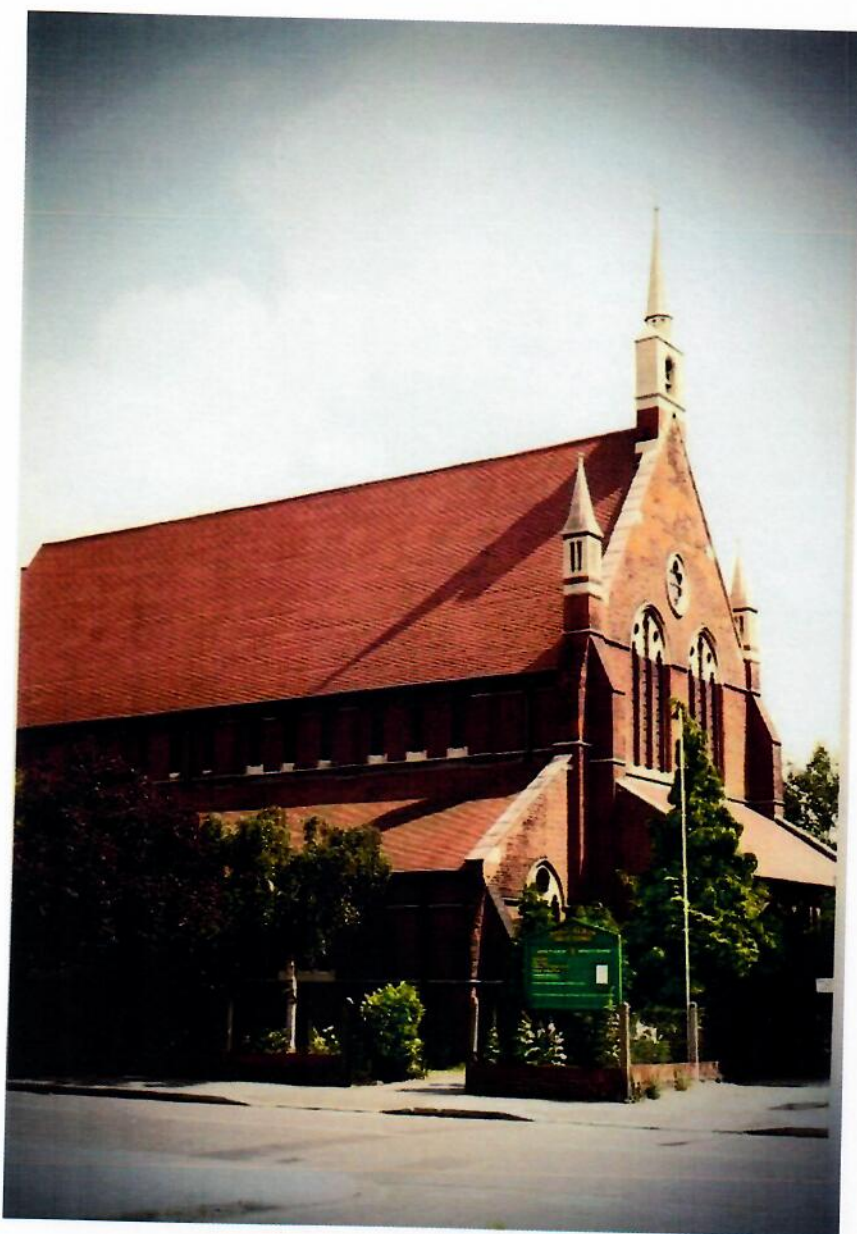


St. Alban's Church, Great Ilford
Parish Profile

www.stalbansilford.org.uk



Contents

- ❖ THE DIOCESE: A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GULI
- ❖ REDBRIDGE DEANERY
- ❖ WELCOME
- ❖ OUR CHURCH AND PARISH
- ❖ OUR CONGREGATION AND WORSHIP
- ❖ OUR FINANCIAL POSITION
- ❖ ILFORD, REDBRIDGE
- ❖ WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR?

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

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.

