



The Parish of Little Ilford: St Michael and All Angels with St Mary the Virgin

## Parish Profile 2025



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## 1. Executive Summary

### Parish Priest and Rector - Little Ilford

We are seeking a dedicated full-time parish priest to serve as rector in our wonderfully diverse inner-city parish. This presents an excellent opportunity to shape a meaningful role combining traditional pastoral care with community engagement, allowing your particular gifts to flourish in your priestly ministry.

### Our Worship Tradition

We combine a strong **modern Catholic** style of worship with a heartfelt commitment to **diversity and inclusivity**. We would very much welcome a priest who shares our tradition and values. We have been longstanding supporters of women's priestly ministry for many decades, and we have more recently voted to implement the Prayers of Love and Faith in our parish. We are blessed with a Musical Director who will require support and guidance, and so some musical ability would be an added bonus. We hope you will help us to develop our outward and sacramental approach to faith, enrich our worship life, and encourage our Christian witness, whilst exploring thoughtful ways to grow our congregation.

### Community Connections

We are looking for someone who values building relationships – someone who can strengthen ties with our wider community, work alongside other churches and faith groups, and support our social engagement. Your role would be to help us connect meaningfully with our neighbours.

### Creative Collaboration

We would welcome someone who brings fresh ideas and can develop innovative partnerships, particularly with the Aston-Mansfield Community Centre (AMCC), where St Michael's is located. You would help us recognise our strengths and find the best ways to use our gifts effectively.

### Pastoral Care

Our community faces genuine challenges, and we need someone with both compassion and insight to work with our most vulnerable members. You would recognise needs and look for thoughtful approaches to make a real difference. In our part of Newham you'll encounter homelessness, food poverty, addiction, and associated crime, but you'll also find a congregation and community with deep knowledge, sympathy, and willingness to love the place and its people. We're in good heart—a place of culinary and cultural riches with positive daily interactions across diverse religious and ethnic communities.

## **Building on Our Work**

We hope you will build upon the solid foundation we have established – from our excellent relationships with local schools to our important Foodbank support. You would help us strengthen these connections and explore new opportunities for community service.

## **Our Contemporary and Historic Contexts**

We are a single congregation blessed with two buildings: the modern St Michael's and All Angels on the busy Romford Road is complemented by St Mary's, our much-loved Grade One listed chapel in the heart of the parish. The two buildings are roughly half a kilometre, or one third of a mile, apart. We need someone who will value and promote both places as centres of worship and community, and who will also uphold St Mary's as a wonderful historic gem in East London, helping others to appreciate its significance.

## 2. Who Are We

### a. THE DIOCESE: A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GULI



Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse and exciting dioceses in the Church of England. We are home to more than 3 million people representing many socio-economic, ethnic and faith groups and a fantastic variety of cultures and traditions.

We have enormous opportunities for mission and service and considerable challenges to face and resolve as we continue to deal with the long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and global challenges that have a direct impact on our parish churches and the communities we serve.

My sense is that the whole Church of God is in a liminal season when we cannot clearly see the future and so don't quite know what it will look like. But we know that the Church has faced profound challenges in the past and as we look to the future we do so with faith that when we open ourselves up to being changed and transformed, we are best placed to serve God and God's people.

It is within this context and following a period of listening and discernment that started when I became Bishop of Chelmsford in 2021, that we have begun to articulate our future direction of travel as a Diocese with a focus on [travelling well together](#):

- Our purpose is to love God and to love our neighbour; to worship faithfully and empowered by the Holy Spirit, witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ as we serve the extraordinarily diverse array of local communities in Essex and East London.
- Our approach is to enable and empower parishes and worshipping communities to discern how they are to be God's people in their own very different local contexts and as part of one diocesan family.
- Underpinning our approach is an invitation to a way of being articulated by shared diocesan values which might shape how we travel together, support each other and provide mutual accountability.

