



Huntingdon Parish Profile



www.huntingdonparish.org

Welcome

Thank you for considering being our new Vicar

We are delighted you are reading this because you could be the person we are looking for and praying about to lead us forward. We are a young, growing, informal, evangelical, gently charismatic church community in the lovely market town of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. We have a big age-range, ethnic diversity and dynamic connections into the community. You will read all about this further on, but we hope this already fires something inside your heart at the start.



We hope that this Parish Profile will give you a feel for what our church is about: who we are, what we do and where we believe we need to get to as we are helped to grow and develop our faith, our mission and our church. We want to grow in numbers and faith.

We also know that a profile cannot tell the whole story, so our prayer is that you will come and visit us and explore a vocation to at our Huntingdon Parish.



It would be exciting if this was part of your vocational journey in which your gifts, skills and ministry can be brought to bear fruit alongside and amongst us as we lean in together to what God will do in our church, congregation and community.

We recognise the opportunities for significant growth in our missional endeavours, but we deeply recognise we need the right person to lead us to do so. We are praying for you as you read, think and pray over this Profile and our future.

Welcome from Bishop Dagmar Winter

Thank you for taking an interest in this important post in the market town of Huntingdon. This is a post of strategic significance in our area.

Ely Diocese is a growing diocese. The population is growing much faster than the national average.

We are seeing church members grow in number, in discipleship & vocations. We have a new Diocesan Secretary and will soon have a new Diocesan Bishop. Our strategy is clear: we aim to support our clergy with great housing, hopeful chapters, strong investment in training and supervision, and targeted support to grow new disciples, especially among children and families, and to simplify the weight of administration that swamps clergy diaries and inboxes.

This parish has been through a time of significant investment and growth, as the following pages illustrate. Your role will be to embed and build on that growth, working with deanery colleagues and local volunteers, and a large staff team.

We pride ourselves, as a diocese, on having a high percentage of women in incumbent posts, and we are working to grow numbers of Global Majority Heritage clergy.

We are actively working to ensure that our clergy receive the best support and care that we can achieve.

We want you to thrive, to belong, to grow with us and contribute to our life together. My senior colleagues will support and work with you to ensure that this role is life giving and sustainable for you and any family you may have.

If you would like to gain a broader diocesan perspective on the parish and the role, you are also welcome to contact the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech, **The Ven. Richard Harlow**.

Telephone: **07415 757527** Email: **archdeacon.handw@elydiocese.org**



Welcome from the Mayor Cllr Audrey McAdam



Welcome to Huntingdon. Ours is a town with deep roots and a strong sense of who we are. All Saints' Church stands at the heart of that story; its tower has watched over generations, and its doors have welcomed countless people through good times and difficult

ones alike.

As Mayor, it's a privilege to introduce you to a community that values its past while working steadily towards a better future. We're proud of our heritage, we look after one another, and we take real care in the things that matter. You'll find that Huntingdon is a town where people show up, lend a hand, and remain committed.

We're ready to welcome the next vicar of All Saints and look forward to the partnership and presence they will bring.

Huntingdon is a town with a strong sense of identity and a genuine pride in its own story. It blends historic character with modern growth, and it's the sort of place where tradition still matters but new ideas are welcomed when they serve the community well. People here appreciate steady leadership, familiar faces and a sense of belonging.

The town is home to welcoming neighbourhoods, busy schools, thriving community groups and a network of volunteers who give their time quietly and consistently. This is a community built on connection, commitment and a genuine desire to support one another. Whether it's local events, civic occasions or everyday moments in the market square, Huntingdon is at its best when people come together.

You may also wish to gain significant insight into the parish, by contacting **Reverend Canon Mike Booker** who was formerly Associate Vicar in Huntingdon Parish. Telephone: **07766 835452** Email: **canonmikebooker@gmail.com**

Huntingdon

Huntingdon, a historic market town on the River Great Ouse, traces its origins to Anglo- Saxon and Danish times. It was granted a charter by King John in 1205 and is famously the birthplace of Oliver Cromwell in 1599, who later became Lord Protector of England. Huntingdon flourished by river commerce, as a coaching hub on the Great North Road and via railways in the Victorian era. Today, it offers excellent road (A1/A14) and rail (London/York/Edinburgh) connections. It retains historic landmarks like the medieval bridge and Hinchingsbrooke House, blending rich heritage with ongoing contemporary developments.



