



Parish Profile



ST MARY  ST MICHAEL
— TRUMPINGTON —

<https://trumpington.church>



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Introduction

At first glance St Mary and St Michael’s, Trumpington looks like a typical traditional church: a pretty building in a Cambridge village-turned-suburb. Yet this view misses the seismic changes that have taken place in our community in recent years: this is no longer a sleepy village. Cambridge’s ‘Southern Fringe’ has experienced radical growth. Extensive new housing, schools and facilities have been built since 2012, making Trumpington the ninth most populous parish in Ely Diocese at the 2021 census. This has brought significant change, and with it diversity of every kind: class; country of origin; language; education; demographic; belief.

St Mary and St Michael’s has faced the enviable challenge of opening its doors to embrace this new population. After significant growth in the 2010s, the church was hit hard by the Pandemic, but has recovered steadily since then, and now attracts an increasingly diverse congregation and a healthy number of families with children. Yet there is plenty of work to do: we want to be good news to the community around us, now and for the years to come. We are praying for someone who is confident in their priestly call to be with God, with us. We are looking for a minister with the energy, vision and gifts to nurture and deepen the faith of the congregation, to develop and expand our church’s mission in a changing community, and to help us to imagine what this might look like in the future.

The Parish

At the 2011 census Trumpington’s population stood at 4,400. The parish comprised the historic village, where the church stands, a post-war estate (originally council housing), three sheltered housing schemes, and some private housing, including some substantial properties in the leafy north and east of the parish. The community was centred on the village hall, doctor’s surgery, garage, three pubs, a restaurant and a crescent of shops, as well as a Waitrose supermarket, all on the main road into Cambridge from the south.

By 2021, the population had tripled to 13,343, and some 3,500 new homes had been added; more have been built since then. The Cambridge Biomedical Campus, just outside the parish, has expanded and will continue to grow. There are two country parks, [one of them close to the church](#) and connecting it with the woods and river at Byron’s Pool.

These developments have brought a geographical shift in the centre of gravity towards the [Clay Farm Centre](#), which boasts a library, café, retail units and a purpose-built surgery. There has also been dramatic social change. A younger, more transient, more multicultural population, a ‘baby boom’, and social rehousing all make for a population without established friend and family networks. Many newcomers are young professionals and downsizing pensioners, but significantly, given Trumpington’s prosperous façade, around 40% of the new housing is social stock. Indeed, Trumpington ward has the highest proportion of households claiming benefit in





The Parish

Cambridge, and the highest proportion of children living in such households. Prosperity and poverty sit cheek by jowl.

All this has had a big impact. Previously a strong local residents' association, gardening society, local history society, allotments and uniformed organisations catered to a stable population. But the past few years have witnessed a boom in grassroots social groups, with activities ranging from football and dance to gymnastics and yoga, many of them held at the community centre and the new schools, which have sporting facilities. St Mary and St Michael's has benefited from this in some respects. But there remains a thirst for real rootedness and for expressions of belief that our church ought to be well placed to capitalise on.

Employment

Bidwells, BT, Waitrose and the (private) Nuffield Hospital are significant employers situated in the parish. Many residents work at the universities, and at the [Cambridge Biomedical Campus](#), which borders the parish and includes Addenbrooke's Hospital. The CBC site is continuing to expand rapidly, with the recent arrival of AstraZeneca, and a new railway station (Cambridge South) is due to open there in summer 2026. Trumpington Park & Ride is also linked to here and to Cambridge Station via a guided busway and cycle path. London King's Cross is around 50 minutes' commute by train.

