



Parish Profile

St Paul's Church and
Community Centre –
Goodmayes

Atholl Road
Goodmayes
Ilford
Essex
IG3 8YU



St Paul's Goodmayes PCC
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, GOODMAYES



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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](#):

- 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

Redbridge Deanery contains all the parishes within the London Borough of Redbridge. It is one of five London boroughs which together form the Barking Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Chelmsford, and it sits within the West Ham Archdeaconry. *London over the Border*, as it is

sometimes colloquially known, has its origins within the old county boundaries of Essex. However,

nowadays much of Redbridge feels solidly part of London: a hugely diverse area with excellent food options, a good transport network, and of-course, a vast range of people in various stages of wealth and poverty, often living not much more than a stone's throw away from each other.



Perhaps more surprisingly, Redbridge is quite a green borough, and protected space and parks can be found in almost every parish. The Central Line connects much of the borough which means that commuting into the City from Redbridge is relatively easy – whilst the M11 and A12 make getting out of London by car a fairly painless task. Cycling is also a popular option amongst several of the clergy in the deanery! The Borough boasts a range of good schools, both at primary and secondary level, along with opportunities for involvement in numerous clubs and activities. Music, drama and sport all abound here. Sadly, there also exists in Redbridge all the challenges of crime and social deprivation that one might expect from anywhere which seeks to pack 300,000 people into just a few square miles.

Our deanery is an active one, with 23 churches, the majority retaining their own incumbent, along with lay leaders and self-supporting ministers. Our youngest ordained member of Chapter is in their twenties and our oldest, in their nineties. Redbridge Deanery encompasses most traditions of the Church of England, and our churches have a good record of working together and supporting each other despite our occasional differences. The deanery also has a good rate of parish share payment and it is one of the largest annual contributors to Chelmsford Diocese's share collection.

We have Chapter meetings four times a year, plus a social event in the summer, whilst Deanery Synod meets three times a year. All clergy are encouraged to take an active role in the deanery.

Smaller, informal groupings of clergy or parishes, exist to offer each other mutual assistance and new incumbents can be assured of a warm welcome from their colleagues, as well as support should they need it.

Statistics suggest Redbridge to be a religious borough. It is true that people here are used to seeing those of faith, albeit from a range of faiths, openly displaying their devotion to God. Faith is taken seriously here and although the Church of England may not be the majority religion in much of the borough, opportunities abound for the work of God to prosper.

I hope you will consider applying for this post within our deanery. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any questions whatsoever.

Yours,

Revd James Gilder,
Area Dean of
Redbridge
jbqilder@hotmail.com



Overview

Welcome to our parish profile, which we hope you will find informative and helpful.



Worshipping in a liberal Catholic tradition, we at St Paul's Goodmayes are committed to inclusivity and diversity. Reflecting the area in which we are placed, our congregation comes from different social, economic and ethnic backgrounds, and we find fellowship and community in our worship together.

We are long-time supporters of women's ministry throughout the church and have voted to implement the Prayers of Love and Faith in our parish.

We are looking for a full-time priest, who shares our traditions and values whilst also advancing the opportunities for growth and community engagement which we are keen to develop. Please read on to find out more!



Who we are

Our worship

The centrality of the Eucharist in our worship lies at our core.

There is a Sung Mass at 10 am every Sunday and at 8pm on weekday major Festivals (for example, Ascension Day), although we often move services to the nearest Sunday in line with the Church of England calendar.



During the week, a Said Mass has been celebrated each Wednesday (with this dropping to once a month during the vacancy).

Pattern of Sunday services

To ensure that there is a mix of services available we have had a rolling pattern of principle Sunday services through the month.



On the first Sunday of the month, we have our full traditional service, which is streamed via Zoom to support those in our community who cannot make it to St Paul's for the Sunday service. Bells, candles, incense (when appropriate), and our robed choir are features of this service – we use all our senses in our worship!

On the 'middle' Sundays of the month we have our 'standard' traditional services – exactly the same as the full traditional, but without incense and the choir do not robe.



