



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



**Priest in Charge, Benefice of EAST MARSHLAND
(Crown appointment) with Walpole St. Peter**



We are passionate about connecting our local communities with the love of God – will you help us?

Foreword by Ven Richard Harlow, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech

This role will require courage, energy & wisdom. The role of the incumbent of East Marshland with Walpole St Peter will be to share the Gospel of Jesus with communities across an area of approx. 50 square miles with a population of 9,500. You will **enable a younger generation** of worshippers to discover the life-giving message of Jesus and join our churches. It will involve building a shared sense of purpose with the existing ministry team and church officers. It may involve some governance restructuring and seeking alternative uses and funding for buildings that require more care than the worshipping community can provide.



You will not be alone. We hope that you will join our Strengthening Multi Parish Benefices workstream, which will see you supported by a cohort of clergy who are seeking to lead multi parish benefices differently, assisted with administrative support and mentoring to enable them to flourish and lead renewal in our churches.

You will be **encouraged & expected to innovate** in this role. Working with the people whom God has put in these churches, you will discern new directions. You will be supported by me, by clergy colleagues in the deanery and by one of the best resourced Church Buildings Teams in the Church of England, who will support you in keeping our buildings as centres of mission and community, instead of being a drain on our energy.



The Diocese of Ely is about to begin a new chapter with the arrival of the 70th Bishop of Ely, Rt Rev Sarah Clark. She will be able to build on the secure foundations that have characterised Ely recently: a clear-sighted focus on mission in the parishes, strong central resources in our diocesan offices to enable clergy to flourish, secure finances and enabling leaders.

We are proud that clergy in the diocese report good levels of wellbeing, reflecting sustained investment in our vicarages, pastoral supervision, and continuing ministerial development. We pride ourselves on being a place where female and male clergy thrive, and we actively welcome applications from GMH clergy.

Please note: there will be some pastoral organisation affecting these 2 benefices. Please discuss this with the archdeacon or Rural Dean.

If you would like to talk informally about this role, please contact:

- Ven Richard Harlow on 07415 757527 or archdeacon.handw@elydiocese.org
- Rev Richard Hines, Rural Dean, on 07933 198943 or richard.hines@outlook.com

Priest-in-Charge (Rector designate)

The Benefice of East Marshland with Walpole St. Peter

Welcome to East Marshland with Walpole St. Peter

Situated in the Wisbech Lynn Marshland Deanery in the west Norfolk area of Ely Diocese, the **Benefice of East Marshland with Walpole St. Peter** brings together an established group of rural parishes: Terrington St John, Tilney All Saints, Tilney St Lawrence, Wiggenhall St Germans and Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen with the home of 'The cathedral of the Fens', Walpole St Peter.



Pleasantly rural and agricultural in nature, the benefice is nonetheless well connected, being just a few miles from the historic port and market town of King's Lynn, with rail links to Ely, Cambridge and London King's Cross from nearby Watlington.

Our churches are at the heart of our villages—places of worship, welcome, heritage and community life. We are collaborative, outward-looking, and committed to growing in faith and service.

Our Vision

Across the benefice we seek:

- To grow as **welcoming and vibrant Christian communities**
- To deepen relationships with **schools, families and local groups**
- To support and develop **lay ministry and shared leadership**
- To sustain our churches as **centres of worship and community life**

The Role of Priest-in-Charge

We are praying for a priest who will provide **spiritual leadership, pastoral care and vision** across the benefice, helping us build on strong foundations and grow together into the future.

Key Aspects of the Role

Spiritual Leadership and Worship

- Lead a regular and sustainable pattern of worship across the benefice
- Preach and teach in ways that are engaging and accessible
- Encourage a range of worship styles, reflecting the diversity of our congregations
- Support and develop the gifts of Licensed and Authorised Lay Ministers

Pastoral Care and Presence

- Be a **visible and approachable presence** across the villages
- Offer compassionate pastoral care at key moments in people's lives
- Support the development of local pastoral teams

Mission and Growth

- Work with PCCs to develop a **clear and shared vision for growth**
- Build on strong links with **village schools**, supporting children, families and staff
- Encourage outreach initiatives and community engagement
- Help our churches grow in confidence, participation and number

