

Mission Ipswich East PARISH PROFILE

(AS OF 16/6/26)



St John's || St Andrew's

mie.org.uk

'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.' Romans 1:16.

Welcome from St Edmundsbury & Ipswich!



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

SUFFOLK

Welcome to Mission Ipswich East

A message from the Bishop



I warmly invite you to consider joining us at Mission Ipswich East, a vibrant suburban parish comprising the two churches of St Andrew's and St John the Baptist. Together, they are communities of deep faith, generous hospitality, and committed service to their neighbourhoods.

We are seeking an ordained minister who will join the parish in its shared vision of growing deeper in faith, wider in welcome, and greater in number. This is an exciting opportunity to nurture the spiritual life of the congregations while helping to shape the future of a parish with energy, confidence, and a heart for mission.

You will receive a warm welcome from people who value faithful ministry, strong relationships, and collaborative leadership. If you bring imagination, enthusiasm, and a passion for helping people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, while cherishing the Church's rich traditions and embracing new opportunities for growth, this could be a rewarding next step in your ministry.

As you prayerfully discern God's call, please be assured of my prayers and every blessing.

+Joanne Grenfell Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

and the Archdeacon

Mission Ipswich East is a parish with much to offer: two welcoming churches, committed lay leadership, and a clear desire to grow in faith, discipleship, and service.

As Archdeacon, I have seen the energy, generosity, and sense of community that characterise both St Andrew's and St John the Baptist. This is a place where faithful ministry is valued, new ideas are welcomed, and relationships matter.

You will be supported by dedicated colleagues, engaged congregations, and a deanery committed to working together in God's mission. I hope this profile gives you a glimpse of the opportunities that await the person God is calling to this role.

The Ven. Samantha Brazier-Gibbs Archdeacon of Ipswich



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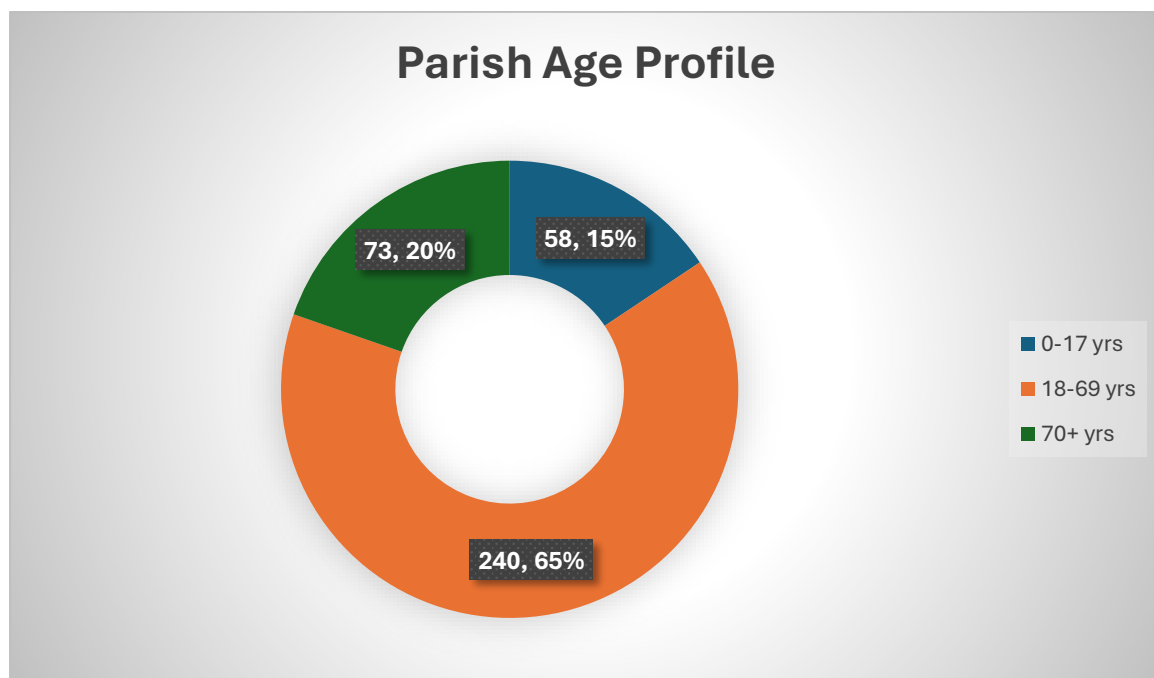
INTRODUCTION

Thank you for reading this profile – this short introduction summarises what follows, so please read this before you get stuck into the rest!

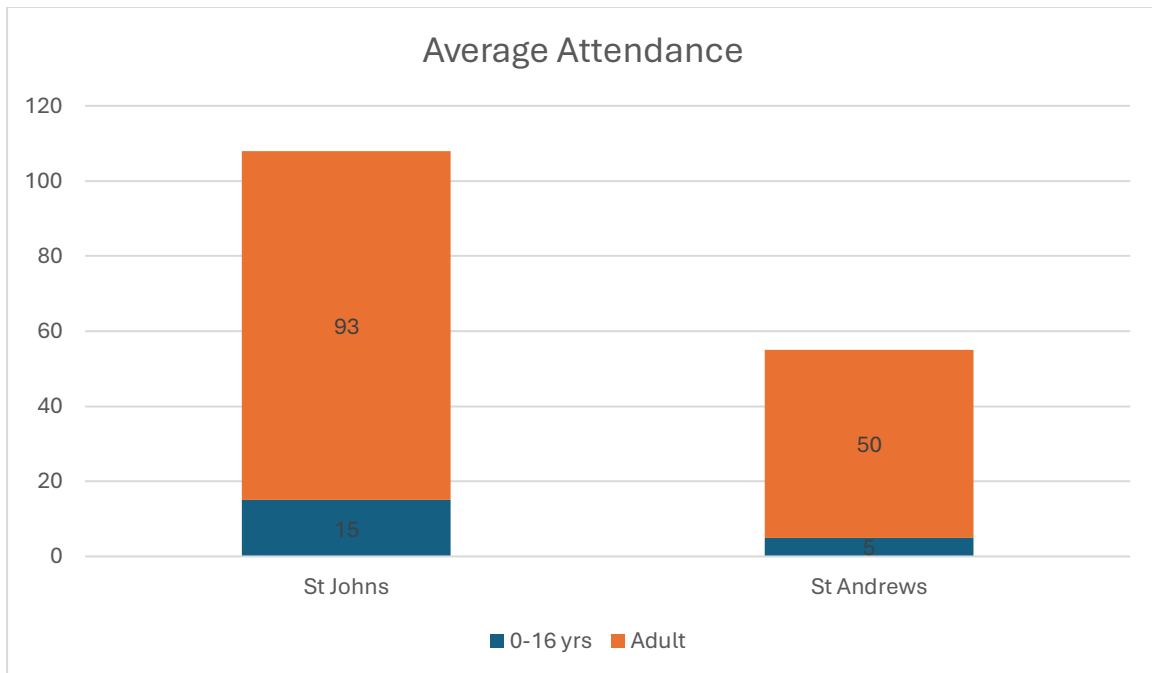
Who are we?

