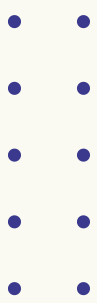




# Huntingdon Parish



The Church of England  
Diocese of Ely



## About Ely Diocese

Ely Diocese covers an area of 1,507 square miles (3,900 sq km). It has a population of 705,000 and comprises 209 benefices, 303 parishes and 335 churches with 104 stipendiary parochial clergy.

The diocese covers an area roughly similar to the county of Cambridgeshire, but also includes some parts of western Norfolk, Peterborough, Essex and Bedfordshire.

As a Diocese, our Ely 2025 vision commits us to:

- **Engage** fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally.
- **Grow** God's church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders.
- **Deepen** our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer.

More information can be found here: [Strategy - elydiocese.org](https://www.elydiocese.org/strategy)

**We praise and thank you, God of the journey,  
For all your gifts to us in the past.**

**We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way  
ahead.**

**Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety;**

**Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back;**

**And grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us**

**In Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Amen*



## The Parish setting

Huntingdon has a population of over 26,000 people and with new housing is expected to grow significantly to over 30,000 in the near future.

The town was chartered by King John in 1205 and is the county town of Huntingdonshire. Having prospered successfully as a bridging point of the River Great Ouse, Huntingdon grew into a market town and, in the 18th and 19th centuries, as a coaching town. The well preserved medieval bridge was once the main route of Ermine Street over the river and is still in use today. The Town area covers a total of 1,119 Hectares.

Huntingdon is the administrative centre of Huntingdonshire District Council and is located on the north bank of the River Great Ouse, opposite Godmanchester and close to the market town of St Ives in the east and the village of Brampton in the west. Huntingdon incorporates the village of Hartford to the east, and the developing areas of Oxmoor, Stukeley Meadows and Hinchingbrooke to the north and west. Major expansion to the town occurred to the north and east in the 1960s and 1970s bringing substantial housing and industrial areas and leading to the coalescence of the village of Hartford with Huntingdon.

Huntingdon is well connected with the strategic road network and the east coast mainline railway. It has a relatively strong retail sector and functions as the primary shopping centre for the District. Brampton and Godmanchester to the south west and south east respectively have a close relationship with the services in Huntingdon. The town benefits from a larger supporting population than just the town itself and the residents of Brampton and Godmanchester benefit from the wide range of services and facilities available in Huntingdon.



Huntingdon is approximately 15 miles north of Cambridge and is accessible from the A14, which passes around the south west of the town. The A14 is a major road running 127 miles from the Port of Felixstowe in Suffolk to the Catthorpe Interchange at the junction of the M1 and M6 motorways near Rugby in Warwickshire.

### **Public Transport and transport links**

Huntingdon railway station is sited on the East Coast Main Line. Services that stop here are operated by Govia Thameslink Railway, on the Thameslink and Great Northern routes.

Great Northern services operate between Peterborough and London Kings Cross station; trains take just over an hour to reach the capital. Thameslink services run between Peterborough and Horsham, in West Sussex, via St Pancras and Blackfriars.

Bus services are operated primarily by Stagecoach East and Whippet. Routes serve the town, including Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, and connect Huntingdon with Peterborough, St Neots, Ramsey, St Ives and Cambridge.

Luton and Stansted airports are located within 40 miles of the town.

### **Housing**

There is a mixture of private, council and social housing. By way of example, the largest area in the town is "the Oxmoor estate" and comprises 41% social rented, 13% private rented and the remainder is privately owned. However, a survey before Covid indicated that 55% of Oxmoor residents were 'financially stretched' and 33% were in 'urban adversity' which category includes some of the most deprived areas of towns and cities across the UK. These proportions will undoubtedly have increased in the past few years.



## Churches

As well as the three Anglican churches in the parish (see below) Huntingdon and adjoining Godmanchester have:

- A Roman Catholic Church;
- A Methodist Church;
- An evangelical 'free church';
- A Baptist Church;
- A Conservative Evangelical Church which is imminently leaving the Church of England;
- A few relatively small independent churches.

## Leisure and entertainment

There are a number of leisure and entertainment facilities within Huntingdon including the Commemoration Hall in the town centre; Performing Arts Centre at Hinchingsbrooke; local drama clubs operating at various venues; and a cinema at Towerfields Leisure Park. The 'One Leisure' publicly owned leisure centre is located at the KGV (King George V) St Peter's Road sports hub which includes a tennis club, cricket club and two bowls clubs leased by the Town Council. In addition, the town council leases the Gymnastics Club at Mayfield Road which trains several world class athletes. Privately owned facilities include Marriott Leisure; and Sports Direct Fitness.



