



St Lawrence's Church, Eastcote

...seeking to move onwards in faith and outwards in love...

Parish and Church Profile

Eastcote and its environment.

Eastcote is a leafy suburb on London's north-west edge, in the borough of Hillingdon. Originally a small village, it developed in the 1930's as the Metropolitan line was extended. It retains strong elements of village with the cricket pitch, village pub and community feel; but it is unmistakably metropolitan with its central parade of shops and restaurants, two large secondary schools, ethnic mix and work pattern.

The Parish Community

The population is around 23,000; largely white British with 10% being Indian and Hindu. Many residents work in central London or further afield and unemployment is well below that of London and the UK; however, the 2011 census showed 13% of children in Eastcote are classed as living in poverty. Housing is 75% owner occupied; most is 1930's semi-detached, the rest being mainly maisonettes and flats built in the 1970's and 2000's.

Church, Land and Buildings

The building is a 1930's construction in good order set in two acres of grounds which also hold the hall and rooms, the parish centre, the scout hut and a small piece of woodland. After a review of premises, we have a good baseline from which to proceed, with the completion of the parish Mission Action Plan.

The Church

We represent a range of social backgrounds and ethnic diversity, with a wide age range. The electoral roll stands at 290; in worship, the Sunday 8 am averages 25 adults and the 10 am, 95 adults and 30 children. Under-represented are the teens and twenties. We are an open Anglo-Catholic tradition, using Common Worship flexibly; musically we are starting to include modern writers and a music group has developed as we have developed a once a month All Age Saturday evening Eucharist.

We have an active and varied programme across the church. Many are involved in the Cursillo movement; we've been a pilot church in the diocese exploring how we enable people to be Ambassadors for Christ; and we have also run successful nurture courses for a number of years, the last two being Alpha.

Youth and Children's Work at St Lawrence's

More than sixty children participate directly in the life of the church, many in the key age range of 9-12. There are also around twenty aged 13+ linked by family and past participation. St Lawrence has a long history of youth and children's work - Sunday schools, youth groups and holiday clubs, and historically toddler and preschool groups and drama groups. Community links have been built on: strengthening the relationship with the 200 Guides and Scouts; building better links with primary schools at Newnham and Coteford and the Bishop Ramsey School; we have also begun talking with Coteford Children's Centre and the Family Centred Network.

Mission Action Plan (see separate document)

In 2015, we completed a review of purpose and values and worked together to discern God's vision. As a result, we are planning this year a complete review of our welcome, hospitality and fellowship ministry - the Ministry Team have already been exploring the potential of home groups, and pilot groups are being started with a view to developing a home group network. The monthly Saturday evening eucharist for All Ages is successful and we are looking to increase its frequency. May 2016 will see the launch a youth group for age 10+; PCC will be taking on the project of developing the prayer life of the church which is one of the key parts of the parish vision and it is well into its own review of leadership and governance so that we and the various ministry committees and teams can work more effectively.