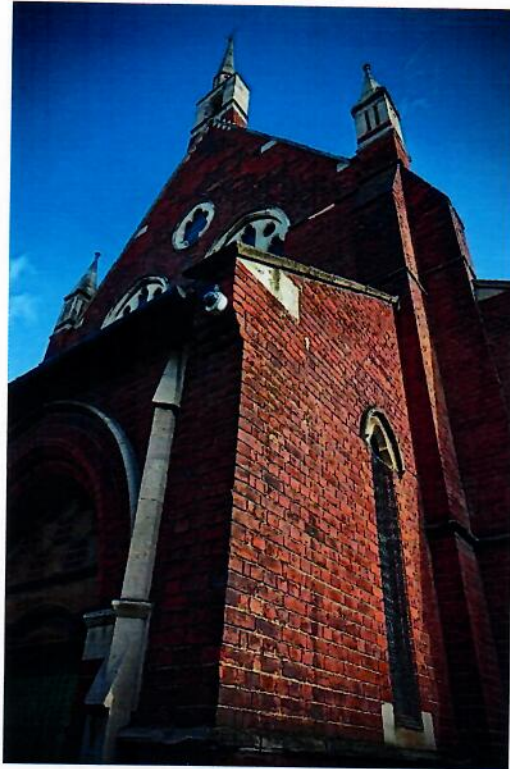
Yours,

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



WELCOME TO ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

St. Alban's entered interregnum in 2021 but maintains its reputation as a welcoming and friendly church, presently under the stewardship of its churchwardens and PCC. In 2015, the PCC passed the Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration and St. Alban's currently therefore has episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Richborough. St. Alban's is a registered member of Forward in Faith, and our Anglo-Catholic ethos sets the tone for our worship and fellowship.



St. Alban's Church Great Ilford
Parish profile

OUR CHURCH AND PARISH



St. Alban's Church Great Ilford
Parish profile

Founded in 1900 as a daughter church of Great Ilford, St Alban's grew with the town's early commuter community and soon became its own parish. Over the years, Ilford has transformed into a global hub, and our congregation reflects this rich heritage and diversity. Today, St Alban's is a meeting place for all, where everyone is welcomed and valued as made in the image of God.

St Alban's was founded in 1900 to serve Ilford's growing community, first as a daughter church of Great Ilford before becoming a parish in its own right. Through every change in Ilford's history, we have remained rooted in Scripture and Apostolic tradition. Faithful to the teaching of the wider Catholic Church, we uphold the male priesthood and the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, carrying forward the heritage first entrusted to the Apostles.

St Alban's is committed to preserving the Apostolic heritage we have received. To safeguard this, in light of the Church of England's ordination and consecration of women, we have sought and received the pastoral care of the Bishop of Richborough.

We extend love and respect to all who serve in the Church, but also hold fast to the Church of England's promise that those who, in conscience, cannot accept these developments have an "equal and honoured place" as loyal Anglicans. Our prayer is that all may flourish together in building the Kingdom of God.

OUR CONGREGATION AND WORSHIP



St. Alban's Church Great Ilford
Parish profile

We are a growing community of faithful traditional Anglo-Catholics, young and old, committed to following the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ, as first delivered to the Apostles and preserved in the teachings and traditions of the Church. We gather people from within and beyond the boundaries of the geographical parish, from many races and countries, united together in our love of the Lord and in our understanding that all people, regardless of ethnicity, background or lifestyle are equal before God and are our friends. You can be assured of a very warm welcome.

The style of worship at St. Alban's is Anglo-Catholic with the celebration of the eucharist at the heart of our life. Vestments are worn and incense is used. Some may see this as 'high church' with a formal structure to our services, but an underlying culture of warmth and inclusivity helps to ensure our services are accessible and welcoming to everyone. St. Alban's is privileged to have a fine pipe organ which is regularly tuned and maintained, and a rota of cantors our musical life being led by our organist. We also possess a rota of lesson readers and a loyal team of servers who add to the dignity of our worship.

Parish Mass is presently at 11:15am every Sunday, celebrated according to the modern western rite. On the appointment of a permanent Priest, we will move Mass back to its pre-interregnum start of 10am following feedback to the PCC from the congregation. On the first Sunday of each month, Mass is followed by refreshments and fellowship. As a Church family we ensure that birthdays and special occasions amongst our congregation are shared. We look forward to celebrating our oldest and longest attending Church sister, one hundredth birthday next summer. We hope we have a Priest by then to lead what will be a special Mass.

