

## St Mary Magdalene, Sparkford

The Church of St Mary Magdalene, Sparkford, well known for being most welcoming, has a small but enthusiastic, lively and committed congregation, the majority being from the retired community.

The main feature of the services is to meet the needs of “all ages”, currently holding regular Milkshake Services, a café style informal service for families together.



The church is well supported by enthusiastic volunteers, including sidespersons and readers; also those who provide beautiful floral tributes and others on the “key rota”, allowing the church to be open during daylight hours.

The village of some 600 people dates back beyond the Norman era. It is famous for the Haynes Motor Museum and Publishing, and the Sparkford Inn; a key coaching stop on the old London to Exeter road. There is also a caravan park and service station.

In the medieval days St Mary Magdalene was at the heart of the village, much of which disappeared at the time of the Plague. The church, along with the Parish Hall Committee, Scouts and Playing Fields Committee provide the backbone of community activity. There is a village newsletter and a new website is being developed.



The church is of ancient foundation, with the first incumbent inducted in 1297. It was rebuilt in 1824 and is now a Grade 2 listed building with a war memorial window by Sir Charles Nicholson which includes a small panel of glass from Flanders. It also has a fine organ.

A paid groundsman maintains the churchyard in good repair.

In the last 15 years around £150,000 was spent in maintaining and improving the Church building. The last report highlighted a small number of issues which have all been resolved.