THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Lowestoft
St Andrew and St Peter and St John **Kirkley**





Transformed by Christ: **Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic**

Parish Profile 2026

What we're looking for

We are seeking two priests to lead, love, and serve the parishes of Lowestoft St Andrew and St Peter and St John Kirkley.

We hope for people who will be a visible and faithful presence in both the churches and community.

Our new priests will help us continue to grow in depth and impact as well as in numbers and to be churches that are not just present on Sundays but woven into everyday life in Roman Hill and Kirkley.

Specifically, we are praying for priests that will:

- Be prayerful in discerning God's leading
- Foster positive relationships between the parishes, within the churches and outside to the communities we serve
- Be able to relate to people of all ages and abilities
- Develop our spirituality and to help us grow in our understanding of God's word.
- Inspire us and work with us to reach out with the love and good news of Jesus.

Safeguarding

We are committed to promoting a safe environment and culture for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy we work towards:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

We have Parish Safeguarding Officers in post in both churches, and we are committed to safeguarding practices as moral and theological principles, not just compliance.

Clergy Wellbeing

We recognise the importance of wellbeing and sustainability in ministry

We are committed to supporting healthy boundaries, encouraging work-life balance, and creating an environment where our priests can thrive.

We will work with our clergy to take regular time off, holidays and retreats. The ministry team regularly meet and check in with each other, providing support and ensuring no one is overloaded. We recognise that those in ministry, ordained and lay, are at higher risk of burnout and exhaustion and will seek to build a sustainable rhythm modelled on Jesus. We will reimburse clergy expenses.

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We strive to be a safe church for all, and you can find our safeguarding policy here: **www.dioceseofnorwich.org/safeguarding**

Who are we?

Lowestoft St Andrew

We are 'broadly evangelical'

- open to the ordained ministry of both women and men;
- open to new patterns of worship, prayer and liturgy:
- open to the shared ministry of both lay and ordained;
- open to the teaching of Scripture;
- and with the desire to be open to the leading of the Spirit of God

Strengths

- A friendly, caring and supportive congregation.
- An LLM and three AWAs.
- Offer Zoom so those unable to physically attend can join in worship.
- Liturgy and hymns are projected.
- Various pre-evangelism activities including dramatized school assemblies, and Christingle.

Current Challenges

- We have contact with children via Parent & Tots, Guiding Groups and through school assemblies, but currently do not have a thriving Sunday School or midweek activity with Christian input.
- We would like to encourage people to come together regularly for Bible study and make prayer a higher priority in our church life.
- Although we have good relationships with people in the community, we do not have any programme for evangelism.
- People work well together for one-off events, but we have difficulty getting people to commit to volunteering on a regular basis.
- Replacing the damp proof course in the central area and the hall. Renewing the heating system.

Opportunities

- The above challenges are also opportunities for growth.
- The current economic climate and increased deprivation gives us the opportunity to get involved with the local Foodbank and look at possible money management initiatives.
- Work with children and young people using links with the Primary School 4 – 11-year-olds.
- Caring for the ageing congregation and those who are no longer able to get to church, building relationships with the staff and residents at Britten Court Care Home.
- Using the links we have with the community through groups and occasional services to share the Good News.
- The parish is becoming less Christian. Young families are constantly on the move because of six-monthly property lets.

Lowestoft

Lowestoft is Britain's most easterly town, known for its wide sandy beaches, restored seafront, and growing reputation as a centre for renewable energy and coastal regeneration. The town sits at the southern gateway to the Norfolk Broads and is surrounded by rich agricultural land.

Over the past decade, Lowestoft has undergone significant transformation.



Major investment through the Lowestoft Town Investment Plan and other regeneration programmes continues to reshape the town with Lowestoft receiving £24.9million from the UK Government's "Levelling Up" scheme (now known as Towns Fund) and THE PROPOSED £20million over the next 10 years (2026-2036) as part of the UK Government's "Pride of Place" scheme (which the Roman Hill area is a key part of). Future nearby development includes a new housing estate on the former Jeld Wen factory site on the south side of the river (planning permission for 500 homes was granted in November 2025).

The town's economy has diversified well beyond its fishing heritage. Key employers now include OrbisEnergy and a growing cluster of offshore wind and renewable energy companies, CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science), Birds Eye, and a wide range of service, retail, and tourism businesses. While some areas still experience higher-than-average deprivation, the long-term outlook is increasingly positive, with new jobs, improved transport links, and significant inward investment

The parish of St Andrew's

St Andrew's, Roman Hill is to the west of the town centre.

In the last twenty years we have completed two major projects at our premises; creating a community garden and refurbishing and extending the building which has given us an accessible building to be used by a range of church and outside groups, making us a natural hub in the local community.

