



Grafham

Grafham is a small and vibrant village close to the popular Grafham Water reservoir. It is located between the market towns of St Neots and Huntingdon, has easy access to the A1 and A14 and trains to London take about 45 minutes.

We opened our community shop in 2014 and our community pub in 2019. Lots of social events take place in Grafham, as we love an excuse to meet up with friends and neighbours!

What goes on in Grafham?

- Line Dancing
- Pilates
- Yoga
- Karate
- Kick Boxing
- Chinese Martial Arts
- Little Fishes Mums and Tots Group
- Hedgehog Survey
- Making Change Group
- Annual Beer Festival
- Coffee mornings
- Grafham and Ellington Art Group
- Christmas Fayre
- And lots more!



Beer Festival weekend



Grafham Beekeepers



Firework Display



Little Fishes Mums and Tots



Grafham Southdowns

Villagers are kept informed by the [Grafham Gossip](#); a black and white paper copy is delivered free around the village. A colour version is posted on the village website and sent by email to the mailing list.

We keep in touch via [Grafham Village Friends](#) Facebook page also.



Birdwatching in gardens and locally



Art Group exhibition



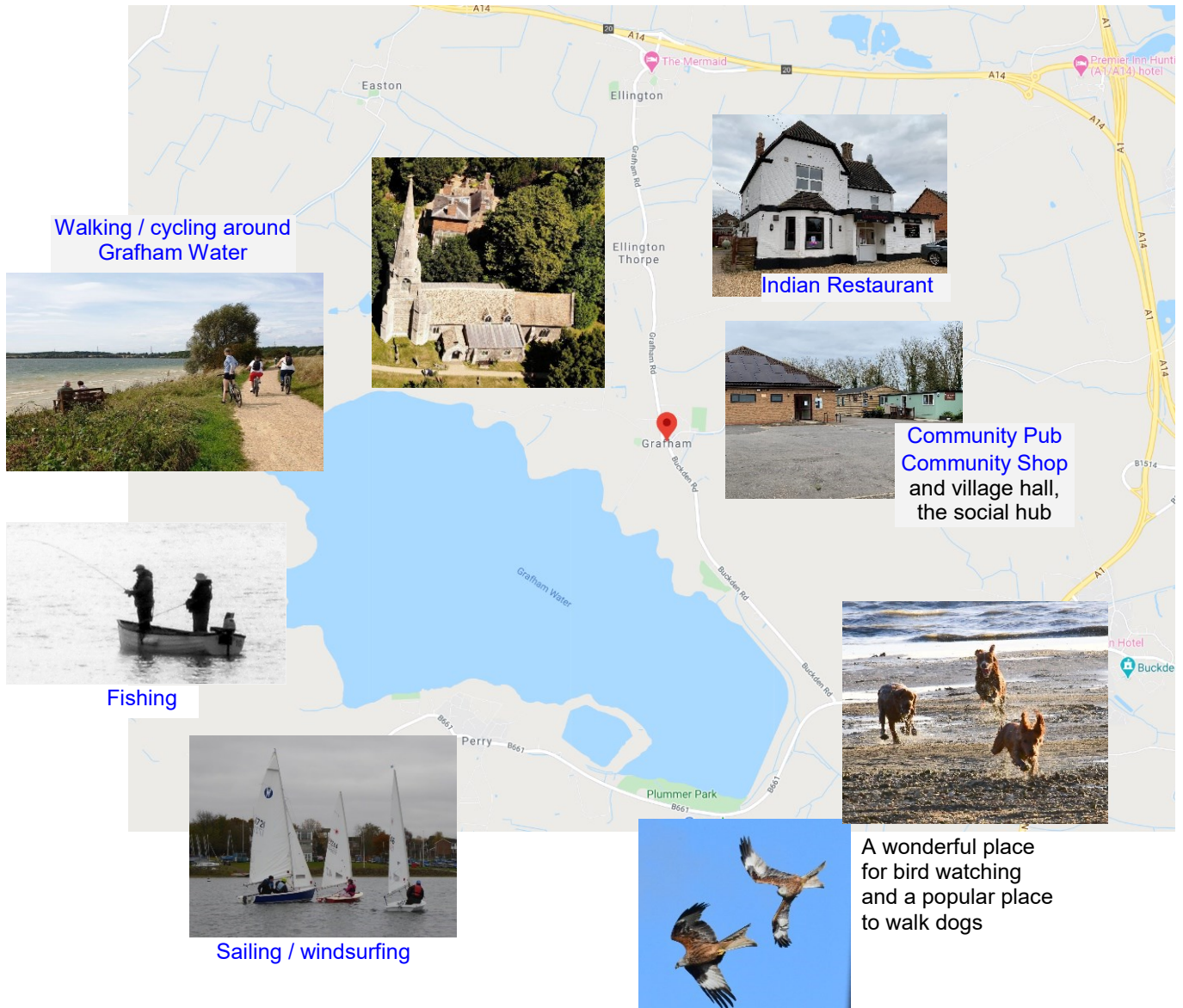
Microbrewery



Visiting Morris Men

Grafham Water

Grafham Water, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, is within easy reach by foot or on bicycles. Grafham Water Sailing Club and the Fishing Lodge are a short drive away in Perry, on the other side of the reservoir.



For the photographs in this profile, thanks go to Grafham villagers, Steve Hemming, [Biggsy Travels](#).

Church of All Saints, Grafham



This Grade 1 listed building is a little gem of a church located on the southern edge of Grafham village in a picturesque setting overlooking the reservoir, Grafham Water. It's very popular with visitors from Grafham Caravan Park and entices walkers and cyclists to call as they pass by on their journey around the Water.

