



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



Isle of Ely Villages
Team Ministry
**Benefice Profile
and Applicant Pack**



Team Rector

Isle of Ely Villages Team Ministry

Benefice Profile and Applicant Pack Team Rector

Contents

Foreword from the Acting Bishop of Ely	4
The Team Rector	5
The Context	5
Pastoral background	6
Church Life	7
 <i>Individual Parish Summaries</i>	
Coveney St Peter ad Vincula	9
Haddenham and Aldreth Holy Trinity	10
Little Downham St Leonard	11
Little Thetford St George	12
Mepal St Mary	13
Stretham St James	14
Sutton St Andrew	15
Wentworth St Peter	16
Wilburton St Peter	17
Witcham St Martin	18
Witchford St Andrew	19
Finances Overview 2023	20
Benefice Profile Statistics	21
Role Description	22
Housing	26



Foreword

from the Acting Bishop of Ely, Dagmar Winter

Thank you for taking an interest in this post in the Diocese of Ely. The role of Rector designate of the Isle of Ely Benefice is a significant post, caring for the people and growing the mission of these parishes in the Deanery of Ely. These villages have been working together as part of deanery planning, and look forward to an appointment that will help them to develop this further and flourish in their distinctive mission and ministries.

You will have diocesan support to recruit a Team Vicar to work alongside you in this benefice. You will be supported in your role by a wealth of ordained and lay colleagues from the benefice and the wider deanery and cathedral and diocesan community. Our new diocesan office sits within this benefice creating a nerve centre of central support. Deanery chapter is a warm and resourceful place. There are oases of spiritual sustenance throughout the Deanery and Diocese.

The Diocese of Ely is committed to renewing in Christ its mission and ministry. We have revitalised our [Living Ely 2025](#) strategy in the post pandemic situation that we now inhabit. Fundamentally we are still committed to engage with our communities, deepen our faith and grow our churches. We have made major investments in mission to areas of new housing and in growing church in market towns.

In the light of these mission priorities, we need clergy who are:

- Confident in God – rooted in prayer and scripture.
- Committed to personal holiness and striving for professional excellence.
- Adventurous and visionary, willing to see the church through the eyes of those who do not attend.
- Mission-focused leaders who want to see the church deeply engaged with schools, serving the community and connecting with community organisations of all kinds.
- Forward thinking in mission, able to guide our parishes to develop their mission initiatives.
- Resilient people who take risks, accept failure and try again.
- Empowering and enabling collaborative ministry.
- Hospitable and generous when engaging with the local community
- Open and willing to work with and learn from others.

As a diocese we offer:

- Enabling diocesan leaders.
- Modern, well-maintained houses.
- Consistent, sustained investment in lay ministries and training.
- A diocesan culture of generosity with serious investment in clergy wellbeing.
- Excellent Continuing Ministerial Development.
- Robust diocesan finances, which can sustain posts that are based in deprived communities.

Enquiries about this post can be made to the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech, Ven Richard Harlow, on 07415 757527 or archdeacon.handw@elydiocese.org



We are excited to invite applications for this remarkable post. It offers an exceptional opportunity for a priest with gifts in ministry oversight and mission development.



The Team Rector

We are looking to recruit a leader for this new team ministry. The successful candidate will be a collaborative team player comfortable with their own faith, confident in their own abilities, and able to dovetail their gifts with others. We expect the prospective candidate to move swiftly to the appointment, with the Bishop, of a Team Vicar colleague. Ministry will be shared between them commensurate with gifting and inclination, mostly at a functional level but with varying territorial responsibilities to be decided as the team takes shape.

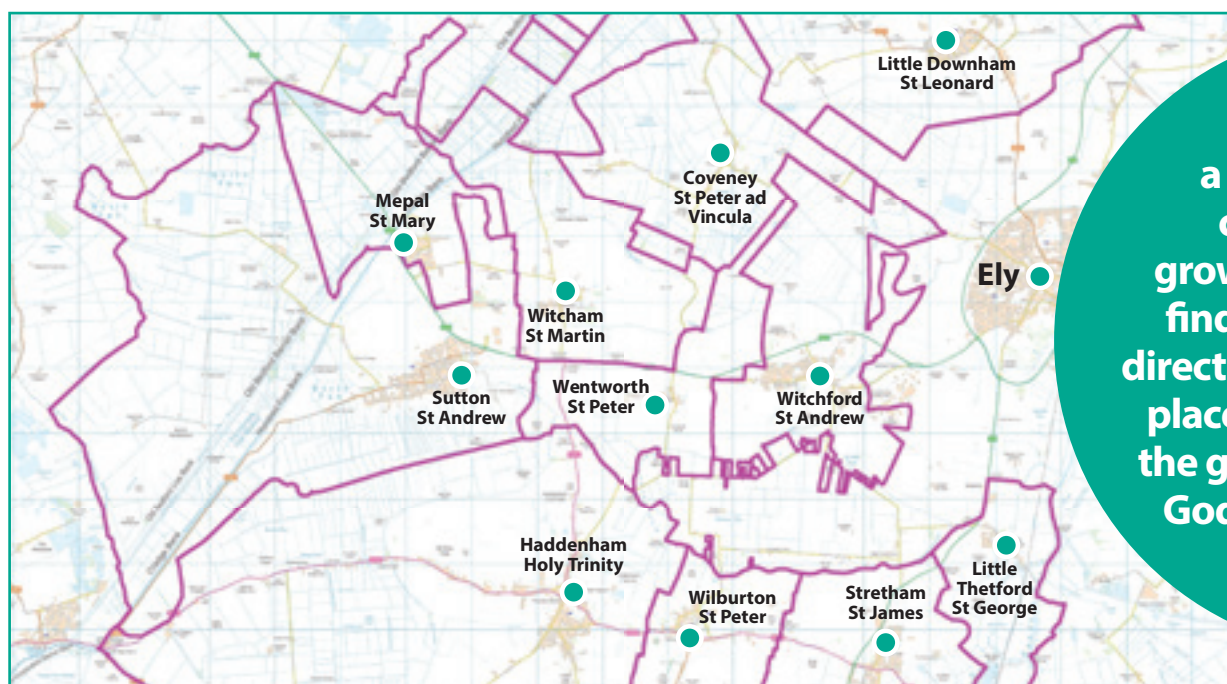
Thus, we hope to attract not only experienced clergy but also colleagues looking for the challenge of a more senior post.

Above all, we are looking for someone with:

- Energy and enthusiasm.
- Enabling others within an oversight role.
- Visibility.
- Inclusivity.
- Filled with the Holy Spirit.
- A lover of people and a pastoral heart.
- A good sense of humour.
- A love of sharing the faith in preaching and teaching.

We look forward to welcoming you for the interview process, where members of each parish will be available to speak about their parish and answer any questions.

The eleven parishes of the Isle of Ely Villages Team Ministry in relation to Ely



We need a priest who can help us grow our faith, find focus and direction in each place, and seek the growth that God is leading us into.

The Context

Our eleven village parishes perch like miniature hill towns above the surrounding farmland under the wide fen sky. Close by is the arrestingly commanding 'Ship of the Fens', Ely Cathedral, which has been their diocesan mother church since 1109. The Deanery of Ely, comprising the City of Ely, Littleport, Soham and these villages, sits at the centre of the Diocese of Ely, a supportive, friendly, and growing diocese serving the counties of Cambridgeshire, the City of Peterborough south of the river Nene, and part of West Norfolk. The new diocesan office, Etheldreda House, is on Lancaster Way Business Park, which is also central to the new team area.

