



The Parishes of
Exning with Landwade
and
Exning St Agnes



WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

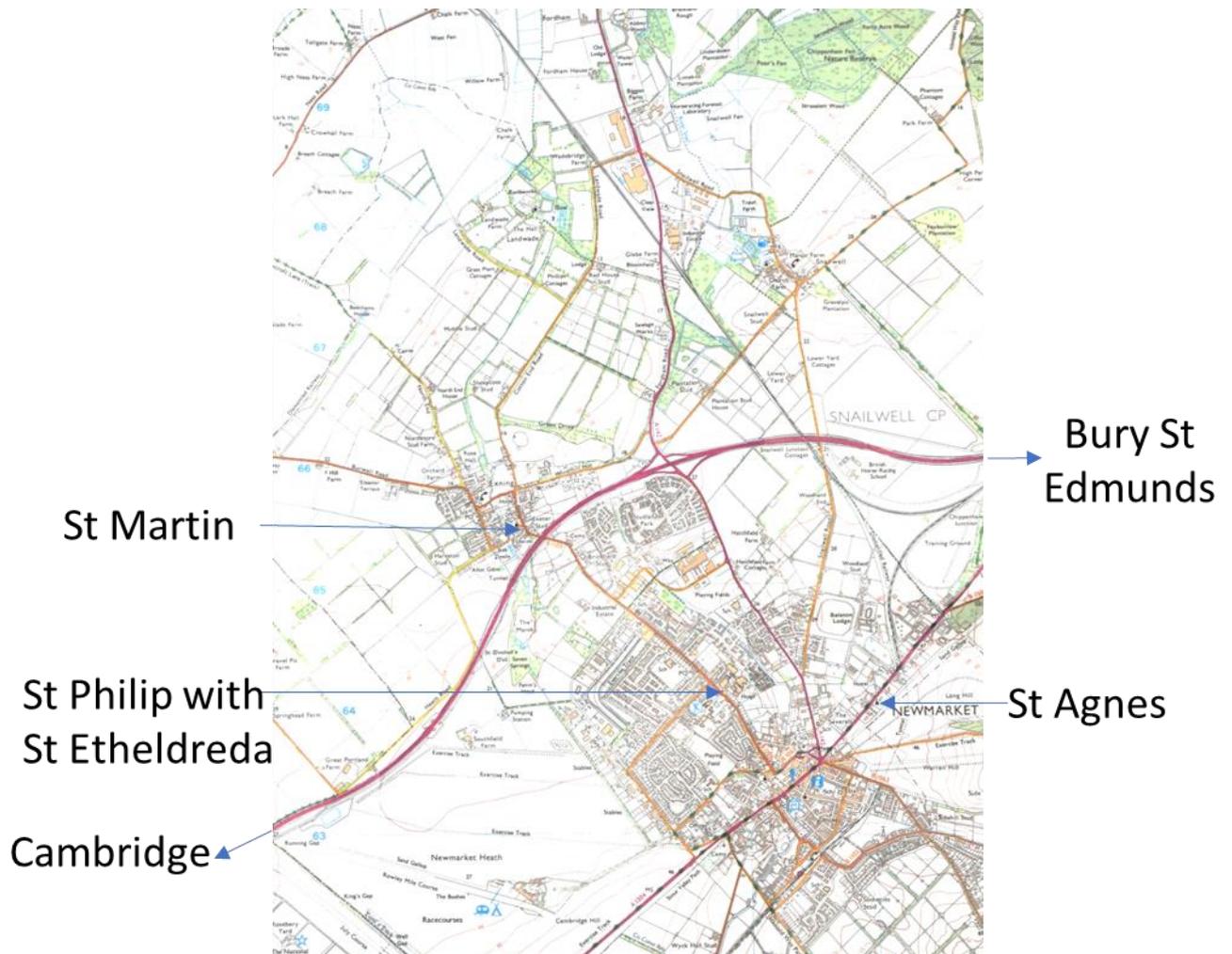
The two parishes of “Exning St Martin with Landwade” and “Exning St Agnes” are coming together and seek to appoint initially a 0.5 stipend Priest in Charge to serve them both. Ideally, our new priest will be someone who -

- Has strong personal faith and a calling to bring God’s word to life through prayer, action and teaching, making it relevant to all.
- Has a creative and enthusiastic approach to ministry and mission.
- Will be a visible presence in the parishes.
- Possesses active listening skills and is readily able to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds and understand their needs and aspirations.
- Is an open and engaging person whose style of working makes everyone feel welcome and valued as a member of our church family.
- Enables collaborative ministry and vision through leadership, facilitating growth in the church through current activities and new ideas.
- Values involvement of the laity and desires to nurture their spiritual growth.
- Can see themselves having a long-term commitment to the parishes.
- Has concern for people of all ages and is able to support our work with children and young people and our outreach to the elderly.
- Appreciates and is comfortable with a variety of forms of liturgy, both traditional and modern.
- Wishes to work alongside other denominations and faiths in the area.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

The priest will receive a stipend and a modern, 4-bedroom vicarage as a home. More importantly, the parishes are committed to support and help the new priest in every way possible. Our friendship, prayers and hands are offered. We have an active and friendly team of clergy and laity, who will be respectful of the working hours of our new priest. Together we will grow our faith, our spirituality and our congregations and be seen as a valuable asset and resource within our areas of Newmarket and Exning.