We are MIE: Mission Ipswich East.

We became MIE on 1st April 2019. We are one parish of two churches, St John the Baptist and St Andrew’s. Both congregations are established bible-believing communities with a combined electoral roll total of 161 at our last APCM. Combined attendance at Sunday morning services averages 163 (including 20 under 16) over the past quarter. At the last survey, our combined parish age profile looked like this:



Average attendance figures over sixth months, excluding Christmas services, looked like this:



	Adult	0-16	Total
St John's	93	15	108
St Andrew's	50	5	55
Total	143	20	163

Different identities, same gospel.

Each of our two church communities is different, since each has its own identity and heritage and is made up of different people.

Each has its own ministry team, music group, children and families work and other things.

However, on each Sunday morning, the same passage is preached at both churches, our small groups and activities ranging from prayer meetings to Lunch Club and 'Top-up Shop' often contain a mix of people from both church communities, whether attendees or leaders, and both churches share a belief in the saving power of the gospel and have an appetite to know God and make Him known better by Scripture and Spirit. This means that we are confident about acting as one community when that is the best way of achieving a goal, but equally positive working in our own congregations.

We have a solid foundation but recognize that this needs building on as we look to the challenges and opportunities we face locally and nationally, inside and outside the church.

On the plus side, we have a steady membership, soundly managed finances, good facilities, strong staff and lay teams and a culture of faithful bible teaching, ranging from evangelistic / inquirer groups, through more traditional home groups to the popular formational activity of our 'Discipleship Training Programme', a resource written by our last vicar and available to anyone [here](#).

Whilst we are well-taught congregations, we want and need to move on in the power of the Spirit. We are aware that like the rest of the country, Ipswich is changing, in terms of age profile, social make-up, attitude to established religion and more. We need to bring the gospel to those around us rather than count on any 'quiet revival' alone.

Who are we looking for?

We are convinced of the truth of 2 Tim 4:1-5 and are looking for an evangelical minister who is convinced of the power of the gospel for the initial and ongoing salvation of everyone who believes, who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and whose teaching is solidly bible-based. We need a bible-believing evangelist who will take us forward, being open to change while remaining obedient to the church's historic and orthodox doctrine. We need someone who will develop a gospel strategy that renews our vision and takes into account both our perceived areas of relative strength as well as areas of concern: an aging volunteer base, a smaller attendance at regular prayer meetings, an uneven age profile, with few between 14 and 30.

Who would flourish here?

If you are committed to the gospel, excited by the range of discipling and evangelistic opportunities contained in church and parish here, and keen to explore the possibilities afforded by our extensive physical and human resources, then we think MIE is a place where you could absolutely flourish! You would have a supportive PCC behind you as well a servant-hearted congregation. We believe we are a parish which could, with the support of the diocese, offer the opportunity for an incumbent to train a curate as ministry opportunities are developed here.

We are praying for the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for you as you read this and discern your way forward.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We subscribe to the traditional [39 Articles and the historic formularies of faith](#), the [CEEC basis of faith](#) and the [Jerusalem Declaration](#).

MIE affirms the traditional evangelical statement of faith shared by regional gospel partnerships which is set out here.

- There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
- The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority and sufficient in all matters of belief and behaviour.
- Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.
- Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.
- Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.
- The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.
- All those who believe in Christ are baptised with the Holy Spirit, who lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christlike in character and behaviour and equips them for ministry in the church and witness in the world.
- The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong. It is made visible in local churches and unity is expressed within and between local churches by mutual love, care and encouragement.
- The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone justly, to execute God's eternal condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.

Living in Love and Faith / Prayers of Love and Faith

At the time when the LLF materials were published, we engaged with the LLF process by preaching through bible teaching on sex and marriage.

Subsequently, the PCC decided and voted unanimously that we would not be using Prayers of Love and Faith at MIE.

WHO WE'RE PRAYING FOR

Our next vicar will first and foremost be a Bible-believing, Spirit-filled minister who fulfils their ministry in faithful preaching of the gospel and evangelism, committed to:

- Upholding the gospel through:
 - Faithful, expository Bible teaching and preaching, keeping us rooted in the truth and challenging us by personal application.
 - Fruitful evangelism and a desire to see our outreach develop in Ipswich and beyond.
- Personal spiritual growth through daily private prayer, repentance and bible study.
- Upholding Christian belief as expressed in the statements of belief and documents referenced on the previous page.
- The ability to implement a strategy based on a gospel-driven vision, which will help us to grow as a church family both in spiritual maturity and numbers.
- Leadership, encouragement, management and direction of a broad mix of staff and volunteers.
- The ability to communicate clearly. This means being able to engage with different ages and a varied community, within and outside of the church family.

You will also:

- Promote a fervent prayer life at the centre of all we do as a church.
- Train, encourage and disciple future leaders including those considering a vocation in ministry or in mission.
- Ensure pastoral care through patient and sensitive listening, visiting, caring and warm hospitality.
- Help us innovate and broaden our reach by embracing the use of appropriate means and technology.
- Be comfortable with a varied, multi-generational church and community.
- Commit to sustaining and strengthening our ties with other local churches, the Diocese, local Evangelical Fellowships, Gospel Partnerships and similar organisations.
- Encourage in others, and experience for yourself, the fruit and gifts of the Spirit.

