



THE PARISH OF CHINGFORD
SS PETER AND PAUL WITH ALL SAINTS'

Honorary Associate Priest

Parish Profile

THE DIOCESE: A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GULI



Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse 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 local, national and global challenges that have a direct impact on our parish churches, schools, chaplaincies and the communities we serve.

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 set out a future direction of travel as a Diocese with a focus on [travelling well together](https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/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 and schools. 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 vibrant of dioceses.

+Guli

Bishop of Chelmsford

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



www.chelmsford.anglican.org/travelling-well-together

The Deanery of Waltham Forest: A Welcome from the Area Dean

A very warm welcome as you explore the possibilities of serving at The Parish of Chingford: Ss Peter and Paul with All Saints' and in the Deanery of Waltham Forest.

With a population of around 278,000, Waltham Forest is vibrant, diverse and growing. The Borough has all the benefits of being on the edge of London with easy access to Epping Forest and beautiful open space whilst being just 20 minutes from the centre of London on public transport. The motto of the Borough, 'Fellowship is Life', is drawn from the writings of William Morris who was born here and played a leading role in both the Arts and Crafts movement and was a campaigner for social justice. Creativity and social action are still very much at the heart of life in Waltham Forest, and you will find here communities which are deeply engaged in local needs. Waltham Forest was the first London Borough to be awarded 'London Borough of Culture' in 2019, it is a leading borough on environmental issues and improving walking and cycling and there are many new projects and possibilities which make this a really exciting place to minister and live.

There are 20 parishes in the Deanery. Though diverse in size, theology and church tradition, we have strong friendships and enjoy working together. There are both formal and informal partnerships between parishes and we work hard to support and encourage one another.

Churches are involved in food shares, warm spaces and night shelters and some of the Churches are involved in Community Organising. There are innovative and hopeful missional projects moving forward across the Deanery and a number of our parishes have seen significant growth. We minister in areas where rapid gentrification sits alongside deepening poverty, and our churches remain committed to serving the most vulnerable.

The Parish of Chingford: Ss Peter and Paul with All Saints' is a large and growing parish. With a wonderful choral tradition at the Parish Church and a vibrant community choir at the Old Church this is a parish which values the best of both traditional and contemporary music. It also has extensive engagement with its locality, with many community events being held in the two parish halls and large numbers being served through a strong pastoral ministry to those who come for baptisms, weddings and funerals. You can read more about all of this in the Parish Profile.

Please be assured of our prayers for you as you discern God's call.

Tim.

Rev Tim Scott
Area Dean, Waltham Forest

The Parish of Chingford

From our churches of Ss Peter & Paul and of All Saints' we seek to be Christ-centred communities of kindness and creativity – offering Christian worship, love and welcoming inclusion for our parishioners and the wider community of North East London.

St Peter & St Paul (the Parish Church) and All Saints' together serve a population of some 22,000 people. The Parish has an electoral roll count of 160, and the average weekly attendance across both churches, counted as required by the Diocese during October 2025 was 226 (202 in 2024). Services on Easter Eve and Easter Day 2025 were attended by 380 people and services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2025 had 858 worshippers.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. We celebrated 17 baptisms and two weddings and held 40 funerals in our churches in 2025.

The Parish pays its Parish Share and other running costs. In 2025 the PCC recognised a surplus for the year of £33,612 (2024: deficit of £18,350) accounted for by a significant bequest of £49,040. This most generous donation is specifically for All Saints' church.

The Staff Team

In addition to our Rector, The Revd Darren McCallig who joined us in September 2025, we have an Honorary Associate Priest, The Revd Marilyn Claydon, and an Honorary Assistant Priest, Canon Rodney Matthews. We also benefit from the services of an Honorary Assistant Deacon, The Revd Elizabeth Price, and a Licensed Lay Minister, Mrs. Diana Kennedy.

The paid Director of Music is Mr. Michael Emerson FRCO ARSCM. He is assisted by an Organ Scholar and a volunteer team.