Leadership and Collaboration

- Foster a strong sense of **unity across the benefice**, respecting each church's identity
- Work collaboratively with churchwardens, PCCs and volunteers
- Encourage and equip lay people to take responsibility in worship and mission

Stewardship and Sustainability

- Support churches in caring for their **historic buildings**
- Encourage sustainable financial practices and giving
- Recognise the importance of church buildings as **community hubs and opportunities for mission**

Our Churches and Communities

Across the benefice you will find:

- **Committed congregations**, small but faithful and welcoming
- A strong culture of **shared ministry**, where many play an active part in worship
- **Excellent relationships with local primary schools**, including regular services and visits
- Churches that host **events, festivals, coffee mornings and community gatherings**
- A desire to strengthen **pastoral care, outreach and engagement with families**

Many of our churches already work collaboratively—for example:

- Shared services between neighbouring parishes
- Benefice-wide services on fifth Sundays
- Joint events and outreach activities

What We Are Looking For:

Drawing directly on our shared reflections, we are seeking:

- **An experienced, inspiring leader**, with a warm and empathetic character
- Someone **approachable and sensitive** to the needs of both church and wider community
- A priest with a **heart for rural ministry** and a desire to be present in village life
- A **welcoming presence**, able to engage people at different stages of faith
- Someone willing to work with **different styles of worship** to connect and enthuse
- A leader who can help us **develop a clear vision for growth**, working with our PCCs
- A priest committed to **supporting and encouraging lay ministry**
- Someone able to **build on existing relationships with schools**, and develop ministry with children and families

Personal Qualities

We hope our new Priest-in-Charge will be:

- Warm, encouraging and relational
- A good communicator, both in preaching and in person
- Flexible and adaptable in a multi-parish setting

- Collaborative, with a willingness to share leadership
- Hopeful, prayerful and grounded in faith

What We Offer

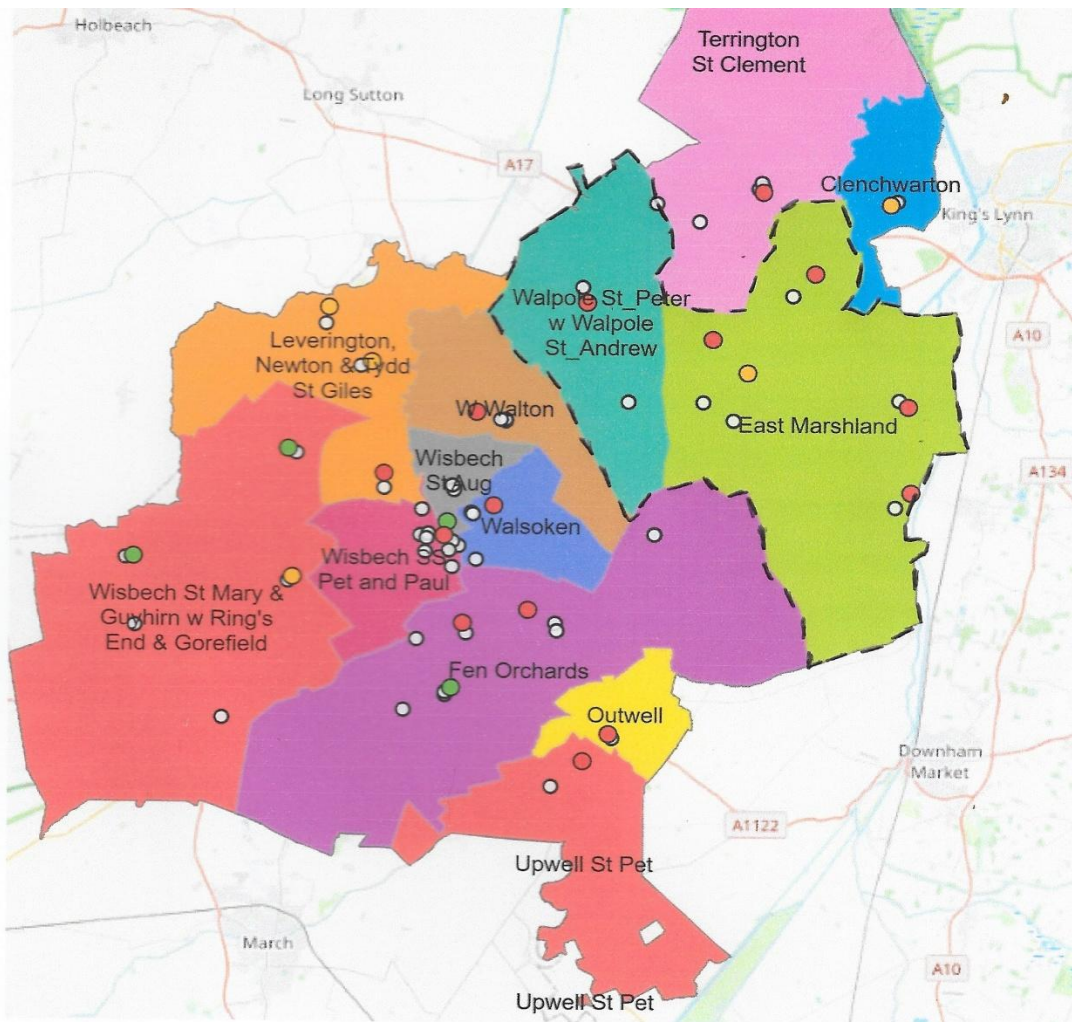
- A group of **welcoming, active and forward-looking church communities**
- Strong foundations of **lay leadership and involvement**
- Established links with **schools and community organisations**
- A setting where the church is still **valued at the heart of village life**
- Opportunities to shape and lead a **newly formed benefice**

