

## Newspaper article 1986

### **BIG MONEY TARGET FOR LITTLE VILLAGE**

A tiny village with just 400 residents must raise £50,000 to save its crumbling church.

St Mary's Church in Shrawley has closed its doors because crumbling stonework is tumbling off the building.

Now villagers have launched a massive appeal to restore the historic church which recently celebrated its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The church is dangerous confirmed priest in charge, the Rev. Peter Heaps. "The ground is subsiding and the walls of the church are toppling outwards. It is not safe to go in, so our services are being held in the village hall.

Letters appealing for cash are being sent out to people connected with the village, and to those baptised or married in St. Mary's.

"I cannot see a little parish like ours raising £50,000 no matter how keen we are, but we will have a go, added Mr. Heaps.

Hamish Skinner, aged 22, of Eastgrove Cottage, Shrawley, is launching a series of fundraising events with a sponsored cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End.

He will set off on June 14 and plans to cycle through Shrawley on June 22.

In the village he will be joined by dozens of cyclists who will pedal a few miles with him before he carries on for Land's End.

The Friends of St Mary's are applying for grants from national organisations, including Department of the Environment and English Heritage, in a bid to boost their fund.