



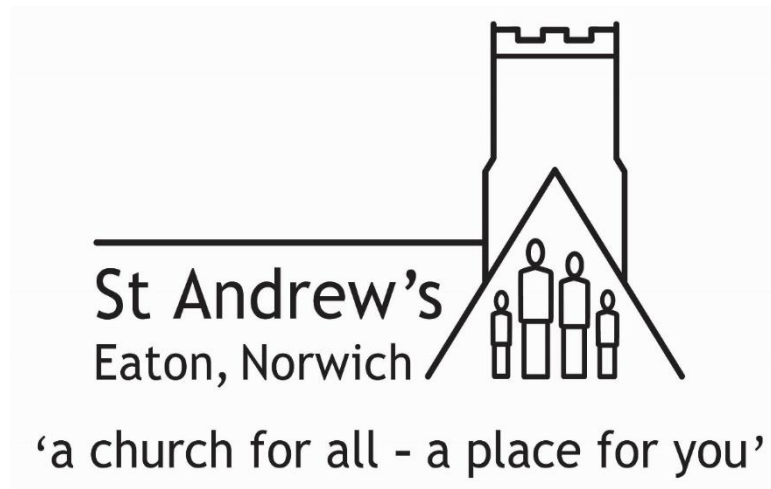
‘a church for all - a place for you’

Annual Review 2016

Welcome to this review of the life and ministry of St Andrew's Eaton.
This review also features work that we share the Christ Church
within the Eaton Parishes Group Ministry.

The report is divided into two sections.
Part One specifically relates to St Andrew's Church and
Part Two to joint activities with Christ Church.

We hope that church members and visitors alike
will find this review informative.
Our thanks to all who have contributed to it.



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Parochial Church Council Members 2016-2017

EX OFFICIO

Vicar & Chair	The Rev'd Phil Rodd
Church Warden, Vice Chair & Deanery Synod Representative	Christopher Smith
Church Warden	Julie Holmes
Deanery Synod Representative	Kevin Pinnock
Lay Minister & CYF Worker	Andrea Woods

ELECTED

Honorary Secretary	Jane Burton
Honorary Treasurer	Richard Holcombe
	Janet Benson
	Alison Black
	Suzie Fiske
	Rosemary Hanson
	Hannah King
	Leslie Moore
	Helen Reynolds
	Neil Rout

PART ONE - ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Vicar's Report

Nothing new under the sun?

I completed eight years in Eaton during 2016, and my first thought in starting to write this report was that it had been 'life as usual' - good attendance at Sunday services, and everything else continuing much as it had done in recent years. All I'd need to do in this report would be to thank everyone for their support.

In a church like St Andrew's, however, just going on with 'life as usual' would be quite an achievement, as we run pretty much at full capacity in everything we do, with the staff, retired clergy and many volunteers already working so hard to keep everything going. And frequently, visitors to St Andrew's are heard to comment on the variety of different activities that take place here.

Having said that, though, 2016 did see a number of significant new things come into being...

- The Senior Service: Building on the popularity of Old Eatonians, the new monthly Senior Service was created specifically older people in mind. See the Pastoral Care Team report below for further details.
- The Waitrose Christmas Carol Service: This took place at the initiative of staff at Waitrose. We have always enjoyed friendly relations with them, but it was intriguing to receive a request to lay on a Carol Service specifically for the staff and their families. I instinctively agreed, and the service came together, with Sally West-Lindell (on the fish counter) coordinating everything. We had a very happy time together, with about 60-70 people of all ages, all joining in with the traditional readings and carols - and with a Nativity tableau put on by the children. Everyone agreed it was a great success, and we're discussing how to take it forward next year - when the invitation will be extended to staff of John Lewis, many of whom live in and around Eaton.
- Puzzling Questions: For some time I'd been thinking about running a different style of Christian basics course. And Puzzling Questions - with its emphasis on the practical questions of faith that people really do ask (rather than matters of systematic religion that people tend *not* to ask) seemed to tick all the right boxes. I had a word with Victoria Macdonald at the Cellar House, to see if we might hold the course at the pub, and she was very enthusiastic about it - offering us the use of one of the meeting rooms free of charge. It was a shame that the publicity wasn't very productive in terms of bringing in people from the community, but we had a good group mostly of church regulars coming along, who clearly enjoyed the opportunity to discuss questions in the relaxing atmosphere of the pub. And I enjoyed being quizzed by them in a way that doesn't happen at Sunday services. If anyone has any ideas of how we might attract more people outside the church membership to such courses, do please get in touch with me.
- Changes in the Office: Although I know I risk repeating what you will see below in the Office report, I feel it is important for me to register my thanks for all that has

taken place in this area. This was without doubt a year that saw an enormous amount of change in our administration - and without doubt, it was Lynn Glover who carried a huge burden of responsibility during this time. At the start of the year, she was still learning the job to which she had originally been appointed - that of Administration Officer; though by the end of the year she'd taken on a different role which mainly consisted of the financial side of things. We recruited a new Administration Assistant, and Sophie Clarke duly arrived in the autumn to work alongside Lynn. In addition to the staff changes, the summer saw a period of closure while the Offices were redecorated; and the Office computers were also renewed, with new up-to-date software also purchased. Finally at the end of the year, the tricky decision was taken to follow the recommendation made by the Bishop's review of our Office operation, which had taken place back in 2013 - to place all the regular work of the Office in the hands of employed staff, rather than volunteers. As I say, this was a difficult decision, as the volunteers had done such an excellent job for many years working alongside paid staff, giving unstintingly of their time, energy and good will. The intention is that volunteers will still be invited to come and help with special tasks as and when they arise, but the regular weekly slots came to an end at the end of the year. Special thanks to those who were 'on our books' when the changes came in: Janet Benson, Caroline Gibbs, Catherine Gurney, Kate Macmillan and James Oxley-Brennan, and also to Liz Fry who left us earlier in the year.

One other volunteer who deserves a special mention with regard to the Office is Richard Holcombe, who did so much work on the finances (both for St Andrew's and Christ Church), and working with Lynn, Patrick and me to identify the best staffing structure, and to set up more robust systems that would properly support the work in the Office.

To Richard and to all the volunteers: Thank you so much; we couldn't have managed without you!

- Confirmation course: Preparations were put in place for a Confirmation course that would take place in 2017. This would be only the second I'd run at St Andrew's (all the others I'd prepared for confirmation were done so on an individual basis), It was good to have a number of people showing interest - including Andrea Woods to work alongside me in delivering the sessions.

