



















St Mary's Church, Redbourn













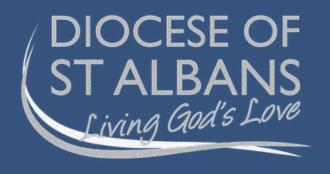




Welcome to our parish

Thank you for considering St Mary's, Redbourn as a place where God may be calling you to serve in the next stage of your ministry.

We hope that in the pages of this Parish Profile you will discover what underpins the life of our church and our village, and how God provides so generously in all we do.





- **Identity & Vision**
- **Church Life**
- Our Worship
- Opportunities for Growth
- Who we're looking for
- Our People
 - **Finance**
 - Vicarage & Local Area
 - History, Setting & Demographics

Contents

PARISH PROFILE
ST MARY'S CHURCH, REDBOURN



About St Mary's

THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

- An energetic place where church and community work well together to provide for the social and spiritual needs of everyone
- Strong lay-leadership (and the benefit of experienced retired clergy) who look forward to sharing and growing under the leadership of the vicar
- A faithful, loyal body of hard-working people who want to see the church and its mission flourish







The Church Building

12TH-15TH CENTURY GRADE 1 LISTED

A medium-sized building that is kept open every day. It has a seating capacity of 200-220.

GOOD CONDITION

Considering its age, the building is in good condition.

Quinquennial Inspections generally recommend between £20k and £60k of work to be carried out.

TRANSEPT HALL

Opened in 1989, this consists of a medium-sized hall seating up to 50 people, kitchen and toilets, choir vestry, and an upper room seating up to 20 people.

A Building for All

Our vision for the church building is that we share a partnership with it – both contribute to the mission of the Church in Redbourn.

As we seek to offer friendship, hospitality and refuge to all, so the building joins in that mission: we are keen that the building realise its potential for welcoming flexibility and openness, without losing its precious heritage.

ECO CHURCH

A recent area of concern has been how we can join with the national Church's stated aim of carbon neutrality by 2030, and reflect our custodianship and appreciation of God's world in all we do.







Friends of St Mary's

The main source of funding for the building and churchyard is the Friends of St Mary's, a charity operating independently of the PCC.

Since 1976 they have raised over £600,000 to fund conservation and repairs to our ancient building and maintenance of the churchyard.

In the last decade alone, FOSM have funded projects totalling over **£100,000**. These include:

- Stonemasonry and roof repairs
- Tree maintenance
- New keyboard and improved sound system
- Central heating repairs
- New sewing machines for textile group
- Repairs to the bell clappers
- New mower for churchyard team
- Organ repairs
- Garden machinery repairs



£10,300 in 2020 Organ repairs



£82,600 in 2013 & 2018



£33,950 in 2010 Upgrade of the churchyard paths

Stonemasonry in association with the Redbourn Care Group



£22,120 in 2009

Structural repairs to the church, churchyard walls and tombs



£49,700 in 2004

Re-surfacing of drive



£80,000 in 2001-2

Major repairs to the Tower and Porch Roofs



Our Mission Action Plan

MISSION IS OUR MISSION

In the past we have set out our MAP every five years, with the next renewal due in 2023.

After Covid we drew up a Mini MAP which focussed on four main areas: youth, small groups, welcome ministry, care of others.

We need you!