- Be an appropriately experienced minister, in line with the points above, since we are a numerically large parish in Ipswich.

We recognise that we are asking for a lot. As a church family we are committed to supporting you in prayer, in service, in giving, in caring for each other, and in caring for you. We have a team because we know the vicar cannot do it all, but you will need to know, and sometimes share, your strengths and weaknesses to make the best use of the support available.

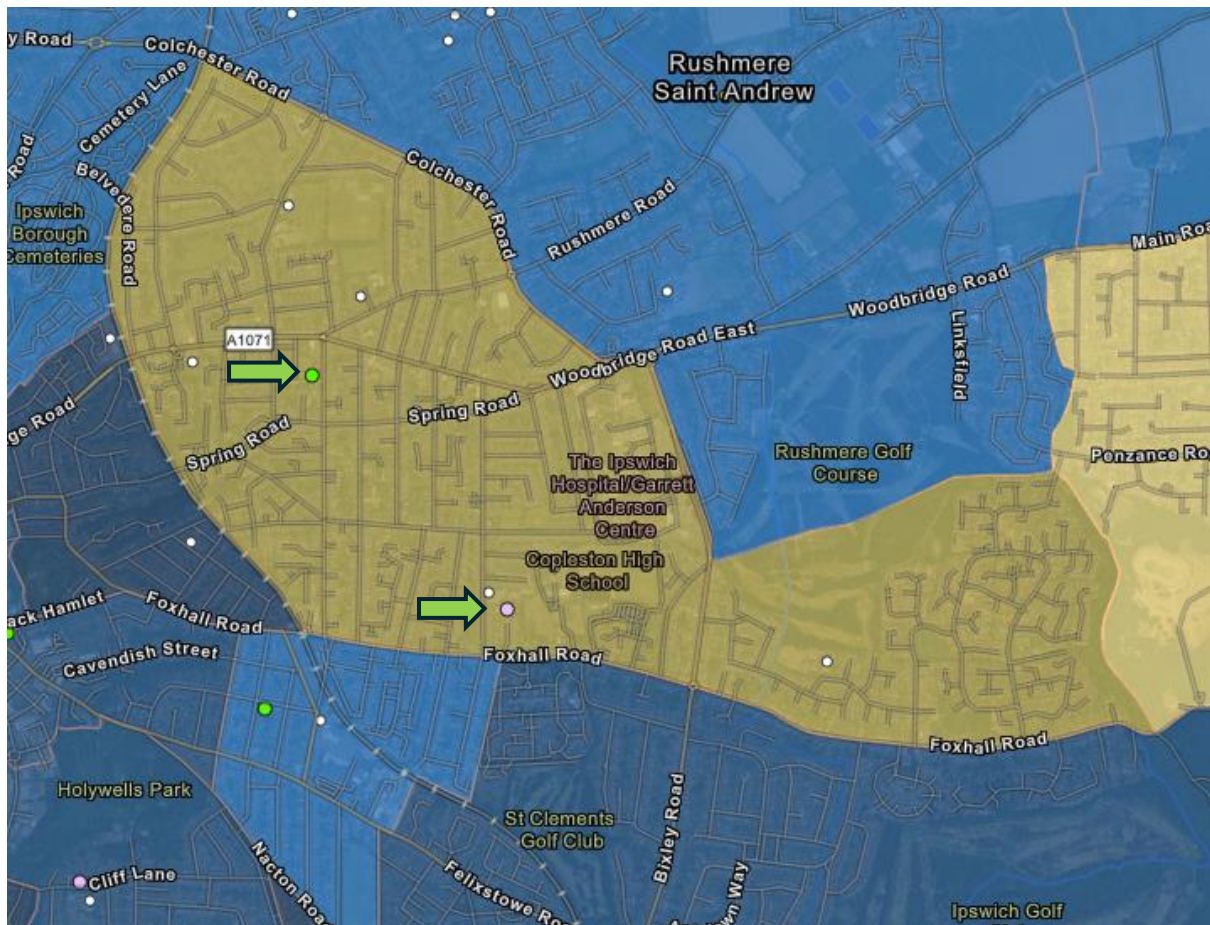
Both we and the diocese expect you to take your day of rest each week, plus a full 48 hours each month and your full holiday entitlement. You may be assured that your expenses will also be paid in full!

Although we think these things are significant, we are aware that they make a much smaller list than the ones you have just read that outline who we're looking for! However, we want you to believe that we think that there is much support here and that the list we give is much greater than the sum of its parts.

THE PARISH

About the parish

The parish of St John the Baptist and St Andrew is shown below (darker beige area: green dot = St John the Baptist, pink dot = St Andrew's). It is located on the northeast side of Ipswich and has a population of approximately 20,000 people.



The apparent high housing density around the churches is offset by nearby playing fields, golf course and, to the north and east, rural and arable land.

The parish ranks 8,883 out of 12,161 parishes nationally for levels of overall deprivation making it a little below average for deprivation nationally (1 = most deprived, 12,161 = least deprived), and approximately 8% of housing is social housing, which is comparatively little on a national scale or compared with other parishes within the diocese. (Church Urban Fund, 2019).

The majority of the congregation live inside the parish or very close to it. This is not uncommon in East Anglia and also reflects St John's and St Andrew's heritage.

It is a typical, mixed suburban area including five primary schools (St John's, Britannia, Sidegate, Broke Hall, St Mary's RC) one small, specialist academy for pupil referrals (Parkside Academy) and one secondary school with sixth form (Copleston). We have good links with three of those primary schools (listed below), and St. Elizabeth Hospice and Ipswich Hospital are also within the parish. Copleston School is a large and popular secondary school, but MIE has until recently been unable to establish useful links with its leadership. However, it is our hope and prayer that recently re-established links may lead, albeit one step at a time, to bigger things.

Sidegate Primary School

This is located toward the north of the parish, nearer to St John's church. We have a good relationship with this school and a team visit the school for Open the Book bible stories.