Since I became Bishop of Chelmsford, I have witnessed people's great warmth and I have seen first hand, the wonderful things going on in our parishes. Any new priest joining us in the Diocese of Chelmsford does so at a time of challenge, a time of change and most significantly a time of hope for our Church in this most diverse and exciting of dioceses.

**+Guli**

**Bishop of Chelmsford**

**Find out more about our Diocesan Direction of Travel and Values:**



[www.chelmsford.anglican.org/travelling-well-together](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/travelling-well-together)



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and All Angels with St Mary the Virgin

## **b. Newham Deanery**

### **Part of the Archdeaconry of West Ham in the Episcopal Area of Barking**

#### **Where the world meets**

Newham Deanery is conterminous with the London Borough of Newham, home of the 2012 London Olympics and home to over 350,000 residents (Census 2021).

We are so large that if we were elsewhere, we would be an Archdeaconry or even a Diocese. We have 24 churches, two of which are recent plants with no building. Our growth has come through our diversity, not just in styles of worship, but in the nationalities who find a home in an Anglican Church. Newham is where the world meets, and we have stipendiary vicars from at least ten countries, including Bulgaria, Myanmar, Brazil and Jamaica. In the last year our church plants have added over 250 new members.

We have a strong chapter, and our Deanery has recently undertaken a wide-ranging listening exercise to understand more fully how God has been at work, and how churches could support each other going forward. There is a very strong lay presence within the Deanery, led ably by our Lay chair and assistant lay chair. We are keen to ensure the gifts of the whole church are explored and built up for the Kingdom of God.

If you come to Newham, expect God to do things to you and through you. We are not the last stop before retirement, we are mission-orientated and alive!

Bless you,

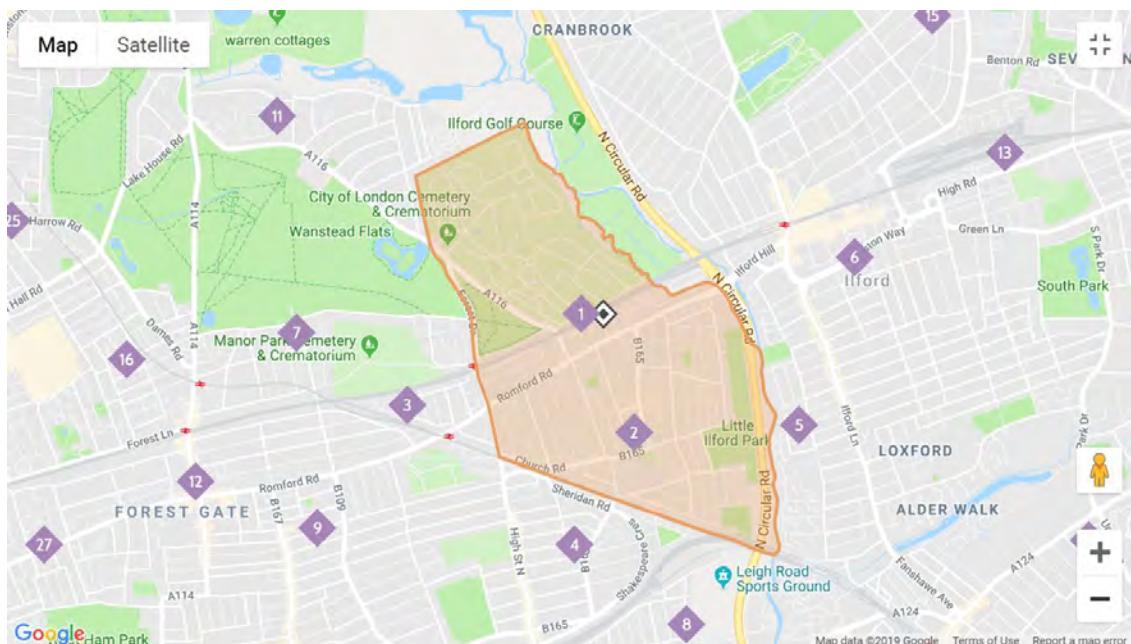
Amy Stott, Area Dean



## **c. An Introduction to our parish and wider area**

### **I. A Community with Deep Roots and Vibrant Branches**

Little Ilford is an historic district tucked into the northeast corner of the London Borough of Newham, East London. It was first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Illefort', meaning ford over the Hyle, which is a disused name for the River Roding. The wider area is now commonly known as Manor Park, a name which became increasingly popular during the extensive suburban development of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.



