



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES



The parishes of Barton, Caldecote with
Childerley, Camberton, Colton, Dry Drayton,
Great and Little Evereden, Hardwick,
Wortox, Haslingfield and Toff

A TEAM VICAR FOR THE PARISHES OF CALDECOTE WITH CHILDERLEY, DRY DRAYTON AND HARDWICK



WELCOME

We hope that you will find this profile and appointment pack helpful in deciding whether God is calling you to be a Team Vicar in the Lordsbridge Team. This post will provide exciting opportunities for someone who is committed to rural and semi-rural ministry and wishes to work collaboratively with a wide range of colleagues and communities. We are looking for someone who has good leadership skills, a creative approach to growing the kingdom of God in this area, and a sense of fun!

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1. INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Lordsbridge Team of Churches is a network of worshipping communities, spread over 11 villages, in an area of about 9 by 5 miles west of Cambridge, and served by a core team of four incumbent-status clergy and approximately 19 active assistant clergy and LLMs. The work and witness in the parishes is held together and made possible across multiple communities by the framework provided by the Team.



Created from four smaller benefices, the Lordsbridge Team of Churches, now a team ministry, celebrated its tenth birthday in 2020. Each of the incumbent clergy in the team has responsibility for a particular geographical area so that each village knows who its vicar is. Together they share leadership across the whole patch and the network of worshipping communities.

There are more than 17 worshipping communities or “ecclesial experiments” across the parishes. Eleven of these are congregations worshipping in a more or less traditional way in our ancient parish churches. Other forms of worship include: a gathering for seniors, toddler church, messy church, a youth service, Wild church and Forest church. As a result of the recent pandemic a regular and distinct Zoom congregation has emerged. Other approaches to prayer and worship are developed as opportunities arise.

The churches are all embedded in their communities, seeking to build the common good. Congregation members are involved in or run a vast array of village groups. Churches partner ecumenically, and with other organizations, to offer initiatives that seek to address need. These include: A Holiday at Home for the elderly, Summer Hampers for families who have children on Free School Meals, a Community Pantry, a Listening Service in collaboration with the GP surgery, and a Network to support those hosting Ukrainian Refugees.

2. OUR ETHOS

Our ethos is underpinned by three primary working principles:

- ***The Lordsbridge Team is a network of worshipping communities rooted in their local contexts.***
- ***The Team works primarily through its worshipping communities and enables greater flourishing in their life and mission.***
- ***The Team allows us to be more than individual parishes and to do things together that could not be done alone.***

Alongside these we have four key values for the direction of the Team's life:

- **MISSION** - a desire to be mission-focused in our nature and activities, with prayer being central to this
- **CELEBRATION** - remembering how God has been active in our communities over many years and is still active and creative now
- **RELATIONSHIPS** - growing worshipping communities, building the network, and consolidating relationships between churches, denominations, village groups, businesses and schools
- **ENJOYMENT** - through being and doing things together.



Wild Church at St Mary's, Comberton

In the twelve years since its inception, the Lordsbridge Team has evolved to become a mutually supportive network that retains the local strengths and essence of its individual parishes while also bringing together commonalities and encouraging collaborations.

We recognize that each worshipping community – whether traditional or new - is best placed to understand, reflect and grow relationships within its own local context and so we make sure that the 'core' of the Team resources the 'mission-edges', rather than pulling resource into the centre.

We celebrate 'small church' as being good and having value and purpose in its own right. We therefore encourage small, locally rooted worshipping communities, avoiding amalgamation and empowering lay people and volunteers in their own places. However, we also recognize that multiple small worshipping communities are more effective when linked together sharing skills and resources and mutual support.

We actively support 'mixed ecology ministry', both celebrating the faithfulness of generations worshipping in these villages, whilst making space for the innovation and creativity that are vital in the service of the Kingdom of God for the sake of future generations.

3. THE PERSON WE ARE LOOKING FOR

In addition to the prayer life, preaching, teaching, pastoral and leadership skills that are essential for any vicar, we feel that there are some things that are distinctive to this post.

We are looking for someone who will enjoy working with us and will help us to flourish.

THAT PERSON WILL:

- Feel called to work in a rural and semi-rural setting
- Be committed to working missionally in established village communities and new housing developments, through the established church and through pioneering ministry

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES:

- Enthusiasm for working collaboratively
- Desire to grow faith and deepen spirituality
- Courage and creativity to innovate and develop new ideas, whilst appreciating the range of different traditions in the parishes
- Ability to reflect theologically on current practice and new ideas
- Skill to develop lay leadership and to delegate well so that mixed lay-ordained teams can flourish
- Energy and organisational skills to juggle multiple tasks across communities, whilst retaining a sense of humour
- Able to think strategically about structures and governance
- Experience of working relationally and growing community, inside and outside the church

DESIRABLE QUALITIES:

- Experience of pioneering ministry

It is an occupational requirement for the post holder to have a full UK driving license.