Our Prayer

We are praying for someone who will:

- Provide **spiritual leadership and pastoral care**
- Encourage **growth in faith and participation**
- Embrace and develop our **role as community hubs**
- Work collaboratively with **lay leaders and volunteers**
- Bring **warmth, vision and a sense of humour**

The East Marshland Benefice with Walpole St. Peter is situated at the eastern side of the Deanery of Wisbech Lynn Marshland, straddling the river Great Ouse.



**Wisbech Lynn
Marshland
Deanery
showing the
boundary of East
Marshland with
Walpole St Peter.**

Our Ministry Team

We are served and led by a cohort of lay ministers and elected officers, assisted by local retired clergy. Each parish oversees ministry within its area with light touch oversight from a benefice council, which co-ordinates our rotas and helps plan joint events. We recognise that this model will need to evolve, and we welcome collaboration and mutuality.



Some of our key leaders are:

Jo Chilvers, LLM

Cyril Dodd, LLM

Mark Wright, LLM

Lesley Best, ALM

Safeguarding Officers:

- Tony Kenber
- Andy Laughton
- Jan Taylor



Safeguarding dashboard:

Parish	Level	Score
Walpole St Peter	3	92%
Terrington St John	3	
Tilney All Saints	3	93%
Tilney St Lawrence	2	
Wiggenhall St German	3	72%
Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen	3	100%

Our Parishes and their churches

Terrington St. John

The Village

The village of Terrington St John lies to the south of the major East-West A47 route between Peterborough and Kings Lynn. The village has a population of 929, according to the 2021 government census, which is served by a village health centre, convenience store, pub and a well-regarded local restaurant. A significant amount of new housing suggests that the village population will continue to grow in coming years.

The village has a small primary school, with 71 pupils, part of the Windmill Primary Federation, which continues to maintain its 'Good' rating from Ofsted.

St John the Baptist church, Terrington St John



St John the Baptist is a large, Grade 1 listed building, very much on the outskirts of the village, and described as 'Utterly delightful' by the 'Churches of Norfolk' website. Parts of the building date from the fifteenth century, with substantial refurbishment carried out in Victorian times.

It has a good set of six bells housed in an impressive tower, all recently inspected and refurbished, and rung regularly by visiting teams of local bellringers.

The church organ, made by notable 19th century organ builder GM Holdich, is in good order and played regularly during services.

Church Life

St. John's has a small, devoted congregation with a welcoming heart, which is committed to working collaboratively with the other benefice parishes. St. John's currently works closely with its nearest benefice neighbour, Tilney St. Lawrence church, ensuring that each church hosts a Family Service and Holy Communion service each month, as well as a benefice-wide Songs of Praise style service, on a rotational basis, when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Worship is greatly enhanced by the services of talented organist and Licensed Lay Minister Dr. Cyril Dodd, who takes the lead at Family Services.

The church holds a popular Christmas Tree Festival and craft fayre each December and has recently formed a handbell ringing team, which plans to perform at future church events.