THE LOCATION OF THE PARISHES



The parishes of Exning with Landwade and Exning St Agnes are in the Mildenhall Deanery. They are situated in the extreme west of the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich in the county of Suffolk. The parish church of Exning St Martin lies in the village of Exning and its sister church, St Philip's with St Etheldreda, is in north Newmarket (see the map above). The parish church of Exning St Agnes lies on the Bury Road to the east of Newmarket Town Centre. Newmarket is also home to the parishes of St Mary's, which covers the west of the town, and All Saints', which covers the south.

As at 2018, the populations of the two parishes were 10,037 (Exning with Landwade) and 440 (Exning St Agnes), respectively. Together, they extend over a mixture of rural, suburban and urban areas.

Newmarket is at the heart of a triangle comprising the university city of Cambridge, historic Ely and the lovely market town of Bury St Edmunds, which is home to our diocesan Cathedral. Each of these is less than 15 miles away. The nearby A14 makes Bury St Edmunds and Cambridge easily accessible and provides good links to the Motorway network. Trains from Newmarket station run between Cambridge and Ipswich. Mainline services from Cambridge and Ely connect with the rest of the country. The fastest trains from Cambridge to London take less than an hour.

Newmarket is the world-famous headquarters of thoroughbred racing which was first established by Charles I but really came to prominence in the reign of Charles II. Much of this racing heritage can still be found in the town today. Roughly 3,000 horses are in training here and many stud farms are located in the surrounding countryside. One of the benefits of this industry is that the town is almost completely encircled by the vast training grounds which are open to the public for much of the day.

There are good shopping facilities in the centre of the town and on the outskirts. Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds both have much larger shopping centres with several department stores. There are a variety of restaurants in Newmarket and three good hotels. The local sports centre and swimming pool were re-built about five years ago. The nationally significant nature reserves and wetland areas of Wicken Fen and Lakenheath Fen are just a few miles away.

Since 2018, a further development of 140 houses has been completed in Exning with a similar number being built in a second phase in the same area. Work has also started on another housing development close to the A142/A14 junction which lies within the parish. The housing is approximately 70% owner-occupied, with the remainder being rented. The population is expected to grow steadily over the next few years.

EMPLOYMENT

The majority of employment is connected to the racing industry. There are also several large retail employers and a range of light industries. Many residents commute to Cambridge or further afield.

SCHOOLS

There are five schools in the parishes, comprising an 11-16 senior school (Newmarket Academy), three 5-11 Community Primary Schools and one private 3-11 school. None of these is a church school but the parishes nevertheless maintain good links with all of the primary schools, for example by attending assemblies, leading "Open the Book" sessions and hosting visits to our churches.

OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The parishes also include two Nursing Homes for the elderly - Kingfisher House and Brampton Manor - and a sheltered accommodation complex developed by a Methodist trust - Exning Court.

OTHER FACTORS

Exning village has a Parish Council and Newmarket, a Town Council. Both are within the West Suffolk Council area.

Previous priests have been ex-officio trustees of two local charities - the Bottisham Charity and the Exning Charity, which support the poor in the two parishes. Another charity - Fabian and Morden - is administered by the priest and churchwardens of the parish of Exning with Landwade and makes grants to support the young and the elderly within that parish.

MINISTRY IN THE PARISHES

During the current vacancy, the parishes are being cared for by a part-time self-supporting minister and three retired priests with license to officiate. The SSM priest has a very pastoral heart and through her links as Chaplain nurtures contacts with the ATC, the Community Hospital, the Police and the wider community.

The parish of Exning with Landwade also has three Elders (licensed lay ministers) who play an active part in the services. The preaching and teaching ministry involves all the priests and there is a strong commitment to collaborative ministry between clergy and laity.

The Hospital currently has formal chaplaincy arrangements which are administered by the chaplaincy team at the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds, with the assistance of a team of lay visitors from the parish.



Our self-supporting minister

Revd Cheryl Belding



Our elders

The Church tradition is central in character. Vestments are worn in all three churches but incense is not used. The parish of Exning with Landwade uses mainly Common Worship forms of service in contemporary language and the parish of Exning St Agnes, the BCP for Matins and Common Worship Order 1 in traditional language for Holy Communion.

