



# The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

## CHRISHALL



**Location:** 5 miles west of Saffron Walden. **Ordnance Survey grid square:** TL4439.

**Postcode:** SG8 8QL. **County:** Essex. **District:** Uttlesford. **Access:** Off B1039.

**Buses:** Minimal – 31 to Cambridge and 444 to Saffron Walden.

**Population:** 507 in 2001, 555 in 2011, 580 in 2021.

Chrishall [pronounced Chris - Hall with emphasis on the Chris], in common with many of its neighbours, is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The village name has other derivatives in some historical references such as Christhale, Chriss hall and others.

Although the village is officially in Essex, it is very closely positioned to the borders of adjacent counties Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire and indeed it is the only Essex village, amongst many from Herts and Cambs, with the SG8 postcode. Geographically the parish is notable for the fact that it includes the highest point in Essex, 147 metres (482 ft) above sea level.

The main route through the village divides as it meets the village pub into Church Road and High Street. The pub, The Red Cow, pictured here, includes a barn that is believed to be the oldest building in the village, excluding the church, and dating from circa 1500. The thatched barn is dominated by a thatch finial of a cow, shown here.



Although the village is home to fewer than 500 residents it has a well-maintained church and a pre-infant and junior school. The former Methodist chapel was recently converted into a village hall.



Holy Trinity Church is situated high on the hill as you enter the village, up Church Road upon leaving the main B 1039 from Saffron Walden. The original Church dates back to the 12th century and whilst little remains of the original fabric the current building was constructed through the 13th to 15th centuries, with substantial renovation in the 19th. The history that it conveys is well represented, with a number of brasses to view. One in memory of Sir John de la Pole and his wife, dating from 1380, can be seen on entry into the church.



This is the view from the churchyard. Although the location and elevation of the village have probably contributed to its continued relative seclusion, it is in fact well served by local commuter facilities with the M11 and Audley End railway station in easy reach.

The village has several small ponds and wooded areas pleasant rural walks connecting it to nearby villages. Chrishall is on the Icknield Way which is thought to be the oldest road in Britain. Today, its raised elevation offers good views in all directions.



The range of properties within the village includes traditional thatched cottages along with flint and brick constructions nestling next to more modern developments sympathetically positioned around the village lanes.

Jigneys Meadow is home to the Chrishall Cricket team, and here a pleasant summer's afternoon can be whiled away listening to the sound of leather on willow.

There is a wealth of information about Chrishall's past on the Chrishall History website – see the link below.



---

**Hospitality:** The Red Cow - 01763 838792 - [www.theredcow.com](http://www.theredcow.com)

**Hundred Parishes Society walks** can be downloaded from this website. They include two circular routes that start from the parking area at Chrishall Church:  
Number 123 covers 8.1 miles to the south and west.  
Number 164 covers 4.5 miles to the north and east.

**Adjacent parishes:**

Elmdon & Wenden Lofts, Langley, Great & Little Chishill, Heydon, Duxford, Ickleton.

**Links:**

Parish Council: [www.chrishallpc.org.uk](http://www.chrishallpc.org.uk)

Chrishall History: <https://chrishallessex.co.uk/>

Recorders of Uttlesford History: [www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk/chrishall/chrishall.html](http://www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk/chrishall/chrishall.html)

---

This page, last updated 30 October 2023, was downloaded from [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)