The River Great Ouse provides a scenic backdrop with many parks such as Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, SSI meadows such as Portholme, walking/cycling routes to St Ives through the scenic villages of Houghton with its water mill. The



Hemingford's and the 150-mile Ouse Valley Way are also attractive features. Whilst Huntingdon benefits from being close to Cambridge, the Science Park and City shops, it still retains its own modern market town character.



The current population stands at about 25,600. The ethnic composition is largely White, including significant numbers of Eastern Europeans, with minority groups including a growing Asian and Black community. Employment is diverse, including manufacturing and distribution with the local authority whilst the NHS provides a significant number of jobs through Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. This is located on the south side of the town and is in the first wave of the government's new hospital programme.

There are many ‘Good’ OFSTED-rated primary schools, including Huntingdon Primary, Stukeley Meadows, and Godmanchester Community Academy. Secondary education is provided by Hinchingsbrooke and St Peter’s Schools, with some travelling to Kings School, Peterborough.



Huntingdonshire Regional College offers post-secondary and vocational courses. In addition to local sixth form provision, A level study in Cambridge’s sixth form colleges is also available. Huntingdon has many agencies that support the town, including BID Huntingdon (working with local businesses) and Diamond Hampers.

The local Foodbank is run by Godmanchester Baptist Church on the other side of the river. We work in partnership with these and other groups, aiming to play our part in blessing the town.

While the life and worship of Huntingdon Parish is centred on the versatile multi-use All Saints Church in the town square, we are committed to serving the whole town. Of our regular activities, Messy Church, The Living Room and Meet and Eat all take place in the Oxmoor area, in north Huntingdon; this was built as a London overspill, and it is an area of high deprivation with a number of social issues. Each week the staff teams meet to pray for God’s blessing over the whole town.



Our Church

The Parish of Huntingdon was formed in 2019 through the merger of the parishes of All Saints with St John the Baptist, Saint Mary with St Benedict and Saint Barnabas. We have benefited over the last 6 years from being one of the market towns within the Ely Diocese Changing Market Towns project which has resourced us to revitalise the church community and the churches presence in the town.



We are a growing and wonderfully diverse church family with an age range from 0 to 96 and a heritage from nearly every continent.

We are a predominantly young congregation in our faith but with enough wise heads and hearts to keep us on 'The Way.'



Numerically we have grown from a couple of dozen people with just one child in 2019 to a thriving church community that we can measure in the hundreds and, as seems to be the situation, a varying Sunday attendance of 70 plus and a dozen children in Young Church. We have developed a more informal worship style which has encouraged a highly relational emphasis within the church family.



Life at All Saints Church, Huntingdon



Christmas Lunch at All Saints Church.



Baby loss service.



Youngest church members.



A.V. and Sound desk.



Sunday Young church.



Ready for Chatty Cafe visitors.



Footsteps at All Saint Church



Christmas nativity

Vision and Values

Our Vision: sharing the love of Christ across Huntingdon, to nurture faith journeys in individuals and in families which become a lived faith, rather than just a Sunday Faith, to foster intergenerational connection and to value the contribution of all.

Our Values:



Christ-centred – we love God and seek to demonstrate our love of God and

our faith in him by caring for those around us of all nationalities, economic and social backgrounds – in the name of Jesus.

Worship – we seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul and all our strength.

Missional - all believers, irrespective of gender, nationality or background are

called to share in the Missio Dei – the mission of God, to join with him in loving those around us and inviting them into the Kingdom.



Word and Spirit - we believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We encourage openness to the power and work of the Holy Spirit.

Relationships – Positive relationships enable all the rest of the ministry to happen.

Building a relational emphasis is foundational in all aspects of our ministry.

Accompanying – we are interested in people, and being with them on their journey,

engaging with who they are and accepting them as they are rather than setting expectation of what we think they should be.



Nurturing – we invest in people's growth in all areas of their lives, particularly nurturing faith development.

We value the power of prayer and developing discipleship, seeking to grow in the fruit of the Spirit.

Empowerment – we want to show respect to all with whom we are in contact, supporting them in taking responsibility for their lives and build their confidence to regain

better control over areas of their lives that might have felt hopeless.



Advocacy – we are committed to be advocates for the poor, the vulnerable and the oppressed. This is exercised in our many community projects.

Family* – the family is the primary support network for a child, so strengthening families will support healthy child development.

Community – there is a saying, ‘it takes a village to raise a child’. It is so important to support the development of people’s networks, support groups and the capacity to cope with new situations, as they have more people to turn to for support.

Intergenerational – we are called to be an example to other generations, and to tell of God has done for us. To do this, the generations need to interact.

