

ST ANDREW'S EATON PARISH PROFILE



Children & Families Worker (Maternity Cover)



'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. 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 4,400. 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 (GPDST) 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 Activity Centre for the Scouting movement and we have occasional contact with their groups.

St Andrew's itself is a growing and friendly church, where there is a welcome for all. Sunday worship is structured though relaxed, and we cater for people of all ages. As a church we are involved in the local community in many different ways, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to 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 with more contemporary forms of worship led by singers and instrumentalists. A number of very well-attended all-age services are held throughout the year, especially around the major festivals.

In 2018 St Andrew's marked a special Year of Celebration, it being the 25th anniversary of its modern New Church building (a light, airy, flexible space) to sit alongside its 13th century Old Church. We also marked the 700th anniversary of the installation of its first known vicar. The year saw a wide variety of special services, exhibitions, concerts and other events, and provided a fresh impetus for mission.

Currently we are still evaluating what mission will look like in a post-Covid world as we look forward to the years ahead. But we believe this is still an exciting and strategic time to be serving God here!

The current vicar, Phil Rodd, originates from south London, and arrived here in 2008, having served a curacy at Holy Trinity, in the city centre. He is a former secondary school teacher, specialising in modern languages, and also spent some 15 years working in the charity sector, with a focus on mission and literature for evangelism in Latin America. On his day off, he is often seen out on his road bike, or heard singing in a local choir.

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 alongside the 10 a.m. service, and is aimed at 3 to 14 year olds. Weekly numbers vary from 2 to 12. We currently use Urban Saints' *Energize* as a basis for our Sunday sessions.

There have been various children's and youth groups at St Andrew's for many years, including some smaller groups that have made use of the club room in the vicarage outhouses. Sometimes the groups have been more of a general club; at other times they have focused more on preparation for Confirmation, or some other Christian teaching materials.

Our very popular weekly Toddlers group (for pre-school children and their relatives or carers) has run successfully for many years, and from this termly Toddler Services has evolved. Attendance at these services has grown considerably over the past couple of years, so that now almost the entire Toddlers group will attend.

A regular feature of our monthly programme for a number of years was Messy Church, aimed particularly at families with young children, enabling them to worship and learn together in a creative and interactive environment. It stopped meeting in 2019, however, due to a falling off of numbers.

Together with Christ Church we have been running Holiday Clubs for 5-11 year olds for many years. These feature a mixture of Bible stories, games, crafts, singing and prayer. They usually take place in the school summer holidays and run for four or five days, though some have run in the February half-term holiday. Typically around 25-40 children attend, many with little church experience. We also host annual Pancake Parties, Good Friday workshops and 'alternative' Halloween Light Parties, and our Christingle and Crib Services in the run-up to Christmas are always very popular. The aim of these events is to achieve a programme of outreach that runs throughout the year, so that children and their families can more easily identify St Andrew's as being 'their' church.

During the Covid pandemic, we found a new way of reaching out to local children, through the use of free seasonal activity packs; we have continued using these occasionally, linking them up to single-session activity workshops. Both of these forms of outreach have proved very popular, and we have made contact with many 'new' families as a result.

There are further opportunities for schools outreach. We have 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 on a regular basis, and have done so for many years, under a succession of headteachers. We also receive groups of children from the school as part of their RE curriculum. Every three or four years, we have run a special art project for all junior-age children at the school, to teach the Easter story and to produce Stations of the Cross which have been exhibited in church and used during Lent and Holy Week as a focus for various activities and services.

Local Scout groups: we have good links with these groups and the vicar and children's and youth workers have helped to teach them to achieve faith-oriented awards. Scouts, Cubs and Beavers attend regular parade services at St Andrew's on Remembrance Sunday and Mothering Sunday.



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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