Governance and finance

St. John's church has a significant asset in possessing charity land to generate an income which, although restricted, makes a significant contribution to the upkeep of the church fabric.



St John's holds sufficient funds for day-to-day running costs and a fabric fund for any urgent repairs while managing to pay between 10 and 20% of its requested share contribution to Diocese over the past few years.

Future hopes and plans

- To encourage a closer relationship with, and promote visits from, staff and pupils attending the village school. We believe this would lead to greater involvement and support from families and the wider community in making St. John's a more vibrant, living church.
- To strengthen our financial position, we are working to establish a 'Friends-of-Church' group to raise funds specifically for maintenance of the church fabric. This should free up more of our existing income to contribute towards the annual requested parish share payment.

Get in touch

Tim Clayton – Churchwarden: 01945 880406 / 07795156653,
timclaytonjewellery@gmail.com



Tilney All Saints

The Village

The village of Tilney All Saints comprises two distinct areas, Tilney All Saints and Tilney High End and has a population of 691 according to the 2021 census figures. The village has a pleasant, peaceful atmosphere, while enjoying its proximity to the employment opportunities, shopping and rail facilities at Kings Lynn, some three miles distant.

The oldest part of the village is clustered around the medieval All Saints Parish Church and the village hall, while Tilney High End hosts a nine-hole golf course and the Millenium Village Green.

The village has a small voluntary controlled primary school with 89 pupils which is part of the Ely Diocese Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT). The school is rated consistently as 'Good' by Ofsted inspectors and describes itself as 'A school with soul.'

All Saints Parish Church



All Saints' Parish Church is believed to date from the 12th century and is renowned as one of 'The Marshland Gems'. It is described as having a 'glorious wide-open interior, full of light' by the churches of Norfolk website. It has a fine Norman Arcade and a splendid double hammer- beam roof as well as an unusual Laudian screen dating from 1618.

Despite its traditional nature, the church is equipped with a children's play area and toilet facilities including 'baby change'.

Outside, in the graveyard, a tomb slab has given rise to the story that the legendary figure of East Anglian folklore, Tom Hickathrift, may be buried there.

Church Life

At All Saints' there is an afternoon service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and a late morning, informal service on the 2nd 3rd and 4th weeks. The unstructured format of these informal services allows for prayer, hymns and/or discussion as appropriate. Refreshments are served after every service and all are made welcome.

Outreach

Children from the village primary school come to church to celebrate the major festivals of Easter, Christmas and Harvest as well as 'Plough Monday'. At the end of each school term Year 6 pupils lead a service for a congregation of parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, where each year group gives a presentation of songs, hymns and sometimes also dance.

At the end of the summer term, school leavers are each presented with a Bible, paid for by 'The Tilney Charities' and are invited to make a short speech about their most precious memories.

Governance and finance

In 2025 All Saints' expenditure exceeded its income by a few hundred pounds although the church is able to maintain a reserve to meet expected costs and the PCC is currently arranging finance for significant repairs to the church fabric.



Future hopes and plans

- To see a steady growth in our worshipping congregation
- To develop further our links with the village Church of England Primary School

Get in touch

Andy Laughton – PCC treasurer: 01553 828072, andy.laughton@sky.com

Anne Savage – PCC secretary: bekahsgran@aol.com



Tilney All Saints' village sign showing Tom Hickathrift preparing to fight the legendary 'Marshland Giant'

Tilney Saint Lawrence

The Village

Tilney St Lawrence lies just south of the main East -West route, the A47, some seven miles from Kings Lynn. The village, which has a population of 1,439 according to the latest census, is served by a village shop, a local pub - The Buck, and a lively village hall, which hosts a number of clubs and is a popular venue for family events such as wedding receptions. Adjacent to the hall is a modern children's play area, equipped with skate park, football enclosure and playground.

Tilney St Lawrence has a small Community Primary school, part of the Windmill Primary Federation, with 76 pupils attending.

St. Lawrence Church



St Lawrence church is a Grade 2* listed building, parts of which date from the 14th and 15th centuries but which underwent significant rebuilding in the 19th century.

The building is regularly maintained and well-lit with a modern, ceiling-mounted heating system. It is equipped with toilet facilities and an area where refreshments can be served and enjoyed.