Ely is the nearby centre to which our villages form a hinterland, looking to the city for shopping and many other local services, with a community hospital and reasonable proximity to Hinchingbrooke, Addenbrookes and Royal Papworth hospitals. City primary schools and the Isle of Ely College form part of the educational offer, with leisure, arts, recreational and visitor facilities set around the cathedral precincts and the King's School on the hill above the river Ouse flowing north.

Ely is a growing cathedral city with a population of about 20,000, which is planned to increase to 30,000. It is a major railway hub with fast services to Cambridge, London, and King's Lynn and direct trains to Peterborough, Liverpool, and Birmingham, as well as Norwich and Ipswich.

To the south, the A10 trunk road intersects with the A14 at Cambridge, with Downham Market and Wisbech to the north. The A142 and the A1123 provide arterial routes connecting these parishes off the A10.

Pastoral background

The new team of these eleven parishes has been brought together by a pastoral plan which was approved by the Deanery Synod in January 2024 after extensive discussion and resolve. Eight of these parishes were in six benefices (some in vacancy since 2019) and have been joined by three parishes hitherto served by the Ely Team Ministry. The intention here has been to link parishes of similar size and disposition, separate from the city, with a commonality of ministry and mission, staffed by no fewer than two stipendiary clergy, self-supporting clergy, LLMs, ALMs, Anna Chaplains, Authorised Local Leadership (ALL) and PTO clergy. An interim Priest-in-Charge was appointed in September 2022 to lead these parishes into a coherent new structure while exercising routine ministry and mission within and across them.

The Role Description on page 22 details the patronage, parishes, churches, schools, and college and lists the Ministry Team. The Benefice Profile Statistics on page 21 set out the metrics viz populations and growth, church attendance, and current Ministry Share, which has been met in full for the last three years, with an expectation of incremental growth to 2030. A financial overview is shown on page 20.

The parishes range in population size from Sutton and Haddenham, both over 3,000, through Witchford and Little Downham, both over 2,000, to Witcham, Coveney, and Wentworth, all under 500. There are five Foundation Primary Schools, three County or Academy Primary Schools, and a Village College.

Currently, we are welcome in all the schools to lead collective worship, chaplaincy, and governance. A compendium of the parish profiles starts on page 8.

The existing parsonage houses are in Little Downham to the north and Sutton further west; it is envisaged that the full-time Team Rector will live in Little Downham and the Team Vicar in Sutton. Administrative support draws on current arrangements, with plans for expansion and development to await the new incumbent.

Safeguarding is a high priority in all our parishes, and we are well served by our parish safeguarding officers (PSO) and administrators, supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and dashboards.

Given the rich tapestry of these villages, within a collaborative deanery, the opportunity for this new Benefice to provide a multi-parish context for curate training appears ideal. Thus, we hope that one of the two stipendiary clergy members will be glad to take on the role of a training incumbent.

“The opportunity for this new Benefice to provide a multi-parish context for curate training appears ideal. Thus, we hope that one of the two stipendiary clergy members will be glad to take on the role of a training incumbent.”



Church Life

We support one another in service planning and ministerial deployment, and we aspire to better support each other in sharing good practice, fundraising events, and worship.

Some parishes have monthly Sunday Holy Communion (HC), some bi-monthly, and just one is weekly, plus a Wednesday morning weekly celebration of HC at Sutton; we continue to keep the pattern under active review and are looking to innovate particularly away from Sunday mornings. Church tradition is broadly homogeneous, "middle of the road/central", with some parishes happier at a more open-evangelical end of the spectrum. All are rooted in scripture and desire to share the Good News, bringing people to Christ, and serving their communities.

A number of the parishes run weekly Bible-study/Home Groups, and all engage with Lent Groups and other Christian learning opportunities; we endeavour to present candidates for Confirmation at the Cathedral on Easter Eve and are open to Children receiving Holy Communion before Confirmation after training.

There is an active Mothers Union branch at Haddenham.

Lay ministry is actively encouraged for which training opportunities abound; the benefice has been an 'early-adopter' of Authorised Local Leadership (ALL).

Conscious of our wide demographic, we seek to minister to all ages, not least younger families with school-age children, and we expressly look for various ways of bringing them to church while striving to engage with them where they are. The adjoining presence of the Cathedral and large city centre church does mean that people have plenty of choice in their allegiances, including many churches of other denominations in Ely. Only two of our villages have other places of Christian worship.

In addition, there is a long-standing LEP in Little Downham with the Methodist Church, which is focused on a quarterly service that is Methodist-led.

Our church buildings, all listed, are broadly in very good order. Some have heating issues but none need major capital works to the fabric. All churches are up to date with their QI inspection schedules. We remain well aware that we need support from the wider village in each case, with some of our churches making plans for *Friends of...* groups where they are currently not in existence.

Each parish has its own PCC, and while we have looked unsuccessfully at joint councils in one or two cases, we hope the new incumbent will be willing to engage in the creation of a Team Forum or Council, being delegated to and on behalf of, to ease the weight of business at PCC level, each of which is used to chairing their own meetings with agenda input from the incumbent.

We are acutely conscious of our various strengths and weaknesses, alongside many opportunities for growth and the inevitable concerns. Each parish bears witness in its own profile (beginning on page 8) to these and outlines the local energy for fellowship, hospitality, and service. One of you reading this will be our next Team Rector; we look forward to meeting you!

March 2024



"We offer local energy for fellowship, hospitality, and service. One of you reading this will be our next Team Rector; we look forward to meeting you!"

The Parishes

The following pages give details for each of the individual parishes in the group



Coveney
St Peter ad Vincula
Page 9



Haddenham
Holy Trinity
Page 10



Little Downham
St Leonard
Page 11



Little Thetford
St George
Page 12



Mepal
St Mary
Page 13



Stretham
St James
Page 14



Sutton
St Andrew
Page 15



Wentworth
St Peter
Page 16



Wilburton
St Peter
Page 17



Witcam
St Martin
Page 18



Witchford
St Andrew
Page 19

Coveney St Peter ad Vincula

The Parish

Coveney is a distinctive small village set along a low ridge overlooking the fens, about four miles north-west of Ely. The Parish consists of approximately 170 dwellings and 430 residents. There have been no significant housing developments, but many instances of in-fill. Many have been purchased by younger families seeking a change of 'lifestyle'. The parish is once more visibly 'younger'. The Village Hall and St Peter's church are the only two physical amenities or community 'assets'. There are several outdoor community spaces, however.

The Church Building

St Peter ad Vincula is a fine Thirteenth Century Grade I listed building consisting of a Chancel and Nave, with a Vestry on the North elevation, a porch to the South and a West Tower. The Church has no amenities (other than a cold water supply!) and is not an easy space within which to conduct informal all-age worship, but many innovative attempts have been made to do just this!

The Churchyard

The churchyard has an open burial ground which regularly receives visitors. A small but dedicated group of volunteers have been active in increasing the biodiversity in the churchyard, achieving a Wildlife Trust Bronze Award in August 2022.

Community and Leadership

The congregations of Morning Worship, Forest Church and BCP represent three overlapping regular worshipping communities. Some attend only one kind of service; others come to all three. The church has many non-worshipping friends and supporters who can be seen helping in the churchyard, or with general maintenance and fundraising, or who simply like to see 'things happening' at the church.