The earliest work remaining is the north arcade of the nave, which is 13thC, while most of the rest is early 14thC with only the rood stairs and porch being later. ([Click here for Church Guide](#))



There is a west tower and stone spire with two tiers of spire lights and a belfry containing three bells on the first floor. ([Click here for history of the bells](#))

The extent of the influence of England around the world can be seen from the numerous and interesting memorial plaques. The church seats about 100 people and has a fine organ.

The affection which the villagers have for their church has enabled major restoration work to be carried out between 2013 and 2016. Over £12,000 was raised from villagers and a large grant obtained from English Heritage and other bodies. It took a supreme effort to achieve this.



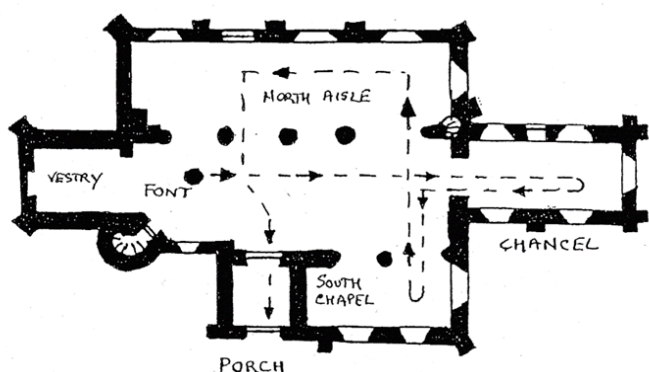
Restoration work included:

- re-roofing the north and south aisle roofs with timber repairs and replacement tiles;
- stone repairs and stitching to arches at the east end of the north nave;
- repairs to drainage and rainwater goods and some lead repairs to the south aisle roof;
- re-roofing the porch and refurbishing the clerestory windows.

([Click here for details of church refurbishment](#))

Further repairs are necessary including pointing repairs to the spire, tower and all elevations. Rainwater goods should be replaced with cast iron.

A quinquennial inspection is due in 2020, the last one was in 2015.



This beautiful banner hangs in Grafham Church. It is one of three appliques showing the 'Tree of Life,' that have been made by Grafham resident Jill, to celebrate the joining of the three villages into one church community.



Grafham Churchyard

The churchyard lies on the south side of the church. It is bordered by deciduous and evergreen hedges and large trees. The ambience of the churchyard is one of calm and quietness, lying well back from the road with stunning sunsets and bird-song from many species. Burials still take place and there is also a Remembrance Garden for interment of ashes. The oldest decipherable headstone is 1773.