Britannia Primary School

This school is adjacent to the St. Andrew's church building, and the church has had good links over many decades. The school use St Andrew's buildings for Christmas and end-of-year productions, and a team visit the school for Open the Book bible stories. Year 1 and 2 children visit the church for craft activities and bible stories. Many of the pupils have links with the Cruizers group that meets at St Andrew's on Thursday evenings

St John's CEVA Primary School

Of all the schools in the parish, we have, unsurprisingly, the closest relationship with the one that shares the name of one of our church buildings. Its leadership team and governors are united in wanting it to be a school that honestly reflects its mission statement of having God at its centre. You can read more about it [here](#). Its headteacher is a member of MIE and has been on our PCC and she would agree that her school is far more than the label 'church school' often serves to describe.

As vicar, you will have the privilege of being an ex-officio governor of this faith-filled school and will be able to be a significant figure in its life.

THE DEANERY

To be part of the Ipswich Deanery is to join a supportive and collaborative network of churches working together in Suffolk's historic county town.



Serving an urban, suburban and semi-rural population of over 160,000 people, our deanery is comprised of 27 churches spanning a wide spectrum of traditions. Through the recent Inspiring Ipswich project, we have experienced a heartening season of revitalisation, with our total worshipping community growing by 20% between 2019 and 2025.

This growth reflects Ipswich's changing, youthful, and increasingly diverse demographics, which we have met by establishing over 50 new, contextual worshipping communities alongside our traditional church life.

While we celebrate this local fruit, we recognise the challenges such a project brings and are rethinking what it means to inhabit a 'post project landscape'.

We are deeply committed to the wider strategy of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Crucially, ministry here is not done in isolation; you will find a genuinely supportive Chapter, a collaborative Area Dean and an encouraging Archdeacon who are all deeply invested in your well-being and ministry. Whether in innovative urban pioneering projects or deeply rooted traditional parishes, there is a steady, hopeful momentum here, and we are eager to welcome a leader who will share in this collaborative journey.



MISSION PARTNERS AND INITIATIVES

MIE shares the gospel globally and locally through its mission partners, mission links and outreach activities in and around the church.

The Global Church Group - 6 members of MIE - manages the mission fund, maintains contact with our mission partners and link organizations, arranges visits from them, and feeds their prayer needs into the life of our church family, encouraging Home Groups to adopt a mission partner.

Mission Partner:

<p>Maggie Gaved <i>Wycliff Bible Translators</i></p>	<p>Based in Ipswich and a member of MIE but travelling regularly to French-speaking Africa, Maggie supports bible translation in francophone Africa</p>
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Link Mission Partners:

These are people commissioned by other churches whom we have agreed to support in prayer and other ways.

<p>Donald & Becky Kamese SIM (sim.co.uk)</p>	<p>Donald & Becky are working in the area known as “the Circle of Silence” in Mexico. They have set up a Bible training centre and mentor local leaders in church planting.</p>
<p>Fiona & Joel Hafvenstein United Mission to Nepal (umn.org.np)</p>	<p>The Hafvensteins returned to Kathmandu independently in 2023, after six years of service with the United Mission to Nepal. They continue to support, mentor, and encourage leaders in Nepal's growing Christian community.</p>
<p>Youeel Tarabay C&MA Rmeileh, Lebanon & www.AddMega.org</p>	<p>Youeel and his family started the Alliance Church in Rmeileh, south Lebanon, in August 2014. AddMega is a ministry that provides Arabic resources for all Arabic speaking churches.</p>

Partner/ Link Organisations:

Inter-Mission Care and Rehabilitation Society (IMCARES), Mumbai, India, (imcares.org)	
Kagera Christian Theological College (KCTC)	The link Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Open Doors UK and Ireland (opendoorsuk.org)	Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide.
The Leprosy Mission (leprosymission.org.uk)	The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian development organisation that diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care, including reconstructive surgery, to leprosy patients.

Some church family members offer additional financial support to a Mission partner or link organisation.

Each year the Global Church Group organises a Mission month (or two) when we have an in person visit or a video update from a different Mission Partner or link at each church each week of the month.

OUR SERVICES

Our Services at MIE

Sermon series have primarily consisted of preaching through consecutive passages and books of the bible.

St John's



Sundays

10.30 am. Service of the word or monthly communion (on the first Sunday of the month), attended on average by c 93 adults and 15 children, and about 60 views online. The service is a mix of contemporary and more traditional elements, assembled each week by a leader, often using Churchsuite. All liturgy, songs and bible readings are projected onto several screens, along with any visual material the preacher and leader have prepared. Leadership and preaching are done by the clergy, lay ministers and lay reader in training, but other members of the church are regularly involved and

contribute to other parts of the service too. At the same time, a children's programme operates from creche up to 11 years. Family services are run at specific times such as Christmas and other key dates, and to some extent over the summer months when children's group leaders have a break. However, our family services are observed more in the title than the enactment. All 10.30 services are livestreamed and may be found [here](#).

A joint service with St John's and St Andrew's is held at St John's on the last Sunday of the month.

Wednesday

There is a short midweek service of Morning Prayer at 0800 on Wednesdays at St John's, attended by about half a dozen people, at which there will be a short 'homily'-type sermon (3 – 5 minutes).

St Andrew's



Sundays

10.30 am. Morning service or monthly communion (on the third Sunday of the month) is attended on average by c 50 adults and 5 children. The service is a mix of liturgy,

contemporary music, prayer and preaching, led by a nominated leader each week. There are around 4-6 people who share leading. All liturgy, song words and bible readings are projected onto a screen and there is a modern PA system for audio, including several wireless microphones. Preaching is done by the vicar, associate minister, lay ministers and lay readers, regularly shared between around 5 people. Children's groups meet during the service, with two groups currently: one for 3-7 years old and one for those aged 8 – 12. A Sunday morning youth group was running over the past 2 years but is currently not running due to insufficient youth members. There is a team of around 6 people who serve in running the children's groups.

There are several special services throughout the year, including an annual Carol Service in the evening (on a different Sunday to the St John's Carol Service), Remembrance Day (attended by the uniformed organisations), Harvest Festival and Easter week.

