

COMMITTED TO
Growth



IN DISCIPLESHIP

IN SERVICE

IN NUMBERS

GROWTH PLAN

Name of Parish:

Eaton, Christ Church, Norwich

A welcoming church, willing to make sacrifices and room for others

Incumbent:

The Rev Dr Patrick Richmond

Other clergy:

The Rev Shawn Tomlinson

The Rev Colin Way (Retired Priest helping most months)

The Rev Ivan Bailey (Retired Priest helping occasionally)

The Rev David Hares (Retired Priest helping occasionally)

Readers:

Alistair Bolt

Bridget Archer

John Harrison (retired, Permission to Officiate)

Last Updated: 20.05.19 (last agreed with PCC 10.06.19)
(Red text indicates change since previous version)

IN DISCIPLESHIP

How do we enable the people of Christ to fulfil their part in God's mission; teaching, baptising and nurturing believers?

What did we do in 2018?

1. Ran Lent and Advent courses completing the whole Pilgrim Course
2. Ran a retreat and vision day with Canon Keith James
3. Encouraged regular, planned giving in Giving for Growth & follow up
4. Employed a NYFC worker to help the youth group
5. **The PCC used the PCC tonight materials, discussing all of the themes at meetings.**
6. **Explored a welcome team with name badges but there was little enthusiasm**
7. **Repaired and added microphones for the sound system, including for recorded music at weddings and funerals**
8. **Installed CCTV to coordinate organ, choir and congregation**
9. **Welcomed the ministry of our curate, the Rev Shawn Tomlinson**
10. **Improved the lighting in church**
11. **Started a prayer ministry after the 10am service**
12. **Started a group praying for Norwich prison**
13. **Renewed the hymn books with *Refreshing worship; Hymns Ancient and Modern***
14. **Bridget Archer offered some compline services**
15. **Hosted a special service with Bishop Graham as part of the Friends' Angel Festival**

What are the good things we are already doing?

16. We have regular preaching at all three Sunday services, 8am, 10am and 630pm
17. The vicar gives a brief introduction to each Bible reading to aid understanding
18. We have regular Sunday School at 10am services and a children's corner
19. We have an average of **eight** Under 16s through the year on Sundays.
20. We have a choir, both males and females, of wide age range, with RSCM certificates for the young, & guest singers at special occasions
21. All age services for Festivals, e.g. Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Harvest allow families to worship together
22. We have baptism services at 10am and at other times where necessary
23. We follow up baptisms (The Vicar sends signed anniversary cards from office, invitations to Tots Teatime Church TTC and Toddlers)
24. The Eaton Group of parishes has home groups that meet for bible study, fellowship and discussion.
25. For children, we have Group joint holiday clubs every Summer, Easter workshop and support the Tuesday Mum's and toddlers Group
26. **We give financial support to Andrea Woods for her hours leading joint projects, Easter Workshop, Holiday Club and Toddler group, with Diocesan mission fund support (a new arrangement is required from June. We are employing our youth worker to lead the holiday club)**
27. Morning and Evening prayer held Mondays to Thursdays with study of readings

28. Some people meet for prayer and in small groups.
29. We have an evening MU group, joint with St Andrew's Eaton (SAE) [The afternoon group are diocesan members]
30. Our PCC meets nearly monthly to discuss the mission of the parish, with prayer.
31. Many are involved in reading, intercessions and on other ministerial rotas.
32. There is a strong tradition of Lent and Advent Courses (some joint) and special services.
33. We financially support overseas mission partners with regular, planned donations, with prayers, visits and fund-raising events.
34. We have held a Giving for Growth Sunday annually since 2010.
35. The Joint 'Summer Programme' has a strong community function and some Christian content
36. We have reordered North vestries to allow better children's activities, fellowship and teaching.
37. Vicar & wardens review attendance roughly monthly; worship committee reviews attendance two or three times a year

What else does God want for us?

1. Strategy to concentrate on welcoming, including and making room for all people and ages; developing community, facing costs of change
2. To identify and encourage new leaders to develop their skills and leadership
3. Deeper understanding of the faith and the Bible and how they relate to the contemporary world
4. To investigate employing paid worker(s) to aid young people's discipleship
5. More people meeting in small groups for learning, prayer and praise
6. Investigating fresh expressions of church in different format and/or days and times
7. Developing the ministry of all God's people, develop and recognise lay leaders

What can we do in 2019?