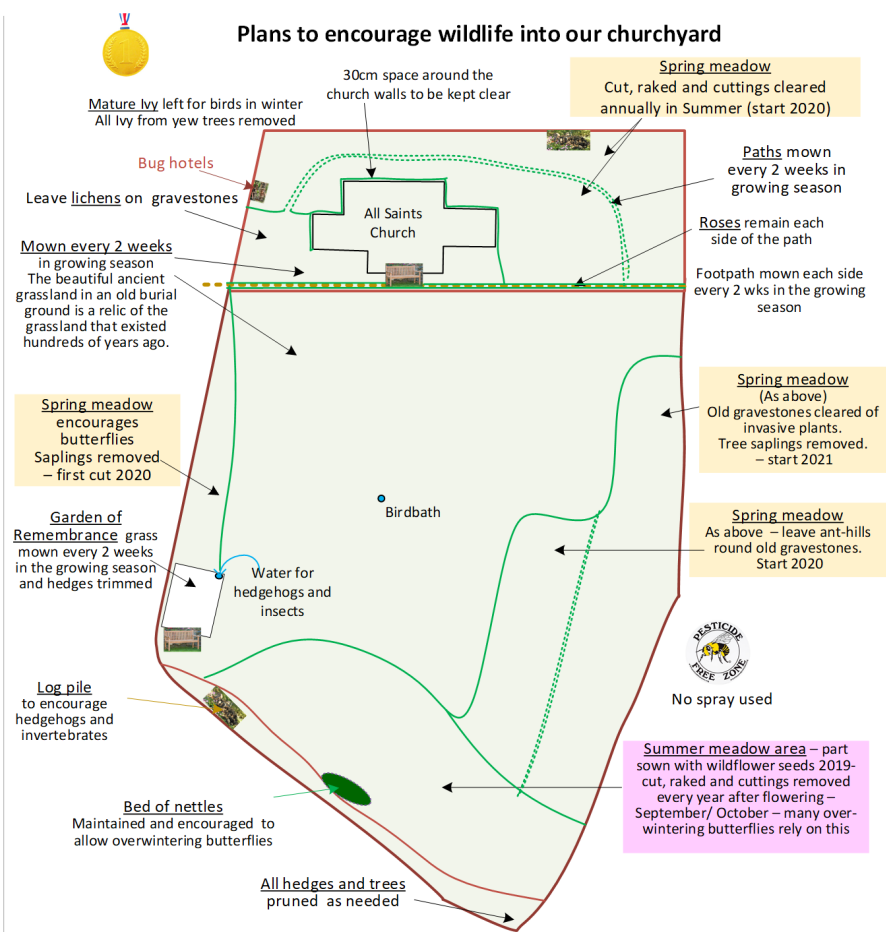
Cambridgeshire Conservation Award Scheme - Making Change in Grafham

Our churchyard is used by a large number of dog walkers, joggers and walkers of all ages and many take time there and then visit the beautiful church.

The East side of the churchyard has several old gravestones which had become very overgrown by 2018 with brambles, ivy and tree saplings dominating the area and causing biological erosion.

In accordance with Bishop Stephen's Conservation Churchyard Award Scheme 'Caring for God's Acre,' a group of parishioners are keen to promote an ecosystem where wildlife can flourish as part of 'Making Change in Grafham.' Following a visit from a prominent ecologist we decided to manage the churchyard differently and have set about rewilding the churchyard for the benefit of wildlife.

An area has been set aside and sown with perennial wildflowers to bloom in summer. A mowing plan has begun to leave some areas of grass to grow to preserve insect life which overwinter at ground level. These areas will be cut on a rotational basis, providing a spring meadow.



Caring for God's Acre and having fun at the same time!



