

People visit us from near and far. For some it's a trip down memory lane – to visit the church they attended as a child or to remind themselves of their wedding day. Others come upon us by chance while out walking or cycling in the surrounding countryside. Many come to tend a grave or to light a candle for a loved one. Whatever the purpose of your visit, our doors are always open. A visitor's book sits by the front door where people can leave a message – here's what they say:

"This is the only place I feel at peace and can remember all I have loved"

The churchyard looks so beautiful on this hot summer's day. What a delight to return to attend to my parents' grave.

"Married here 30 years ago. Such a wonderful church and grounds. Still kept in such good condition. Happy memories x"

"Remembering dad in this very special place"

"Walking a circular route I stopped to have my lunch on the bench outside. Met a groundsman who told me the church was open so I came in. So lovely and warm. Thank-you"

"Thank-you for the peace and quiet of the church and for always being open."

"Fond memories of my youth in the 1950s when I left for Australia. My first return after 64 years"

"I was born locally and married in this church. My children were christened here. My parents and grandparents are buried here. I am now 71 years old and it's wonderful to come back and visit this beautiful peaceful church which brings back so many special memories."

"Beautiful in the autumn sun. Found a gargoyle that looks like my friend!"

"Lovely atmosphere in the church and the snowdrops at this time of year are wonderful"

"The grounds are the neatest I've ever seen in all my years"

"Married here in 2005. Beautiful day. Parents also married here in the 1960s. Now I have three kids and live near Washington DC. Such fond memories of this church"

"visiting the grave where my dear husband's ashes are resting. We were children of this parish and married here. We both loved this church. It hasn't changed"

St Mary's Church holds a special place in the hearts and minds of those who have passed through its doors. We are open every day to everyone, seven days a week, from morning till evening. As one of our young visitors sums it up: "Today I came with my mum. My mum loves it here. She thinks it is fantastic."