



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 Colin Way (Retired Priest)

The Rev Ivan Bailey (Retired Priest) helping occasionally

Readers:

Alistair Bolt

Bridget Archer

John Harrison (retired, Permission to Officiate)

Last Updated: **6.2.17** (last agreed with PCC 13.07.15)

(Red text indicates change since last 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 2016?

1. Our "worshipping community" had around 215 people in it
2. 16 baptisms in 2016
3. Introduced new baptism service
4. Consulted on Vision and Mission Statement, Worship, music and space
5. Ran several Lent and Advent courses and a quiet day at the weekend
6. Recruited new Sunday School leaders and helpers
7. Bought printer for Sunday school and new projector screen
8. All age Pilgrimage to Cathedral
9. Started new youth group for 12-14 year olds

What are the good things we are already doing?

1. We have regular preaching at all three Sunday services, 8am, 10am and 630pm
2. The vicar gives a brief introduction to each Bible reading to aid understanding
3. We have regular Sunday School at 10am services and a children's corner
4. We have an average of 13 Under 16s through the year on Sundays.
5. We have a choir, both males and females, of wide age range, with RSCM certificates for the young, & guest singers at special occasions
6. All age services for Festivals, e.g. Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Harvest allow families to worship together
7. We have baptism services at 10am and at other times where necessary
8. We follow up baptisms (The Vicar sends signed anniversary cards from office, invitations to Tots Teatime Church TTC and Toddlers)
9. The Eaton Group of parishes has home groups which meet for bible study, fellowship and discussion.
10. For children we have Group joint holiday clubs every Summer, Good Friday workshop and support the Tuesday Mum's and toddlers Group
11. We give financial support to Andrea Woods for her hours leading joint projects, Good Friday Workshop, Holiday Club and Toddler group, with Diocesan mission fund support
12. Morning and Evening prayer held Mondays to Thursdays with study of readings



13. Some people meet for prayer and in small groups.
14. We have an MU group, joint with St Andrew's Eaton (SAE) [The afternoon group are diocesan members]
15. Our PCC meets nearly monthly to discuss the mission of the parish, with prayer.
16. Many are involved in reading, intercessions and on other ministerial rotas.
17. There is a strong tradition of Lent and Advent Courses (some joint) and special services.
18. We financially support overseas mission partners (two couples, to one this year) with regular, planned donations, with prayers, visits and fund raising events.
19. We have held a Giving for Growth Sunday annually since 2010.
20. The Joint 'Summer Programme' has a strong community function and some Christian content
21. We have reordered North vestries to allow better children's activities, fellowship and teaching.
22. Vicar & wardens review attendance roughly monthly; worship committee reviews attendance 2 or 3 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 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 a ministry of all God's people, develop & recognise lay leaders

What can we do in 2017?

1. Continue to use our Vision statement and *Committed to Growth*
2. *Seek Diocesan Support as part of More than we can imagine*
3. Explore and form welcome team
4. Run welcome event **and wider Friends events**
5. Run *Pilgrim* courses for both enquirers and advanced disciples
6. Run quiet day at a weekend, so that those working can attend
7. Encourage regular, planned giving **Giving for Growth & follow up**
8. Encourage leaders of small groups
9. Encourage leaders of services to seek Authorised Worship Assistance status
10. **Offer more guidance to Readers and intercessors about reading and using microphone and recruited more to rotas**

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 2016?

1. Installed new facilities disabled WC, flower equipment storage and improved kitchen facilities and power supply
2. Recruited Robin Quine to organise refreshments rota
3. Provided more storage for children's equipment in church and in vicar's vestry
4. Provided bench in memorial garden
5. Began restoration/improvement project for the Organ & planned CCTV
6. Installed an extra radiator in children's corner and investigated boiler burner fault
7. Did a clean of the ceiling and cobwebs in church, improving appearance
8. Further developed and advertised the new garden of remembrance
9. Explored linking holiday club to other festivals, e.g. Shrove Tuesday, Harvest
10. Vivien Humber led on Pastoral gifts and Harvest deliveries
11. Provided Bibles (yr 6 leavers) for Colman Junior School with Bible's for Children Charity project
12. Tidied notice boards and the porch notices
13. Recruited new Office Assistant
14. Hosted displays and school visits about Eaton in 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. 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
4. Anna MacDougall runs a *Foodbank* collection from church
5. After funerals, bereaved people are contacted, visited if they want and also invited to our annual memorial service for up to five years.
6. We cooperate with St Andrew's on Group joint holiday clubs every Summer, & on an **Easter workshop**.
7. The vicar takes assemblies in six local schools (state and private) and takes RE Lessons and hosts school visits to the church.
8. MU members help with Toddlers group and Peter Kinchen **helped** with the Colman Hall Toddler group.
9. The Vicar, PCC and congregation members are local School governors.
10. The MU has run marriage preparation courses for those getting married (Joint with SAE)
11. Church members are involved in various local charitable and caring activities.
12. The Church Hall is used for meetings by many and various community organisations with day to day management by the Beehives nursery.
13. Monthly services in residential/care homes: the Cedars, Chiswick House and Hawthorns