In the 2021 census the population of Little Ilford was 17,547. The median age of people in Little Ilford is quite young, just 32, although our congregation reflects a broad range of age groups. Just over 45% of people living in the parish were born in England, and this is reflected in the area's multicultural character. Little Ilford is home to people of many different ethnic backgrounds and faith traditions.

As part of Newham, Little Ilford faces both opportunities and challenges common to inner London communities. Although crime and antisocial behaviour can occur from time to time, the overall feel is one of friendly vibrancy and engagement. The area has ongoing regeneration projects, including a £1.2m planned regeneration of Little Ilford Park, which will include an improved children's play area, an outside gym, and a new cafe.

Housing stock includes a mix of Victorian terraces, inter-war developments, a large 1960s estate, and more recent housing. A high number of rental properties results in a fairly fluid population, drawn by the proximity of central London with its employment and cultural benefits. With its dynamic mix of long-established residents and newer arrivals, the parish offers rich opportunities for ministry that bridges different cultures and generations.

## II. A Community with Excellent Connections

Little Ilford benefits from excellent transport links to central London and beyond. Manor Park station is now part of the Elizabeth Line, a speedy east-west link that connects Essex and East London with the centre of the city, the West End and Heathrow. Stratford is only three stops away, with its considerable retail and cultural developments that have grown since the 2012 Olympics, including Sadler's Wells and V&A East. Stratford also provides a connection with HS1 to Saint Pancras for international services to Paris and Brussels. The Suffragette Line crosses the southern edge of the parish, providing links to North London. Chelmsford can be reached by rail or road in around an hour. Little Ilford is also well-served by London buses, with multiple routes connecting to various parts of East London and the wider metropolitan area. Road connectivity is comprehensive, and the A406 provides easy access to the M11 and M25.

## III. A Community with Nature on its Doorstep

One of Little Ilford's most significant features is its proximity to extensive parkland. The magnificent City of London Cemetery and Crematorium forms the northern boundary of the parish. It's a 200 acre, Grade II listed landscape offering burial and cremation facilities. The cemetery serves not only as a place of rest but as a community resource, with visitors often commenting on its park-like atmosphere and peaceful environment. Adjacent to the cemetery are Wanstead Park and Wanstead Flats, historically the southernmost tips of Epping Forest. These provide residents with access to substantial outdoor recreational opportunities.



## IV. A Community of Ancient Faith and Contemporary Witness

The parish consists of a single dedicated congregation who make use of two churches which together span over 900 years of Christian ministry.



St Mary the Virgin has been a place of prayer for local people for the best part of a millennium. Through wars, plague, pestilence and huge social change it has stood as a witness to God's love in the community. Before the stone church was built here in the 12th century, it appears to have been the site of an earlier Saxon-



Norman timber church. The church was repaired and given a side chapel (now the vestry) in the early 18th century. It is a Grade I listed building.



St Michael and All Angels is a stark architectural contrast, but perfectly complements St Mary's as a beacon for the parish community. Originally founded in the 19th Century as a mission church for the new suburbs, it was completely rebuilt in 1990 and now forms part of the [Aston-Mansfield Community Centre](#) (AMCC), formerly known as the Froud Centre. This is an important resource

for people living in the area, overseen by the Aston-Mansfield charity. The Centre houses a GP surgery and various community groups, such as an [afterschool facility](#) and school holiday programme, arts and wellness gatherings, martial arts clubs and the Safe Women's Project, part of Women on the Frontline Ministries ([wofm.org.uk](http://wofm.org.uk)). The [Greenhill Aphasia Group](#) have had a long standing relationship with the Parish, having returned to meet in the centre they would welcome our new incumbent to become Chaplin to the group as previous Rectors have.