*We recognise that ‘family’ can take many different forms depending on circumstances and affirm that all family units are valued

Sharing the Love of Jesus across Huntingdon

The Team



Leo Orobor – Curate

I'm Revd Leo Esosa Orobor, serving as Pioneer Curate at All Saints in the Parish of Huntingdon. I began in 2024 after training at Ridley Hall and was priested in 2025. My responsibilities include preaching,

leading services, pastoral care, and developing community-facing initiatives such as Chatty Café, The Living Room, Hope Hub, and the Men's Group. I also serve as a school governor and am helping to establish a parish 5-a-side football team as part of our outreach. My vision is to help build a welcoming, missional church where people encounter Christ, grow in discipleship, and find belonging through meaningful relationships.



Jan Smith – Associate Vicar

I'm a self-supporting minister and British Sign Language Interpreter, as well as a mum, grandma, and dog owner. Born and raised in Huntingdon, I was ordained in 2020 and love serving our diverse

church family through preaching, leading services, and pastoral care. My primary calling is ministry with Deaf people. I've worked as an interpreter for nearly three decades and serve as Chaplain to the Deaf and Deafblind Community in Ely Diocese. My heart is to see the church grow in love for Jesus and become a truly inclusive space where everyone belongs and flourishes in Christ.



Becca Dommett – Families and Children's Missioner

I came to the Parish of Huntingdon in June after working mainly with adults, teaching Functional Skills, but have always been active in running ministries for all ages. I

currently run Footsteps, Messy Church, Young Church, Mums' Connect and am involved in All Age Worship. I've got stuck into my first Christmas season; although as a vicarage child, I'm used to the chaos! I'm co-leading another Connect group and start a toddler group spin off to focus on skills-building. I have a four-year-old and a six-year-old and my husband works in EYFS!



Sarah Gosling – Youth Missioner

I am currently serving as Youth Missioner on a maternity cover basis, covering for Ruth Hunt during her maternity leave. I grew up in Huntingdon, becoming a Christian as a teenager, inspired by my youth leader! I have worked

with All Saints since August 2025, jointly leading youth work alongside my role with Thrive, a Christian youth charity. I have experience in youth work and specialist secondary education. My husband, Steffen and I have a young daughter. Youth ministry at All Saints runs twice a month during term-time on the first and third Sundays from 6-7.30pm. Sunday evening Youth (SEY) runs jointly with Leightonstone Parish and is for young people aged 11-18. It includes food, activities and exploring Christian faith together.

Helen Medlock – Parish Administrator & PSO



I joined the Parish team in September 2024, later being appointed Safeguarding Officer. I was in Education for many years then worked for a charity for adults with disabilities and for a national bereavement charity. Both roles are varied and busy but I really enjoy

working with the staff and our wonderful team of volunteers. Trained as a violinist I still enjoy performing with my string orchestra. I am married to Colin, a professional musician, and I have 3 wonderful step children and 3 grandchildren.



Ruth Hunt - Youth Missioner

I've been the Youth Missioner with Huntingdon Parish since July 2020 after 4 years leading secular community and youth engagement teams in London, and a stint teaching music in China.

Through the youth work at Huntingdon Parish and Thrive, I'm passionate about seeing young people living life in all its fullness and am looking forward to getting back to it when I return from maternity leave in July 2026. My husband and I are keen musicians and serve through leading sung worship at All Saints. Besides enjoying the wild ride of parenting, I love good music, feeding people, and working on improving my half marathon time!

Others on the Team:

- **Jayne Jones** – Worship Authorised Lay Minister
- **Linda Hardy** – Pastoral Visitor
- **Jo Harvey** – Treasurer
- **Mike Booker, David & Sylvia Kinder** our active and supportive retired clergy with PTO

As well as our **PCC** and other volunteers who you will see and hear more about on the next few pages.

Ministries



Our main Sunday service takes place in All Saints Church. Worship is very informal, led by a worship band when possible but often using recorded music. We follow sermon series through most of the year, with themes or books of the Bible chosen by the staff team, but we use the Lectionary at major festivals. We do not wear robes at these services.

There are no service books, with words and images projected on the screen. Each Sunday also has a small but regular online following.

Our current pattern includes an all-age service on the first Sunday of each month, with Young Church crossing the town square to meet in the Town Hall on other weeks. Sunday Holy Communion is currently celebrated twice per month.

During the week, Holy Communion takes place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:30am in All Saints, joined by members of our online Morning Prayer Zoom community.

Festivals attract several new people, with the Carol Service and the all-age Nativity usually filling the building.

