

Cambridge Judge Business School

REACH Ely Case Study Series

Reimagining Churches as Community Assets
for the Common Good

GLOSSARY



Text, design and photography

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**REACH Ely (Reimagining Churches as
Community Assets for the Common Good)**
is a multi-partner research project that
aims to help communities make fuller use
of their churches.

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The project is implemented by

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*with the generous support of **Benefact Trust** and*

Historic England

www.reachely.org

The **Glossary** accompanies the case study series and helps readers understand the meanings of key terms that appear in case studies. The **case study series**, available for download from the Diocese of Ely website and the project's website www.reachely.org, comprises 40 publications on individual church buildings. Case studies are based on in-depth interviews and observations about church building use with informants from a subset of deaneries and parishes in the Diocese of Ely, supplemented with secondary information about the communities they represent. The purpose of case studies was to unearth various church experiences in renovating and envisioning their buildings as missional and social spaces, engaging with local and wider communities, addressing current challenges, and learning from their practice.

On the cover: Handmade models of St James' church and Little Paxton village.

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**The following case studies, listed in alphabetical order, are available
for download from the Diocese of Ely website:
www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/reach-ely**

Bartlow, St Mary	Hinxton, St Mary and St John
Beachamwell, St Mary	Histon, St Andrew
Cambridge, Chesterton, Good Shepherd	Landbeach, All Saints
Cambridge, Chesterton, St George	Linton, St Mary the Virgin
Cambridge, Christ Church	Little Gransden, St Peter and St Paul
Cambridge, Newnham, St Mark	Little Paxton, St James
Cambridge, St Martin	Littleport, St George
Cambridge, St Philip	March, St John
Carlton, St Peter	March, St Mary
Caxton, St Andrew	March, St Peter
Comberton, St Mary	March, St Wendreda
Duxford, St Peter	Outwell, St Clement
Elton, All Saints	Rampton, All Saints
Feltwell, St Mary the Virgin	Sawston, Free Church
Fen Ditton, St Mary the Virgin	Somersham, St John the Baptist
Foxton, St Laurence	Trumpington, St Mary and St Michael
Grantchester, St Andrew and St Mary	Waterbeach, St John the Evangelist
Great Abington, St Mary the Virgin	Wisbech, St Peter and St Paul
Haddenham, Holy Trinity	Wormegay, St Michael and All Angels and Holy Cross
Hildersham, Holy Trinity	Yaxley, St Peter

In preparation of the Glossary the following resources were used:
The Cambridge English Dictionary, the Churches Conservation Trust, the Church of England website, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Gov.UK, NationalArchives.gov.uk, The Oxford English Dictionary, and Taylor, R. 2003. *How to read a church: A guide to images, symbols and meanings in churches and cathedrals*. London: Rider.

A

AD

Also 'CE' – 'Anno Domini' – a time reference relating to the number of years after the birth of Jesus Christ.

Ascension Day

The fortieth day of Easter that commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven 39 days after resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday

A Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent.

Authorised Lay Minister

Trained lay people, active in church life, who have a particular vocation, special interest or skill that can be an integral part of their church's ministry (see also **Licensed Lay Minister**).

Artefact

In the church context, an object of special value, typically one of religious, cultural and historical interest (e.g. **font, brass**).

Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts movement was an international trend in the decorative and fine arts that developed earliest and most fully in the British Isles from the mid-19th century and subsequently spread across the British Empire and to the rest of Europe and America. Some churches in Britain features architectural and design elements of Arts and Craft through their association with the Art Workers Guild or the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society.

B

BC

Also 'BCE' – 'Before Christ' – used in the Christian calendar when referring to a year before Jesus Christ was born.

Benefice

Or living in the Church of England – describes any ecclesiastical parish or group of ecclesiastical parishes under a single stipendiary minister, as well as its related historical meaning. The term

dates from the grant of benefices by bishops to clerks in holy orders as a reward for extraordinary services.

