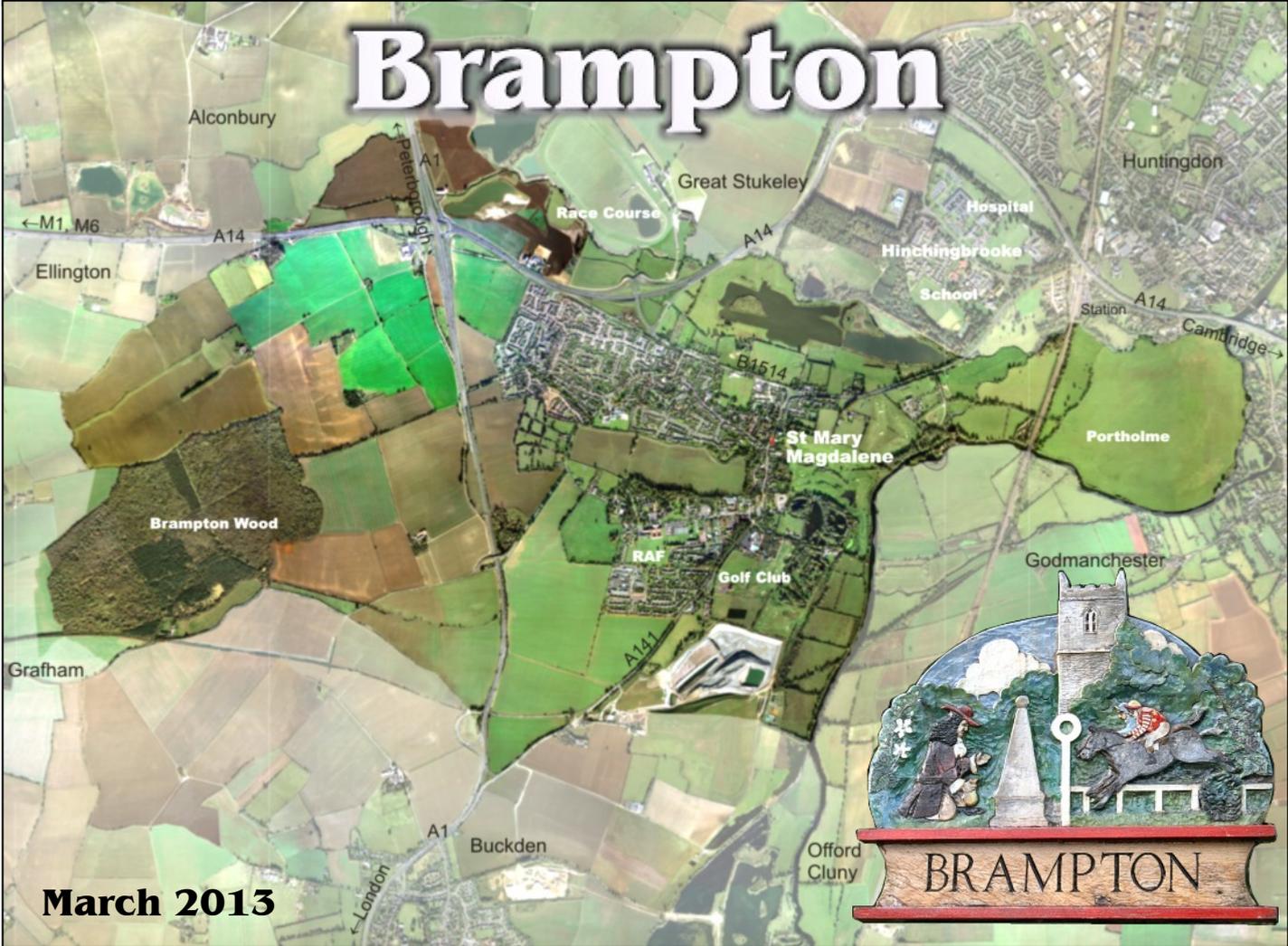


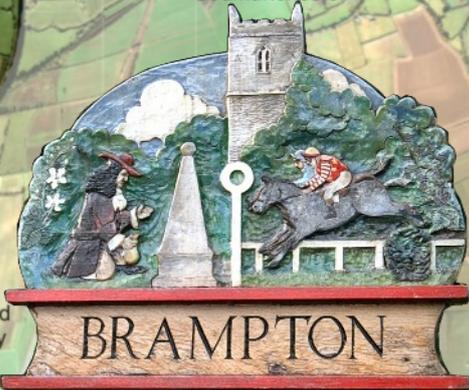


Parish Profile **St Mary Magdalene**



Brampton

March 2013



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Introduction

Brampton is an attractive and growing village, with a distinct identity, near Huntingdon. Although in rural Cambridgeshire, Brampton lies at the junction of the A1 and the A14, with excellent rail links to Peterborough and London [60-70 mins.] Cambridge is 23 miles south east on the A14.

A major housing development is planned for RAF Brampton, which is closing, and also possible commercial developments at nearby Alconbury, another former military base.

The church's mission statement is 'Putting the church at the heart of the community.' We seek a new priest who will lead us in furthering this aim.

Websites:

St Mary Magdalene: <http://www.ely.anglican.org/parishes/brampton/>

Brampton Parish: <http://www.brampton-cambs-pc.gov.uk/>

Ely Diocese: <http://www.ely.anglican.org/>

Other web addresses are on the last page.



About the parish

Overview

Brampton is a large village with some 5,000 residents, 2 miles outside Huntingdon, with the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park providing a natural divider between the two settlements. Its housing



ranges from timber-framed and thatched dwellings to substantial modern developments. Just to the south of the village is RAF Brampton which is due to close in 2013. With the creation of 400 new homes on this site the community is likely to change and the church will need to adapt to this.



Brampton's commercial facilities include a good selection of shops, including a



Post Office and a small Co-op supermarket. There is a CIU affiliated institute and a diminishing number of public houses. There is a GP practice and a dental surgery, with more comprehensive medical services at the



nearby Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Animals are catered for by a veterinary surgery. The village also supports two sheltered housing schemes and a Leonard Cheshire Home opposite the church.



Young people

Brampton has a primary school, as well as several facilities for pre-school children. Secondary education is provided at nearby Hinchingsbrooke School, or St Peter's School in Huntingdon.



