmingham's Coach House and a winter drinks hosted at Helmingham Hall.

The bulk of the St Mary's expenditure is on the annual Parish Share to the diocese. The remaining costs are those for churchyard maintenance, insurance and electricity/water. All church cleaning is done voluntarily by supporters of the church. Organists are unpaid.

Future required works to the church and churchyard are likely to include remedying the large potholes in the car park, fixing missing tiles on the church roof and removing vegetation from the tower.

Electoral roll and services

There were 25 names on the most recent Electoral Roll.

St Mary's was very pleased to host a well-attended benefice service on 30th March 2025. A total of 18 services were held at the church throughout 2025, including two weddings, one burial of ashes and one memorial service.

Bells

St Mary's is fortunate to house a peal of eight bells which were re-hung and rededicated in 2011. The PCC welcomes enquiries and visits from bellringing groups.

Safeguarding

Along with other churches in the benefice, St Mary's Helmingham has appointed Peter Holmes as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Our parish is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults from harm.