St Michael's maintains independent areas within the Community Centre whilst sharing common space with Aston-Mansfield. An ability to value and develop the working relationship with them will be a crucial part of your role.



In addition to our Anglican churches, Little Ilford is home to a diverse range of faith communities. St Stephen's Church is the Roman Catholic parish church for Little Ilford and Manor Park, and we very much enjoyed sharing prayers with them at our Easter Vigil this year. The area also includes mosques, gurdwaras, and other places of worship, including the extraordinary Sri Murugan Hindu temple, a beautiful architectural gem in the Dravidian style of southern India. There are many exciting opportunities for interfaith dialogue and community partnership across Little Ilford and Newham.

## V. A Community of Friendship and Opportunity

Little Ilford offers a unique ministry opportunity in a historically significant yet forward-looking community. Our two churches stand as beacons of ongoing support and continuity, whilst engaging with contemporary challenges and opportunities. Whether offering quiet spaces for prayer and reflection, supporting families through life's transitions, or building bridges across cultural divides, there is meaningful work to be done in this vibrant corner of East London.

### **3 - *Gifts and Skills***

#### **a. *What We Hope You'll Bring***

##### **i. Worship Leadership**

We're seeking someone who will inspire and develop our worship life, helping us grow deeper in faith. Whilst we treasure our traditions—particularly the Eucharist and formal worship—we're genuinely open to new ideas. We're aware that our Parish Eucharist, wonderful as it is, might not be the most natural starting point for those exploring Christian faith. We'd welcome exploring additional worship opportunities alongside our established services.

We value our commitment to Morning and Evening Prayer on various days through the week, and we would be keen to be supported in this. Our Lent and Advent book groups are well attended and much appreciated.

We are delighted that two members of our congregation have gone forward to train for ordination to the priesthood in recent years, and another is training for Licensed Lay Ministry. We also enjoy close ties with Anglican religious communities. Our new rector will play a central role in nurturing the many options for ministry and vocation within the Church.

##### **ii. Community Connection**

We're looking for someone passionate about building bridges—with our local community, other churches and faith groups, and those on the margins of society. You'll find existing foundations to build upon: our foodbank work, connections at Sir John Heron and Dersingham primary schools, and relationships with the safer neighbourhood policing team. We particularly value connecting with people who might otherwise feel excluded.

##### **iii. Communication and Pastoral Care**

Clear communication and sensitivity to others' needs—especially our most vulnerable community members—are essential qualities for pastoral leadership in our parish.

##### **iv. Collaborative Partnership**

We need someone who thrives on partnership working, particularly with Aston-Mansfield and the various organisations at AMCC.

The Church works in partnership with Aston-Mansfield with our own independent areas within the Centre, whilst sharing common areas. Church volunteers have over the years been active within the centre.

The last few years have been challenging for Aston-Mansfield, which necessitated them selling another building and bringing all their staff and services together, at the Aston-Mansfield Centre. They have recently appointed a new Chair and a new Chief Executive

who takes up post in July 2025. We are looking to re-energise our relationship, as we greet a new Chief Executive, after 35 years we would like to update the partnership agreement and forge new ways of working collaboratively

#### **v. Organisational Leadership**

Strong organisational and administrative skills will help you work effectively with our churchwardens and other officers to keep our parish running smoothly and maintain our two beautiful churches.

### **b. Our Strengths—What We Bring to the Partnership**

We've spent considerable time reflecting on what makes our parish special:

**Rich Worship Tradition:** Our modern Catholic worship style centres around a sung Eucharist each Sunday, supported by a musical director and well-maintained organs in both churches. We have a dedicated team of lay supporters including choir members, servers, readers, and intercessors.

