



**The Church of St Andrew and St Mary,
Grantchester
and
St Mark's, Newnham**



Parish Profile 2024

INTRODUCTION

Newnham is a 15 minute walk or 5 minute cycle from the centre of Cambridge. It has a strong sense of community and the character and feel of a village. Grantchester is a small village, surrounded by fields but only 10 minutes bike ride from Newnham along the River Cam. Between them, the two parishes offer the best of both town and rural life.

We are two welcoming parishes with committed congregations worshipping in a central tradition. We take excellent care of our clergy, who are ably supported by strong teams of volunteers. We are financially stable and pay our parish shares in full.

We are seeking a vicar who will lead us with a sense of vision, and a focus on mission, to help us meet the challenges that we face and unlock our potential for spiritual and numerical growth.

(For clarification, the two churches are known locally as Grantchester Church and St Mark's.)



St Mark's, Newnham

WORSHIP

People attending both churches come from a range of theological and church traditions but all are comfortable with the Anglican liturgy celebrated in a central style. We have a great clergy team consisting of our full-time stipendiary curate The Revd Bethan Rodden who will be in the parishes until Summer 2025, two associate priests (SSM) and a licensed lay minister. Services are taken by all members of the clergy team which ensures that the incumbent doesn't need to be present at every service, and the core team is well-supported by other ordained clergy on an ad hoc basis. We have strong links with Ridley Hall and Westcott House theological colleges and enjoy having ordinands learning on placement in our parishes.

Weekly services and congregation numbers

	St Mark's		Grantchester Church	
1 st Sunday	8am Communion (BCP)	9.30am Communion	11.15am Communion	
2 nd Sunday	8am Communion (BCP)	9.30am Morning Worship	10.30am breakfast of croissant and coffee 11.15am Communion Family service	
3 rd Sunday	8am Communion (BCP)	9.30am Communion	11.15am Communion	6.00pm Evensong
4 th Sunday	8am Communion (BCP)	9.30am Communion	11.15am Matins	
5 th Sunday	8am Communion (BCP)	Joint service alternating between the two churches		
St Mark's attendance				
8am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	Tuesday	Easter 2023	Christmas 2023
12-15	70—80	8—12	142	209
Grantchester Church attendance				
11.15am Holy Communion	11.15am Matins	6pm Evensong	Easter 2023	Christmas 2023
37	18	New service	75	202
	Electoral Roll	Baptisms/ Confirmations	Weddings	Funerals/internment of ashes
Grantchester Church	80	3 Baptisms	5	7
St Mark's	109	6 Confirmations	0	7

GRANTCHESTER CHURCH

We are quite traditional in our weekly style of worship, but not at all dull or stick in the mud. We are very welcoming and like sermons that make us think. We have a loyal set of people living out of the village who want a rural church atmosphere and who come to us to get it. We attract a lot of visitors from a range of denominations, countries and faith backgrounds both to the church and to services; all are welcome at the Lord's table.

We have a rota of organists. We don't have a regular choir, but there are a number of talented singers and instrumentalists who participate in the annual Carol Service, which fills the church, and other occasional special events. This year we



Grantchester Church

have reinstated Evensong once a month and we plan that visiting choirs will occasionally sing at this service.

Families and children help in the running of the monthly family services; including reading, handing out hymn books, saying intercessions and setting up. Several enjoy watching or helping the altar being set-up for Communion. Breakfast is served before the family service. We currently have two families who regularly attend the family service.



We believe that it's important to create and sustain 'the fellowship of the church' and part of that involves chatting, eating and drinking together - from coffee and croissants before family services, to sloe gin on arrival at the carol service (this is East Anglia, it can be very cold in the church in winter!), to our very popular "Hymns and Pimms" services. We have recently re-ordered the south aisle, removing pews at the back to create a multi-use space for fellowship such as sit down lunches which we have served to both Bishop Stephen and Bishop Dagmar.