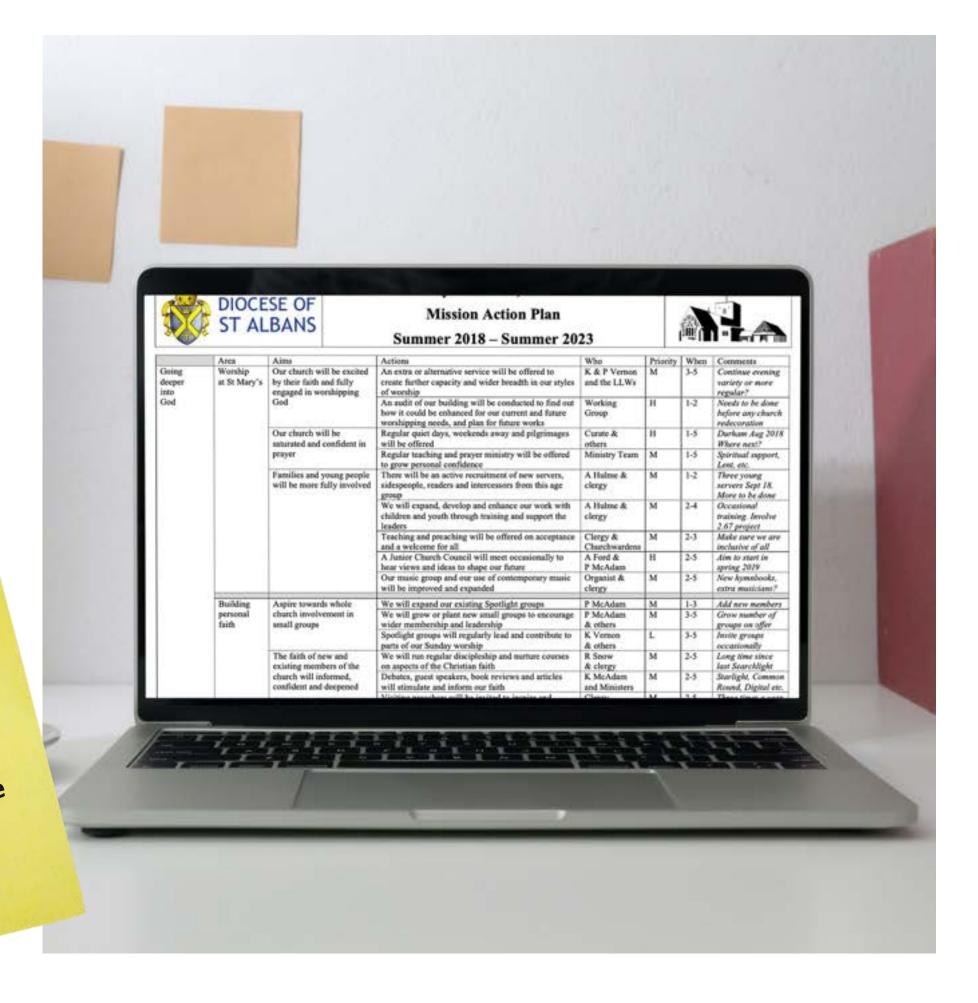
Our Mission Action Plan needs

refreshing.

can you help us to bring

direction for the next five

years, or more?







Looking Wider

LINKS WITH AFRICA

Further afield, we have a strong bond with the Mpwapwa diocese in Tanzania, with whom we have an ongoing project to build water pumps using solar energy. We also have links with the Beacon School in Ghana.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME

Every week people from this scheme help us to maintain the churchyard.

REDBOURN COMMUNITY GROUP

This volunteer-led registered charity was founded in 1980 to provide transport and relieve isolation for the elderly and housebound. It was recently renamed to reflect its expanded focus on serving the whole community of all ages and life stages.

There are many areas of crossover between RCG and St Mary's - many people serve in both, and previous vicars have provided valuable pastoral support as members of the trustee board. The two organisations have complementary roles.

Redbourn Community Group

supporting the village

A CHURCH FOR ALL

We are committed to the value of all people, regardless of boundaries.

All are to be welcomed to both membership and leadership roles.

Many of us participated in the national Church's Living in Love and Faith programme.

RE-MARRIAGE

Re-marriage has been at the discretion of the vicar, and is usually not seen to be a contentious issue.

COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN

We admit children to communion before confirmation, at the discretion of the PCC.



PROVISION FOR DISABILITIES

Step-free access is available via the Transept Hall. There is a stair lift to the upper floor.

A hearing aid induction loop is installed.

We provide large-print orders of service and hymn books (though we could improve in this area).

There is an accessible toilet.



To feel you can always be yourself and feel welcome yourself and feel welcome at St Mary's, whilst helping at St Mary's, whilst helping us to ensure all who visit us to ensure all who visit and belong to our church feel the same.



"Worshipping at St. Mary's is like being part of a large family. There are so many people involved in the many tasks needed to keep a vibrant parish running"

JOHN

"I have been made very welcome at St.
Mary's since I moved to the village
The opportunity to share and give of
my time is invaluable, and helps me in
my walk with God"

SALLY

"I was made to feel so comfortable following my first attendance. Thank you for making me so welcome"

TED

"I really enjoy coming to St Mary's Church because the atmosphere is so welcoming. I sing in the choir and I have made lots of friends through it"

Members
Old & New

ROSE, AGED 12

"St Mary's is a place for connection and peace; for service to others. It has offered me a consistent safe and calm refuge for nearly a decade. It's all the richer for diversity of thought and generous sharing of many gifts and talents"

NATASHA

Wider Church

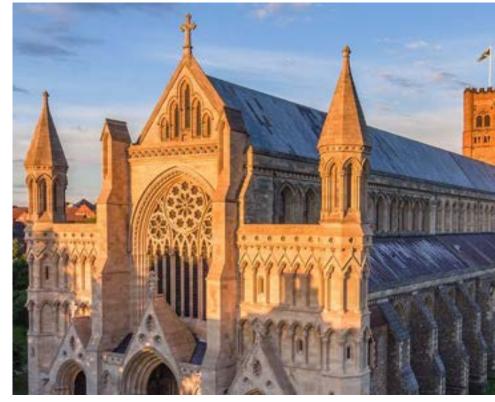
Redbourn is actively involved in the life of the deanery of Wheathampstead











CHURCHES TOGETHER

Redbourn has three other churches:
Redbourn Methodist Church, St John Fisher
RC, and Christ Church (independent).
There are strong and friendly links,
although Churches Together in Redbourn
(CTR) has not yet fully resumed after Covid.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

St Mary's hosts the Orthodox
Community of St Simeon and St Anna,
who are in communion with the
Patriarchy of Constantinople, and with
whom we have a very friendly
relationship.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

Being only a few miles from the Cathedral church means that we can benefit from all it has to offer in the way of special services and cultural events, including the annual St Albans pilgrimage.







Our Church

WHAT KEEPS US BUSY

A lively village needs an energetic church.

From regular groups that keep the wheels turning, to pop-up teams that carry out specific tasks, there are many people involved in church-led activities. Some of these activities are done in partnership with other village organisations.

We need you!

In the midst of our busyIn t

Our Young People



SUNDAY GROUPS

Junior Church (age 3-9) currently numbers 4-8, but older groups (age 9+) have not resumed since Covid.



HOLIDAY CLUB

The annual Holiday Club re-started in July 2022 and ran for a whole week, attracting nearly 50 children aged 5-11, and teen and adult helpers.





TEDDY TOTS

Our Friday morning baby and toddler group went outside during the pandemic and flourished and grew. It regularly attracts 30-40 adults and children.