The last Sunday of the month is an 'All Age' service. Featuring the Peruvian Gloria (where appropriate), a young person friendly sermon, and a participative Eucharistic Prayer, these services still maintain the centrality of the Eucharist whilst making the word accessible in a different way.

During all of these services our incumbent or visiting Priest robes (although for All Age worship this might be Alb and Stole) and we can provide a full and extensive range of vestments in all liturgical colours.

Major festivals

Major festivals are observed in full.

- Full traditional Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and a traditional Eucharist with carols on Christmas Day
- An evening Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Ashing of the congregation
- Blessing and Distribution of Palms in the service on Palm Sunday
- Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday followed by a Watch
- Veneration of the Cross during the Good Friday Liturgy and
- Lighting of the Paschal Candle and First Mass of Easter on Holy Saturday



During Pentecost we explicitly celebrate our diversity by inviting people in the congregation to say the words of the blessing in languages that they know (either natively or those they speak as additional languages).



At our last Pentecost service over 20 languages were represented, including for the first time Sign Language.



During Lent we offer the Stations of the Cross devotion in collaboration with our local Roman Catholic church (St Cedd's) with whom we have a long-standing relationship.

Using our specially created Stations of the Crown of Thorns (created by a local artist) we have explored the stations in a variety of ways over the years with our special dynamic stations – where people are encouraged to arrive early and participate in activities at each station before walking the path together – being particularly well received.

Midweek and Special services

Morning Prayer is said together via Zoom on three weekdays and Night Prayer on two evenings via Zoom. Congregation led, these Offices – started during lockdown and continuing in some form ever since – have enriched our lives together enormously.

Morning prayer follows the standard Church of England lectionary, and Night Prayer follows a St Paul's specific Night Prayer service booklet that we provide to the congregation at the start of each season. These service booklets are available to download from our website.

Night Prayer attracts a larger group of people due to it taking place after most people's working day, is often accompanied by music and is followed by an opportunity to share the day's news of what is going on in our community.



Our Wednesday Said Eucharist is celebrated at 12 noon in our Lady Chapel. During our vacancy, it has become a monthly service but was weekly prior to this.

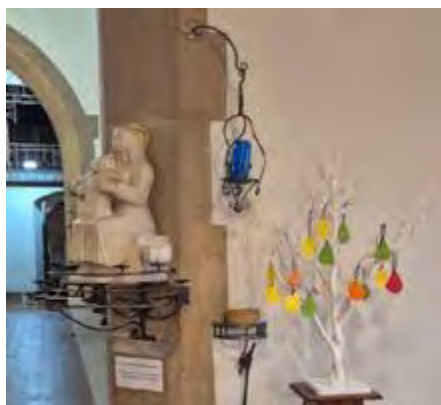
By way of a special non-Eucharistic worship, we have observed the Longest Night in December each year, with a mix of readings, recorded music and silence. We have also made the church available for private prayer at times of national importance, such as the death of Elizabeth II.

Our building lends itself to evening or night services by candlelight (notably the Holy Saturday service that starts in darkness) and visitors have commented on the calming and atmospheric worship and closeness to God that they have experienced.



Our prayer life

Each day, we pray for specific members of our congregation and for the roads and businesses in our parish, on a monthly rota. These are printed on a weekly notice sheet, distributed at the Sunday service, and people are encouraged to take these away to use in their private prayer life.



Also included on the sheets are names of the sick and those in need (both in our community and in the wider world) as well as the recently departed and those whose anniversaries of death fall that week.

Everyone on the electoral roll and any who have subscribed to our Sunday mailing list receives the notice sheet via email (through iknowchurch – our church contact management system) on the Saturday evening before the Sunday Eucharist.

For those who wish, there is the opportunity to light a candle in front of the statue of Our Lady or to put a prayer request on our Prayer Tree.

Developing our faith

For many years Lent groups have been a feature of our faith journeys.

As part of our explorations, we have deepened the understanding of our faith in our local community, in Transforming Presence, and Living in Love and Faith.