These activities could all rightly be describes as 'new', on one way or another. Other established activities - some of which only fairly recently came into being - continued to flourish, for example:

- The full programme of events at Christmas (especially the Carol Service at The Cellar House). Thanks particularly to Margaret Smith for her musical input on so many occasions - at a time of year that is so busy for her due to all the concerts she is arranging for her other choir, the Cringleford Singers.
- Old Eatonians. See the Pastoral Care Team report.
- The 2016 Lent Course ('Praise Him: Songs of Praise in the New Testament', from the popular York Courses) was among the most highly subscribed courses I have ever seen in my time at St Andrew's.
- Communications - especially the website, which continued to develop well under Christine Hall's guiding hand, attracting ever larger numbers of 'visitors'. Also the

Parish Newsletter and the seasonal cards at Easter and Christmas (produced jointly with Christ Church). Thanks all to those who help design, write, produce and above all distribute these to every home in the parish; it's a lot of work, but I hear so many appreciative comments - often from people who are encouraged to know that we care enough to let them know what's going on.

- Church Away Day. There was no away day in 2016, but plans were put into place for a day in May 2017, with Canon Keith James, the diocesan officer for Continuing Ministerial Development and Training. Under the intriguing title 'How does your Garden Grow?', Keith will be looking at the goodness and generosity of God, and how we might mirror that both in our lives and our corporate life at St Andrew's.

Growth

The steady growth I reported in my previous report (for 2015) didn't quite materialise in 2016. Numbers of adults attending across all services held at the same level (103 per week) - though there was a small increase in the number of children attending (8 per week).

YEAR	AV. WEEKLY ATTENDANCE - ALL SERVICES (ADULTS)	AV. WEEKLY ATTENDANCE - ALL SERVICES (CHILDREN)
2008	88	Statistics not available
2009	94	
2010	94	
2011	92	
2012	95	8
2013	95	8
2014	97	5
2015	103	6
2016	103	9

It's a great encouragement to be welcoming new people into the church; but sadly, of course there are also departures as well, and I do want to mention the sadness that we have all felt at the death of Gordon England, Gerald Wells, Walter Moll, Dorothy Howes and Beryl Pratt. They are all greatly missed; and our prayers and best wishes continue to be with their loved ones.

I always feel greatly inspired and moved by the funerals ministry, which keeps me very busy. It's such a privilege to be with people at the end of their lives, and with their families and other loved ones as they come to terms with their loss. All in all, there were 20 funerals services at St Andrew's, a further 13 at the crematorium or at some other venue, and two memorial/thanksgiving services.

As regards the other 'occasional offices' as they're known (i.e. baptisms, weddings and funerals), the numbers have been much lower for many years. We celebrated five baptisms (all of infants, down from seven in 2015), and only one wedding (four in 2015).

The numbers of weddings look set to increase in 2017, when we're also expecting to have a number of couples returning to renew marriage vows on the occasion of special anniversaries. The other significant development in 2017 is that there has been a marked

increase in the number of requests for occasional offices to take place in the Old Church. The current situation with only a very limited way of playing the organ (relayed via a speaker system, with the organist playing in the New Church and unable to hear the sound that is being produced where the service itself is taking place) is far from ideal. In particular, it is unrealistic to ask visiting or deputy organists to make this system work, and we will need to address this to enable our beautiful and much loved Old Church to fulfil its potential.

Finances

Under the matter of our finances, I've already mentioned our indebtedness to our Treasurer, Richard Holcombe, for all he has done to keep things properly on an even keel; also to Lynn Glover for her work on a day-by-day, week-by-week basis.

On the positive side, it's encouraging to note that there was some very generous giving that enabled us to carry out the much-needed repairs to the Tower. My thanks to everyone who made this possible. However, the regular giving is still giving me 'cause for concern', as 2016 was another year that we had to dip into our reserves. A 'Giving Sunday' was planned for the springtime of 2017. The message is simple enough: as a church, the shortfall is around £570 per week; we all need to review our giving recently, and to play our part in responding to the need. £570 may sound a lot - but it would be covered if we could each give an extra £4 per week. It's not much compared to the generosity of God's heart towards us!

- 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son' (John 3.16).
- 'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!' (1 John 3.1).

Thanks

Finally, although I've already expressed thanks to a number of people in this report, I also want to take this opportunity to thank others whose support has been particularly significant this year. (The list isn't exhaustive, so apologies to those who I haven't mentioned this year...)

- First and foremost to our retired clergy, Sheila Nunney, Ivan Bailey and Douglas Durand, whose combination of willing service, hard work, wise counsel and patience never cease to amaze me. Some in the congregation, I know, think I work them too hard; others complain that we don't hear enough from them! Suffice to say to them all, thank you so much. Thanks also to Andrea Woods and Neil Rout, not just for the obvious public roles, but for so much work and support in many areas behind the scenes.
- I've omitted David Gosling from the list above, and I'm sad to do that - that omission being recognition of him having stepped down from public ministry during the autumn. I know we've all appreciated the warmth and humanity of David's ministry, always imbued with a love of the Lord, which shone through his every word (and through his infectious story-telling!) Thank you so much, David. And may your love continue to burn bright!
- 2016 was one of those years when we had three wardens: with Alison Black (whose service as Acting Warden, taking over from Chris Hall during 2015) came to a successful

conclusion at the annual meeting in April, when Julie Holmes was appointed warden - serving alongside Chris Smith. My thanks to all three of them, first and foremost for the way they have all brought their deep Christian faith and commitment to the role, for their positive outlook, and for their unstinting support for and patience with me! (We continue to pray for Chris Hall, who stood down from the role in 2015, as his treatment continues.)

- Thanks to all those at Christ Church who share with us in ministry in different ways - especially to Patrick Richmond - and to Caroline Gibbs, Robin Quine and Pat Funnell for their hard work in coordinating another lovely summer Garden Party here at the vicarage.
- Thanks too, to our dedicated choir, led by Margaret Smith at the organ and piano, and to Colin Morgan whose talents have been added to the team. My thanks to them all for their hard work week in week out.
- And last but by no means least, my thanks and love to Cathy and our family - without whose support I simply couldn't manage!

