St Peter and St Paul with St Edmund Heritage Orchard

In winter/spring 2026 we planted several heritage fruit trees around the old Sunday school site. They include

- St Edmund's Russet
- Lady Henniker apple
- Lord Stradbroke
- Greengage

Most of the trees have been donated in memory of a local lady, Barbara Chenery. The rest in memory of other loved ones.

The site

It was an area of scrub and had become a place for fly tipping. It is the old Sunday school site. Despite being still marked on the accompanying map, the old Sunday school no longer exists. It was demolished sometime in the 20th century. Very little remains of the building, just the boundary wall 3-4 bricks high which separates off the graveyard. There are no graves in this area.

The area is south facing. A number of witch elm saplings keep having to be removed as they are susceptible to Dutch Elm disease when they grow to a larger height. This is a danger to the road as they fall in storms. The elm hedge is cut to a height which discourages the spread of Dutch Elm disease.

1. Apples – Eaters

St Edmund's Russet
Bury St. Edmunds pre1875
Pick mid Sept. Use Sept – Oct
Pollination group C
Raised by Mr Richard Harvey of Bury St Edmunds. A sweet, juicy and rich russet, which when fully ripe has an almost pear like quality. It has good resistance to scab, canker and mildew. Its synonym is St. Edmund's Pippin



2. Apples – dual purpose varieties



Lady Henniker
Thornham Magna c.1845
Pick early Oct. Use Nov – Jan
Pollination group D
Raised from a seedling, between 1840-50, having been found in discarded cider must at the Henniker family home at Thornham Magna Hall, near Eye. In 1873 it was introduced commercially by their head gardener Mr. Perkins and in 1875 was awarded an RHS First Class Certificate. It became a popular UK garden variety. Can be distinctively oblong and 'slab-sided' in shape and large. Cooks to a pale yellow quite strongly flavoured puree, hardly needing extra sugar. It is a triploid variety so requires another two different apple varieties nearby for successful pollination.

3. Apples – cookers



Lord Stradbroke
Henham 1900
Pick early Oct. Use Oct – Dec/Feb
Pollination group C
Found, or raised, by Lord Stradbroke's head gardener Mr Fenn, at Henham Hall near Wangford, in about 1900. Received an RHS Award of Merit in 1905. Synonyms include Fenn's Wonder and Fenn's Seedling. It is large and maroon in colour, prominently ribbed and five-crowned around the eye. It bruises easily but will keep if stored carefully. A sweet light cooker in October.

4. Plums and Gages – dessert varieties



Green Gage
Hengrave 1700s
Pick late Aug. Use Aug – Sept
Pollination group C
In the eighteenth-century Thomas Gage of Hengrave Hall, near Bury St.Edmunds, received a shipment of fruit from France that included the gage Reine-Claude (which probably originally came from Armenia). His gardener forgot its proper name so renamed it 'Green Gage' after Thomas. Fruits can be large but not usually heavy cropping. Soft fleshed and juicy.