Our Activities







CHOIR



TEXTILE GROUP



SPOTLIGHT HOME GROUPS



FLOWER TEAM



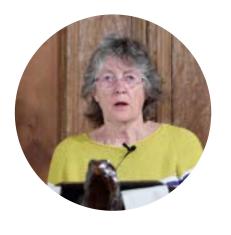
WORSHIP BAND



CHURCHYARD TEAM



LIFTS TO CHURCH



READERS ROTA



CLEANERS



INTERCESSORS



COFFEE ROTA



SACRISTY



STEWARDSHIP



Our Service in the Community



We are open minded as to what may be needed to encourage dynamic growth and community engagement within the context of Redbourn and what St Mary's needs for a successful future.



COFFEE ON THE COMMON

Four times a week, usually in the Cricket Pavilion on the Common. For people of all ages to relax with a cuppa. Daily numbers c.12 - 25.



WEDNESDAY CLUB

Weekly in the Transept, providing a full day of fun and friendship for the elderly who live alone, with a meal and some entertainment.



COMMON ROUND

Monthly publication by all the village churches. Distribution of 800, with plans to go online in 2023 whilst retaining a print edition for those who need it.



MOTHERS UNION

Our branch has 18 members and meets monthly for worship and a talk. Provide baptism families with ongoing support and information.



PASTORAL VISITING & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

are carried out by small trained teams.



CARING COOKS

We hope to re-start this initiative, which provides meals for respite and short-term cover.



Local schools

We enjoy a good relationship with Redbourn Primary School. Most terms we take a school assembly, and every year we welcome them to St Mary's at Christmas.

St Luke's SEN school sends pupils every week to help at Coffee on the Common and they hold their carol service in St Mary's.



Music at St Mary's

A thriving choral tradition over the years has been the mainstay of musical worship, and is much appreciated for its quality and timelessness.

Of late we have increasingly explored other more contemporary forms of music, often accompanied by a small but dedicated band of instrumentalists.

For the last few months music has been creatively managed by a group including organists and other musicians drawn from the choir and congregation.

Watch Adam lay y bounden sung by St Mary's choir - a video made under lockdown











Charity Fundraising

The Charitable Finance Committee lays on fun and cultural events, with the aim of raising funds for our designated charity of the year, whilst also providing enjoyment into the bargain. The charities are drawn from global, national and local organisations, in a three year cycle:

2015 **PTSD RESOLUTION**

National charity: **£7.8k raised**

2016
RIDING FOR THE
DISABLED:
GADDESDEN PLACE

Local charity: **£16.2k raised**

2017
OPEN DOORS UK

International charity: **£10.5k raised**

2018 **DEMENTIA UK**

National charity: **£12.9k raised**

2019 **YOUTH TALK**

Local charity: £16.3k raised

2020 - 2021
PUMPS FOR
MPWAPWA

International charity: **£40k raised**

2022 EMMAUS HERTFORDSHIRE

Fundraising activities this year:

- Saxophone Quartet Concert
- Hymns and Pimms at the Cricketers Pub
- Cake Sale run by Junior Choir
- String Quartet Concert
- Silent Film with organ accompaniment
- 'If These Stones Could Speak' dramatic production
- Beer & Carols at the Cricketers Pub







SUNDAY 8.00AM **BCP COMMUNION**

Average attendance 22



SUNDAY 9.30AM **PARISH EUCHARIST** CW ORDER ONE

Average attendance 92



SUNDAY 6.30PM VARIED: TAIZÉ, **CELTIC, CHORAL BCP**

Have largely not resumed since Covid



FRIDAY 10.00AM **TEDDY TOTS** FRESH EXPRESSION

Average attendance 39

Regular Pattern of Services



WEEKDAYS MORNING PRAYER 9.30AM **EVENING PRAYER** 5.00PM

Average attendance 2-10



WEDNESDAY 7.30PM **EUCHARIST**

Average attendance 13



FIRST TUESDAY 10.00AM **MOTHERS UNION**

Average attendance 36



We know there is an opportunity for growth of these services, and to ensure everyone's needs and worship styles are catered for.



PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sung Eucharist, lunch and entertainment. 2021 attendance 120

ALL SOULS

Sung Eucharist 77

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Readings and carols **130**

ADVENT COMPLINE

Weekday evenings **20**

CHRISTINGLE

4.00pm Post-Covid was outdoors 106

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES

Normally three sittings, none since Covid 220 x 3

LIGHTS OF LOVE

Outdoors, remembering recently departed 93

BEER AND CAROLS

Free-form singing in the pub! 200-ish

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Nine lessons and carols 210

CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

Afternoon children's service in two sittings **321 + 208**

WALKTHROUGH NATIVITY

Covid replacement for Crib service **250-280**



MIDNIGHT MASS

First Eucharist of Christmas 145

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am All-age Eucharist 149

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Has not resumed since Covid 50

ASH WEDNESDAY

Evening service with ashing 19

LENT PROGRAMME

Various services and events, most days of the week

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Lord's Supper, footwashing and vigil 26

GOOD FRIDAY

All-age Service 50

Solemn Liturgy with Communion 24

EASTER SUNDAY

6.00am Vigil with Breakfast 25

8.00am BCP Communion 30

10.00am All-age Eucharist 119

HYMNS AND PIMMS

More free-form singing in the pub 100-ish





Occasional Offices



BAPTISMS

2021 **25**



WEDDINGS

2021 8



CONFIRMATIONS

2021 **1** 2020: 14



FUNERALS

2021 40



CREMATIONS

2021 24



INTERMENTS

2021 20

Worship Out and About

Monthly communions are held in these Redbourn homes. Where possible, anyone is welcome to join these times of worship and fellowship



ST MATTHEW'S CARE HOME

offers long term residential care and short stay respite breaks for older people.



