

5folds Team Ministry Benefice Profile 2024

All Saints' Church, Longstanton



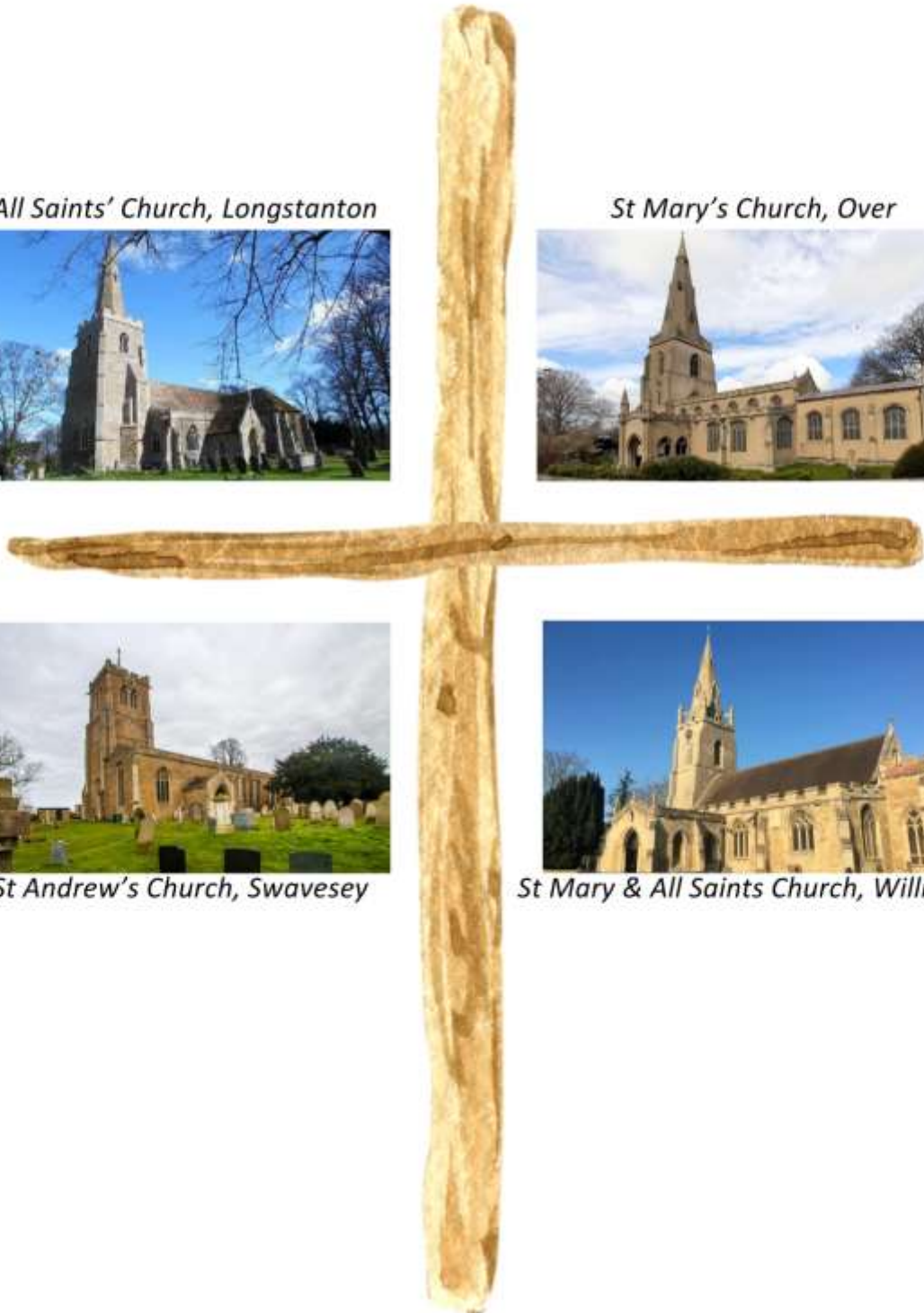
St Mary's Church, Over



St Andrew's Church, Swavesey



St Mary & All Saints Church, Willingham



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5folds Benefice

A warm welcome awaits you in the 5folds Benefice of churches. Thank you for reading this profile.

We are praying for a new Team Rector who will embrace living among us and share wholeheartedly in the life of our communities.

We seek a leader who has warmth, empathy, and a good pastoral heart; who can help and inspire us to reach out and bring our church into the life of our villages, and our villagers into the life of our churches.

There is great enthusiasm from our congregations, as well as a commitment from many parishioners, to devote time and effort to making our churches, and our Lord, more central to village life. We want to grow our congregations, and we seek help and guidance in achieving this. We are open to change.

We do not expect our full-time stipendiary clergy to do this on their own. We know that this can only happen through teamwork and delegating responsibility to the Team Vicar, when appointed, other members of the Ministry Team and local congregations.

