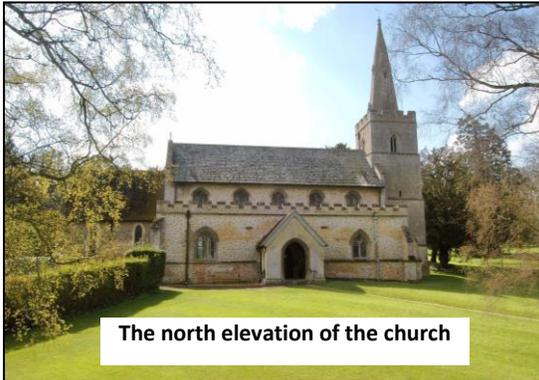


The Parish of Madingley



The north elevation of the church

Madingley village is situated about 4 miles west of the city of Cambridge. The population, currently around 200, has fluctuated little in number since the Norman Conquest although the professions of residents have changed through the years with only three villagers now working on the land and many working for the University of Cambridge, local industry or at the Biomedical Campus.

The beautiful Grade 2* listed Church of St Mary Magdalene is small, traditional and very peaceful. The first written reference to a church in Madingley was in 1092, but the present building dates from the 13th century. It is situated in the grounds of Madingley Hall, where the future King Edward VII stayed while an undergraduate at Cambridge University. The church is open every day and over the past couple of years people from 36 different countries have signed the visitor's book. The surrounding landscape was designed and created by Capability Brown in 1756. Much of the village is owned by the University, including Madingley Hall, which is the home of the popular Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) with whom we have close links. A satellite of the Department of Zoology can be found in the village along with the restaurant-pub The Three Horseshoes, the Pre-Prep Department of the Stephen Perse School and the Village Hall.

Our stewardship plan led to a major redevelopment project (The West End Development Project) which has just completed. It includes the installation of mains water and drainage to support an accessible lavatory, refreshment, meeting and exhibition facilities. Safety works include revised access to the spire and a new church path. A project funded by the Church Commissioners to replace the tiles on the Chancel roof and other repairs is now under construction.

With 61 names on our updated electoral roll, the average weekly congregation is 20 people, half of whom live in the village with the others joining us from local areas such as Hardwick, Bar Hill, Girton and Madingley Road. The congregation always doubles in size at Christmas and Easter services when Christian families in the village, who are regular members of other churches in Cambridge, join us for worship.



Tea preparation unit

Now that the redevelopment project is complete we are turning our attention to the opportunities that this will bring and the need for us to grow our church community. Weddings are often the first step to long-lasting connections with the church and the couple's children are baptised here. The youngest member of our congregation, born on Christmas Eve in 2018, now regularly attends. Because of our location near to Madingley Hall, we also have visitors from the Hall attending the services.

With the development of nearby Eddington we have identified an opportunity for outreach and we are keen to advertise and welcome the new residents of this area to Madingley Church. Our current plan is to drop flyers off inviting them to events at our refurbished church and welcome them to the community.

There are few children in our community who can attend church on a regular basis, with the exception of the Christingle service in December and occasional events for the local pre-prep school. However, there is access to toys and drawing material at the back of the church for children to use on Sundays and young children are always most warmly welcomed – the congregation really enjoys their chatter and 'burble'. We are currently working on ways in which we might be able to attract more young people to join us – possibly with family services and other events.



Our regular routine is to have one service every Sunday, with Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of the month followed by three services of Holy Communion. In response to the recent congregational questionnaire the PCC will be discussing how to alter this routine, given the permission of the Bishop. We have a Parish Prayer Group who meet regularly at the home of our Lay Minister and have offered Lent Talks, Carol, Remembrance and other special services to the community.



The congregation here operates as a family with each member offering their skills, time and talents. The care of the churchyard, cleaning, musicianship, basic DIY tasks and administration is all given voluntarily. Home visits and telephone contact with the housebound and those going through difficult times is undertaken by lay members of the congregation together with our Lay Minister, who has lived and worked in the village for over 40 years, and our associate priest. One of

the church wardens offers a prayer ministry.



We are proud and grateful to have raised over £300,000 for the current redevelopment project. Although a proportion of this money has come from grant giving bodies, much has been contributed by the local community – a testament to the affection in which this village institution is held. Our Parish Council Chairman said “Madingley is a small village with very limited facilities. The church is at the heart

of the village and of the community. We are extraordinarily lucky to have such a beautiful and ancient building in the village and extremely grateful to all those who dedicate huge amounts of time and energy into looking after it. Not only do they maintain the church’s history and traditions, but they are also looking forward to ensure it continues to stay relevant into the future.”

This is a very warm and welcoming church and we have enjoyed many occasions of celebration after Sunday services, albeit with some complicated practical issues (no water/ no loo). Now, mercifully, the installation of the new facilities will enable us to offer regular hospitality after our services and to host other events such as concerts and retreats, weekly coffee mornings and outreach to our local community. Accessible amenities will mean that the barriers to taking part felt by the infirm, the very young and those with disabilities have been removed. We look forward to stepping into the future, armed with a building now fit for the 21st century and supported by a new chapter in our ministerial leadership and teaching.



www.madingleychurch.org