Phil Rodd (Vicar, St Andrew's Eaton)

Honorary Secretary's Report

There were eight ordinary meetings of the Parochial Church Council in 2016 and one extraordinary one. The average attendance at these meetings was 86.75%. As from the APCM the membership of the Church Council numbers stands at 15. There are still vacancies to serve on the Church Council. This forthcoming year will see me in my final year of office having completed two terms as Secretary of the Church Council and therefore a vacancy will be arising in 2018. It has been an enjoyable, interesting and privileged time to serve the church in this way.

The Church Council receives reports from St Andrew's Committees and Teams as well as the Group Council and joint committees.

As at the end of December 2016 there were 143 on the electoral roll. Neil Rout has resigned as the Electoral Roll Officer and been replaced by Helen Reynolds.

Church Councils are asked to consult with the incumbent on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including the promotion of the whole mission of the church. At the time of writing the church has had expenditure with the roof valleys and there has been fundraising for the Church Tower as highlighted in the last Quinquennial Review. The Parish Office has also seen changes and we now have a Parish Administrator and an assistant Parish Administrator. All persons working regularly in the office now are employed.

At the time of writing the Annual Accounts will be presented at a Church Council meeting held on 3 April. Terriers and Inventories are available for inspection at the Annual Meeting and there are regular reports on the Church Council in the Parishes Magazine and also displayed in the back of the Old Church.

Jane Burton - Honorary Secretary

Church Wardens' Report

2016/2017 has been a sharp learning curve for me as I complete my novice year as Church Warden working alongside Chris Smith. I would like to begin this report by putting on record my sincerest thanks for his patient guidance and instruction which has been, and continues to be, invaluable to me in this role. I especially acknowledge his help as it has been unstintingly given in a year when his health has not been as robust as we would all hope it to be.

I would also like to add my thanks for all the encouragement and support received from the congregation. Your kind words have meant so much to me and given my confidence a huge boost.

Following a wonderful response to the Tower Appeal, the repairs commenced at the beginning of August and proceeded as planned with only minor alterations being made to the original works schedule. These changes included repair work on the bell chamber louvres and repairing the end of the Old Church roof where it abutted the tower. This is now water-tight and there are no further signs of rain water entering the Old Church. Whilst it was exciting to see the scaffolding as a sign that works were finally underway, there was greater joy when it was removed knowing that we had secured the fabric of our wonderful building for the foreseeable future.

It was also at this time that contractors were employed to reseal the floor of the New Church. Although it looked pleasing to the eye, it soon became apparent that there were issues with the surface being slippery in certain areas. Professional advice was sought and a preparation continues to be applied to alleviate the situation. I am happy to report that this seems to be gradually addressing the problem.

A survey of signage for the entrance and exit of our car park was undertaken towards the end of 2016 and quotations are now being sought. It is hoped that the signs will be made and positioned completing the project within the next 2 months.

Alison Black continues to lead the Hall Management Team and this year has seen her introduce a Suggestions Box scheme. The box was beautifully made by George Meadows. For anybody with an idea or suggestion that they wish to submit, the box can be located near the fire exit in the main hall.

There are so many people undertaking 'behind the scenes' work, without which St Andrew's would not be the incredible, beautiful place that it is.

We must acknowledge the following: Sue Harris and Philip Clayton for cleaning the Church and Hall respectively; all those members of the Sanctuary Guild who keep the brass gleaming; the team of sidespeople offering a warm welcome every Sunday and helping to ensure the services run smoothly; the members of the church grounds working party who put so much effort into keeping the churchyard and car park neat, tidy, leaf- and weed-free.

To each and every one of those working in every capacity we say "thank you". Without all your various endeavours, the role of Church Warden would be far more demanding. You all contribute so much to St Andrews and to our glory and praises of God.

Julie Holmes (& Chris Smith)

Children, Young People & Families (CYF)

‘Jesus called for them and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs” ’ (Luke 18.16).

It is hard to believe that I have been in post for six years already and it has been a real blessing to have seen how God is working in the lives of so many. Looking back on the past year I have been encouraged at how readily children and young people have been to engage with the Gospel. In assemblies and Sunday club and even a couple of conversations in the street. Our children and young people are beginning to open up about faith and how it relates to their lives. Please pray for them as they move forward in their walk with Jesus.

2016 saw the launch of a year-round programme which aims to connect with children through more regular activity days and connecting them with other services and events happening.

My thanks go to the Church Council for their ongoing support of CYF work and to the joint youth and children committee who support our activities at Easter and in the summer. None of this work could happen without the amazing team of volunteers who give up their time in many different ways to support this work, ensuring that all those we come into contact with have the opportunity to come and see Jesus for themselves. Thank you.

Part A: St Andrew’s Activities

1. Sunday Club

We have a lovely group of nine children ranging in age 4-13. Children and young people always start in church. On the first and third Sundays of the month they have a longer session, and on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays they return to join in with Holy Communion. These children get on really well together and are growing in their knowledge and understanding of the Bible and how it relates to their lives. A number of them have shown a willingness to be involved in services by agreeing to read the Bible in church. As we move on into 2017 it is my prayer that this group will continue to grow. Thanks, go to all leaders and helpers of our Sunday groups: Cathy Rodd, Rebecca Gascoyne Richards, Christine Mortimer and Robina Groom, their dedication, enthusiasm and flexibility are invaluable.

2. Services

Messy Church (*‘church with a creative edge’*)

These services continue with a small but faithful congregation and are planned and run by an amazing team of people of all ages. Messy Church provides an opportunity for families to worship God together by taking a bible passage and learning more about it through craft activities, music, prayer, and sharing afternoon tea together. We have met on the 4th Sunday of each month at 3pm in the church hall.

All-Age Services

During 2016 we held seven all age services and two all-age Holy Communion services including Mothering Sunday, Easter, St George’s Day, Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Crib Service and Christmas Day.

3. Young People 'Tea Toast and Truth'

2016 has seen a new group of young people emerging - two from our own congregation, two from Messy Church, and one who has regularly attended our annual Holiday Club. We have got to know each other well and have spent time getting to know some of the basics of the Christian faith. In the first part of 2017 we will be joined by three others who are hoping to be confirmed in April. Please pray for these young people as they grow in their faith and love for the Lord.

4. Toddlers

Tuesday mornings continue to be a hive of activity as parents, an increasing number of grandparents and carers flock to the church hall for a morning of play and mutual support. This year alongside all the toys we have run a parenting area, for anyone who wants to talk about anything parent related. On average 23-25 families attend each week. My thanks go to the team of ladies, many from the Mothers' Union, who ably assist with refreshments, setting up and clearing away. Three times this year at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest we have held a Toddlers Service over in St Andrew's Church which has been well attended.