6.30 pm. Until recently the Sunday evening service took place exclusively at St Andrew's and past months have been taken up with successive preaching through the Old Testament, with the end of Malachi being reached in June. Lately numbers had dropped to 20-30, and these are people who for the most part have already come to a morning service, whether at St John's or St Andrew's. The PCC have decided to suspend evening services at this time. However, since January 2026, on the third Sunday of each month there is now a prayer and worship evening at this time.

Before Covid, numbers were more often between 30 and 40 with some sessions being labelled as 'Deep Church', a chance to explore texts in more depth. However, now that Malachi has been reached, the PCC has, at least for the time being, ceased Sunday evening services because of declining attendance. It has also been hard to guarantee musicians for this slot.

Throughout the year special services are run for major festivals, bereavement and as occasion demands. Christmas includes Christingle service(s), family carols and traditional carols by candlelight. We also have additional events at Easter, including a shared meal for Maundy Thursday, a Good Friday morning joint service (also shared with St John's URC church), an 'hour at the cross' service on Good Friday afternoon, as well as separate Easter Day services at St John's and St Andrew's.

These larger events will often be celebrated as joint services, most often at St John's. We do not have a strong record of life event services, partly because MIE does not have its own graveyard. There are occasional baptisms, mainly infant, and although we encourage adult baptism these are sporadic, about once or twice a year. St Andrew's has a baptistry pool for baptisms.

Music

St John's

Music at the services is co-ordinated and often led by David Freestone, our organist and music co-ordinator. He chooses a selection designed to complement the passages for preaching and the music group on the rota for each date is sent out a month or so at a time and service leaders mostly choose from these recommendations, although leaders are free to make changes as they wish. There are four music groups who appear successively on the rota for St John's providing different musical styles and traditions each week. A larger choir and grouping of instruments (say, two violins, two cellos, bassoon, keyboard and an array of orchestral percussion) gets together for Christmas to lead music at the main carol celebration.

St Andrews

Music at the service is co-ordinated by Alistair Poustie. A rota of 3 musicians take turns in leading; choosing the songs and generating Powerpoint slides for projection. Typically a group of 6 musicians/singers are playing most weeks, although sometimes only a subset are available. Many of the musicians have been serving together at St Andrews for several decades. The music is largely contemporary Christian, with instruments including acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, piano and banjo. There is a drum kit, but currently no drummer! All of the voices and instruments are fed into a modern PA system in the church. There is an electronic organ in the church, but no regular organist.

OUR TEAM

Our dedicated and gifted staff help us in our gospel mission, working as a servant hearted team alongside the clergy and volunteers. You will work mainly with the team and large number of volunteers at MIE and have line-management responsibility for all the staff. The MIE staff have a fortnightly business meeting and occasional away days.

We would expect the new vicar to ensure the team is used effectively, taking into account changing circumstances and the gospel-driven strategy that person will develop.

The MIE Staff Team

Rev Liz Fox	Associate Minister moving to her first incumbency in the summer.
Andy Beard	Full Time Lay Associate Minister, Licensed as Elder by the diocese, appointed and paid by MIE.
Lizzie Kent	Licensed Children and Families Worker. 15 hours/week, appointed and paid by MIE. She also does chaplaincy work for St John's School, for which the school pays.
Tracey Needham	Licensed Church Army Evangelist. 31.5 hours/week, appointed and paid by MIE.
Liz Constance	Administrator. 16 hours/week, appointed and paid by MIE.
Dawn Gillett	Licensed Evangelist, volunteer.



Additionally, there are two paid cleaners who between them clean the churches and the Noah's Ark pre-school part of the St John's building. Each works for 10 hours/week.

Furthermore, there are many licensed volunteers at MIE:

At St John's

Rev Caroline Hallett	Retired clergy
Andrew Taylor	Reader
Damon Kerr	Reader in training

At St Andrew's

John Gillett	Reader
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There is also an established group of lay elders, headed up by Ed Nichols.

Lay Elders in this diocese are people commissioned by the bishop, after training that is flexible and designed to build on people's existing skills, to bring pastoral care and /or lead worship.

Currently we have nine Elders across MIE, four at St Andrews, Rachel Stone (pastoral/liturgical), Dorothee Double (pastoral), Tony McLarty (liturgical) and Alistair Poustie (liturgical). In addition, a further three people from St Andrews have been approved for eldership training: Jane Sheat (liturgical), Sam Sims (liturgical), and Alison Poustie (pastoral).

At St Johns we have five Elders, Ruth Stamp (pastoral), Steph Scoggins (pastoral), June Leach (pastoral), Peter Philips (pastoral) and Ed Nichols (Pastoral/liturgical).

The Lay Elders are commissioned to work with the Minister and other lay or ordained ministers in such ways as are appropriate and mutually agreed; their ministry is to serve others and to encourage them in discipleship enabling their faith to find true expression through the love and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and all the benefits he has bestowed on us. It means being attentive to the needs of others and supporting them in both spiritual and practical ways, to offer prayer and help both short and long term. Elders are involved in many aspects of the church and in the community. Peter Philips is part of the Chaplaincy Team at Ipswich Hospital, June follows up on bereavements, a group of Elders go into three local residential homes to conduct a service of worship each month, lead Morning Prayer, read the Bible in worship and lead intercessions. Prayer is offered at the close at every service of worship at St John's and St Andrew's. Elders assist in distributing the Sacrament in homes where appropriate. They meet every other month to pray, discuss and spend time in worship.

ACTIVITIES

Our Activities at MIE

While it would be an easy task to condense what follows into numbers, calendars and tables, we want to show the range of what happens at MIE, largely because we want to show how others and remind ourselves that it is the gospel and our desire to reach others with the gospel that shapes what we do together as MIE, rather than anything necessarily intrinsic to the activity itself.

Prayer

We want prayer to underpin all our activities, so it makes sense to open this section with prayer.

There is a monthly evening prayer meeting on the third Sunday of every month.

On two Monday mornings each month during term time, there is prayer for children and young people

There are prayer meetings early on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Additionally, there are mission-focused prayer points on the weekly church newsletter, as well as information about a prayer chain.