Below are some messages from our congregation on what worshipping at St Albans means to them:

“Through all changing scenes in my life, St Albans Church has been my refuge and spiritual guidance. Since the late 1950s the friendship over the years has grown stronger and stronger and the dedication by all who serve strengthens my faith”.

Betty Evans (longest attending congregation member)

“I first arrived in the UK in August 2011. One Sunday, not long after, I was walking past the church when I heard the organ playing. Something drew me inside, and the moment I entered I was welcomed with such warmth and kindness that it felt as though I had come home. From that day onwards, I never left. Over the years, St Alban’s has become so much more than a church to me—it has become my home, and its people my family. The love and friendship I have received here have strengthened my commitment to God and deepened my faith. This is truly the house of God: a place that opens its doors to all, offering refuge, transformation, and hope. In my own life, especially since becoming a palliative care nurse, St Alban’s has been my source of strength. Working in a hospice, I often face moments of deep challenge and sorrow, but it is here, within this church, that I find peace, renewal, and a constant reminder of the power of faith. St Alban’s has stood firm through the years, a beacon of God’s presence in our community. It is my honour and joy to serve as Church Warden, giving back to the church that has given me so much. I am proud to be part of its life and mission, and I pray that it will continue to stand for generations to come”.

Nadia Panait, Churchwarden

“I have been coming to St Albans for over twenty years and from the very first moment I walked into the church I was struck by the friendliness and warmth of all those who worshipped here. Spiritually it is a church that respects the liturgy and invests so much to ensure that the Eucharist always remains at the heart of the Mass. We are a diverse and mature group of people who always take the time to support each other both within and outside the church. I have met many wonderful people at St Albans, and I am proud to call many of my church sisters and brothers, good friends. It is my hope that St Albans finds a Priest that helps it to flourish and retain its important place within the South Ilford Community”.

Tony Josiah, Churchwarden

“St Albans is our spiritual home. It has been a constant in our lives when we have faced tough times. It is a place of trust and solid family values, something which is sought after in our community - and something that we have cherished which can be seen by the fourth generation of our family now attending St Albans.

We have held several positions on the PCC, due to us wanting to be active within the church and caring for the future but able to give back to those who need the support as we have previously”.

Kathy Whitfield and Hannah De Leon

“I live just two blocks away from St Albans and pass it every day. My family have been a part of St Albans church family worshipping there for almost 60 years, I say family because we are not just a church.

I am 62 years old and have known one of the congregation members Mrs Betty Evans for 62 years, since I was a baby in arms, and I still attend the church now as a 62-year-old man on crutches. My two daughters and I were both christened and confirmed at St Albans.

We at St Albans are a true melting pot of all backgrounds, ethnicities and abilities who come together on a Sunday rain or shine to celebrate our God. I have seen many Priests pass through our humble church, and we are looking forward to welcoming our next Priest with open arms.

We at St Albans pray that our church will live to see another 62 years and many more when I will be able to bring my future grandchildren to Mass, adding a new lease of life, another generation to our church family.

We pray for St Albans because we know that the good Lord hears our prayers.

Long life St Albans and it's family".

Terence Richards

"Over the past 47 years the Church of St Alban has been a place of worship for four generations of our family. During this time, whether it be at Sunday Mass, family baptisms, confirmations, weddings or funerals, the Church has guided and supported us. Celebrants and the members of the congregation have come and gone over time, but the Church remains a source of peace, comfort and fellowship. In challenging times, one of St Alban's greatest strengths is the sense of togetherness, friendship and common purpose that we share as a Christian family. We look forward to our new vicar continuing to lead and counsel us spiritually in our journey of faith, as well as nurturing the warmth, joy and community spirit within the Church".

Mary, Ian and Tracey Greenidge

"My first impression of St Albans was of a very friendly place, a very relaxed atmosphere with a congregation that was very welcoming to newcomers. I first came when I brought my young son Sean to Sunday School. After Sean's first Sunday School I started attending St Albans every Sunday and eventually became involved in the PCC and becoming Secretary quite a few years ago. St Albans is a place for me to worship and to meet people who are similarly attached to St Albans".