5. Activity days

During 2016 we added some extra 'fun days' as part of St Andrew's vision for a year-round programme for the local children.

Pancake party

On 13 February, we held a pancake party with craft, games and pancakes, as well as a reflective time thinking about lent and asking the children what they could do to help others during this time. 19 children attended and many pancakes were consumed.

Light Party

22 October saw 18 children taking part in games and activities around the theme of All Saints. Thank you to the team who cooked, provided and supervised games and helped set up and put away. We hope to run both these days again in 2017. If you would like to be a part of the fun and you can help in anyway please do be in touch.

6. Community

Scouts

34th Norwich Scout groups, took part in three parade services. We were pleased to welcome them on Mothering Sunday, St Georges Day (where they renewed their vows and promises), and Remembrance Sunday. It was great to have some of the Scouts helping with sideshows at the garden party.

Eaton Primary School

Headteacher Mr Allan Lowe continues to take the school from strength to strength. Andrea and Phil have been in to take assemblies. Andrea was able to take a Year 4 class through the story of Easter. She also hosted a Year 1 visit to the church and this was followed up in class with the re-telling of the wise and foolish builders in which she got a bit over excited and sent water flying everywhere! The children enjoyed the interaction and the flood was soon cleared away. Prior to a visit to the Norfolk Show the children were invited to take part in a 'Where's Wally' style challenge, to be the first class to find Andrea in the Diocesan tent. Various classes found us and took part in a number of exciting activities. During December Reception class visited for a Christmas story and craft morning, and the juniors held their Christmas carol service in the church with over 200 people attending.

7. CYF Worker

Lay ministry

I have now completed a full year as Lay Minister and continue to participate in all services through leading, preaching and taking part in other ways.

For Part B of this report - the CYF activities run jointly with Christ Church - see the joint section below.

Andrea Woods - St Andrew's Children, Young People & Families' Worker

Pastoral Care Team

The Team met three times during the year and following the decision made at the end of 2015 to include the Pastoral Visitors in the meetings, we have benefitted from their added wisdom and experience. The Team now comprises: Sheila Nunney (Chair), Phil Rodd, Maureen Blandford, Hilary Chaston, Jane Gascoyne, Trevis Gosling, Jenny Holcombe, Andrea Woods, Ann Copsey, Jennie Nowell and Valli Rao. The entire Team participated in a Dementia Friends Training Session in November.

The Pastoral Care Area co-ordinators have continued to quietly care and support those in their respective areas, ably assisted by the Pastoral Visitors. They have appreciated it when members of the congregation have alerted them to someone being ill or in need, as they do not always hear by an alternative route. As in previous years, the team organised the delivery of letters of welcome to new residents. Holy Communion was taken monthly to former members of St Andrew's, who now live in Care Homes; and to the sick and housebound as required.

The Community Care group prepared and with the help of the congregation, delivered plants to the sick, bereaved, elderly and housebound at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. In partnership with Christ Church, gifts of food donated at Harvest and Christmas gifts were delivered to Archway, Leeway and YMCA MyPlace, where they were gratefully received. Bereavement cards were sent on the first anniversary of a death, to the relatives living outside the parish.

Old Eatonians continued to thrive, enjoyed a wide range of interesting speakers and celebrated its 6th birthday in May. Two additional events developed from the group during the year. The Senior Service, a thirty five minute, interactive service aimed at the older generation and followed by refreshments, was run as a pilot from April - July and then in September, became a monthly fixture in the Church calendar. Eaton Knitters and Stitchers was launched at the Cellar House Pub in March by one of the Old Eatonians and grew in numbers during the year. It is another event which provides an opportunity for people to meet, make friends, and to produce items for charity.

St Andrew's Amblers continued to blossom under the able leadership of Richard Holcombe and Denise Back (Christ Church), who organised a variety of enjoyable walks, many in pastures new. The Book Group, under the efficient leadership of Ann Copsey, met bi-monthly in various homes around the parish and enjoyed reading and discussing a variety of books.

A Welcome Tea was held in January, which was attended by eleven new people. Six Connect Groups met throughout the year, on different days and times, with new people joining as the year progressed.

Christine Hall updated the Parish Prayer Diary and produced a new edition in June, enabling us to be informed in our prayers.

I extend my gratitude to each member of the team and to the many others who have been involved in pastoral care during the year.

Sheila Nunney - Chair, Pastoral Care Team

Christian Education & Outreach Team

Team: Joe Lenton (Chair), Phil Rodd, Chris Smith, Sheila Nunney, Jane Gascoyne, Andrea Woods. This year Andrea Woods (Children, Young People & Families' Worker) joined the CEO Team.

Following on from a review of the Puzzling Questions course (for details, see the Vicar's report above), it was decided that it would be good to explore further the issues that are bothering people about the faith. A simple questionnaire was produced to encourage church attendees to let us know what questions they have. This received quite a few responses covering a variety of topics. They are an important resource for planning future events and also for preachers to consider when formulating sermons. We envisage these questions feeding into the life of the church for some time, giving a good indication of material that can be usefully covered.

Emerging from our discussions about how best to move forward using the questions fed back from the congregation we identified a need to consider how we might encourage and give opportunities for discussion. We want to enable our congregation to talk about and discuss their faith in an intelligent manner and without feeling 'inferior' to 'experts'. The theme setting portions of services have already begun introducing times for discussion, which is a positive way of encouraging discussion more widely. We will trial a monthly discussion group meeting for those who want to discuss in more depth to try to meet this need of our members.

Although we tend to work with series for our preaching in services, it was felt that we may not always signpost this well enough. It was suggested that we might try to make more use of the notice sheets and the PowerPoint projection to reinforce the themes and books we are covering, making attendees aware of what is coming up and how the series fits together.

The Lent study material for the forthcoming 2017 sessions will be "Receiving Christ" (a York course). This was chosen as it was felt it could help to begin to address a few questions that some members had been asking.

Joe Lenton

Communications Team

The team consists of Chris Smith (Chair), Christine Hall, Suzie Fiske, Esther Plume, Helen Reynolds and Phil Rodd. We are responsible for the oversight of communications at St Andrew's.