ST MARK'S

We are a thoughtful congregation who appreciate our first-rate sermons, and the quality of our services. Our Morning Worship (2nd Sunday) is occasionally led by lay members of the congregation. Music is a very important part of our worship; we have a small robed choir that leads singing at the 9.30am service most Sundays and this is supported by a paid Choir Director and two regular organists. St Mark's has an excellent organ which underwent a major rebuild in 2015 paid for by funds raised by the congregation. Post-service the congregation will often sit and listen to our organist perform. Coffee is served in the Community Centre after every 9.30am service.

Junior Church is held on three Sundays each month while the 9.30am service is in progress. Children and leaders begin in church, before going across to the Community Centre where they listen to a Godly Play Story and have the opportunity to wonder and respond. We have an average of 6-8 children at each session, with a total of 12 children registered with us. We also have a children's area in the church where younger children can draw or play during the service.



We have additional services during the year including in Lent, Advent, and at All Souls. We invite the local Scout groups of all ages to join our Remembrance Service and we had a congregation of over 200 at our 2023 service at which our War Memorial was re-dedicated.

Every Tuesday we have Communion (BCP) at 11am. It is well-loved by those who attend and allows for midweek fellowship, with

conversation and coffee following the service. There are opportunities to consider whether this ministry might be used to develop Anna Chaplaincy, or a dementia care space, or even a carers café.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

ST MARK'S

We are a very lively church with lots going on, particularly social and arts events which are a very important part of our church life and attract many members of the local community. We hope that our new Vicar will enjoy these as much as we do.

We have a number of groups that submit reports to the PCC (see Appendix for a full list) including -

The Social Team

Our social team is central to life at St Marks. We organise our community lunches, and the Spring and Autumn Fairs on the lawn at the front of church. These are a great way of connecting with the local Newnham community. Our Coronation Fair raised over £1,600 with proceeds split between The Prince's Trust and the DEC Turkey Earthquake Appeal. Our Autumn Fair raised over £1,200 split between church funds and Save the Children East Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal.



The Arts and Events Team

For us at St Mark's, music and drama are wonderful ways of meeting each other, of engaging with the deeper questions, and exploring faith. Our wide-ranging events bring people together both within the church and the wider community. Over the years we've produced and hosted plays, film evenings, concerts, choral extravaganzas and much more besides. We also prepare dramatic performances, readings or musical reflections for us to use in our services.

The Education and Discipleship Team

Our team creates opportunities for the congregation to grow in faith and the knowledge of Christ, and to share our faith with others. We organise regular teaching and study events including Advent groups, and Lent or Easter talks, and the annual retreat day. We oversee three thriving home groups, run groups for beginners in the faith, and maintain the church library.

The Eco Church Team

We aim to anchor ecological themes through our church life, including through worship, teaching, buildings and lifestyle. We frequently partner with our community to learn from one another and engage together in ecological matters. We have the Rocha Eco Church Silver award, and hope to achieve the Gold award when our Lighting Appeal is completed.

The Visiting Group

We have a small team of pastorally-minded volunteers who informally visit, and seek to support members of the congregation and our local community.

Our Parish Magazine SEEK is published every month and contains details of everything going on at St Mark's. An online copy is available on the [St Mark's website](#).

Children's Work

We are very keen to continue to build our children's ministry. Until January 2024 we employed a Children's Worker for 20 hours a week before she left to take on a church education role in Cambridge. We are hoping that volunteers in the congregation will continue with our children's work over the coming months, but we think it is important for our new Vicar to appoint our next Children's Worker. Currently we run –

Junior Church (see above)



Messy Church is held once a month on a Tuesday afternoon after school. We have various craft activities, listen to a story and sing songs together before going across to the hall to share a meal. We currently have around 20 families registered for this, with the majority coming from our local primary school.

Toddles is held every week on a Thursday morning. This is our 'stay and play' group for children and their parents or carers. This is often a family's first point of contact with the church, and it is especially valuable for parents who are new to Cambridge – often they have moved from overseas and have no local support, and so it is particularly important that we make them feel welcome here. We have around 8 children attending each session, and parents and carers appreciate our smaller size (compared to some city centre groups) as it helps their children learn to socialise without the pressures of a larger group.



M&Ms is a youth group that we run jointly with the church in Trumpington. The structure is informal, and we spend the majority of time playing and eating with some time set aside for discussion on a faith topic that links with current affairs, for example the environment and creation care.

