

Report from St Mary the Virgin to Rolvenden's Annual Parish Meeting 2026

The church, small C, stands as a solid medieval highly visible building at the end of the High Street. The Church, capital C, is the collected people who worship God in that building and who are also to be found serving this community.

Firstly, we are there ready to help you mark the three major life events of birth, marriage and death. Last year we conducted 1 Baptism, 3 weddings and one marriage blessing, 3 funerals, 2 memorial services and 3 interments of ashes.

The churchyard is also a key element of our presence, holding so many links with family members.

The building is open every day offering somewhere for quiet moments removed from the pressures and chaos of life. Whether you come in to pray, light a candle or just sit and think, the church is there for you.

It is an open space for use by other village organisations. At the moment it is hosting displays for the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group- helping the group meet its obligation to consult the community.

Members of the Church play a role in the life of Rolvenden School through weekly assemblies in school and Monthly Open the Book sessions in church, both designed to introduce the children to the Bible, which plays an important part in our cultural history.

Once a year we organise the Flower Festival with the Art Exhibition and other supporting activities in the Village Hall. Three days for the village to come together, work together and show visitors just what a wonderful village Rolvenden can be.

And finally, the church galvanises a posse of volunteers: writers and photographers, the production team and the 16 deliverers who between them are responsible for your Parish Magazine.

There is nothing new here. Who we are, what we do is a continuing thread running through village life, a familiar, trustworthy certainty, responding to the changes in society as the years roll by. Importantly, it is service shot through with loving kindness and hope.