NEW FORGE PLACE

is a retirement housing complex in the High Street.



WOOLLAMS ALMSHOUSES

Administered by the Redbourn Charities, the body which oversees various historic funds given to the church.



Coping with Covid

At the height of Covid lockdowns, we made full use of the large churchyard:

- Teddy Tots temporarily morphed into Forest Tots
- Stations (of the Cross, and Easter) were hung from the lime tree avenue
- A labyrinth was mown into the grass
- Outdoor sculptures were made
- The 2021 walk-through Nativity (in place of the usual indoor Crib service), comprising various multi-media presentations and games, was a storming success, attracting over 250 people despite atrocious weather on the day

Our approach to online services was hybrid, but most weekly services were entirely pre-packaged, using local music, video and pictures.

As restrictions eased, we began holding services outdoors.

Some people joined in the outdoor services as they passed through the churchyard and have since become members. Although Covid restrictions are gone, we still embrace the "outdoors life" at 9:30am during the summer, weather permitting. We wait to see whether that pattern will become permanent, or maybe just a monthly event.



















Where we are now

We have an electoral roll of 211, of which 25 are non-resident in the parish.

The demographic of the congregation is not the same as that of the village – Sunday attendance is demonstrably not as young or as socially diverse as the village as a whole.

In recent years, and particularly during Covid, St Mary's has attempted with some success to broaden its base, working with pre-school children and with many who frequent the churchyard.

The tradition of the church could be described as Eucharistic, and within the congregation several traditions can be found. We have become more aware that we need to cater for a wide range of styles and approaches to both worship and understanding of God. Our medium-sized building enables us to offer a range of services.

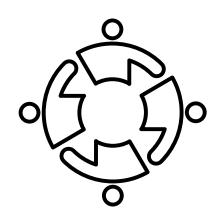
Although our core strength remains quite traditional and choral, of late we have enjoyed other traditions and styles of music.



This video made early in lockdown had a profound impact as we tried to cope with isolation (keep watching till the end)

Responding to Change

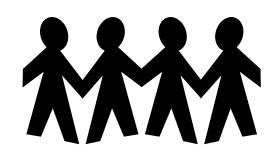
CHALLENGES FOR OUR NEXT VICAR



Reach parts of the community that are not reflected in our membership or worship



Discover how the rich heritage of the building can continue to serve us into the future



Re-connect with families and young people post-Covid



Reinvigorate church finances to ensure we can meet day-to-day running costs



Strike the best balance between growing a culture of learning and inclusivity, whilst striving to show excellence in all we do



Ensure our worship reflects who we are and gives inspiration to all



Be prepared for significant population increase through new housing developments

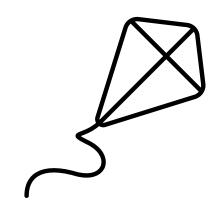




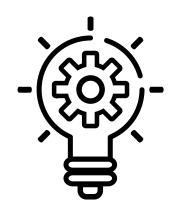
We're looking for a vicar who will...



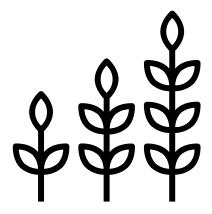
...listen, be understanding, approachable, and responsive to the needs of both church and community



...relate easily to children, young people and families



...be a team person, willing to share and develop ideas with others



...provide confident leadership to a church that wishes to grow deeper and wider



...be open to development and new directions, enabling us to be courageous



...be bold and imaginative in developing liturgy as a channel for multi-generational worship





Our Team



KAY VERNONReader



AILSA HULME Reader



DAVID FORBESLay Leader of
Worship



SUE MAY
Lay Leader of
Worship



+ROBIN SMITHMinistry Team



PAUL VERNONChurchwarden



MICHELLE PARRY-SLATER
Churchwarden



WENDY CRUICKSHANK Church Secretary



The PCC

25 members including:

1 vicar

2 lay readers

2 church wardens

2 deputy church wardens

4 deanery synod representatives

2 diocesan synod representatives

- 6 meetings per year
- members of the Standing Committee
- 6 Standing Committee meetings per year





PARISH SHARE

St Mary's has always been able to pay the annual Parish Share in full.

PROPERTY ASSETS

The PCC owns and rents out two properties adjacent to the churchyard: Church Cottage and Old Church Hall. Despite the challenge to balancing the PCC accounts, the PCC endeavours to view rental income as missional rather than for maintenance.

We also own a well-equipped office adjacent to Church Cottage, which is used by the vicar's secretary and rented out as office space to a single private business on other days.

Following major work carried out on Vicarage Cottage, the property is now occupied with a new tenant and a significant increase in the rent.

CONTACTLESS GIVING

Installing an electronic terminal has helped maintain giving levels for occasional offices, but also at some cost to the regular stewardship scheme, which as a result needs more focus as we emerge from pandemic.

2019

The last year before the Covid pandemic showed a healthy surplus on both the day-to-day running costs and the income from our properties.

2020

The congregation rallied in response to an appeal early on during Covid, which enabled the year to close with a surplus in line with 2019.

