

St Peter & St Paul, Mautby



The village of Mautby dates back to before the Domesday Book. The church is situated within a rural farming area with dwellings scattered through the vast acreage of land. There is an enthusiastic and hardworking church community here which has just won an award for being one of the most welcoming churches in the Diocese of Norwich. Reordering work has recently been carried out and lovely new kitchen and toilet have been installed.



The round tower church of St Peter & St Paul, Mautby is a very traditional country church with modern values. Mautby Village has a very small population and, in truth, the regular congregation comprises of people who have grass roots in Mautby but no longer reside there. Currently there are 15 on the Electoral Roll. The church has very good support from local people and we enjoy several fundraising events including a Summer fete, a Christmas evening and a Harvest Festival, to name but a few. On occasions, the tower is open to the public to enjoy the views of the rural countryside, which has proven to be very popular. Through hard work, together with a lot of fun and comradeship over the years and a legacy, we raised enough funds to build a brand new, well-equipped kitchen and toilet extension in 2014. With the help of a grant from the Listed Places of Worship, work commenced in October 2016 to repair the Tower roof.





More about Mautby

In 2016, Mautby Church was awarded a 'Commended' certificate for 'Most Welcoming Church in the Norwich Diocese'. The church is always open and we pride ourselves in keeping the church spic and span with refreshments always on offer for our visitors. We are always pleased to read comments left in the Visitors Book, especially ones like "Lovely peaceful country church, beautifully kept." There is also a quiet Prayer Corner and visitors are invited to leave a prayer in the box. We are blessed with a very good sound system, installed in 2015, which enables the hard of hearing to capture the whole service. All of the improvements made have brought this 12th century church into the 21st century without spoiling a beautiful, old, country church.

Mautby is currently involved with a three year project called "600 Paston Footprints". Margaret Paston wrote many of her famous letters here. She lived locally and was buried in the South Aisle. The Paston Society will be holding a re-enactment day involving the local schools, which have shown interest in including this local history as part of their curriculum. Nearby Caister Castle has links to the Pastons and there are plans to investigate the possibility of extending the existing footpath walk from the church directly to the Castle. This is an exciting new project which should bring more tourism to the area resulting, we hope, in more visitors to our church.

September 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of a tragic incident, when a Lincoln bomber aircraft crashed in Mautby. A Commemoration Service in honour of the nine airmen who died took place at Mautby Church, involving the RAF, British Legion and local Emergency Services. Of course, we would like to see more of the Mautby residents become part of our regular congregation, and that is one challenge we would love to achieve. It is true that the church building is very dear to us and is, in fact, held in very passionate regard. One thing we all agree on, is that Mission is also very important and, as much as we strive to work hard to find funds to meet running and repair costs, as well as our portion of the Parish Share, we also want to focus and concentrate on reaching out in Mission. We look forward to working alongside a new Incumbent who, we hope, could support us to achieve this.

All Saints', Filby

Filby church has a medieval rood screen which dates from the 15th century and is said to be one of the best surviving in the area. Filby has undergone a reordering project to install a new kitchen, vestry and toilets. Two rows of pews have been removed to open up the space needed to embrace new forms of worship and better community use of the building. Work on the Tower and installation of a new sound system are both complete.



Filby

The village of Filby is situated at the edge of the Norfolk Broads, between Filby Broad and Ormesby Little Broad, some six miles north-west of Great Yarmouth and 16 miles east of the city of Norwich. The village has an area of a little over 2.2 square miles and, in the 2011 census, it had a population of 765 in 309 households.

In 2015, the new Village Hall was built on the Playing Field, next to the Bowling Green, home to many village activities and organisations, such as a Gardening Club, a Craft Club, a Computer Group, Archery, Film Shows and frequent Coffee Mornings.

Filby Fete is held on the playing field, annually, at August Bank Holiday and is always a busy event with a variety of stalls and sideshows which attracts holiday makers and locals alike.

Filby is also quite famous around these parts for its success in both the Anglia and Britain in Bloom competitions and has won many gold awards over recent years. A small team of green-fingered volunteers meets on Saturday mornings and makes the village a blooming success.





Filby Broad is home to the Norfolk Schools' Sailing Association and children and adults alike learn to sail on this lovely safe stretch of water. Filby Bridge Restaurant is in a beautiful location overlooking the Broad and, besides the tasty meals, a monthly quiz is hotly contested, with funds from the event donated to the church.

Filby has a well-stocked post office and shop, a launderette and a hairdresser and a village pub. There is a community orchard and allotments where gardeners enjoy a mardle and take great pride in their plots and the produce.



There are several footpaths and farm tracks, up to the church and around the fields and countryside, leading to Thrigby Mill, where, with the owner's permission, it is possible to climb to the top of the Mill and see for miles!

Croft Farm Riding Centre provides riding lessons and other equestrian activities and, at the edge of the village, Thrigby Wildlife Gardens is home to a large collection of exotic animals and endangered species and is a top tourist attraction which is open all year round.

Community Involvement in Filby

Filby Primary School is home to around 80 pupils aged 4-11 years and is situated on Thrigby Road in the centre of the village. The church and school have built up a very good relationship, over recent years, and the children and their teachers and parents come into church from time to time to celebrate special occasions and festivals. A team of volunteers goes into school on Monday mornings to lead assembly with Open the Book. The school is always keen to join in with the displays in church at special Festivals or events.

The reordering work inside Filby Church and work on the Tower is now complete with the last piece of work being a full sound system installed. Two rows of pews were removed from the north and south aisles and the work has been carried out to such a high standard that even those who, initially, had doubts about it, can see that the church is now fit for the 21st century. Complete with a kitchen and two toilets, we can now look forward to the future and make plans. We are currently exploring the possibility of reordering the bells, so that bell ringing could take place from the Tower. An exciting venture, with the chance of 6 bells, if we can make it happen but in its very early stages, right now.





The Filby Association, a group of people from across the world who share the name “Filby” and who have a long-standing association with Filby Church, celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a service in Filby Church at which heating for the North and South Aisles was dedicated, which the Association financed. The Association has now transferred onto being online communication only as most of those holding office are in their twilight years.

The Electoral Roll at Filby as of 31st December 2020 currently stands at 16.

Messy Church - reduced sessions were held during 2020 until COVID-19 regulations interrupted completely.

Churchyard – a further piece of land has been kindly donated by Mr Edward Wharton (a local farmer) for future use as burial ground.

St Mary’s, Thrigby - due to continued deterioration of the Church building, we were instructed by Archdeacon Steven Betts that it was to be locked and no further service were to be held, however burials are permitted in the churchyard.