*Carols at The Church of the Assumption,
Harlton*



Remembrance at All Saints, Haslingfield

4. THE ROLE OF THE TEAM VICAR

- Be a member of the Lordsbridge Core Team as an incumbent and be the Lead Minister (Vicar) in the parishes of Dry Drayton, Hardwick, and Caldecote with Childerley.
- Be responsible across the team for outreach and mission in the new areas of housing development, in particular the Highfields area of Caldecote parish, and the new housing in Hardwick.
- Share leadership of the Lordsbridge Team with the Team Rector and other members of the Core Team: to offer and receive mutual support and accountability, to be generous with resources and skills, and to share communication and decision-making.
- Partner with others of goodwill in the parishes to identify and tackle social need, and work for the common good.
- Develop mission and ministry in the three parishes, following the C of E's 'mixed ecology model' (known as the 'blended economy' in Ely diocese), including:
 - developing the mission and ministry of the teams of lay people and associate clergy
 - growing new congregations
 - developing and sustaining church involvement in the village schools
 - addressing specific challenges of finance and governance (with the Core Team)
- Work with ecumenical partners on joint projects such as study groups, youth work and mission
- Take on specific Lordsbridge Team-wide responsibilities, in consultation with the Team Rector and other members of the Core Team and taking into account the appointee's specific interests and experience.



*A Wedding at St Michael and All Angels,
Caldecote*



*Bishop's Visit to St Mary's,
Great Eversden*

5. THE MINISTRY TEAM

Lordsbridge has an active and collaborative Core Ministry Team which operates around the principle of shared leadership, shared support and shared accountability. The team consists of three stipendiary clergy of incumbent status - a Team Rector and two Team Vicars – and a self-supporting minister as a fourth incumbent. A Team Support Minister, Team Curate (when we have one) and Team Administrator are also part of this Core Team. Each incumbent member of this Core Team takes responsibility for particular geographic parishes – he or she is their Vicar. The Team Curate works across some but not all the villages. The day-to day functioning of the Lordsbridge Team is overseen by the Core Team who meet weekly to pray and plan tasks and activities.

The members of the Core Team and their responsibilities are as follows:

- THE REV'D DAVID NEWTON – Team Rector; Lead Minister for Comberton, Toft, and currently Caldecote with Childerley
- THE REV'D CLAIRE ROBERTSON – Team Vicar; Lead Minister for Barton, Coton, Harlton and Haslingfield
- THE REV'D CHARLES FRASER – Team SSM; Lead Minister for Great Eversden and Little Eversden. Charles is also Head of Divinity at The Leys School in Cambridge.
- THE REV'D PRISCILLA SLUSAR – Team Support Minister. Priscilla is also the Rural Dean for Bourn Deanery.
- MRS REBECCA HERRICK – Team Administrator
- TEAM VICAR – Vacant; Lead Minister for Hardwick, Dry Drayton and Caldecote with Childerley
- TEAM CURATE – Vacant, following previous curate leaving in January 2022

There is a wider ministry team which consists of:

- LORDSBRIDGE TEAM CHAPTER - We have a strong, committed wider team of clergy, LLMs, Authorized Lay Ministers (ALMs) and occasional preachers. Some of these have a peripatetic role and some serve in a specific local church ministry team.
- LOCAL MINISTRY TEAMS – These meet at parish level and, as well as lay and ordained members of the Team Chapter, also include Authorized Lay Ministers (ALMs), churchwardens and others. They function in different ways in different church communities.
- STUDENTS - We offer attachments and placements to ordinands, curates and trainee lay ministers wanting to explore team ministry and/or ministry and mission based in villages.

6. TEAM-WIDE ADMINISTRATION

Our team administrator, Becca Herrick, carries out a wide range of tasks across the parishes, including wedding, funeral and DBS administration. She oversees our contact database system (IknowChurch) and manages our website and social media account. In addition, she supports the Team Rector and Team Vicars with a variety of administrative jobs. Becca works 15 hours a week and is based at the Cabin, at St Mary's Hardwick, one day a week.



*Celebrating St Peter's Day,
Coton*



St Andrew's, Toft



St Helen's, Little Eversden



Baptism at St Peter's, Barton

7. THE LOCAL AREA

The communities of the Lordsbridge area range in size from a few hundred to nearly three thousand. The congregations similarly vary in size, although some of the smaller villages maintain a very active church life.

Each village is self-contained, set in mostly arable farmland and, though linked by ancient bridle paths, they are several miles apart by road and there is little or no public transport between them. All have established and individual identities and most have strong community spirit which, along with the rural environment, is very popular with local inhabitants. There are many beautiful, listed buildings (including the churches). The village populations and congregations are diverse – from manual and agricultural workers to professionals and academics, from local families with historic links with particular villages to newcomers, some of whom may be here for a temporary period.