**Warm Community Spirit:** We're genuinely friendly and welcoming, with a stable core congregation that consistently embraces newcomers. We particularly pride ourselves on supporting our elderly and vulnerable parishioners.

**Generous Hearts:** We're a giving parish, actively supporting our local foodbank, Christian Aid, and Bishop's appeals. Importantly, we consistently meet our Parish Share commitments, and we maintained this even throughout the Covid pandemic.

**Beautiful Buildings:** Both our churches are well-maintained. St Mary's is a stunning 12th Century Grade I listed building, which features in London Open House weekend. We have recently replaced some of its lead roofing. Our quinquennials were held in 2025. We also own a parish flat within the AMCC, which is currently tenanted and consistently rented out at an affordable rate, plus our rectory.

**Environmental Consciousness:** We're committed to reducing our carbon footprint and being good stewards of creation and are recipients of the A Rocha Eco Church bronze award.

### **c. Where We Need Your Help to Grow**

We have assessed our areas for development:

**Parish Growth:** While we have a wonderfully stable core congregation, we haven't been successful at attracting and retaining younger families. This may partly reflect our area's high proportion of rented accommodation and transient population, but it's definitely an area that requires fresh thinking. Our minimal online presence is also something we know that needs addressing—many people now search online for places of worship.

**Children and Young People:** There's real potential to develop work with children and young people, both in worship and through our existing school connections and AMCC partnerships.

**Strengthening Partnerships:** Our relationship with Aston-Mansfield is a central part of church life at St Michael's. Building upon this relationship will be crucial, particularly with their new Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the board. We also have links with our neighbouring parishes of St Gabriel's Aldersbrook and Christ Church Wanstead, both of which share a similar worship style, but which are located outside of our Newham deanery. We have been particularly grateful for their support during our interregnum and would be keen to explore further connections and joint activities in the future. We would also be keen to build additional links within the deanery, particularly with our neighbouring parish of Saint Barnabas, Manor Park.

#### **d. Exciting Future Opportunities**

With laypeople already heavily involved in worship and day-to-day ministry, you'll have wonderful scope to develop your own specialisms alongside general parish ministry. This will partly involve engaging with the AMCC renewal, but there's room for further strings to your bow. Both our PCC and the wider Deanery are keen to explore your particular gifts and interests.

### **4. About Our Church**

#### **a. Our Worship Life**

##### **Who We Are**

We're a modest-sized congregation, but we're in wonderful spirits! We're genuinely all-age, though we don't currently have the number of children who would benefit from Sunday school—something we'd love to develop.

We pride ourselves on being an open and inclusive church, warmly welcoming people from all backgrounds. We practise open baptism and have voted to implement Prayers of Love and Faith for same-gender couples.

##### **Our Worship Style**

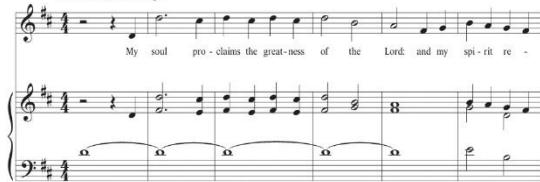
Our tradition is Modern Catholic we treasure the Eucharist, and our worship is both dignified and friendly. We trust in the value of ritual and remain open to its mysteries. Whilst Bible reading is absolutely central to us, we don't view it as a simplistic rule book; we value a thoughtful hermeneutical approach. You could describe our congregation as devotionally orthodox and socially liberal, though we're always willing to have our preconceptions challenged.

## Music and Choral Tradition

We're passionate about our choral tradition! Our robed choir leads music at all Sunday services, typically including four hymns. Choir practice happens on Friday evenings at St Michael's, led by our excellent organist who also serves as our musical director. He's even composed a setting for our Eucharist, which we're rather delighted with!

