

ST ANDREW'S EATON PARISH PROFILE



Children & Families Worker (Part-time)



'a church for all - a place for you'

ST ANDREW'S EATON - PARISH PROFILE

For centuries St Andrew's church in Eaton has been at the heart of a small village community, which has now grown to become an attractive suburb on the south-west side of the city of Norwich. The parish includes a mix of social and private homes, with a significant number of larger houses to meet the needs of business and professional people living and working in this thriving regional centre. The heart of the old village is still readily identifiable.



The Parish has a population of about 5,700. The boundary includes the unspoilt Yare valley, the large recreational Eaton Park and Eaton Golf Course. The University of East Anglia, the Norwich Research Park and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital are less than two miles away and a number of their staff and students live locally and worship at St Andrew's.

We have two schools, Eaton Primary School (which has a pre-school on the same site), and Eaton Hall Academy (for primary age children with emotional and behavioural difficulties). Children go on to a number of state secondary schools including the nearby City of Norwich School or private schools including the Norwich School (for boys) and the Norwich High School for Girls (GDST) and the City College Norwich (of further and higher education). As a city, Norwich is rich in educational opportunities.

Within the parish is the Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre. The Norwich 34th Scouts join us for parade services twice a year on Remembrance and Mothering Sundays, and some of the scouts volunteer at events such as the annual Summer Fair.

St Andrew's itself is a growing and friendly church, with a welcome for all. Sunday worship is structured though relaxed, with a focus on listening to God's Word. As a church we are involved in the local community in many different ways, seeking to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all. In everything we do, we give a high priority to prayer, worship and relevant teaching from the Bible.

Our Sunday Services follow a pattern of 10 a.m. Morning Worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Holy Communion the other weeks. We also have a monthly 8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP), and a monthly informal Evening Service that is café-style, with a light supper and interactive Bible study.

After 15 years of ministry, last year the vicar, Phil Rodd, moved to pastures new. During the ensuing interregnum, the curate, James Cook, has been overseeing the church, and was recently announced as the next vicar, to be installed on the 23rd September. James came to faith as a student at Oxford, where he later received a doctorate in Early Church History. Before training for ordination, he spent some time serving in a growing church in New York City. His heart is for all people of all ages to come to know and love the Lord Jesus.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This is a short summary of children and young people's activities at St Andrew's, some of which take place in conjunction with Christ Church Eaton, our partner church within the Eaton Group Ministry. (Until about 15 years ago, St Andrew's and Christ Church formed one single parish, and because of the long history between the two churches, we continue to work together in some areas, including in some of our children's and youth work.)

The longest running group for children at St Andrew's is the Sunday Club (or Sunday School). This takes place fortnightly alongside the 10 a.m. service, and is aimed at 3 to 14 year olds. Historically weekly numbers have varied from 2 to 12, but it has struggled to re-establish since the pandemic. We currently use Urban Saints' *Energize* as a basis for our Sunday sessions.

Although numbers of children on regular Sundays are low, we have lots of contact with families at other times, providing a fantastic opportunity for growth and sharing the Gospel. To begin with, a number of all-age services are held throughout the year, especially around the major festivals. These include the ever-popular Crib service on Christmas Eve, services on Christmas and Easter Days, and the Scout parade services, as well as at other times of year in conjunction with our activity mornings (see below). These can draw in a large number of families who don't usually attend on regular Sundays.

Our very popular weekly Toddlers group (for pre-school children and their relatives or carers) has run successfully for many years. A Toddlers Service takes place at the end of each term, which has become increasingly well-attended. The services take place in church, and so are a great way to introduce children to church from a very young age.

A recent popular initiative that grew out of the pandemic has been our termly activity workshops for primary-aged children (at Easter, summer, autumn and Christmas). These are run together with Christ Church and attract around 30-35 children each time, many typically with little or no Christian background. During a packed two hours, the children move around the church or churchyard to see a Bible story unfold, before doing crafts and playing games that connect with the theme. Recent workshops have ended with a short service in the church of songs and prayers, to try to bridge the gap to Sunday worship.

There are further opportunities for schools' outreach. We have had very good links with the local primary school (though it is not a church school). The vicar and children's workers have regularly gone in to take assemblies, and we have also received groups of children from the school as part of their RE curriculum. Contact has not been as frequent since the pandemic, but there is lots of scope for a new Children and Families Worker, together with the new Vicar, to rebuild the links.



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**St Andrew's Eaton is a signatory
to the Children, Youth and Families Charter
of the Diocese of Norwich**

www.standrewseaton.org.uk