A Parish Finance Officer and a Parish Administrator work part-time. There is also a cleaning team and part-time caretaker.

Additional to these paid posts, volunteer lay leaders take responsibility for a wide range of Parish life. They include a busy Parish Safeguarding Officer, Sunday Club leaders, two able Sacristans, two churchwardens and four deputy wardens. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, we lack an Hon. Treasurer.

Worship

At All Saints' there is a 10 am Sunday Eucharist (Common Worship) with hymns supported on the organ by a small team of organists. Priest and servers combine to offer the liturgy with ceremonial reverence. A community choir based at the Church sings at this service twice a month.

At Ss Peter & Paul, the usual Sunday pattern is 8 am Holy Communion (Common Worship), 10 am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) and 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP). The team of clergy and servers combine to offer the liturgy with ceremonial reverence, including the use of incense on major feast days. The choir sings at the Eucharist and

Evensong during school term time and at Christmas and Easter from a cathedral-standard repertoire. The choir also sings the Holy Week services and at other weekday solemnities.

A single Eucharist at 10 am is occasionally held for both congregations in, for example, Ss Peter & Paul on the Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, and in All Saints' on All Saints' Sunday. Morning Prayer is said collegially most days in one or other of the churches and there are currently two mid-week Eucharists, (one at each church). The sacrament is reserved in both churches.

The Musical Tradition

The Parish has a particular pride in its music tradition, which plays an important part in the liturgy as well as in the wider ministry of the Parish. At Ss Peter & Paul, men and boys or girls maintain a cathedral style repertoire at both the 10am Eucharist and 6.30 pm Evensong. The Chamber Choir, comprising former girl choristers, and the soprano and alto Chingford Singers also sing for occasional services and concerts with the men.

The choirs make regular trips and every year the men and boys and/or girls sing the services for a summer week at an English Cathedral. From August 2022 we have visited Durham, Wells, St Albans, Truro, Norwich and St Paul's cathedrals and Westminster Abbey. In April 2024 the choirs visited Rome, singing services in – amongst other places – St Peter's Basilica. In 2025 the 'Cathedral Week' visit was to Salisbury Cathedral with some 91 boys, girls, Chamber Choir and adult altos, tenors and basses making the trip. In 2026, the week's visit is to Exeter Cathedral.

A very well supported community choir – Purple Praise – based at All Saints', sings at services and puts on occasional concerts there, as well as singing at nursing homes and other groups in the community.

Many people connect with the churches through the different choirs and many families have become members of the church community through that initial contact. Enthusiasm and encouragement for this tradition, particularly as a vital form of outreach, will be an essential for the new Associate Priest.

Mission and Ministry

Pastoral care is at the heart of the parish's mission and ministry. For those no longer in a position to attend church, home visits – often with Holy Communion – are organised by the clergy with, when needed, prayers for those who are dying. Some local nursing homes also receive visits with occasional or seasonal services being held.

The clergy team meets weekly to discuss, amongst other matters, the pastoral needs of the parish and of individual parishioners. The sacrament of reconciliation (confession) is also offered, and occasional 'ad hoc' prayers for the ill and the deceased are said, at the request of and in the company of the bereaved.

In 2025, clergy officiated at 40 funeral services in our churches, several services held at a crematorium, and 4 interments of ashes in the Gardens of Remembrance. There were 14 baptisms at Ss Peter & Paul last year, of which four were adults. Three infants were baptised at All Saints. Two weddings were held at the Parish Church in 2025.

Children's ministry is flourishing in both churches, thanks in no small part to the amazing dedication of our able and experienced leaders and volunteers. In 2025, monthly numbers at the Parish Church Sunday Club were around 50 and Sunday Cherubs around 15. At All Saints' Sunday Club numbers were around 18-22 monthly. All children are invited to prepare for and receive Holy Communion for the first time at around 6-8 years old and to make their Confirmation at around 12 or just afterwards. In addition, choristers all take part in regular religious instruction as part of their RSCM Awards system.

