

WHY DO WE NEED YOUR HELP?

Your written views on the proposed changes will form an essential part of the consultation process we need to complete. They will help us as we seek permission from the Diocese and other authorities for the first phase of our plans.

We need views and ideas from all ages so please encourage all family members (if they are willing) to complete the survey.

**SO WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT, PRAYERS
AND HELP BY RESPONDING TO THE SURVEY.
THANK YOU!**



Looking forward to the east end

Looking to the west end

Artist impressions
of the transformed church



If you would like more information about the background to the Building Transformation Project, and see the plans and video, please visit our website:

www.stmarysely.org

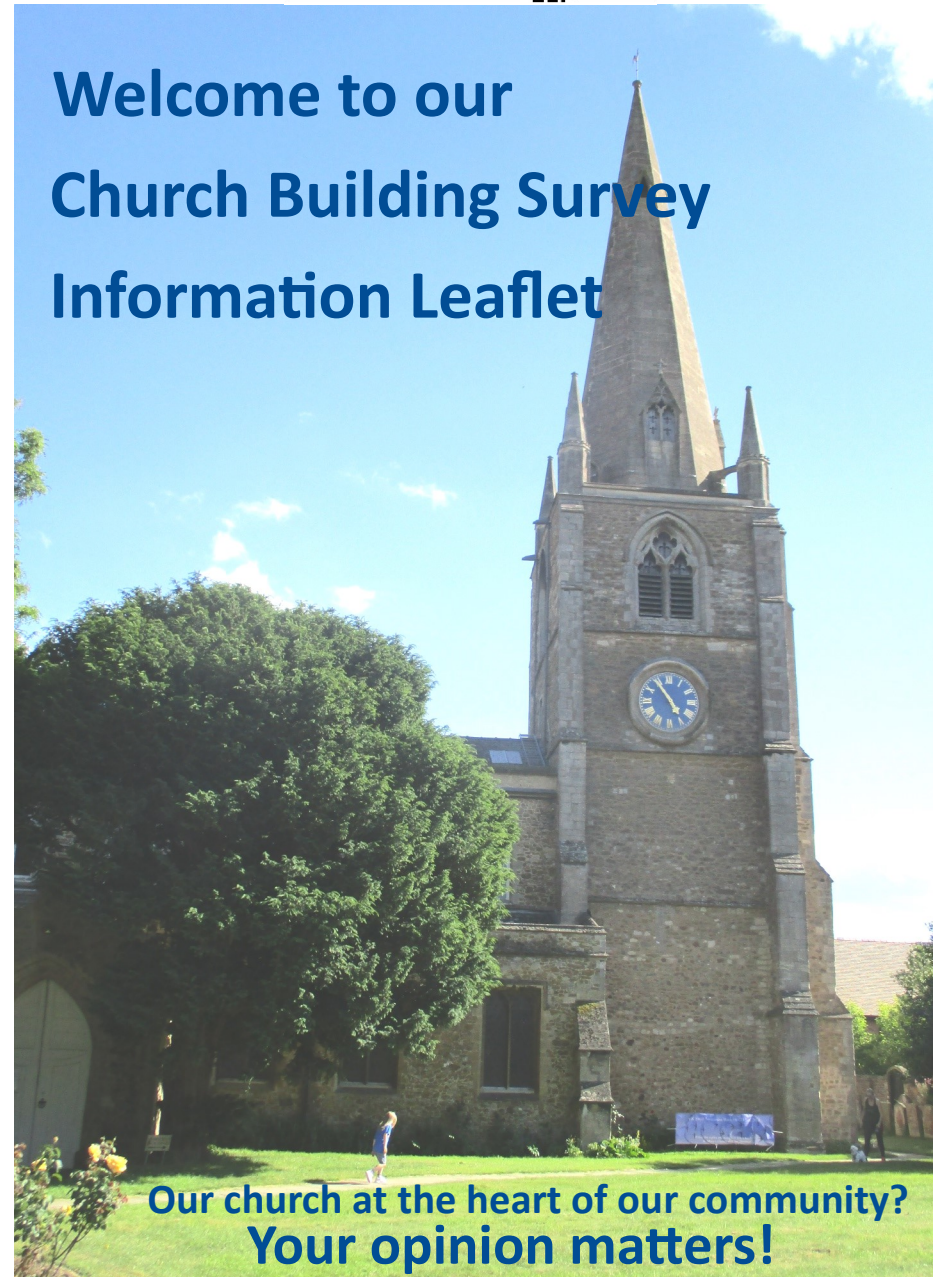
St Mary's Church, Ely, CB7 4HF Registered Charity Number 1133993

For more information about 'People Fully Alive: Ely 2025' see:

www.elydiocese.org/about/our-strategy-ely-2025

ST MARY'S
ELY

**Welcome to our
Church Building Survey
Information Leaflet**



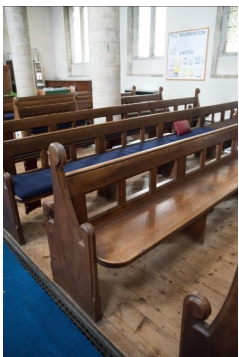
**Our church at the heart of our community?
Your opinion matters!**

Our History

Did you know there has been a place of worship on this site for nearly a thousand years!

Our present Grade One listed building dates back to about 1200AD although there are historical records indicating a parish of St Mary dating from 1109AD.

During this time the buildings have been modified several times, most recently in 1829 and 1876. At that time the wooden ceiling was painted, the areas of floor for seating raised and pews installed.



Our buildings have changed many times over the generations. For example, the pews in the nave used to face each other but were turned round to face east in the 1876 restorations.

At one time there was a gallery over the pews but this was later removed.



The pulpit given in 1829 was originally in the chancel

but later moved to the body of the church.

In other words, what we see now in church wasn't always like this.



Each restoration has seen change happen, meeting the needs of the time.

Why do we need change again now?

After a long period of prayer and consideration, St Mary's PCC has decided *now is the time* to respond to the Diocesan Strategy 'People Fully Alive: Ely 2025'. To meet the present and future needs of our growing church and city, the PCC has agreed to transform the inside of the church and hall. The work will need to be phased.

Phase 1 will look to address the following:

- Our church community of all ages meets during the week and on Sundays. The raised floors under the fixed pews make it difficult to accommodate wheelchairs, children's buggies, etc. and are a potential trip hazard.
- Having fixed pews makes movement around the church difficult, especially during administration at communion and activities in family services.
- Our heating system is inefficient and expensive to run, lighting is poor and electrics need updating.
- Our A/V systems need updating, not least to help those with hearing loss.
- There is need for a WC within the church building, larger creche facilities and additional meeting rooms.
- Our existing toilets need to be refurbished.
- Our church is used by the local community in a variety of ways - improving our space and facilities will be beneficial for them too.

We need to improve accessibility into and within the building, creating a flexible space for worship and community use.