**Magnificat**  
for the Patronal Festival at St Mary the Virgin  
Rory Wilson (2024)

at a moderate tempo



## Our Liturgical Practice

We use Common Worship Order One in Modern Language and deeply value both the



Church year and the lectionary. Deviations are rare but meaningful: we celebrate St Michael and All Angels on the nearest Sunday and hold a special service for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St Mary's on or around 15th August.

Our laypeople actively participate by reading lessons and psalms and leading intercessions, which they usually

prepare themselves. The Sacrament is reserved in both churches, and our tradition includes the president always wearing vestments, including chasuble. Our servers (typically crucifer and two acolytes) also robe, and we ring a bell at the elevation of the elements. We don't generally use incense.

We don't have a custom of hearing confessions and aren't familiar as a congregation with Marian devotions, though some of us have experienced these elsewhere.

## Our Two Churches

St Michael's serves as our functional worship space, and its community role is vital to us. However, we deeply cherish the ancient, intimate "village church" atmosphere of St Mary's. We're passionate about St Mary's continuing as a centre for regular worship.

### b. Current Worship Pattern

#### Sundays (Except First Sunday)

- 9am Morning Prayer at St Michael's
- 10am Parish Eucharist at St Michael's

#### First Sunday of the Month

- 9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's
- 10am Service of the Word at St Mary's

*We anticipate that once our new rector arrives, the First Sunday will revert to a Eucharist, with a decision about continuing a Service of the Word, possibly as an evening gathering.*

### **Tuesday and Thursday**

- 8.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer at St Michael's

### **Wednesday**

- 8.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's
- 9.45am Eucharist at St Mary's
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer at St Michael's

### **Church Attendance**

We have 51 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll and of these 32 are resident within the parish. The average Sunday attendance is 25 adults, and together with weekday services the average goes to 30. On a Sunday we have several children attending the Eucharist.

### **Special Celebrations**

#### **Christmas**

We hold a beautiful carol service on a Sunday in late Advent at St Mary's, followed by Midnight Mass and a 10am Eucharist on Christmas Day, we saw 51 celebrate with us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

#### **Easter**

Palm Sunday features a modest procession within the church. We keep the entire Triduum at St Mary's, with the Easter Vigil being particularly meaningful to many of us. We share something special with St Stephen's Roman Catholic Church across the road—both priests bless the Easter Fire together as one. It's a wonderful ecumenical tradition. Across the Easter Vigil and Easter day we had 30 worship with us.

### **c. Our Parish Team**

We're blessed with a strong and committed parish team. Beyond our PCC meetings, we have a Standing Committee for emerging issues, consisting of churchwardens, PCC Secretary, and Electoral Roll Officer.

Our dedicated Ministry Team oversees service preparation, sermon and reading allocation, and general planning. They've also managed pastoral issues during the interregnum.

Rather than having a traditional treasurer, we're linked to the diocesan parish accounting system, with a dedicated PCC member handling all relevant paperwork and receipts. Despite being a small congregation, our PCC membership covers all essential roles effectively.

#### **d. Music in the Parish of Little Ilford**



The Director of Music in the parish is Rory Wilson. He has been in post since June 2024, filling the role after a long period of vacancy. Rory is an organist, composer, and choir leader, who in addition to running the choir and providing organ accompaniment for services, has written several pieces of liturgical music for use in the parish.

#### **The Choir**

The parish choir is a small one, made up of four core members with some occasional guests. A couple of congregants regularly attend rehearsals in order to bolster the voice of the congregation, but they have not been persuaded (yet) to don the robes.



#### **The Organ(s)**

Both St Michael's and St Mary's have two-manual pipe organs. The St Mary's organ is a much older instrument, which we believe was donated to the parish at some point in the last half-century. The St Michael's organ was built in 1993.

