

COMMITTED TO  
**Growth**



IN DISCIPLESHIP

IN SERVICE

IN NUMBERS

# GROWTH PLAN

**Name of Parish:**

Eaton, Christ Church, Norwich

'Here for Christ-Here for You'

**Incumbent:**

The Rev Dr Patrick Richmond

**Other clergy:**

**Readers:**

Alistair Bolt

John Harrison (retired, Permission to Officiate)

**Authorised Worship Assistant:**

Robin Quine

Last Updated: 03.07.2023 Agreed by PCC 10.07.2023.

(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 have we done since 2019?**

1. Ran Lent and Advent courses
2. Encouraged regular, planned giving in Giving for Growth & follow up
3. Installed CCTV to coordinate organ, choir and congregation
4. Improved the lighting in church
5. Started a prayer ministry after the 10am service
6. Renewed the hymn books with *Refreshing worship; Hymns Ancient and Modern*
7. The PCC and APCM have agreed LYCIG priorities.
8. We have bought new shorter prayer books for matins and evensong services
9. We welcomed Caroline Seed, mission partner to our morning service in January.
10. We held a lunch in church for mission partners the Kirks with a presentation on their work
11. We Supported new local leader mission projects overseas, helping the needy
12. We had a kids choir at Harvest and Remembrance Sunday
13. Ran an away day with the Rev Tim Yau
14. Introduced an improved sound system to hear better in services
15. Installed broadband and Wi-Fi
16. Improved the presentation of the prayer space and continue to promote prayer
17. Morning prayer held Mondays to Fridays on Zoom with study of readings
18. Started Baby&Me
19. Installed cameras for streaming and Zoom
20. Joined the Parish Giving Scheme PGS

### **What other 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 offer regular Sunday School at 10am services and a children's corner
4. We can muster a four part Choir
5. All age services for Festivals, e.g. Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Harvest allow families to worship together
6. We have baptism services at 10am and at other times where necessary
7. We follow up baptisms (The Vicar sends signed anniversary cards from office, **Baby&Me**)
8. The Eaton Group of parishes has home groups that meet for bible study, fellowship and discussion.
9. For children, we have joint workshops and support the Tuesday Mum's and toddlers Group

10. Some people meet for prayer and in small groups.
11. We have a Mothers Union group, joint with St Andrew's Eaton (SAE)
12. Our PCC meets nearly monthly to discuss the mission of the parish, with prayer.
13. Many are involved in reading, intercessions and on other ministerial rotas.
14. There is a strong tradition of Lent and Advent Courses (some joint) and special services.
15. We financially support overseas mission partners with regular, planned donations, with prayers, visits and fund-raising events.
16. We have held a Giving for Growth Sunday annually since 2010.
17. We have reordered North vestries to allow better children's activities, fellowship and teaching.
18. Vicar & wardens review attendance roughly monthly; worship committee reviews attendance two or three times a year

### **What else does God want for us?**

1. To renew our strategy to concentrate on welcoming, including and making room for all people and ages; developing community, facing costs of change, in light of Leading Your Church into Growth
2. Developing the ministry of all God's people in everyday Faith, not just in church or through clergy
3. Deeper understanding of the faith and the Bible and how they relate to the contemporary world
4. To identify and encourage new leaders to develop their skills and leadership
5. Encourage leaders of small groups
6. More people meeting in small groups for learning, prayer and praise
7. Investigating fresh expressions of church in different format and/or days and times
8. Seek Diocesan Support

### **What can we do in 2024?**

1. Create a culture of invitation
2. Encourage uptake of Parish Giving Scheme
3. Pursue EcoChurch Silver Award
4. Develop pastoral and community care, recruiting and training home visitors
5. Run Year-Round events for Children, joint with St Andrew's
6. Look to cooperate with the Deanery
7. Disseminate the ideas from the Leading Your Church Into Growth Conference at an Away Day
8. Continue to develop use of weekly emails to encourage discipleship
9. Hold more social events for children and young people
10. Develop the Kids Choir idea

## 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 have we done?**

1. We held the Lent lunches in church, raising money for the diocesan project and Tearfund
2. The Vicar's lent course used materials about prayer
3. We Supported new local leader mission projects overseas, helping the needy
4. We supported new mission projects overseas, helping the needy, in light of Pentecost discussion
5. We had an away day in September with the Rev Tim Yau
6. We improved the sound system allowing hifi recorded music at weddings, funerals and community events
7. We hosted more refreshments, meals, exhibitions and displays in church, especially Chat over a cuppa held weekly in church
8. We hosted a harvest supper in church
9. We started a review of pastoral care and community care.
10. We agreed all the special Christmas collections would go to Charity.
11. We produced leaflets about our charitable giving.

### **What other 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. Anna MacDougall runs weekly *Foodbank* collections from church
5. After funerals, bereaved people are contacted, visited if they want and invited to our annual memorial service for up to seven years.
6. We cooperate with St Andrew's an Easter workshop.
7. The vicar takes assemblies in local schools (both state and private) and takes RE Lessons and hosts school visits to the church.
8. Mothers Union MU members help with Toddlers group.
9. Church members are involved in various local charitable and caring activities.
10. Monthly services in residential/care homes: Chiswick House and Hawthorns
11. In response to the Diocesan Environmental Policy, we reduced energy use and the boiler has been converted from oil to gas.
12. Retiring collections are taken for charities and one mission partner couple and CMS local leader projects are funded directly and by fund raising.
13. We regularly support charities such as Church Mission Society CMS, Tear Fund, Christian Aid, Toilet Twinning, Leprosy Mission by stamps, and the Magdalene Group.

