

A short history of  
**All Saints Church**  
**Newmarket**  
**Suffolk**



# 1. Summary of church history

## 1.1 The birth of the parish of All Saints

The following summary is based on a booklet produced for the Centenary celebrations of the current building -

The Church of ALL SAINTS 1877-1977, 100 years of family worship. The land on which All Saints is built was first used for worship from around the 13th century, but to understand the origin of All Saints, the origins of Newmarket and St Mary's must be understood.

End of 12th century Newmarket began its life as a market town after a "shrewd Lord of the Manor" saw the area was ideally placed on the main road from London to Norwich being more or less equally distant from Cambridge, Ely, Bury St Edmunds, and Mildenhall.

Newmarket was originally carved out of the parishes of Exning and Woodditton.

Around 1280 The Lords of the Manor on the Exning side, the Argenteins, built their chapel of ease, on the St Mary's site. The monks of Thetford were the parish priests of St Mary's.

"Somewhat" later The Lords of the Manor of Ditton Valens built a similar chapel of ease, on the All Saints site.

Early 14th century Maria de Sancto Paulo, Countess of Pembroke, obtained a papal license for one of the monks of Thetford to say mass at her chapel of ease on the site of All Saints, then called St Simon and St Jude.

Start of 16th century St Mary's became a parish church in its own right.

1612 All Saints site was described as a "hamlet of Woodditton".

1650 A Parliamentary Commission recommended its (All Saints) fusion with St Mary's in Suffolk, a recommendation which fortunately was not carried out.

1746 Cole, a great Cambridge topographer, wrote "It (All Saints) is only a Chapel of Ease to the Vicarage of Woodditton, which is the Mother Church".

1801 Comparative population of the two wards, St Mary's 1300, All Saints under 500.

1830 According to a commercial directory of that year, so far as the two Newmarket Churches were concerned, "Service is performed at one church in the morning, and at the other in the afternoon".

1834 All Saints began to exist as a parish in its own right from the appointment of Reverend G. Otter as perpetual curate.

1868 Legally recognised as a parish when the Reverend Romaine Govette became the first Vicar.



**The original All Saints Church**  
*(as seen from All Saints Road)*

## **1.2 Royal patronage**

The building of the palace and its complex on the All Saints side of Newmarket, together with the periods that the King (Charles II) and his court were in Newmarket for days at a time, meant that All Saints became the court church, the church to which the court came when it was in Newmarket.

Various court figures of the late 17th century and early 18th century have memorial tablets at the church:

James Ellyott Esq Died 1677 -  
"Groom of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Chamber".

Thomas Walker Died 1725 -  
"Housekeeper of the Palace in this Parish, belonging to the King".

Tregonwell Frampton Died 1727 -  
"Keeper of the Running Horses for their Sacred Majesties King William III, Queen Anne, King George I, King George II".

These and other memorial tablets are mounted in the walls in the porch. Even as late as 1846, when the connection with royalty had long ceased, there was still a palace pew in the old church. It is this royal connection,

which gave All Saints its distinctive character from the 17th century onwards.

### **1.3 The origin of the All Saints Church**

Closely allied with the royal patronage was the connection with the Dukes of Rutland who were Lords of the manor until the 1890s. In fact the new church was a memorial to Lord George Manners (Manners was the family name of the Dukes of Rutland) and is described in local weeklies of the period as the Manners Memorial Church.

Lord George lived at Cheveley Park and had been Member of Parliament for Cambridgeshire for twenty years. He died in September 1874. In December 1874 a meeting was convened to discuss the erection of a memorial church to him, under the patronage of the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII), with the Earl of Hardwicke, the Bishops of Winchester and of Ely, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Lieutenant of the County and three Members of Parliament among the twenty one Vice-patrons.