Different villages have expanded with new housing at different times (e.g. Hardwick in the 1980s, and Caldecote's Highfields development around 2000) bringing in new families and changing the demography. This means that the location of some churches represents historical village centres rather than the present population distribution. New housing developments are on-going with a number of edge-of-village and in-fill developments underway. In addition, there is a planned major development to the immediate northwest of the Lordsbridge Team's area (along the A428) and within the deanery which will drive significant local population growth.

While rural in many ways, all the villages of the team are influenced by their proximity to Cambridge. Cambridge is a vibrant city (population c129,000) within the agricultural countryside of East Anglia. It is internationally renowned for its universities, Addenbrookes and Royal Papworth Hospitals (with the largest Biomedical Campus in Europe) and the high-technology Silicon Fen concentration of bioscience and software businesses. Cambridge is the base for three Church of England Theological Education Institutions (TEIs): Ridley Hall, Westcott House and the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC).

There are many employment opportunities locally, and Cambridge and other local stations have excellent transport links, with fast trains to London, Stansted and Peterborough (for East Coast Mainline and the Midlands) and there is easy access to the M11, A1 and A14. The area is one of the most economically buoyant and fast-growing in the country, which may be affected by the proposed East West Rail (EWR) link.

Local schools include the seven village primary schools in the Lordsbridge Team area, four of which are Church schools. At secondary level Comberton Village College and Comberton Sixth Form (both rated highly by OFSTED inspections) are in the benefice, and St Bede's is a church secondary school in Cambridge. There are other sixth form options in Cambridge too and various independent schools ranging from pre-prep to sixth form. The Lordsbridge team of churches work with the West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries (WCCYM) on mission strategies for young people.

There are good ecumenical partnerships with local Baptists (Comberton, Barton & Hardwick), Methodists (Haslingfield) and Roman Catholics (gathering in Cambourne or Cambridge). Toft has an LEP between the Methodists and the Anglicans. There are local projects and opportunities to work together in each of these villages.

Across the area there are a range of cafes, shops and pubs which reach beyond their immediate locality, e.g. Coton Orchard Café, Flock at Burwash Manor in Barton, the Blue Lion pub in Hardwick and the café in Haslingfield. There are several farm and village shops and village Post Offices.

This is a beautiful and diverse setting in which to live and minister, with much potential for growing mission and Christian presence.



Outdoor worship at St Mary's, Hardwick



Bread Church at St Andrew's, Toft



Open Gardens at Caledcote Old Rectory



Christmas in Childerley Chapel

8. TEAM COUNCIL

In order to oversee Team-wide activities, there is a Team Council, comprising a lay representative from each parish and the members of the Core Ministry Team, which meets three times a year. This supports Team-wide vision setting, coordinates Ministry Share, employs the Team Administrator, oversees Team communications and other Team-wide projects. Each parish has its own PCC and its own finances, to support decision making at a local level.

TEAM-WIDE ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

Team-wide activities provide ways in which pooling resources can lead to outcomes that would not be possible at an individual parish level and opportunities to bind our parishes together for worship and shared events:

- **SUPPORTING PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY:** An annual Prayer Pilgrimage (part of “Thy Kingdom Come”) encourages congregation members prayerfully to visit other churches in the Team. In different seasons of the church’s year, we offer central resources for the parishes to use to enhance their prayer life, including quiet mornings and online audio and visual material. Since the pandemic we have also offered weekly Zoom Night Prayer.
- **ENCOURAGING LEARNING & DISCIPLESHIP:** The School of Theology, most recently run as a series of evenings in summer 2019, draws on local educators and provides serious theological study for those who wish to explore their faith more deeply. Small groups meet regularly across the team. Cross-parish participation is encouraged for special seasons, such as Lent courses and the Living in Love and Faith course.
- **BEING A TRAINING BENEFICE:** We have a good reputation both as a supportive environment for students for village-based Team ministry and as a place for innovative practices. The Team is also the case study for a PhD study into the ‘mixed ecology of church’, started in 2021.
- **RESOURCING WORSHIP:** Final agreement for the allocation of ministers for Sunday services is made at Core Team level, so that any absences or other gaps are covered, and responsibility is shared. Worship resources created locally are made available for adaptation by colleagues via Dropbox. During the pandemic we developed Zoom services and now having a thriving Sunday morning Zoom congregation. We also produce written resources for ‘Worship at Home’, which are available weekly on our website, along with a weekly reflection for families based on the lectionary readings.
- **ADMINISTRATING WEDDINGS & FUNERALS:** The Team Administrator organises weddings, including banns and invoicing, and couples are invited to an annual Marriage Preparation event run by the incumbents. She is also responsible for much of the standard administration for funerals.
- **COMMUNICATING TEAM-WIDE:** We produce a monthly mailing with news and information about events across the parishes. Our central contact database (IKnowChurch) facilitates communication with people across the parishes.