Pauline Kelly, PCC Secretary

"On entering the strong double doors of St Albans church, I get an uplifting and spiritual tranquillity, peace, love and warm feeling all over me. Very welcoming feeling of immense safety encourages me to pray and feel empowered".

Prisca Nakir

"I joined St Alban church in 1982 and was confirmed in 1985. What I liked about this church from the first moment, is that the members of the congregation were welcoming and friendly. The priest at the time, Fr Barnes was very nice to me and I felt welcomed into the church. When Fr David took over, I joined the Mothers Union, which was another opportunity to strengthen my faith and relationship with the church.

I enjoy all services at St Alban, and some of them hold dear memories for me. I will always remember fondly our pilgrimages to Walsingham, the prayers, and the time spent with my church family.

After Fr David left, Fr Stuart took over and he was lovely! It was such a shock when he left!

I pray that we will have a priest one day. Thanks to Nadia and her team we are doing a good job at staying here. Thank to the young servers too.

There is a lot to give thanks to at St Alban, it is a lovely church and I pray to God to give us strength to keep it going. God bless St Alban and its followers”.

Undine Bourne

“I joined St Alban church 25 years ago. As I walked in for the first time, I was greeted with warmth and with love. Soon after I joined Mothers Union, with many meetings and opportunities to spend time with my fellow church worshipers. St Alban is a traditional and spiritual church I love. This church has never been closed because we have good and hardworking Churchwardens who keep the church going. To me St Alban is a very special place to worship and I hope it will be here for many years to come.

There is God's love at St Alban, God bless this church!”

Rose Hesse

“My name is Muhammed Javed, a Muslim resident of Ilford for over fifty years. I live within walking distance from the church and frequent visitor to its religious and social activities.

I am writing here to express my feelings as to how I see the St Alban church in a multi religious area, which I like to call a cultural hub. There is a mosque and a Muslim centre, two Hindu Mandirs, a medical centre, a family day centre. All communities interact with each other, although in a limited way, in a very harmonious British way-tolerance.

The St Alban church is situated in a very prominent position in Albert Road of Ilford, visible from the Ilford town Centre. Its welcoming green entrance and friendly churchwardens and members.

There is a church hall on the side of the church withal the social welfare facilities. This is rented out to community groups at affordable cost. In addition, the local councillors hold their weekly advice sessions. This church has been opened over the years to all faiths and non, and I hope this will carry on”.

Muhammed Javed

St Albans is a family. We gather within the walls of this church, but the parish's impact, influence and community is not limited to this. Its parish is comprised of people from many different walks of life. We are united in our diversity.

For me, St Albans has always been a constant presence throughout my life, supporting me from childhood into adulthood. It has been a place where I have grown in faith, found encouragement, and built lasting friendships. Serving as an altar server gave me the privilege of working alongside many different people in the parish over the years, each of them teaching me something through their example of faith and dedication.

As I've gotten older, I've been equally as fortunate to have had a part to play in teaching the younger altar servers. Passing on what I've learned from those who guided me helps to continue a tradition, ensuring that the influence and example of those who came before me is carried forward. It is a reminder that St Albans is not only a community for the present moment, but also one that looks to the future, shaping the next generation with the same care and encouragement I once received.

In many ways, St Albans has become a second home. It is where I know I will be welcomed, listened to, and cared for. The parish has offered me advice and counsel when I needed it, and it has also given me the joy of being part of something bigger than myself. The community here celebrates together in times of joy and rallies together in times of difficulty, reminding me that none of us walk alone.

What makes St Albans so special to me is the sense of belonging it provides. The people here—past and present—have shaped my journey in countless ways, and the relationships I have built continue to inspire and support me. St Albans is not only my church; it is my family and my home.

Moses Otwili- Head Server

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

Since Easter 2021, St. Alban's has been in interregnum, yet its finances remain stable under the careful oversight of the churchwardens and PCC. Though income is modest, costs are tightly managed to ensure the church continues to thrive as a House of God.

