

Eastbury Church 2019

We're so glad you may be interested in the ministry and outreach at Eastbury Church. We are part of Emmanuel Parish, and are transitioning into a new exciting era of missional work, in this area which sits just at the edge of London, in the Hertfordshire. This profile will help you understand more about the missional community at Eastbury and the role you might be able to play to take us forward.

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Please also refer to the **Annual Reports 2017, 2018**, with financial information and other activity reported.

WHO WE ARE

Our mission and vision

Eastbury Church is to be “**a family church working with the local community**”. ‘With’ has been an important word, as we have sought to work alongside those in our neighbourhood, and especially the School, the Northwood Headquarters and local residents’ organisation.

During the past year, Eastbury Church has been seeking greater integration with our parish church of Emmanuel Northwood. A Steering Group was set up to help guide our way into the future, and they have been in discussion with the leadership of Emmanuel. This caused us to re-address our identity and vision as a local congregation. We came to recognise that we bear four defining characteristics of modern missional communities outlined by the Diocese of London:

- being family,
- being missional,
- growing as disciples of Jesus, and
- being rooted in our local context of Eastbury.

The **2018 Annual report**, written in March 2019 gives an up-to-date picture of Eastbury’s purpose and activities and is the *best place to start*. We see our purpose as fully aligned with the recently introduced vision for Emmanuel Parish, of growing ‘Deeper, Wider, Younger’.

Our history and the local community

Eastbury Church was set up when, in 1993, after a few people began praying on a regular basis, and in 1994 a children’s Holiday Club was run, and occasional events. The Church has always been linked with Emmanuel Church, though not a ‘plant’ as such. The prayer became a monthly service, then weekly, and since 1997 there has been a regular Sunday morning service. A Light Party, and annual Holiday Club were popular - the latter continues and was run in April this year.

Relationships with the School have always been good, members of the church have been Governors in the past. In 2015 we were invited for the first time to run an afterschool club, which we called Lionheart Club. About 20 children come on a weekly basis, and the church volunteers regularly meet parents/carers. The numbers of children have grown considerably, and we need more volunteers.

Demographic change in the area has seen the local family environment change. Many of the children in the school now come from nearby South Oxhey, and in the local area we have a growing Asian population, as well as elderly residents who had families growing up in the area and move away.

Our Fellowship

We say we are a family church, and we see this both as welcoming to people of all ages, and working together as an extended family. Pastoral work goes hand in hand with equipping for mission, and there is a great sense of actively supporting one another, both in personal needs, and in our daily lives and work with others. Small groups are essential, and we work to see that everyone is supported.

Our Leadership

Eastbury Church was established with a Constitution, under the auspices of Emmanuel PCC. Broadly, this identifies the governance as being lead by a Minister, with an elected Leadership Team. We have operated like this since 1999, with two periods of interregnum, and had an elected Leadership Team under our most recent Minister, Helen Wilkinson.

In 2017, Helen lead a period of thinking about the future shape of Eastbury Church, and in particular how we build on the incarnational mission that Eastbury had established. She set up a Steering Group to consider the future.

Also in 2017, just after the Steering Group was set up, there was an interregnum at Emmanuel Church. Ideas were pursued, but we awaited the appointment of a new Vicar, as we wanted to create a plan which integrated with the vision of a new incumbent. Tim Meathrel was inducted as the new Vicar in September 2018, and the Steering Group has been working with him.

Today, the Steering Group is now leading the church in practical terms, whilst we identify a future leadership structure.

BEING MISSIONAL

The 2018 Annual Report identifies some of the key areas of our connections with the community, which are explained more fully below. Some of this work has grown from time spent in awaydays and prayer thinking through *how* we connect, and how we make ourselves relevant to the community.

Eastbury Farm School

- Weekly Lionheart after school club, which is very popular
- Annual Holiday Club with ~40-60 children, led by a team from Operation Mobilisation, and used as a springboard for whole-community engagement with a cafe, events in the care homes, and special Sunday service
- At Christmas, we invite the school choir and head pupils to contribute. The invitation is welcomed, and strengthens the links
- EFSA (Eastbury Farm School Association) - when they run a summer fair or other events, we are invited to support with an Eastbury activity such as face-painting. Another opportunity to be visible and make connections!