2021

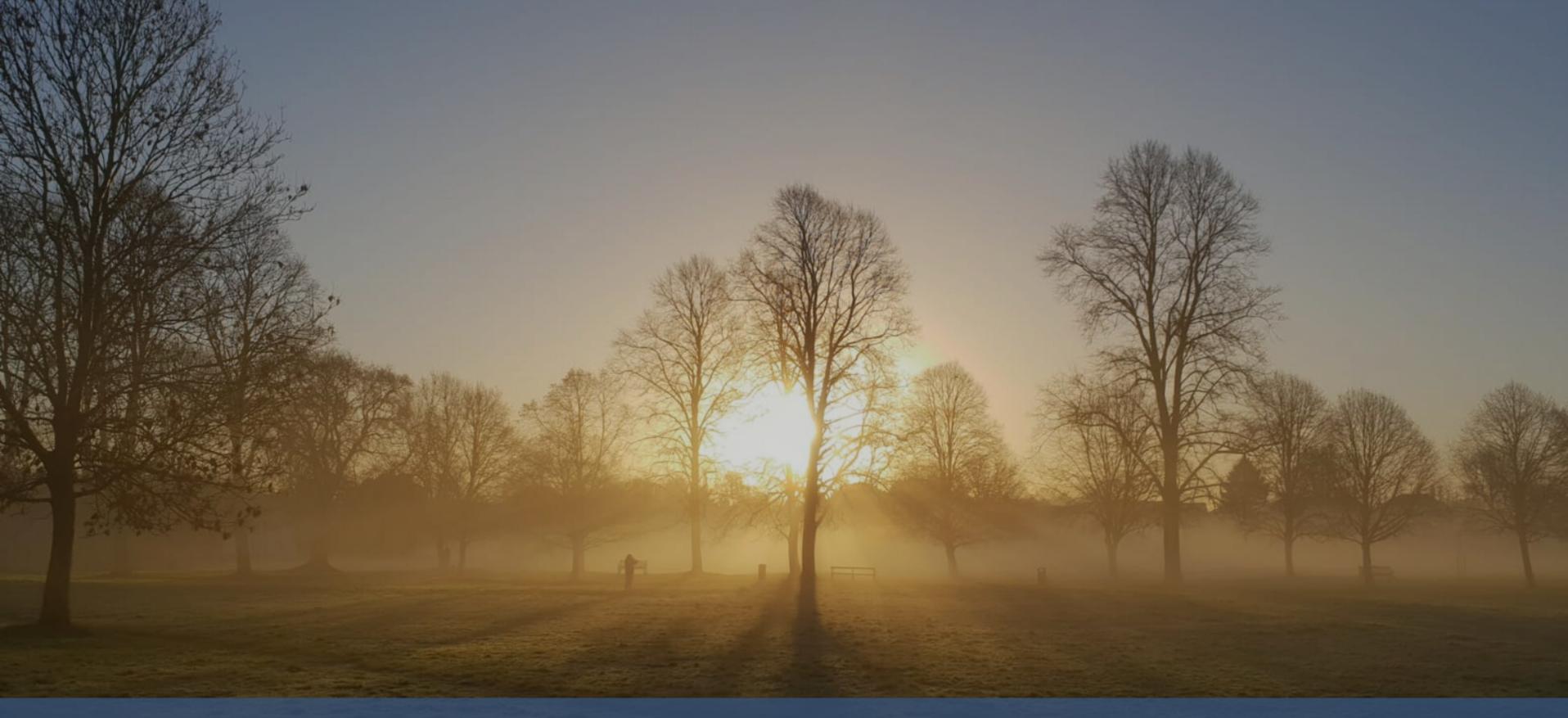
Covid hit deeper, resulting in a deficit on dayto-day costs. The accounts reported a surplus on the year overall only after accounting for the property income.

Our Finances

we need you!

To help us reinvigorate
our regular stewardship
scheme to ensure we
can meet day-to-day
running costs.





Vicarage & Local Area

Redbourn Common

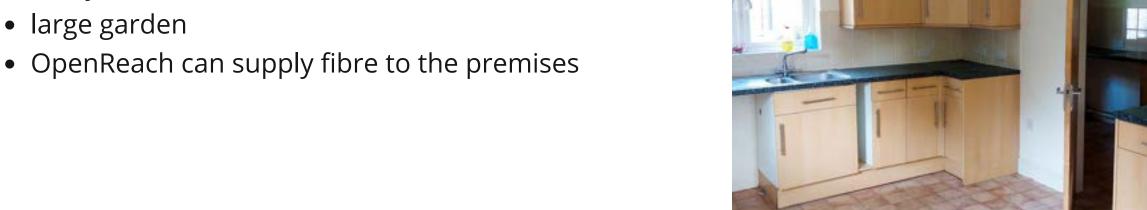


The Vicarage

The purpose-built vicarage (2006), has only ever had one occupancy.