The church is easily accessible for parishioners who use a wheelchair or bring a pram. A loop system to aid those with impaired hearing is fitted and worship literature is available in standard or large print.

The graveyard is well maintained and contains Commonwealth war graves and a War memorial.

Church life

A Sunday service is held every week, Holy Communion conducted by visiting clergy or a family service presided over by Licensed Lay Minister Dr. Cyril Dodd.

The congregation works closely with members of Terrington St John's church, alternating services between the two parishes. Every member of the congregation holds some responsibility during each service – greeting visitors, reading from the Bible, leading intercessions, lighting the candles, taking the collections, playing the organ or manning the music centre to accompany hymn singing – everyone is encouraged to take part.

During Holy Week each year, the church offers hospitality to pilgrims making their way to the abbey and shrine at Walsingham.

Outreach

Many members of the local community including Rainbows, Brownies and Scouts attend services marking significant festivals such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. Classes from the village Community Primary school come to learn about the church and for their annual Christingle service.

From May to October a monthly coffee morning raises funds to enable the church to support a number of both local and international charities.

Governance and finance

Tilney St Lawrence church paid 33% of its requested parish share to Diocese in 2025

Future Hopes and Plans

- To establish a pastoral team to address the need for care and outreach in the wider community.
- To improve technical expertise within the church to spread God's Word and to help publicise church events.

Get in touch

Susan Woodrow – PCC Treasurer 07773 939129, susan.woodrow@gmail.com

Dr Cyril Dodd, Licensed Lay Minister 07513 087887, cyrildodd@gmail.com



**The village sign featuring
St. Lawrence, dressed in blue, and John
Aylmer, who was born nearby, and became
Bishop of London in
1577.**

Wiggenhall St. Germans with St. Mary's and Islington

The Village

Wiggenhall St. Germans is a rural village set on either side of the river Great Ouse, five miles south of Kings Lynn. The parish also includes Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, the church of which is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, Wiggenhall St. Peter, Saddlebow and the hamlet of Tilney cum Islington, with a population of 1,700 according to the 2021 census.

The village is supported by a range of amenities which contribute to a strong sense of community. These include a children's playground, a riverside pub - The Crown and Anchor, a village shop and a well-used village hall. In addition, several businesses operate from home or offer mobile services.

The village school, St. Germans Academy has 111 primary age pupils and is part of the Unity Education Trust. It continues to receive a 'Good' rating from Ofsted.

St. Germans Church



The church has a grade 1 listing and has been at the centre of village life for over 700 years when it is thought to have been built by the Dukes of Norfolk. It attracts visitors throughout the year, being listed in Simon Jenkins' book, *England's Thousand Best Churches* for its medieval carved pew ends depicting the seven deadly sins and a selection of animals, both real and imaginary.

Although listed on Historic England's Heritage-at-risk register, an interest free loan of £20,000 has been secured to aid restoration of the North aisle roof. The church tower houses the village clock which is maintained by the local parish council.

Church life

The church lies at the heart of village life, is open every day, offering a regular pattern of worship and opportunity for involvement.

Prime and prayers for the sick are said each day, while Sunday services rotate between a sung Holy Communion Service held twice each month, a non-liturgical Family Service and Morning Praise. Members of the congregation are encouraged to take part by reading and leading intercessions and a Sunday School runs concurrent with each Sunday service.

The church's commitment to accessibility led to a nomination for its churchwardens for a 'Luke 5 Award' for Christian Disability Inclusion and the development of the 'Makaton' system of symbols, signs and speech to enhance communication during family services.

Authorised Lay Minister, Lesley Best is currently exploring, in conjunction with Ely Diocese, the opportunity to become a Learning Disability Chaplain.

The church maintains a supportive relationship with the West Norfolk Methodist circuit following the closure of their church, with a Methodist Minister leading a monthly Prayer and Praise evening.

Outreach

As well as a weekly coffee morning, the church hosts a range of well-supported events each year, including a flower festival and fete, pancake morning and Macmillan Coffee Morning. Plans for this year also include a Harvest Supper, quiz night and yard sale.

Involvement with the local primary school includes after-school activities, held in school, in the run up to Christmas and Easter, sharing the Christian message through storytelling and craft and the school regularly brings its children to church for special Christingle and Harvest services.