Our work this year has included the following:

- The autumn and spring Parish Newsletters, Christmas and Easter cards continue to make an impact around the parish. Many thanks to all our loyal distributors!
- The new website is proving popular: www.standrewseaton.org.uk. The numbers of web pages being consulted is well over 20,000 per month now. Do have a look at it regularly yourself and inform Christine Hall of any events that should be advertised there - it's mainly to inform people who are not regular members of the church what a lively church we are!
- Monitoring of the use of the church logo.
- The Welcome Pack and Welcome Cards have been revised with new photos and information. Do encourage any newcomers that you meet to fill in a card and take a pack from the Welcome desk.
- A new glass doors noticeboard was installed in front of the Hall with our name and church logo. Together with some bolder car park signs this should brighten up the church entrance considerably.

Chris Smith - Communications Team

Hall Management Team

The team met twice during the year. The members checked that the kitchen was properly cleaned and that the correct equipment was there and in the right place. They inspected the Hall generally and were satisfied that it was all in good working order and being properly cleaned and maintained ready for use by the hirers.

During the year a regular Hall user commented that the stage curtains are most unattractive and asked if they could be replaced. It was agreed that they do not add to the appeal of the Hall as a venue for events and the process of acquiring new ones has been started.

Philip Clayton continues to do an excellent job in cleaning and maintaining the Hall with the care of the floor being an important part of this. The floor was resurfaced and sealed in May and is looking good. During the Christmas break Philip also very kindly volunteered to paint the cloakrooms in his own time and all is looking much better as a result.

A request was received for a 'suggestions box' for the Hall. George Meadows kindly made a beautiful little oak box which is now in place in the Hall.

Lost property continues to accumulate so if you think you may have forgotten something please reclaim it or it will be taken to a charity shop or otherwise disposed of.

The Hall is used regularly for a variety of purposes. Occupancy levels are satisfactory but there are more times when it could be hired if people are interested.

Alison Black - Hall Management Team Co-ordinator

Plants & Premises Team

The P & P Team consists of Alison Black, Peter Davies, Julie Holmes, George Meadows, John Nowell, James Oxley-Brennan, Phil Rodd and Rip Wright, and is chaired by Chris Smith.

This year there were two major church repairs in 2016, carefully supervised by our church architect, Ruth Brennan. The three remaining roof valleys were stripped out and some of the tiles were replaced with ones of a shape that fitted together more snugly. The New Church should now be water tight for some years ahead.

The Tower was clothed in scaffolding for a couple of months to allow the contractors to work on many areas of the Tower walls. They replaced some of the key stonework in the buttresses that had become worn or cracked. Some of the horizontal string courses that are designed to throw rain water off the walls were worn and also needed replacing. The presence of pellitory weeds indicated that there were gaps between some of the flints and water could collect behind them, so they were removed and areas of the wall treated with herbicide before replacing the flints. The louvres on the bell chamber were also repaired.

All this work on the tower was financed by an appeal to the St Andrew's congregation and the local community, who responded most generously. Hopefully the tower will now continue to be a prominent landmark on the skyline of Eaton for many years to come.

The New Church floor was thoroughly cleaned and resealed in the summer. Whilst the floor now looks very much better and is easier to maintain, there have been areas where the surface became slippery. This is being monitored carefully and the church cleaner is applying a special rinse each week that will solve the problem. But in the meantime please try to walk around the church with a little extra care.

Chris Smith - Chair

Music Director's Report

There have been several reports in the press from experts - be they from the medical, caring or educational professions - extolling the virtue of singing as a healthy, relaxing activity which encourages participation and keeps the decline of mental facilities at bay. Be that as it may, and I for one would endorse the findings, singing and worship in church go hand in hand week by week. This is backed up by so many biblical references to singing, playing instruments and generally using one's voice to praise and worship.

So - my thanks once again to the small but dedicated group of St Andrew's singers who meet, usually fortnightly, to prepare the hymns and songs for Sunday morning services. Numbers remain steady despite members coping with ill-health, moving house, family commitments and holidays - and we are always grateful for those who join us for Easter and Christmas services. The new Hymns Ancient and Modern has a wider selection of titles, particularly at some festivals (e.g. Advent and Epiphany) and the projector system has proved invaluable in this regard.

I am always grateful to those from 'outside' who I can call upon to play the organ or piano if I am away but this year I have also been grateful for a pair of extra hands regularly on Sundays! Colin Morgan and I have been sharing piano and organ playing at the 10 am

service which has been a real joy to me. We both have the desire to see worship in its broadest terms, bringing the best of old style hymns and new style worship songs together. I am aware that we shall never be able to please everyone all the time, but we do seek to bring glory to Jesus' name as we worship together.

We have fewer instrumentalists we can call upon as young people grow up and move on to university, but are grateful for those who are willing to 'blow or scrape' - if you play an instrument and are not involved at the moment, please do have a word with me as I would love to have more people using their music in God's service.

The piano needs regular tuning but the organ, being electric, doesn't require regular attention. However, we have had to have some minor repairs done during the year, not least because the pedals 'clunked' wood-on-wood every time a note was pressed! Rubber strips had worn hard and perished with age - a small financial outlay for the parts, but over two hours work by two organ experts to fit them. Just like cars!

Finally, if you've got suggestions for hymns or songs that you would like us to use in worship please don't keep them to yourself!

Margaret Smith - Music Director

Hospitality Team Report

I'm glad that the gospel stories show Jesus very often at dinner parties, picnics, wedding breakfasts and suppers! Food is one of the best ways of groups of people getting to know one another, and in churches this is particularly important.

We only have two or three social events each year and could do more if people wanted them. The ones we do plan, traditionally something in January and at Harvest time, both took place in 2016 with the Puds Party in January and the Harvest Supper in October. During the year I am so grateful to all those who are willing to make cakes, scones and biscuits when asked - for things like the 'Puzzling Questions' events in the autumn, the alternative-to-Halloween Light Party in October and the Christingle Cafe at Christmas. We entertained our Mission Links, the Kirk family, with a Sunday lunch in the church hall, and at Christmas held an Advent Tea before the December Informal Evening Worship. The latter proved especially worthwhile in giving a longer, more relaxed time for chat rather than a hasty cup of coffee after the service. None of this would happen without the help of many people, not least the 'Kitchen Brigade', the dessert makers and the washer-uppers. And special thanks to Julie Holmes for helping to plan the events.