About 5folds

The 5folds Benefice is part of the North Stowe Deanery and, in common with many parts of Cambridgeshire, is growing fast. The Deanery is made up of 13 rural villages and includes Northstowe - a rapidly growing new town.

It is led by the Rural Dean, the Revd Canon James Blandford-Baker and has six full-time and two part-time stipendiary clergy, together with Self-supporting Ministers, retired clergy, Readers (known in the Diocese of Ely as Licensed Lay Ministers) and several Authorised Lay Ministers.

Pastoral reorganisation in 2016 brought together the villages of Longstanton, Over, Swavesey, Willingham and Lolworth. However, it quickly became clear that the geographical location of Lolworth, to the south of the A14, meant it was better aligned with the Papworth Benefice. In 2018 the new town development of Northstowe was added into the 5folds Benefice but see the paragraph below about this.

In 2021 the 5folds Benefice was legally constituted. The recently agreed Deanery Pastoral Plan continues to provide for two full-time stipendiary clergy posts to support the four village churches in the 5folds Benefice.

Northstowe

Northstowe is not yet a parish in its own right and the [Pathfinder Church](#) which meets there is currently run under a Bishop's Mission Order and will not form any part of the Team Rector's responsibilities. The current Pioneer Minister, the Revd Dr Beth Cope, has written a brief note of explanation - see Appendix 2.

Our Villages

Our villages are rural parishes which are continuing to expand. Traditionally the villages were developed around agriculture, growing fruit and flowers for the London market. Now they attract people who are working in the Cambridge Science Parks with their supporting businesses; the universities; medical research and hospitals on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. In recent times, they have welcomed people arriving from Ukraine and other areas of conflict.

All of the villages still retain their local feel. They have many small shops, businesses and tradespeople supporting local needs, as well as horticultural and agricultural businesses. Village life is important and each village has many recreational activities, clubs and groups with village-wide events.

The Benefice lies approximately six miles northwest of Cambridge and has excellent transport links via the Guided Busway, which connects Cambridge and Huntingdon. Route 51 of the National Cycle Network runs alongside the Busway and is well used by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders alike. There is easy access to the M11, A14 and A1, and there are railway stations at Cambridge North, Cambridge and Huntingdon.

The [Fen Drayton Lakes](#) and [Ouse Fen Nature Reserve](#), both run by the RSPB, are on the doorstep and offer good opportunities for bird watching and walking.

Schools

Each parish has its own primary school and Cambridgeshire has a well-established system of Village Colleges for 11-16 secondary provision. Students from the villages attend [Swavesey Village College](#), [Northstowe Secondary College](#), [Cottenham Village College](#) or [Impington Village College](#). Students also have the option to attend [St Bedes Inter-Church School](#), in Cambridge. For sixth form, there are options of [Hills Road](#) or [Long Road](#), or the [IB at Impington](#) and [Parkside](#) while [Cambridge and Huntingdon Regional Colleges](#) offer more vocational courses.

Day Centre

The [Over Day Centre](#) provides care, social contact and a hot meal for up to 30 people per day. This is run by a small team of paid staff and a strong team of volunteers. A mini-bus transports clients from surrounding villages, including 5folds. There is also a monthly Memory Café.

The Benefice



Revd Janet Tiplady, Canon Jan Payne and Revd Jenny Hill

It is planned to appoint both a Team Rector, and following that a Team Vicar. In addition to two stipendiary clergy, the 5folds Benefice is supported by the Revd Jenny Hill (currently Interim Team Leader), Canon Jan Payne (Reader/Licensed Lay Minister) and Self-supporting Minister, the Revd Janet Tiplady, and we anticipate that our first Authorised Lay Minister Worship Leader will be authorised for ministry soon.

The Benefice has a part-time Administrator, Colin Smith, who is based in the Benefice office in St Mary's Church Hall, Over. He works four mornings a week, Tuesday-Friday.



Colin Smith – Benefice Administrator

The four churches, whilst linked by Benefice status, run independently with separate Parochial Church Councils. The wardens of the four churches meet regularly, both separately and with the Ministry Team, to agree service arrangements and other relevant Benefice matters.

The 5folds Benefice faces the normal challenges of many rural parishes with small congregations with an increasing average age. However, the North Stowe Deanery, as earlier mentioned, is going through a significant population increase. So the challenge for the Benefice is reaching out to existing and new residents in our community.

Many of those coming to our Benefice are highly trained qualified people who have relocated for the employment opportunities, sometimes moving here because they are priced out of Cambridge. We need to relate to them and their younger families and find ways to share with them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Where you will live

There are two modern, well-appointed vicarages in the Benefice: a four-bedroom bungalow in Over (The Vicarage) and a four-bedroom house in Longstanton (The New Rectory) for the use of the Team Rector and Team Vicar and their families. Both are shown on the enclosed map.

All churches are within a 10 minute drive of either vicarage, and all routes can be easily accessed by bicycle.