GRANTCHESTER CHURCH

At the heart of Grantchester Church's activity is our commitment to community events. We organise a delightfully fun church fete and an annual pancake party full of laughter and syrup as well as a family treasure hunt in the churchyard and 'Pizza by Candlelight' Advent event for children. When the village school closed we combined with Barton C of E School. We have a foundation governor appointed by our PCC and Barton School holds its Christingle service at Grantchester.



The Friends of Grantchester Church are great supporters of the church building and its place in the community. The committee organises an annual event, and members have contributed generously to help maintain and improve the church buildings and furniture.

The Grantchester Parish Magazine is delivered to 90% of the houses in the parish. It is a church magazine that provides a wide range of relevant and topical information for the village. The vicar will be asked to write the opening letter. Digital copies of the magazine can be found on the [Grantchester village website](#).

‘Grantchester’ filming. Whilst this is not strictly a church activity it does play an important role within our church life and many of our congregation have been extras. Grantchester is now in its 9th series. Typically the filming takes up about 2 to 3 separate weeks a year and our church fabric secretary has been the main liaison. It usually involves filming in the church and various other parts of the village including the front of the vicarage (not inside). Relations with the film company are very positive and it provides a useful source of income for the church. The vicar receives payment for filming at the vicarage. It has increased our flow of visitors significantly.

OUR COMMUNITIES

GRANTCHESTER

The church is a very evident part of village life, even for those who only attend on high days and holidays, when the normal Sunday congregation of 20-30 swells to over 100 – a high proportion of the 540 population of the village. The vicar is seen as a leader in the community.

The village is very supportive of the church; from volunteering for the churchyard working parties to arranging flowers in church.

Grantchester has a very rural feel and for a small village there is a lot going on. We have many visitors who simply enjoy the walk along the meadows, are interested in Rupert Brooke, have come to visit the filming for the TV series or visit one of our four pubs or the famous Orchard Tea Garden.

But to most of the residents, we are simply a very lovely place to live and grow up. We have a good community spirit and lots of well supported activities (and pubs). The After Eights is a women’s network of 40+ members and an age range from 30 to 90+. It meets

once a month and is brilliant for networking, fun and support. There is a formidable cricket team that plays on the meadow by the river or you may prefer to go for a paddle or a swim. There is an excellent and well-maintained Village Hall, which is well-used for numerous different events including jumble sales, art exhibitions, a computer support club, painting classes and exercise classes which are attended by local residents.

Every year over 1000 people turn out on Boxing Day for the Grantchester Barrel Rolling (you can google it on YouTube). Many other village events happen throughout the year, including apple pressing, the autumn 10k and 3k fun run, and an annual Christmas children's party. If this is not enough, Cambridge is a walk, bike or short drive away.



Within the village, 51% of housing is owner occupied, 23% privately rented and 26% rented from the local authority or housing associations. There is an estate that includes council sheltered housing. Whilst the village community tries to be inclusive, there are those who feel isolated and in need of support. In 2015 the Grantchester CAN (Car and Neighbourhood) Scheme was

set up. The Grantchester Village Trust funds a fortnightly minibus trip to the supermarket and has funds to provide grants to villagers for heating and other needs. The vicar has traditionally sat on this committee.

NEWNHAM

Newnham has a population of 2,850 and is a very special place to live. It is a prosperous community; a mix of established residents but also students and visiting academics who may only stay for two or three years. High house prices mean it's often difficult for young families to buy in this area. There is a social housing retirement complex – Lammas Court. Our parish includes Wolfson College (a college for mature students) and Kings College, Queens' and Darwin graduate and post-graduate accommodation and we are keen to find ways to reach out to these older students.

St Mark's Church, with its open lawn to the front, is located on the main road in Newnham, next door to the Red Bull pub. Behind the church is our much-valued Community Centre owned and run by the church, but very much used as a central hub for the wider Newnham community. Around 400 people visit the Community Centre every week where classes range from bridge to pilates, intermediate French to children's ballet. A local dramatic society rehearses there weekly, and at weekends it's often booked for children's parties.