Situated next door to the church and churchyard:

- 4 bedrooms
- sitting room
- dining room
- kitchen
- double garage
- study
- large garden









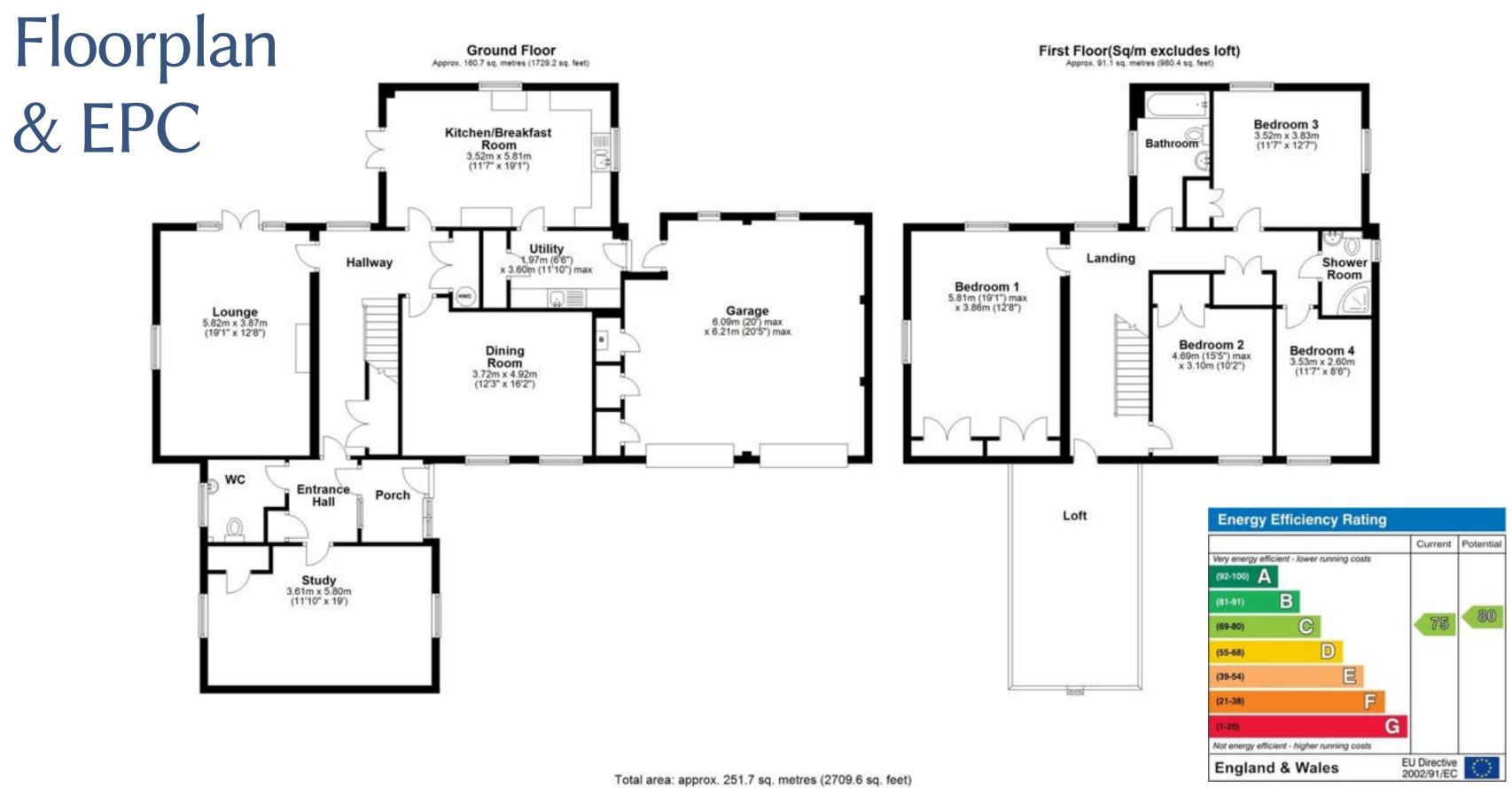






Watch a walk-through video tour of the vicarage here







Schools

PRIMARY

Redbourn Primary School is very active and enjoys a strong relationship with the wider community.

SECONDARY

Redbourn is in the catchment area of secondary schools in Harpenden, St Albans and Hemel Hempstead.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

St Luke's school is for children between 7 and 16 years old with Learning Disabilities and Complex Needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech and Language Communication Needs and Moderate Learning Disabilities.