The natural environment in Huntingdon includes a number of significant open areas and the river corridors of Alconbury Brook and the River Great Ouse. The town boundary also includes some areas of open countryside. Important open areas include Mill Common; Views Common; Spring Common; Castle Hills; and Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. The very southern edge of the NDP area contains part of Portholme Meadow a 104Ha biological Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) between Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The northern end of the NDP area contains part of the Great Stukeley Railway Cutting SSSI.

### **Health and Community Facilities**

There are a number of health facilities in Huntingdon, including multiple doctors' surgeries, dentists and pharmacies spread throughout the town. The town is also served by Hinchingsbrooke Hospital which provides employment to several church families, principally from overseas. The town also boasts a wide range of community facilities and public buildings.

### **Education**

Education provision in the Town includes the following:

- Further Education/Sixth Form – St Peter's School; Hinchingsbrooke School; and Huntingdon Regional College
- Secondary – St Peter's School; and Hinchingsbrooke School
- Primary – Huntingdon Primary; Stukeley Meadows Primary; St Johns CofE Primary; Hartford Junior; Hartford Infants; Thongsley Fields Primary; and Cromwell Academy
- Other – Huntingdon Nursery; Spring Common Academy; and Thongsley Fields Nursery



## About our Churches

There are three churches in the combined parish (brought together in 2019). Two are listed and the third is a 1960s building. Two of the churches have significant challenges in making them 'usable'.

The three churches had all experienced significant numerical and other decline in the period to 2018. As part of the Changing Market Towns project (a £6million investment across 8 towns in the diocese) a new incumbent was appointed in late 2018 and three FTE workers followed in the following 18 months. These appointments have contributed to a turnaround in the parish and numbers attending Sunday services and other events / services have increased significantly. In addition, there are fresh expressions and many exciting new groups which may develop into FXCs.

### Church tradition

The worship tradition of the churches is moving towards open evangelical / gently charismatic. Having said that, there are many in our congregations who are more central and our range of services reflects that. Our congregations and our PCC are ethnically diverse. We have a significant number of civic events / services and these are traditional in their expression of church. We hold an orthodox position on matters of human sexuality.

The parish benefited enormously from having a Pioneer Curate from 2019 to 2022 and a curate would have the opportunity to develop further the many initiatives which he began.

The CMT project continues to provide investment and exciting opportunities. As with the Pioneer Curate who was here recently, I would want to encourage any curate to be creative and identify areas for ministry and to utilise their own gifts and interests. There is huge potential for community involvement – again, depending on the curate's own gifts and interests.



## Mission and ministry to children and young people

We have a full time Children and Families Missioner and a full time Youth Missioner – both currently funded by the Changing Market Towns project. Our ministry to this generation aims 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.

We have 6 main focus areas for our work with children and families:

### **Focus Area 1**

Growing relationships with and discipling those already involved in Huntingdon Parish Church activities, supporting them in becoming families who are developing their God connectedness (their relationship with God) rather than just being families who are God Smart (knowing about God).

### **Focus Area 2**

Empowering parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their child’s connection with God.

### **Focus Area 3**

Reaching out to the wider community through the relationships detailed below and identifying opportunities to provide holistic support for families, including through partnership working.

### **Focus Area 4**

Growing relationships with the schools – being seen as trusted and supportive partners.

### **Focus Area 5**

Growing relationships with other partners – e.g. HCAP, councils, Cornerstone, other churches in Huntingdon, and again being seen as trusted and supportive partners.

### **Focus Area 6**

Encouraging and supporting participation in all areas of ministry by all ages, and valuing all contributions made.

Our ministry to children and families has grown significantly over the past few years and we have exciting plans going forward which are detailed in the plan included in the Appendix.





## Youth

We have a range of activities for young people, many of which operate through an ecumenical body known as **Thrive**. The ambition of Thrive is to work with churches, schools and communities to transform the lives of young people. Thrive partners with churches, schools and communities to offer programmes that support the emotional, social and spiritual growth of young people. Thrive delivers its work through three programme strands, Schools work, Community programmes, and Faith Activities:

- In local secondary schools to support the social and emotional growth of students through a range of programmes;
- Partnering with churches and organisations within the community to deliver programmes in the local area that support the social, emotional and spiritual growth of young people;
- Offering opportunities for young people, of all faiths and none, to explore the Christian faith in safe and inclusive environments. These include our Thrive Collectives shown in the photo below.
- Further details are included in the Appendix.