Service Pattern

Weekly Sunday worship is held in all our churches, led by members of the Ministry Team or visiting ministers. Services are held at 09.30 in Longstanton and Over and at 11.00 in Swavesey and Willingham. In a regular month these will include services of Holy Communion, Morning Worship and, recently, Café Church in Willingham. On 5th Sundays there is a joint Benefice service.

Prayer Groups and Home Groups

The 5folds Benefice has a number of Bible study and prayer groups which meet and are open to members of all our churches. These include the Emmaus Bible Study Group on Zoom, a monthly prayer group in Longstanton (historically attended by those from Longstanton and Over) and a monthly, contemplative group “Wells of Silence”. This meets monthly online and seasonally, in person, for “Quiet Days”.

In Willingham there are two weekly prayer groups. One meets online and prays for the needs of the parishes and, in the church, a group meets weekly to pray for the needs of Ukraine and world peace.

Facts and Figures

The parishes are financially solvent and have generally been able to pay their parish share. The ministry share for the Benefice is £131,200 which is shared equally between the four churches.

The population of the 5folds Benefice is around 13,000. Both Willingham and Swavesey have settled traveller communities.

Communication

The 5folds Benefice has a presence on A Church Near You, on Facebook and on “X” (formerly Twitter). Each individual parish also maintains a presence on [ACNY](#) and Facebook, and St Mary & All Saints, Willingham, has a fairly new Instagram feed

The Administrator produces a weekly notice sheet which is emailed out to those who sign up to receive it. Some paper copies are also made available.

Is God calling you to minister here?

We are a Benefice that would probably describe our churchmanship as “broad”. We strive to be inclusive, ensuring everyone feels welcomed, valued, and respected, no matter who they are or where they come from. We are committed to prayer, worship and service and we recognise, above all, that God has a heart for those who live in our villages, and longs for them to know Him. We are determined to continue our development of “Leading your Church into Growth”, begun in October 2023.

We recognise the reality of living in a rural setting: we have seen a reduction in regular church attendance over the years and are aware of the challenges involved. We need to develop in ways that will draw others into our church communities and enrich our worship. We want to work together as a Benefice whilst retaining the diversity of each church. We are looking for a long-term Team Rector who can help the diverse four churches work together for a better future.

To date, our parishes have not had an opportunity to accept the Church of England’s invitation to engage with, or explore, the Living in Love and Faith material it has supplied for parish use. There are mixed personal views across our four churches about doing so.



Members of all four Churches at our “Leading your Church into Growth” training event

Could you be our next Team Rector?

We are eager to welcome a new Team Rector to lead and share in the life of our four attractive parishes just outside Cambridge.

We are praying for someone who will:

- Inspire our worship and deepen our faith
- Lead us in mission and ministry to our communities, including our many new housing developments and a widening demographic and economic spectrum
- Value our diversity
- Draw the best from us
- Be an effective communicator with a good sense of humour
- Nurture our growing team, with the Ministry Team and congregations together
- Bring your own distinctive gifts

Most importantly we would welcome someone who will inspire us on our Christian journey, and further develop knowledge and understanding within our communities through teaching, reflection, and prayer.

We hope you will enjoy reading the individual parish profiles for each of our churches.

Parish Profile - All Saints Church, Longstanton

Situated in South Cambridgeshire, six miles north-west of Cambridge city centre, the village of Longstanton is an amalgamation of two small villages; Long Stanton All Saints and Long Stanton St Michaels. The current village of Longstanton was created in 1953 and has grown significantly to a population of around 3,750. Over recent years as Cambridge expands the demography of Longstanton has changed and we are more of a commuter village than a rural one.

Longstanton is unusual among English villages in having two mediaeval churches, a reminder of its history as two parishes. The larger of the two churches, All Saints', is in the centre of the village and dates to the mid-fourteenth century and was built to replace an earlier church on the same site that was destroyed by fire. The second church, St Michael's, is no longer used for regular worship and is maintained by The Churches Conservation Trust and located at the southern end of the village.

In 1938 Longstanton and All Saints' Church began a close association with the military following the construction of RAF Oakington airfield. The forces continued to maintain a significant presence within our community until 1999 when the barracks closed, with the land sold to accommodate the new town of Northstowe. The historical military links continue to be highly valued by the local community as well as the congregation of All Saints' Church. 7th Squadron RAF Association and their veterans continue to visit every October for a service of remembrance.

All Saints' has a tradition for pastoral care and fellowship that is highly valued by the congregation and we remain committed to welcoming people to our church family. We have an attendance of 30-40 people at each Sunday morning service. The majority are aged over 65 but nevertheless active in many areas of our church life, such as volunteering for churchyard maintenance and serving on various rotas for flower arranging, reading, assisting with the chalice, serving refreshments and welcoming, and assisting with the children's activities.