A new church had to be built because the building of the time was "falling" down. A correspondent, of the Bury and Norwich Post, described it on December 1st 1874 as: " ... a blot and disgrace to our parish and our town ... The windows are nailed in to prevent their blowing out ... The plan of adding galleries is futile ... The existing pillars can hardly bear the weight they have to bear. They are bowed not only in one direction, but many of them in two. Who would dare to sit in such a gallery, or who would venture his life beneath it ... the site of the present church is in a ditch three feet deep. The consequences is what anyone might expect, a cold, damp church, enough to give rheumatism to anyone who comes ... The population is not one less than 2000..." (However records of the time show it was approximately 1400)

" ... Our church accommodation is 300, and for the poor ... only a seat against a cold damp wall

... As to the approaches of the church, nothing can be worse. It is buried in poor cottages, blacksmith's shops, rag and bone stores etc. The site is no longer the centre of the parish..." At the meeting to discuss the memorial to Lord George Manners the Bishop of Ely suggested that a site should be found for the new church in the High Street. But this was not possible and it was decided to build the new church on the old site. A committee was formed and plans and specifications were made; the Chancellor of the Diocese, Sir Isambard Brunel, took his time to grant the necessary faculty.

Eventually the new church was built on the site of the old, at a cost between £5000 and £6000.

The Consecration service took place on Wednesday September 19th 1877 with the Bishop of Ely preaching. The Bishop ended his sermon with the words: " Let this new Church ... be a voice exhorting us to increased earnestness, and worship, and usefulness in the world".

#### **1.4 Vicars of All Saints from 1877**

1868 - 1883 Reverend T. R. Govett  
1883 - 1898 Reverend E. H. Littlewood M.A.  
1899 - 1902 Reverend Canon Godfrey Dale M.A.  
1904 - 1909 Reverend Edward Singleton D.D.  
1909 - 1910 Reverend E. A. Moxon  
1910 - 1915 Reverend Canon Douglas Hamilton M.A.  
1915 - 1930 Reverend Canon J.H. Bannerman M.A.  
1930 - 1936 Reverend C.A. Barnes B.A.  
1936 - 1946 Reverend T. R. Browne B.D.  
1946 - 1953 Reverend R. S. Wingfield Digby M.A.  
1953 - 1963 Reverend Canon Richard Tydeman  
1963 - 1974 Reverend A. C. Winter F.C.A.  
1974 - 1982 Reverend John Hathaway  
1983 - 1986 Reverend K. W. Staggs S.Th.Lambeth Dip.  
1987 - 1993 Reverend R. M. Rimmer M.A.  
1994 - 2002 Reverend John Ross  
2002 - Reverend M. E. Osborne

#### **1.5 Events (and interesting facts) from 1877 to 1980**

Based on the recollections of past Vicars and memories of members of the congregations:

18th Sept. 1877 "There has been much excitement about the opening of the Church tomorrow so that the work done during the past two days has been little. It has taken all our energy to keep order." A comment attributed to the head or a teacher of All Saints' Mixed School (which first opened its doors to children late in 1869).

Late 19th century Reference to the size of household of the old Vicarage. "... My Father had a wing built on you know, and we were all very happy there, Father and Mother and the ten of us, and the governess and the cook and the two maids and the coachman and the gardener and the boy..." Attributed to an anonymous daughter of an early Vicar - According to R Tydeman.

1936 The Honourable Mrs Cecily Lambton (a trainers widow) donated a cartoon/picture (7ft by 3ft) titled "An angel guarding mankind" by the pre Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones in memory of her husband. This was hung, for many years, on a wall near the font. Note the font was at the west end of the nave where The Saints room is today.

1937 "We celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the Church, and at the Festival Evensong on All Saint's Day - the Bishop was the preacher - one or two of the old Vicars and two past curates were at the service."

T. R. Browne 1941 "We remember well the tragic bombing raid in Newmarket on the afternoon of the 18th of February 1941, when twenty people were killed and many injured. Several of our church members were among the killed. "

T. R. Browne 1946 "... All Saints' Church was an over-pewed Victorian building frequented by wealthy racing people, trainers, and jockeys. Some of the owners had properties in and around Newmarket where they stayed in race weeks and at other times. Canon Browne my predecessor was an influential figure in the town and had built up a good congregation"

R. S. Wingfield-Digby 1946 - 1953 Modifications made during the time of R. S. Wingfield Digby "... transformation of the church's interior furnishings with an Oak Reredos and oak panelling in the sanctuary, a new oak Holy Table with lighted candles, oak choir stalls and an oak pulpit; moving the chancel screen to the west end of the nave to form a baptistery; removal of some of the pews; and a hot air heating system surrounded by an oak screen in the south aisle which never proved it's worth..."