St Peter's has a small PCC but is well served by a very capable secretary and treasurer. The Churchwarden takes a more significant leadership role – planning and leading services, discerning the needs of the community with regards to mission, pastoral care and general 'visibility' of the church.

Finances and Fabric

Finances are generally healthy. 100% Ministry Share paid in recent times. There has been some take up of PGS*. A contactless giving system is in place, with other digital giving methods employed. The Church has undertaken significant works but will require some work to ensure its future. However, it is generally a sound and well-maintained building.

* The Parish Giving Scheme

Inherited Tradition and Future Direction

St Peter's has a high-Anglican heritage. Like many rural parishes, this has become more middle-of-the-road over time. The current leadership feels called to minister to a largely 'unchurched' community whilst continuing to recognise these inherited traditions. There is an instinctive alignment with inclusive theology and approach, although St Peter's is not a member of any inclusive organisations. The PCC is affirming of LLF and PLF.

Regular Services

- **Morning Prayer** 8:00 A.M. (Monday-Friday).
- First Sunday **BCP**
- Second and Fourth Sunday **Morning Worship**
- Third Sunday **Forest Church**: informal, all age

Areas of Growth; Successes.

- **Forest Church, and other similar all-age services**: responding to a perceived need and acknowledging local context (largely unchurched but connected to landscape)
- **Churchyard development**: engagement with non-churchgoing community who have passion for environmental work and habitat protection, bronze wildlife trust award, going for silver, raising eco profile of church, swift boxes, wildflower meadow, cutting regime, spring bulbs
- **Visible Presence**: Church open daily, a visible presence on WhatsApp, notices, ringing bell, plan to develop entrance area of church to hold community information and encourage more people to step-across the threshold.

Areas that need work; Challenges

- Young people and family's mission and ministry.
- Re-establishing school link (Witchford – Rackhams Junior, n.b. Coveney school closed in 1986)
- Making the building more relevant, attractive and approachable
- Governance: recruiting more PCC members
- Fundraising to meet ongoing repairs and maintenance





Haddenham and Aldreth Holy Trinity

The Parish

The two villages of Haddenham and Aldreth have an estimated population of approximately 3,400. Haddenham derives its name from 'Haeda's homestead'. There is a primary and junior school being the Robert Arkenstall County Primary School. The school is having to expand because of the increased demand for places and draws from a wide catchment area due to its popularity.

The village of Haddenham offers a good range of services from the Doctors' Surgery, a pharmacy, library, post office housed in a large convenience shop, butchers, a fish and chip shop and Chinese takeaway, hairdressing salons and a barbers, an arts centre and exhibition gallery, two coffee shops, two pubs and a Sports and Social club which houses the Community Hub and is open most mornings of the week.

Haddenham and Aldreth both have a hall suitable for meetings. There is an array of organisations for all ages, football teams, cricket teams, uniformed organisations including army cadets, a Lunch Club for the elderly, W.I. Over 60s, Bowls Club for indoor and outdoor games, playgroups and baby's nurseries, a Conservation Group and a History Group.

There are three active churches serving the two villages, Holy Trinity, Baptist Chapel and Methodist Church and there is an excellent ecumenical working relationship between the three

The Church Building

Holy Trinity is the Parish church of Haddenham in Cambridgeshire. It provides spiritual care and support to the people of the Parish.

In 673 it was part of Queen Etheldreda's marriage endowment. A church has stood on the hill since then as Ovin, Etheldreda's minister and steward, had close connections with the village. The present building is late thirteenth and fourteenth century, but with a major restoration dating to 1876 by R.R. Rowe. The structure is rubble stone and limestone ashlar and dressed limestone with leaded roofs and end parapets with nineteenth century gable crosses.



Services and Gatherings

- **Café Church** every first Sunday at 10:00 A.M. for an hour
- **Morning Prayer** every second and third Sunday at 10:00 A.M. for an hour
- **Eucharist** every third Sunday at 10:00 A.M. for an hour
- **Grunty Fen Group Eucharist** every fifth Sunday at 10:00 A.M. for an hour in Haddenham, Wentworth, Wilburton or Witchford
- **Celtic-style Morning Prayer** followed by coffee and tea at Martha's café in the Methodist church every Monday at 9:30 A.M. for half an hour

Facilities

The church has a ramped entrance and good toilet facilities within the church, including a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities. A defibrillator is located at the entrance of the Arkenstall Centre located next door to the church. The church is equipped with a hearing induction loop. Some large print orders of service and hymn books are available. Assistance dogs welcome. We are a dog-friendly church! Holy Trinity Church has an organist and a team of bells and handbells.

Leadership and Collaboration

Holy Trinity Church is well served with Parochial Church Councillors and two Churchwardens. Holy Trinity joins with the three other churches in the Grunty Fen Group, Wentworth, Wilburton and Witchford and has since 2018 worked together to produce a rota of service with officiants offering one communion service each week in one of the four churches. Joint services are held on the fifth Sunday of the month and for festivals. Holy Trinity offers office facilities for printing in the vestry and Zoom services are periodically available for those who join services from their home.

Community Engagement

The Church enjoys a good active relationship with the schools' Headteacher and her staff and welcomes the school using the Church for their Carol Service and Harvest Festival. The Church also welcomes the School's displays at various times of the year. The Foodbank (Trussell Trust) operates from Holy Trinity Church on every Monday serving Haddenham and outlying villages. Weddings are booked through the Priest-in-Charge and the Churchwardens take enquiries for funerals and baptisms. The Church is open daily from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. for quiet reflection and daily prayer.

Little Downham St Leonard

The Parish

Little Downham village is a growing community with a mixed population of about 2,600. Located only two miles from Ely, the village consists of a main street of older houses, some dating back to the Middle Ages, and newer estates developed from 1950s up to the present day. The village benefits from the Feoffees charity which seeks to help those in need. There is a general store, post office, village hall catering for various groups, equestrian centre, community rooms, care home and sheltered accommodation, one pub, a small hotel, a garage, and a fish and chip shop. We have a school, Downham Feoffees Primary Academy with 160 pupils, and an adjacent, but separate, pre-school. The village is surrounded by arable farms. We see many opportunities for active and enjoyable ministry within our village. Brownies and Rainbows meet in the village, and their leaders are very open to be part of church life. There is a conservation area with a community orchard which is supported by local volunteers.

The Church Building

St Leonard's Church occupies a central position in the village. It is a Grade 1 listed building. It has a Norman tower, Thirteenth Century nave with aisles, Fourteenth Century chancel and Victorian vestry.

The church was re-ordered in 2000 when the chancel screen was moved back to form a reredos behind the new nave altar. New 'museum style lighting' was installed with other updates. We have a kitchen area and toilet and have recently set up a comfortable seating area at the back of the church, where there are also toys for children. We have a newly installed Wi-fi connection, which has enabled us to set up a digital donation point. We expect to have installed two new boilers by next winter.

Vision

St Leonard's is an Anglican and Methodist congregation with a vision of "to know Christ and to make him known". We have a variety of Sunday services seeking to enable both the more traditional members of our community, as well as those who prefer a less formal style, to worship. We are a small congregation who are pleased to welcome newcomers.

Congregation and Community

Our congregation is made up of a mix of age-groups. Most of our members are active retired, but we do have younger adults attending regularly, and children occasionally. We have 20-30 regular worshippers each week, who have a real care for the life and witness of the church, and those who can give generously of their time and talents. We are actively seeking to build links with local families. In addition to a long-running weekly toddler group (Jelly Tots), we have put on occasional craft activities for a wider age-range, and children are always welcome to participate in our worship. Plans are being made to develop these connections. Some of our elderly are increasingly frail and need pastoral care and home communion.