In 2023, our Lent course was extended to a longer running Wellbeing course based on Kintsugi principles. At the end of this course two of our members undertook the training for both adults and young people. We are hoping to use this training in the future.

St Paul's has had a long association with and ministry to Goodmayes Hospital, a local Mental Health facility. To develop our engagement with mental health awareness and support, last year we arranged and hosted a Mental Health Friendly Church Day with training from Kintsugi Hope, to which we invited the churches from our Deanery.

Music

We have a small choir who robe to sing at the more formal of the Sunday services, on the first Sunday of the month. The organ is used at all Eucharistic services and enhances our worship by supporting our singing. We have a volunteer full-time organist who also rehearses the choir when necessary.

Each Sunday, a service booklet is produced, containing the Order of Service, the hymns, psalm and scripture readings. A good range of hymns, both traditional and more contemporary, are used in our worship.

In recent years we have benefitted from the use of the Church of England resources hub for pre-recorded music which is often used before the Sunday service to 'set the mood' and at different points in our other services to provide space for reflection, private prayer, or group singing.

Our building has been used in the past as a choral music location as it benefits from a good acoustic. This, twinned with our good organ and good sound system makes it a great venue for life events including baptisms or christenings, confirmations, marriages, and funerals.

Traditions, growth, and change

We value traditions and routines in our worship, but we are also open to adaptation when it benefits our community. Like all churches, the impact of Covid made us alter our worship in ways we had not considered before, but many of these – such as the opportunity to use Zoom to share our services – have proved long-lasting and supportive for our congregation.

'Participative' Zoom is used for Morning and Evening prayer throughout the week, encouraging the participation of many members of the church in the service. Once a month the whole Sunday Eucharist is zoomed out to the congregation to encourage

contact with the wider community which enables us to keep a touchpoint with those who cannot get to the Sunday Eucharist and maintains the community in a different way.

We fully support women in ministry throughout the Church and have recently voted to implement the Prayers of Love and Faith in our parish. We are committed to work within the Church of England framework as it grows and changes and look to deepen our understanding and outworking of Church in our wider community and world.

Preaching and teaching

Our Lent courses, in conjunction with the Sunday preaching, form a large part of our teaching, learning, and growth. Understanding that we have a diverse community, some of whom have English as an additional language, some with struggles with everyday life, and a congregation increasingly living with hearing issues, we would certainly appreciate an incumbent with a clear speaking voice, and someone who – just like our patron St Paul - can engage with us and can make the Bible relate to everyday life.



Our community and our participation in our services

At the last APCM in 2025, we had 63 on our electoral roll with approximately a quarter male and three quarters female. Just over one third live outside the parish. We have approximately 35 regular communicants at the Sunday Eucharist, and between 2 and 6 children. Our ages range from those in their 90s to under 3.



Our congregation is made up of people from a range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, including African, Afro-Caribbean, European, Indian and White British. There is also a range of social and economic backgrounds, and in many ways our congregation reflects the diversity of the area in which we are placed.



We have benefited from a single, full-time incumbent in our previous vicar, but there is a strong culture at St Paul's of regular participation from a range of members of the congregation to provide support and allow different voices to be heard. We have seven Communion Assistants, and one member of the congregation is licensed as an Authorised Local Preacher.

In addition to this we have a rota of readers, intercessors, sides people, and hospitality, with a number of people in the congregation on multiple teams as they feel comfortable. We also encourage our young people to participate fully in these activities when they can, especially in our monthly All-Age Service, which is on the last Sunday of each month.

We are blessed with a flower team who arrange our floral decorations and tributes, and we have an open and active church cleaning team who meet every six weeks to ensure that the church looks clean and tidy for visitors and members alike.

Although we have no paid administrator we do have a sacristan, two church wardens, a finance team, a PCC secretary, a Parish Safeguarding Officer and a deputy, and a technical professional, all who give time voluntarily and are here to support the incumbent when we appoint.