The church hall, opened in 1979, is a valued community hub. Regular users include a daily nursery, the Kumon education group, small faith groups, and weekly councillor surgeries, alongside one-off events. Hall bookings provide around 40% of total income, supplemented by periodic grants from the independent St. Alban's Great Ilford Trust, on whose board the PCC is represented.

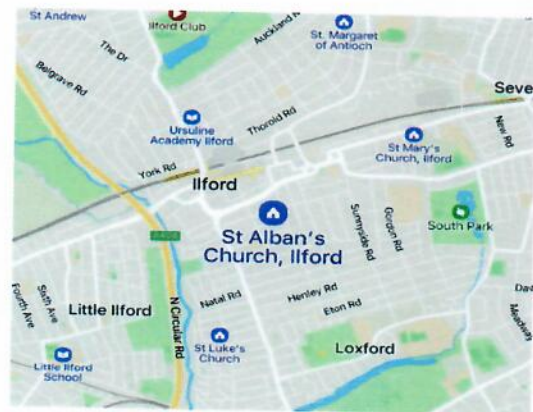
While parish share contributions have been challenging, from 2025 the diocese has set a realistic figure, which St. Alban's is committed to meeting in full.



ILFORD, REDBRIDGE



Iford, in the dynamic and diverse Borough of Redbridge, is a vibrant town with a proud heritage and outstanding connections. Famous as the site where Britain's most complete mammoth skull was discovered, Ilford blends rich history with modern living. Almost half the borough is green space, with Valentines Park, Hainault Forest, Epping Forest, and the Walthamstow Wetlands offering stunning escapes into nature. The town is alive with culture, from the Kenneth More Theatre and its much-loved pantomime to a bustling cinema, library, and museum. Excellent transport links via the Central and Elizabeth lines, alongside extensive bus and cycle routes, put central London, major airports, and Chelmsford's Diocesan Cathedral within easy reach.



St. Alban's Church Great Ilford
Parish profile

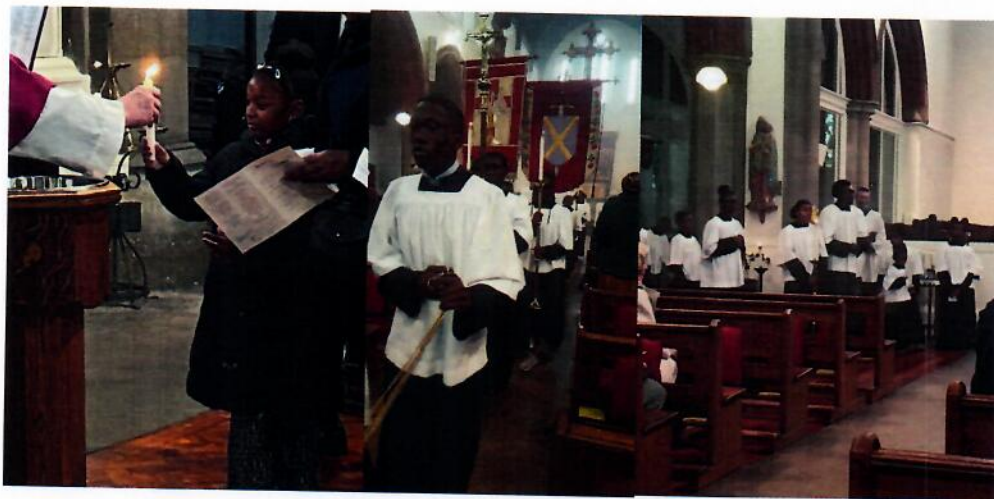
WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR?



We seek a priest who will uphold the Anglo-Catholic ethos of St Alban's under the pastoral care of the Bishop of Richborough, leading us in worship, teaching, and service.

We are looking for someone who:

- Inspires worship and nurtures our Christian community.
- Responds to the diverse spiritual needs of congregation and parish.
- Recognises opportunities for outreach in the heart of Ilford.
- Works with wardens and PCC on administration and finance to support mission.
- Builds on strong community links and interfaith relationships.
- Prioritises ministry with children and young people, especially through schools and local groups.



We can offer:

- Support in playing a full role within the Parish, Deanery, and Diocese.
- Encouragement for personal growth, spiritual development, and work-life balance.
- A parish-based Vicarage (or as close as possible).