We have also had weeks of prayer and fasting and there is a prayer meeting before every service for those involved in it. After every service, there is an opportunity for anyone who wants to pray with one of our prayer team discreetly.

ALPHA

Why it meets	To introduce people to Jesus
Who comes	On average, 6 people join Alpha each Spring, although when we ran 7 Alpha courses in the Spring of 2024 during the diocesan 'Inspiring Ipswich' phase, we had 98 people attend!
When it meets	Flexible: usually evenings.
What happens	Alpha or Christianity Explored depending on Tracey's (our lay evangelist staff member) judgement.
What next?	We have decided to do an evangelistic push at Advent/Christmas, leading to Alpha in the Spring, since that is the course that seems to be the most accessible: feedback shows that seekers like the broad overview it offers as well as the testimonies embedded in the course.
	We will run Christianity Explored in the summer term.

Children's Sunday Morning Groups (for older age groups, see Youth below)

Why it meets	To teach about Jesus, as part of our morning service.
Who comes	The following groups meet: Scramblers, Climbers. Explorers. (in other words, children aged 3 – 11). At St John's there are generally between 15-20 children spread across these three groups. At St Andrew's, there are about 5.
When it meets	The children leave the main morning service after about 15 minutes.
What happens	Bible teaching and related games and activities led by volunteers and Lizzie Kent. At present the passages used are the same as are read / preached in the main service.
What next	We would like to recruit more team leaders and encourage some of those who help rather than lead (i.e. teach) to become leaders.

Coffee Space

Why it meets	To give lonely people somewhere to go and give opportunities for the church to meet local people and share the gospel.
Who comes	20-30 people, mostly retired but some younger.
When it meets	Fridays, 2.00 – 3.30 at St Andrew's
What happens	Free tea, coffee and cakes. Board games, jigsaw puzzles and a gospel talk.
What next	We recently relocated and are looking to increase our membership in our new location at St Andrews.

Craft, Coffee, Chat

Why it meets	To bring outsiders into church to mix with Christians.
Who comes	5 of the congregation and between 12-20 others aged 45 aged and upwards.
When it meets	Fortnightly on Wednesdays, 10.00 – 12.00 (alternating with those Homegroups that meet in church)
What happens	We bring crafts to do, have a drink and hear a gospel reflection.
What next	It is reviewed each month.

Discipleship Training Course

Why it meets	To equip, enrich and deepen the lived faith of those wanting to pursue discipleship more actively.
Who comes	Between 15 – 20 of the congregations
When it meets	Two groups meet: Monday evening and Friday morning.
What happens	Different aspects of faith are examined, using the resources available at www.dtp.org.uk . It is envisaged as a three year course. At the time of writing, one group has completed all three years, and the current groups are both in Year 2.
What next	To develop more leaders.

Home Groups

Why it meets	To study the bible and pray together, to enjoy fellowships, encourage each other and provide care.
Who comes	About 80 people spread across 9 homegroups.
When it meets	Mainly Wednesday evenings but some meet during the day.
What happens	Bible study based on the passage preached in the previous Sunday service.
What next?	We are looking to encourage HG leaders to engage in training events in the new year. We always encourage people to join a home group.

Journeying Through John



Why it meets	To study the bible, to encourage each other and provide care.
Who comes	About 10 people, most of whom have just completed an Alpha course, but many of whom have been coming to church for quite a long time. The age range is 20s- 70s!
When it meets	Monday evening from 7.00 to 8.30 in the church hall, making it a first: a 'home group' that meets in church in an evening slot.
What happens	We study John's gospel together, the leaders using the framework of the 'Read Mark Learn John' book. We drink tea and coffee and share cake. We pray.
What next?	This is a new group and is adding to its number each week. It is our hope that it will grow into two groups!

Ladies' Group

Why it meets	To develop relationships and fellowship among women within our church.
Who comes	Between 12 – 30 women, many of whom are extensively involved in service in the church. This gives them a place just to 'be'.
When it meets	2 nd Friday each month. 7.30 – 9.00
What happens	A theme for the month governs activities from quizzes, cake choices, craft activities and biblical reflection to encourage those who come.
What next	New facilitators are needed as some others have moved on or stepped back.

Leisure Club

Why we meet	To serve the older people of our community, particularly those who are socially isolated through either physical or mental health issues. We aim to provide a welcoming, caring environment where people see the love of God in action.
Who comes	Age range is between 75 - 95. Average attendance 20 – 25.
When it meets	Fortnightly on Tuesdays at St A's 10.30 - 2pm
What happens	Coffee/tea and chat followed by an activity, which varies from playing Skittles to being entertained by local choirs. A freshly cooked lunch is provided. We also have a short talk or music that shares the gospel.
What next	We have been running for 20 years and still endeavour to be prayerfully open to God's will to change and grow.

Lunch Club

Why it meets	To provide to the over 60s Christian outreach, friendship, a safe warm space and an inexpensive cooked meal.
Who comes	Up to 40 members.
When it meets	Every Monday during school terms.
What happens	Lunch! And activities, such as Scrabble, magazines, quizzes, chess and talks, with a Christian reflection on the first Monday of each month.
What next	The aim is to build on existing Christian input.

Messy Church



Why it meets	All-age outreach, especially to families and friends, to introduce people to Jesus and to help build a faith community.
Who comes	At St John's depending on the time of year, between 25 – 100 children mainly of primary school age but with a few pre-schoolers, together with their parents. Teenage helpers volunteer at St Andrew's.
When it meets	At St John's, about every 6 weeks; at St Andrew's monthly
What happens	Bible story, prayer, worship songs, interactive celebration, craft and outdoor activities as appropriate. Meal!
What next	We have experimented alternating between larger and smaller scale models for this. Larger events (with the meal!) attract the largest numbers but require more volunteers. We are thinking through the implications of this.

Open the Book

Why it meets	To bring Bible stories into our link primary schools and further develop relationships with them.
Who comes	The pupils from three local primary schools
When it meets	Fortnightly at St John's, Britannia and Sidegate schools.
What happens	A bible story is enacted!
What next / else	Lizzie (children and families worker) is present in St John's School every Wednesday as chaplain. Andy and Tracey lead termly assemblies at St John's.

