

Parish of All Saints', Renhold

PARISH PROFILE



“Living the love of God so that his Kingdom grows in our Parish”

COULD WE BE YOUR NEXT CALLING?

All Saints' Church, Renhold is set in a warm, semi-rural community on the edge of the historic market town of Bedford. We are a church seeking to live out and deepen our faith, caring for one another and creating a place where every person feels welcomed, valued, and able to encounter the love and presence of Jesus Christ through our worship and our life together.

We are praying for someone who, under God's guidance, will lead us with vision and confidence as we seek to grow God's Kingdom in this parish.

Do you feel called to help us:

NURTURE NEW GROWTH

recognising spiritual seekers drawing them to faith, and inspiring everyone, of any age, in their personal journey with God

GROW YOUNGER

building meaningful, lasting connections with children, young people, families, and working adults so that our church reflects the wider community we serve

STRENGTHEN OUR PASTORAL PRESENCE

becoming a visible, trusted “Renhold Vicar” within the village, including deepening our relationship with our Church of England school

Beyond a deep love for the Lord Jesus Christ, we see our next Vicar as someone who:

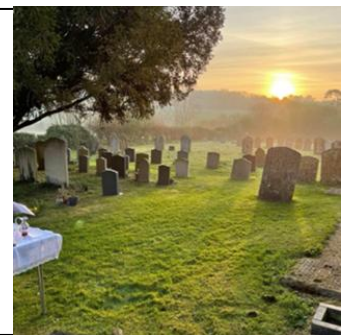
- **Inspires both sacred and secular ministry** — strong, resilient and courageous, able to energise others, encourage participation, and lead change with wisdom and confidence
- **Lives and shares the message of Jesus** — nurtures individual faith, comfortable using a variety of service styles, valuing both traditional and contemporary liturgy, and recognising the power of music in worship
- **Communicates with authenticity and care** — approachable, adaptable across ages and contexts, a good listener, and someone who can challenge and encourage with empathy
- **Champions every voice** — committed to full inclusivity and accessibility, able to recognise the unique opportunities and challenges within our diverse parish, and willing to respond creatively to the needs of today
- **Leads with clarity and organisation** — skilled at managing time across varied responsibilities, delegating well, and empowering lay members to flourish in their ministries

In return, we offer you (and, if applicable, your family):

- Prayer, support and genuine friendship
- A place where you can develop your personal ministry
- Dedicated, hardworking core teams
- A highly engaged village school, active in the Diocesan Alban Way initiative
- The goodwill and warmth of the wider community
- A recently refurbished five-bedroom Vicarage overlooking rolling countryside, just a short walk from the church and school

Our Vision

***Living the love of God so that his Kingdom grows
in our Parish***



We aspire and pray that we will be.....

- A welcoming, fully inclusive and flourishing church where everyone can find fellowship, love and acceptance and feels inspired to discover God
- A place where we are encouraged to explore our faith and grow our relationship with God
- Regarded throughout the Parish as an integral part of the community; whose mission extends beyond the confines of our Church walls

The Task Ahead and the Challenges We Face

As a Church, under your leadership, we need to bridge the gap between the congregation and the wider parish by creating a church community that truly reflects the local demographic, especially young people and working adults. There are promising opportunities in the momentum of the new youth group, the desire to develop the church into a welcoming community hub, and the significant footfall already passing through during festivals and monthly activities. At the same time, challenges remain in converting this occasional engagement into deeper belonging, identifying and supporting spiritual seekers who may be slipping through unnoticed, and extending pastoral care to those in need who are not yet connected to the church. Together, these factors highlight both the potential for growth and the intentional effort required to expand our mission beyond the current congregation, yet continuing to nurture those who have worshipped here faithfully over many, many years.

APPENDIX

About Us

- Overview
- Worship and Church Life
- The Ministry Team
- Lay Leadership
- Church Buildings
- Education
- Renhold Charity Cottages
- Our Finances
- Communication

Living Here

- The Vicarage
- Recreation
- Demographic data

About Us

Overview

All Saints' Church, Renhold sits on the north-east edge of the Bedford Deanery and Bedford Borough, with the River Ouse forming our southern boundary. Our 800-year-old Grade I listed church stands at the heart of the village, surrounded by open countryside.

The parish brings together two distinct areas: the historic "old" village made up of ancient hamlets, and three newer estates developed over the past 30 years. Around 3,500 people live here, with notable diversity in age, background and circumstance.