Seasonal services are well supported, and we are always seeking opportunities to engage with the village. For instance, carol singing around the village, special fundraising/social events, monthly coffee morning in church.

A few church members meet weekly via Zoom for prayer. There are two homegroups, which meet for fellowship and Bible study: one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. There is some overlap of membership, but about a dozen people attend regularly overall.

We have two retired clergy with PTO who regularly take services, one ALM, and lay members willing to assist with aspects of leading worship. On 5th Sundays, the service follows the Methodist liturgy, with a visiting minister, in recognition of our Ecumenical Partnership. We see ourselves as Open Evangelicals welcoming different styles of music and biblical preaching. The variety of services is valued by our congregation.

We are financially stable, having always paid our Ministry Share in full.

Regular Services

- **Morning Worship** every first and third Sunday at 11:00 A.M.
- **Holy Communion** every second and fourth Sunday at 11:00 A.M.
- **Methodist Worship** every fifth Sunday at 11:00 A.M.





Little Thetford St George

The Parish

Little Thetford is a small village three miles (5km) south of Ely, with a population of 762 living in 309 dwellings. Over the past ten years there have been at least four new housing developments (in-fill) in discrete areas of the village. Whilst these are all relatively small developments, the combined total of new properties built (28) represents an approximate 10% growth.

The Church building

St George's Church is a 14th-Century Grade II listed building. In 1751 it was recorded as a chapel of ease attached to Stretham served by the rector there. Today, the church consists of a Chancel, Nave, North Porch, and South Vestry. The 14th-Century octagonal bowl font still has an original lead lining.

The church is open during daylight hours and is used regularly during the week for a variety of activities and events. The building is accessible and has kitchen and toilet facilities with an upper room for meetings and storage. The Friends of St George's raise funds for upkeep and maintenance. Our challenges are not unique: an ancient building which is costly to maintain and difficult to heat. Our most recent Quinquennial took place in late-2023 and identified work for attention. There is no budget for this work, which will require a major fundraising effort.

The Congregation

Average Weekly Attendance is twenty-one, with occasionally one child. Electoral Roll membership stands at twenty-eight, made up mainly of many long-standing members who have supported St George's in a variety of roles over many years.

We are very fortunate to be served by a core of Authorised Lay Ministers, Licensed Lay Ministers, and Clergy with Permission to Officiate who lead our Sunday Morning worship, offering services at 10:00 A.M. every Sunday with Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday of the month. We have a voluntary Children and Families Worker, who runs Brigade during term time as well as leading our music groups to support Sunday worship. Occasional Offices are arranged as and when required.

The Community

There are good links with the CofE Primary School, which is part of the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust. Whole-school

assemblies are held in the church to mark principal festivals. Regular mid-week community activities are well-supported by the wider community. Events held in the church include music practice, Pop In – coffee, cake and chat, National Brigade for Boys and Girls and Dragon Club – tea, cake and chat. There is an active Village Hall Committee which also organises community events including a weekly Pop-Up Café.

Finance

We meet our Ministry Share payment, but it is challenging. We have no reserves to draw upon, so rely on giving and fundraising events to meet our running costs.

Mission and Ministry: our hopes

We have some local leadership which is greatly valued, along with those from beyond our parish who minister among us on a regular basis. It would be good to find ways to encourage more local leadership.

We are proud of having an accessible and open building (daylight hours) which is used throughout the week, not simply on Sunday mornings. We need to build on this accessibility and openness to ensure the building serves the spiritual life of the whole village, not just those who attend Sunday Morning worship. We are deeply aware of environmental issues and net-Zero targets and are keen to play our part.

We need a mixed ecology of worship that serves both our current congregation and those in our village community who do not attend church, particularly families and younger people. This will almost certainly require new forms of worship at different times and days of the week as well as – not instead of – our usual Sunday Morning worship.

There is fellowship and active service in our life as a congregation, but we need to find new ways of sharing life and faith with the village community and the next generation. We are proud of our links with the village CofE school and look forward to building on these links with the new Headteacher who took up post in September 2023. It would be good to find ways to develop this work and reach out to school families.

Many things happen that connect our church building and congregation with the village community. We need to identify the activities and connections that have the most potential to bear fruit and seek support to tend to those activities and connections even more. We need to become intentionally missional in our work and activities.



Mepal St Mary



The Parish

Mepal is a small fenland parish (population 960) at the western edge of the isle of Ely (and Deanery), some eight miles from Ely, with a regular but sparse daytime bus service. The A142 now by-passes village. Employment was previously in agriculture but is now largely in building-related trades. The village doubled in size from 1975 to 2000, mainly bungalows, attracting retired people from engineering and middle management in North London and the Luton area. Current growth is slight; one sizeable site is scheduled for development. The site at the parish edge may become the District Crematorium.

Churches and Community

The previous independent nonconformist congregation declined steeply; the chapel was recently sold. Our church comprises a faithful small congregation of fourteen, nine or ten at any one Sunday service, all elderly. We welcome all-comers. The eucharistic tradition is much valued; the Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday, three Sundays of four by two faithful priests with PTO, the fourth by visiting priests; a (new) PCC member working towards authorization as a lay minister leads regular monthly non-eucharistic and special services, as does indeed the other churchwarden.

Our parish is led by a PCC of seven, which has three very active but ageing long-standing members, plus a very welcome new resident, and now an additional churchwarden. There is good support amongst perhaps forty or so (older) people for our regular series of events and plainly much latent Christianity in the village. Funerals fill our small church building to overflowing. (It seats 80.) The tranquil atmosphere is much remarked upon. The church is open every day and used for private prayer. A small area at the west end was recently cleared for small social activity; more major events were held in the village hall, and in the village centre, where the church assists with a weekly winter 'social hub'. Other activities there are mainly older-focused, but there is also a volunteer-run youth club and commercially-run kickboxing. The church and pub lie a little outside the village. The post office and stores, run by a very kind, generous Sikh family, are located in the main community centre. A modern sports pavilion and spacious recreation field with play area is run by the Parish Council.

A Church of England Primary School (also serving Witcham, two miles distant) is part of the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust. It has a total of 106 children, including the recently developed nursery, aiming at wrapped-round care. St Mary's has long-standing links; we are now beginning to lead work on Church School Covenant with the new headteacher, to include St Martin's, Witcham.

Most older children attend Witchford Village College (Eastern Learning Alliance MAT*).

Church Finance and Fabric

The church building is increasingly well-maintained. We are financially stable with a tradition of meeting our Ministry Share due to regular hard work and the generosity of a few. Our churchyards and graveyards (plenty of space) are now well-maintained by the village, led by an agnostic angel! Our early attempt to espouse Eco church fell due to a lack of PCC bandwidth, but it is now being revived.

Our Needs and Desires

- To know how to increase our missional activity both to keep alive knowledge about and belief in the promises of Christ, and also if possible to increase our adult and active membership to relieve the increasingly-felt burdens on the PCC and ensure continuity.
- To establish the best mode of working with children over eleven (perhaps including chaplaincy at Witchford Village College, linked to parish work).
- To remain competent and capable in running our own parish, to retain our eucharistic tradition (concern at age of PTO priests) to make relevant value of development of projected crematorium and of pub as wedding venue and to work with a stipendiary priest who makes themselves known in the wider village, albeit not the first port of call – who can make a virtue of new modes of benefice staffing.