Bishop

A senior cleric who is the pastoral leader of a diocese or district. In the **Diocese** of Ely, the current Bishop of Ely is the Right Reverend Stephen Conway was confirmed as the 69th Bishop of Ely on 6th December, 2010. He was installed in Ely Cathedral on Saturday, 5th March 2011.

Book of Common Prayer, BCP

The name of the book of services, prayers and readings used in the **Church of England**, first published in 1549. The beauty of its language is widely admired, but in many places it has been superseded by the modern language services of Common Worship.



Church brass at Holy Trinity, Hildersham

Brass

Monumental brasses are one of the most common forms of memorial surviving from the Middle Ages. Brasses incised with text and images were used to cover the tombs of people buried inside churches, particularly between 1300 and 1600.

C

Clergy

The body of all people ordained for religious duties.

Coffee morning

A social event in the church at which coffee and tea are served. It takes place in the morning, sometimes after church services, and is intended to raise money for charity.

Champing

From 'church' and 'camping' – A unique concept of camping overnight in historic churches, brought to the world by the Churches Conservation Trust, the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

Chancel

The part of a church containing the altar and seats for the *clergy* and choir.



Church hall interior at St John's, March

Church hall

Also '*parish hall*' – A room or building associated with a church, generally for community, recreational and charitable use. In smaller and village communities, it is often a separate building near the church, while on more restricted urban sites it may be part of or attached to the main church building (see also *Village hall*).

Church of England

The established Christian church of England and the mother church of the international Anglican Communion.

Churchwarden

The principal lay official in a *parish* of the Church of England (and many other Anglican churches).

Churchwardens are elected by the local population of the parish and are ex officio members of the *PCC*.

Churchyard

Churchyards are often used as graveyards. Graves face east as Christians adopted the old Jewish custom of burying the dead with their feet towards the rising sun, as a symbol of hope.

Crèche

A nursery where babies and young children are cared for during church services. Providing childcare and supporting parents is an important part of church mission.

D

Deanery

Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the *Diocese*, within which parishes are grouped under the care of Rural Deans (including Ely). Each deanery is governed by a *deanery synod*.

Deanery synod

A statutory body under the Synodical Government Measure 1969. There are 24 deanery synods, one per deanery, each consisting, in the main, of the licensed and beneficed clergy of the deanery; the lay parochial representatives elected by the annual parochial church meetings of each parish in the deanery, and ex officio (General and Diocesan Synod) members.

Diocese

A specific geographical area over which the *bishop* exercises his or her pastoral oversight.

Domesday Book

Britain's earliest public record (1085 *AD*). Domesday Book contains the results of a huge survey of land and landholding, including parish churches, commissioned by William I, known as William the Conqueror. Domesday is by the far the most complete record of pre-industrial society to survive anywhere in the world and provides a unique window on the medieval world. The earliest surviving record of many parish churches is in the Domesday Book.

E

Electoral roll

A list in every parish of all those entitled to vote on elections within the **Church of England**. Those entitled to have their names on this roll have to be 16 years of age or more and they must reside in the relevant **parish** or be regular worshippers in church whose roll they wish to join. The roll is completely renewed every six years, at which point all members have to re-apply for membership or else their names will be deleted. By this means, the continuing validity of the roll is maintained.

F

Fair

Also 'fayre' – A community event organised by a church, typically to raise money for charity or church needs. 'Fayre' is an old term of either fair that is sometimes used in British English to suggest something that is simple and traditional (see also **Fete**).

The Fens

Also 'Fenland' – A coastal plain in eastern England and the East Midlands. The Cambridgeshire Fens cover an area of around 200 square miles of extremely flat, mostly agricultural land, west of The Wash. The little that remains of undrained fenland of East Anglia provide only a glimpse of what this desolate marsh area was like for centuries.

Festival church

A church building which is not used for weekly worship, but is valued and required by the community for local events and for Christian Festivals, such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, and others.