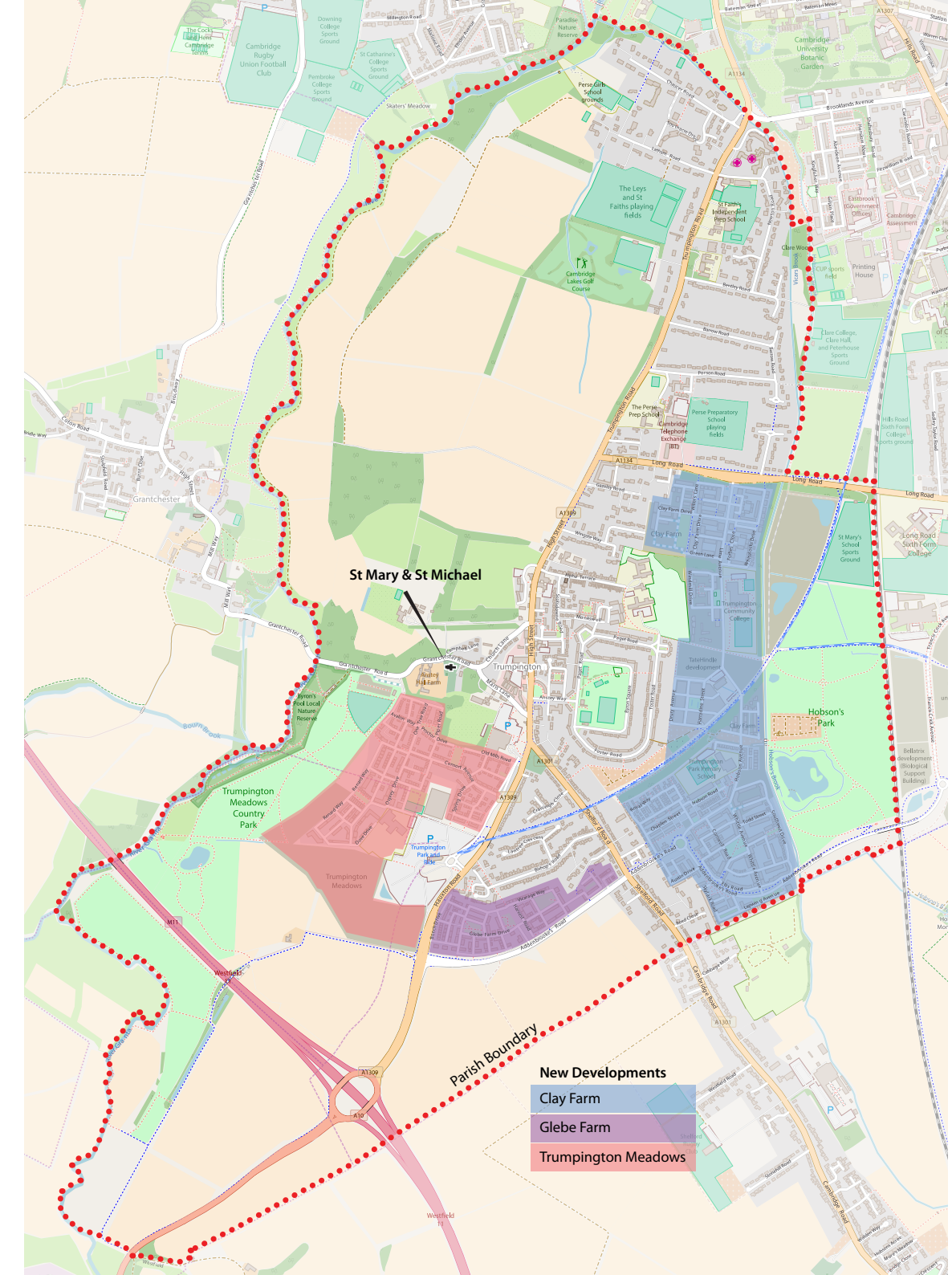
The Parish

Schools

There are now seven schools in the parish. Three are state primaries: Fawcett and Trumpington Meadows (which comprise [The Trumpington Federation](#)), and [Trumpington Park Community College](#) opened in 2015. There are also two co-educational preparatory schools, [St Faith's](#) and [The Perse Prep.](#), and a private junior school, [St Mary's](#), as well as several nurseries and playgroups. Again, the story is of expansion: from one-form entry at Fawcett Primary School in 2011 to over 1,000 pupils registered at the three primaries now. This, too, has brought challenges: e.g. 30% of pupils at Trumpington Park are on free school meals (national avg: 25%) and over 50% speak English as a second language (national avg: 23%).