Regular Services

- **Holy Communion** every first, second and third Sunday at 11:30 A.M. and fourth Sunday at 9:30 A.M. (CW/BCP)
- **Morning Worship** every fourth Sunday at 11:30 A.M.





Stretham St James

The Parish

Stretham is a village and parish four miles South West of Ely and thirteen miles from Central Cambridge. There are regular bus services to both. Many Stretham residents are commuters, but also plenty are not. The parish is a large and important arable farming area and has a growing small business sector including a pub, a thriving village store and Post Office, a large sports and recreation area and a flourishing community primary school, rated Good by Ofsted. There is one significant housing development (Manor Farm), operated by a local Community Land Trust. Stretham is known as a friendly and welcoming village. Notable past residents include Fred Savidge (1862-1935), who founded a still flourishing church in Mizoram, India, and Jean Adamson of Topsy and Tim fame.

The Church

St James' church is located at the very centre of the village. The church, pub and shop are sited around the village cross. The Fourteenth Century building was extensively rebuilt in 1876 and has capacity for 200+. The churchyard is closed and is well maintained. The tower houses an excellent ring of 6 bells, rung regularly for Sunday worship, and also used by a Diocesan Ringing Education Centre. In a reordering some twenty years ago, the back section of pews was removed to give a valuable and flexible open space, plus a glassed in small meeting room. A servery and toilets were also installed. The next Quinquennial inspection is due in 2024. Regrettably, there are items outstanding from previous inspections.

Worship

Our style of worship is mainly liturgical, and firmly evangelical. As the only place of worship in the village we welcome those from varied church backgrounds (Methodist, Roman Catholic). The congregation respond strongly in liturgical worship. Our numbers were dented by the pandemic, but are slowly growing again, with a regular number of twenty to twenty-five. We are on the elderly side, but with some family and children engagement. We have one LLM and two ALMs, and also encourage others into leadership roles, including preaching and leading. As their gifts emerge through practice, they are encouraged to make use of the courses on offer. We are a church looking to serve and engage with the village, to encourage new members and to deepen a closer walk with Jesus.

Groups

Members of the congregation run:

- The "Little Bears" toddler group
- Open the Book" assemblies in the school,
- A weekly Bible study home group
- A knitting group
- A monthly coffee morning
- A weekly "Porch Pantry" in support of those in need in the village
- A termly Messy Church on a weekday evening

We work with the parish Council in areas such as the annual "Feast" and the village markets.

Members are involved in the WI, the Bowls Club and Stretham Charity. A village informal singing group also meets weekly in the church.

Financial

We have always paid our Ministry Share in full. Though the financial climate has not helped, we maintain healthy reserves.

Our Strengths

We are quite a self-reliant parish with a strong PCC who effectively are the Authorised Local Leadership. We have good links with the wider village, its families and the local primary school. Our people are generous givers (fifteen on the Parish Giving Scheme).

Our Challenges

Being the southernmost parish in the new team area, our historic link is with our northern neighbour – Little Thetford, but we also link with Little Downham; these three parishes were formerly part of the Ely Team Ministry, with whom we hope to retain organic links while seeking a new belonging with our eight new team parishes.

Our Hopes for the Future

We intend to retain our distinctiveness of church tradition alongside new collaboration in the new team, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with all those who do not yet know the Love of God. We hope to develop our pilgrim prayer ministry as we are a station on the *Via Beata*.



Sutton St Andrew



The Parish

Sutton-in-the-Isle is part of the Isle of Ely, once an island in the fens. The village offers a good range of services including G.P. Surgery, Pharmacy, the Post Office currently located within a convenience store, supermarket (on the outskirts of the village where there is also a Fish and Chip shop).

Sutton also benefits from an Indian Restaurant/take away and a Chinese takeaway as well as a recently opened café and 'Nellies' which is a community café held twice a month. Hairdressers and barbers are also available. The Parish Council is also well represented and works within the village.

One pub serves the village but there are many active community organisations including The Royal British Legion, Conservative Club, Feast Committee, Gardening Club Bowls Club, Time Bank, Conversation Group and W.I. to name a few. Sutton boasts a wide range of organisations for all ages providing football, cricket, yoga, walking and running groups and uniformed organisations for the younger members of the community (i.e. Scouts Groups and Brownies).

The village has many suitable venues for meetings and activities.

The Church

The church of St Andrews in Sutton dominates the surrounding countryside and was completed in 1388 under the directions of the Bishops of Ely, Barnet and Arundel.

During the past year St Andrews has held one wedding, six baptisms and five funerals. St Andrews are very fortunate that we have the services of two local retired priests who officiate at services as well as the laity who lead morning worship.

St Andrews has a regular, well attended choir of all ages that lead the congregation in the services on Sundays at either Eucharist or Morning Prayer, where there is also a Sunday Club for the children. Choral Evensong is held one a month and a midweek Eucharist takes place on Wednesday followed by coffee and chat.

On fifth Sunday of the month we have a joint service on a rota basis with St Marys, Mepal and St Martins, Witcham. There is also a Bible Study group and a Friends of Sutton Church is in the initial stages of being established.

The 250 club proceeds go to the Restoration Appeal and St Andrews pays its full Ministry Share. The building overall is in a reasonably good state with various issues identified which need attention. These items which are mentioned in the Quinquennial Report would amount to £250,00-£350,00.

Connecting with the Community

Sutton VC Primary School is located in the centre of the village where services take place and the schoolchildren attend St Andrews on special occasions (i.e. Christmas, Easter, Harvest and at the end of the school year).

There are representations from the church on the School Governors Committee. There are also nursery facilities and play groups for pre-school children.

St Andrews is renowned for its fundraising, in that there is usually an event once a month. The Indoor Market takes place on the first Saturday each month and there are two Beer Festivals, Sausage and Cider Festival, Concerts and a Ceilidh during the year. At Christmas St Andrews holds a Bazaar and Christmas Tree Festival. The Flower Festival has always been popular and an Arts Festival is being reintroduced this year.

The church work closely with the Feast Committee, W.I. and Nellies and mutually support each others events.

St Andrews church magazine is produced monthly with the Christmas issue being delivered free of charge to every household by willing volunteers.

Our Hopes

St Andrews would like a family orientated priest who can communicate at all levels and champion inclusivity.

Regular Services

- **Parish Eucharist** every first and third Sunday at 10:30 A.M.
- **Morning Prayer** every second and fourth Sunday at 10:30 A.M.
- **Midweek Eucharist** every Wednesday at 10:30 A.M.
- **Bible Study** every Monday at 2:15 P.M.





Wentworth St Peter

The Parish

Wentworth is a small welcoming community where everyone knows everyone else! The parish is primarily based on Church Road and Main Street along with a traveller site at Grunty Fen to the south and outlying properties. The population in 2021 was 188. The parish demography encompasses young children to retired seniors. Recently there has been an increase in the number of families with children. Currently children in the village attend the following schools: Witchford Rackham (CofE), Witchford Village College, Cottenham Village College, and The King's School (Ely). Socioeconomically the village is also diverse with accommodation ranging from social housing to well-appointed properties with their own business. New housing is limited to infill within the village development boundary.

Amenities in the village are the community hall in the nave of the church, a children's play park, a defibrillator installed in the old phone box and a book swap in the bus shelter. Predominantly a dormitory village, there is one remaining farming family with others variously employed at home, locally and in Cambridge.