Governance and finance

The church is supported by a full PCC including two churchwardens, a deanery synod representative, a Licensed Lay Minister and an Authorised Lay Minister.

The church's expenditure has exceeded its income over the past three years, but the full amount of ministry share request was paid in 2025.

Future hope and plans

- To broaden engagement across all age groups by developing new ways to connect with the wider community.
- To continue to grow as a welcoming and supportive Christian community, building on recent momentum and developing new ways to serve both the parish and the benefice as a whole.
- The parish recognises that future plans need to be subject to careful and prayerful consideration due, in part, to the demands of maintaining a historic building with a committed but relatively small volunteer base.

Get in touch

Angela Yeoman – Churchwarden – ay53@btopenworld.com , 01533 617518



Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen

The Village

Magdalen village is a small, peaceful rural village and civil parish in Norfolk, with a population of 729. The river Great Ouse runs along-side the village with good walking and panoramic views of the surrounding countryside to be had along its grassy banks. A rare tidal bore, which can occasionally be seen on the Ouse, gives its name to the locally printed village magazine 'The Eagle'.

Magdalen enjoys the services of a local pub 'The Cock', a fish and chip shop, a weekly mobile post office and a village hall which regularly holds social activities and events.

A regular bus service links the village to Kings Lynn, some 7 miles to the North, while

Watlington Station, with its rail service to Cambridge and London is just over a mile away.

Magdalen Academy, part of the Unity Education Trust, caters for 47 primary aged children and has a 'Good' Ofsted rating.

Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene Church



The church is a large, beautiful building of red brick, flint and stone. The church in its current form was built in the 15th century, although roof timbers in the south aisle have been ring dated, showing that their timbers were felled a century earlier. A rare collection of 15th century stained-glass figures is scattered in the upper lights of the north aisle and carved angels adorn the roof

supports. The church has a 'weeping chancel', a medieval architectural feature, traditionally thought to represent Christ's head leaning to one side upon the cross.

The bell tower houses six bells which are rung regularly for Sunday services and for pealing practice by groups of visiting bell ringers.

In recent times a kitchen and toilet facilities and an efficient radiant heating system have been installed, a welcome addition for both church services and events.

The church is open every day and is highly valued by both the local community and visitors from further afield.

Church Life

A weekly Sunday service is led by Licensed Lay Minister, Jo Chilvers, with a monthly Communion service, usually led by local retired priest, Rev. Richard Fordham.

The church has a strong PCC, several members of which also belong to the St. Mary's Events Team (SMET) which organises events and fundraising involving the wider community.

There are 'Fayres' at Easter and Summer, all well supported, and at Christmastime villagers are invited to decorate Christmas trees in church, accompanied by music played by the local Salvation Army band.

Outreach

St. Mary's enjoys a close relationship with the wider community, holding some of its events and clubs in the village hall, as well as holding well attended music events inside church. The local primary school brings its children to church for special services at Easter, Remembrance Day and for Christingle, when it is filled with children and their parents. A previously successful children's holiday club is on-hold at present, but ready-to-go as soon as the need arises once again.

Church governance and finance

The church has a strong PCC, members of which also play an active part in the current East Marshland benefice council.

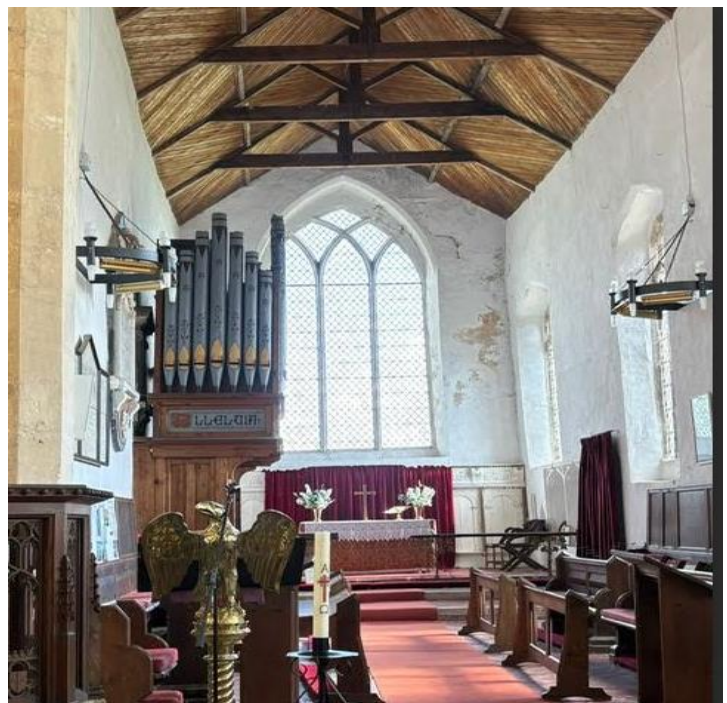
St Mary's income has exceeded its outgoings over the past few years enabling it to pay in full its requested ministry share to Diocese in 2025.

