



PROJECT 2026

**Maintaining and improving
our church** for now,
for the future, for everyone

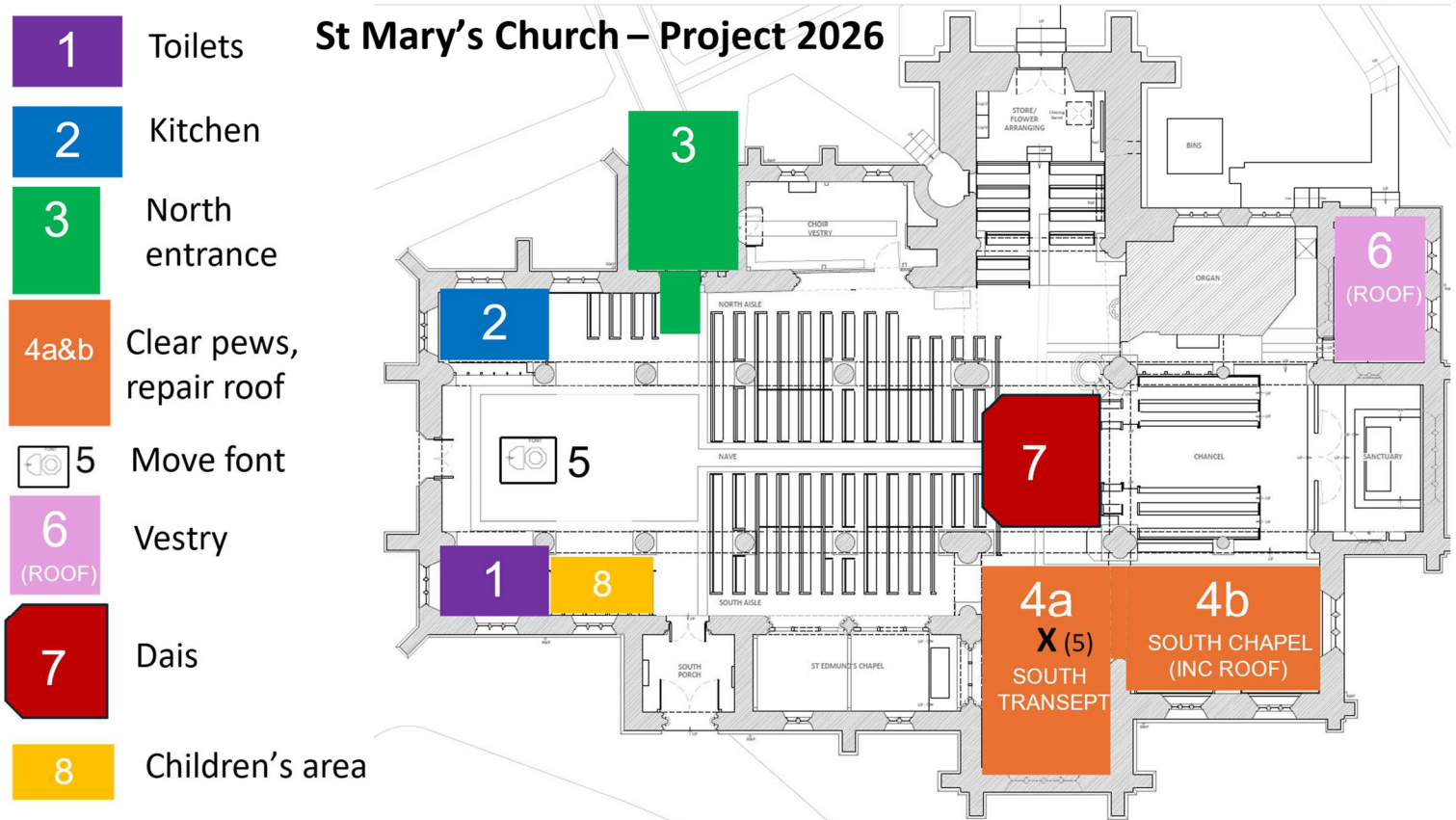
Background

St Mary's Church has been at the centre of life in Calne for at least 850 years. Today it's the only grade 1 listed building in the town and is fondly thought of by a great many people from Calne and beyond. We recognise that St Mary's means different things to different people. For some faith is the most important thing; for others it's the community events that happen here; for still others, it's that so much of Calne's heritage, or their personal story, is contained within the walls.

Over the centuries, St Mary's has been adapted on numerous occasions; parts of the church have been changed or added to, according to the needs of those times. Now it's time to adapt the church again, for today's and tomorrow's needs.

What we'd like to do

The diagram below shows the particular areas in the church that we'd like to improve. The look of the church will be largely unchanged, except in the areas marked 4a and 4b where we intend to remove the Victorian pews to enable this part of the church to be used much more flexibly, with new stackable chairs to cater for very large services. This will also enable us to move the font to a place that is still prominent, but that doesn't inhibit activities in the main open area at the west end of the church.



1. Keeping the church unlocked - the Church Council is committed to doing whatever is necessary so that the church can be unlocked every day. We intend to do this in time for the summer holidays and beyond in 2025.
2. The Heritage Lottery grant we are applying for includes money for the employment of a Community Engagement Officer whose job it will be to encourage people of all ages to come in and enjoy this wonderful building and discover more of its story.
3. When the South Chapel roof is repaired, we intend to install solar panels and the associated batteries as part of our commitment to sustainable energy.

There are restrictions and regulations about what we are allowed to alter in this building, but the Church of England authorities are very supportive of our plans.



What will it all cost?

These major improvements do, of course, come at considerable cost. Our church architect has estimated that we need approximately £650,000 for everything described in this leaflet. We realise it may take a while to raise these funds, but we will start on parts of the project as soon as finances allow in 2026.

Fundraising

We are working hard to identify sources of grant funding, and confident this will cover some of the cost. However, we know that a large amount will need to come through the generosity of local individuals and organisations.



For church members: how can you help?

Do you have skills you could offer? Please get in touch.

Please pray!

This is a very big task, but this is *God's Church* we are part of! God is more than capable of providing all that we need to make this church building so much more welcoming and accessible, and so much better to able to host all sorts of community events that don't happen here at the moment.

How to give financially

The enclosed page gives details of how to give financially.

For more information contact: Project2026@mardenvale.org.uk
or visit mardenvale.org.uk/Project2026

Thank you very much for your help!

