

Are You Ready To Walk This Journey With Us?



Find Out All About Us Inside!

Profile for St Christopher's Church, Red Lodge;

Where are we?

Red Lodge is in north-west Suffolk on its border with Cambridgeshire. Bury St. Edmunds lies some 10 miles to the south-east and has recently been named by The Sunday Times as one of the Eastern regions top market towns in the country along with Norwich and Ely. Newmarket which is the headquarters of the UK's horseracing and bloodstock industries, is about 5 miles to the south –west.

Further west, Cambridge with all its attractions is approximately 30 minutes' drive away, and beyond that the A14 trunk road provides ready access to the national motorway network. The cathedral cities of Ely, Norwich and Peterborough and the medieval wool towns of Clare, Lavenham and Long Melford can all be reached in less than an hour. Also within easy striking distance are numerous Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the Cambridgeshire Fens, the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk, the Norfolk Broads and the Stour Valley.

There are train stations at Kennett (1mile), Ely and Cambridge and Bus links at Mildenhall and Newmarket, with local bus services from Red Lodge, with London Stanstead Airport only a 45 minutes' drive and Luton and Norwich airports within easy reach as well.

The village of Red Lodge has grown rapidly from about 800 houses 19 years ago to approximately 2600 currently and is still increasing, most of this expansion has been in the last 10 years, and the church although tucked away, has found itself now in the centre of the village. Red Lodge has a large Community Centre and a bar, built in the year 2000 and aptly name the Millennium Centre, a Sports Pavilion and playing fields, tennis courts, allotments, doctors, dentist, fast food outlets, mini supermarket and two primary schools, the Pines which has recently been constructed and St Christopher's, so children no longer have to travel to Newmarket or one of the surrounding villages.

The school is a Church of England school under the patronage of the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust and has around 325 children on its roll (data 2019).

St. Christopher is the patron saint of travellers and this is a fitting name for a village which was, for many years, a resting place for weary pilgrims on their way to the shrine at Walsingham. Today it is also a place where several servicemen and women from nearby RAF Lakenheath & Mildenhall make their home with their families for the 3 or 4 years they are in the UK, enjoying the life and culture that a British village community has to offer. More information about the school can be found on their website <http://www.stcprimary.suffolk.sch.uk/>

Who are we?

St Christopher's is unique as it is a Local Ecumenical Partnership in the Ely & Newmarket Methodist Circuit and the Mildenhall Deanery. We have both a Methodist and an Anglican ministry allowing us to experience the best of all the values both denominations share and cherish.

The church of St Christopher's was rebuilt in 2011 after being destroyed by an arson attack several years earlier. The original church was built in 1958 on the same site. We also have the original hall attached to the church and this is host to a private preschool and after school group, other users are the WI, Parish Council and monthly community lunches.



Out in the community we are continuing to build a Christian presence in St Christopher's school, we take "Open The Book" to several local schools, support Newmarket Youth For Christ initiatives and are linked to the Anglican Rural Resourcing Church community based in the village which has a full and part time staff.

We have a time of early morning prayer every Wednesday and also on the 1st Saturday of the month. Our regular bible study meets weekly and sees continued spiritual growth.

In the past we have sung carols in the local bar, volunteered to clean up after the village Music and Beer Festival over a Bank holiday weekend, staged a Queens Birthday Tea party for the village, organised Remembrance and Carol Services at St Christopher's School seen below and taken part in a sponsored cycle ride for the Historic Church Trust in the adjacent picture.

There are numerous groups that meet in the village and information for them and about the village can be found in our local news magazine "The Turnpike" www.redlodgeturnpike.org



Why do we need you?

We are a small church with a big heart and big ideas, our regular attendees on a Sunday morning are typically made up of about 20 plus adults and 8 juniors. Reaching out and engaging with more of our young people in the Community through new and current programs is our challenging goal.

Are you the person who can help meet that challenge?