

# **The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Eaton St Andrew**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Charity no. 1130712**

**Incumbent**

:

**Vacancy**

**Bank**

**Barclays Bank PLC**

**Parish Office**

**Church Lane**

**Eaton, Norwich**

**Norfolk, NR4 6NW**

# The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Eaton St Andrew

## Annual Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

### Aim and purposes

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (the Council) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Philip Rodd, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church Hall and Burial Ground in Church Lane Eaton.

### Objectives and Activities

The Council is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Andrew's. The Council maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, sacrament and music.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the Council have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing a knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is also important that we maintain the fabric of the Church, the Church Hall and the Burial Ground.

### Achievements and Performance

#### *Worship and Prayer*

2023 was a year of significant change for St Andrew's, as it marked the end of fifteen years of Phil Rodd as our vicar. We bade him farewell after a full Sunday service on the 9th July, after which the church entered an interregnum. During this time, church life was overseen by the churchwardens and the curate. By the end of the year, a Parish Profile had been prepared, and a new vicarage was in the process of being purchased by the Diocese, with the expectation that a new appointment could be made some time in 2024.

Despite the changes, all the usual activities of church life continued. During Lent we ran a well-attended Lent Course, helping established members to become more confident in their Christian faith. After Christmas and Easter, a smaller group attended a course aimed at those looking into Christian faith. Fortnightly Connect Groups in members' homes continue to be a rich source of deepening faith and strengthening relationships.

Through the year, we have run a full programme of regular and occasional activities for the church and the wider community. Toddlers (for pre-school children and their parents/carers), Old Eatonians (for those who are retired), and the two weekly Community Cafés serve local people with community and care. More occasional events also brought people from across Eaton together, such as the Mission Fairs in the Spring and Autumn, the Eco Day, the Coronation Celebration lunch, and the summer Garden Party. The Children's Workshops at Easter, Summer, Autumn and Christmas see around 30 children each time watching a Bible drama, before doing crafts and playing games.

Numbers attending regular and festival services have remained broadly consistent with 2022, with some modest growth. Figures are, however, still down from before the pandemic, a pattern replicated across the Church of