We believe that God's provision of the garden and refurbished building is a part of a greater plan He has for Roman Hill and St Andrew's. We are looking to our new Vicar to help us discern God's way forward and walk with us as we again step out in faith. We are committed to social care and look for a lead in evangelism.

There are plenty of challenges and opportunities, and although we are currently a small congregation, we know the Lord is at work and we are poised to go forward under fresh leadership.

The History of St Andrew's

In November 1902 the "tin tabernacle" of the original St Andrew's Church was built and dedicated, at the initiative of the Rector of St Margaret's.

It was built to house the church which had already been planted in the new fishing community of Roman Hill and to enable that church to reach and serve that community with the Gospel.

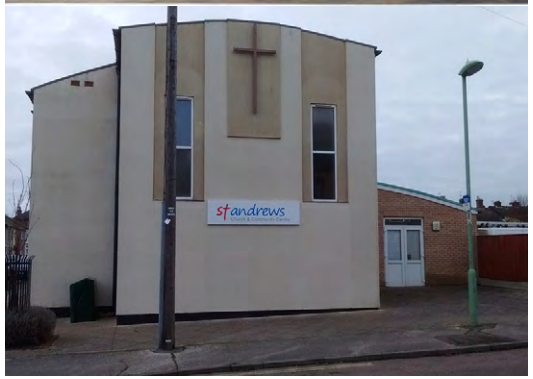
The building was replaced in 1934 by the current one. The hall was added in the early '60s as an adjunct to the church, to provide better community facilities.

Following the alterations in 2010 the overall state of the building is good however the alterations have subsequently highlighted a problem in the central area that connects the worship area to the hall. We have discovered that the damp proof course laid in the 1960's in this area and the hall is failing. The total cost of the work necessary to rectify this problem is in the region of £50,000. Inevitably after 15 years, mechanical items need replacing and the building is becoming in need of decoration. We are also in the process of replacing the heating boiler.









Worship

Our usual pattern of services is:

First Sunday	**10am Holy Communion**
Other Sundays	**10am Morning Worship (Common Worship)**

We have an average Sunday attendance of 30 adults, the majority of whom are 50+ years and two or three children.

Amongst the special services we have had:

- Christingle with the Guiding groups that meet in the building.
- Christmas and Easter dramatized assemblies in the church.
- Carols by Lantern Light and Crib Service.
- Family Service followed by lunch.
- Maundy Thursday Supper.
- Garden Service and barbeque.
- Evening Quiet Prayer.

In the last two years we have had:

0 Thanksgiving for the birth of a child services.
2 Baptisms one of which was an adult.
3 Weddings.
0 Marriage blessings after a civil service
11 Funerals, most of which were held at a Crematorium.

We are fortunate to have two organists. We are also accustomed to using recorded organ music downloaded from the Small Church Music website and adjusted if necessary.
www.smallchurchmusic.com or projected video recorded worship.

Non-Eucharistic services are led by clergy wearing a clerical shirt and collar, at Communion services the celebrant wears cassock and surplice or cassock alb, with scarf or, on occasions stole.

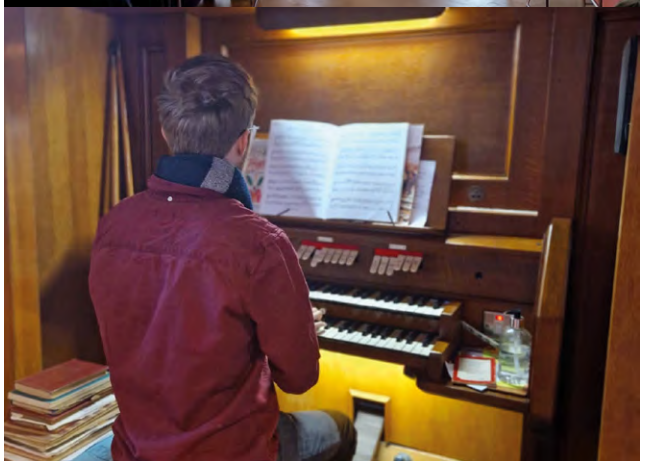
We have a monthly rota for people who read lessons and lead prayers, administer communion and work with children on a Sunday morning.

The PCC meets when required usually 5 or 6 times per year, we try to avoid meetings in August and December. The PCC currently consists of five elected PCC members, one Deanery Synod representative and two churchwardens.

The local Deanery Chapter is friendly and supportive, and we have good links with neighbouring clergy.







Activities taking place at St Andrew's or that we are involved in

Run by Church members

Monday Club (social group)
Garden Group
Coffee Mornings
Parent and Tots

Run in close partnership with the Church

Rainbows
Brownies
Guides

Run by agencies and groups

Cocaine Anonymous
Suffolk Befriending
Slimming World
Carers Support Group
Local and General Elections
Children's birthday parties
Woodcraft Folk









The Vicarage

The proposed Vicarage is in Monckton Crescent, Lowestoft.