A thriving village youth council, mentored by the Parish Council, has been instrumental in the development of youth facilities including a skate park and a multi-use



games area (MUGA). Two youth clubs operate in the village; the Scout and Guide organisations also have thriving sections.





Sport

Sport is well catered for in the village, with extensive playing fields and a bowls club near the centre of the village, an 18-hole golf course nearby, and a racecourse.



Wildlife

The parish includes three Sites of Special Scientific Interest — Brampton Wood, Portholme and Brampton racecourse.



Brampton Wood, on the western boundary, is an ancient wood mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is owned and managed by the Wildlife Trust and its diverse woodland supports a rich variety of plants and wildlife.

Portholme is England's largest unenclosed meadow, managed as a traditional hay meadow and hosting some 200 species of plants. It floods most years, when it supports large numbers of wintering waterfowl.



Brampton Racecourse includes another lowland meadow with medieval ridge and furrow grassland. It supports a rich variety of meadow plants including green-winged orchids.

Samuel Pepys

Pepys House, near the eastern edge of the village, was the home of Samuel Pepys' uncle Robert, who lived there until his death in 1661. The property passed first to Samuel's father and in due course to Samuel. Samuel visited on a number of occasions, and oversaw repairs to the house in the 1680s, but he did not set up residence there.



Church Life

The church — its buildings and its administration

Past and Present

A Saxon church in Brampton was mentioned in the Domesday Survey, on the same site as St Mary Magdalene today — at the east end of the village High Street. Our church is a beautiful and prominent Grade I Listed building of a traditional layout sited in a conservation area. The chancel is 13th/14th Century, the nave, aisles and porches 15th Century, with a tower, rebuilt in 1635. More recent additions include the 19th Century vestry. The roofs are covered with lead and slates.