Other churches

[Christ Church Trumpington](#) (CCT) was planted in 2014 by a Cambridge Baptist church and meets at Fawcett School. They hold outreach events, including English Conversation Classes and a thriving International Café, and have offices at a former chapel. Before the Pandemic we used to join with CCT for prayer breakfasts, but this has not picked up again since. [Faithlife Church](#) meets in Trumpington Community College, while [Lighthouse Fellowship](#), a Pentecostal Church, meets in the Village Hall. Some of our own attenders come in from parishes south of Cambridge, which do not have services every Sunday morning.





Worship

St Mary and St Michael's aims, first and foremost, to be a church for its whole parish. Members of the congregation hail from a wide range of theological and church traditions, and manifest a wide diversity of views on most questions. We would expect an incoming incumbent to respect and nurture this diversity. Our services embody a rich spectrum of styles, from reflective said worship and traditional hymnody to creative activities and worship songs. Our largest congregation meets at 10 o'clock on a Sunday morning for Parish Communion, either All Age or with Junior Church. This service is celebrated in the Central style of the Church of England, with a thoughtful sermon, a sung communion setting, hymns and the occasional song. It aims to be serious without being stuffy: at such a service you might expect to see seven or eight families with children; games, colouring and sometimes craft in a side chapel; a choir-led anthem or communion hymn; and refreshments afterwards.

Currently lay members read lessons, administer the chalice and sometimes lead intercessions. Recently we have actively widened the number and age range of those who serve in worship: at All-Age services, for instance, children and their families welcome attenders, read lessons, offer intercessions, run the Zoom desk and serve refreshments.

8.30am BCP Holy Communion provides a traditional service to a growing and committed congregation. In the recent past there has also been a mid-week Eucharist and weekly

Worship

Evensong, and there is some appetite for restoring a similar pattern. We have longstanding links with our neighbouring parishes, Grantchester and Newnham, meeting them (for instance) for open-air services on Grantchester Meadows on Good Friday and at dawn on Easter Day. Here too there is scope for working more closely in partnership once more.

As well as services in the historic church building, we experimented before the Pandemic with a café-style church for seekers and those on the fringes of the congregation: Cornerstone. It met at the new community centre between April 2018 and mid 2019.

Pattern of Services

Sundays	
8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10am	Parish Communion (CW) with Junior Church <i>All Age Service: First Sunday of the Month</i>
Third Sundays	
8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10am	'Experience & Explore' Service <i>Informal service with activity stations around the church</i>
6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)

Special services are held on major festivals. There are also 'civic' services, e.g. Remembrance Sunday at church and the War Memorial: this attracts larger numbers every year, including local uniformed organisations. There have often been carol services for local schools and businesses: currently the choir leads carol singing annually at the Clay Farm Community Garden's Christmas Party.

There is an active [band of bellringers](#) and a small but loyal team of flower arrangers.

Usually, clergy celebrate Holy Communion, weddings and baptisms in cassock-alb and stole; funerals and other services are taken in choir dress.

Music

Music has traditionally been a strength of our church. There is a paid organist, and an (unrobed) choir, which leads hymns at 10am communion services, as well as tackling more challenging repertoire at festivals and on special occasions. There are instrumentalists in the congregation and there has sometimes been a music group. We hold occasional concerts and have sometimes run recital series. All of these have fluctuated in strength, but they enrich worship and have untapped potential for our wider outreach.