There is a weekly bible study group at All Saints on a Wednesday morning and a monthly bible study home group. Lent courses are run in the Parish and there has been a monthly programme of talks and discussion on various topics concerning the Christian faith.

Good relationships are maintained with the schools in our parish, especially Chingford CofE where the parish provides several governors and the Rector takes regular assemblies. The school comes to the Parish Church for end of term services and high days and holy days. Normanhurst School worships in the Parish Church twice a year (Harvest and Christmas) as well as using the building for their end of year celebrations. We receive occasional teaching visits from other schools in and around the parish.

The connection with Parkside Primary school was re-established in 2023 and remains strong through visits from Year One students, as well as some children and families from the school attending Family Café at All Saints' on Wednesdays. That initiative itself continues to flourish with games, crafts, Bible stories and the ever-popular food offering bringing on average some 15 children and 12-15 adults through the doors on Wednesday afternoons.

All Saints' has recently started to pursue the Eco Church awards and was pleased to be granted the Bronze Award this year. Plans are now in place to pursue the Silver Award and an energy audit was recently conducted to further this aim. It is also planned that the Parish Church will become an Eco Church in the near future.

Communications

Our monthly parish magazine is available in both churches, while Facebook and WhatsApp groups available to the congregation maintaining and develop interactions. The newly-redesigned Parish website (<https://parishofchingford.org.uk/>) plays an important part in publicising the activities of the Parish, while our YouTube channel remains online and, although not receiving as many views as it did during the pandemic, it hosts some audio recordings of the Rector's sermons.

Social activities

Refreshments after the 10.00am Sunday Eucharist and the weekday Eucharists in both churches is an indispensable feature of the social life of the Parish. A well-attended social club meets fortnightly at All Saints' for a variety of activities. Parish lunches and evening socials are organised occasionally at both churches, to mark special events and major feasts, notably at Epiphany and in Holy Week the various groups within the Parish organise occasional social events to complement their regular meetings. Adult members of the choir gather regularly in the Kings Head after Sunday Evensong. The Associate Priest would be welcome to join any of these and other informal social occasions!

Hopes for the future

By the grace of God, we are seeking to continue to increase our worshipping community in all age groups and deepen our faith and service to the wider community. We hope we can do that by building on all our current activities, in particular our work with those seeking baptism and our links with local schools.

We want to sustain and increase our remarkable outreach through membership and support of the Choirs and through the music they offer to God. We want to make our worship more inclusive generally of teenagers, young adults and spiritual seekers.

We would like each church to become even more of a focal point in Chingford and beyond, particularly through community social activities, thus encouraging more people to become involved in what the churches have to offer and in what it takes to keep them running. We aspire to raise funds for the considerable amount of repair and refurbishment work needed on our buildings.

The Associate Priest

We are seeking a prayerful and collaborative colleague, with a lively and generous faith, to serve as Associate Priest (self supporting) and share in ministry across the parish with a particular focus on the congregation at All Saints'.

Working alongside the incumbent, we seek someone who will:

- Lead and preach on Sundays and at mid-week services
- Share in pastoral care, including occasional offices
- Support and encourage lay ministry and volunteer teams
- Play a part in developing mission, discipleship and community engagement
- Work closely within a supportive ministry team and deanery context
- Be sympathetic and encouraging to the Eco Church groups in both churches

We would like the Honorary Associate Priest to offer the equivalent of two days per week, plus Sundays, to the role.

The priest will, of course, need to meet the following Professional Standards for Clergy:

- To be a role model to the congregation in terms of personal spiritual discipline and accountability, emphasising reliance on God, openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the centrality of prayer.
- To set a high standard in personal conduct, setting and maintaining appropriate boundaries.
- To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy and to comply with relevant legislation about safeguarding.

The priest:

- Will need the help of God; and
- Can be assured of the prayers of the Parish for the flourishing of their ministry.