The tower has a ring of 6 bells, part refurbished in 2011, in an ancient bell frame, together with 8 simulator practice bells and a service bell [c 1500]. We have 10 active ringers from in and outside the church, and some learners.



The church has oil-fired central heating, a good public address system complete with induction loop, a pipe organ and an electronic piano.

The three-manual organ, having some 25 speaking stops, is one of the finest in the district. It benefited from extensive refurbishment by Rushworth & Dreaper after a fire in 1994. This fire also led to extensive repairs to the south aisle roof and some reordering of the south western corner of the interior, including a complete new column.



The church has an installed pew-seating capacity of 166 which can be doubled for major festivals. The historic churchyard and the adjacent cemetery are well maintained by the Parish Council.

The next Quinquennial Inspection will be in 2014. The church is well maintained, with all routine maintenance and repairs attended to, and is in broadly sound condition: a recently-discovered vestry roof failure is a current exercise.

Preparing for the Future

Like so many churches, we were targeted by lead thieves in 2011-12. Alarms and protective measures have since been installed, together with interim roofing — the subject of faculty approval — but partial re-roofing is a priority. Our desire to '*place the church at the heart of the community*' recognises our need to install toilets and to improve the heating — which is adequate but expensive to operate [c 1970]. We also wish to improve the audio-visual facilities whilst supporting both traditional and modern services.

These improvements are the subject of a major, new fund-raising initiative known as HeART [**H**eating, **A**udio-visual, **R**oof repairs, **T**oilet, and café facilities.] The aim of HeART is to look beyond vital repair work and to fund qualitative improvements to make the church much more than a place of Sunday worship. Our desire is to make St Mary Magdalene Church fit and ready to remain central to village life for the long-term future.

The Church Hall

A hundred metres north of the church is the Church Hall. Originally a late 19th Century Infants' School, in 1950 the building became the Church Hall; it was extended and improved in 2006–08.

The Hall has a main room, an ante-room, toilets and a kitchen, together with an attractive paddock to the



rear, which is secure and private: it is ideal for children's games, youth activities and larger events. The recently-added Upper Room is used principally for youth activities, and the small car park serves both hall and church.

The Hall is let out to many village groups: the Brampton Playgroup, two Brownie Packs, the Mothers' Union, a drama group, bridge club and AA are regular users. The PCC, Sunday and weekday youth groups, Alpha courses and occasional children's party hirings make it a popular, busy, and self-financing facility.

The PCC

The PCC currently consists of fifteen members meeting monthly plus the APCM. A Standing Committee agrees urgent matters between meetings and additional sub-committees include Administration, Church Hall Management, Fabric/Building, Finance, and a Fundraising team, all of whom meet as required.

Parish Administration

Currently there is no formal Parish Administrative office and the Rector has undertaken administration from the Rectory. Wider administration and management are conducted in a distributed and decentralised fashion: many routine (regular and occasional) tasks are undertaken by members of the congregation, additional to the churchwardens and PCC members. Notices, the Parish Magazine and the website are run by volunteers, as are membership and email distribution lists, etc. Whilst there is no formal structure overseeing these activities, there is potential to develop this and engage people further in other aspects of administration, including a filing and central records system.

Finance

The church pays its Parish Share, employs a part-time youth worker, and reimburses the incumbent's expenses. For a number of years the annual budget for the general parish fund has indicated that a deficit will be incurred as estimated expenditure is forecast to be more than estimated income. The end of year position, however, tends to show a more favourable outcome although it is usual for there to be a deficit. Therefore it is usual for the parish to draw on reserves and this is reflected in each year's financial report. The parish does operate and meet a policy of retaining two years of annual deficit on reserve.

The parish runs separate funds for youth work, for maintaining the fabric of the church, and for the Church Hall. These funds are quite often supplemented by legacy gifts and grants. The Church Hall fund is self-funding and includes repayment of an existing loan, which is due to complete its term in 2017.