Fete

A fête, or fete, is an elaborate festival, party or celebration. In Britain, fêtes are often held yearly by churches and schools to raise funds.



Church font at St Mark's, Newnham, Cambridge

Font

A bowl on a pedestal used for baptism, which is placed usually at the rear of the church. The significance of this position is that it is near, or visible from, the main entrance. Baptism being the entry to membership of the church.

Foodbank

A local store of non-perishable food operated by volunteers from churches and the wider community. Need is assessed by professionals from local agencies and local church leaders.

Forest church

See *Mossy Church*.

Friends of the church

A group of local people in a parish, set up by a **PCC**, that help raise funds for their church by subscriptions, donations, legacies, Gift Aid and special events.

H

Hamper Scheme

Church hampers ('bags of kindness') is a charitable support activity for families in financial difficulty. Donated toys and treats are contributed to a Family Christmas Hamper. In addition, school meal hampers are distributed by churches to their neighbours.

I

Incumbent

In English ecclesiastical law, the term refers to the holder of a **Church of England** parochial charge or benefice (see also **Vicar**).

L

Lady Chapel

Many churches, particularly large churches dating from before the Reformation, include a small Lady Chapel. The chapel is dedicated to, and will contain images of, the Virgin Mary. Lady chapels tend to be used for services for smaller congregations (e.g. mid-week services), and for the spillover of people when very large congregations are present.

Lectern

A lectern is placed near the division between the **chancel** and the **nave**. The Bible rests on the lectern for reading during the services.

Ledger stone

An inscribed stone slab usually laid into the floor of a church to commemorate or mark the place of the burial of an important deceased person.

Licensed Lay Minister

Also '*lay reader*' – A person authorised by a bishop in the Anglican Communion to lead certain services of worship (or parts of the service), preach, and carry out pastoral and teaching functions (see also **Authorised Lay Minister**).

M

Messy Church

A form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It typically includes a welcome, a creative time to explore the biblical theme with activities, games and crafts; a celebration time involving story, prayer, and songs; and a sit-down meal together at tables.

Ministry Share

See *Parish Share*.

Mossy Church

Also '*forest church*' – An outdoor variation of Messy Church to engage families with the rhythms of the natural world.

Mothers' Union

An international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide. Its members are not all mothers or even all women, as there are many parents, men, widows, singles and grandparents

involved in its work. Its main aim is to support monogamous marriage and family life, especially through times of adversity. There are around 4 million Mothers' Union members in 84 countries.

N



The nave of St John the Baptist, Somersham

Nave

(From the Latin *navis* meaning ship). The central area of the church, the main aisle flanked by rows of **pews** – it is the space for the laity, the congregation.

Narthex

A small room or area at the western entrance of some churches.

P

Parish

The United Kingdom is covered by a system of individual parishes, having their own church in a defined geographical area. Every member of the population lives in a parish and has, as a consequence, the right to be baptised, married and where there is an open graveyard, buried (aka "hatch, match, dispatch") and to be ministered to by the **incumbent** (see **Vicar**) of the parish.

Parish church

Also '*parochial church*' – In Christianity is the church which acts as the religious centre of a **parish**.

Parish council

A local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the **parish** and has an overall responsibility for the wellbeing of its local community. It is the level government closest to the community, with the district authority above it in the hierarchy.

Parish share

Also 'Ministry Share' (in the Diocese of Ely) but has other names in other places – The amount of money that each **parish** is asked to contribute to support the provision of the mission and ministry of the church in the **Diocese**, which is primarily the cost of **clergy**.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

An executive committee of a Church of England parish. Organisationally, these are charities that support the smooth operating of the parish. **Clergy**, parish **churchwardens**, and representatives of the laity are members of Parochial Church Councils. The council overlooks the financial affairs of the church **parish**, its assets, such as churches and **church halls**, and promotes the mission of the church.

Since the passing of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1921, the laity have had a formal place in the government of the church. This was confirmed in the Synodical Government Measure 1970, in which the procedures of election to a PCC and the powers of a PCC are spelled out: it is made clear that PCC and **incumbent** must cooperate in the running of a parish.