## Engagement with community

There is huge potential for community involvement depending on the curate's own gifts and interests.

We have strong and growing links with several primary schools in the town. There are opportunities to lead assemblies, RE lessons. There are governor vacancies on two local schools (a community school and a DEMAT school) and I would support a curate if they wanted to take up one of these roles. We have thriving links with the two secondary schools in the town and there would be the opportunity to join the mentoring team in these schools.

We host **Cambridgeshire Deaf Church** and their Chaplain is an Associate Minister in the parish. As well as their own separate monthly service, Deaf Church attend our Sunday service once a month.

The Vicar is the Town Mayor's Chaplain and this gives me access to Town (and indeed District and County) councillors. This role leads to many 'civic responsibilities'. A curate would be able to get involved in these roles to the extent that they would like to. There are also opportunities to be chaplain to one (or more) of the local cadet groups.

The staff team has developed strong links and significant goodwill with various local community groups who are very keen to develop their partnerships with us. A curate would be able to leverage off these contacts. We have strong links with **BID Huntingdon** which represents the interests of local businesses and there could be an opportunity to develop a 'town centre chaplaincy'.

We run **Chatty Café** twice a week in All Saints with an established team of volunteers. This provides a safe and warm space for our local community with many regular attendees as well as visitors. Simple refreshments are served and payment is by voluntary donation.



## Vision and Values

Our **vision** as a church is to share the love of Jesus Christ across Huntingdon. We aim to do this by focusing on three key areas which are all undergirded by prayer. These are:

- Relationship;
- Decision; and
- Discipleship.

These three areas are inspired by Laurence Singlehurst's book *Sowing, Reaping and Keeping*. These map broadly onto the diocesan strategy of **Engage, Grow and Deepen**.

All of our mission and other activities are addressed under one (or more) of these headings.

## Values

We recently reviewed our values and these are set out below:

1. **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.
2. **Worship** – we seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul and all our strength.
3. **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. We are a priesthood of all believers.
4. **Word and Spirit** – we believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We encourage openness to the power of the Holy Spirit and the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit.



## Values (continued...)

5. **Relationships** – Positive relationships enable all the rest of the ministry to happen. Building positive relationships is foundational in all aspects of our ministry.

6. **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.

7. **Nurturing** – we need to invest in people's growth, in all areas of their lives, but particularly nurturing faith development, appreciating the power of prayer and spirituality and seeking to grow in the fruit of the Spirit.

8. **Empowerment** – we want to show respect to those with whom we are in contact, support them taking responsibility for their lives, and build their confidence to access support for them to regain control over areas of their lives that might have felt hopeless.

9. **Advocacy** – we are committed to be advocates for the poor, the vulnerable and the oppressed.

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

- We recognise that 'family' can take many different forms depending on circumstances and affirm that all family units are valued.

11. **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. As their networks are extended, so too is their capacity to cope with new situations, as they have more people to turn to for support.

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



## Opportunities for a Curate

There are many more opportunities than one person could engage with. I would want any curate to focus on those opportunities which would help them in their ministry development and I won't be 'prescriptive' (other than ensuring that essentials required in a curacy are covered).

I have attached as an appendix to this document our late 2022 'reset' or parish plan. The reset was done as part of the overall CMT project. Some 15 months post-reset at the time of writing we are making good progress against targets. As can be seen, some of the targets are dependent on additional resources.

We have a huge range of events and services which cover all aspects of Ely 2025 strategy of **Engage, Grow and Deepen**. These are categorised in the attached plan and a curate would be able to have involvement across the range as befits their gifts and interests.

The staff team (see more detail elsewhere) includes a full time Children and Families Missioner, full time Youth Missioner and a full time non-stipendiary lay pioneer minister. A curate would be able to minister alongside these three and learn from their specific expertise.

There are a significant number of occasional offices – baptisms and funerals especially and a curate would be able to gain experience from involvement. I would expect a curate to contribute fully to PCC and to chair that and similar groups for a period at a suitable stage of their curacy.

