

## THE CHURCH OF ST-PETER-IN-ELY

Broad Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4BQ

*A Proprietary Chapel within The Church of England and Diocese of Ely*

### PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Trustees of St Peter-in-Ely are seeking an enthusiastic, caring and outgoing priest who will engage with the church community and help it grow and move forward. The position has become available following the retirement of the former post holder and would suit, for example, someone seeking part-time ministry such as an active member of the clergy approaching retirement, a newly retired priest or a priest pursuing other forms of employment or involved in academic study or research.

There is no accommodation attached to this position and any applicant should have his or her own home in or near Ely.



### WHAT THE POST INVOLVES

- Presiding and preaching at the Eucharist on most Sundays and at other major Festivals
- Providing two days per week equivalent of pastoral care and leadership which might include:
  - Pastoral visiting of church members and newcomers
  - Taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound
  - Providing occasional offices such as baptism, funerals, renewal of vows
  - Developing Christian nurture through occasional study courses
  - Chairing the quarterly meetings of the Congregational Committee and consulting appropriately with the Trustees and Chapel Wardens

Some help is currently available through the ministry of retired clergy living in Ely and the priest-in-charge would be expected to liaise with them regarding their inclusion on the service rota and so on.

### WHAT ST PETER'S CAN OFFER

- An honorarium of up to £10,000 *per annum*
- An average Sunday congregation of around 20 communicants committed to a style of worship in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England
- A welcoming and friendly church congregation that wishes to develop its engagement with the local community in outreach and mission
- A well-kept church building and adjacent church room and kitchen which is well used for church and community events
- Sound finances
- Active support from the Trustees, the Chapel Wardens and the Congregational Committee
- A fixed term contract



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ST PETER-IN-ELY



A fuller history of the church has been written by Dr Janet Fairweather and may be found [on the church website](#). Put briefly, St Peter's was dedicated in 1890 and was the result of the generosity of Mrs Catharine Maria Sparke who wished to build a church in memory of her husband, Canon Edward Bowyer Sparke. In essence, it was a mission church serving Ely's riverside district which had the reputation of being somewhat cut off from the city's church life. It was envisaged that clergy serving St Peter's would be under the direction of the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Ely and would conduct services in accordance with the Doctrines and Liturgy of the Church of England. In more recent years this direction, at different times, has come both from the Vicar of St Mary's and from the Dean of Ely but, most recently, the Trustees have appointed a Priest-in-Charge who was given the brief both to conduct worship and to develop the church's pastoral commitment to its own congregation and the wider community.

## THE GOVERNANCE OF ST PETER'S

St Peter-in-Ely is a [Proprietary Chapel](#) owned and governed by the Trustees of St Peter's Church, a Registered Charity. There are currently seven Trustees with a broad range of professional expertise who have responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings, the payment of clergy and organist and for all financial expenditure and investment. The finances are in good order (see [Accounts for 2020](#)) and the priest appointed would not be expected to be responsible for their management. The Trustees are also responsible for the appointment of a Safeguarding Officer and for the adoption of and compliance with Diocesan safeguarding policy.

The Trustees work closely with the two Chapel Wardens and the elected Church Congregational Committee. This committee which is chaired by the Priest-in-Charge, has much responsibility for the daily management of the church and, with the Chapel Wardens, may be called on by the Priest-in-Charge to help with the planning of services and other special events.

Through the work of the Trustees, Chapel Wardens and the Congregational Committee, St Peter's has remained in a good state of repair and is a warm and well cared for building.

## STYLE OF WORSHIP AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Over many years St Peter's has maintained a Catholic style of worship. A Sung Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday morning using *Common Worship: Order One in Traditional Language*, vestments are worn, incense is used and, until recently, the service has ended with Benediction once a month. The building boasts a fine late-Victorian pipe organ which has just received Grade II listing as an "historic instrument" and there is enthusiasm for the maintaining and developing of the church's musical tradition. It is hoped that a



weekday (said) celebration of the Eucharist may be reintroduced in the future. Baptisms, funerals and such ceremonies as the Renewal of Marriage Vows are all part of the church's ministry although the building is not at present licensed for weddings.

Over the years, St Peter's has joined forces with the local Roman Catholic parish for Stations of the Cross during Lent. The usual rites associated with Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

are also observed. At other times, St Peter's has shared in the activities of Christians Together in Ely (CTiE).

The Trustees and the Congregational Committee are keen to see the Catholic tradition at St Peter's continued and developed and within that context to explore the role of the church in the growing, vibrant and diverse community that is the city of Ely.



## ST PETER'S HOUSE



St Peter's House, adjacent to the church, was purchased by the Trustees in 1999. In 2003 it underwent considerable alterations to provide a well-equipped meeting room, kitchen and accessible toilet facilities on the ground floor and a separate flat upstairs. The meeting room is in constant use not only by the church but also by a wide variety of community groups and provides useful income for the church. The letting of the meeting room is currently the responsibility of one of the members of the congregation on behalf of the Trustees.



St Peter's uses the room for socialising after the Sunday morning service and for such events as the annual Pancake Brunch and Harvest Supper. The flat is currently occupied by a school caretaker who cleans both the church and the meeting room.

## THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- Applicants will fill in the generic [Church of England Application Form](#)
- Interviews will be held on a date to be agreed
- The Interview Panel will consist of the Archdeacon and members of the Trustees and congregation
- The preferred candidate will be asked to see the Bishop of Ely who will make the appointment
- The Bishop will issue either a Licence to the appointed priest or Permission to Officiate, depending on age
- The Priest-in-Charge will be treated as if on Common Tenure and will be expected to take part in regular Diocesan Ministry Development Review. *(The appointed person will be able to attend all training events organised by the Diocese and take part in Ely Deanery Chapter and Deanery Synod meetings)*
- Identification checks and an enhanced DBS will be required



## LIVING AND WORKING IN ELY

The cathedral city of Ely has a population of some 20,000 and can best be described as a busy market town, conscious of its history but also growing and developing in terms of housing and amenities. It is well served by public transport and there are frequent trains to nearby Cambridge and to London which is about one and a quarter hours away. The Norfolk coast and Walsingham are also near at hand. The city boasts a wide variety of shops and restaurants, modern sports and leisure facilities, a riverside area with many amenities and a cinema complex.



The Cathedral which towers over the city centre offers a rich life of worship, prayer and Christian formation. It also plays host to concerts of all kinds and many exhibitions and is the location of an exceptional stained glass museum. Ely's parish church of St Mary is also located in the centre of the city and in recent years has developed into a vibrant community with a broadly evangelical ethos.



## CONCLUSION

The priest appointed to minister at St Peter's can expect a warm welcome from a small but dedicated congregation which is looking to grow not only in numbers but spiritually. Having emerged from the pandemic the church, loyal to its Catholic tradition but open to new insights, faces the future sure in the knowledge that God is working his purpose out and that his people at St Peter's have a part to play in this.



## MORE INFORMATION

Website: [elystpeterschurch.co.uk](http://elystpeterschurch.co.uk)

Facebook: [facebook.com/elystpeters/](https://facebook.com/elystpeters/)

Wikipedia: [St Peter-in-Ely](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Peter-in-Ely)



### Informal conversations regarding this post may be held with:

Ian Lindsay *Chair of Trustees*  
01353 614184  
[smid.lindsay@ntlworld.com](mailto:smid.lindsay@ntlworld.com)

Chris Phillips *Trustee*  
01353 669940  
[cjphil@btinternet.com](mailto:cjphil@btinternet.com)