Residents Association and local Councillors

Remembrance Service brings in many local visitors – Base, Patch, council, school, residents associations, faith groups. Rather wonderfully, this took off at their invitation - the local Councillor a few years ago approached us to run a Remembrance Day Service for the community. The outdoor service in Northwood is not really on the local patch. We have been running the service for a few years, and have about 12-15 groups who lay wreaths.

Nato Base

We count it as a great privilege to be situated so close to the Northwood Headquarters, which is the headquarters for the three services of the armed forces, with housing for service people being a significant component of the residents in our area. Links have been pursued over many years:

- There has been regular Door to door visiting on the Patch for Remembrance, Christmas and Holiday Club
- Rev Helen Wilkinson became Officiating Chaplain to the Military, taking some services of Holy Communion on site.

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- Involvement and links with chaplaincy team at the Base include a joint service of Midnight Holy Communion for Christmas Eve between St Christopher's and Eastbury
 - Military Wives Prayer Group and prayer and support for families on the Patch and in the local area

And we highly appreciate having military people with us, even if for a short time. In 2018, due to our links, we raised £3000 for refurbishment of a 'Rest' room in Cyprus for military personnel passing through - it is called the Eastbury Room!

Eastbury Estate

- Links with Residents' Association who are looking to re-develop the site around the
- school for community purposes
- Close relational working with councillors and people of other faiths
- Monthly Community Coffee mornings – aimed mainly at older people in the area
- Regular prayer for all residents, and leafleting

Mission Partners

- Dan Le, who came to Eastbury as a PhD Student at LST, and then joined his family who are pastors in Vietnam. Amid persecution, Dan runs training for student pastors. Eastbury Church is his sole support body, as far as we know.
- David Morgan and his family, working with Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Daniel and Helen Chae, who lead Amnos Ministries, which runs a Church Planting School. Daniel was the first pastor of Eastbury Church

TEACHING, LEARNING AND GROWING

Worship

Our services are on a Sunday at 10.00am, with songs, teaching and prayer.

We love to encourage creativity and opportunities to do things a little differently. Most commonly this is through different approaches to prayer.

Prayer

Prayer underpins all we do, and we have been blessed with faithful pray-ers over many years.

We pray in our small groups, in our corporate worship, monthly one evening, and have special prayer days once a term. We have a prayer-chain for urgent needs, and there are some 2's and 3's who meet to pray regularly as well. A few people gather to pray before the service each Sunday.

Small groups

Our small groups are vital. We work to see that everyone who wishes to be, is in a small group, and that there are a variety of times and styles to cater for different preferences and needs.

Student placements from London School of Theology

We usually have one or two students on placement from LST (London School of Theology). This is a real blessing, and there are opportunities to grow the link. One of the great things about being a small church, is that those who are in training can preach or exercise other gifts and the fellowship appreciate it so greatly and much love is extended to them.

NEW HORIZONS

Parish Integration

Eastbury has operated with its own constitution and funding, but this is under review. There are great benefits to being able to 'do church' a little differently and the freedom is important if we are to keep this going. However, the church has run too separately, and we look forward to a new model where we have greater links, whilst keeping the missional model that we have.

Opportunities

Our opportunities are considerable. We have this bridgehead established in the local community - we have meaningful links, and are visible.

We are exploring new ways of connecting and serving, such as

- Building on links with 'Live at Home' to reach the elderly and isolated
- New ways of doing 'door to door' work to reach people with the gospel