#### **Music on Sundays**

There is a sung eucharist every Sunday, which currently consists of four congregational hymns, one communion hymn, sung gospel responses, and the relevant mass settings. We currently use Common Praise to source our congregational hymns, but there has been chatter (backed by the DoM) of switching to Hymns Ancient and Modern in the future.

#### **Original Music in the Parish**

The Director of Music has written several pieces of original liturgical music for use in the Parish. These include, a complete mass setting, several communion hymns, a Magnificat, and a Nunc Dimittis. The Mass especially has been adopted by the congregation, and much more music is on the way!

#### **Hope for Musical Progression**

The Director of Music hopes that the new rector is not only a willing vocalist, but a strong proponent of musical worship. There are hopes to bring back a sung Sursum Corda and Dismissal (which have fallen by the wayside since the departure of the previous rector,) as well as introducing occasional anthemic singing into the eucharist. In the year since the DoM's appointment, the congregational voice has soared, and it is the wish of all involved that this charge is led from the front (of the church, that is.) There has also been talk of musical outreach into local schools, and the potential establishment of a children's choir in the parish; it is hoped that the new rector would be a driving force in making this happen.

## e. Finance

Our financial position although appears fair, it must be noted that much of our income is derived from letting the parish flat and parish office. We have also been fortunate to get a grant from LOB that has covered the cost for our Director of Music for three years, starting in June 2024.

We maintain a reserve policy that has been able to cover any unforeseen expenditure. We are due a Quinquennial report for both our churches in September 2025, and this may highlight areas of work that may cut into those reserves.

We are proud that we cover the total cost of our Parish Share year on year, the PCC has seen this as an important part of our parish giving. However, we had planned a Stewardship campaign in 2025, to boost our income, so we were less dependent on our rental income. We continue to look for grant opportunities, and are at present awaiting a response for partial funding to update the alarm systems at St Mary's

### St Michaels & All Angels with St Mary the Virgin

#### Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	17,651	—	261	—	17,913	32,372
Income from charitable activities	8,807	—	—	—	8,807	5,160
Other trading activities	620	—	—	—	620	472
Investments	13,875	2,160	—	—	16,035	15,379
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>40,954</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>43,376</b>	<b>53,384</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenditure on charitable activities	32,393	6,348	1,059	—	39,800	36,498
Other expenditure	432	—	—	—	432	2,123
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>32,825</b>	<b>6,348</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>40,232</b>	<b>38,621</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before transfer</b>	<b>8,129</b>	<b>(4,188)</b>	<b>(797)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>14,762</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	90	—	90	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(90)	—	—	—	(90)	—
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before other gains</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>(4,188)</b>	<b>(707)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>14,762</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>(4,143)</b>	<b>(680)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>14,940</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
All assets at 01 January 2024	33,619	17,093	1,789	—	52,502	37,562
All assets at 31 December 2024	41,658	12,950	1,108	—	55,717	52,502

## 5. Reaching Out to Our Community

### School Partnerships

We've built excellent relationships with local primary schools, particularly [Sir John Heron Primary School](#) and [Dersingham Primary School](#). This enables children from diverse backgrounds to learn about Christian faith, and local pupils visit St Mary's for religious and history studies. Other Schools in the Parish are [Little Ilford School](#), [Sheringham Primary School](#), [Avenue Primary School](#), and [St Winefride's Catholic Primary School](#).

### Foodbank Ministry

Witnessing food poverty firsthand inspired us to develop close links with our nearest Foodbank. We collect donations from our congregation and provide a collection point for the wider community in the church.

### Community Housing

We let our parish flat at reasonable rents, enabling key workers to live and work in East London. Our current tenants are both teachers of children with special educational needs and we're delighted to support such vital work.

### AMCC Partnership

AMCC is a crucial community resource in our parish, and we're proud of our collaborative role. We regularly rent out our community room to various groups and are particularly pleased that the Safe Women's Project has found a good base in the building. Many of our congregation volunteer with other AMCC groups, including afterschool facilities and holiday programmes.