1953 The Judas tree (on the south side of the Church yard) was planted to mark Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

1954 "... we congratulated ourselves on a Fete which made the magnificent sum of £200." Canon Tydeman. (Was this near the average annual manual wage for the time?)

1957 Church commissioners (persuaded by Canon Tydeman) to sell the Vicarage (referred to as the Rutland Memorial) in Vicarage Road (between the School and Police Station, land which has since been redeveloped by School and Police Station extensions) and buy the house at 17 Cardigan Street.

The old Vicarage was described by Canon Tydeman as "... We lived for four years in the old Vicarage, and I sometimes wonder how we managed to get through the winters; the rooms were large and lofty, and there was no central heating. The bathroom was built out from the first floor as an

after-thought, and stood on pillars; this meant that it had not only three outside walls, but an outside ceiling and floor as well. We frequently had trouble with frozen water pipes, and my 1954 diary tells of several occasions when even the HOT water pipes were frozen!"

1963 At the end of his term Canon Tydeman moved into the City of London and of his time in Newmarket he says "... What I did not realise then, but have come to recognise now, is that my time at All Saints was the best possible preparation for the job which I have been doing ever since. The City of London is such an unusual place that it would be almost impossible to come to it from an "ordinary" Parish, and Newmarket could certainly not be called "ordinary"; it has a cosmopolitan air about it, with prince and commoner, poor and rich, mingling in the same sort of way that one finds in the city.

## **1.6 Changes to the church buildings**

The 1980s perhaps saw the greatest change in the fabric of the church of All Saints since its opening in 1877.

It is clear from church records and discussions with elders of the congregation that both the church and church hall were in need of major repairs.

Records show that for the period 1980 - 1985 repairs to the church alone reached in excess of £43,000. This did not include the major conversion within the church itself in 1986.

It must have been a daunting task for a congregation of less than 180 to bear this cost and drastic action was called for.

In 1983 serious defects to the church tower meant a final cost of £15,000 was needed. Although some funds were raised, a loan was needed to finalise this work.

At the same time the church hall was only just paying its way, and a license was applied for, to extend the activities of the hall. The license was not granted, due to the poor conditions of the building and insufficient facilities. The changes required by the local authorities would eventually mean a closure of the hall.

In 1985 the church needed £18,500 for restoration work and the church hall £10,000 for changes and repairs. The decision was made that the way forward was to sell the church hall. Funds raised from this sale would go towards both church restoration and the building of the Christian centre in the rear of the church.

Amongst the assets of the church at that time was a cartoon picture by the artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones, which was itself in need of restoration. A decision was made to try and sell this work of art. Permission to sell was formally granted after two years by a high court judge who held a

special court meeting in All Saints Church. The Lambton family had offered to buy back the picture for £10,000 but the judge ruled it should be auctioned at Sothebys. It failed to reach the reserve price so was finally sold to the Lambtons for £10,000 in December 1985.

In February 1986 the church hall was finally sold for £35,000.

The alterations to the church (which included meeting rooms, kitchen, toilet facilities, and open carpeted area) would eventually cost some £46,000.

Although there were mixed views with respect to modifications within the church, historical records would suggest that options were somewhat limited, and one can hardly argue with the judgement of the day. Today the general view is that these facilities are a great asset to the church, allowing various options for meetings and services within the church.

## **1.7 1987 onwards**

1987 A sound system was installed.

1989 All Saints Church was the venue for live satellite broadcasts from the Billy Graham mission at Earls Court that year.

1993 - 1994 Period of interregnum, between Roy Rimmer and John Ross. The church was without a Vicar for several months and running of the church very much depended on the entire congregation to help and work together. A potentially difficult period, but one that was survived successfully by drawing on the strengths and beliefs of the church members.

1995 The formal choir disbanded and it was decided to form a music group to lead and participate in services.

1996 Extra sound system for the music group purchased from the Newmarket Community Church, who were replacing their system with something more mobile. This cost £600 and money was raised by special donations from the congregation.