14. In response to the Diocesan Environmental Policy, energy use is being reduced and boiler has been converted from oil to gas.
15. We are a Fair-Trade church. A Traidcraft stall operates in our church weekly.
16. Retiring collections are taken for charities and **One** mission partner couple is funded directly and by fund raising (one when Kirks return to UK). We regularly support charities such as CMS, Tear Fund, Christian Aid and the Magdalene Group.
17. 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 2017?

1. Restore and improve organ
2. Open archtop to better hear restored organ
3. Provide monitor for youth group and new sockets in Sunday school room
4. Replace cupboard for flower equipment in church
5. Improve carpet in children's corner
6. Provide bench/table or similar in children's garden
7. Explore improved sound system for recorded music at weddings and funerals
8. Consult further on objections to creating more room in church
9. Host more coffee mornings, exhibitions and displays in church, especially those providing a service to the vulnerable or needy
10. Become more "dementia friendly" as part of welcome generally
11. Develop links between Donations, speakers, events and mission
12. Develop the Friends of Christ Church Group
13. Transfer the website to Churchedit and adjust the email domains



IN NUMBERS

How are we proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom?

What did we do in 2016?

1. Usual Sunday attendance 108 adults, 5 U16
2. We had 202 communicants at Christmas and 145 at Easter
3. We had 486 attend special services in Advent and 601 on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
4. 1315 attended school services in Advent, a record high
5. We had 16 baptisms of various ages
6. We had 7 weddings and 12 booked for 2017
7. We held a thanksgiving for marriage service with cake and fizz afterwards
8. We had 15 funerals at church and crematorium
9. We had around 22 start attending and 6 stop attending during the year
10. We regularly updated and developed our Facebook presence

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 Colman Hall and at outside notice boards at Colman 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 run Tots' Teatime Church on 2nd Sunday of the month.
6. We financially support joint projects with St Andrew's: Good Friday Workshop, Garden Party, Holiday Club, Tuesday Toddler group
7. 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.
8. The congregation is encouraged to invite people to guest services, e.g. Harvest, All Souls Memorial, carols
9. Our church is open every day and advertised in Norfolk Open Churches
10. The church hosts concerts for the Parishes' choir and others, attracting non-church-goers.
11. There is recently-revised welcome information for visitors and newcomers in the pews, in Colman Hall and on the website
12. Members of our congregation help the vicar with services in three care homes
13. Families are visited and prepared prior to baptism and funerals and follow up visits and invitations made.
14. Baptism is offered during normal worship and at special services

15. Every wedding couple is met at least twice for detailed discussion of Christian marriage and the service.
16. We host many weddings.
17. Our website is up to date and we are on 'a church near you' acny.org.uk
18. The vicar takes assemblies in six 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.
19. We invite those attending special services and events to further services and activities
20. We pay a significant parish share supporting stipendiary clergy etc. elsewhere.

What else does God want for us?

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

What can we do in 2017?

1. Create a culture of invitation and welcome.
2. Further improve advertising of and invitations to services and events in the local press by email, Facebook, Parishes Magazine
3. Improve heating and boiler function as part of welcome
4. Improve carpeting and children's area as part of welcome
5. Develop community links through Friends of Christ Church activities
6. Hold a special thanksgiving for marriage later in year, coordinated with fundraising events.
7. Seek volunteers to provide welcome event(s) for newcomers
8. Advertise enquirers and other groups at festivals and to occasional contacts
9. Cooperate at Deanery level on church plant for Earlham