

So much is going on!

Emma Andersen enjoys the enormous amount of activity at her dynamic rural church

Who are you? Emma Andersen, wife to Robin and full-time mother of two boys, as well as volunteer at church in a Families and Outreach support role.

Which church are you part of? St Peter's Church, Bishops Waltham.

Why did you start going there? We moved to the area in 2014 from a very vibrant, dynamic Anglican church in Surrey. We were looking for a similar church and when we went to our first service at St Peter's we felt very strongly that God was telling us this was a church that we could be part of.

We had been praying for a church where we could serve, and the sermon on that first Sunday was all about how we are called to serve! It was also very welcoming and it helped that our first service was Cafe Church, and our boys enjoyed the unlimited croissants!

What do you love about your church?

St Peter's is a warm, loving church and very welcoming to newcomers as well as regulars. It is a dynamic church in the middle of something amazing. We are growing in all areas, traditional and modern.

You can worship God in any style that you feel comfortable with, from Book of Common Prayer, traditional organ-led with choir to



Emma Andersen and her husband Robin

modern contemporary worship, and we still have a breakfast service - Breakfast@9 - once a month.

You are nurtured and encouraged in your gifts and faith. The rector, the Rev James Hunt, is brilliant at seeing potential in people and encouraging their growth in both personal faith and giftings. I am sure more people volunteer for things than don't.

I'm part of the St Peter's@Free Street congregation and we meet in the church hall every week for a more modern service. Everyone is welcome and made to feel like part of the family.

My sons love the weekly youth group (Group With No Name) where they have fun with friends and learn more about God and

are encouraged in their own faith. They also enjoy the children's groups during our Sunday services.

There are regular Alpha courses, parenting courses, toddler groups, Mothers' Union, ladies group, men's breakfasts and social groups. Nearly 100 people are part of home groups, where we are encouraged to grow in relationships with each other and God. Teaching is directly from the Bible and each Sunday service brings you closer to God.

St Peter's is an exciting church to be a part of, not just on a Sunday but every day of the week. There is definitely a lot going on, with God at the centre of it all. You really feel part of an everyday family, not just a once a week Sunday club.