It is currently being purchased. Unusually it is not in the parish but just over the boundary in the parish of St Margaret. We are confident that it will be a very good home for the new incumbent and would be a good family home. It is still less than 20 minutes' walk to the Church.

It is worth noting that there is also office space at St Andrew's Church.







Finances at St Andrews

The 2025 Accounts show the following activity in the general account:

Total Income	£35,040
Total Expenditure	£32,528

Income

Giving	£19,588
Tax Refund	£3,263
From Groups using the building	£8,700
Grants	£1,366
Other	£2,123

Expenditure

Outside Giving	£(258)*
Parish Share	£12,000
Lght, Ht, Wtr, Ins, Tel.	£8,679
Gen. R & R	£7,489
Printing & Publicity	£502
Cleaning	£1,897
Clergy Expenses	£283
Other	£1,936

We currently have 21 planned givers, five of whom are taxpayers.

Any out of pocket "business" expenses are met in full. Car mileage allowance is paid as per the Diocesan rate.

*£2,493 was written back into the accounts. This money had been set aside to give to CMS when we had chosen a Mission Partner.

Kirkley St Peter and St John

We want to be a church that is deeply rooted in God's love and fully engaged in the life of our community.
A church where:

- Faith is lived out authentically in everyday life
- People feel welcomed, valued, and included no matter who they are
- Worship invites us to enter into the power and beauty of God
- The church is a visible, trusted, and active presence in Kirkley

We are committed to being a church that is not just gathered, but sent, sharing hope, building connection, and serving our community with love.

What is the task?

- Leading worship and sustaining the sacramental life of the church
- Supporting and developing lay leadership, participation and vocations
- Helping the church navigate change in a thoughtful and collaborative way
- Developing the potential of St Peter and St John's as a community hub, used for arts, culture, heritage, community activity and support as well as worship
- Leading a team offering pastoral care across a wide and varied community
- Develop our social action focus, building on the work of the Pantry and other initiatives, working with partners to tackle inequality, division and other things that prevent people in our community from living life to the full.
- Engaging with local organisations, schools, and community groups
- Helping to navigate the challenges that come with a beautiful church building in need of TLC whilst maintaining the balance between focus on physical assets and people

Who are we looking for?

We are seeking a priest who brings a deep and honest faith, rooted in prayer, shaped by Scripture, and expressed in the way they live, build relationships, and serve others. They will be able to speak about God with confidence and authenticity, while remaining open, reflective, and willing to engage with complexity and questions.

We are praying for someone who will bring a natural energy and sense of joy to their ministry, helping to foster a welcoming and hopeful church community. This isn't about constant activity or relentless enthusiasm, but a steady and life-giving presence. They will be approachable and adaptable, able to respond to the varied and sometimes unpredictable demands of parish life.

We are looking for someone who communicates with compassion and clarity, who listens well, engages thoughtfully, and is not afraid of big questions or deep conversations. We laugh often and rarely stand on ceremony, so a sense of humour and warmth will help them connect with others and put people at ease.

Our new priest will need to be deeply community focused, committed to building genuine, relationships within the parish and beyond. They will take an interest in the life of the wider community, loving and valuing people of all ages and walks of life, including children and families and invest in community wide initiatives led by others.

Finally, we are praying that our new priests will offer collaborative and wise leadership, working alongside others rather than acting alone. They will help nurture healthy change, encourage shared ownership, and support the continued journey of the church and its place in the community.

Location

The Parish

Kirkley is a vibrant and distinctive part of the seaside town of Lowestoft, situated on the Suffolk coast within the Diocese of Norwich. Located to the south of Lake Lothing, it has a strong local identity shaped by its coastal setting, historic roots, and resilient community spirit.

Kirkley sits within the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods nationally, with one area within the top 1% for deprivation. This brings into sharp focus the significant inequalities experienced by our many residents. Life expectancy is lower than the national average, and people are more likely to live with long-term health conditions, poor mental health, and the cumulative impact of poverty.

Kirkley isn't defined by its challenges. It has a rich heritage, a community with a strong sense of local pride, creativity, and mutual support, with many grassroots groups, community initiatives, and informal networks working to improve lives and strengthen connection.

The area is also undergoing gradual regeneration, with investment in housing, public spaces, local infrastructure and community programmes.



Our Schools

There are no church schools within the parish, but we have a strong connection with the two community schools, Red Oak Primary and Phoenix St Peter Academy.

There is also a secondary school, East Point Academy, with whom we would like to develop a relationship.

Our Children and Families Worker (currently voluntary) takes regular assembles and the children often visit the church and take part in church activities such as our recent Christmas Tree Festival.

There is no requirement for the new priest to be a school governor, though of course they may discern it as a missional opportunity.



Sundays with Us

Our Sunday worship is rooted in a sacramental and broadly traditional style.