The Church

A grade II* listed building dating from the Twelfth Century with major restoration taking place in the 1860's. It is famous for the Twelfth Century stone carving of St Peter found on the north chancel wall.

The church was reordered in the 1990s when the chancel was separated from the nave by a folding partition. The chancel is now used for regular worship and the nave as a community hall. If a service demands a large space, the partition can be easily opened.

The whole building is the only public space in the village. The PCC manage the building and receive invaluable support from Wentworth Fundraisers, a small charity which fundraises for the church (Chancel), community Hall (Nave) and Children's Play Park. They organise a Calendar of social events (with help from the Church) to bring the Community together. The small congregation and Wentworth Fundraisers are interdependent and work together for the good of the village. The 2023 Quinquennial report concludes that 'the church is generally in good repair.' Minor Roof repairs are to be undertaken.



Church Life

Since 2008 Wentworth has been one of the informal Grunty Fen Group of parishes along with Haddenham, Wilburton and Witchford, which surround Grunty Fen. Until the appointment of Canon Mark Haworth it had been in vacancy for almost four years which led to the formation of a joint churchwardens and ministry team to plan worship and services.

Currently Wentworth has two services per month (one Holy Communion and one Morning Prayer), but the four parishes have learnt to share in each other's services and we all come together on a fifth Sunday, and for festivals. We also support each other's events. For a long time there has been a small, stable and faithful congregation. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are sporadic. We have met our ministry share in full. Wentworth PCC as a body recognises Authorised Local Leadership, with the Churchwarden being the first point of contact and half of services being lay led.

Volunteers undertook a project to rewild the churchyard and have been awarded the Cambs and Beds Wildlife Trust Bronze Award. In addition to creating habitats to make wildlife more resilient to climate change, this project was also undertaken as part of Mission; so that the Church could be seen as active in the Community. Other Mission includes carol singing around the village and our collaboration with Wentworth Fundraisers and their calendar of social events. Particularly important in Mission is Wentworth Fundraisers' quarterly Coffee and Catch up when the church and community come together socially on a Sunday morning.

Our Hopes

- That the clergy team work to unite the eleven parishes via a team council and extend group Services on a fifth Sunday (taking turns around the group). Perhaps we could also come together for a 'Big Bash' once a year that exceeds the capability of any one parish.
- There could be some central administration.
- That we continue our two Sunday services per month.
- That clergy inspire and help us in our Mission in Wentworth and can meet with our community at some events.

Wilburton St Peter



The Parish

Wilburton is a village of about 1,000 people. It is largely a commuter community. There are no health facilities. In addition to the Primary CE VC school, there is the Harbour School for boys with learning or other difficulties. There are several clubs and societies and the cricket and football clubs make good use of the playing fields. There is a large and popular Garden Centre.

The Building

St Peter's Church is a Grade I Listed Building generally in good repair thanks to good stewardship by previous generations. The west porch has been converted to a storage area with disabled toilet and a flower sink room with equipment for providing refreshments after services.

Church Life

There are 35 names on the Electoral Roll.

The current pattern of worship consists of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer on the second and third Sundays, Worship for Everyone (taken by a family) on the fourth Sunday and a Holy Communion Service for the Grunty Fen Group (i.e. with Haddenham, Witchford and Wentworth) on the fifth Sunday. The Ministry Team for those four parishes (three clergy, one LLM and two ALMs) meets once week for Morning Prayer. In 2023, there were six funerals, two baptisms and one wedding.

Good links are maintained with the Baptist Chapel. The Primary school children visit the church for a service four times a year and members of the clergy also take school assemblies. There is a well-attended coffee morning with fund-raising stalls on the first Saturday of the month and a Tea and Toast (with prayers) breakfast meeting for everyone on the second Friday.

The Ministry Share is paid in full every year. There is a very recent Quinquennial report currently under discussion but basically the church is in good repair. We are able to use the services of the Administrator at Haddenham. The Parochial Church Council consists of eight members with a Secretary. It normally meets every three months.

Mission and Ministry

The regular congregation is faithful but small and elderly. We hope very much for a priest who is energetic and will enable the church grow and flourish, attracting younger people, particularly families.

Our Strengths

We have a strong if small core of regular long-term worshippers on whom we seek to build through our community links and resident SSOM* priest. We also have good links with St Peter's CE VC primary school through collective worship and use of the church for RE and end of term services. We have a fine ring of bells sought after by visiting ringers.

Our Challenges

Our governance arrangements are not strong and while we are blessed with historic benefaction for the building and ministry share, our levels of giving are not strong nor our fund-raising ability, despite well supported social gatherings

Our Hopes for the Future

We seek to retain our longstanding links in the Grunty Fen group of four parishes while at the same time embracing the new opportunities to collaborate more widely.

Regular Services

- **Parish Eucharist** every first Sunday at 10:00 A.M.
- **Morning Prayer** every second and third Sunday at 10:00 A.M.
- **Worship for Everyone** every Fourth Sunday at 10:30 A.M.
- **Grunty Fen Group Eucharist** every fifth Sunday at 10:00 A.M. for an hour in Haddenham, Wentworth, Wilburton or Witchford



* Self-Supporting Ordained Minister



Witcam St Martin

The Church

Anyone driving away from Ely towards Sutton along the A142 west of Ely who looks to their right as they approach the petrol station at Witcam Toll will see Witcam parish church silhouetted against the skyline. It is basically Thirteenth Century with north and south aisles and a stumpy tower (with battlements) at the west end. Extensive rebuilding work was carried out in warm red brick in the Seventeenth Century and the effect is very pleasing. The church has a rare stone pulpit and a font which arouses excitement amongst the cognoscenti.

The Parish and Its People

There is a Recreation Ground next to the crossroads with a village hall which is quite well used. Apart from the Church, the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council are the main centres of gravity.

The population is about 445 and has been about 400 for many years. Little development has taken place apart from infilling and at the moment no major development is planned. There is no school or shop. The Methodist chapel closed some thirty years ago. The 'old' village families that used to dominate life have mostly died out. The village is now a mixture of the retired and those who work over a wide area around and with the departure of the old networks it has become more difficult to get people to take an active role in village (including church) activities.

The PCC and the Church officers

The sole Churchwarden is eager to step down but there is not exactly a queue of people waiting to take her place. Meetings of the PCC (on which there are nine members) take place some five or six times a year and are perfectly harmonious with any decision being reached without a great deal of argument. Apart from the Treasurer all members are retired.

The Life of the Church

The worshipping community is about 10 (the majority of whom are retired) which includes two people from other parishes. There are no signs of that number increasing although some three years ago three families moved into the village and we were very glad to welcome into the community someone from each of these families who plainly enjoyed what they found. Those attending seem to find the warmly welcoming middle-of-the-road-leaning-slightly-to-the-low Anglicanism to their taste. There is a coffee morning on the first Tuesday of each month which is a jolly mixture of church goers and non-church goers which almost invariably extends long after its appointed closing time.

There is a service every Sunday with two Eucharistic services and two services of Morning Prayer each month. There are no retired clergy or licensed laity living in the village. Consideration has been given to an Authorised Local Leader but there does not seem to be anyone suited to that position. Weddings and funerals can best be described as intermittent; in 2023 there were no weddings and three funerals.

It could readily and accurately be said that what needs to happen is for the church community to grow but all concerned are aware that that did not happen while the parish had its own incumbent (with Sutton and Mepal) and (bearing in mind the age of the church community) they might well find the prospect of unwonted activity not particularly welcome.