Brampton Parish News [BPN]

The church has produced a magazine for about 120 years; it is now more of a general village magazine than a church newsletter, and is a mouthpiece for all individuals, groups and organisations in Brampton. The Rector writes the monthly leading article of around 350 words. Although produced by predominantly Anglican church members, wider material is drawn from Parish Pump [a subscription website providing church magazine support material], and it also includes material from the Methodist and Roman Catholic churches.

A local lay editor from the congregation produces an edition monthly using modern techniques. After printing, 30 volunteers distribute to around 500 regular subscribers. Where possible, newcomers to the village are given a copy of the BPN as part of a welcome pack from the Parish Council, and copies are also available through the village post office. After meeting all costs, BPN returns approaching £1000 annually to the PCC.



The Rectory

The Rectory is a handsome, well-maintained detached late 1920s house with ample parking.



Facing south and full of light, it is in a quiet location set back from Church Road, and surrounded by a large garden with shrubs, extensive lawn and mature trees. It has gas central heating.

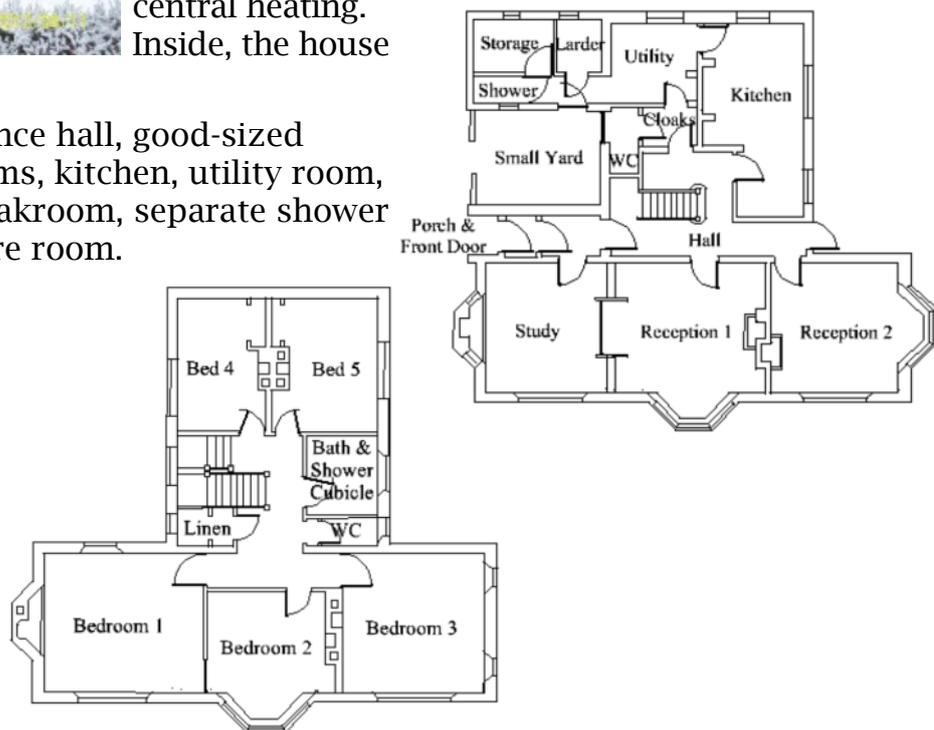


comprises:

Downstairs: entrance hall, good-sized study, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, walk-in larder, WC, cloakroom, separate shower room and an extra store room.

Upstairs: landing, 5 bedrooms (2 large, 2 medium, 1 small), bathroom with shower cubicle (all newly fitted in 2011), separate WC.

Outside are a separate garage (with electric power) and a brick garden shed.



Church Life

The church as people

Worship

We have two weekly Sunday worship services: Parish Communion at 9.15 and Parish Praise at 11.00 am. The first centres on Common Worship Holy Communion Order One, whilst the second is a more modern, open form of worship, with an informal Holy Communion once monthly. At the first service our pipe organ is used with *Mission Praise* hymn books; our worship band provides music for the second service with projected words for songs, scripture readings and prayers. The two services enjoy the same Bible readings and usually the same sermon. A half hour refreshment interval from 10.30 links both congregations; during this time the bells are normally rung.