Our PCC consists of eleven members, including Deanery Synod representatives and a member of the Diocesan Synod. We also have a Standing Committee to deal with day-to-day decisions and a Community Centre Committee. The incumbent would be expected to be a member of all these committees.

Our meetings are regular, documented and well-organised. We hold our Annual Parish Church Meetings on the third Sunday in Lent, immediately after the Sunday Service and hold a shared parish lunch after this. In this way, we seek to involve as many as possible in the “business” of the church as well as make it a pleasant, sociable event for us all.



Our young people

For those of primary to early secondary school age, Sunday School (which we call Sunday Squad) takes place during the Sunday service in term time, except for the second and last Sundays of the month. We also have a discussion group on the third Sunday of the month for older teenagers at the same time. The sessions take place in the Community Centre next-door to the church, and they aim to be back in the service in time for the start of the Eucharistic prayer.



For very young children, there is a Children's Area in the church with cushions and soft toys, to provide a place for parents to supervise their children during the service, while still being able to hear and participate in the service.



Godly Play ^{UK}
taking childhood spirituality seriously

On the second Sunday of each month in term time, we hold either Messy Church or a Godly Play session in the afternoon, separate to the morning service. This takes place in the church and is usually based around themes of the church year or an extended theme – last year we focussed on the Parables. These sessions allow a more extended and creative response to the children's development in their Christian journey.



We have for several years now adopted the practice of admitting to Communion those of seven years and older who show a resolve to present themselves for Confirmation in due course. Last year we confirmed 3 young people who had come up through this route, and hope in time to confirm more as they reach young adulthood.

Funding for a part-time children's worker has recently become available and the post was advertised before the previous incumbent's retirement. Although there was no success at that stage in finding a suitable candidate, this is something the PCC is keen to continue with and provides a new incumbent with opportunities to develop this aspect of our ministry further.



Where we are

Address: St Paul's Church and Community Centre, Atholl Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex, IG3 8YU

Location

St Paul's is a parish in the London Borough of Redbridge, a socially, economically and ethnically diverse borough in the east of London.

The 2021 census reported that the population had grown by 11% since the previous census, and there are several developments in the borough which will increase this population again over the next few years. The housing is a mix of early 20th century terraces, many converted into flats, and newer buildings. There is a mix of rented and privately owned properties.

Many households use another language apart from English, with those from South-east Asia being the most prevalent (the highest number being Bengali and Panjabi). Of the 'European – other' languages which are spoken, Romanian is the most common. The majority religion in the borough is Muslim, with Christianity second. Many faiths are represented in our local area and within walking distance of the church there are Mosques and Sikh Temples which are well attended.

Parish boundaries

The parish boundaries are available from Chelmsford and have remained largely unchanged in the past 20 years. In this time there has been significant redesignation of land and building projects within the parish.



Nearby facilities

There is a large Tesco on the High Road and a wealth of other smaller shops, takeaways and offices along the main roads nearby. There are several parks nearby which provide green spaces and some playgrounds for younger people.

There are several local primary and secondary schools, both state and private, close to the church, as well as healthcare facilities, including GP surgeries and pharmacies. The nearest hospital, King George, has an A&E department and both in- and out- patient facilities. Goodmayes Hospital, next door to King George, is a centre specialising in Mental Health provision. There is elderly care at Rowallan House and Rosewood House.

According to the parish boundaries Goodmayes Hospital is in our parish whilst King George is not, but we maintain open communication with the pastoral care team and our own parishioners and will often arrange visits for those we know who are in- patients at King George or other buildings in the complex.

Accessibility including transport

St Paul's Church is located on the corner of a main road, Barley Lane, in Goodmayes. There are several bus routes near the church, taking passengers into Barking, Romford, Ilford and further. It is a short walk to Goodmayes Station, which is on the Elizabeth Line, and allows you to be in Central London within 30 minutes.

Due to the ready access to onwards transport, street parking is restricted in the immediate area from Monday to Saturday, 8.30am to 6.30pm, of up to two hours paid via Ringo. However, there is on-street parking in some of the roads nearby.