Do you have ideas for other social events? With or without food? Somehow, though, I feel food will always play a part in bringing us together, just as in Jesus' time on earth. If you do have ideas please don't keep them to yourself - share them with me, or Phil, or members of the Church Council.

Margaret Smith

WOW! Women of Working Age

This group was set up two years ago, aimed at women of working age. It is a group of about 20 women who come together once a month for some time out away from the responsibilities of work and family.

This past year we have enjoyed several evenings for 'chill and chat' at the cellar house and held a pancake party.

In May, we shared morning prayer and breakfast together at the Britannia Café followed by a walk.

In November, we welcomed back Sue Beverly who led us in a quiet morning which included different ways of reading the Bible and an opportunity to respond through art and poetry. It has been great to see this group grow and to see friendships and faith grow in a really positive way.

In 2017 we will continue to meet monthly and pray that the Holy Spirit would guide each of us as we follow God's call in our work, rest and play.

Andrea Woods

Sanctuary Guild

Another year has gone by with faithful members quietly continuing to clean the brass, wash linen and change the Altar colours with the liturgical season and ensure week by week that all is in order for the Sacristan to prepare the Communion Table.

Sadly, one member has died and a number of us, though willing, are less able to continue indefinitely, therefore we are appealing for more volunteers to join our happy band. This is an important aspect of worship for which we should all give thanks and praise.

Jennifer Nowell

Donations Team

Sadly events in 2016 underlined the continuing need for the church to support those in crisis, including persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

As usual twelve charities were chosen from suggestions made by members of the congregation; each charity to be supported for the whole of the month through contributions using charity envelopes, gift aided if appropriate. To raise awareness and encourage support, a notice was put in the Parishes' magazine for each charity, a display mounted in the church and reference made in news sheets and church notices.

The results for 2016 were as follows: Street Child £322; Wycliffe Bible Translators £455; Barnabas Fund £350; Revelation Resource Centre £365; Hebron Trust £350; Daylight Christian Prison Trust £200; Mission to Seafarers £215; Feed the Minds £200; SAT-7 £215;

Tearfund (including the Harvest Festival collection) £752.96; Church Army £210 and Families House £242, bringing the total for the year to £3,876.96.

In addition to the Charities of the Month a further £189.74 was raised for the St Martin's Housing Trust through the usual appeal at Christmas.

The Lent Lunch charitable donations, shared with Christ Church, were to the Barnabas Fund, £470 and the Bishop's 2016 Lent Appeal for Christ the King School in Orobada, Papua New Guinea, £420.

These figures show the very generous support being given by church members and others to Christian and 'Christian ethos' charities in 2016.

Food Bank: In October 2012 the Donations Team recommended that St Andrew's support the Norwich Foodbank. As at 6 December 2016 we had donated a total of 2,153 kg, up from the 1,797 kg donated since October 2012 to the end of 2015.

Neil Rout - Chairman of the Donations Team

PART TWO - REPORTS COVERING JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH CHRIST CHURCH

Group Council

Mission Statement: 'The Group Ministry of St Andrew and Christ Church seeks to Collaborate, Co-operate and Communicate in the Eaton Community.'

The Diocese established a Group Ministry for the Parishes of St Andrew's and Christ Church in 2007. Its Group Council is the vehicle by which they 'consult together on any matter of common concern'. It has no decision-making power and acts in a consultative and advisory role to the two PCCs.

When the Group Ministry was set up it was agreed that the criteria for shared activity should be whether activities were best done together or separately. It was also decided that one of its roles was to facilitate two-way communication from the Council to the PCCs and congregations and from the PCCs and congregations to the Council.

In his 2010 Review the Bishop confirmed that the Group Ministry should, firstly, facilitate what the people involved wanted to do to benefit and develop church mission in Eaton and, secondly, to serve the future development of both churches.

Ongoing activities within the Group Ministry include:

- communications such as the parishes' magazine, Christmas and Easter cards
- supporting Mission Partners, through prayer and fund-raising events
- joint children and youth activities including the Easter Workshop and summer Holiday Club
- events such as the Garden Party & Garden Service, Remembrance Day and Lent Lunches
- the Parishes' Office
- Groups including the Mothers' Union.

These subjects feature regularly on the agenda of Group Council quarterly meetings and the minutes of its meetings are circulated to both PCCs for report and/or response.

Each Parish has five elected representatives on Group Council, together with the two Vicars.

I would like to record our thanks to Caroline Gibbs, Robin Quine and Pat Funnell for organising the very successful 2016 Garden Party on behalf of both parishes and to all those who supported them.

The joint Remembrance Day Service took place at the War Memorial on Newmarket Road on 11 November and once again we were delighted to have so many people attend, including a number of school children and their teachers. Particular thanks to CNS for providing us with a trumpeter each year (Sarah Walton this year) and to the Dobbins family for allowing us to use their electricity supply for our speakers once more.

David Scott, who has been an excellent chairman since 2012, stood down at the APCM in April (although continuing as a member) and I became Chair, having also been one of the founder members of Group.

Jess Pitt joined and John Harrison, Chris Peachell and Jane Saunders stood down during the year. Thanks are extended to all members, whether continuing, retired or new to the Group, for their enthusiasm and support. Vivien Humber continues to provide support as Secretary.

Rosemary Hanson - Chair, Group Council

Children Young People & Families (CYF)

Part B: Joint Events with Christ Church

1. Easter Fun Day

On the 26 March families from the parishes of Eaton gathered together for a morning of music and craft activities followed by a short service for Easter. 19 children attended, along with three pre-school and their parents, and two teenage helpers.

2. Garden Party

This year we welcomed the help of the 34th Norwich scouts to help with the sideshows. Being the Queen's jubilee we ran a colouring competition to design a party hat for the queen. Other sideshows included hook-a-frog and bowling.

3. Mega Makers Holiday Club

Taking the theme of Ephesians 3.18-20 we focused on the width, depth, strength, greatness and eternity of God's love for us. 25 adults were involved during the actual week. As well as the St Andrew's congregation who cleared all the chairs on the Sunday before, in double quick time. Over the course of the week 38 children attended. Thanks, go to Liz Bibby who once again came up trumps with a great variety of craft activities. Also to Les Moore who created a truly wonderful flashing and bubble producing Mega machine. Both churches were encouraged to pray for this event by giving them all a prayer card with a bible verse on the front and a prayer on the back of it. Praying as a team at the beginning and end of each day was a great time and helpful in bringing us all together. Once again, this year children and parents were invited to stay for lunch. Our thanks go to Cathy Rodd and her team for this lovely spread. It was a very positive time no-one was in a rush to get away.