There would also be opportunities to lead / attend **Alpha** and similar courses and to be involved with one of our small (**Connect**) groups. Members of the team are also able to contribute to a **Thought for the Day** on local community radio.

### Housing for a curate

The diocese has committed to providing a house for a curate.



## The ministry team

The church is regularly reminded that the 'ministry team' is everyone! We are a priesthood of all believers. However, the staff team comprises:

- Full time Children's and Families Missioner (also a LLM);
- Full time Youth Missioner;
- 0.6 FTE Operations Manager;
- 0.5 FTE Parish Administrator;
- All of the above roles are currently funded through CMT
- 0.5 FTE Associate Vicar until he retires in summer 2024;
- Non stip Associate Minister with a focus on leading Deaf Church which is a BMO;
- Non stip FTE lay pioneer minister LLM;
- Pastoral ALM;
- The incumbent's role is currently only 0.5 FTE. The rest of his time is as Project Leader for CMT. This latter role ends in summer 2024.

In addition, to the above we have a small, but committed PCC, including a churchwarden.



### Vicar

Jon Randall  
01480 413095  
vicar@huntingdonparish.org  
(Rest day Tuesday)



### Associate Vicar (Part Time)

Mike Booker  
07766 835452  
mike@huntingdonparish.org  
(Rest days Thursday, Friday and Saturday)



### Children and Families Missioner

Jane Brooks  
07458 305260  
jane@huntingdonparish.org  
(Rest day Friday & Saturday)



### Youth Missioner

Ruth Hunt  
07458 305261  
ruth@huntingdonparish.org  
(Rest day Saturday & Sunday)



### (Lay) Pioneer Minister

Ingrid Randall  
07928 601606  
ingrid@huntingdonparish.org  
(Rest day Tuesday)



### Curate & Minister working with the Deaf Community

Jan Smith  
07593 633 774  
jan@huntingdonparish.org  
(Rest day Saturday)



### Parish Administrator

Monika Stoian  
07458 300614  
office@huntingdonparish.org  
(working hours Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm)



### Operations Manager

Tim Brooks  
07458 300614  
tim@huntingdonparish.org  
(Rest day Friday & Saturday)

## About the Incumbent

I believe that my interpersonal skills and ability to relate to and communicate effectively with people of all ages/ backgrounds etc are my key gifts. I enjoy being with people, getting to know them and their situations, and am passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. A Review of Ministry a few years ago described me as 'formidable and impressive evangelistic teacher, preacher and pastor' and a 'hardworking and strategic leader'.

I am also fully committed to discipling and mentoring both the current and the next generation of church leaders. My Review suggested that I was 'well equipped to do this'.

My role as Project Lead of the CMT project (since September 2021) has helped me to ensure that the parish is fully engaged with that project and best equipped to ensure that the progress made is sustainable. This sustainability will create ongoing benefits to the parish and a curate.

I have much experience as a Training Incumbent as follows:

- 2015/17 - Pioneer Curate;
- 2016/18 Supervising a curate in another parish when his TI was ill and then left his post.
- 2019/22 - Pioneer Curate;
- 2019/21 - Curate who moved here part way through her curacy when her TI was ill;
- 2022/23 - Curate (who is the Deaf Church Chaplain) moved here for the final year of her curacy when her TI retired.

I have always received very positive feedback on my role as a TI and indeed as Line Manger of the CMT workers.

I encourage people to follow their passions and use their experience, and have supported curates and indeed all church members to use their gifts and time in creative ways.



## A personal message from the training incumbent

The last few years have seen a reversing of the previous decline in the parish and it has been the beginning of an exciting journey. There is much more potential for significant and sustainable growth, both numerically and in terms of discipleship. I look forward to sharing the next stage of that journey with a curate with a heart for mission and sharing the Good News of Jesus with a town which has a real spiritual hunger.

As described above, attendance is increasing and there are a range of new initiatives which a curate could be involved in and develop. There is also the opportunity to build on the ministry of the Pioneer Curate who left in 2022. There is significant scope for you to be creative and to start new things rather than needing to focus on maintaining inherited church. The reset document (see above) includes a plan which is dependent on the early appointment of a curate.

I would encourage you to pursue your own interests and to build on prior experience, bringing your unique gifts to the ministry team and playing to your own strengths.

To have a further conversation about serving a curacy here, please contact **Jon** on [vicar@huntingdonparish.org](mailto:vicar@huntingdonparish.org) or **01480 413095**.