The nearby A12 provides access to central London as well as the further reaches of Essex, and easy connections to the M25 and the M11.

Chelmsford is approximately 23 miles away (driving) or 35-40 minutes by train (Elizabeth line to Shenfield, then onwards using Greater Anglia) so access to the Diocesan centre is relatively quick.

Church buildings

History

Like many churches in the greater London area, St Paul's Goodmayes was built at the beginning of the 20th Century. It was established to serve the increased population in the area following the expansion of the railway line from Liverpool Street to Romford.

The parish is in another era of expansion in the 21st Century, with housing developments being built and being planned along the "Crossrail Corridor" and the full opening of the Elizabeth Line.

The Church

Construction of St Paul's church started with the Lady Chapel, which was completed in 1903, with additions in 1905, 1917 and 1929. We hope that our next incumbent will help us with our centenary celebrations in 2029!



The building is in a Gothic style and has a traditional layout. Visitors often comment on its beauty, noting our stained-glass windows, (many from the original William Morris/Burns Jones studio at Walthamstow in East London), our contemporary Stations of the Cross, statues, and other artistic items.



We have worked on making the church more accessible, adding step-free access to the main door, upgrading our TLoop system and improving our internet access to facilitate our Zoom services. As good stewards of the church building, we have improved the chairs, flooring, lighting, electrical supply and added extra storage in recent years.

We have other projects which we are keen to work on, both to improve access to our church and to move towards attaining a Bronze Eco Church Award. These include adding an extra toilet with disabled access; creating extra facilities adjacent to our meeting room, which would allow the hire of the space to small groups; moving away from gas to electric heating and refurbishing the organ. We would be glad to hear your ideas on how to make our well-loved building more suited to 21st century demands, whilst keeping its character and beauty.

The Community Centre

The Community Centre is the main source of income for the church and a benefit to the wider community. There is a lease between Diocese of Chelmsford and Peabody Housing Association.



The Centre opened in May 2006 after we entered a partnership with Family Mosaic. A modern building, purpose built on the site of the previous Church Hall, St Paul's Community Centre is on the ground floor, as well as a smaller hall at the rear used by the Scout Association and Girl Guiding groups.

There are 12 flats on two floors above the Community Centre which are managed by North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) and supported by London & Quadrant (L&Q) The two ground floor flats at the rear are managed by Redbridge Social Services for people with physical disabilities.

The main hall has a fully fitted kitchen, toilets, and an office. The hall is accessible with a step free access and an accessible toilet.

The centre is well managed, with a volunteer administrator and an employed cleaner. The hall is maintained with annual redecoration and refurbishment of the sprung wooden floor.

Long term lets

Pedagogy Auras run a Nursery provision 50 weeks a year in the main hall and Pre- school, Breakfast and After-school provision during term time from 7am - 7.15pm five days a week. They also run a Holiday Club. Community groups including Karate and AA use the hall through the week. The centre is also used for private lettings on Saturdays.

Engagement from the incumbent

The role of Chair of the Community Centre committee – a separate body to the PCC – is held by a member of the PCC. Supporting this, you would be a valued member and welcomed into a team with over 50 years' experience between them in managing and operating the Community Centre.

The Vicarage

The vicarage (20 Eastwood Road) adjoins the western boundary of the church site. It is a large family residence of brick and slate construction, built at about the same time as the church, although not purpose built as a vicarage.



Upstairs there are 5 bedrooms and two bathrooms. On the lower floor there are two reception rooms, a study, kitchen, utility room and cloakroom/toilet. There is also a small basement. The building has gas central heating and is fully double-glazed. It has been well maintained by the Diocese and is ready to receive the next incumbent.

The front garden is part laid to lawn with a privet hedge and has a double driveway with an electric charging point. The rear garden is well maintained, being laid to lawn with

mature trees, flowerbeds, and a shed against the rear wall. Between the Church and the vicarage there is a designated parking space for the Vicar in the private car parking area, which belongs to Atholl Court (Peabody Housing Association).



