# St Mary’s Church, Astley

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to extend a warm welcome to St Mary the Virgin, Astley. We hope you enjoy this special place. St Mary’s is an important Grade 1 listed building, built in 1343 by Sir Thomas Astley in the shape of a cross, with a central tower, and a lead covered spire. But now our beautiful church needs significant repairs. In order to help us make a case to attract funding, we want to know how important the building is to you.

Please complete the survey by **August 30th 2025**.

Scan this QR code if you prefer to take this survey online:



or click this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AstleyChurch>

## *To start, we want to know why you might visit our church:*

1. **Have you visited St Mary the Virgin church before?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes, regularly |  | Yes, occasional visits |  | Yes, once before |  | No |  |

1. **What are your main reasons for visiting the church and/or churchyard (tick all that apply)?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Attending a church service |  | Local history |  |
| Attending/Planning weddings/baptisms/funerals |  | Family history & genealogy  |  |
| Walking/dog walking |  | Social events or activities |  |
| To see the nature & wildlife in the churchyard |  | To show visiting family/friends |  |
| Other (please specify) |

1. **Have you visited, or plan to visit any of the following local tourist attractions or trails (tick all that apply)?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Astley Castle and/or grounds |  | Following the 1000 Best Churches trail |  |
| Following the George Eliot Trail |  | Oakridge Golf Club |  |
| Arbury Hall |  | Hiking in the local area |  |
| Astley Book Farm |  | Reading Room for social activities |  |
| Other (please specify) |

## *Now, we’re moving on to thinking about the church within the local community:*

1. **How important do you feel the church is to the life and atmosphere of Astley as a place to live and visit?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very important |  | Important |  | Not very important |  | Not important at all |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  | No |  | N/A  |  |

1. **If you are a resident in Astley, do you ever feel a sense of isolation or loneliness in the village?**
2. **If there was an opportunity to participate in more local events, would you be interested in any of the following (tick all that apply)?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Community history activities |  | Social groups aimed at young people in the community |  |
| Nature-based activities in the churchyard |  | Mental health support |  |
| Arts and crafts groups & activities |  | Volunteering to help to maintain the church building or churchyard |  |
| Musical events in the church |  | Joining a fundraising group for the church |  |
| Social groups to combat isolation and loneliness |  | Spiritual and religious activities |  |
| Other (please specify) |

## *We are looking to apply for a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for our big repair project. With this in mind, and considering the history of our church:*

1. **How important do you feel the church is to Astley’s history and its connection to the past?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very important |  | Important |  | Not very important |  | Not important at all |  |

1. **The church has lots of interesting stories to tell. Which THREE stories would you be most interested in hearing about?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The architecture of the church building |  | Sir Thomas Astley & Astley Castle |  |
| The 3 Queens of Astley (Elizabeth Woodville, Elizabeth of York and Lady Jane Grey) |  | Astley during the World Wars |  |
| The church’s links with George Eliot (author) |  | Forest of Arden and Astley Lantern |  |
| Local walking trails |  | Saxon settlement at Astley |  |
| Other (please specify) |

1. **Do you have any further comments about our church? This could relate to the presentation of the heritage, the facilities or any of the activities we do, or anything else entirely!**

Comments

*If you would be interested in supporting the Project Team with this repair project, or would like to volunteer to help with church events and activities, please leave your details below (these will not be shared outside the PCC).*

*Name…………………………………………………………………………………………………………..*

*Phone/Email……………………………………………………………………………………………….*

## Please return this survey to Michelle Boff, 3 Post Office Row, Astley, CV10 7QS or astleychurch@btinternet.com

## *Thank you for completing this survey. Your support is very much appreciated!*