Currently, we have two services of Holy Communion, one All Age Service, and one service of Morning Worship each month. All our services start at 9.30am and end with refreshments to provide an opportunity for fellowship. Our music is provided by a new electronic piano/organ. A Bible Study of around 10 people meets weekly in the church. Once a month a Prayer Group from church members at St Mary's in Over and All Saints' in Longstanton meet to pray for local and world issues.



Mini Jaffa's Craft activity

Our biggest challenge is to provide for and attract the many young families resident in the village. We run Mini-Jaffas, a mid-week service for under-fives, thanks to the help of volunteers from St Andrew's Church, Swavesey and a member of our own congregation.

A Baby Group for under-ones which supports and offers fellowship for parents with new babies takes place on the mezzanine floor in church every other Wednesday. This is organised and run by members of this group.



Mini Jaffa's Craft activity

Before the Covid pandemic we had strong links with Hatton Park Primary School, taking Open the Book in to assembly each week but sadly we have not been asked to return.

We have a 'Mission Fund', originally established to fund a Children's and Families Worker. We would really like to once again fill this position and to ensure it serves the needs of our wider

Benefice. Our All Age Service on the first Sunday attracts up to 10 children ranging in ages from 0-11.

As a Church we are committed to enabling as many people as possible to feel part of the church family. For many years there was a strong feeling that for the church to survive and become more welcoming and meaningful to the community, significant improvements would need to be carried out within the interior of the church building. In 2019, following an extensive period of consultation, planning and fundraising, the PCC embarked upon the reordering project that led to the installation of much needed toilet facilities, a new kitchen and a meeting room. These works were carried out in two phases and

completed in 2021 and have received much praise from the community.



Community Café



Community Café

As part of the churches outreach programme a Community Café is held every Wednesday morning. This not only provides a warm hub for anyone in the village who wishes to come into the church, but also a place where they can meet other people from within the community as well as the church and spend time chatting. Once a month the Pop-up Coffee Shop opens on a Saturday morning in our Church Meeting Room. This has become a very popular event, where many from within the community are able to visit for a coffee whilst supporting one of our adopted charities, such as Tearfund, Christian Aid or the Alzheimer's Society.

At the end of November we hold an Advent Fayre with a café, craft stalls and activities for children, with proceeds going to charity and to maintain the church building. This is well supported by the whole village, as are our Summer Cream Teas. This year we are trying to have more activities for children during the half-term and Easter holidays.

Over the years other events have included musical concerts, teddy bears parachuting from the church tower and bistro evenings - all well received by those who attend. Last May we worked closely with the Parish Council making and serving home-made refreshments in the Village Institute for people watching the King's coronation on a big screen, and on the bank holiday Monday supplied coffee and cake to the litter pickers in the village. We are also a collection point for the St Ives Foodbank.



Teddy Bear Zip Wire—A view from the tower

All Saints' Church hosts a delightful ring of eight bells hung for full circle ringing. We have a band of 10 ringers who regularly practice on Wednesday evenings, ring for services on Sundays and other special occasions. Two recent recruits are in the early stages of learning to handle the bells. The tower hosts occasional peal and quarter-peal attempts.

With the amazing support of our church congregation and wider local community we are certainly moving in the right direction, and we are ready for a new minister to come and join us who is prepared to lead us as we work together to further the work of the Lord within our parish and church here in Longstanton. We are looking for someone with a strong pastoral leaning, good communication skills and excellent teaching who can lead us into growth.

We are already praying for you and very much look forward to welcoming you into our family.

Parish Profile - St Mary's Church, Over

At St Mary's our aim is that everyone will find a welcome and that those who attend our services will be led to worship God. We seek to show God's love through our care for one another and the wider community.

Like many churches we were heavily impacted by the pandemic, but now our Sunday congregations are slowly increasing. We are just beginning the journey of seeking a fresh vision for our church, looking to discover how God is calling us to go forward with the resources we have.



Our hopes for the future

- **Pastoral care** – we hope to develop our care network, initially to include those who only get to church occasionally, so that no-one feels forgotten.
- **Sunday services** – we are seeking God's guidance about our styles of worship as we have members who love the traditional forms and members who appreciate more contemporary styles. We want everyone who comes, or may start coming, to be able to worship God together and to grow in faith.
- **Communications** – we are developing our ways of communicating within the church and with the community, so that everyone feels involved.
- **Families and young people** – we had a good response to our Christingle service on the Saturday before Christmas: we hope to follow this up with other events and special services. We want to continue rebuilding links with the Primary School, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts, so that more members of the community feel that St Mary's is their church.
- **Links with other churches** – "Christians Together in Over" was restarted during 2023 and we joined with the local Methodist and Baptist churches for several services and events. The churches hope to be a positive joint witness for Christ in our community. We also value our links with the other 5folds Benefice congregations and hope to find more ways of sharing together in the work of the Kingdom.



Christingles round the aisles!