We are blessed with a vibrant Church of England Primary School, closely linked to the church, and a supportive community that engages enthusiastically with parish life.



Worship and Church Life

Renhold offers a breadth of worship, reflecting a "Central" ethos that values both the traditional and the contemporary. Our excellent team of organists enriches our services each week.

During the vacancy, our principal services are:

- Parish Communion (Common Worship) on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays
- Contemporary Family Service and Sung Evensong (BCP) on the 2nd Sunday
- Holy Communion (BCP) on the 3rd Wednesday



Messy Church meets monthly and draws many children from the village school.

We also take the Sacrament to Crossways Care Home at key points in the year, alongside a regular monthly service.

Seasonal and festival worship is well attended, including services reflecting our farming heritage and civic occasions such as Remembrance, when we join together with the Village Chapel. Christmas services, Pet Services and Songs of Praise attract a wide demographic — with 147 attending the Christmas Crib Service in 2025.

Most services are live streamed via Facebook Live, supported by a faithful online congregation.

Occasional Offices remain a significant part of our ministry: in 2025 we held 7 baptisms, 2 weddings and 16 funerals or burials of ashes. Two weddings are already booked for 2026.

Beyond our regular congregation is a wider circle of occasional worshippers and dedicated volunteers. Our monthly Churchyard Gardening Group cares beautifully for the grounds, including the wildlife area. The Chapter House hosts numerous clubs and groups, and the village magazine is collated there.



Every second Saturday we run the hugely popular *Pop-Up Coffee Shop* (“Sausage Saturday”), serving breakfast rolls and cakes. *Donut Club*, our youth group for 11–13-year-olds, offers a welcoming space for young people to gather and grow.



The church plays a central role in village life and is well supported by local organisations, especially during events such as the Scarecrow Festival. The Parish Council has generously contributed to churchyard and building improvements and collaborates with us on parish-wide events such as VE80.

The Friends of All Saints organise several fundraising events each year, including the much-loved and hotly contested annual Quiz Night.

The Ministry Team

Our ministry team includes:

- **Lay Reader in training** – in their first year, supervised by an experienced local priest, and leading Messy Church.
- **Youth Worker** – offering 5 hours per month to support Messy Church and Donut Club.

Members of the congregation regularly read, lead intercessions and assist with the chalice. A rota is in place.



Music is supported by three talented organists, and we are proud to have nurtured a young organist recently awarded a scholarship at Portsmouth Cathedral. We also have an electronic hymnal.

A newly formed Pastoral Care Team assists the priest in supporting those who are unwell or in difficulty.

Lay Leadership



Our PCC consists of nine members, including two Churchwardens and an experienced Safeguarding Lead. The PCC meets six or seven times a year, usually on Saturday mornings over breakfast.

Subcommittees and working groups meet as needed. During the vacancy, the Standing Committee, Fabric Committee and Churchyard Committee have remained active.

Church Buildings

We are privileged to worship in a beautiful ancient church with over eight centuries of history. The Grade I listed building, constructed of brown cobbled stone, includes the Chancel, Nave, Reaper Chapel, Vestry and a bell tower with six bells rung most Sundays. The church has a fine large 3 manual organ at the west end, regularly maintained and considered to be much above average for a village church.

The Chapter House, added in the 1980s, provides a large meeting space, disabled facilities and a small kitchen.



The church is open daily (9am–5pm BST / 4pm GMT), thanks to volunteers who unlock and lock the building. Many in the community visit to sit quietly, pray or light a candle.

The 2023 Quinquennial Report confirmed the church is in good order with no major issues.

Plans have been submitted to the DAC to improve Chapter House facilities and enhance accessibility throughout the church.

The churchyard remains open for burials and includes a wildflower area and Garden of Remembrance. A volunteer team meets monthly to maintain it.

Education

[Renhold VC Primary and Pre-School](#) sits next to the Vicarage and maintains strong links with both the church and the Diocese. The priest is an ex-officio governor, and a PCC member serves as a Foundation Governor.

We support school life through pastoral care, collective worship in school or church (2–3 times per term), and by offering our facilities whenever needed. Over the past two years we have pioneered the Alban Way project for Year 6 pupils, which led to the creation of Donut Club. Watch us on [You Tube](#)



The school choir has sung at church events, drawing families into the life of the parish.

Older children attend a range of upper schools, including Mark Rutherford and the two Bedford Sixth Form Colleges, as well as several independent schools.