Andrea Woods - St Andrew's Children, Young People & Families' Worker

Youth & Children's Committee

This committee met three times in 2016; it was chaired alternately by the Vicars, with some of the leaders, helpers and supporters from the youth and children's programmes of both churches, Caroline Gibbs, Vivien Humber, Jessica Pitt, David Hughes, Cathy Rodd and Andrea Woods.

The purpose of the committee is to coordinate and extend the work of the church to take the Gospel to more of the young people of Eaton. Along with the regular weekly and monthly opportunities for children and young people at both churches, Andrea Woods (St Andrew's Children, Young People and Families' Worker) has now produced a coordinated programme of special events extending through the whole year. These include a Harvest/Light Party, Christingle/Christmas events, Pancake Party, Easter Fun Day and Summer Holiday Club. At our last meeting in 2016 Jessica and Cathy retired, receiving our heartfelt thanks for all their contributions, and we felt that we needed to move away from regular meetings to a single meeting in September 2017 to review how the programme has gone, allowing those who actually plan and deliver the programme of events (who are already pressed for time) more time to focus on the events themselves.

Our thanks go to all those who help support our vital work with young people and children in any way - and particularly to Andrea, for all her hard work in leading and coordinating this joint work.

Phil Rodd and Patrick Richmond - Joint Chair

Parishes Magazine Team

The Parishes Magazine Team supports the editors by reviewing contents, production, circulation and revenues with them at the two meetings each year. The Vicars are ex officio members.

The magazine is part of the two Parishes' communications package, providing an accessible Christian message to its broadly based readership. The aim is to offer subscribers with articles on subjects of interest ranging from church to community matters, as well as information on advertisers' services.

A significant change occurred this year with a new, all-colour, cover replacing the long-standing version from July/August and I am pleased to report it has been widely welcomed. We also continue to have a special cover for the Christmas and Easter editions and this year children from local schools took part in a competition to design our excellent Christmas cover, whilst one of the entries was chosen as the parishes' Christmas card.

I would like to thank all members of the Team for their enthusiasm and commitment in a year which has seen a number of changes, with Sarah Scott, Michelle Woodall, David Archer and Ismene Durand signing up as editors.

I am also very grateful to Lavinia Bailey, who continues to provide invaluable back-up, wisdom and knowledge and to Rachel Taylor for her wonderful support. Thanks are also due to all contributors, especially those who provide material on a regular basis.

The magazine could not function without its advertising secretary and we were very sorry to say goodbye to Brenda Varnava, who has stepped down after many years of dedicated and invaluable service. Christine Mortimer has been kind enough to take her place and has attended her first meeting. I am also most grateful for the sterling work of all the magazine distributors.

Finally, the magazine generates a surplus which has been used over the past few years to support the work of the two churches and, in the autumn, the Team were able to approve

the release of further monies to Christ Church and St Andrew's. We are grateful to Richard Holcombe for his work on the magazine accounts.

Vivien Humber - Magazine Team Chairman

Eaton Parishes Office

The office went through a time of tremendous change during 2016. We said 'goodbye' to Claire Canning in March and there followed a period of transition as we thought and prayed about how the roles should be distributed between the office staff. From March until September, I covered both roles, with the office closed on a Wednesday morning in order, mainly, that I could focus on learning our very complex accounting package! I could not have done this without our faithful group of volunteers (Janet Benson, Caroline Gibbs, Catherine Gurney, Kate MacMillan and James Oxley-Brennan) and the sacrificial time and support given by Richard Holcombe, Treasurer of St Andrews.

During these six months we had a new (and cheaper to run) photocopier installed. It has the capacity to perform many more functions, i.e. folding, stapling etc. and has increased our efficiency in this area enormously. We then had new computer systems installed which, I was given to understand, had been muted for some length of time. We then had the office decorated during its two weeks closure in August. Obviously, as you can appreciate, new systems have their teething problems and packing up the office to allow free access to decorators was no small task! I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding during this period.

We appointed Sophie Clarke in September. She has taken over the day -to- day administration role and I am now responsible for the Finance and Management of the Office. Soph has proved an invaluable asset and has brought personal many qualities with her. Whilst the six months between March and September were challenging, the wait and preparation for a new member of staff proved fruitful.

The autumn brought a period of further reflection and brought us back to the Bishop's review of the office. This recommended that paid staff should run the office. After a period of consultation it was felt that this was now the time to implement this. We, therefore, said "goodbye" to our volunteers at the end of the year. I personally, want to thank them for their invaluable support for the office. They faithfully 'kept the show on the road' through some particularly difficult times. I pray that they will be blessed with new ministries within their respective churches.

Many people are asking for a clearer picture of what the roles and responsibilities of the office are. As you can appreciate, we are still going through a period of transition. However, it is our intention, when things settle down, to have a feature on the churches websites. In the meantime, it would be appreciated, when considering approaching the office to undertake an additional task, if you would be mindful of our busy times: November to January (parish magazine subscriptions, Christmas and financial year end) and Lent to Easter.

Lynn Glover - Administration Manager

Evening Mothers' Union

Members continue to meet on the last Monday of each month at 7:30pm, usually in members' homes. We work hard to provide an interesting and varied programme which is a prayerful and pleasant time of fellowship. We were very sad to lose Dorothy Howes in the summer after a long and very brave battle with cancer. She is remembered and missed by us all.

This year MU celebrated 140 years since Mary Sumner established what is the worldwide organisation of Mother' Union, and a cycle challenge to Horstead was the focus of our fundraising. An exercise bike did the rounds of various venues and branches with volunteers pedalling a mile each, those more fit and able managed over the summer to cycle 140 miles in total. An Eaton member raised £500.00 alone towards a grand final total.

Unfortunately, our Marriage Preparation (L4L) Workshops did not take place this year as there were not enough wedding couples committing to the day. However, this year we have again lots of couples signed up and county and nationally L4L is a growing support to those getting married. We are grateful for Phil and Patrick's support and hands-on involvement in this important outreach. Couples attending give very positive feedback which is encouraging and so we hope that in some small way we are providing building blocks for their future life together. We are a continuing presence at the Wedding Shows held during the year at various venues around Norwich, promoting Church weddings.

