

St. Andrew's Church, Chale

For St. Andrew's, 2025 has been a challenging year with Mr & Mrs Tester leaving us and moving back to the mainland. They were both key people in the Church, holding it together during the time without a minister and are sorely missed.

Along with the other churches in our group, we have held discussions about possible changes and the way forward. Some of the outcomes of these discussions were shared recently at the meeting organised by the Parish Council.

There is a recognition that where possible we need to adapt, and to enable worship to continue, we have had to reduce from three services per month to two. During 2025 we did try and hold a monthly informal, café style discussion service, but unfortunately attendance was low and the decision to put this on hold was taken. This type of service has now been started by the SWAY team at the hub, on the same Sunday as we met, and it is hoped that in the longer term, we can work with the SWAY team to share the responsibility.

It is pleasing to see the recognition of the importance of Remembrance Sunday and to see so many of the community attend this service around the memorial in our churchyard. Along with this, we hosted the "All Souls" service for our group, where we invite any and all who have had funerals with us. This is an open service for any that wish to attend and is normally held at the end of October or early November.

As a church, we were pleased to again lead a service of worship at the Chale Show and we look forward to hopefully being able to do this again during 2026.

There is recognition of the importance of St. Andrew's to the community, as people seek to hold occasional offices (Funerals, weddings & baptisms) with us, and it is our desire that this will continue.