At present, a typical monthly service pattern is -

<u>Churches</u>	<u>St Martin's</u>	<u>St Philip's with St Etheldreda</u>	<u>St Agnes'</u>
<u>Week</u>			
1	Communion (20)	Family Communion (15)	Holy Communion (20)
2	Family Communion (20)	Communion (15)	Matins (15)
3	Communion (20)	Family Service (15)	Matins (15)
4	Soundbites (20)	Communion (15)	Matins (15)
5	Joint Communion service between all three churches		

Services are routinely followed by refreshments.

In the last year, 9 Baptisms, 3 Weddings, and 14 Funerals took place at Exning St Martin's and 8 Baptisms, 6 Weddings and 8 Funerals at Exning St Agnes'.

Exning St Martin's has a director of music and usually the pipe organ is played at St. Agnes'.

Whilst the format of most services is obvious, "Soundbites" at Exning St Martin's may need a little explanation. This is a service that is designed specifically to appeal to families. It is held once a month in the less formal setting of Exning Community Church Hall and consists of breakfast, followed by worship using PowerPoint presentations, games, quizzes etc.



Serving breakfast
at Soundbites"



Building a sukkot tabernacle
at Soundbites

OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Church of Exning St Martin

St Martin's is the ancient parish church of Exning with Landwade and stands in an elevated position in the centre of Exning village. The surrounding churchyard has been closed for over 100 years.

The church is Grade I listed, with the earliest structures (in the tower) dating from Norman times. The chancel is from the 12th Century. Recent restoration work to remove the concrete rendering from the outside of the building has revealed that the chancel originally had extra windows or doors in the north wall. The tower contains a peal of six bells, four of which were first rung as long ago as 1623. Amongst its other treasures are a very rare double heart tomb in the south transept and a statue of St Martin which was installed in 1999 in a large niche on the north wall.



The Church of St Philip with St Etheldreda

St Philip's with St Etheldreda is situated on the main road (Exning Road) from Exning to Newmarket. It was originally the chapel of the Newmarket Workhouse, which later became Newmarket Hospital. The church was given to the parish by the NHS in the 1990s when the old buildings were sold and the site developed for housing. It still serves as the chapel for the Community Hospital.



The Church of St Agnes

A short distance to the east of Newmarket High Street, St Agnes' stands in delightful grounds which are currently being refreshed by an enthusiastic group to provide a small oasis of peace for people and nature. Within the grounds there are also a car park and a wooden church hall which is delightfully homely and warm.

The church was built in the 1880s by the Duchess of Montrose as a memorial to her second husband, William Stuart Stirling Crawford. The interior has to be seen to be truly appreciated as clearly no expense was spared in its creation. With very good acoustics, the church is an ideal venue for concerts which are enthusiastically supported by the PCC and congregation.

Services were live-streamed during lockdown and we feel positive about a reintroduction in the future and to being active on social media.



Additional Chapel

In addition to the church buildings described above, the parish of Exning with Landwade has until recently also held services in a private chapel (St Nicholas') which lies within the local Landwade estate on the northern edge of the parish. The chapel has always been maintained by the estate at no cost to the parish. However, following the death of the estate owner in 2021, the estate is being sold and we await completion of that sale to discover whether we will be able to resume services in the chapel.

Other Buildings

The Vicarage is a modern, four-bedroom house in Exning village, about three minutes' walk from St. Martin's church. Downstairs it has a lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, cloakroom

and utility room. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms, one with ensuite, and a family bathroom.



vicarage



lounge



Kitchen and
utility room



study



master bedroom



family bathroom

There are two halls associated with the parishes -

- 1) Adjacent to St Martin's church is a very well-maintained Community Church Hall which is run by a sub-group of the PCC. Thanks to their efforts, the hall has been completely refurbished over the last few years and hosts not only church events but also many community groups.
- 2) There is a more traditional church hall next to St Agnes' church.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

We run a monthly "Out and About" group in the Community Church Hall which was established after COVID lockdowns to help people back into society.

A new venture running over the winter on three Mondays of each month is a "Warm, Safe Space" session where soup, coffee and tea are provided.

Our bellringers perform for weddings and major services and work with churches in Burwell, Dalham and St Mary's Newmarket to train new ringers.

We participate in “Churches Together in Newmarket & District” - an active organisation with 8 member churches which support a homeless persons’ house and run a shop and workshop. Our volunteer verger runs the homeless persons’ house.

We have a very hard-working and successful Christian Aid committee which last year raised £2,800.

At St. Agnes’ there is a keen gardening group who are developing a community garden.