1. The PCC and APCM have agreed the *Motivating the Million* priorities.
2. We have bought new shorter prayer books for matins and evensong services
3. Run a Vision/strategy day on 28/9/19, so that those working can attend
4. We welcomed Caroline Seed, mission partner to our morning service in January.
5. We held a lunch in church for mission partners the Kirks with a presentation on their work
6. We held a lunch in church for Christian Aid with presentations by the children
7. We held a "godparent Sunday" special service for the first time
8. Hold social events for children and young people e.g. trampolining, swimming
9. Training was sought, offered and taken up on prayer and healing ministry
10. Seek Diocesan Support as part of *More than we can imagine*
11. Encourage leaders of small groups
12. Encourage leaders of Tots to seek Authorised Worship Assistance status
13. Introduce an improved sound system to hear better in services
14. Install broadband and wifi for curate and congregation to use
15. Improve the presentation of the prayer space and continue to promote prayer
16. Support new mission projects overseas, helping the needy

IN SERVICE

How best can we respond to human need by loving service?

How do we safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

How should we seek to transform the unjust structures of society?

What did we do in 2018?

1. Created more social space in south aisle
2. Launched the Friends of Christ Church Group
3. Started Chat over a cuppa
4. Finished restoration/improvement project for the Organ with CCTV
5. Recruited a new Office Assistant in September
6. Hosted displays and school visits about Eaton in the church.
7. Installed new electrical sockets in the Sunday school room
8. Replaced the cupboard for flower equipment in church
9. Improved the carpet in the children's corner
10. Began to develop links between donations, speakers, events and mission
11. Transferred our website to Churchedit, improving it
12. Trialled the *Open Door Dementia friendly service in church from October*
13. *Held a joint service for the centenary of the end of WW1 at the war memorial, stopping traffic, and produced a booklet on the local and wider history*
14. *Improved lighting in church and installed safety lighting to help with large gatherings and concerts as well as services hosted by the church*

What are the good things we are already doing?

1. Beehives now use our hall to provide full day care, supporting Colman Infant School.
2. Vicar & wardens review attendance and pastoral needs
3. Pastoral Gifts are offered at Easter, Harvest and Christmas to those inside and outside the congregation
4. We run a *loving for life* marriage preparation courses on same day as theological and musical preparation for the service, joint with St Andrew's & Mothers Union
5. Anna MacDougall runs a *Foodbank* collection from church
6. After funerals, bereaved people are contacted, visited if they want and invited to our annual memorial service for up to seven years.
7. We cooperate with St Andrew's on Group joint holiday clubs every Summer, and on an Easter workshop.
8. The vicar takes assemblies in six local schools (state and private) and takes RE Lessons and hosts school visits to the church.
9. We provide Bibles for Colman Junior School year 6 leavers with Bible's for Children Charity project
10. MU members help with Toddlers group.
11. The Vicar, PCC and congregation members **have been** local School governors.
12. Church members are involved in various local charitable and caring activities.
13. The Church Hall is used for meetings by many and various community organisations with day to day management by the Beehives nursery.
14. Monthly services in residential/care homes: Chiswick House and Hawthorns

15. In response to the Diocesan Environmental Policy, we reduced energy use and the boiler has been converted from oil to gas.
16. We are a Fair-Trade church. A Traidcraft stall operates in our church weekly.
17. Retiring collections are taken for charities and one mission partner couple is funded directly and by fund raising (**being reviewed now**). We regularly support charities such as CMS, Tear Fund, Christian Aid and the Magdalene Group.
18. We encourage concern for global justice and peace through preaching, information and involvement in women's world day of prayer, and encouraging specific prayers.

What else does God want for us?

1. Work together with local churches to meet local need and encourage one another.
2. To develop the lay care of the congregation and beyond, especially of the sick, bereaved, poor and vulnerable
3. To explore and develop prayer and healing ministry
4. Encourage more people to visit or attend services in residential homes – e.g. carol services
5. Investigate ecumenical activities
6. Toddler group and nursery provision is in demand in the area – can we help further?
7. Develop Marriage preparation and follow up

What can we do in 2019?

1. We held the Lent lunches in church, raising money for the diocesan project and Tearfund. Numbers and donations were both higher than previously
2. The Vicar's lent course used the USPG materials connected to the diocesan project
3. Run Vision/strategy day on 28/9/19, so that those working can attend
4. Provide furniture or equipment in children's garden
5. Finalise improved sound system for recorded music at weddings and funerals
6. Host more refreshments, meals, exhibitions and displays in church, especially those providing a service to the vulnerable or needy
7. Review "dementia friendly" activities as part of welcome generally
8. Support new mission projects overseas, helping the needy, in light of Pentecost discussion
9. Help with the new deanery project at St Mary's, Earlham

IN NUMBERS

How are we proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom?