Our second service is more family oriented with activities for children and young people concurrent with the service; there is a crèche to which the service is relayed. During the time of our present incumbent there has been strong encouragement for lay leadership within our church and worship is generally led by a combination of lay and ordained ministry.

The Congregation

Both congregations are very friendly, caring and welcoming and a number of people attend either or both services. Visitors to the services have commented on the warmth of their welcome to St Mary Magdalene. Notwithstanding the different character of the two congregations, there is a desire for unity and to move forward together, sharing in decisions and understanding reasoning behind changes. This results in a good mixture of both congregations when occasional all-age joint services are held. Annually there is an outdoor Christians Together worship on the Memorial Playing Fields. We could improve outreach to the parish by making festivals more inclusive through greater community involvement.



During the week there is a group for pre-school children and carers on Tuesday mornings at 9am in the Methodist Chapel. This is informal with children's activities, bible story and refreshments. We also encourage our congregation to attend weekly communion on Thursday afternoons at the hospital chapel.

We experienced a coming together as a church during the Rector's recent sabbatical in 2011-12 and we intend building on the good work already begun. However, we recognise that the church must always be forward looking and ensure that it continually examines its worship and individual and collective Christian life.

Teaching and Christian Growth

We believe firm Bible-based teaching is needed for everyone.

Children up to the age of 10 are taught at Adventurers; year 6 and above attend God Squad with our Youth Worker. They all leave church for the hall after the first worship song and return prior to communion when it is held. Adventurers is led by an unpaid children's worker and volunteer helpers. Our paid Youth Worker who also runs activities, including an open Youth Club, and at other times with volunteer help.

For the past five years the Christians Together Group has run a Holiday Club for children of primary school age. So far this has been organised by St Mary Magdalene's.

We are very blessed with mature Christians who can and do provide guidance



and support

to anyone who is in need. Our several home groups meet weekly or fortnightly. Each is distinctive, following a variety of teaching methods and styles, but all engender a strong, loving loyalty. We recognise that more emphasis could be placed on the role and importance of home groups.

