



# The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

## NEWPORT



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**Location:** 3 miles southwest of Saffron Walden. **Ordnance Survey grid square:** TL5233.  
**Postcode:** CB11 3PH. **Access:** Newport station on London Liverpool Street to Cambridge line. B1383. **Bus:** 301, Monday-Saturday: hourly between Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford.  
**County:** Essex. **District:** Uttlesford. **Population:** 2,352 in 2011.

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The earliest reference to Newport is in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it had 48 households and 7 slaves. The name means a new town. In Saxon times "port" was often the name for a market and Newport did have a flourishing market until around 1300 when it was overtaken in importance by nearby Saffron Walden. The village grew after improvement of the road in 1744 and the arrival of the railway in 1845.

Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Newport was mostly dependent on agriculture, although in the past a wide range of occupations have been followed, notably in the leather trade, in woolcombing and later in malting.

The opening of the M11 motorway in 1979 had a dramatic effect as the noise and pollution of heavy traffic was removed from the village street.

Newport has many fine old buildings, three of which are shown here: the Crown House (right), mostly late 16<sup>th</sup>-century with 17<sup>th</sup>-century pargetting; Monks Barn (immediately below), a Wealden-type house dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and featuring an oriel window to the left that is supported by an ancient wooden bracket carved with angels playing harps; and 15<sup>th</sup> century Tudor House with a fine 16<sup>th</sup> century chimney stack at the far end.



Newport is a good base for walks, either short or long. A history walk pamphlet published by Newport News is available from the Village Stores. Several of the Hundred Parishes walks start or finish at the railway station and the first half of walk number 6 includes an introduction to many additional interesting features of the village, including the house of correction and the toll bridge.



The parish church dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and has a distinctive 'new' tower built in 1858.

Just to the north of the village, the main road passes what is known as the "Leper stone" – actually a glacial erratic of Jurassic limestone from Lincolnshire. In the medieval period the stone was adjacent to a hospice that looked after the destitute (not lepers).



Just beyond is this fine entrance to the Shortgrove estate where a 1760 bridge takes the private drive over the River Cam.



Newport's lively community has activities for all. The rail service from Newport Station takes commuters to London in an hour or to Cambridge in half an hour. An hourly bus service between Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford runs through the village. There is a doctors' surgery, two busy pubs, a social club, youth club and many other clubs and societies. These are all identified in *Newport News*, a glossy twice-yearly magazine that aims to cater for all tastes. The award-winning *A Village in Time: the history of Newport, Essex*, published in 1995, was based on a series of articles which had appeared in the magazine.

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#### **Hospitality:**

Coach & Horses, Cambridge Road (B1383) – 01799 540292 - [www.coachandhorsesonline.com](http://www.coachandhorsesonline.com)  
White Horse Inn, Belmont Hill (B1383) – 01799 540002  
Dorrington's Tea Room, 24 High Street, CB11 3BQ – 01799 541533  
The Toll House B&B, Belmont Hill – 01799 540880 - [www.tollhousebedandbreakfast.co.uk](http://www.tollhousebedandbreakfast.co.uk)

#### **Included in Hundred Parishes walks:**

4: Between Stansted Mountfitchet and Newport stations (7 miles).  
5: Between Elsenham and Newport stations (7 miles).  
6: Between Newport and Audley stations (4 miles).  
11: Between Newport and Audley End stations (10 miles).  
15: Between Newport and Audley End stations (5 miles).  
16: Between Newport and Audley End stations (7 miles).  
17: Circular route from Newport station (2 miles).

#### **Adjacent parishes:**

Quendon & Rickling, Wicken Bonhunt, Wendens Ambo, Saffron Walden, Debden, Widdington.

#### **Links:**

Parish Council: [www.essexinfo.net/newport-parish-council](http://www.essexinfo.net/newport-parish-council)  
History: [www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk/newport/newportindex.html](http://www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk/newport/newportindex.html)  
Conservation Area appraisal: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/caa](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/caa)  
Friends of St Mary's Church: <http://friendsofstmarysnewport.org.uk>

#### **Further reading:**

*The Victoria History of Essex: Newport*, Anthony Tuck and others, 2015.  
*A Village in Time: the history of Newport, Essex*, Nurse, Pugh & Mollet, 1995.  
*A brief history of The Village of Newport and its Church* – available in the church.  
*The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Newport Essex* – available in the church.