Pews

A long bench seat or enclosed box, used for seating members of a congregation or choir in a church.

Piscina

A stone basin near the altar for draining water used in the Mass in pre-Reformation churches.

Pop-Up Church

The organisation of church activities at temporary locations. The purpose of Pop-up Church is to engage those who may never come to a central worship gathering at a church building.

Prayer Tree

A fixture in the church for worshippers and visitors to add their prayer cards to the tree.

Priest-in-charge, see *Vicar*.

Public house

Also 'pub' – A bar or tavern that serves food and often acts as a community gathering place. People visit pubs to eat lunch, drink beer, or play darts or pool with friends. Pub Quiz is also a popular activity.

Pulpit

A raised enclosed platform in a church or chapel from which the preacher delivers a sermon.

R**REACH Ely**

A short name of the project 'Reimagining churches as community assets for the common good', which was implemented in 2018-21 by Cambridge Judge Business School and the **Diocese** of Ely with the support of the Benefact Trust and Historic England.

Rector

A priest or minister who is in charge of a church or **parish** (see also **Incumbent**).

Remembrance Sunday

In the United Kingdom, holiday held on the second Sunday of November that commemorates British service members who have died in wars and other military conflicts since the onset of World War I. By tradition, a two-minute period of silence is observed throughout the country at 11 a.m., and church services and other ceremonial gatherings take place during the day.

Ride and Stride

In the United Kingdom, a national sponsored bike ride or walk in which people walk or cycle between churches, explore the countryside and (re)discover rare churches.



Rood screen at St Mary the Virgin, Feltwell

Rood screen

The word 'rood' derives from the Anglo-Saxon word for 'cross', and refers to the crosses which often hung above such screens. A common feature in late medieval church architecture. It is typically an ornate partition between the **chancel** and **nave**.

S

Servery

Also 'kitchen' or 'hospitality area' – An area in the church for organising coffee mornings and catering for church and community events.

Social prescribing

Also the social prescriber's list of social community institutions – the list enables general practitioners and other frontline healthcare professionals to refer patients to local social and community institutions to provide them with a face-to-face conversation about the possibilities and personalised solutions. Some churches welcome referrals to their **foodbank** and community supporting initiatives.

Stained glass

The coloured glass used for making decorative windows and other objects through which light passes. Stained glass is used in domestic buildings, yet most commonly associated with churches.

Synod

A body of clergy and laity representing an appropriate electorate with powers of decision making in ecclesiastical matters. The **Church of England** has established synods at national, **diocesan** and deanery levels.

T



Thatched roof of All Saints, Rampton

Thatched roof

A traditional roofing method that involves using dry vegetation such as straw, water reed, rushes, sedge, and so on to create a roof covering. Some churches in England feature thatched roof.

V

Vestry

A room or building attached to a church, used as an office and for changing into ceremonial vestments.

Vicar

A priest who is in charge of a church and the district around it (see **Parish**).

Vicarage

The residence of a **vicar**.

Village hall

A charitable community facility available to the public in a particular area. Being at the heart of rural community life, village halls provide community-related recreational activities, for example, concerts, classes, post office services, doctors' surgeries and shops (see also **Church hall**). In villages without a village hall, the church can often fulfill some of these roles.

Visitors' book

A book or journal that is used to collect information about visitors to the church. Visitors are welcome to leave feedback, thoughts and impressions on their visit. For church people, the proactive use of the visitor's book information can be used to invite previous visitors to new events, as well as inform future visitor activity.

U

Unrestricted funds

Funds or donations that donors do not specify or restrict for the use to a particular purpose or project. Churches that receive unrestricted donations may use them for any purpose. On the contrary, restricted income is tied to a particular project.

Z

Zoffee

From 'Zoom' and 'coffee' – a social coffee morning activity organised online, using Zoom video-chat software, during national lockdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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