Enjoying tea at
“Out and About”



Gardening at
St Agnes



A concert in St Agnes’ church

OTHER KEY FACTS

The numbers on the electoral rolls for the two parishes are 54 at Exning with Landwade and 26 at Exning St Agnes’.

In 2022, the two parishes paid a combined total of £26,000 in parish share.

The priest's expenses are paid in full.

The parish of Exning with Landwade is undertaking a major programme of refurbishment of the fabric of St Martin’s church. Whilst some funds remain for this work, we intend to seek specific help from within the parish and from outside bodies to complete it.

CHURCH STRENGTHS THE PARISHES WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE

We are friendly and welcoming with a hospitable and positive attitude. Although the newly appointed priest will be the first formally to oversee both parishes, they are already working well together.

We have long-standing relationships with the local primary schools and we are actively seeking to strengthen our mission in the local community. The clergy and Elders regularly visit the two Nursing Homes for the elderly and there is an established tradition of the Elders ministering to and taking home communion to the housebound. We hold a wide variety of special services in all three churches.

There is a weekly “Worship, Events and News” sheet.

Our church facilities are used by an increasing number of community groups. Examples include monthly village cinema shows and meetings of the “Music Builds Communities” Group.

AREAS THE PARISHES WISH TO DEVELOP

We wish to extend our outreach into parts of the parishes which we feel have not received the attention they deserve. In particular, we have identified modern housing estates with which we have currently have only limited engagement and we hope that our new priest will take a leading role in this regard.

In support of this aim, we are exploring new lines of communication and organization to facilitate effective pastoral care both within and outside the church family. We also wish to develop the opportunities afforded by baptism services to follow-up and engage with families who are not normally church-goers.

Over the past few years, the PCCs of both parishes have analysed where we are and where we wish to go. This has resulted in the drafting of the following **Strategy Statements:-**

THE PARISH OF EXNING WITH LANDWADE

“Our purpose is to grow God's kingdom in this place by developing links with our community, as churches and individuals, by asking the community how we can meet its needs and then prioritizing our actions through prayer and discernment. We will nurture a sense of belonging for those currently in our church family and for those we welcome in the future.”

THE PARISH OF EXNING ST AGNES

St Agnes' church is a treasured asset for our parish and we believe that, with God's love, grace and guidance, we can make it an equally valued resource for the wider community in Newmarket. In order to achieve this and to pursue the Diocese's "*Growing in God*" initiative, we need to look beyond the church itself and to engage with others in the community in new and more ecumenical and/or secular ways. Contact has already been made with the Lightwave Community in Red Lodge who have proved very encouraging and supportive.

Specific plans for the future include the following:-

1. The grounds and garden of St Agnes' Church

Our aim is to liaise with groups, individuals and businesses to redevelop and establish these areas with a view to providing -

- 1) A "quiet space" with seating (possibly in the form of memorial benches) which, even though the Church is only just outside the busy town centre and is next to a main road, will be an oasis of serenity and calm.
- 2) A venue for occasional boutique craft fairs or small farmers' and local produce markets.
- 3) Small parcels of garden that individuals or groups which do not have access to such spaces of their own will be able to cultivate and maintain.
- 4) A teaching space for children to learn about wildlife and plants and how they can care for them.
- 5) With sensitive planting and planning, a haven for wildlife which will contribute to our efforts to gain Eco-Church status.

2. The Church

The church has excellent acoustics and its location, size, surroundings and spectacular internal décor make it an attractive venue for a variety of purposes which have the added benefit of generating extra income. We therefore aim to promote the greater use of the church for –

- 1) Weddings and baptisms.
- 2) Small concerts by local choirs and instrumentalists.
- 3) Events such as exhibitions of their work by local artists, flower and produce shows, and displays of photographs or quirky items like wedding dresses through the ages.
- 4) Carol Services for the ATC or the Scouts and Guides or similar, one-off services for local businesses, groups and associations throughout the year.
- 5) Events held in conjunction with the racing community and the Jockey Club with which our SSM and members of our congregation already have close ties.

3. The Church Hall

Although compact and perhaps a little dated, the hall holds a certain charm. The facilities include a WC and a small kitchen. We currently use it for PCC meetings and to provide refreshments after services and we are keen to encourage its use for other gatherings, such as Café Church or Bible Study, Bereavement and Mindfulness Groups or Book Clubs.

4. Internet Connection

We are considering installing an internet connection which would serve both the church and the hall. This will enable us to live-stream services or other events and anyone who cannot attend a meeting in person will be able to do so on “Zoom”.

5. Web-Page

We are exploring ways to enhance our communications and accessibility by developing our existing web-page to ensure that it is lively, up to date and clear and instinctive to use for both clergy and the community.