Church life

- **Weekly Sunday services** – these currently alternate between Morning Worship and Holy Communion, with regular attendance being around 25. Music is mainly led by the organ, but a small group of instrumentalists or singers also help to lead worship on a regular basis. Services are followed by refreshments in church.
- **Midweek groups** – a prayer group meets fortnightly to pray for our church and community, and a home group meets weekly for Bible study, prayer and informal worship.

- **Community-linked activities** where church members and the community come together:

- Bellringing – with a ring of eight, bells are rung for Sunday and special services.
- Flower arranging – enhancing the beauty of the church.
- Mustard Seed community café – takes place weekly in the church hall.
- Sing for Joy! – an informal group of singers, meeting fortnightly.
- Foodbank – donations are collected and delivered to the [Cambridge Foodbank](#). We are aware of pockets of poverty within the village, and people needing to use the Foodbank.



Mustard Seed Café

Our buildings and finance

- **St Mary's Church** – our church is Grade 1 listed and dates from 1254: it has been described as “one of the finest buildings in the county and of great architectural interest”. We are a Fairtrade Church and have recently registered as an Eco Church.
- **Church Hall** (circa 1850) – the hall is used for church events and is hired out by various community groups. It also houses the 5folds Benefice Office.
- **Finances** – although running at a deficit (approximately £10,000 in 2023) we are blessed to have reserves of over £250,000. Despite the deficit, the PCC has continued to support local, national and international missions and charities by giving 10% of our direct income. St Mary's is a member of the Parish Giving Scheme.
- **[The Friends of St Mary's](#)** – this is an independent charity which benefits the fabric of the church through fundraising. For example in 2017 the “Friends” provided £30,000 for new lighting and in 2023 £2,500 was given for roof repairs.
- **Church and Town Lands Charity** – this owns land and property in the area, the income from which is used for charitable purposes within Over. The Team Rector will be a trustee and a third of the income comes to the church for upkeep of the building.

The local community

- **The village of Over** – Over is a friendly village, lying at the edge of the fens, and was traditionally a farming community. Today, whilst there are a number of businesses in the area, many people commute to work in Cambridge and beyond. The nearby Guided Busway provides access to Cambridge, St Ives and Huntingdon. The village has grown considerably in the last few years with the population now being just under 3,000. Ongoing new housing developments will increase existing homes by 10% and this increase in population inevitably brings with it some challenges.
- **Community spaces** – the [Community Centre](#) (a millennium project) serves the village with a café and bar, playing fields and conference space. The village green, with its sports pavilion, is also well used for village events such as the carnival and Christmas festivities.
- **Children and young people** – Over has its own Primary School, out-of-school club, a nursery, two preschools, sports clubs, Youth Café, Scouts, Cubs and Brownies.
- **The elderly** – the [Over Day Centre](#) provides care, activities and a hot meal for up to 30 frail and elderly people. A monthly Memory Café is open to all.
- **Further information** on village life can be found in the [Over Village News](#).

Parish Profile – St Andrew's Church, Swavesey

Swavesey is an expanding village of approximately 2,500 residents which lies on the Greenwich Meridian. Whilst Swavesey is a rural village, the majority of the working population commute to Cambridge for employment. The village is served by a local bus service and has a guided busway stop near to the church at the edge of the village which connects the village with Cambridge and St Ives and Huntingdon. We have a primary school and village college (secondary school) both of which are highly rated and attract young families to the village. There are also a number of active sports and social clubs for all ages, plus adult learning at the village college. In addition to St Andrew's Church the village has two Baptist chapels.



Harvest Festival Lunch

St Andrew's is a Grade 1 listed medieval church and is the largest in the deanery. In our latest quinquennial inspection it was noted that St Andrew's is in a good state of repair. There were relatively few major repairs needed, all of which have now been completed. The church benefits from a number of historical and more recent bequests, which contribute to its financial health. It is surrounded by an open churchyard which is kept tidy by an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the church and local community. Two newly installed benches allow this tranquil place to be enjoyed by visitors. The church is open every day and attracts numerous visitors especially due to its proximity to the guided busway. We also have our own car park adjacent. We are very proud of the positive comments in our visitor book especially with regards to the warm, welcoming atmosphere in the church.

The 5folds Benefice was formed fairly recently and its early life suffered with the Covid restrictions. However, we are now coming together to work as a benefice with a number of initiatives supported by members of all the churches. Our congregation numbers are increasing and attract people from both Swavesey and the surrounding villages. We are a friendly, welcoming and inclusive congregation with an excellent community feeling which is often commented upon by visiting ministers. The majority of the congregation stay for coffee and biscuits/cake and a chat after our Sunday services and we have a good support network looking after those who are in any need. A weekly email newsletter is sent to all members on the electoral role and others who have an interest in the church. We are delighted to have some new families with young children attending regularly and provide a weekly activity for the youngsters. These children always have a 'show and tell' to the congregation at the end of each service so they feel part of our whole family. Currently we lack a really suitable place for the children's group and are actively investigating reordering the rear of the church to provide a suitable, easily heated room. This would also have other benefits within church life and for outreach. It is a long-term project but we know that for our church to grow and prosper we must not be afraid of thinking long term and big scale.