Taste Café



Why it meets	To reach out to the local community and be a Christian presence there.
Who comes	Church folk and members of the community. The Café can hold about 15, but people come successively.
When it meets	Monday to Saturday 9.00 – 12.00. Other groups use the café outside these hours. Services are held at notable points in the church year: Good Friday, Christmas etc.
What happens	Tea and coffee and cakes are sold! There is a police surgery monthly on Thursday mornings. Also, a 'Bereavement Café' on one Saturday afternoon each month.
What next	Finding ways of further developing Christian outreach.

Top Up Shop



Why it meets	To draw people into the church building, to offer practical support by giving food, to demonstrate God's love.
Who runs it	A team of Christian and non-Christian volunteers.
Who comes	Between 70-90 people, mainly from the local area, mostly non-churched.
When it meets	Every Wednesday throughout the year.
What happens	We share food: everyone pays £2 for a large amount of food, with no qualifying criteria. A group of Christians is always available for prayer and discussion.
What next	A small group meets after the shop to discuss the bible. There are plans to develop groups and activities to involve customers who want to know more and feed them into Alpha/Christianity Explored.

Young People's Ministry:

Cruizers

Why it meets	To make Jesus known to children aged 8 – 11
Who comes	c.20 children (many from non-church backgrounds), plus adult leaders and teenage helpers.
When it meets	Thursdays 6.30 – 7.30pm
What happens	Games, crafts, bible stories, prayer, songs.
What next?	Cruizers has been running for 23 years and needs new, younger leaders to continue the work. Cruizers children have recently moved onto the new 'Ignite' young people's youth club.

Ignite

Why it meets	To provide a safe space where young people can come to start to hear about the Gospel and get to know Christians; that we may be able to share in a more personal way; to play games and for those who come to enjoy the company of their friends.
Who comes	Young people in School years 7-9. Currently less than 10 but it is new and still growing.
When it meets	Thursday Evenings (directly after the Cruizers) 7.45-9pm at St Andrew's.
What happens	Pool, boardgames, table tennis, bible talk (introducing ideas around faith God and what it means for us) tuck shop, informal support.
What next	To grow(!); to build relationships, go deeper with the gospel, run youth-friendly seeker courses that will enable young people to come to a place where they can decide to follow Jesus and feed into the discipleship focused youth work.

Pathfinders

Why it meets	To invest in those young people that are Christians or really interested in faith. To help disciple and engage young people with what It means to be a Christian in the world around us and how to flourish as a Church member both now and as preparation for adulthood in the Church.
Who comes	Young people school years 7-11.
When it meets	Every Tuesday (term time) 7.00-8.30pm.
What happens	Eat cake, play games and study the bible passage from the sermon the previous week. Ending in prayer for each other.
What next?	Aims: to encourage young people into leadership and serving opportunities. Evangelism. To make connections with other Christians across the town.

Supporting our ministries

All our activities depend on support delivered from the church office, our technology and online presence.

- MIE has a dedicated church office which is staffed by our administrator, Liz Constance.
- Our website is maintained in house.
- We have integrated audio visual capability in St John's, used to livestream its services.
- We know that we need to grow our social media presence. We recognise this is a challenge, although we also believe that this is best done by people naturally sharing what they are doing.
- MIE has recently achieved its bronze Eco certificate, and the PCC is open to considering reasonable steps we can take to reduce the church's carbon footprint further without making this a priority or a distraction from the main mission of the church.

SAFEGUARDING AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Safeguarding

MIE have a Safeguarding team appointed to promote our safe culture, oversee the volunteer training levels are maintained, listen to and act upon concerns and liaise directly with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers and our incumbent. The team have two PSOs (Parish Safeguarding Officers) and administrative support. The lead PSO has several years of professional experience in this field and is also a trainer for the Diocese.

MIE is a safe Parish and there are few concerns. We offer a safe space at both of our buildings. Reports to the PSOs are dealt with in confidence and actioned according to the procedures in place. In accordance with practice, these issues are not shared with any other members of the Parish other than the PSO, the incumbent and those who may need to know as agreed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers.

MIE use the Parish Dashboard tool to ensure that we maintain our policies, legal requirements and updated agreements connected to Safeguarding. This is an ongoing process and is reported to the PCC monthly as part of the Safeguarding update. Recently we had achieved green level 3 status, but this needs constant monitoring as new activities and their volunteers come on board and require the appropriate training.

Risk

The PCC actively considers the main risks it believes to be facing MIE. The list below is in approximate order of gross risk rating as it seems to us at present:

1. Being led astray/ not having sound doctrine.
2. Safeguarding
3. Vacancy/Appointment!
4. Developments in the national church
5. Catastrophic failure of elements of our buildings