Future hopes and plans

- To promote St. Mary's image within the village as a welcoming and community-focused church.
- To connect with the local primary school on a regular basis to encourage and grow participation with the church.
- To be recognised as a safe place of welcome and worship for everyone
- To better balance the financial necessities of caring for this very special historic building with the financial outlay required for ministry and outreach.
- To build an enthusiastic and dedicated team to undertake pastoral care work within the community

Get in touch

Licensed Lay Minister – Mrs Joanne Chilvers (Jo): 07765091227, jo.chilvers1970@gmail.com



Walpole St. Peter

The Village

Walpole St. Peter is a rural Norfolk village in 'The Fens' near the market town of Wisbech and bordered by the River Nene. It has a thriving and vibrant community with a wide range of activities centred around its magnificent Grade 1 listed parish church and nearby village hall. The village has a rich pilgrimage heritage, being located on an old sea bank used by pilgrims making their way to the shrine at Walsingham.

The village primary school, which is part of the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT) and a 'sister' school to that in Tilney All Saints, with whom it shares a head teacher, has 191 pupils and is rated 'Good in all areas' by Ofsted.

Walpole St Peter Church



Enjoying the patronage of King Charles III, who notes it as a particular favourite, the church is known as 'The Cathedral of the Fens'.

An earlier church has existed here since 1021, with the earliest parts of the current structure known to date from around the year 1300.

The church has never failed to elicit superlatives, Sir John Betjeman considered it 'Perhaps the finest', while Pevsner and Wilson

went further, stating that 'Walpole possesses one of the most impressive churches of its date in the country'. [Walpole St Peter St Peter | National Churches Trust](#)

Church Life

Walpole St Peter Church, is our place of worship and much more, being the very beating heart of our village. With its rich history and striking presence, the church welcomes around 4,500 visitors each year, making it a cherished landmark and a vibrant community hub.

Sunday worship follows a regular pattern of alternate Morning Prayer and Holy Communion services, with a midweek service on Wednesday mornings and a joint service with its current benefice partners whenever the month has a fifth Sunday.

Every Saturday a friendly group gather to clean the church and afterwards enjoy coffee and fellowship, with plenty of laughter.

Outreach

A wide range of events is held in church, from exhibitions to seasonal markets, bringing people together and supporting local businesses. Our church is alive with activity throughout the year, with quiz and bingo nights, a summer BBQ, a harvest supper and two popular markets.

Church governance and finance

The church has two dedicated churchwardens who work closely together, an active PCC made up of engaged members from diverse backgrounds and a reliable team of volunteers, including a vergers and several event helpers.

The Parish safeguarding Officer ensures that checks and training are kept up-to-date and that policies are fully compliant, while a creative volunteer manages the church website, social media and publicity.

The church maintains sufficient funds for day-to-day running and actively fund raises throughout the year. It has an experienced grant-bid writer who works with the PCC and the architect to secure funding for larger projects.

Walpole St Peter has been able to pay around 60% of its requested parish share to Diocese during the last 3 years, but has significantly reduced its contribution in 2026, due to planned restoration work to the building's structure.

Get in touch

Churchwarden – David Galloway: 01945 780809

Churchwarden – William Brooks: 01945 780609



An aerial view of Walpole St. Peter with the 'Cathedral of the Fens' at its centre

The beautiful interior of Walpole St. Peter Church



The Rectory

The parishes have 2 parsonages available: one for this post and one for a potential House for Duty or curate post. You will be able to choose which house best serves as a base for your family and ministry. Both are modernised and maintained to a high standard, and well situated within their village.

Tilney St Lawrence:



Walpole St Peter