- **WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE:** We are a member of West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries (WCCYM), an organisation of local churches and youth workers, who run groups in the secondary school and sixth form, host a monthly area-wide youth service, an annual youth weekend and a summer camp.
- **WORSHIPPING AND CELEBRATING TOGETHER:** Fifth Sundays are Lordsbridge Sundays and we invite congregations to “worship with friends or make new ones” at a single service, where we take the opportunity to pool musical and other resources, and have some fun together. Once a year, on the feast of Christ the King, all the churches of the area gather for an area-wide multi-denominational celebration with an invited speaker.



Outdoor United Lordsbridge Fifth Sunday Holy Communion at St Mary's Hardwick

9. THE PARISHES

ST MARY'S HARDWICK

WHO WE ARE

St Mary's Church Hardwick is one of the Lordsbridge team of Churches. Our congregation has its physical base in the modest but beautiful 14th century church building, our brand-new community hall called the Cabin, along with the churchyard and garden. We are a little Church (48 on the electoral roll) with a very big heart. We especially like to express our love for God's world and our neighbours by what we do. This extends not only to what we do as a church but what we do as visible Christian individuals within the village of Hardwick. After all, ...by their fruits you shall know them. *Matthew 7 20.*



St Mary's Church, Hardwick

Whilst we cherish the foundation of the traditional ways of Anglican life, we are open to innovation, creativity and celebration! We like to find new ways of welcoming people and are not afraid of getting stuck into a good project.

WHAT WE DO

We have a 'three trees' vision to focus us on our mission with a strap line of 'Hospitality, Wholeness and Encounter':

- HOSPITALITY IS SYMBOLISED BY THE TREE OF THE KINGDOM ...IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT THE BIRDS COME AND PERCH IN ITS BRANCHES. MATTHEW 13:31-2.



Inside St Mary's Church, Hardwick

We want the Church, the Cabin and the grounds to be a place for many to find hospitality and friendship. We are so proud of the Cabin which we have built and is now being used as a venue for all sorts of village groups and activities. St Mary's Summer Afternoons outdoor café, coffee mornings and seasonal children's activity days are especially popular in the village and now can be held in all weathers in the Cabin and our next project is to host a lunch club. Our campfire circle remains an important symbol of hospitality and is often used for outdoor breakfasts and barbeques.



Handing over the keys to the new Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick (Summer 2020)

- WHOLENESS IS SYMBOLISED BY THE TREE OF LIFE ...ON EACH SIDE OF THE RIVER STOOD THE TREE OF LIFE... AND THE LEAVES OF THE TREE ARE FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS. REVELATION 22:2. We want people in Hardwick to flourish. Offering kindness forms the back bone of what we do. Several of our congregation are pastoral volunteers and visit people in their own homes. The PCC support members of the congregation to host several support groups in the Cabin including a group for new parents, a mindfulness group and a creative art group. Members of the congregation are involved

in the village magazine Hardwick Happenings, uniformed groups, Pippin's community café, the WI, the Friendship Club, Hardwick Climate Action Group, Hardwick Network and the local car scheme. Another important aspect of being kind, is way in which we look after our environment and the planet. We are an Eco church and we have just held our first village Eco day. The peace and tranquillity of our grounds owes much to the work of the volunteer "Last Of The Summer Wine" group who maintain them and encourage biodiversity within them.

- ENCOUNTER IS SYMBOLISED BY THE OAK AT MAMRE ... THE LORD APPEARED TO ABRAHAM NEAR THE GREAT TREES OF MAMRE. GENESIS 18:1.

We want St Mary's to be a place to encounter God. Of course, we have Sunday morning services; two a month are services of the word and two are Holy Communion. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we have a joint service with other members of the Lordsbridge Team. Many of the congregation contribute to the services by doing the readings, compiling and leading the prayers and stewarding. However, worship is not just for Sundays! A number of us meet on Wednesday mornings to pray for the village with members of other churches. A small meditation group meets fortnightly, and a weekly night prayer on zoom is re-starting this autumn. We also have a weekly Toddler Church and a monthly Wild Church for families. Because we are eager to enable more people to encounter God, we are keen to innovate and develop other "fresh expressions of church". During Covid, we found outdoor services were popular and we engaged local people with interactive outdoor installations for Mothers' Day, All Soul's and Remembrance Day. We will build on this in the future.