REFERENCE

Finding us

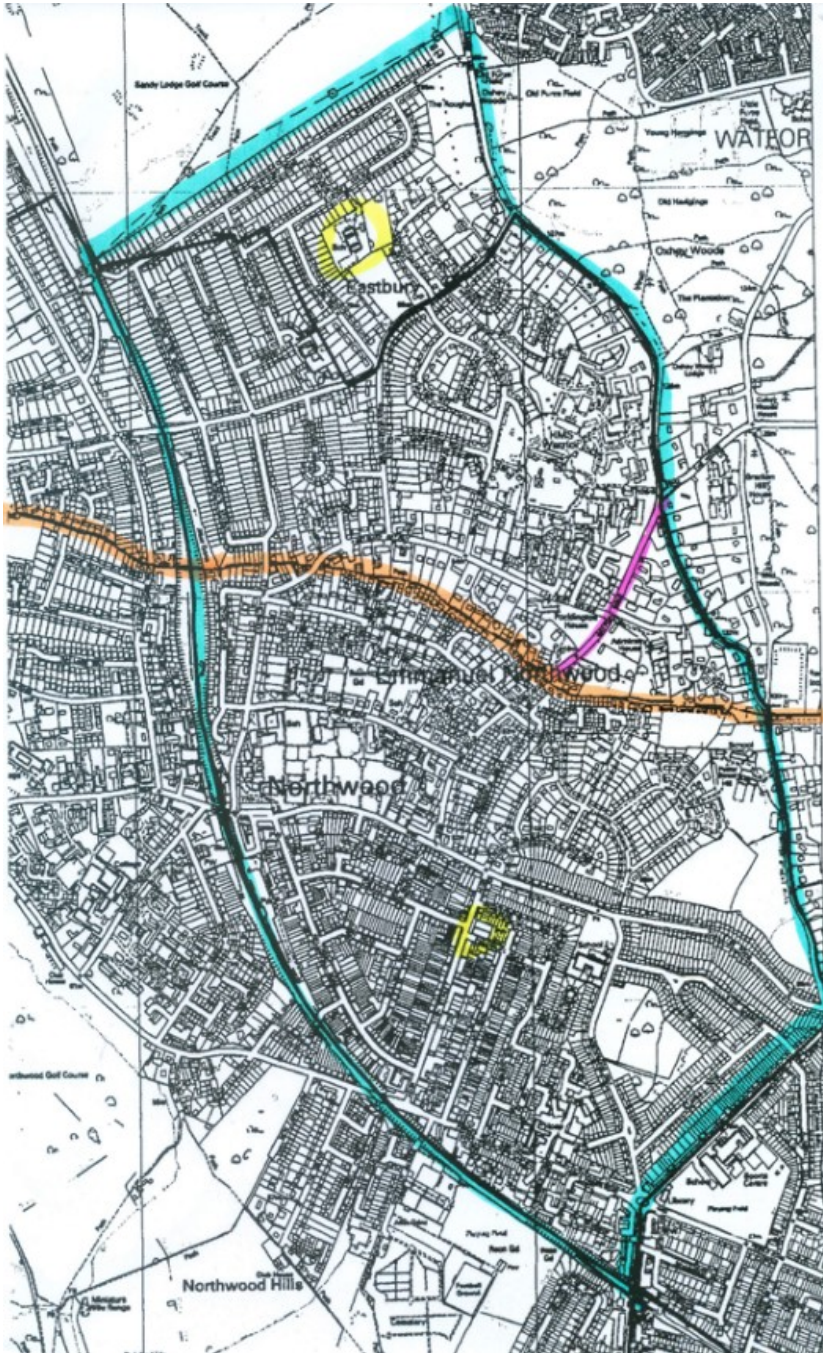


54 Rofant Road

Eastbury Farm School

Map of the Parish

The area north of the orange line was not originally in Emmanuel Parish, but the boundary was moved by the Diocese, when Eastbury Church was established. Today Emmanuel Parish is the area within the blue line. The Yellow highlights are Emmanuel Church (south area) and Eastbury Church in the school (north area).



Eastbury Church Northwood Trust

Although Eastbury Church's accounts are consolidated with those of ECN, there is a separate independent charitable trust, the Eastbury Church Northwood Trust (ECNT) (registered number 1082065). All the (five) trustees are members of Eastbury Church.

The main purposes of ECNT are to hold and administer 54 Rofant Road (the AV's house – see page 13) and to act as a tax efficient vehicle for regular donations. All money received is applied for the benefit of the ministry of Eastbury Church.