

Jools Holland unveils church's weather vane



Jools Holland unveils the weather vane at St James' Church

JOOLS Holland was the special guest when a new weather vane was unveiled in Cooling.

The musician, who was married at St James' Church to Christabel McEwen four years ago, helped unveil the £2,500 shell vane on Friday, September 25.

It wasn't only the pianist's wedding that helped the church achieve celebrity status – it is also believed to have inspired Dickens for the opening scenes of his classic *Great Expectations*.

The gilded weather vane, depicting a cockleshell, the symbol of St James, replaces one damaged in a storm several years ago.

It has been paid for by the Friends of Cooling Church, of



The new weather vane

which Jools is patron.

John Vigar, of the Churches Conservation Trust, speaking before the unveiling, said: "We had spectacular weather for it and about 25 people, mostly from the village, were there so it all went according to plan.

"Unfortunately the previous weather vane was not repairable but we were very fortunate that the villagers raised the money to enable us to replace it."

Members of the Friends raised the money with a flower festival and a concert.

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