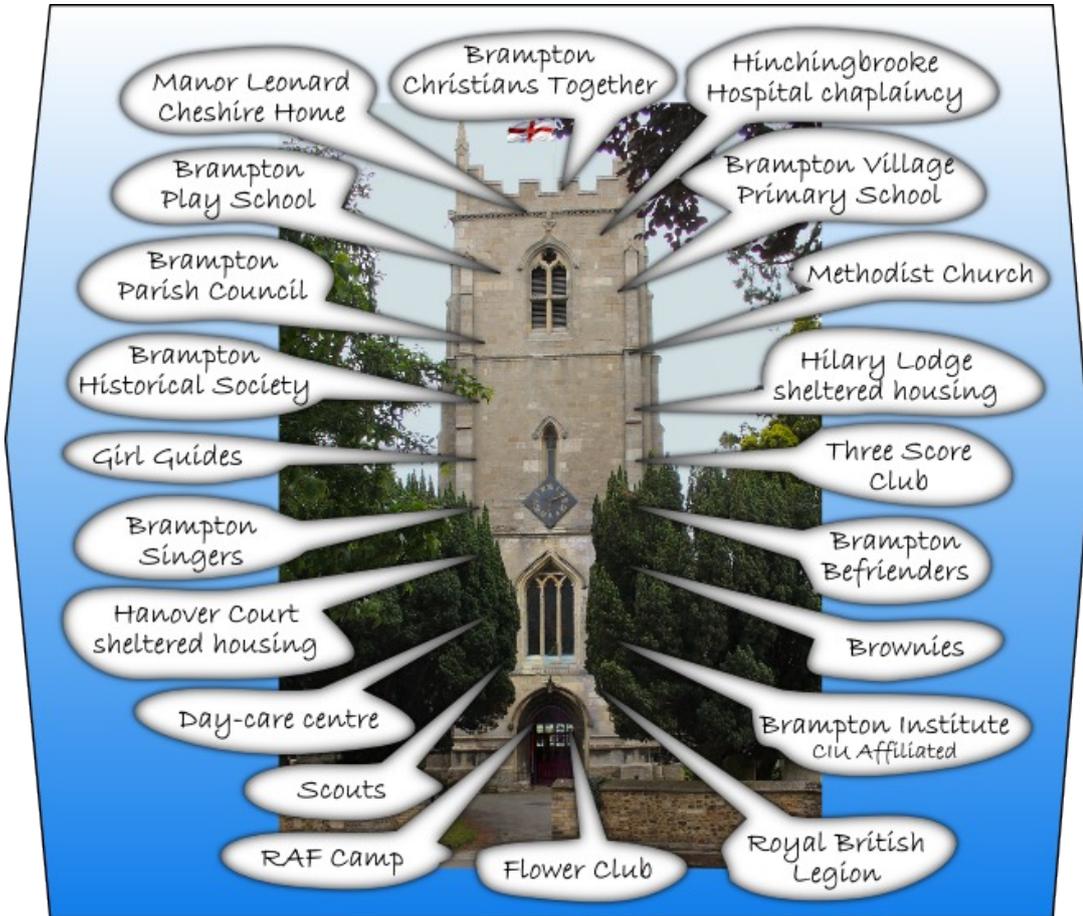


Statistics 2012		
	Adults / Children	
Typical 9.15am worship	47/2	Christmas combined 64/7
Typical 11.00 am worship	54/15	
Sunday school 11am	10	
Sunday morning youth group 11am	8	
Sunday evening youth group	11	
Thursday youth club	40	
Thursday youth group	~10	(Re-launched as Youth Café in January 2013)
Monthly evening praise and teaching	15	
Christmas Eve Candlelit Carols	360/40	
Midnight Communion	51	
Easter Day 9.15	64/7	
Easter Day 11.00	82/16	

In general the figures show a slight increase over 2011 except that both Christmas and Easter were slightly down.

Church Life

The church and the community



The financial challenges faced by the church in the immediate future can be seen as positive in many ways, not least in crystallising our need to recognise and build on community links.

In facing short term need we have seen clearly that we will only thrive if we extend our aim of 'taking the church into the heart of the community'. We must bring the village into the church as we plan to develop and share facilities.

St Mary Magdalene has already played an important part in many aspects of the community, with links to the school, the uniformed groups, the RAF as well as the wider community including the Leonard Cheshire Home and the sheltered housing.



The Church Hall has been a venue for a Play Group for many years as well as the Brownies.

Brampton Christians Together offers the community a variety of activities, both service and activity based, bringing together the congregation of St Mary Magdalene as well as the Methodist Church, based in the village at The Green.

An ecumenical initiative known as Brampton Befrienders was formed to offer support and friendship to all Brampton people.



For those not able to attend regular worship, who like to participate in regular Communion, a Home Communion service is offered. A small team ensures that anyone ill or not attending regularly is contacted. Sometimes a telephone call, or perhaps a home visit might be offered.

The Parish Council

Brampton Parish Council is well organised, well-funded, motivated and a supporter of St.Mary Magdalene. The council is currently setting out to create a parish plan and is looking to the church to play a significant role in outlining a vision for the future which pulls together all aspects of village life.

The Parish Council has a formal responsibility to maintain the churchyard and cemetery. This forms a natural partnership with the PCC which the Council is happy to extend, for example, in the provision of facilities for the annual outdoor Christians Together service and the Holiday Club.

BRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN: Nigel Maggs



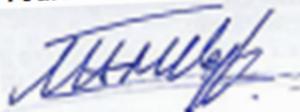
To the New Rector

I would like to, on behalf of Brampton Parish Council, welcome you to the village following the departure of Martin Greenfield after he served the Parish for the last 17years.

