

Taverham Evangelical Church (TEC)

Registered Charity No. 1087197

Church Profile

The information in this profile is intended to provide prospective pastors with as clear and accurate a picture as possible of the normal life of the church and the wider local area. Please note that it does not reflect the situation under COVID-19 restrictions where most activities take place online.

We are looking to the new Pastor to review and refocus our vision, mission and ministries as they feel appropriate and God leads them.

Our vision

We are a church who loves God and loves people.

We believe in the local community and seek to be a church that demonstrates the love of God through practical ways in Taverham, Thorpe Marriott and the surrounding area.

Who we are

We are a family church (part of Assemblies of God) that loves God, loves to worship and is committed to reaching our community with the good news of Jesus.

We are one church, with weekly Sunday gatherings in Taverham Village Hall and a thriving parent and toddler group in Thorpe Marriott Village Hall. We also have a growing online presence.

We value every member of the church family and encourage individuals to develop their gifts and talents and get involved in the life of our church. We are committed to preaching and teaching the whole Word of God, believe passionately in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and in prayer.

We support local and global mission who base their work on Christian values.

Our current leadership and staff

The church was founded 30 years ago by our current Pastor, Vic Ready. He is supported by his wife, Gill, and the three members of our Church Council. Maureen Lee, who is a retired AoG minister, is a serving member of the Council.

We employ two part-time family workers, Rachel and Andrew Ward, and a part-time administrator and treasurer, Ginny Taverner.

On his retirement as leader of the church, Vic Ready will also be stepping down from the Church Council. He intends to remain a committed member of the church and is happy to serve the church under the new pastor.

We have a body ministry where all individuals are encouraged to use and develop their gifts to serve the church. From young to old, we have around six church members who lead services or preach regularly.

Our worship band

The worship style is contemporary and vibrant, with keyboard, drums, bass guitar and singers each week, led by our worship leader Anna King.

Regular ministries

We have complete use of a large village hall and associated rooms on Sundays.

Weekly

- Every Sunday, 11am at Taverham Village Hall. We begin with 35-45 minutes of Spirit-led worship, followed by prayers, notices and then around 30 minutes of preaching and teaching. Estimated attendance: 50-60
- Puddles, our parent & toddler group (0-5 years), takes place weekly during term time on Fridays at 10am in Thorpe Marriott Village Hall. Estimated attendance: 30-40

Fortnightly

- Fortnightly, on Sundays at 11.45am at Taverham Village Hall we run Kid's Church for those aged 6 and under. Estimated attendance: 6
- Four Life Groups meet either fortnightly (some weekly) during the week in people's homes and are very relaxed and friendly. They provide a great opportunity to study the Bible, discuss, chat and pray together over coffee and cake. The aim is to encourage, support and help each other to be all that we can be in God. Estimated attendance: 8-10 per group.
- Our part-time family worker, Rachel Ward, is a governor at Drayton Junior School where she heads up a team that presents Open the Book in assemblies and a lunchtime Bible Club.

Monthly

- Once a month we hold a short Sunday evening service at Oak Farm, a purpose built 38-bedded unit which provides a comprehensive service to clients recovering from acquired brain injury and neurological disorders. The service is for staff, residents and their families.
- Once a month we run Messy Church at 9.30am in Taverham Village Hall. Estimated attendance: 15-20
- Prayer Meeting

Other

- We run the Alpha course in different contexts and styles (daytime, evening, hall/home/online, Youth Alpha); in recent years courses have been held twice a year.
- Our family worker, Rachel Ward, is also involved in the Diocesan 'Filling the Gap' scheme linking schools and churches to provide food and activities to families in need during school holidays.
- SOAKED Youth is for those aged 11-16 years, and meets once or twice a term to hang out, enjoy games and activities, learn more about God and have fun together.

We also have a prayer chain.

Taverham & Thorpe Marriott

Take a look at the OS map at <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/52.67979,1.21737,14>

Approximately 5 miles north-west of Norwich, Taverham and Thorpe Marriott have a population of at least 14,000 and with increasing housing development has become part of 'Greater Norwich'.

Thorpe Marriott is a large residential development to the north of Taverham.

Taverham has two infant schools: Ghost Hill Infant & Nursery School and Nightingale First School; a private prep school: Langley Preparatory School at Taverham Hall; a junior school: Taverham Junior School which educates children between the ages of 7 and 11 years, and Taverham High School.

Drayton has similarly become part of the suburb, and it would be hard to distinguish between Taverham, Thorpe Marriott and Drayton at a glance. Drayton has an Infant & Nursery School and Junior School.

There are a variety of small shops in Taverham, and the Taverham Garden Centre has a large selection of shops (such as craft, jewellery, paper, kitchenary, pine furniture etc.).

Together Taverham and Thorpe Marriott have three village halls, a library, multiple recreational grounds, scout and guide hut, several takeaway shops and two pubs.

95% of the local population are white British, with the highest percentage aged 15-19 years old and 45-49 years old.

Local churches

TEC has good relationships with the various local churches and there is an active local 'Churches Together in Taverham, Thorpe Marriott and Drayton' group.

- St Edmund's Church of England, Taverham
- Trinity Methodist Church, Thorpe Marriott
- St Margaret's Church of England, Drayton
- Drayton Methodist Church
- Together Loving Christ, Independent Evangelical Church, Drayton

Congregation profile

- There is a real sense of God's love towards one another in our congregation
- A full range of ages
- A number of young professional couples and families
- Perhaps 30% retired
- Many committed and hard-working volunteers
- Around 80% of Sunday attendees are members

Financial position

With no church building or office the church has no major assets or debt. We have a steady income (and have had for many years) and some savings. Expenditure has been cut year-by-year and with the new pastor employed our income and expenditure are projected to remain balanced.

Our financial information can be found at:

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithoutPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1087197>

Challenges and opportunities

- To be a visible presence in the community
- Taverham High School has over 1,100 pupils but currently few links to local churches
- Re-energise and motivate our dedicated volunteers
- Many of our existing ministries were founded many years ago and we are looking to the new Pastor to review and refocus our vision, mission and ministries as they feel appropriate and God leads them.
- Forging relationships and unity with other local church ministers
- Expanding TEC's online presence.

Where do we see ourselves in 5 years' time? We want to see:

- People give their lives to Christ, and motivated members bringing people to faith
- Further connections with the community
- More children's and youth ministry, given the number of young families living in the area
- Deeper discipleship
- We want to outgrow our existing location!