What did we do in 2018?

1. We had 1076 people attend School services in Advent
2. Attendance at Christingle and the Carol Service increased
3. 18 adults and three children joined the “worshipping community” list (14 adults and 12 children were removed)
4. We took 15 baptisms, 12 weddings, and 26 funerals
5. We held a thanksgiving for marriage service and a memorial service in December, both following up on our contacts
6. We welcomed people into church for lunch and refreshments and into the remembrance garden for the Friends open gardens event

What are the good things we are already doing?

1. Through preaching and teaching, we encourage people to live out their faith in daily life and to be concerned with communicating it.
2. The choir invites new members and helps children and teenagers retain involvement and relationships in the church
3. We put publicity in local media, schools and Kinchen Hall and at outside notice boards at Kinchen Hall and church for festival services and events and send Cards with a message and service times at Christmas and Easter.
4. We advertise services, groups and activities at festival services, concerts and events.
5. We regularly update our Facebook presence
6. We run Tots’ Teatime Church on 2nd Sunday of the month.
7. We financially support joint projects with St Andrew’s: Good Friday Workshop, Garden Party, and Holiday Club
8. There are special invitations to All-age services for Festivals, e.g. Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and volunteers deliver Christmas, Easter and Summer invitations to the whole parish.
9. The congregation is encouraged to invite people to guest services, e.g. Harvest, Memorial, carols
10. Our church is open every day and advertised in Norfolk Open Churches
11. The church hosts concerts for the Parishes’ choir and others, attracting non-church-goers.
12. There is up to date welcome information for visitors and newcomers in the pews, in Kinchen Hall and on the website
13. Members of our congregation help the vicar with services in two care homes
14. Families are visited and prepared prior to baptism and funerals and follow up visits and invitations made.
15. Baptism is offered during normal worship and at special services
16. Every wedding couple is met at least twice for detailed discussion of Christian marriage and the service.
17. We host many weddings.

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18. Our website is up to date and we are on 'a church near you' acny.org.uk and websites [advertising evensong and diocesan brightmap](#)
19. We distribute the joint parishes' magazine containing Christian articles in the parish.
20. The Vicar gives a lecture offering reasons to believe as part of the Summer Programme
21. The vicar takes assemblies in **five** local (state and private) schools and takes RE Lessons and hosts visits to the church. There are now several school services – Clare, Town Close Prep and Preprep, NHSG, - in the church and four schools visit the church.
22. We invite those attending special services and events to further services and activities
23. Deputy wardens and sidespeople help us welcome newcomers
24. We pay a significant parish share supporting stipendiary clergy etc. elsewhere.

What else does God want for us?

1. Audit community needs
2. Improve publicity in wider community
3. Increase outreach to local schools e.g. through assemblies, invitations and services, visits, governorship, and Bibles for Schools programme.
4. Increase outreach to other organisations in the parish
5. Develop an integrated, comprehensive welcoming ministry
6. Develop new courses or groups for seekers, enquirers, and baptism and marriage contacts.
7. Investigate less formal services and alternative times and days – fresh expressions like Tots Teatime Church TTC for other ages?
8. Further develop welcome/historical information for visitors and newcomers 'enabling tourists to become pilgrims'.
9. Encourage lay-lead small groups that seek new members
10. Continue to develop festival services
11. Investigate men's groups/activities and develop women's groups
12. Explore schemes to develop prayer and spirituality

What can we do in 2019?

1. We updated our entries on [brightmap](#) and choralevensong.org
2. Develop community links through Friends of Christ Church activities
3. We held a plant sale in the nave and around church, with refreshments and lunch offered in the church.
4. Run Vison/strategy day on 28/9/19, so that those working can attend
5. Support the Jo Cox *Great Get Together* event in Eaton Park
6. Create a culture of invitation as well as welcome.
7. Further improve advertising of and invitations to services and events in the local press by email, Facebook, Parishes Magazine e.g. [Lunch at the plant sale](#)
8. Seek volunteers to provide welcome event(s) for newcomers
9. Advertise enquirers and other groups at festivals and to occasional contacts
10. Cooperate at Deanery level on youth and children work