A Taste of our Vibrant High Street





Sean's BakeryFresh bread, cakes & coffee







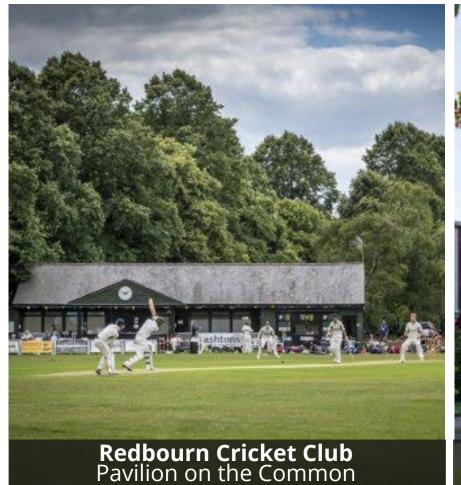






The Wine Sisters independent wine shop





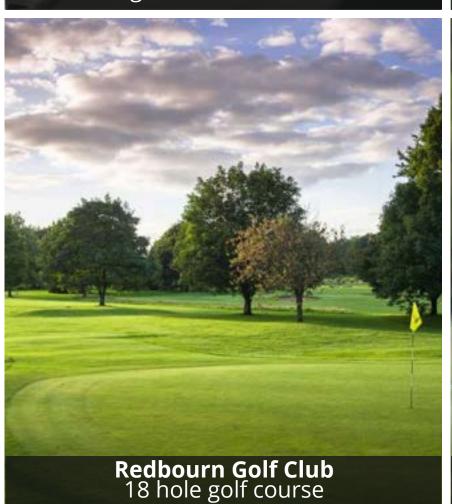














Fête du Vélo Annual cycle races around the common



History, Setting & Demographics

Scything the Churchyard, 1943



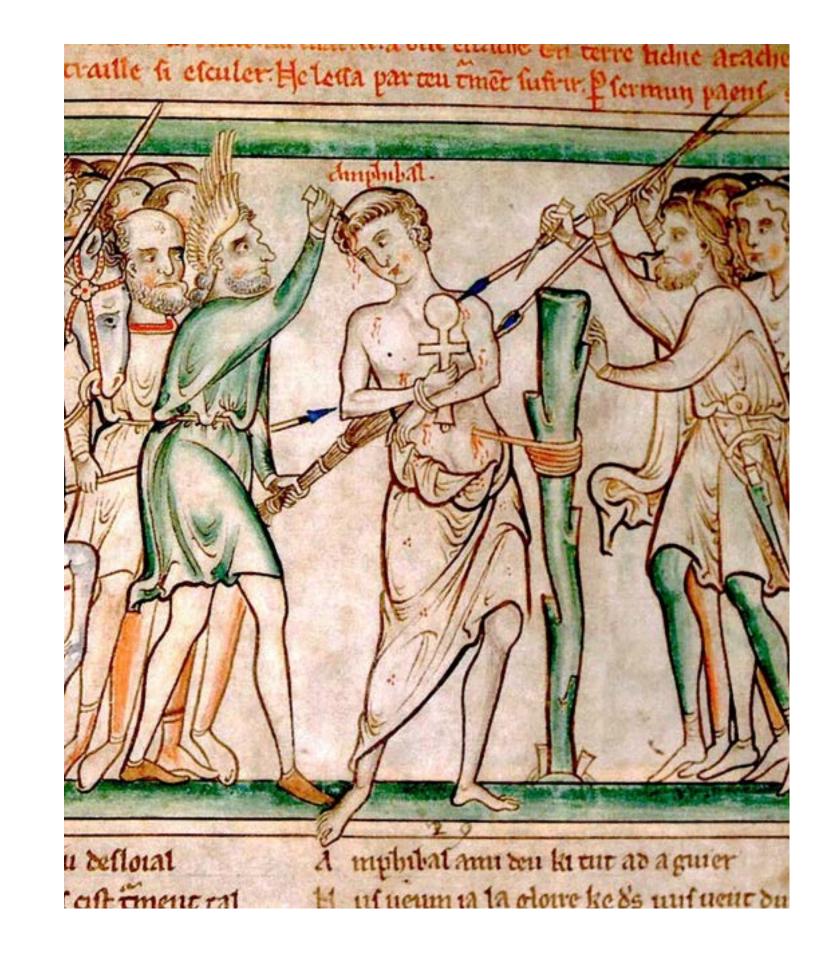
History

Redbourn is a large lively village that grew out of coaching inns on the old Watling Street. Over the centuries the village has spread way beyond those origins, reaching past the Common to the church at the western end.

ST. AMPHIBALUS

Redbourn is proud of its local saint. Close to Watling Street a priory was founded in 1178 after the discovery of the bones of St Amphibalus, who - legend has it - was instrumental in the conversion of St Alban; see the recently restored shrine to him in St Albans Cathedral.

Today nothing remains of the priory other than a quantity of stones in Redbourn Village Museum, but the Norman church of St Mary, built in about 1110, may have been served by monks from the priory in those early days.







Our first vicar is recorded as having been murdered in post, (these days we aim to resolve disputes more amicably...!). Another vicar (self-styled as Lord Frederick Beauclerk) earned notoriety for devoting more energies to cricket than to his parish.

REDBOURN 900

We are very conscious of our 900 years of history and the positive impact a Christian presence has had in the area.

This was celebrated in the Redbourn 900 festivities in 2010 – six months of events involving the whole community with many pursuits taking place around the village.

About Redbourn

CONNECTIONS

Rail links to London St Pancras (21 minutes from St Albans), and Euston (30 minutes from Hemel Hempstead)

Luton Airport is a 14 minute drive from Redbourn

Easy access to M1 and M25

Despite the proximity of the M1, traffic noise is not intrusive

POPULATION

Population 6,369

2,694 households (2011 census)

Average age $42~\mathrm{yrs}$ (2011 census)

Dogs 532 (est)

DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the Church Urban Fund, Redbourn is a relatively wealthy parish, ranking **9,423** out of **12,382**

Two traveller sites are located within the neighbourhood

5% of households claim Universal or Pension Credit - below both the national and local average

Housing is:

75% owner occupied

15% social rental

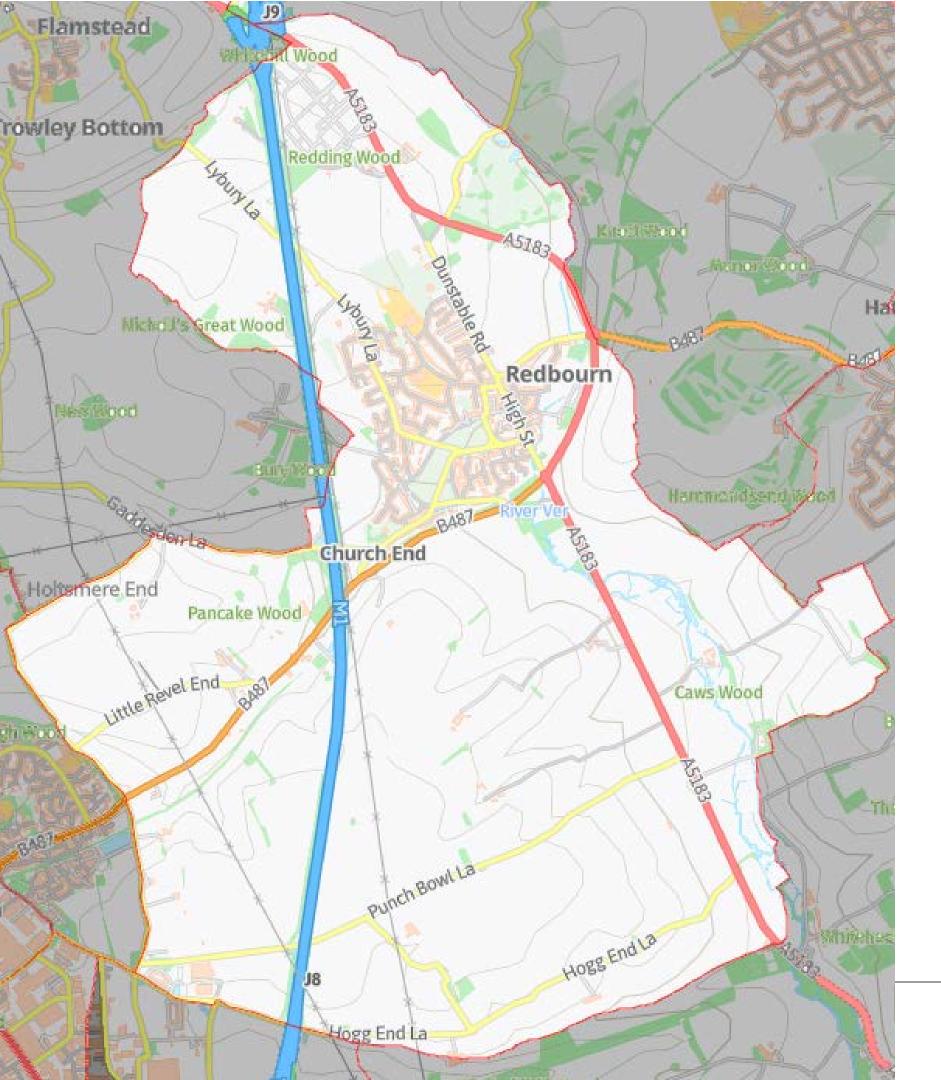
8.5% private rental

CHURCH LINKS

St Mary's is the only
Anglican church within the
village, and the benefice is
a single parish

Over the years this has enabled strong links to be fostered between church and community, giving the vicar a key role in both





Character

The large 26 acre Common is a magnificent shared space in the heart of Redbourn, much used for recreation of all kinds - family picnics, dog walking, daily exercise, cricket, annual events; it truly is a focal point for village life and community.

The completion of a by-pass in 1984 has meant that the village is no longer on the main A5 (Watling Street), with the result that the High Street is comparatively calm, whilst still providing a home for many key shops and businesses. However, the impact of modern shopping patterns and Covid have meant that there is a growing need to promote the High Street and retain its character.

FUTURE GROWTH

Redbourn has been identified as an area that should be developed to provide further housing. Its position on the border of two district councils has led to some delay in putting this into action. This is certain to become more pressing within the next ten years, and juggling the demands of all sides could be challenging.

We need you!

we need you!

to help us prepare for

to help us prepare for

significant population

significant population

increase through new

increase through new

housing developments.

























Appendix:

Further Information

ORGANISATIONS

Redbourn Parish Council

Redbourn Community Group

Redbourn Charities

Active in Redbourn

Redbourn Allotment Association

Redbourn Cricket Club

Redbourn Folk Club

Redbourn Golf Club

Redbourn in Bloom

Redbourn Village Museum

Redbourn Players

Redbourn Tennis Club

Redbourn U3A

Redbourn WI

Run Redbourn

<u>Ver Valley Society</u>

CHURCHES

Redbourn Methodist Church
St John Fisher Catholic Church
ChristChurch Redbourn

AMENITIES

Crown Pharmacy
Medivet Nine Lives Vets
Redbourn Community Library
Redbourn Dental Practice

Redbourn Eyecare

Redbourn Health Centre

Redbourn Leisure Centre

Redbourn Physiotherapy

<u>Redbourn Village Hall</u>

St Matthews Care Home

YOUTH

Redbourn Pre-School

Nursery on the Green

Redbourn Primary School

St Luke's School Redbourn

Choice Cricket School

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

ANNUAL EVENTS

Fete du Velo - Redbourn Festival
Redbourn Christmas Market
Redbourn Classics
Redbourn Fireworks

EAT & DRINK OUT

<u>Aubrey Park Hotel</u>

Old Cottage Fish & Chips

Redbournbury Watermill & Bakery

Sean's Bakery

The Hub

The Chequers Inn

The Cricketers of Redbourn

The George

The Hollybush

FOOD BANKS & CLUBS

Redbourn Hampers & Food Club
St Albans and District Foodbank



St Mary's Church, Redbourn

ADDRESS

St Mary's Church Hemel Hempstead Road Redbourn AL3 7NW

MAILING ADDRESS

St Mary's Church Office 45A Church End Redbourn AL3 7DU



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