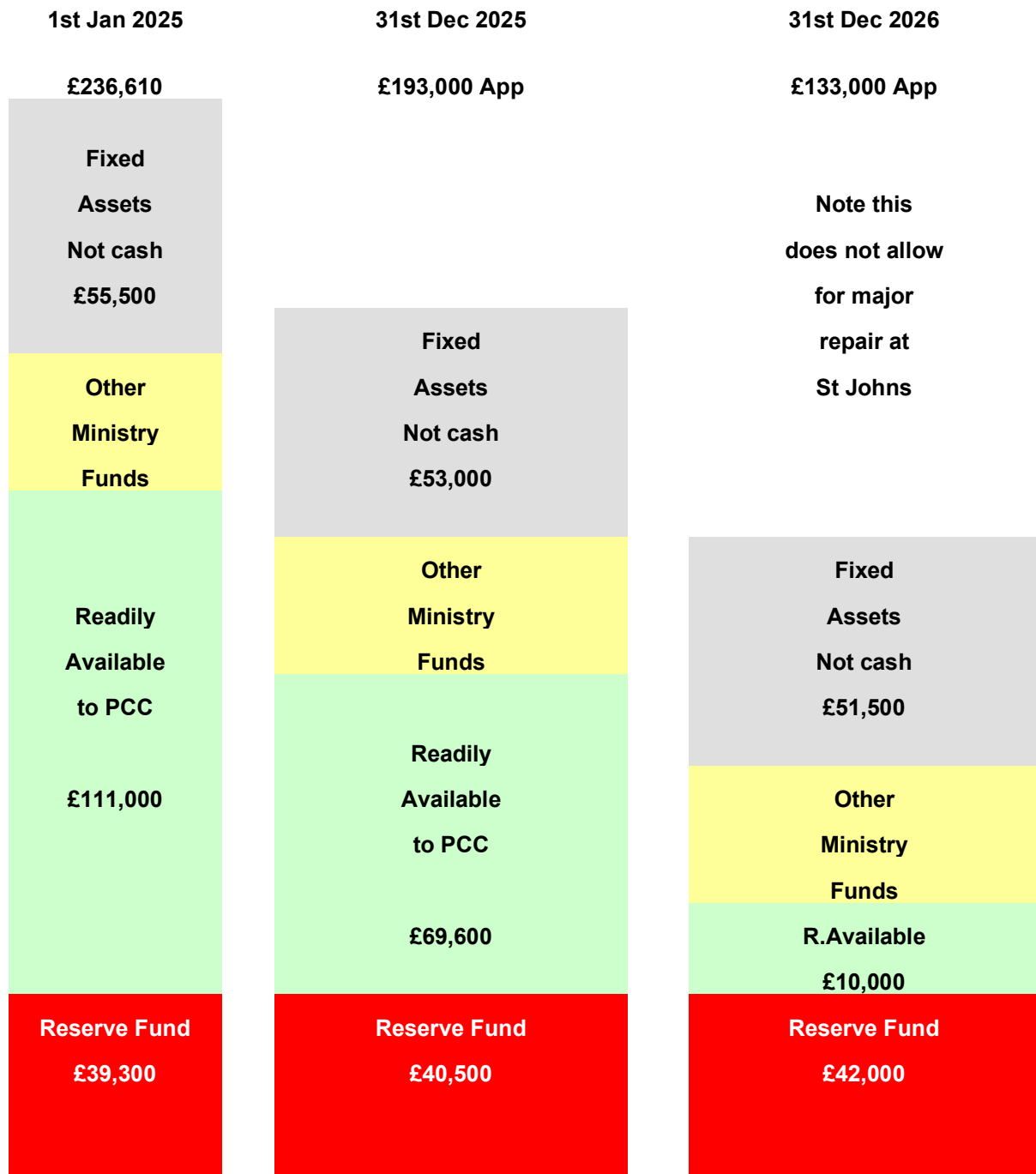
In general, we are content that we are managing risks within reasonable bounds: we have identified the potential risks above as being important to us and they are considered, along with means of their mitigation, in PCC meetings.

FINANCES

Our finances have been soundly managed for many years and we are grateful to God, the generosity of our congregations and the stewardship of our treasurers. We have always paid our parish share to date and we retain reserves sufficient to meet emergencies such as redundancy payments for our employed staff.

However, a quick glance at the bar charts below shows a sharp projected decline in money available for ministry. This is because two years ago, the PCC took the decision to employ an associate minister, working in particular with people aged 14 – 18. The PCC was aware that we could pay for this by spending our reserves. This could last for four years but no further. The decision was taken in faith and after prayer and reflects something of our commitment to addressing the decline in the 14-29 age range in our congregations.

However, we are neither complacent nor in denial about our finances. We have recently established a working group to look at fund raising and finding the best ways to maintain our buildings in particular, since there are more funds available for such purposes outside the church.



Notes

- Fixed assets - Largely Car park at St Johns £44k with fittings and equipment valued on a depreciating basis
- These are funds in other ministries largely Top up Shop and Taste Café - that would not usually be used for General Church Use
- This is the total of the money available to the PCC without dipping into the Reserve Fund which is set aside to cover redundancy arrangements
- The Reserve Fund is set as a warning marker - if you go below this you will not be able to cover statutory notice and redundancy payments

OUR BUILDINGS

St John's



The current building dates from 1899, replacing an earlier, smaller Victorian construction which occupied what is now the church car park(!).

The church can seat up to about 450. The last quinquennial inspection was carried out in November 2024 and the works identified within the inspection report are currently being progressed.

In 1998 a two storey hall extension was opened which is used extensively both by church and external groups. It contains the church office, and two other spaces were added in the loft space in 2006 for use by staff. The ground floor is used by Noah's Ark Pre-school every day. The many rooms are used for meetings, a crèche on Sunday and for all the children's groups.

The hall is used for various church activities both at lunchtimes and evenings and is often booked out by other organisations.

St Andrew's



The church buildings at St Andrew's comprise three main areas. The main worship area was built in the 1980s and can seat 200-300 people. There is a baptistry pool under the front dais. The church lounge was the original church building and has a coffee bar and tables for seating. There are 4 rooms off the church lounge: these are the MIE office, a store, the youth room and the store for the Sunday club and Cruizers equipment. There is a small chapel between the lounge and main worship area that was the original chancel. The third main area is the hall that has a large open area, additional storage rooms and the church kitchen is connected to the hall by a serving hatch.

The last quinquennial inspection was carried out in April 2022 and the works identified within the inspection report are being progressed before the next inspection, due next year!

St Andrews church is set back from Britannia Road and has a car park that can accommodate around 25 cars. Local residents use the car park (with permits) and the car park is often used by parents dropping off children at the next door Britannia Primary School.

The Vicarage

The vicarage is a large, detached house, built in 1926, set in the church grounds of St John's with a parking area and a private garden with a patio area. On the ground floor the house has two reception rooms, a study, cloakroom, kitchen dining room and utility room. Upstairs there are five bedrooms, a bathroom and a shower room. The house has gas central heating. The diocese has undertaken to refurbish and redecorate the vicarage during the vacancy and is currently doing so!



Thank you for reading our profile!

We want you to know that we are praying for all who read this, that the Lord will give you the gifts of teaching, evangelism, leadership, administration and wisdom: wisdom in understanding the bible, in relating to people, in working effectively and productively and in strategy and administration. We pray that He would increase your trust in His sovereign rule, grace and wisdom.

We are looking forward to being led by someone who will feed us, protect us and lead us on in making disciples of others!