Local amenities include a butcher, chemist, French bakery, Co-op and a wonderful general store/post office which is at the heart of Newnham life. Lammas Land with its play areas,

paddling pool, bowls club and tennis court is a wide open green space two minutes walk from St Mark's. At Christmas there's the popular Carols at the Kiosk next to the paddling pool. In the Summer residents come from all over the city to relax on Lammas Land, and walk and picnic in Grantchester Meadows. We also have the Paradise Nature Reserve within the parish. There's a Social and Sports Club as well as the Red Bull pub, two Language schools, and Newnham Walk doctor's surgery is just outside the parish boundary.

Newnham Croft Primary School is our highly-regarded local school, a few minutes walk from St Mark's. With 230 pupils on the role, a significant number are the children of visiting academics so there is a rich cultural diversity within the school. Before Covid we organised regular 'Open the Book' assemblies but due to the pandemic and the retirement of some key members, this ministry has lapsed. We are making new links with the school but this is in its infancy and would be an exciting opportunity for our new vicar to take forward.



Phil and Neera at Derby Stores, Newnham

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

ST MARK'S CHALLENGES

St Mark's organised an Open Meeting, and a questionnaire to encourage feedback on our strengths, the challenges we face, and our hopes for the future. Overwhelmingly, the response showed that our chief challenge is our ageing congregation. We may be young and enthusiastic in spirit but as our volunteers grow older there will soon be a lack of people to take over their duties. **We need a vision for mission and growth for the next 10 years.**

*How do we engage with families with young children and grow our children's work?

*How do we make St Mark's church, with all it offers, even more relevant to the people of our community?

*How do we minister to the increasing number of Post-grads residing in Newnham?

*How do we attract people in their 40s & 50s to join our church?

*How do we ensure that the Vicar, whilst residing in Grantchester, is highly visible to Newnham residents?

GRANTCHESTER CHURCH'S CHALLENGES

Grantchester Church's main challenge, as it is for St Mark's, is our ageing congregation and we too need a vision for mission and growth. We believe that Grantchester Church has the potential to grow, and the high proportion of the Electoral Roll (26%) who live outside the parish seems to imply that we have something special to offer that can attract a wider congregation.

Our family focused events have a good turnout but we would like to attract more families into the church on a regular basis.

With an ageing congregation, one challenge we face is how to provide the best pastoral care.

We receive many visitors and tourists to our church. One of our challenges is how best to minister to them and provide them with a spiritual experience; not just a visit to a film set.

We are an energetic PCC but looking after an old church takes quite a lot of our meeting time and we are keen to ensure that our spiritual focus is not eclipsed by the challenge of maintaining the church fabric. The possibility of home groups has been suggested by some of the congregation but has not been explored.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- ◆ A vicar who will lead us with a sense of vision, and focus on mission, helping us to meet the challenges that we face and unlock our potential for spiritual and numerical growth.
- ◆ A vicar who is keen to forge links with the local communities and will help to inspire us to be the people of God in this place, and to work towards making Christ more real in our community.
- ◆ A vicar who genuinely likes and gets on with people, and works well as part of a team.
- ◆ A vicar who will be very visible in our communities.
- ◆ A vicar who can teach, and preach a good, thought-provoking sermon!
- ◆ A vicar who is keen to support the cultural life of the churches; our quality music and drama, and will enjoy participating in our social events.
- ◆ A vicar who takes pastoral care seriously.



WHAT WE CAN OFFER

We take REALLY good care of our clergy; both churches have dedicated church wardens and enthusiastic committee members and there is always a range of people to help out. We are positive and encouraging, are rigorous about giving clergy time off, and committed to paying full clergy expenses.

St Mark's has a paid choir master, and parish administrator, and a community centre administrator. The Grantchester PCC has agreed to finance up to one day a week of administrative help; however the previous incumbent chose only to have administrative support in St Marks.

ACCOMMODATION



The vicarage is in Grantchester in a lovely location on the High Street adjacent to the Church. It is a good sized 4-bedroom family house comprising 2 large double bedrooms (one en-suite), and 2 small double bedrooms and a family bathroom. There's a good-sized kitchen, living room and drawing room, a large study/meeting room, plus a small study and utility space. (See Appendix for floor plan.) There's a pleasant, secluded and private back garden with lawned and patio areas, and we will continue to pay for a gardener to maintain the vicarage garden. There is a detached garage, as well as space in front of the house for off-street parking.