1999 Changes to the chancel. Front row of choir pews removed to create a wider more flexible chancel area.

2000 - 2001 Various building maintenance works to masonry and windows, the cost covered by the Wiseman Fund (which is now effectively all used).

2000 - 2001 Sound system updated and mixing desk installed.

2001 The old choir vestry decorated and turned into a Crèche.

2002 March - Projection screen installed on "swinging arm" in chancel area.

2002 March to November - Period of interregnum, between John Ross and Max Osborne.

2002 Vicarage change, diocese decides to sell Cardigan Street vicarage and purchase new home for new vicar in Warrington Street.

2006 Rev'd Marion Drobig appointed as Curate; remaining with us for three years.

2007 New floodlights installed at the rear of the Church to light the social area.

2009 Supplementary electric radiant heaters were installed in the open social area of the Church, allowing only this part of the Church to be heated rather than heating the whole Church, this has brought significant cost savings.

2009 The inner wooden doors from the main porch into the Church were replaced by plate glass doors.

2010 As the Crèche had relocated to a room leading off the social area at the rear of the Church, the old choir vestry was completely refurbished and converted into a comfortable meeting room with new cupboards & built in TV, and independent electric radiant heaters.

2011 Internet facilities were installed in the Church.

There is also an ongoing project to restore the exterior stone work of the building.

2012 Rev'd Adrian Watkins appointed as Curate.

A party was held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Max Osborne's induction as Vicar.

2013 Church website updated.

## **2. Church facilities and miscellaneous facts**

### **2.1 Rooms and meeting areas**

During the 1980s structural changes were made to the west end of the church, a kitchen, toilets and a set of meeting rooms off an area for social functions were constructed. All can be booked with the approval of the Administrator for various church and out reach activities.

The kitchen is fully equipped, including an oven, microwave, and fridge; and therefore can be used to prepare anything from drinks to a full meal. There are four meeting areas; the open carpeted space at the rear of the main worship area, and two rooms off this space, the Saints Room, with television and DVD, the Wiseman Room on the first floor and The Meeting Room (formerly the Choir vestry). The Wiseman Room was named after Miss Wiseman, a schoolteacher who for many years was an active member of the congregation who at different periods was a Junior Church leader, a member of the choir, and an organist. When she died in 1986, she left a bequest to the church, stipulating it was used for future building restoration.

Under the Wiseman Room is another area, which can be enclosed by doors to create another meeting room, this area now used as a crèche

## **2.2 Facts and figures**

Do you know?

- It would cost around £1,000 pounds to replace all the bulbs on the lighting chandeliers.
- There are pews to accommodate approximately 200. Extra seating (100) for a service can be seated by laying out chairs in the open area at the back of the church.
- There are a number of graves in the churchyard that date from the 18th century. One being that of Nat Flatman a jockey in the 1850's. (The Head Stone of which has been refurbished) Today the churchyard is closed and, if burial is chosen after a funeral, it has to be in the town cemetery.
- On the wall behind the pulpit is a small brass plaque mentioning an ensign from HMS Newmarket. This was a town class destroyer that was loaned to the Royal Navy from the US Navy in 1940, and originally named USS Robinson. Unfortunately, the ensign had deteriorated so much that it fell apart when taken down during redecoration in 1986, and could not be put back. A picture of HMS Newmarket can be seen in the Vicar's vestry.

*But the Church is more than the fabric –*

***it's the people.***

## ***Services at All Saints***

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Month</i>	<i>9am 10.15am</i>	<i>BCP Holy Communion Family Service followed by Shared Lunch</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Month</i>	<i>9am 10.15am</i>	<i>BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Month</i>	<i>9am 10.15am 6.30pm</i>	<i>BCP Holy Communion Morning Praise Evening Prayer</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Month</i>	<i>9am 10.15am 6.30pm</i>	<i>BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Praise</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Month</i>	<i>9am 10.15am</i>	<i>BCP Holy Communion Songs of Praise</i>

***Seeking God's Heart  
Serving God's World***

## All Saints Church - The Present & The Future