Renhold Charity Cottages

Renhold has four alms houses, overseen by the Renhold Charity Cottages (Charity No. 200076). The incumbent serves as an ex-officio trustee.

Our Finances

Income (2025): £61k | Payments (2025): £56k

Through careful stewardship and the continued generosity of parishioners—particularly through tax-efficient giving—our finances are stable, transparent and well-managed. We comfortably meet our day-to-day commitments, remain up to date with our Parish Share, and maintain sensible reserves for both routine needs and unexpected costs.

The financial mood is positive. Giving has remained steady, fundraising events continue to be well supported, and our Grants Officer has successfully secured funding for several projects. We also donate a proportion of collections to other causes at key moments such as Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.



There is a shared commitment to investing wisely in the mission and ministry of the church. We are well placed to plan confidently and look ahead with optimism.

Communication

The parish produces a monthly magazine delivered to every home, featuring a regular “Vicar’s Slot” alongside news, events and service information. Renhold also has a village website and Facebook page, both of which share church updates.

The church maintains an active presence on:

- **A Church Near You:** www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7680/
- **Facebook:** [@allsaintsrenhold](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsrenhold)

Living Here

The Vicarage



The Vicarage is a modern, spacious five-bedroom home located just a short walk from both the church and the school. Set back from the road, it offers generous parking, electric car charging point and a garage.

The ground floor includes a large lounge-diner, a separate study, a substantial kitchen–breakfast room, and a wide entrance hall with cloakroom. Upstairs are three double bedrooms, one single bedroom, a small bedroom previously used as an additional office, a family bathroom and a separate WC. The rear of the house enjoys beautiful views across rolling countryside.



A large, enclosed mature garden surrounds the property, with lawns and a variety of fruit trees providing a peaceful outdoor space.

Recreation

Renhold sits around three miles from Bedford town centre, offering the ideal blend of rural calm and easy access to shops, restaurants, leisure facilities and excellent transport links. The A1 and M1 are within easy reach, and mainline stations at Bedford and Sandy provide frequent services to London in under an hour.

The village is surrounded by open countryside with excellent walking and cycling routes. The Village Hall and Church host a wide range of clubs and societies, including the WI, Bowls, Crafty Club, Renhold Clangers (Handbells), Keep Fit and Dance. Two sports grounds support local football clubs. The village pub serves food, runs regular events such as quiz nights, and welcomes our handbell group at Christmas. The Book Club meet in members' homes.



Bedford offers an even wider range of activities: swimming pools, gyms, running, squash and tennis clubs, golf courses, and local teams including Bedford Blues RUFC and Real Bedford FC. The town is known for its cultural life, with two art galleries (including the nationally significant Higgins), a theatre, a multi-screen cinema, and regular events at the Bedford Corn Exchange. The Embankment along the River Ouse is a major landmark, hosting rowing regattas and school competitions throughout the year. The Bedford River Festival is a major bi-annual highlight.



Demographic Data

Population Statistics¹

Covering a Geographical area of 8.86 km², the Parish of All Saints', Renhold has a population of 3434, having grown by nearly 1000 in the last 10 years and 3.4% annually.

National Census Data 2021	2001	2011	2021
Population	1447	2451	3434

Over half of the population is of working age and the parish has a higher than national average of under 19 years (28% Vs National 22.5%), in contrast we have a lower than national average population aged over 60 years (18% Vs National 24%)

Age (Years)	0-9 yrs	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Population	484	496	320	509	548	483	270	232	113
%	14%	14%	9%	15%	16%	14%	8%	7%	3%

Just under half (48%) have identified their faith as being Christian.

Religion	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Sikh	Buddhist	Jewish	Other Religion	No Religion
Population	1667	135	63	36	15	3	12	1322

Approximately 20% of the parish identifies as a non-white ethnic group.

Ethnicity	White	Asian	Black	Arab	Mixed / Multiple	Other Ethnic Group
Population	2741	267	186	11	188	45

Nearly 17% of our Parish were not born in the UK.

Country of Birth	UK	EU	Europe (other)	Middle East & Asia	Africa	Other Country
Population	2975	164	13	118	124	40

Electoral Roll 2025²

Total roll: 56, a reduction of 14 on the figure for last year.

- Resident in Parish: 36 (Approx 1% of the Parish population and 2% of the Christian parish population)
- Non-Resident : 20

References Sources: 1 - National Census Data 2021; 2 – Electoral roll – revision 2024