Our catchment schools are Barton C of E Primary School (Ofsted 'Good') and Comberton Village College (Ofsted 'Outstanding'). Some primary children attend Coton and Newnham Croft Schools and some go to private schools. There is no school in the parish.

CHURCH PROPERTY AND LAND

GRANTCHESTER CHURCH

The building is in good condition, with recently installed lighting, sound system and Wi-Fi. A current building project for which we have now received planning permission and faculty approval is to renovate the vestry and create level access to the church by changing the levels of the churchyard path and the church door. We are planning to carry out this work between January and early April 2025, during which time the church will need to be closed. Our church fabric secretary is a retired conservation architect and we have a steering group set up to oversee the project. We have a good team, both paid and volunteers, who clean the church weekly, maintain the churchyards, arrange flowers, clean the brasses and lock and unlock daily.

The Patronage of Grantchester benefice is in the hands of Corpus Christi College which is also responsible for maintenance of the chancel.

We have a lockable vestry with safe and a small wheelchair accessible toilet block adjacent to the entrance to the churchyard.

Grantchester Church also has an open burial ground with wild flower areas. The churchyard is managed with a sympathetic approach to nature. We have recently re-landscaped our Garden of Remembrance. There are three or four churchyard working parties every year.

ST MARK'S

Our church property is in very good repair. We have a dedicated Church Maintenance team who take good care of our church and Community Centre. We have an excellent sound system, warm heating, and are currently raising funds for the St Mark's Lighting Appeal. We have a design which improves our lighting and reduces our carbon footprint which we hope to implement in Summer 2024. The lighting faculty has been approved by the Ely Diocese. The Community Centre consists of a kitchen, small hall and large hall. Bookings and invoicing are undertaken by a paid employee.

St Mark's has an open burial ground with wildflower meadow located just over a mile from Newnham.



FINANCES

GRANTCHESTER CHURCH

Overall Grantchester Church finances are very strong and we have always paid our parish share. We have an experienced, ex-accountant treasurer. Whilst we have benefitted from generous bequests, one-off donations and filming fees from the Grantchester TV series, our monthly income does not always match our outgoings.

ST MARK'S

We are in a strong financial position thanks to the generosity of St Mark's parishioners over the years from regular giving and generous bequests, and due to the first class skills of our dedicated treasurer. St Mark's is a Registered charity No. 1134157.

CHARITABLE GIVING

ST MARK'S

We have a Charity of the Month whereby we seek donations from individuals from the church and the Parish to support charities suggested by church members. In addition, any loose plate collections at services on the second Sunday of the month are donated to the charity. In 2024 these will include Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and Embrace the Middle East.

We support the Diocese of Gombe, Nigeria, through the Charity of the Month and in the last 10 years this has allowed us to donate over £40,000 in total. This money has helped them complete a Midwifery unit, schoolrooms, water supplies and many other projects.

Thanks to our Charity of the Month and Autumn and Spring Fairs we are able to raise approx. £15,000 every year for charitable causes. We also support Foodbank, with a monthly collection in the church and around Newnham and Grantchester, and have just started a joint-initiative with the Newnham Co-op.

GRANTCHESTER CHURCH

We donate 10% of the filming fees to charities discussed and agreed by the PCC each filming season. Collections and donations from various services are donated to the relevant Charity including the Christingle (Children's Society), Harvest Festival (Farming related charities), Remembrance (Royal British Legion), and Gift service (Women's Aid/Refuge). The Carol Service has supported the East Anglian Children's Hospice for the last few years. Over the last 5 years we have donated over £22,000.



APPENDICES

Floor plan of Grantchester Vicarage



Groups that submit reports to St Mark's PCC

Social Events

Arts Events

Education and Discipleship

Eco Church

Visiting Group

Children and Families

Church Maintenance

Community Centre

Finance

Deanery Synod

Contacts and Website Information

More information is available from our websites

St Mark's : <https://stmarksnewnham.org/>

Grantchester Church : <https://church.grantchester.org.uk/>