Worship

Numbers

St Mary and St Michael’s more than doubled in congregation between 2010 and 2019, with particularly striking growth among young families. There are 121 people on the electoral roll. But there are also larger numbers who attend services or events periodically, many of whom are on our email list: ‘regulars’ plus this broader circle total at a guess perhaps 200 people. The majority of attenders live in or close to the parish, although a significant minority come from further afield.

Occasional Offices	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (to Oct)
Baptism	6	3	6	18	2	5	3
Thanksgiving for Birth							1
Holy Matrimony	11	3	8	4	6	4	1
Funeral at Church	6	3	2	3	6	6	6
Funeral at Crematorium			1	1	2	1	
Thanksgiving Service				1			
Interment of Ashes	6	3	8	5	5	8	4

There have been 6 admissions to Holy Communion and 12 Confirmations since 2019.

Services	2025 avg. to Oct. (adults/under 16)	(2019)
Sunday 8.30am BCP Holy Communion	11/0	(9/0)
Sunday 10am CW Holy Communion	45/11	(65/15)
Third Sunday 10am Experience & Explore	42/15	(45/15)
Third Sunday 6.30pm BCP Evensong	8/0	(11)
<i>Easter and Holy Week</i>		
Easter Sunday		
Dawn service	15/0	(5/0)
8.30am BCP Holy Communion	17/0	(13/0)
10am CW Holy Communion	120/44	(130/48)
Palm Sunday to Easter Saturday	169/32	(244/53)
<i>Christmas</i>		
Christmas	(2024)	(2019)
Nine Lessons & Carols	175/12	(180/35)
Christmas Eve: Christingle & Crib service	200/80	(175/100)
Midnight Service and Christmas Day	149/22	(197/70)

Church Life

Our recent questionnaire suggests that churchgoers of all ages value the fellowship they find both in Sunday worship and in the activities that go on around it. It also suggests that there is room to think about how to deepen these relationships and to make them more accessible to newcomers.

Junior Church is planned and run by a team of committed volunteers and meets during 2nd and 4th Sunday Services. There are around 25 children registered, although on any given Sunday attendance probably averages 10-15. Junior Church families have gone on trips and weekend camps. Recognising a need for youth provision, a Sunday afternoon group for teens has recently been launched.

A social group organises major events. 2025, for instance, has seen a Pancake Party, a Garden Party with games and train rides, and the Harvest Lunch. December sees our annual Christmas Tree Festival: a major event, with activities, refreshments, live music, and involvement from community groups, which supply and decorate their own trees. It culminates with the Carol Service on Sunday evening.

There are currently two mid-week Bible study and fellowship groups led by lay members of the congregation, while a book group also meets regularly.





Church and Community

While our Junior Church is strong, it has to be said that our children's work in the community has witnessed significant decline since before the Pandemic. At that point we benefited from a full-time Church and Community Families Outreach Worker, jointly paid for by Ely Diocese, the County Council and our church. We also had strong links with local schools via delivering Open the Book assemblies alongside volunteers from CCT. A mid-week Messy Church attracted very large numbers of children and families. The end of that funding, coupled with other changes and capped by the Pandemic, saw an end to much of this. We retain connections with schools via parents and families, and the Vicar has traditionally been a governor of Fawcett School. But some fresh thinking in the coming years about where to place our energies will be necessary.



Ministry and Administration

Staff/Committees

Serving ministers

While currently no clergy other than the Vicar are formally attached to St Mary and St Michael's, we have been helped both before and during the vacancy by a number of established local clergy.

Paid part-time positions

Church Administrator and PCC Secretary, Cleaner, and Organist. After many years of in-house production, from January 2026, the artwork for *The Trumpet* will be produced by a local design studio.

Other non-paid positions

Churchwardens (2), Hon. Treasurer, Choir Director, Churchyard Steward, Safeguarding Officer, Safeguarding Assistant, *The Trumpet* Magazine Editor.

