

## The purpose

We have enjoyed five weekends away now, the last two with members of St George's, and have found them immensely valuable as an opportunity to 'be church' in the round: eating together, laughing together, learning together and relaxing together without the pressure of other commitments. We have included the whole of the age range from 0 to go and, whilst we have had separate learning programmes for the children and young people, there has also been a tremendous sense of looking out for each other and enjoying company across the generations. And not everybody is high octane in their faith and church commitment—all are welcome and no-one is compelled to attend anything!



## The place

We are returning to Belsey Bridge, which is in Ditchingham, on the Norfolk/Suffolk border, 12 miles south of Norwich. With over 20 acres of grounds the venue is designed to support quiet reflection and there are many delightful walks in the surrounding countryside.

The Centre is well known for the excellent quality of the food and provision of special diets. All fresh food is sourced locally and many groups return year after year because of the food alone.

Facilities include:

- 85 bedrooms – standard and en-suite rooms available
- 3 main meeting rooms, with a range of smaller meeting rooms across the Centre
- free wireless internet provided across the majority of the Centre
- outdoor swimming pool (availability in April/May will be weather dependent), tennis court, play area, football field and table tennis table
- a bar!

## The programme

Our main learning sessions will be on Saturday morning and early evening (when there will be parallel sessions for children; the youth group will have their own programme for the weekend and they will have bedrooms at a safe distance from their parents...). Our guest speaker will be Canon Linda Church, who is Director of Ministry for the Diocese of Ely.



There will be entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings; Saturday afternoon will be free (the Broads, Southwold and Norwich are near at hand), and there will be workshops for those who want to be creative. A special Communion Service on Sunday morning will bring the whole weekend together in celebration and sharing.

But you do not need to come to all or to any of the sessions. You can simply take time out to enjoy the grounds, read a book or go for a walk, if you prefer.

## The price

The cost—full board—will be £140 per adult, £70 per child (6-16), under 6s free. Transport is not included in the price.

To book, please return the attached form together with a deposit of £20 per person. We will need to have numbers more or less clear by the end of February so please book as soon as you can—and the earlier you book the more likely it is that we'll be able to give you your ideal room!

We don't want anyone to be put off by the cost. There will be a 'common fund' to help those with large families, or small means, or both. If you would like to contribute to it, please add your contribution to your deposit (see the form overleaf). Any excess in the fund will be used to pay for other Parish Weekend expenses (or otherwise returned). Last time we were able to help a number of people to come and, thanks to the generosity of others, still managed to balance the books.

Please detach and return the form to:  
Patricia Abrey  
408 Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1SU.

## Booking form

I/we wish to come on the Parish Weekend.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Do you have any special dietary or other needs?

Do you have any requests about bedrooms (e.g. there are a limited number of en suite rooms)?

Do you need or can you offer a lift (if so, how many places)?

I/we enclose a deposit of £.....

(and a contribution to the 'common fund' of £.....)

*We do not want cost to be a barrier to anyone coming on the weekend. We have a subsidy fund, so please ask! Cheques should be made payable to 'St Andrew's Chesterton'.*

Signed .....



St Andrew's and  
St George's Chesterton

# Parish Weekend



at Belsey Bridge,  
Ditchingham,  
Norfolk

Friday 29 April –  
Sunday 1 May 2016