Tuesday Morning Toddlers at St Mary's, Hardwick

WHERE WE ARE

Hardwick village is surrounded by arable farms but just 10K from the centre of Cambridge (we know because we walk, run and cycle 10K from Great St Mary's in Cambridge to our church as one of our many fun ways to raise money!). Living in our Rectory, you will be able to immerse yourself in South Cambridgeshire village life and access all the culture, history, learning and conveniences of Cambridge City. And with the M11 and A14 on our doorstep, there are great links to other parts of the country. There are just over 1100 households currently in Hardwick, including 100 newly built at the south end of the village. A further 150 houses are being built currently at the top end. We see this growth as a



*Christmas Tree Festival at
St Mary's Hardwick*

mission opportunity, as well as rebalancing the ageing population. There is an outstanding Ofsted rated preschool and a thriving primary school in the village, and an excellent village college in nearby Comberton for secondary and sixth form pupils. The nearest doctors' surgery and dental practice is in Comberton and another doctor's surgery in Bourne. Hardwick has a Nisa shop and post office, pet shop, garage, hairdressers and other small businesses as well as the Blue Lion pub and Sports and Social Club. There is a great community spirit in the village which came into its own in the pandemic.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO NEXT

Like many other rural churches, we need to grow our congregations. We know we need to improve the way we communicate with the wider community and to nurture and develop young families and children.

We want to continue to develop outdoor worship alongside indoor worship.

Now we have the cabin we need to raise the profile of life events in the church i.e. weddings baptisms and funerals and thanksgiving services.

We need to develop our pastoral care team and its reach into the community.

We would like to host more frequent small Bible study groups such as the Pilgrim Group.

WHAT WE THINK WE NEED FROM YOU

We would like you to love us and pray for us.

Whilst we cherish the traditions of our Sunday morning services, we embrace interactive worship activities as we recognise that we all benefit from different ways of learning and growing and we want to ensure that we continue to move with changing times.



Wild Church at St Mary's Hardwick

Thoughtfully produced liturgy is going to be a must: We are very comfortable with our services following the rhythm of the church year. We appreciate good quality reflections which are relevant to our real-life experiences and easily accessed.

We would like you to be a visible presence in the community.

We will need you to be innovative and join with us in our love of celebration and creativity.

We need help thinking through how we make the most of our links with other groups such as the village Friendship club and Colour Wheel (a mindfulness group).

WHAT WE THINK WE CAN OFFER YOU

A peaceful, nature-filled base to live and work in a friendly and vibrant village.

A cheerful, responsive and supportive congregation who will smile at you and pray for you.

A committed and experienced local ministry team who like to work cooperatively and are willing to try something new.

An active and resourceful Events Committee.

Space to develop opportunities created by the Cabin, and to build on good social links into the village.

The opportunity to help us reflect theologically on our concerns: the climate crisis, social injustice, care of the elderly and end-of-life issues, mental health and well-being.

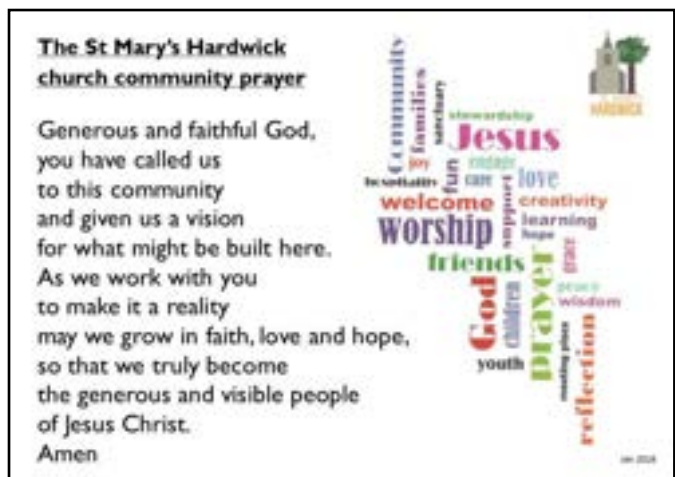
OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

SAFEGUARDING

The PCC of St Mary's adopted the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults in 2018. We are working hard to ensure we fulfil our commitments to make the church as safe as possible for all.

FINANCE

The Cabin project has helped us to trust more in the generosity of God and his people! We have introduced the Parish Giving Scheme and now nearly 75% of our regular giving comes via the scheme. We pay in full the requested Ministry Share (£21,160 in 2022). This is increasing year on year above inflation so that by 2025 the team will pay the full costs of ministry. The General Fund has an average balance of a bit under £7k, and the Fabric Fund for church repairs stands at £14k. We know that there are quinquennial repairs needed, so a fundraising project to raise £60 - 70k for this will be required in 2023. The Cabin has a separate running fund and hopefully will show a modest surplus – having the first year of operation in a pandemic wasn't what we planned!