Within the church we have a number of active groups. Music is extremely important and we have two regular organists. We also have a choir which sings at some Sunday services and an augmented choir that leads the singing on special occasions and festivals. Music at our Morning Praise service once a month is provided by our eclectic band made up of members of the congregation with instruments ranging from guitars to a French horn! Every week our congregation is welcomed to the church by our active bell ringing team; it rings for festivals and special occasions. We also welcome visiting bell ringing teams. The church has an 'Emmaus' Bible study group that meets alternate Wednesdays on Zoom so that it can be inclusive to those who are unable to meet in person. We have also initiated a benefice sustainability group who meet regularly to see how we, and our buildings, can do their part to protect our planet.

We are an outward looking church and try to embrace and include the local community. We are the local pioneers of the A Rocha Eco Church project and have achieved the Silver award. As a result of this we were invited to make a presentation to other ministers in the diocese at a Bishop's Study Day. We have involved the local community in this with children helping with the making of our wildlife area. The village has a community café every Thursday morning which is hosted by different village organisations. St Andrew's runs this café every third Thursday. We have craft group that provides a place for companionship, support and coffee and cake for members of the congregation and the wider village. Making woolly hats for the local maternity hospital, decorating the cross that stands at the roadside entrance to the church to celebrate the seasons in the church and special events are among recent projects.



Craft Group Christmas Tree



The Ukraine Appeal

Our church has strong links with the Ukraine. When the war started the church helped organise a collection of clothing etc in collaboration with local Ukrainian and Russian families. The support from the church and local community exceeded all expectations. St Andrew's is now a partner with the organisation "Direct Support for Ukraine" which supports families in Kyiv who have children with special needs. We also have a monthly compile service for Ukraine and monthly grants of £250 are sent directly to this organization.

An active events group which comprises regular church attendees and others from the village aims to have an event most months. The purpose is twofold: to bring people into the church and to raise funds for the church extras. Events in 2023 have included an Easter fair with children's workshops making Easter gardens and an Easter egg tombola, a plant sale with a workshop for children to plant seeds and make cress pictures, teddy bear zip wire, snowdrop open garden Sunday and a concert by Cambridge University Gospel Choir.



Making Bug Hotels

The church organises a number of special services that are well attended by members of the wider community: Remembrance Day Service, Christingle Service, Crib Service, Carol Service and Harvest Festival. The church also plays host to outside groups and organisations who use the church for their performances, including Swavesey Community Choir

Our church is looking forward to the future, to expand and grow, and to ensure that the needs of all are protected and nourished now and for many years to come.

We have an active and enthusiastic PCC which is leading this forward thinking. Although we have a fairly diverse congregation we are looking to augment this by seeking to explore Inclusive Church, having taken into account the discussions of the LLF process. We recently attended a day course on Growing your Church led by Peter Leech, the Diocesan lead on Mission and Ministry and are starting to put some of his suggestions into practice.

One area in which we feel we need to grow is in our outreach to the new residents in the village. They are underrepresented in our congregation and it is something that we are eager to change. We look forward to welcoming a new Team Rector to our church and community who will inspire us and share our passion for growth, outreach and inclusivity.

Parish Profile - St Mary & All Saints Church, Willingham

To ensure that our Parish Profile reflects our Hopes, Priorities and Needs, we asked the congregation at two January Services to let us have their comments. We received a pleasing 70+% response which forms the basis of this Profile.

Our Hopes for the Church in our Village ...

- To grow our congregation in faith
- To foster an active and enthusiastic congregation
- To meet the needs of people of all ages – in particular, to encourage and grow our ministry with families and young people
- To put our Church at the centre of a socially diverse village community
- To secure funding for future projects



Café Worship

Our Priorities for the Future ...

- To reach out to our village using guidance from the Diocesan 'Leading your Church into Growth' programme
- To pray that the Lord will guide us in the ways that we can reach out and develop our work, particularly with under 18's
- To develop and maintain pastoral visiting arrangements
- To sustain and develop the weekly Octagon Community Hub and the monthly Memory Box Café
- To provide occasional events where anyone can come into the Church building and feel welcome and accepted
- To continue to encourage prayer and to build upon our weekly prayer meetings for the parish and also for Ukraine and World Peace
- To provide fellowship groups
- To continue to underpin our parish life with an exploration of the Bible and its relevance to our lives today



Community Hub

Our Needs ...

- To meet the needs of a growing village while helping all to grow in their faith
- To have accessible and stable leadership in order to nurture and build up the congregation so that more effective witness and outreach will be possible
- To maintain our Church as a welcoming, accessible, caring and friendly place
- To help people identify their gifts and abilities and to provide opportunities for them to develop these within church life
- To reach out into the community – building on these gifts and abilities
- To support and develop our prayer groups
- To provide Occasional Services which are valued by the village community, including school carol services

Further Parish details

Our services use Lectionary Readings with a range of worship styles. Intercessions and Readings are led by members of the congregation.