We have a large and enthusiastic group of volunteers who work hard to welcome families and join in the worship. It is a missional space that has led to adults coming to faith and being baptised



On occasion, we also take worship beyond the church walls, including holding acts of worship in the Market Square on Remembrance Sunday, during the Christmas Market, worshipping amongst local businesses, stalls, and the wider town community.

Chatty Café



Running on a Wednesday and Saturday from 11:00–1:30 Chatty Café is our volunteer led community café and warm space. Famous for its cheese and ham toasties and bacon butties we regularly welcome 60 or more people at each session. The



‘Chatty Café’

hospitality overflows into all of our services and events.



Thrive - Our Youth Missioner plays a key

role in Thrive, and the incumbent has been part of the oversight group. As a partnership of local churches, Thrive provides important and innovative open access youth work. This involves one-to-one mentoring in local secondary schools, lunch-time school groups, and youth cafes in several churches. We host a cafe in All Saints at least once a week.

www.thriveyouthwork.com)



Cambs Deaf Church

The Deaf Church has a 100-year history in Ely Diocese and was granted a Bishop's Mission Order by Bishop Dagmar in October

2021. Jan began leading Deaf Church in Cambridge in 2012. As we grew, we needed new venues and found All Saints in December 2017. The easy access, flexible space, big screen and warmth (!!) has made it a very popular venue, and we have stayed ever since!



We now have a monthly service in BSL, a 2 weekly Bible group, and a monthly BSL interpreted Sunday morning service at All Saints. Deaf people have shared by leading prayers, and welcoming people at the door and once led the whole service in BSL, with an interpreter to voiceover into English.

We would love further integration of the Deaf Church and hearing church. Deaf people also regularly come to Chatty Café; the Chatty staff are willing to have-a-go at sign language which is great.



Messy Church -

meets monthly in the Coneygear Centre in north Huntingdon, with many of those who come living locally. There is some overlap in attendance with All Saints, but most of the families attending see Messy Church as their main Church. We have a large and enthusiastic group of volunteers who work hard to welcome families and join in the worship.



Life Events. In 2025 Huntingdon Parish had 12 baptisms (10 children, 2 adults), 2 weddings and blessings, with 2 church funerals and 18 at the crematorium. The numbers are not large, and we are able to put time into planning and pastoral care for each event. As the church has been growing, with several people coming to faith or re-discovering faith, we have hosted a few services of adult baptism and re-affirmations of baptismal vows in our Sunday morning services. For those already part of the regular congregation, we also host some infant baptisms in the morning service. The bulk of services of infant baptism have taken place on Sunday afternoons. Our Children and Families Missioner works with the clergy in building links with baptism families, and several families have joined the regular Sunday congregation through the baptisms of their children.

FOOTSTEPS

Baby & Toddler Group

Running every other week in All Saints, Footsteps is our oversubscribed 'Mums and Tots' group with a strong Bible message alongside all the fun.



thelivingroom

The Living Room is a monthly

small-group gathering that meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at St John's Primary School, in north Huntingdon. It offers a relaxed, relational space where people are welcomed as they are and accompanied on their faith journey through conversation, prayer, and shared reflection. Meeting in the Oxmoor/northern area of the town, an area shaped by ongoing housing development and

community life—including streets such as Butts Grove Way and Oak Drive—The Living Room expresses the parish's commitment to being present across the whole town, embedding church life within everyday community contexts.

The gathering reflects the parish's values of relationship, nurturing, and discipleship, creating space for people to explore faith at their own pace within a supportive and intergenerational setting. Each meeting concludes with an informal celebration of Holy Communion, holding together Word and Spirit and offering a gentle sacramental focus rooted in hospitality and prayer.

The Living Room is a practical expression of the parish vision to share the love of Christ across Huntingdon, fostering belonging, faith development, and lived discipleship beyond the walls of the parish church.

Thursday Night Connect Group - for developing discipleship via interactive use of video, discussion and prayer. It meets fortnightly at the church with 6-12 people signed up. Recent theme was Dr Andrew Ollerton's Bible Society material on Romans.

Meet and Eat currently meets in St Barnabas Church. It is an informal weekly gathering, mainly of older ladies, on Tuesday lunch times. It is an important part of our involvement in north Huntingdon, with time to chat, share snacks and drinks and sing well-loved hymns.



All Saints Men's 5-a-side

Football Team – recently started by Leo, our curate is part of

the church's wider vision for mission and outreach through everyday life. It is open to players aged 18 and above. Using football as a bridge, bringing men together through sport. Its vision is rooted in belonging before believing, — creating a safe and inclusive space where friendships are formed on and off the pitch, pastoral relationships naturally develop, and gentle pathways into discipleship and faith exploration can emerge.