I am sure you will find great enthusiasm from everyone in the village in helping you settle in. Although Brampton is now a large village, there remains a strong community spirit between all ages and areas, recently demonstrated with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations amongst other things!

You are most welcome to attend any of the Parish Council meetings; we meet every third Wednesday in the month (except August), however if there is anything you need to know regarding the Parish Council, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or any of the other Parish Councillors.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Maggs
Chairman

Rites of Passage

Each year St Mary Magdalene is the venue for a number of Occasional Offices. For weddings, Baptisms and Confirmations preparation courses are provided.



	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Baptisms	5	8	14	6	4
Confirmations	1	2	0	8	0
Weddings	6	8	5	1	3
Funerals —					
In church	9	12	13	9	10
At crematorium	9	6	10	8	4

Church and School

Strong links exist with the Primary School through regular contributions to assemblies, the use of parent mail to communicate church events and in welcoming the school orchestra and choir to feature in our popular 'Musical Teas'.



Church and Overseas Mission

Overseas mission and charities are varied and located in different areas of the world. Collections at four Sundays during the year are given to the following charities.

- ✠ Spring of Hope aims to assist children with disabilities and their families in rural Uganda. www.springofhope.org.uk
- ✠ Church Mission Society — The Robinson family working in Bangkok, Thailand. www.tearstoyoureyes.com
- ✠ The work of Sugandh in Delhi, India with the street children; praying for finances to develop their work; for the teachers and more opportunities for the children to attend school.
- ✠ CAP — Christians Against Poverty (www.capuk.org) and their work with those in severe debt.

In addition we support the Children's Society, CMS, Christian Aid, the Royal British Legion, and Samaritan's Purse. The church leads a strong CMS group in the village. We are also a dedicated Fairtrade Church.



Opportunities for mission and ministry

The Brampton parish offers many opportunities for the development of ministry. As a congregation we have spent some time deciding what God's plan is for us and ways in which we can strengthen and develop our mission in ways that he will lead us.

The church offers a very warm welcome to all who come to its services. It is welcoming, open and inclusive and tries to cater for the wide variety of interests within the congregation. Our two services on Sunday morning allow people to exercise their own preference for ways of worship.. There is opportunity for creating links between these two services to enable the church community at times to worship together.

Church and Community

We place a clear emphasis on mission, service to and involvement with the community. We have a paid youth minister and place great importance on the development of all our youth activities. We are also keen to develop the good work which has already begun with children and families and our links with the school, while not losing sight of the need to minister to all sections of the congregation.

Our mission statement is "Putting the church at the heart of the community" With this in mind "Brampton Befrienders" was started three years ago. This is a joint venture between the churches designed to serve the needs of the people in the community. It provides support and help where needed. Amongst its activities we have a Friday morning "Coffee, cake and chat" in the village community centre and occasional lunches and other celebrations.



Brampton village has a good number of clubs and organisations and we have excellent links with the Parish Council, some of which are members of the congregation. The church is working to make further links with these organisations as there is much potential for the church to have a very real presence in the community. However the church recognises that it needs to have a presence in the future of the area and to take opportunities when they arise to extend our involvement with what may be a new and extended community.

Community Links

The church also has strong links with the nearby Hinchingsbrooke hospital. The chaplain served his term at Brampton church as a curate and now holds the position of Associate Minister. A number of people serve on his chaplaincy team and at times during the year the church provides helpers for the Sunday services.

Opposite the church is a Leonard Cheshire home with which we have had good links in the past. However, this is an area for development in strengthening relationships and encouraging more involvement with the church. Brampton is changing and with the imminent closure of the RAF base and creation of 400 new homes the church will need to 'adapt to serve'

Church Ministry

We are blessed with many gifts among our church members. Our mission is supported by a ministry team consisting of the Rector and a licensed lay minister (Reader). In addition we have three Authorised Lay ministers.