We use Common Worship Order One as the basis of all services but shaped to the season and congregation. We regularly use resources such as New Patterns for Worship, churches across the world and modern liturgists, in line with canon law. We often use incense and bells as we believe that using our senses helps us to notice the presence of God and make holy moments more tangible. We robe for most services and process, usually with a crucifer and acolytes.

We meet at 10.30am every Sunday, the pattern is currently two or three Sundays a month Holy Communion with our PTO priest (soon to be licenced as SSM Associate). The rest of the month the services are led by one of our 5 AWAs.

We have a very talented organist who plays for the majority of services, and we have a blended selection of music, from the very traditional to more modern. We have a large traditional pipe organ, an electric organ, a piano and a harpsichord, all of which are used for worship at times. We have a small choir of 4-5 people that sing.

Lay people are involved in the serving party, reading, intercessions and on occasion preaching and leading with others.

We meet after the service for refreshments; most people stay on.

The congregation is small but intergenerational and friendly. Sundays vary from 20 to 35 people. There are generally at least two or three children and two teenagers at most services.

We occasionally join with other churches from across the Deanery for special occasions.

We value:

- A respect for the sacraments
- Thoughtful and engaging preaching
- Worship that is inclusive and accessible
- Opportunities for people to participate and belong

As is often the case, there are some of us in the church family that prefer traditional worship and some that are keen to adapt to changing times. We are praying for someone to guide us on that journey, not seeking to please everyone all the time, but listening and understanding the context with compassion and leading us to where God is calling us.

Service Figures for 2024/5

2 Baptisms
5 Weddings
6 Funerals (3 were held at the Waveney Crematorium)

During the week

In the church

- The church is open three days a week (Wednesday, Friday and Sunday).
- There is a service of compline most Wednesday evenings. This is currently lay led.
- There is no current pattern of daily prayer due to the vacancy but there has been in the past.

In the hall

Kirkley Pantry, a social supermarket that provides food on a subscription basis, wraparound support and companionship on a weekly basis. Roots 'n' Wings hold after school SEN wind down sessions, EHCP/DLA support and advice services, and a parent support group. The Autistic Girls Network hold craft sessions as well. Kirkley Ladies Group (not church affiliated) meet fortnightly. The Church Hall is also used for private bookings, and by East Suffolk Council for use as a polling station. We are in the process of potentially becoming a venue for Food in the School Holidays, pending volunteer help.

Finances at Kirkley St Peter and St John

The parish itself, while able to pay all bills, the Parish Share having to be paid from money held in trust by the Diocesan Board of Finance, is in quite a fragile position in terms of income.

There is a need and desire to increase the amount of income that is received, but this will need to come from other streams. People are giving what they can, but many are on fixed incomes and cannot always afford to increase.

Kirkley Pantry has a separate bank account which is administered by the PCC Treasurer, however it is fully self-sufficient and to a operates with autonomy.

Parish reserves are held with CCLA and there is a policy in place with regard to not letting them drop below £10,000.

The 2025 accounts for the Church show the following:

Income	
Giving (planned, one-off and collections)	£12,065
Gift Aid	£685
Donations	£2,437
Fundraising	£4,750
Church Bookings	£1,310
Church Hall bookings/usage	£3,118
Payments from money held by DBF	£43,000
Other Income	£2,471
Total Income	**£69,836**

Expenditure	
Parish Share	£17,500
Church Running Costs	£19,426
Church Roof Repairs	£11,625
Church Hall Running Costs	£10,327
Works to Organ	£18,325
Other Expenses	£1,788
Total Expenditure	**£78,991**

What we can offer

Ministry Team

- Two churchwardens with strong knowledge of the fabric, liturgical life and community. One also acts as sacristan.
- Five Authorised Worship Assistants.
- An organist and informal musical director. She is also the children, families and schools lead (on a voluntary basis, we would love to make this a paid position and are exploring funding opportunities).
- One priest colleague (currently PTO, soon to be SSM Associate).
- A team of people regularly volunteering on the serving party.

Wider Support

A genuinely friendly and supportive Deanery Chapter. Chapter meets regularly for prayer, discussion, lunch and the occasional canoeing trip!

Regular Diocesan training and events to support and equip ministers.

A Parish Support Team available to support and guide you in areas including church buildings, safeguarding, children youth and families work, communications and marketing, generous giving and finance.

The Vicarage

Currently there is no house for the Assistant Priest. Details of the Vicarage for the new full time Rector are given earlier.

Thank you

Thank you for reading our profile.
We are praying for our new priests
and look forward to meeting you.

Helpful links

Diocese of Norwich

www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Church of England

www.churchofengland.org

Living and working in Norfolk – Norfolk County Council

www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-volunteering/living- and-working-in-norfolk





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Diocese of Norwich

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