Grafham All Saints Services

- 1st Sunday **10.30am** Family Service - Lay led
- 4th Sunday **10.30am** every 3 months - All together
Holy Communion
- 4th Sunday **7pm** Taizé service
- Wednesdays **9am - 9.30** Morning Prayer - a short service
open to all
- Thursdays **10.00am** once a month - Mid-week Communion



Good Friday Reflection

We aim to appeal to villagers of all ages at our services and church events and a warm welcome awaits you.

Laity run the first Sunday Family Services in a friendly and relaxed manner. We are an active group and these services are popular and well attended. Our musicians and singer accompany the hymns on guitar and electric piano; occasionally violin and bass viol too. Their music adds so much to the atmosphere in our services. We have a small group of people who meet regularly to plan our first Sunday lay led services. We take it in turn to lead the service or give a talk, sometimes with activities. We encourage a range of people in the congregation to take part in reading from the bible or leading the prayers. When clergy have not been available members of the laity have been ready and willing to plan and lead services on special occasions such as Mothering Sunday, Good Friday, Easter day, Harvest or whenever necessary. We



Bug Hotel making during a Family Service

make a point of capitalising on any way of appealing to interest the congregation in worship, including holding a bonfire service on the morning after Grafham's Firework display, building a bug hotel for the rewilding project and making Advent wreaths during the service. All this has been very popular and well publicised in the '[Grafham Gossip](#).' We write an article called 'View from the Pew' which informs readers of what's been going on at church in services and other related events. All the service times are printed in the *Gossip* and are also displayed on the churchyard notice board.



Taizé

A member of our congregation has introduced a Taizé service once a month. This consists of chants, accompanied by our pianist and sometimes a violinist, readings and prayers. There is a time for meditation and lighting of candles. The church lights are dimmed and nightlights provide light on the altar and pews giving an ambience of quiet and peace. It has become a popular service.

Wednesday Morning Prayer is attended by several people.

By request from a parishioner, mid-week Holy Communion is now held on the third Thursday of each month. This is usually attended by between five and ten people.

We are fortunate to have a lovely organ which is played at our 'All Together' services when congregations of our three churches join together.

Coffee and cake is served after Family Services, mid-week Communion and All Together services for the purposes of friendship, companionship and a good chat!



Lay led service



Flower Club

The Flower Club which is run by two members of the congregation fulfills an important role. Flowers are arranged on the font and altar each month and appropriately for festivals. Weddings are times when the flower arrangers really show their skills and this is much appreciated by the families involved.





All Saints Church Grafham

Bell ringing



Open all day

Peaceful beautiful church

Weddings and funerals

Flower festival

Taizé services

Lay led monthly services

2nd hand
Book Store



Caring for God's
Acre medal winning churchyard



Venue - Grafham Church
Reception - Perry!

A warm welcome awaits you

Flower Festivals

Our main social/fundraising event during the year is our Flower Festival. This involves many villagers who would not otherwise come into the church. It is a very industrious, fun-filled few days before the festival and many

people who have never put a flower in a vase have come on to be enthusiastic, proficient flower arrangers. There is a different theme every year and the inventiveness of the displays is amazing! Teas are served on both days and in the past we have had history tours of the building and live music. The event ends on Sunday afternoon with Songs of Praise.



2019 Hobbies



2018 The Sixties





All Saints Church
Church Road
Grafham
PE28 0BB

Dear New Rector

We feel sure all villagers will join us in welcoming you enthusiastically into our beautiful area and help you to settle in. There is a very strong sense of community here and there is much support for maintaining the church as a focal point.

As a church we have worked independently over a number of years and would love to have support and guidance in planning and delivering our monthly lay led services. We have no ALM. We would love to see our congregations increase both in number and the range of ages represented.

Our church is open every day and there are fresh flower displays throughout the year. Walkers, cyclists and visitors to Grafham buy from our Second hand book store – proceeds from this go into the Parish Fund.

Our conservation work in the churchyard has gained us the first medal in the [Caring for God's Acre](#) scheme in Cambridgeshire. Several members of the village have worked hard to make it a haven for wildlife. We are now working further towards the gold medal. Cake (a Grafham speciality) always helps improve productivity!

We look forward to meeting you and your family,

Congregation and villagers of Grafham