Our current Electoral Roll has 53 adults. Average numbers attending regular Sunday Services in 2022-2023 was 35.

The present medieval Church building was established on the site of a previous Saxon Church. There are many historic [Wall Paintings](#), dating back to the 14th Century, and other interesting features attracting many visitors.

The building has internet connectivity, a screen and a projector. This enables us to run PowerPoint for our services and to stream public events such as the King's Coronation.

There also is a hearing loop.

Music is provided in a variety of ways including a Clavinova, hymns and worship songs embedded in



Harvest Lunch

PowerPoint, CDs and an occasional music group. There is also an historic Harrison pipe organ, which is used for special services. The Parish has an established presence on social media. It maintains a page on A Church Near You, as well as Facebook and Instagram. In the past 12 months there have been 14,346 viewings of its ACNY pages and Instagram. The Octagon Church Hall, with small meeting room and kitchen facilities, is attached to the Church. The hall facilities are widely used by the Church and local community.

The Church and Hall are accessible for those with limited mobility.

The Churchyard is closed and maintained by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

In 2023, the Church Accounts record a small surplus after payment of half Parish Share. Although financial reserves are now at a low level, the Parish is working towards returning to paying the full Parish Share as soon as possible.

The latest Quinquennial Inspection has identified the fabric repair work required. Quotations for this are awaited.

A Friends of Willingham Church group, with the objective to raise funds to assist with the costs of such work, has now been established.



Learning Flower Arranging

The Local Community

Willingham village lies roughly halfway between Cambridge and Ely.

Originally dependent on local agricultural activities, the village became a centre for flower growing with daily deliveries to Covent Garden.

In more recent times, the growth of Cambridge has led to significant employment opportunities, with consequent increased housing demand in the surrounding villages.

The current village population is approximately 4,000.

Willingham is a self-contained village with its own identity.

There are several shops, a library, a [primary school](#), a [medical centre](#), sports facilities, and several halls. There is a small business/retail park on the edge of the village.



Adult Baptism

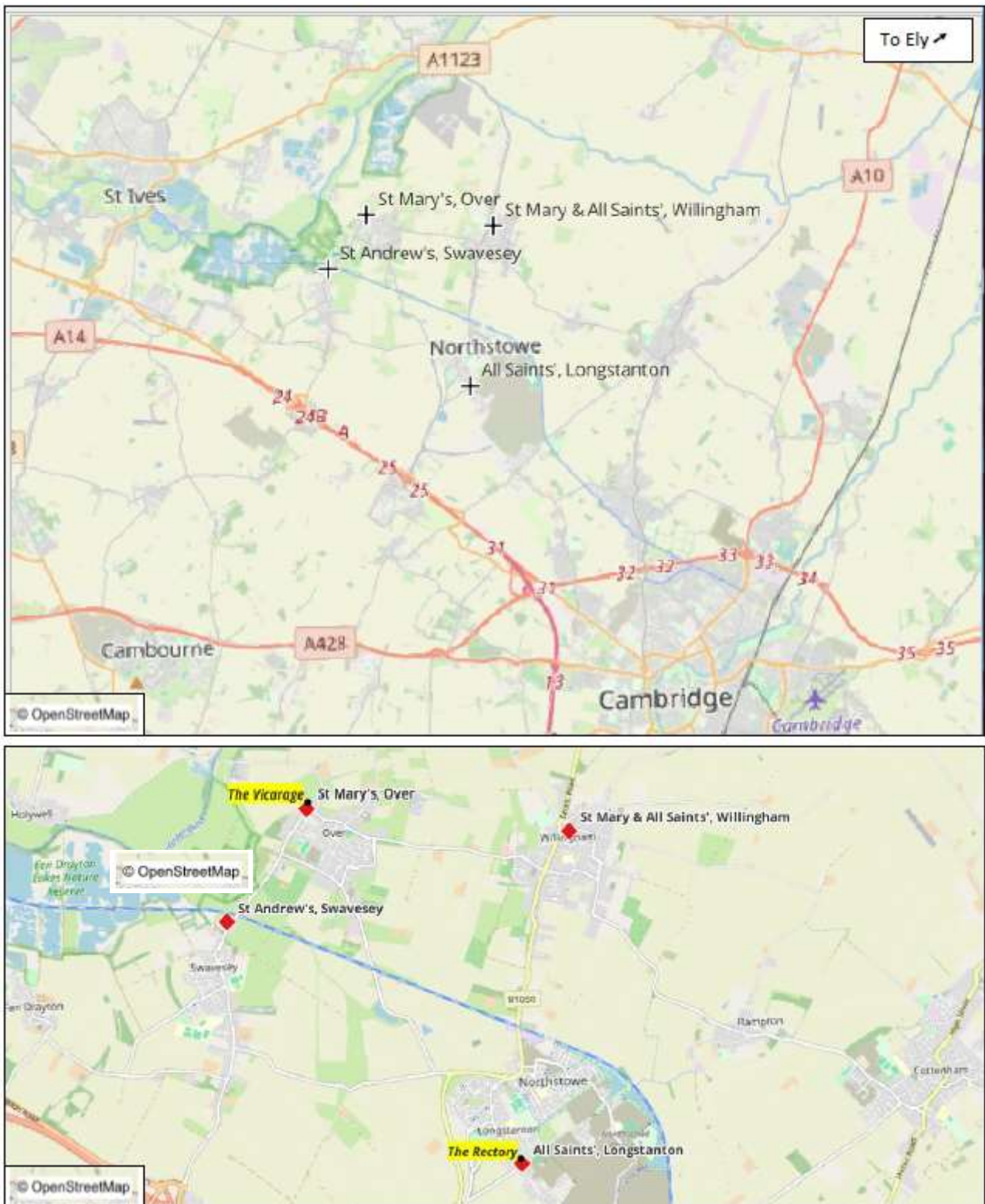
The [Willingham News](#) magazine is delivered monthly to every household in the village and is a good source of information about village life.