WHO WE ARE

We are a small church (37 on the electoral roll), in a small village with a population of approximately 600. The ages represented in our congregation range from pre-teenage to 90-year-olds. A small number of families with pre-school age / young children sometimes attend All Age Services. The membership of our PCC reflects the make-up of the congregation; a good number are working full time, some with school age children, some with grown up children, others work part time and others are fully retired. Currently we have a single churchwarden. Our interim lead minister is a retired member of clergy who lives in the village, assisted by an SSM who, in addition to being Lead Chaplain to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, is happy to lead services on a regular basis and chooses to worship in Dry Drayton together with her husband. Worship is also frequently led by lay members of the congregation.



St Peter and St Paul, Dry Drayton

We have longstanding and close links with our thriving Church of England Primary School. We provide two foundation governors who live in the village. During the last 18 months our clergy team, predominantly through the curate, has led weekly assemblies in the school and regular services in the church. The school's motto is 'Small school. Big hearts. Big ambitions.' and we echo this as a small church with a big heart and big ambitions to be salt and light in this village community.

The current church building is predominantly 14th century but has been sensitively re-ordered over the last 30 years, providing one of the more flexible worship and resource spaces in the Lordsbridge Team (with upholstered chairs, a vestry / kitchen, a modern heating system and toilet facilities). This is used for traditional and non-traditional worship of all types and for Lordsbridge, Bourn Deanery and Diocese training events. It has also been used for community events including, concerts, ceilidhs (with dancing), village fund raising events and pop-up cafés.

WHAT WE DO

The church is an integral part of the village being the main worship centre for villagers. The village Methodist Chapel closed in 2016. Our building is also used by a small Quaker meeting on the morning of the first Sunday of every month.

In worship, we currently follow a fixed service pattern with eucharistic services twice a month and a monthly All-Age Service of the Word. In addition, on the first Sunday of every month we offer the only Choral Evensong within the Lordsbridge Team. The choir members are drawn from within the village and from across the Team. This traditional form of service has been maintained over the last 20 years or more. We pride ourselves on a musical heritage and we have a 3 manual organ in fine condition. A small band comprised of local players has supported All Age Worship in the past but has not reconvened since the start of the pandemic. Other services are supported musically by a peripatetic



*St Peter and St Paul,
Dry Drayton*

organist for Choral Evensong and a resident musician for Eucharists; otherwise, recorded music (mp3/mp4) is utilised.

During lockdown, the community has become more aware of the environment which chimes with the churchyard management at St Peter & St Paul, where a significant area has been uncut during the spring and summer months over a period of more than 10 years.

WHERE WE ARE

The village is on the edge of the Cambridge Green Belt and is surrounded by farmland worked by the Agribusiness of PX Farms managed from Scotland Farm just to the south of the village. There is also a complex of small industrial units at the farm, known collectively as Dry Drayton Industries.

An ancient charitable trust, Dry Drayton Townlands, manages 14 acres of 17-year-old woodland on the eastern edge of the village, a place used for daily exercise by many villagers within three quarters of a mile of the village centre. There are just over 200 households in Dry Drayton and although there is no village shop, there is an excellent village pub, and a Village Hall under the overview of the Parish Council. We also have a School and Village Association (S&VA) to ensure that the school facilities are also used for the benefit of the broader community. The S&VA organise regular village events for fund and fun-raising. One of these is Feast Week which in a normal year involves a week of concentrated activities for all ages around the Feast of St Peter (June 29th). This year, as in years gone by, the church held a Patronal Day Service and concert. Over more than 30 years the feast of St Peter has been an important part of S&VA and village life.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO NEXT

We have an ambition to increase the relevance of our church to the community that is largely unaware of its Christian heritage. This will include reviewing everything we currently offer, retaining what is good, like the link to the school, and looking for new areas of opportunity like the environment, in which the church can take a lead and attract those on the edge of the church life. We have been unable to welcome the new residents that have moved into the village during the last two years. It is now time to reach out to them to provide an environment in which friendship and faith can be nurtured. We would like to make our church more welcoming for everyone in the village, across the Lordsbridge Team and beyond and maybe build on our musical heritage.



*Christmas at St Peter and St Paul,
Dry Drayton*

WHAT WE THINK WE NEED FROM YOU

We would like you to love us and pray for us and we would like you to be a visible presence in Dry Drayton, although we recognise that this will be difficult in a parish where you will not be resident. We would like you to work with us collaboratively to meet the challenge of being *generous and visible people of Jesus Christ* (Ely Vision 2025) as we seek to serve the people of the parish, the people that we meet in other contexts and the wider world. Above all we need your help to continue to grow in our faith.



*Contemplative Prayer at St Peter and St Paul,
Dry Drayton*

WHAT WE THINK WE CAN OFFER YOU

An exciting opportunity to re-imagine what ‘church’ can look like in a semi-rural setting – with fewer concerns and obstacles frequently associated with ancient church buildings.

A chance to ‘get to know and become known’ in a small parish context through the existing community assets of school, pub, S&VA, small local businesses, etc.

The prayerful and practical support of committed and experienced clergy and lay folk (all of us!) in the shared mission of seeking to share God’s love and build God’s kingdom in Dry Drayton.

