

ST. ANDREW'S
CHURCH
GORLESTON-ON-SEA

Our vision to promote

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



***A guide to developing relationships
with public bodies, local groups, and
residents.***



What is community engagement?

Community engagement is about working in partnership with God and with others for the common good.

As a local church, St. Andrew's has a sense of place. The church community is made up of people from local communities across the Great Yarmouth area.

Along with other churches and other agencies, both statutory and voluntary, God gives us a passion to serve our communities through prayer, practical help, and partnership.

Three of the Five Marks that outline the Church of England's understanding of mission make clear the importance of social action and engagement with the social, economic, and political structures that affect people's lives.

Those Three Marks are:

- To respond to human need by loving service.
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

What it means in practice

These starting points begin to explain our rationale for community engagement:

1. We recognise that church buildings belong to the whole community, not just to church members. This means we are open and welcoming with our physical spaces.

2. We identify what's already going on in our communities that we can support (including those run by other churches). We then simply join God in the places where God is already at work.

3. We build relationships with local influencers: they may be long-term residents, business leaders, politicians, and community leaders.

4. We seek to identify and respond to hidden hurt below the surface of our communities. What are the things people don't talk about? It may be domestic abuse, family conflict, depression, isolation, and loneliness. It may be the challenges of poverty or the challenges of wealth.

5. By getting to know the needs of our communities we seek to respond appropriately remembering that we are called not just to feed the hungry, but also to ask why the hungry have no food.

Community snapshot

Gorleston-on-Sea lies just to the south of Great Yarmouth with its own huge bay and riverside and a stunning sandy beach stretching into the distance below cliff gardens and a grand promenade.

Gorleston has an Edwardian theatre with sea-side shows throughout the year. Other attractions include a pitch and putt golf course, amusements, restaurants, pubs and cafés.

Schools in the area include Stradbook Primary Academy, Wroughton Junior and Infant Academies, and Lynn Grove Academy. The East Norfolk Sixth Form College is a popular choice for over 1,600 students.

The rate of unemployment in Gorleston-on-Sea is both higher than the average for Norfolk and higher than the national average, suggesting that finding a job in this area maybe hard.

The percentage of residents in Gorleston-on-Sea rating their health as 'very good' is less than the national average. Also, the percentage of residents in Gorleston-on-Sea rating their health as 'very bad' is more than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of Gorleston-on-Sea is generally worse than in the average person in England.

The Trussell Trust is one of the largest umbrella organisations for the provision of Foodbanks. Working in partnership with local agencies, they offer emergency food for households in crisis. A

Foodbank is running in the Gorleston area and is supported by several local churches including St. Andrew's.



Two's Company is a phone befriending service which has been set up in partnership with a

national charity - Linking Lives UK. The project aims to provide companionship to those most susceptible to isolation. St. Andrew's has a trained befriending Team working alongside several other churches.



Our Purpose

The church of St. Andrew exists to know Jesus better and to make him better known.

Our Vision

In order to achieve the kind of future we are striving for, our vision is to promote:

- **A**dventurous Mission
- **S**pirit-inspired Worship
- **C**ommunity Engagement
- **E**xtravagant Generosity
- **S**trategic Leadership
- **I**ntentional Discipleship
- **S**upportive Administration
- **F**riendly Hospitality
- **C**aring Relationships