As we have no viable working space in the church building, the PCC maintain a high-speed internet connection and land line phone in the vicarage to enable the incumbent to work from home where necessary.

Finance

Although St Paul's is generally in good shape financially, its situation is bolstered by the surplus generated by the Community Centre, especially by the letting from the Nursery, as detailed previously.

A recent Stewardship campaign resulted in an increase in financial giving, which was welcome. We have met the Diocesan demands for the Parish Share consistently over the last few years, although our commitments to improve the church building and our aspirations to develop our community engagement in the area will impact on our finances in the future.

We have two experienced financial people who share the role of Treasurer, splitting the workload between them. The finances (including money in our investments) is well managed and we are in a healthy position for running costs and for potential project works in and around the community and building. We have some ideas on the future projects we will be able to undertake, and we would welcome an incumbent who will be able to direct and shape our vision for St Paul's going forward.

Accounts are presented at each PCC meeting, so we are well-aware of our financial situation. Our finances are also helped by nearly all our positions of responsibility (apart from the Vicar and the Community Centre cleaner) being taken by volunteers who are unpaid. These generous gifts of time and effort are central to our focus on St Paul's as a supportive community.

We have held fund-raising activities in the past, such as quizzes and Fun-Nights. These have often been well-supported and have an additional purpose in creating another way in which we can come together as a congregation, as well as inviting others from outside our church.

Charities

St Paul's donates regularly to a variety of small and large charities, based both in the UK and abroad. We also reserve an amount each year for emergency relief for any disasters, usually sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee, as appropriate. Additionally, parishioners generously donate to one-off charity appeals, such as forgoing Christmas Cards and sending money to the Children's Society, which the Treasurer oversees.

Community Connections

Ecumenical engagement



St Paul's has a good relationship with our nearest Roman Catholic church, St Cedd's, regularly participating together in the Stations of the Cross devotions during Lent. Also in Lent, we join with those in the Goodmayes Fellowship of Churches in the weekly Lent Lunches, visiting each other's churches on Saturday at lunchtime to share a simple meal and raise funds for Christian Aid.

The same group of churches joins together annually to participate in the World Day of Prayer service, which is planned together and takes place at different churches within the group each year.

Some members of St Paul's also belong to the local St Alban's Singers, a choir which rehearses at St John's Seven Kings. The choir has both religious and secular music in its repertoire and gives concerts at three points in the year. Many of its members are from different churches in the area, as is the audience for the concerts and the events therefore provide another opportunity for ecumenical links.

St Paul's has established a recent tradition of worshipping with another local CofE church, All Saints, Goodmayes, at their Patronal Festival service in November, with their congregation coming to us for our Patronal Festival service in January.

Since April 2025, the River of Life Pentecostal Church has hired our church building for their worship on Sunday afternoons. Many of their congregation live in the area and relationships between the two churches are good; for example, the River of Life supported our Harvest collection of food for the Redbridge Food Bank, adding substantially to what we were able to send.

Outreach activities



We produce a monthly magazine, which is available for our congregation and for distribution to others in the community, including other churches and local businesses. It not only provides information about our monthly activities but also more detailed items covering faith, local history, quizzes and more.

For the past few years, we have had an annual Autumn Fayre which, while providing some funds for the church, is more designed to be a social and outreach occasion, with a few stalls, lunch and light refreshments to buy and a raffle. This brings us in contact with those from our local community who would otherwise be unlikely to come to our church and is a valuable way to show our presence in the area.

In 2021, after Covid, we reopened our English for Women group. This group is for women only. It is part of the Chelmsford Mothers Union initiative, where women can come, feel safe and take part in activities to improve their English conversation. The group meets on Thursday mornings from 10-12 noon in term time, in the church building.



This group is unusual in that learners can bring their pre-school children to the sessions. There are three Team Leaders sharing responsibility from St Paul's and a number of volunteers from the local community, some from other churches nearby, providing another good ecumenical link.

We also host a Thursday afternoon drop-in session for the residents of Atholl Court and Grove Farm which are both nearby units for people with mental health support needs. It is a safe space where they can meet, have food and play board games. This is a vital link. This group is run by volunteers from our congregation.