## 6. Environmental Impact and Stewardship

We've worked hard to reduce our carbon footprint. In line with the Church of England's

'Shrinking the Footprint' campaign, we aimed to reduce our footprint by 42% by 2020—and actually achieved this in 2016! We've replaced lighting and storage heaters and installed solar panels on the rectory roof. Even in urban East London, we're blessed with opportunities to protect the environment. We're recent recipients of an A Rocha Eco Church bronze award and have a keen gardening team tending St Mary's churchyard.



## 7. Our Buildings

### St Michael and All Angels



Completely rebuilt as part of the Froud Centre (now AMCC) and completed in 1990, St Michael's was originally St Mary's daughter church, built for mission on busy Romford Road. It's now our main parish church—a large, light, modern space hosting our main Sunday Parish Eucharist and weekday Evening Prayer.

AMCC's staffed reception allows us to maintain an open-door policy at the church. We also let the space to Calvary Church of God, a Pentecostal congregation, for their Sunday service.

Our Parish Office is based at AMCC and currently rented to Women on the Frontline Ministries for their Safe Women's Project, a Christian-led charity passionate about helping vulnerable women involved in prostitution, at risk of sexual exploitation, suffering domestic abuse, or seeking to exit prostitution.

The church is in excellent repair. Our partnership agreement means Aston-Mansfield maintenance staff handle routine maintenance, including fire and alarm systems and cleaning of communal areas, with costs shared appropriately.



### St Mary the Virgin



Our Grade I listed St Mary's is believed to date from the 12th century, built on a previous place of worship to serve the tiny hamlet of Little Ilford. The chancel was rebuilt and the south porch added in 1724 (now our vestry). The interior contains beautiful 16th, 17th, and 18th century monuments.

St Mary's remained a parish church until 1938, when it became a chapel of ease to St Michael's. Today it hosts our midweek Eucharist, monthly Service of the Word, morning prayer three days weekly, and special services and events. We're

particularly proud of our ancient church and its unique history—it's by far the oldest building in the parish and perhaps in Newham. We've been part of Open House London for years, promoting its historic merits.

There are no toilet facilities at St Mary's, and so we use facilities located within the rectory. These have a separate entrance but can also be accessed through the rectory. In addition to the toilet, there is also a snug or rectory office which can be entered through the side and from the rectory itself.





Thirty years ago, extensive restoration and refurbishment took place, with ongoing improvements including boiler replacement, roof maintenance, organ restoration, and alarm system installation. The building fabric has no major problems.

The churchyard is closed to burials but open for ash interment. Newham Borough maintains the grounds and trees. We've occasionally faced challenges with rough sleeping and drug use in the churchyard, so our new incumbent should be aware of these issues. The rectory garden is protected by a security fence.

## The Rectory

Built in the 1950s, our rectory is a large five-bedroom detached house adjacent to St Mary's in Church Road.



Downstairs features a study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, and toilet, with a large hallway providing ample

storage. French doors from both lounge and dining room lead to a large, well-maintained garden with lawn, mature bushes, and an apple tree. As we have no other outdoor space, we use the garden for social events, including summer picnics and post-wedding drinks.



Upstairs are five bedrooms (four double, one single) and a family bathroom. In line with our environmental policy, we've installed solar panels and additional cavity wall insulation. There's a garage and off-road parking for additional cars.



## Parish Flat

Another parish asset is Flat 3 within the Aston-Mansfield Community Centre. It is a duplex flat with kitchen and reception room downstairs, stairs to three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, and sole access to a pleasant roof garden. Previously home to curates-in-training, it's now rented at reasonable rates to help people afford East London's high rental costs. Current tenants are teachers of children with special educational needs. It's rented unfurnished except for white goods.

*We're excited to welcome someone who will help us build on these strong foundations while exploring new opportunities for growth and service in our community.*

***Thank you for reading our Parish Profile. Our congregation prays faithfully for all involved in this discernment process.***