Committees

PCC (meets about 6 times a year); Finance, Fabric and Fundraising Sub-Committee; Mission, Ministry and Outreach Sub-Committee; Junior Church Team; recently established Facilities Project Fundraising Group; Accessibility Working Group; Social Group; Churchyard Working Group; Eco Church Initiative.





Ministry and Administration

Safeguarding

We have a clearly signposted, robust and well-run safeguarding system.

Buildings

The Parish Church is a fine Grade 1 listed building. It is open during the day, with keypad access out of hours and CCTV. A new sound system was installed in 2019, which enabled much-valued opportunities to continue to share worship and fellowship during Pandemic lockdowns. We continue to share our 10am service via Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

All the repair work listed in the 2012 and 2018 Quinquennial Inspections has been completed. However, the 2023 Inspection identified that the lead on the Nave and Aisle roofs requires renewal. The PCC is addressing this alongside plans for a reordering of the church interior, 'The Reimagining Project', which was developed under the former incumbent and has received Faculty approval. The aim is to make the interior more suitable for current needs and to provide a more flexible space for community use. The first stage is to rewire the building, with future phases including the addition of an accessible toilet and a kitchenette, improved storage and the removal of some pews. It is expected that the new incumbent will have input into all of this. More details are available on request.



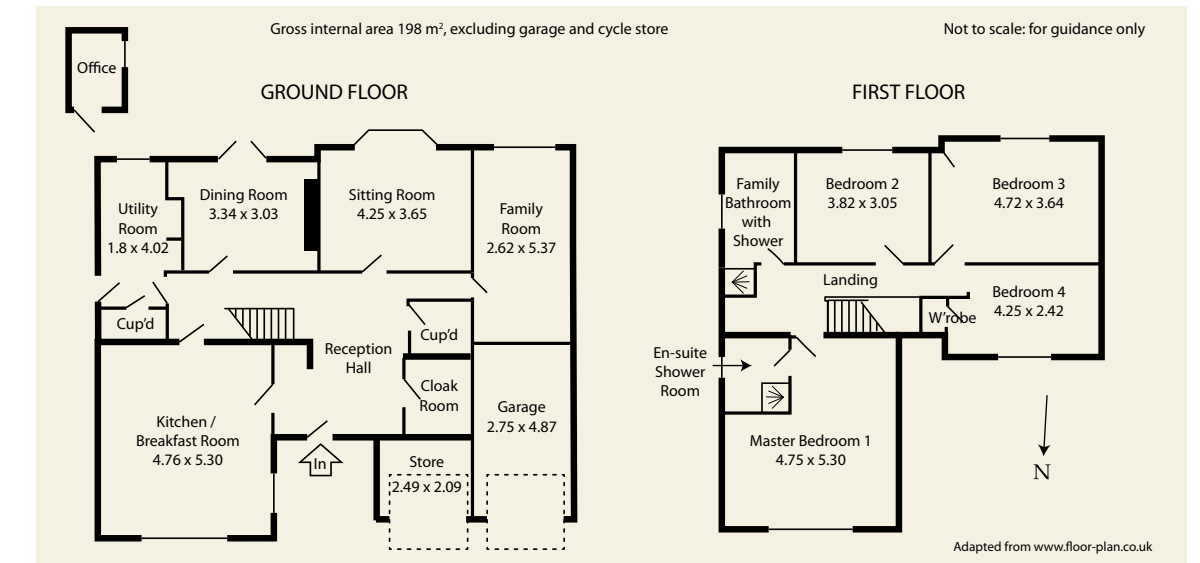
Ministry and Administration

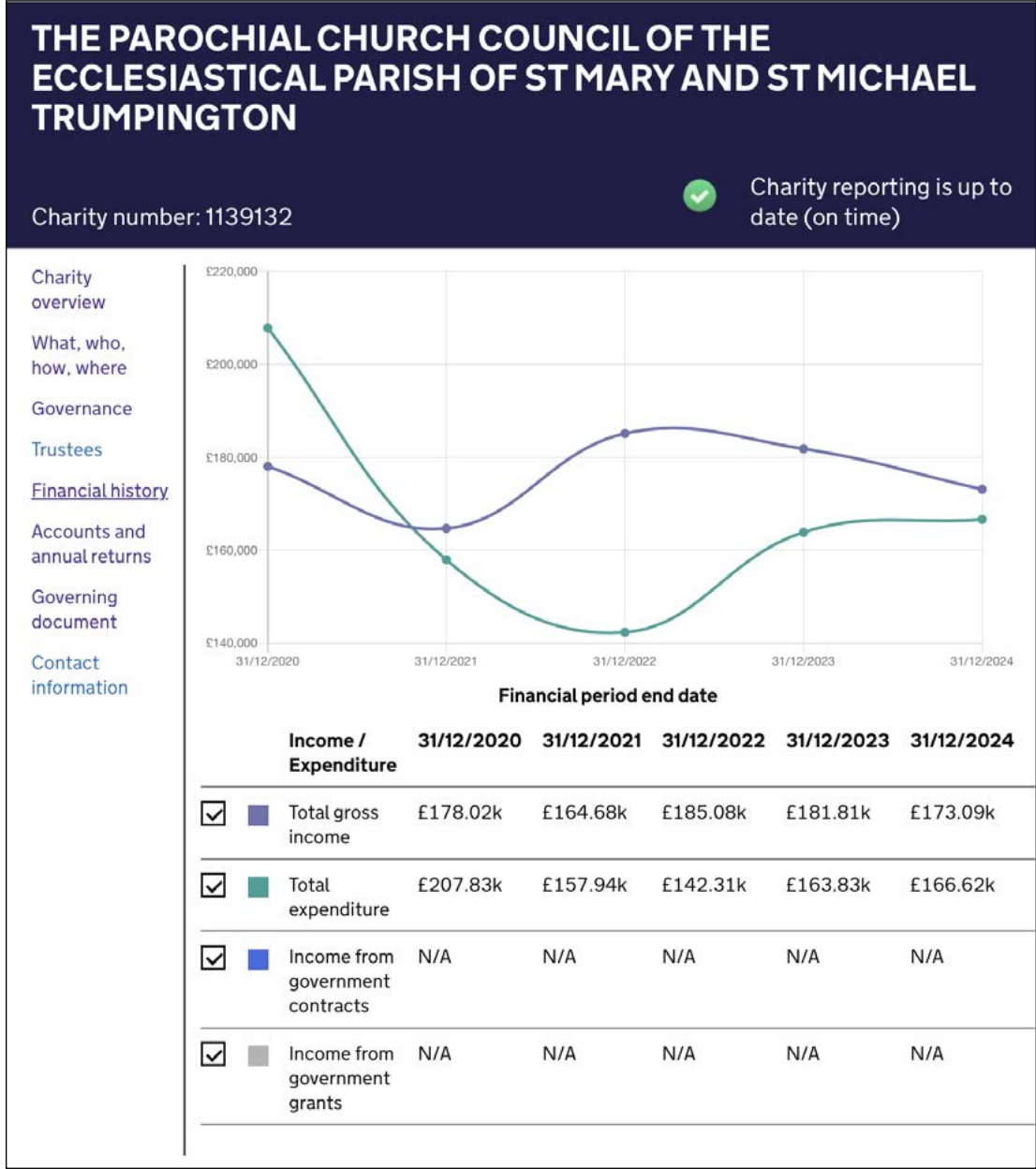
Two other buildings are nearby. The old Church Hall/Village School is leased to a local nursery, while the Bakehouse, redeveloped in 2009-10, contains a meeting room which is hired by local groups with church connections, a single toilet and baby changing area, small kitchenette and the church office.

There is a churchyard extension which remains open for burials and interments of ashes.