Lay involvement in the church is strong, with a significant proportion of the congregation involved in services. There are also dedicated teams who faithfully contribute to the upkeep and decoration of the church, refreshments and catering. The church has a strong pastoral team who are always seeking opportunities to further extend their work into the community. A number of retired clergy support the church well. A retired Archdeacon lives in the parish, worships at the church and continues to give valuable support and encouragement. Brampton also has a strong Mothers' Union which meets afternoon and evening monthly and contributes to the pastoral work of both the church commitments and overseas mission.



The church is always keen to encourage the ministry of others. Currently one person is training for licensed lay ministry and one for authorised lay ministry as a worship leader. A student from Ridley Hall Cambridge is currently on placement with us during her training for the priesthood.

Christians Together in Brampton

We are proud of the partnership we have and the fellowship we share with the Methodist church in the village. During the year we share in a number of activities and combined services. These are organised through our joint committee representing "Christians Together in Brampton" This committee also has members from other churches.

As well as the parish church of St Mary Magdalene, Brampton has a Methodist church in the centre of the village. Inter-church relationships are excellent with periodic joint services held throughout the year, and liaison maintained through the "Christians Together in Brampton" steering group.

We have much to be thankful for but acknowledge that there is much more that we can do in the service of God. We look to —

- † Build on the foundations which have been established within the strong fellowship which already exists and to create links between the different services
- † Find increasing opportunities to take God's message into our local community
- † Continue our mission support outside the parish and continue the involvement we have with our mission partners

Personal specification for our incumbent

PerSpec

- ✝ There is an exciting opportunity in a growing church for a prayerful leader who will inspire the people with God's vision for the way ahead. ✓
- ✝ This person will have good interpersonal and organisational skills to facilitate the smooth running of the church, encourage the work with the children and youth, and expand existing contacts into the community, including the local primary school. ✓
- ✝ Through wisdom and discernment, they will encourage lay people to develop their own gifts and work harmoniously as a team. Flexibility and creativity will be valued in both mission and ministry, reflecting our open evangelical standpoint. ✓
- ✝ They will be able to communicate effectively with people in the church and the community, will preach from a sound Biblical base, and bring scriptural truths to life and relevance for today. ✓
- ✝ They will have a natural interest in people, maintain the church's existing friendly welcome, and support members with loving pastoral care. ✓
- ✝ The passion of their personal faith will be infectious, and will give encouragement to the spiritual life in each believer. ✓

Useful links

Local Authorities

Cambridgeshire County Council: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Huntingdon District Council:

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Brampton Parish Council: <http://www.brampton-cambs-pc.gov.uk/>

Health

Brampton Dentist: <http://www.bramptondentalpractice.co.uk/>

Brampton Surgery: www.alconburybramptonurgery.co.uk/

Priory Fields Surgery, Huntingdon:

<http://www.prioryfields.co.uk/page/default.asp?title=Welcome&pid=1>

Education

Brampton Village Primary School: <http://brampton.cambs.sch.uk>

Hinchingbrooke School: www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/

Kimbolton School: www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/

St Peter's School: www.stpeters.cambs.sch.uk/

Lifestyle

Black Bull public house: www.theblackbull-brampton.co.uk/

Brampton Historical Society: Secretary, Pat Last 01480-451514

Brampton Institute: <http://www.bramptoninstitute.co.uk/>

Brampton Methodist Church:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.net/organisation/brampton-methodist-church--small-hall/9412.aspx>

Brampton Singers: amy@jamy.co.uk

Brampton Women's Institute: Contact, June Osbourne 01480-352152

Brampton Youth Forum:

www.brampton-cambs-pc.gov.uk/youth/youth_forum.php

Dragoon public house:

<http://www.charleswells.co.uk/home/pub-guide/pub/dragon>

Frost's Garden Centre: www.frostsgardencentres.co.uk/centres/brampton

Hunts Forum: www.huntsforum.org.uk/

Luminous Housing Association:

http://www.luminus.org.uk/page_view.aspx?inford=1&redirect=true

Manor Leonard Cheshire Home: <http://www.lcdisability.org/>

Ouse Valley Veterinary Surgery: www.medivet.co.uk/Brampton

Wildlife Trust for Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire:

www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk/