Sunday Evening Youth



Sunday Evening Youth (SEY) at All Saints runs twice a month during term-time on the first and third Sundays from 6-7.30pm. SEY runs jointly with Leightonstone Parish and is for young people aged 11-18. It includes food, activities and exploring Christian faith together.

Local partnerships

The clergy and lay helpers have developed pastoral links with several local residential homes, including monthly services and home Communion visits. Our clergy and Children and Families Missioner regularly take assemblies in local primary and community schools. St John's Primary School is part of the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust, and our links with the school are strengthening. Our curate is a school governor at St John's, and the school now provides a venue for The Living Room to meet on Sunday afternoons.



Men's Fellowship – run by Leo, our curate, is a growing, relational ministry that creates space for men of different ages and backgrounds to

connect, belong and explore faith together. It meets on a Saturday evening. Additionally, there is a monthly prayer meeting. The emphasis is building trust, support and spiritual growth through authentic relationships.

Buildings

For us Church is the people, but it does involve buildings.

All Saints Church on the Market Square

All Saints is our main parish church on the Market Square in the centre of Huntingdon. Refurbished in 2016/7, it is a warm (underfloor heating!) and welcoming multi-use space with a maximum seated capacity of 120 (including sofas and comfy chairs). Tuesday is the only day something isn't happening in All Saints; it is a busy hub for the church's activities and worship. The Vestry doubles as the church office. The churchyard is maintained by the town council.

St Marys

Sitting a little forlornly on the High Street at the other side of the Town Centre, St Mary's is predominantly used for Life Events. It's a larger church but lacks a few facilities, like toilets. We are working with the Diocesan Buildings Team to develop a 'Friends of St Mary's'.

St Barnabas

Tucked away on Medway Road on the Oxmoor Estate, St Barnabas is a 1960's build church centre. The building faces significant problems, and it may not be possible to retain it. The PCC remain committed to continuing a significant presence in this area of the town and would expect a new incumbent to share this priority.

Vicarage

The Diocese is in the process of identifying a new vicarage because the current one is badly affected by subsidence. We want to ensure that you are housed in a location that is enjoyable as both a home and a base for ministry. We would expect to secure a new vicarage in dialogue with you. Like all vicarages in the Diocese of Ely, it will be maintained and equipped to a high standard.

St Mary's Church Hall and Archdeaconry Library

Whilst technically not a church building (it is overseen by a separate charity of which the Vicar is a Trustee). These spaces are mainly used by non-church groups. It is highly likely this building will be sold.

Finance

First, the good news. Huntingdon Parish has received considerable support from the Diocese. As part of the Diocese's Changing Market Towns initiative, several staff roles have been centrally funded for several years. The parish share does not currently reflect the full costs of ministry, and other parishes in the deanery are bearing a larger proportion of the deanery's contributions. A very large legacy has left the parish with significant reserves. All this support means that there is no financial risk in the short and medium term.

Secondly, the challenge. Even the current parish share is not yet being met from regular income, and we have had to draw on reserves for several years. However, planned giving has increased substantially over the last six years, but it will need to grow further if we are to start to cover our true costs. Although the congregation has grown in a remarkable way, many church members are on relatively low incomes.

Our new Vicar

Huntingdon Parish and the benefice have been successfully led through a period of seismic change over the past seven years which has created the foundations of a thriving church community of disciples. The Ministries section showcases the highly creative, contemporary and energetic mission activities which have developed. However, we believe our new Vicar will be required to harness the many exciting ventures and develop a stronger core of a committed, worshipping and learning church community.

We are looking for a new vicar with a vision and strategy to guide us in this next chapter as we grow in our faith and as disciples, grow, deepen and continue sharing the news of Jesus to our town. We have thought, talked and prayed about the skill set we believe our new vicar should have. Here are the 5 Core characteristics:

- 1. A strategic mind who can set direction.**
- 2. A pastoral heart with a discipleship focus.**
- 3. A gospel based engaging teacher of word and spirit.**
- 4. A missional commitment to the diverse community of Huntingdon.**
- 5. A collaborative leader who offers faith, hope and love in developing a thriving congregation.**

We asked the church community what qualities they were looking for in their new Vicar.



We also asked what church they hoped we might become.



These word clouds are useful indicators. They gave a feel for our careful thought, discussion and prayer resulting in the articulation of our five core requirements.

Could this be you? We pray and hope so