An opportunity to contribute to a Christian perspective on and engage actively with some essential kingdom priorities for our age e.g. environmental and local development concerns; education and nurturing of families and children; sustainability of local businesses and industries; social care and end-of-life issues in our community.

Fun in a happy but not complacent church.

OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

SAFEGUARDING

The PCC of St Peter and St Paul’s adopted the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults in 2018. We are working hard to ensure we fulfil our commitments to make the church as safe as possible for all.

FINANCE

Our church benefits from a healthy balance sheet, incorporating a significant legacy which has financed major restoration and repairs over the last 10 years. As at 31/12/20 the combined reserves stood at £46,800, of which the General fund was £6,300. In addition to regular giving, over £14,400 in 2020, a general appeal to support the church during the pandemic attracted donations in excess of £5,500 from the wider community. Although our Ministry Share of £14,565 in 2020 remains unchanged for 2021, costs are expected to exceed revenues by about 10% this year.

Generous giving is our joyful response to God’s grace so we have an ambition to make a full tythe from our total income. However in the last two years we have distributed 5% equally to the school and four charities. In 2020, these were Cambridge City Foodbank, Centre 33, Médecins Sans Frontière and the

Kigali Diocese. In the previous three years we had supported Livability, Street Pastors, Mercy Ships and the Tear Fund.

The church building is in good order having had significant refurbishment to the Tower during lockdown and a full replacement of the 18th roof covering. We know that there are ongoing quinquennial repairs needed but these can be covered from current resources.

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, CALDECOTE WITH CHILDERLEY

WHO WE ARE

We are a diverse bunch, with some who are primarily part of the zoom congregation, some who worship together monthly in church, and many who are friends that support the church in countless ways but do not worship with us regularly.



St Michael and All Angels Church, Caldecote

There are 23 on the electoral roll. There are 7 on the PCC, who oversee the governance, leadership finances of the church, including a superb treasurer. We do not have a church warden, but one particular couple take a strong lead on maintaining the fabric of the church, and a few others have taken a lead in community and social projects. Our current vicar is the Rev'd David Newton, who will be stepping down from his role as Lead Minister in Caldecote with Childerley when the new Team Vicar starts.



Childerley Chapel

We see ourselves as being one church with three venues. We meet in the 12th Century Church, St Michael and All Angels. We meet for some special services in the Chapel at Childerley Hall, a historic estate chapel which was re-consecrated in the 19th Century. And we have also regularly met (although we do not do so currently) in Caldecote Village Hall, in Highfields Caldecote, where most of the housing is found.

The parish runs from the bottom of Main Street, through Highfields Caldecote, up to and including Childerley Estate. It consists of a small hamlet, where St Michael and All Angels' is situated, the main housing development of Highfields, and Childerley, which includes the main Hall and 20 or so farm cottages. The total population of the parish is around 1650.



The Village Hall

WHAT WE DO

PRESENCE AND PLACE



Conversation after the Carol Service at St Michael and All Angels'

We maintain a beating heart of prayer in the historic church through a monthly service of Holy Communion. We bring a much wider group of worshippers together for major festivals at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. We maintain a churchyard that it is both beautiful and promotes biodiversity. We welcome families to celebrate and to mourn (we have two baptisms coming up this summer). Some of the community are also a part of the Lordsbridge Zoom congregation.

PARTNERSHIPS

We partner with the local school. David, the vicar, goes in to take assemblies and some RE lessons. We have developed a 'Summer Hamper Scheme' which offers a weekly food hamper (or sometimes voucher) to families who have children in receipt of Free School Meals. This programme is now in its fifth year. We are also currently partnering with the school in the development of the 'Lordsbridge Discovery Choir' which seeks to form a children's choir to sing at Sunday services on a half termly basis in some of the churches across the team. We hope to start this in September.



The vicar also sits as a trustee of Sitwell's Trust and Townlands, which is an ancient trust set up for 'the poor of the parish'.

COMMUNITY



Childerley Open Gardens

The church seeks to be present at and in many community events and groups. Many who are part of the church are highly involved in village life, and the vicar has spoken at or visited various community groups. The Open Garden events run on behalf of the church are a fantastic fundraiser and also a highlight in the life of the community. These are run by Childerley Hall and the Old Rectory. There is traditionally also a Village Open Gardens as well, that is organised by the church.

All of this is possible because of the small but dedicated group of people around the church and the many friends who support it.

WHERE WE ARE

We are located just to the West of Hardwick, running South to Toft Road, and North up to and including Childerley Estate.