On-going, with MU Diocesan council and members meetings, the Cathedral Festival Service plus others are involved in a number of worthwhile projects, such as knitting for new-borns at our tree local maternity units, 'Angel Tree' with the Prison Fellowship, making cakes for Messy Church and helping out at the Toddler group.

Our thanks to Phil Rodd and Patrick Richmond for supporting us in Holy Communion every third Thursday at 10am in the Old Church when the collection goes to our Overseas Fund in support of MU worldwide.

The 2017 programme can be found on the Information Desk area in St Andrew's and Christ Church, visitors and new members are always welcome to join us.

Branch Vision for the Future: With a number of Syrian refugees expected to come to Norwich in early 2017. We hope to raise funds and give time to support them and make them welcome in their new environment, whilst continuing to promote the work of The Mothers' Union, encouraging new membership and awareness of all that we stand for.

Jennifer Nowell - Branch Leader

Overseas Mission Support

Our mission partners have continued serving with the Church Mission Society throughout another year. Rev Dr Dick and Caroline Seed in Nairobi, Kenya; Rev Daniel and Ellelein Kirk in Valparaiso, Chile.

Dick and Caroline's work is in theological education. Dick is Adviser to the organisation of African Independent Churches, preparing education by extension material. He has also

continued part time at St Paul's University in a teaching and consultancy capacity and is also responsible for the pastoral care of students.

Caroline is working at the Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA), just outside Nairobi, where she now teaches biblical exegesis of the Old and New Testaments and has several students being truly born again!

Daniel and Ellelein have been continuing their work in church planting and forming missional groups to serve their communities. The church they have planted in Valparaiso continues to grow and both Daniel and Ellelein have continued their teaching and focusing on prayer.

For the first part of the year, they were in the U.K on leave until the end of May. On Sunday 10th April, Daniel visited both our churches and preached at the 10am services. After a buffet lunch for Daniel and members of both churches, he gave us a presentation with pictures about their work in Chile.

In November, Daniel was ordained a priest in the main Anglican Church in Valparaiso. In addition to his work there he has been appointed as a director of part of the archdeaconry with responsibilities for four nearby churches.

There have been changes in the Mission Support Group. In April, Mary Muff who has led the group so ably for over 50 years, had to retire because of increasing ill-health. She is very sadly missed by us all. Jane Carey has taken over the leadership of the group. In May, Jane Saunders from Christ Church and the Rev. Douglas Durand from St Andrew's joined the group.

The group usually meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month (see the Notices Sheets for details of venues and dates). Please join us whenever you are free. Updates can be found in the notices and the prayer letters which are available in both the churches. Both our mission partners continue to need our financial and prayer support.

Finally, the group says, 'Thank you for your support at the May coffee morning which raised £580 and the Autumn Fayre which raised £1,310 towards our Mission Partners' expenses.'

Jane Carey - Mission Support Group

Norwich South Deanery Synod

The February meeting of Synod congratulated Alan Strange on his appointment as chaplain of Christ Church, Amsterdam and welcomed the new rural dean, Revd Ian Dyle, vicar at St Thomas, Earlham.

Ian spoke about: Where is the Promised Land for our Deanery? He was excited by what the deanery might do and become! All the talk of church decline was nonsense! This was God's church and he had a plan for us individually and as a church. Members then discussed in small groups what we would like to see happen in the future.

At the November meeting Ian Dyle reported on the National Deaneries Network Conference. He had been very encouraged by the conference on the theme of reform and renewal of the church. The church must re-imagine what God wants of his church and

adventure together or it would die. Working together would be more effective than working alone. The Diocese was offering financial support in its Mission Strategy 2021. Suggestions of what we could do together included:

- A prayer pilgrimage to a different church each evening as a response to the Archbishop's call for churches to pray as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative 25th May to 4th June, Ascension to Pentecost.
- A church plant within the deanery. Bishop Graham was very keen on this idea and would help provide a curate to work with different churches to formulate a suitable plan of action.

Members then discussed how the deanery churches could act together and how churches could support each other more.

Chris Smith - Deanery Secretary

Norwich Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocesan Synod consists of the bishops, archdeacons and elected laity and clergy. We met the usual three times in March, June and October and:

- Received amended canon law about safeguarding, requiring safeguarding advisers and empowering risk assessments of clergy.
- Were told the results of the consultation on a diocesan mission strategy and of the launch of 'more than we can imagine' with four main, funded work streams, to develop strategy under the headings LISTEN, CELEBRATE, IMAGINE, and EMPOWER.
- Were informed that current funding from the Archbishop's council of £1.6Million would fall to 1.3 million over ten years, but an extra £700,000 was available over the next five years and there would be new funds the diocese could apply for.
- Agreed the revised report, *Dignity in Ministry*, about preventing and dealing with bullying and harassment and encouraging healthy relationships.
- Received a report on the February 2016 General Synod, including a debate on caring for and using church buildings and progress with the Archbishops *Renewal and Reform* Strategy.
- The June meeting dealt with the annual reports of the diocesan bodies and committees and accepted the Diocesan Budget.
- I asked about diocesan strategy for dealing with clergy retirements, given that 34% of parochial clergy in the Diocese were 60+ years old, the third highest in the country. The bishop noted that he would be ordaining eight deacons and four priests and twelve trainees were being considered. He was committed to recruiting as many curates as possible. Experience showed they tend to stay in the diocese.
- Supported a motion from Great Yarmouth Deanery Synod requesting a radical review of administrative expectations placed on PCCs, such as health and safety and finances and information for diocesan and national bodies. It was noted that the simplification strand of *Renewal and Reform* and the LISTEN stream of *More than we can imagine* aimed to help.
- Saw presentations about the education challenges facing the diocese, and the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT), which were increasingly significant as government policy created risks and opportunities.
- Heard a review and update about benefice and parish share, *The Responsibility is Ours* (TRiO) suggesting that it was serving the diocese well and continued to

increase revenue. Benefices that were not paying what they were asked and were not asking for help were increasingly being invited to discuss with diocesan officers what could be done.

- Heard reflections on the ‘shared conversations’ about sexuality that had taken place around the country and at General Synod in July to try and improve understanding. Bishop Graham noted there was no agreed endpoint and he did not expect a change in legislation but hoped for a new tone.

Patrick Richmond - Member of the House of Clergy

St Andrew's
Eaton, Norwich



'a church for all - a place for you'