There is an established Baptist Church in the village and some home-based Christian groups including a Latimer Minster Family group, 'The Church Experiment'.

The Team Rector appointed will be invited to become an ex-officio Trustee of the [Willingham Combined Charity](#). This charity provides housing for those in need.

We welcome someone who will inspirationally share the Good News with us and further develop our knowledge and understanding through teaching, reflection and prayer.

Appendix 1 - Location maps



Google Maps may be helpful: <https://www.google.com/maps/@52.3008276,0.0529596,12.71z>

Appendix 2

The Northstowe Church Network:

ecumenical neighbours and praying cousins



NORTHSTOWE CHURCH NETWORK

praying, exploring, and sharing

Registered Charity Number 1206577

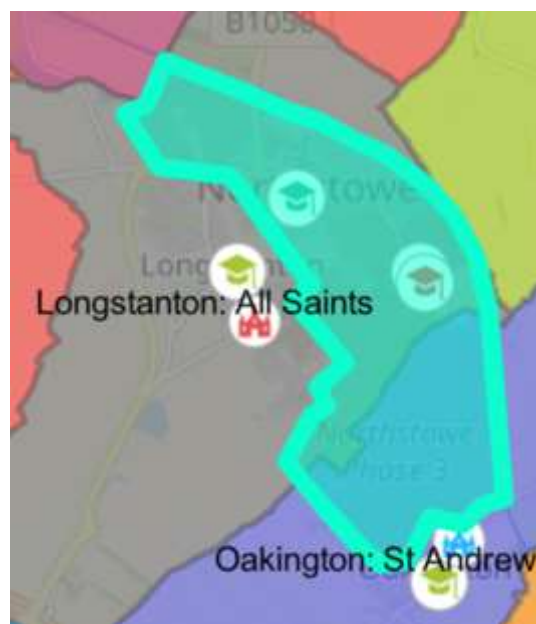


Northstowe is a planned new town of over 10,000 homes (upward of 25,000 residents), with a much higher population density, and greater economic, religious, and cultural diversity than the established 5folds villages. Currently 1500 homes are occupied. Revd Dr Beth Cope was ecumenically appointed as Northstowe's Pioneer Minister in 2018, with Revd Stephen Dove joining the team in 2022: his Pioneer Curacy will run until 2026. The pioneer ministers are responsible for developing new missional and worshipping communities with and for those moving into the new town – prioritising helping those without significant church connections discover (or rediscover) faith. They also partner with councils, schools, and developers to build community among those of all religious and non-religious beliefs.

Northstowe has always had a strong ecumenical vision, working closely with Churches Together in Cambridge. In Jan 2024, this was formalised as an ecumenical Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) uniting the Church of England, Baptists Together, and United Reformed Church. As the "Northstowe Church Network", the Christians of Northstowe are delivering contextual and ecumenical mission and ministry. They are preparing to bid for S106 land to develop a community centre and hub-site for the Network, including a permanent chapel.

The first worshipping community, Pathfinder Church, will continue to meet intergenerationally in The Pathfinder CofE Primary School, focusing its mission on supporting and partnering with the primary school and the families connected with it. As Northstowe grows, new groups are emerging, including Little Explorers (time for you, your child, and God), and the Compline Community.

The Northstowe ministry team have good links with the 5folds team – supporting each other as "praying cousins". Beth and Stephen take the lead on supporting life events for Northstowe residents, working closely with the established churches to facilitate Northstowe weddings and funerals in the historic parish church buildings. The first phase falls within the parish of All Saints, Longstanton, while subsequent development will cross into the parish of St Andrew's Oakington.



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*The deanery map was produced by
the Church of England Research and Statics Unit,
with the planned outline of Northstowe overlain in green.*