Church Finances and Fabric

Turning to financial matters the Ministry Share is £4,264. The other principal outgoings (the figures below are taken from the accounts to December 2023) are church insurance of £3,186 and electricity/heating at £579. As for income the unrestricted income is gift-aided planned giving of £4,159 and gift-aided donations of £2,350. This latter figure includes the funds received from the principal fund-raising activity in which the church community is involved which is the village BBQ in the summer.

The church receives a small annual rent from some agricultural land which is held on trust for it. This income is divided between the Churchyard Fund and the Buildings Fund. A roof alarm has been installed and paid for. A quinquennial inspection took place last year which identified significant expenditure needed over the next five years.

Summary

In general terms it can be said that Witcam is a reasonably homogeneous place which like so many others has become a dormitory village with many of its inhabitants finding their lives quite full enough with jobs, children and other private activities without getting immersed in the public sphere of village activities for the general benefit of many, including the church. People like the church being there; they enjoy its antiquity and beauty and the unchanging way that it is always available for significant events in their lives. The church runs reasonably well with most of what needs to be done getting done somehow or other. But (and there is no avoiding this) there are a large number of aspects of church life for which no-one feels that they need take responsibility which simply in default fall to the lot of the Churchwarden.

Witchford St Andrew



The Parish

Situated three miles to the west of Ely Witchford is a long narrow, thriving village which straddles Main Street (the former A142, bypassed in early 1990s). It is surrounded by farmland with many pleasant walks. The 2021 census population figure was 2,400 but since there has been significant and continuing housing development at the village's northern and western boundaries. To the east lies the former RAF Witchford airfield, now Lancaster Way Business Park, where the new Ely Diocesan Office, Etheldreda House, is nearing completion. At Lancaster Way there is a garden, café, and WW2 memorial to 115 Squadron. Keen volunteers keep the village tidy and safe.

The Church

Located on the south side of Main Street the church is a Grade II* listed building. Comprised of a Thirteenth Century west tower, 1376 chancel and nave, Fifteenth Century north porch. Constructed of rubble and brick with stone dressings and a tiled roof. Reordering in 2019 has provided a new vestry, kitchen and toilet. The churchyard to the north and south is well maintained by volunteers and has been awarded a bronze conservation award. It has a permissive path established by faculty and is popular for both walking and quiet reflection.

St Andrew's Witchford is a former benefice with the neighbouring parish of St Peter's, Wentworth. In 2012 patronage was suspended and the incumbent of Haddenham and Wilburton was appointed priest in charge. Located around the perimeter of Grunty Fen the four churches became informally known as the 'Grunty Fen' group and we continue to work well together.

Congregation

A service is held each Sunday at 10:00 A.M. with Holy Communion on 4th Sunday of the month. A Holy Communion for a fifth Sunday is hosted in turn within the 'Grunty Fen' group. Worship is led by clergy who are self-supporting or who have permission to officiate, Licensed and Authorised Lay ministers. It is the only open place of worship in the village.

Average Sunday service attendance is fifteen and the current electoral roll is thirty-five. The congregation has a core of regular attenders who welcome newcomers and provide after-service refreshments. The church is regularly used for weddings, funerals and quiet reflection. Volunteers are responsible for cleaning and flowers. A computer expert helps the with sound system and interactive screen.

St Andrew's Hall

Located almost opposite the church and looked after by a caretaker it is the home for most of the church activities including Friends of St Andrews Church monthly lunches and twice monthly coffee mornings, craft mornings, Baby Café and other lettings. As a community building it receives some support from Witchford Parish Council. In addition a local group of singers (not a choir) often sing at weddings, funerals and church concerts

Schools

Close by, also on the south side Main Street is The Rackham Church of England Primary School (member of Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust). The school come termly into church but it cannot accommodate the whole school; the current priest in charge regularly leads collective worship in school. Witchford Village College in Manor Road (for 11-16 year olds) is a member of the Eastern Alliance Multi-Academy Trust which draws pupils from the surrounding eleven villages.

Finance

In common with most rural churches with small congregations we rely on giving and fundraising to finance our ministry share, overheads and building repairs. We have met our ministry share for the last three years.

Future Ministry and Mission

What we have now

- Sunday 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship attended mainly by a faithful but ageing congregation.
- Wednesday 9.30 A.M. Morning Prayer in warmer months.
- A church which is used and valued for its times of celebration and remembrance.
- A building with its churchyard an ideal place for quiet prayer and reflection.
- Regular social activities in St Andrews hall
- Experience of working well with other parishes.
- A strengthening connection with The Rackham Primary School through assemblies and church visits.
- A new connection with Witchford Village College.

Looking to the future what we need is leadership to inspire, advise and assist in finding additional ways to broaden our connections with the community, particularly families and young people.

Finances Overview 2023

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expend*</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Cash</i>
Coveney	£ 11,628	£ 13,683	£ 2,055	£ 34,873
Haddenham	£ 23,769	£ 26,255	£ 2,486	£ 15,582
Little Downham	£ 32,015	£ 30,341	£ 1,674	£ 29,876
Little Thetford	£ 14,423	£ 12,257	£ 2,166	£ 9,855
Mepal	£ 16,159	£ 14,837	£ 1,322	£ 30,885
Stretham	£ 25,939	£ 27,435	£ 1,496	£ 62,854
Sutton	£ 57,607	£ 50,940	£ 6,667	£ 77,994
Wentworth	£ 27,505	£ 28,340	£ 835	£ 710
Wilburton	£ 14,548	£ 18,058	£ 3,510	£ 85,840
Witcham	£ 11,704	£ 9,282	£ 2,422	£ 35,599
Witchford	£ 36,587	£ 40,841	£ 4,254	£ 15,465
TOTAL	£ 271,884	£ 272,269	£ 385	£ 399,533

*Total expenditure including Ministry Share.

Figures in red are negative.

For copies of the full accounts, please contact the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech.



Benefice Profile Statistics

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Ministry Share</i>	<i>Population 2021</i>	<i>Population Growth by 2030 (estimated)</i>	<i>Average Weekly Attendance 2022</i>	<i>Average Weekly Attendance 2023</i>	<i>Schools (Primary/Secondary)</i>
Coveney	£ 3,459	428		11	10	0/0
Haddenham	£ 7,683	3,436		19	14	1/0
Little Downham	£ 13,520	3,028		30	39	1/0
Little Thetford	£ 7,895	760	80	42	21	1/0
Mepal	£ 6,812	968	100	10	9	1/0
Stretham	£ 16,214	1,844	50	22	33	1/0
Sutton	£ 25,885	3,883		48	35	1/0
Wentworth	£ 2,250	188		6	5	0/0
Wilburton	£ 13,904	1,089		13	11	1/0
Witcham	£ 4,264	445		14	10	0/0
Witchford	£ 7,581	2,489	900	17	16	1/1
TOTAL	£ 109,470	18,558	1,130	203	203	8/1

Role Description

1 Details of Post

Role Title	Team Rector
Name of Benefice	Isle of Ely Villages Team Ministry
Deanery	Ely
Archdeaconry	Huntingdon and Wisbech
Initial Point of Contact	Archdeacon: The Ven Richard Harlow

2 Role Purpose

General

i	To share with the Bishop both in the cure of souls and in responsibility, under God, for growing the Kingdom in this benefice, and in particular with the team vicar-designate.
ii	To ensure that the church communities in the benefice flourish and engage positively with 'Ely 2025' and its successor.
iii	To work together as clergy and accredited lay ministers in this team, with deanery colleagues, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy and other relevant legislation.
iv	To collaborate within the deanery both in current mission and ministry and, through the Ely Deanery Plan 2024, in such reshaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require. To attend Deanery Chapter and Deanery Synod and to play a full part in the wider life of the deanery.
v	To work with ordained and lay colleagues as set out in their individual role descriptions and working agreements, and to ensure that, where relevant, they are reviewed. This involves discerning and developing the gifts and ministries of all members of the congregations.
vi	To work with the PCCs towards the development of the local church as described in the benefice profile, and to review those needs with them. To recognise and value the individuality of each community; to foster and develop Authorised Local Leadership (ALL) in each parish.
vii	To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching, and pastoral care is provided.
viii	To work together, as appropriate, with any other Christian denominations which have a presence in the parishes and the wider deanery.

