



#### IMAGE SOURCE,ST EUSTACE'S CHURCH

Image caption,

The Bishop of Salisbury praised the fundraising efforts of the local community. Overlooking the village, which has a population of just 110, St Eustace's is built on a hill with a 1:21 gradient.

The hill is so steep, it is only possible to reach the church on foot.

Monitoring of the building's condition began in the 1960s. In recent years cracks appeared in the north aisle southwest corner as the building was pulled ever closer to the escarpment's edge, putting it at risk of collapse.

Following a successful six-month fundraising effort, work began to stabilise the building earlier this year.

Church secretary Annette Newman said St Eustace's was "so valued as the heart of our small community".

"We are immensely grateful to everyone who has supported our campaign to save it – from individual contributions right up to trusts and foundations," she added.

Bishop Stephen said saving the church had been an "incredible achievement".

"I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to this extraordinary small community for their dedication in fundraising such a huge sum to carry out these essential works to their parish church," he said.

The villagers confirmed they were planning to fundraise some more to repair leaks in the roof.

BBC Solent