## Appendix Nov 2022 Parish Plan (extract)

### Activities and diocesan levers of change

	<b>NURTURE</b> a confident people	<b>DEVELOP</b> healthy churches / leaders	<b>SERVE</b> the community	<b>RE-IMAGINE</b> our buildings	<b>TARGET</b> support to key areas
<b>Engage (sow)</b>	A11 HCR Service	C10 Governor at St John's	A5 Chatty Café	A13 Art, music etc @ AS	C13 HCAP trustee
			A7 Seniors Lunch	A15 Engage "tourists"	C3 Moody Mondays
			A12 TFTD	C4 Christmas market	C4 Tepees
			A16 2535 @ St B	Y1 Thrive cafes	C6 Recharge
			A19 Weddings		
			A20 Funerals		
			A21 Civic "duties"		
			C5 CoSP		
			C8 Footsteps		
			C9a Assemblies		
			C11 RE lessons / school visits		
			C16 Baptisms		
			Y3 Mentoring		
<b>Grow (reap)</b>	A2 Connect groups	A14 1:1 discipleship	A18 Meet & Eat		
	A6 Chatty Plus	A23 Supervision of ordinands / curates etc	C15 Christmas "activities"		
	A9 Alpha etc				
	C7 Recharge Plus				
	Y5 Thrive Collective		Y4 Thrive "holiday activities"		
<b>Deepen (keep)</b>	A10 Lent / Advent courses	A1 10.30am at AS	A8 Hunters Down HC		
	A22 Pastoral support	A3 Online MP	A24 Prayer resources at AS		
		A4 Wednesday HC	C9b Assemblies at St John's		
		A17 Living Room			
		C1 Young Church			
		C2 Messy Church			
		A25 Parish Prayers			
		Y6 Youth Church			



Activity	Resources	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Timely	Comments / notes
1:1 discipleship	Leaders						Focus on growing leaders
Engage with "tourists"							Leaflet being produced Q3 2022
2535 at St B							Currently, we haven't identified leadership for this
Living Room (2nd and 4th Sundays at St B)	Leaders - Ingrid + MB + Jon	25 regular attendees by end of 2025	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Meet and Eat	Margaret +	Weekly attendance of 20 by 2025	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Weddings	Priest						
Funerals	Priest						
Civic "duties"	Jon						
Pastoral support	Team						
Supervision of ordinands / curates							
Prayer resources in AS	Ingrid + ANO + materials	Refresh every two months	Use of "prayer tree" can give indication of engagement				Open to others to offer to produce resources. How can we increase the "profile" of the prayer resources at things like Chatty Café?
Monthly parish prayers	Steph P leading						

Activity	Resources	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Timely	Comments / notes
<b>YOUTH</b>							
Thrive cafes	Team, funding	100 regulars across cafes by end of 2025	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Thrive Space (Chaplaincy)		200 contacts per year by end of 2025	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Youth Mentoring		60 students mentored pa in each year	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Thrive "holiday" activities		40 YPs engaged with holiday activities; 20 on annual residential	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Thrive Collective		25 YPs per half termly event	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Youth Church		10 YPs to attend regular "Youth Church" by 2025	Y	Y	Y	Y	
<b>CHILDREN</b>							The majority of SMART objectives for C&F ministry is included in the detailed strategic plan in Appendix 5.3 and not repeated here.
Young Church	JSB + volunteers						
Messy Church	JSB + volunteers						
Tepees	Ingrid	Weekly attendance (term time only): a. Active engagement with 20 families in 2022 b. Invites to Messy Church (or similar) and 5 families attend by end of 2022 c. build relationships with key local stakeholders.	(a) and (b) - Ingrid to keep "log"  c) not readily measurable	Y	Y	2022	Review Q4 2022 and set objectives for 2023 and beyond.
CoSP	JSB, Anne; venues						
Recharge	JSB, Ingrid + team						
Recharge Plus	JSB, Ingrid + team						
Footsteps	JSB, Ingrid + team						
Assemblies	JSB, Jon						
Governor at St John's	JSB						
School visits / RE	JSB, Jon						
Brunch project(s)	Team						
Christmas activities	JSB +team						
Baptisms	JSB + "priest"						

**Notes:** This document needs to be read in conjunction with the Development Action Plan SMART objectives (and more) for C&F Ministry in Huntingdon Parish