Schools

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ix | To work closely with the local schools, both Foundation/DEMAT and Community/Academy, as collective worship leader, chaplain and ex-Officio governor (in name only). All this should be seen as a key part of any team clergy role. |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x | Develop and exercise a local oversight and enabling role, working collaboratively with the ministry team to enable effective and fruitful ministry across the whole benefice. |
| xi | Share the Christian faith with people of all ages and work with parishes to widen the age profile of congregations. |
| xii | Teach and encourage an understanding of Christian stewardship across the benefice, with a view to increasing parish giving in monetary and volunteer capacity. |
| xiii | Strengthen and encourage links with young people, families, and other groups of people including the newly-retired to help expand outreach, and offer pastoral care and visiting capabilities for those in need such as the elderly, lonely and isolated. |
| xiv | Be willing to contribute to community life in all the villages of the benefice, and to be as visible as possible. |

3 Key Contacts

Generic

- The Team Vicar-designate
- Ministry Team members, as currently configured by cluster
- Team Administration support (tba)
- The Church Wardens
- ALLs
- The PCCs
- The Deanery Chapter and Synod
- The Rural Dean and Lay Chair of Ely
- Dean and Chapter, Ely Cathedral

Specific

Ordained and lay colleagues (those holding the Bishop's licence, office holders and administrative staff)

Aspirational

Collaborative missional objectives to be determined, to include outreach to new housing and families



RD

Supportive

- The Archdeacon, who will review this role description with you when you are six months into post.
- The Rural Dean and Lay Chair of Ely
- Assistant Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry
- Assistant Diocesan Director of Strategy
- Assistant Diocesan Director of Education

Patrons

- Dean and Chapter of Ely Cathedral
- The Bishop
- Archdeacon of Cambridge

Aspirational

Collaborative missional objectives to be determined, to include outreach to new housing and families

Role context and Other Relevant Information

The diocesan ministry deployment principles affirm an intention to maintain stipendiary clergy numbers if possible, subject to the availability of financial resources, and to develop an understanding of local oversight ministry and local ministers in parishes ministering in teams or clusters. A key aim of this is to reduce clergy isolation and increase mutual support.

An understanding of the Ministry Share process and how it is applied across the benefice and deanery, its importance for the sustainability of ministry across the diocese, is fundamental.

The Bishops expect and encourage clergy to take their rest days, holidays and regular retreats or similar. Clergy are strongly encouraged to have a spiritual director or equivalent.

4 Benefice Summary

Parishes	Sutton, Mepal, Witcham; Coveney; Little Downham, Little Thetford, Stretham; Haddenham, Wentworth, Wilburton, Witchford.
Churches	St Andrew's Sutton, St Mary's Mepal, St Martin's Witcham; St Peter-ad-Vincula Coveney; St Leonard's Little Downham, St George's Little Thetford, St; James' Stretham; Holy Trinity Haddenham, St Peter's Wentworth, St Peter's Wilburton, St Andrew's Witchford.

PCC	The PCCs seek to work together, to be supportive and effective in mission and growth.
Schools and Colleges	St Andrew CE VC Sutton, Mepal and Witcham DEMAT; Feoffees Academy Little Downham, Little Thetford DEMAT, Stretham Community; Robert Arkenstall Haddenham, St Peter CEVC Wilburton, The Rackham CE VC Witchford, and Witchford Village College.
Churchwardens	2023/2024 Sutton 2, Mepal 2, Witcham 1, Wentworth 1, Haddenham 2, Wilburton 2, Coveney 1, Little Downham 1, Little Thetford 1, Stretham 2, Witchford 1,
Ministers	<p>Team Vicar-designate.</p> <p>Revd Jill Stimpson SSM (Wilburton and Grunty Fen).</p> <p>LLMs: Ellen Leeke (Stretham), David Ogilvie (Haddenham and Grunty Fen), Katrina Myers (Witchford and Grunty Fen), Keith Cox and Paul Cooper (Littleport) at Coveney; Alan Wakeley, and John Marshall (Cathedral) at Little Thetford, and Stephen Brooker (Cathedral) elsewhere.</p> <p>PTOs: Revds Alan Jesson (Sutton, Mepal and Witcham), Stephen Bowring (Sutton, Mepal and Witcham), Stuart Mitchell (Witchford and Sutton, Mepal and Witcham), Alan Partridge (Little Downham), David Pritchard (Little Downham), Stephen Leeke (Stretham and Little Thetford); Philip Jenson, Geoff Long (Littleport) at Coveney.</p> <p>ALMs Bill Murrells (Haddenham and Grunty Fen), Sue Warren (Wilburton and Grunty Fen), Claire McGinley (Little Thetford), Shirley Jenkins (Little Downham), Sara Millward (Stretham), Lesley Sculthorpe (Mepal), Sarah Lorden (St Mary, Ely and Stretham).</p> <p>Occasional Preacher Tim Millward (Stretham)</p>
Buildings	11 parish churches, all listed; Witchford St Andrews Hall; Little Downham Community Rooms
Churchyards Open	Coveney, Mepal, Little Downham, Sutton, Wentworth, Witcham, Witchford
Churchyards Closed	Haddenham, Little Thetford, Stretham, Wilburton.
Population	18,558 (2021)
Average Sunday Attendance	2022 263 2023 229
Ministry Share	2024 £109,470 2023 £105,281 2022 £102,978 2021 £101,037



Resolutions	None
Church Traditions	Central and Open Evangelical
Expenses	Reimbursed in full

Housing Little Downham Rectory

This Rectory is a spacious, private, four-bedroom detached home. It is not overlooked by any other properties. The house has efficient gas-fired central-heating. Additionally in the grounds there is a separate parish room outbuilding and a double-garage.

The Rectory is situated in a popular village three miles north-west of Ely (two miles from the Ely by-pass and leisure village) connected by the B1411 road and cycle path.

Key features include an entrance lobby giving into a study, then hall, cloakroom, two large reception rooms connected by double-doors; the drawing room having an open Baxi grate, with patio doors to the east garden. The kitchen, pantry, and utility room with back door to the west orchard garden, from which a wide gate leads back to the front tarmac driveway where there is ample room for parking.

All gardens are lit by infra-red sensors. The house is double-glazed throughout, and the three separate garden areas are laid to lawn with mature trees, the house is built in the grounds of the former rectory, but is quite separate, and backs onto a diocesan glebe field, gated access to which is through the grounds past the two outbuildings.

Upstairs there are four good-sized bedrooms, three with built-in wardrobes. There is a bathroom with separate shower cubicle and shower over the bath, with an adjoining separate toilet.





The Church of England

Diocese of Ely