The vicarage is a modern four-bedroomed detached family house in Wingate Way, a quiet cul-de-sac. The large, mature and private rear garden is mostly lawn. The front garden is paved, with off-street parking. There is an integral garage. It is five minutes by car or bike, or a 10-minute walk from church.







Towards the Future

liturgy as central to what we are and to our mission to the community around us. Equally, we are open to the challenges that come with seeking growth and are prepared to try new things to that end.

We see the ability to enthuse and manage staff and volunteers, to build teams, and to delegate tasks, as crucial to finding ways to reach out to a large parish.

3 • Yes to Young People

As the foregoing has shown, we have been blessed with success in this area. But some aspects of our activities have shrunk or declined in recent years. A young and growing community brings challenges, but also opportunities to build back better in imaginative ways. We hope that the new incumbent will play an active part in this.

4 • Church in Community

Trumpington is a place with urgent and complex pastoral needs: from housebound pensioners to overburdened parents to benefits claimants. We have made some small steps towards taking this more seriously, but developing our heart for those around us ought to be a priority.



This is also a community where our 'coverage' is patchy. Although our church building is an asset, it is no longer situated in the physical centre of the community, and it requires work to make it more suited to present-day needs. Our building plans are at an advanced stage, but to be successful the project will require fundraising and ongoing input.

5 • Ministry for Mission

We are proud to have sent a number of candidates forward for ordained ministry in the past decade or so. We have benefited from the ministry of a succession of curates, self-supporting and stipendiary, as well as from ordinands on placement from the Anglican training colleges in Cambridge, Ridley Hall and Westcott House. Being keen to maintain this, we seek someone who has or could develop the skills to be a training incumbent.

There is also a growing awareness among the PCC of the need to realise the talents and skills of the congregation. We are already seeing the fruits of efforts to widen the pool of those who minister actively at services and in children's and youth work. But this is an ongoing task that will benefit from strategic vision and guidance.

Person Profile

St Mary and St Michael's, Trumpington is a single-parish benefice on the outskirts of Cambridge keen to rise to the challenges posed by a growing and changing community. We were hit hard by the Pandemic, but are once more a growing church with numbers of young families. We are looking for a Vicar to help us to serve this exciting place now and to discern where God might be leading us next.

We seek a priest of vision, depth and pastoral imagination to lead us into the next stage of our life together.

We are looking for someone who will:

- inspire deep and confident faith through thoughtful preaching and sacramental worship;
- nurture our diversity and empower lay people in ministry and mission;
- help us to build on and renew our work with children, families and young people;
- be a visible presence across a large and varied parish;
- work with us to reorder our building;
- think strategically about growth, community engagement and the future of our mission.

We are praying for someone who is confident in their priestly call to be with God with us: who will seek to love our church both as it is and as it could be. They will appreciate a range of forms of worship, but will find nourishment in a liturgical ministry of word and sacrament with deep roots in Anglican tradition. We are looking for a minister with the wisdom and experience to see where the Kingdom of God is already growing and to find new ways of sowing seeds. The PCC will also encourage the new Vicar to attend to their own physical, mental and spiritual health, and would support them in seeking counsel or going on retreat.

Although we are keen to appoint, we are looking for the best candidate and are prepared to consider those who may not be able to move until summer 2026.





This document was approved by the Parochial Church Council of St Mary & St Michael Trumpington at a meeting held on 10 November 2025.

The PCC is grateful for all contributions of photographs from our church members, and from the wider community, which have helped to illustrate the life of our Parish.

For an application form, or an informal discussion, please contact:

Archdeacon.Cambridge@elydiocese.org

The Archdeacon of Cambridge, Diocese of Ely
Lancaster Way Business Park
Etheldreda House, 206 Wellington Road
Ely CB6 3NX

<https://www.elydiocese.org/job-vacancies>

The closing date for applications is 30 January 2026.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 25 February 2026.

This position is subject to an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).

We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.