We have links to Goodmayes Hospital and Meadow Court, part of the North East London NHS Foundation Trust. A member of our congregation volunteers as a pastoral visitor at Meadow Court with the support of the Chaplaincy Team.



We have, at the request of the Chaplaincy Team, held a Service of Remembrance and Christmas Carol Singing events on one of the elderly care wards. We would like to explore an even greater link.

A community resource

We have made good links with local primary schools, with regular visits from three local schools who visit our church to enhance the RE and History curriculum. For many of them, it is their first visit to a Christian place of worship and it is a privilege to share with them our beliefs and traditions.

For the last 7 years we have hosted the Seven Kings Ward Panel with the Police and Safer Neighbourhood Team and Councillors. Meetings provide a forum for liaison between the police and residents. We also host 'Cuppa with a Copper' meetings in the church on Tuesday early evenings once a month, giving an opportunity for a wider group to raise concerns with the local police, Redbridge Enforcement Officers and councillors.



In all the areas above, we are keen to develop our engagement with the Goodmayes community in all its variety and would like to hear your ideas of how this could progress.

Technology and St Paul's

We are forward looking with our use of technology to enable the church to function well and engage with our community groups, and we benefit from some highly technical people in the congregation.

Sound systems

We have recently upgraded our sound system within the church to enhance the experience for our community with additional hearing needs. We have nearly 30 years' experience supporting the deaf and hard of hearing and recognise their needs in worship.

Additionally, we have expanded our capacity to enhance our worship with pre-recorded music. We often begin and end services with suitable recorded music to support the congregation with prayer and reflection, should they wish to take advantage of this.

Visuals and printed resources

For each Sunday Service, we have a printed booklet containing the Order of Service, hymns, psalm and scripture readings. This is supplemented by our notice sheets, issued weekly, as described above, and both are also available to those on the electoral roll through email, sent through iKnow Church.

The booklets are available in church in A5 format and in A4 with larger print for those who need a larger font size to support the needs of the congregation.

We have a single small screen available in the church which we have used at Annual Parish Meetings and, occasionally, to provide a focus for some images for supporting sermons.

Zoom

You will see above that we use the Zoom platform a lot to support the community. We maintain a Zoom professional account for the church, and extensive training will be provided.

Google Apps

It is important to us to have an identity within our area, and that extends to our identity online. We rely on each other daily to ensure that the church works well together for our community – and for that there is a full email system in place for all PCC members.

We have been working towards digitising our records and have some mature systems in place that enable the church to work effectively remotely. We make extensive use of the Google platform for emails, records storage, and managing the church and community centre effectively.

The successful applicant will receive full training on all our systems, and we would welcome any new suggestions to engage with each other and the community.

Who we would like to see take on the role

Thank you for taking the time to read through our profile and to consider St Paul's as your next role.

Our congregation has expanded and taken on new ideas over the past few years, and we would hope that our new incumbent will continue to lead us to develop these initiatives as well as take on new challenges where appropriate. We are looking for someone with good communication and organisational skills, but also a compassionate leader, who will support us in our journey of faith and witness.

Areas we are keen to work on

- Developing our faith, increasing additional opportunities for worship and reflection.
- Our work with young people, making good use of the funding available for a part-time support worker.
- Our community engagement, with a particular attentiveness to the new developments already built and those being planned in our area.
- Our building refurbishment, focussing on improving accessibility and environmental considerations.

What we offer

- A friendly, outward looking congregation, who are supportive and caring.
- A good team of active lay people who have increased in confidence over the years, enlarging the number of those who are able and willing to assist with ministry at St Paul's.
- Some well-established relationships with other churches and other agencies, with the opportunity to build on these.
- A well-maintained home, suitable for family life. Easy transport links to London and beyond.
- The challenges and blessings of working with us in Goodmayes in the years to come!

More details about our church and congregation can be seen on our parish website:

<https://stpaulsgoodmayes.org.uk/>

