

The Parish of Caldecote and Childerley: An Overview

Caldecote Church – One Church, Three Venues

Most of our regular services are held at the church of **St Michael and All Angels** in Caldecote (the old village) on Sunday mornings. On the second Sunday of the month we support a fresh expression called 'Gateways' which meets at 4.30pm in **Caldecote Village Hall** in Highfields Caldecote (the new village down the road). In addition, we are privileged to have **Childerley Hall Chapel** as part of our parish. At the kind invitation of its owner, a longstanding member of our church, we hold a number of special services in this beautiful little chapel, which is packed with history. It is also made available to the vicar as place of quiet retreat for prayer.



St Michael and All Angels



Caldecote Village Hall



Childerley Hall Chapel

A little church with a big vision

Our typical congregation has grown from an average of 5–7 a decade ago to typical numbers of around 15 now. We're a small church, but in our own quiet way we punch above our weight. Seven years ago we set up The Friends of Caldecote Church, through which we have raised around £18,000 to date. It has meant we have been able to repair the electrics, the peeling plaster, cracked stained glass windows, and bring a water supply into the church for the first time for coffee after the services. Over the years we have attracted nationally recognised musicians for fundraising concerts, and recently the Bishop of Ely accepted our invitation to preside at the 2016 Carols by Candlelight service, which sees our church packed out every year.

What are we looking for in a vicar?

To use an analogy, we are looking for a vicar who represents what Henry Moore is to sculpture – someone who can see the potential in even an unpromising block of stone!

It's easy to see the disadvantages of Caldecote Church – the church is a mile and a half from the main village population, has no toilet facilities, a layby for parking, poor heating and on some Sundays a very meagre congregation. We are looking for a minister who, when only five people turn up, still feels a sense of privilege to serve these five, and can sense the same potential that is felt by the members of the church about its future. Someone, in short, who can tap into and nourish the willing enthusiasm of the church's members to build on the work already done and to reach out at a sustainable pace that allows us to grow together as a whole church.