We are surrounded by beautiful countryside and farmland; Hardwick wood is just to the East of the parish. There is a good primary school, a well furnished village hall, a pavilion and large recreation ground, a



St Michael and All Angels' at sunset

hairdresser and salon, and a petrol station with a shop at the top of the village. There is no bus through the village, but one goes from the top of Highfields on a regular basis.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO NEXT

We want to celebrate the small things we do and be confident in them, less concerned with what we cannot do, and more concerned with what we can offer: 'presence and place', 'partnerships', and 'community'.

We also recognise the opportunity and need to look to develop something more in Highfields. This may be a new congregation, or it may be other forms of mission through social outreach and community engagement.

WHAT WE THINK WE NEED FROM YOU

As the other parishes have written, we would like you to love us and pray for us and to be a visible presence in the parish, whilst recognising the challenges of this in the multi parish context.

We would like you to lead us in discerning what we might be able to develop in and for Highfields Caldecote, being willing to take a risk and open to the possibility of failure.

We would like you to be there for the whole people of the parish, seeking to build the common good for all, and partnering with others in seeking to identify and combat social need.

WHAT WE THINK WE CAN OFFER YOU

A small but dedicated group, who ensure that the finances, fabric and governance are all in good order.

A smooth handover from the current vicar and as much support from him, as Team Rector, as desired in developing new initiatives.

An opportunity to work with those within the church, and outside of it, in seeking the common good of the village. In particular, the ability to build upon excellent relations with the primary school.

The space to be creative and try new things; a willingness to give things a go and see what God does.

OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

SAFEGUARDING

The PCC of St Michael and All Angels' has adopted the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults in 2018. We are working hard to ensure we fulfil our commitments to make the church as safe as possible for all.

FINANCE

Our finances are healthy and we pay our ministry share in full each year (circa £10K). Thanks to the excellent work of the previous church warden many people give through the Parish Giving Scheme. We have a 'Friends' account which is a restricted fund for capital fabric expenditure. We spent £13K from this in 2021 to repair the roof, and this fund now has £11K in it. Our current account had just over £6k at year end. In 2021, we had surplus of £2,500 income over expenditure on operating costs. There is also a restricted fund, held centrally by the Team, of £1,500 for use in developing any new initiatives in Highfields Caldecote.

10. THE VICARAGE

Hardwick Rectory is a spacious and secluded home next door to the church and in walking distance from the village primary school and local shops. Cambridge is nearby, accessible by bus, and there is an active village community. (<https://www.hardwick-cambs.org.uk/> or join the village Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hardwick.cambridge>)

Outside, there is ample parking, a garage and a large garden that surrounds the house, including lawns, flower beds, veg patch, two small ponds, fruit trees and woodland area. Downstairs, the house has a spacious dual-aspect living room with an open fire and French doors out to a small patio, a dining room, a recently renovated kitchen with adjoining utility room and store and a shower room with toilet. There is also a dual-aspect Minister's Study with numerous fitted bookshelves. Upstairs there are four well-proportioned bedrooms; two doubles and two singles, all with built-in storage. The master is dual-aspect and has a handbasin. There is a family bathroom with a separate toilet. The central heating is gas fired. The house is accessed by a concrete track shared with another home, the Cabin, the village allotments, playground users and farm traffic.



The front of the house taken from the car parking area. The Minister's Study is to the right of the front door and the kitchen window is to the left.



The back of the house. The patio doors from the living room are on the left. The covered entrance to the right houses the back door which leads directly into the utility room as well as access to a storeroom and the garage.



The living room looking through to the dining room.



The living room showing the open fire.

11. BOURN DEANERY

Lordsbridge is part of the Bourn deanery which, as well as the Lordsbridge Team, consists of the Papworth Team Ministry and Cambourne Church, a four-way ecumenical partnership in a nearby new settlement. Revd Priscilla Slusar, a retired minister and member of the Lordsbridge Chapter, is our Rural Dean. Because of the unusual make-up of the deanery, deanery meetings other than synod are rare. The Rural Dean provides support for the Deanery Chapter and aids communication between the diocese and the parishes.

There are two large new settlements planned within the deanery. One is an extension of 2350 houses to Cambourne (an existing new town) to the west and the other is a self-contained settlement of 3500 houses on an old airfield, known as Bourn airfield, on the northwest boundary of the Lordsbridge Team. The deanery's response to this has recently resulted in the allocation of diocesan funding for a pioneer post and agreement in principle of a Bishop's Mission Order to cover mission in the two new settlements and develop relationships with other churches and church groups on the ground. There are further new housing developments, on a smaller scale, within some of the Lordsbridge villages.

The diocese is just embarking on a Deanery Planning exercise linked to the Living Ely 2025 documentation. Full details of this can be found on the Diocesan website www.elydiocese.org

The Diocese of Ely recognizes the importance of good relationships with clergy and laity, and places an emphasis on well-being. Bishop's Study Days and CME grants provide opportunities for clergy to meet together and continue to develop their knowledge and skills.



West of Cambridge Churches Joint Service at Comberton Leisure