14. We encourage concern for global justice and peace through preaching, information and involvement in women's world day of prayer, and encouraging specific prayers.
15. We support the joint Armistice Day commemoration at the Newmarket Road War Memorial
16. We maintain the Church and Hall for the community, not just the congregation.

**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 2024?**

1. Create a culture of invitation
2. Develop pastoral and community care, recruiting and training home visitors
3. Run Year-Round events for Children, joint with St Andrew's
4. Look to cooperate with the Deanery
5. Disseminate the ideas from the Leading Your Church Into Growth Conference at an Away Day
6. Refine and develop Chat over a cuppa
7. Review "dementia friendly" activities
8. Encourage uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme
9. Pursue the EcoChurch Silver Award
10. Hold more social events for children and young people
11. Develop the Kids Choir idea

## IN NUMBERS

*How are we proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom?*

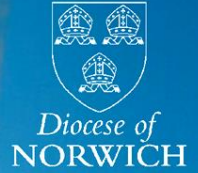
### **What did we do since 2019?**

1. We took 13 baptisms, 9 weddings, and 56 funerals
2. We held a thanksgiving for marriage service in September and a memorial services in December, both following up on our contacts
3. We welcomed people into church for lunch and refreshments and into the remembrance garden for the Friends events.
4. Our Facebook page is active and up to date.
5. We updated our entries on brightmap and choralevensong.org
6. **We Attended the Leading Your Church Into Growth conference and disseminated the ideas at a Parish Away Day**

### **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 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 financially support joint projects with St Andrew's: Good Friday Workshop, Garden Party, and Holiday Club
7. There are special invitations to All-age services for Festivals, e.g. Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and volunteers deliver Christmas, Easter to the whole parish.
8. The congregation is encouraged to invite people to guest services, e.g. Harvest, Memorial, carols
9. Our church is open every day and advertised in Norfolk Open Churches
10. The church hosts concerts for the Parishes' choir/Choral Society and others, attracting non-church-goers.
11. There is up to date welcome information for visitors and newcomers in the pews, in Kinchen Hall and on the website
12. We hold services in two care homes
13. Families are visited and prepared prior to baptism and funerals and follow up visits and invitations made.
14. We offer baptism/christening 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 several weddings.

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17. Our website is up to date, and we are on 'a church near you' [acny.org.uk](http://acny.org.uk) and websites advertising evensong and diocesan brightmap
18. We distribute the joint parishes' magazine containing Christian articles in the parish.
19. The vicar takes assemblies in local (state and private) schools and takes Lessons and hosts visits to the church. There have in the past been several school services – Clare, Town Close Prep and Pre-Prep, NHSG, - in the church and four schools visit the church.
20. We invite those attending special services and events to further services and activities
21. Deputy wardens and sidespeople help us welcome newcomers
22. We pay our full parish share

## **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
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 2024**

1. Create a culture of invitation
2. Develop community links through Friends of Christ Church and community activities and events
3. Refine and develop Chat over a cuppa
4. Further improve advertising of and invitations to services and events in the local press and Facebook
5. Continue to develop use of weekly emails
6. Seek volunteers to provide welcome event(s) for newcomers
7. Advertise enquirers and other groups at festivals and to occasional contacts
8. Cooperate with St Andrew's and at Deanery level on youth and children work
9. Develop the "godparent Sunday" special service and try to involve families beyond the regular congregation
10. Hold more social events for children and young people
11. Develop the Kids Choir idea

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Here is a table that summarizes the sections “what can we do in 2024”

<b>Discipleship</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
1. Create a culture of invitation	1. Create a culture of invitation	1. Create a culture of invitation
2. Encourage uptake of Parish Giving Scheme	2. Develop pastoral and community care, recruiting and training home visitors	2. Develop community links through Friends of Christ Church and community activities and events
3. Pursue EcoChurch Silver Award	3. Run Year-Round events for Children, joint with St Andrew’s	3. Refine and develop Chat over a cuppa
4. Disseminate the ideas from the Leading Your Church Into Growth Conference at an Away Day	4. Look to cooperate with the Deanery	4. Further improve advertising of and invitations to services and events in the local press and Facebook
5. Continue to develop use of weekly emails to encourage discipleship	5. Review “dementia friendly” activities	5. Continue to develop use of weekly emails
-	6. Pursue the EcoChurch Silver Award	6. Seek volunteers to provide welcome event(s) for newcomers
-	7. Hold more social events for children and young people	7. Advertise enquirers and other groups at festivals and to occasional contacts
-	8. Develop the Kids Choir idea	8. Cooperate with St Andrew’s and at Deanery level on youth and children work



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Discipleship	Service	Numbers
-	-	9. Develop the “godparent Sunday” special service and try to involve families beyond the regular congregation