

Welcome to



St. Patrick's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Parish Profile

May 2025

Contents

Vision	3
Our Parish and Community on the Eastbury Estate	4
Minister Qualities and <i>Member Pledges</i>	5
Believing in Barking	6
Worship	7
St Patrick's Church and Church Family	8
Discipleship	9
Discipleship Together	10
Fellowship	11
Fellowship Social	12
Ministry	13
Mission	14
Drop-in Clinic	15
Open House	16
Church Building and Grounds	17
The Vicarage	18
Brief History	19
Summary	20
The Diocese: A Message From Bishop Guli	21
Appendix 1: Accounts 2024	22
Appendix 2: Parish Map	23



In our Vision for the future, we will

- continue to nurture and encourage the skills and talents of all members which will bring us closer together in fellowship and strengthen our warm welcome to all who enter through our door;***
- further develop links with community groups and voluntary organisations which will demonstrate that Christianity is firmly rooted in everyday life, in the here and now, and we will shine God's light in humble evangelism in Kingdom work wherever there is a need.***



Our Parish and Community on the Eastbury Estate

St. Patrick's lies on the edge of Barking town centre and is a church that has historically found the favour of its local residents on the extensive Eastbury Estate. The church family is strong and is ready and eager to work with the next incumbent. Together, we can - and will - move forward in the changing and challenging era in which we live and minister.

Our location is blessed with a variety of good transport links. There are several bus routes heading into Barking Town Centre. Upney Station (District Line) is a 5-7 minute walk away and, for those who like the exercise of walking, Barking Station (C2C, District, Hammersmith & City, Overground to Gospel Oak lines) can be reached in 15-20 minutes. From there, heading West, the City is reached within 15 minutes and Central London within 30 minutes. Heading East, Southend and other Essex coastal towns are within 45-60 minutes away. There is also the added advantage of 'sailing' on Uber boats from Barking Riverside to Greenwich, the Tower of London Pier and all the way along the Thames to Putney!

The A13 is close-by and that leads easily to the M25. It takes around 25 minutes to reach Dartford Tunnel. The M11, via the North Circular, can be reached in around 17 minutes. Like all outer London Boroughs, the whole Deanery now comes under the ULEZ scheme. The Church is now also in a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). The perimeter pathway against the church grounds is designated as Business Parking only and we have so far been unable to persuade the Council to allow us to buy Visitor's Parking Permits. There are three different parking zones within the Parish, each with their own specific permit. For the immediate church area, permits are needed from Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Barking itself has regular market stalls on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and a variety of everyday shops. The Local Authority is planning a massive redevelopment of the shopping centre which they hope will attract new retail outlets and investment. For a wider range of shops, the Westfield Stratford City centre is within easy reach, as are Ilford and Romford. Taking the District, and then Central line, London Oxford Street is reached within 40 minutes.

It takes two minutes to walk and enjoy the local amenity of Eastbury Manor House and Valence House in Dagenham has an absolute wealth of interesting history about the Borough. Other major locations in the Barking area include the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (West Ham Football Club's base is there), London City Airport, ExCeL, Royal Docks, the University of East London and Barking Riverside.

***We invite you now to read on and discover more about St Patrick's as it is today
and its aspirations and commitments for the future.***

From its consecration, every minister that God has drawn to St Patrick’s has been a person with an unwavering faith, a heart for people and led a life of integrity. Every incumbent has brought with them a range of skills and talents that reflected their era. It is therefore impossible to define exactly what qualities should be listed for the current era and beyond. However, our diverse membership has spoken of the following attributes that they feel merit inclusion and what we feel will help you carry out urban ministry – and we hope they will resonate with you.

We seek a minister who will -

- **Be a person of prayer**
and we will pray with you, for you, and for our church and parish.
- **Possess a heart for deep pastoral care**
and together we will strive to support all those in need, physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- **Make a commitment to engage with our culturally diverse church and community**
and we will guide and inform you about our parish.
- **Be prepared to work collaboratively with the LLM and lay team**
and we look forward to working alongside you in all matters.
- **Have an acceptance of the ministry of women in all roles**
and we will work hard to ensure no gender bias.
- **Strive to be a good communicator of faith that will challenge and inspire at all levels**
and we will be diligent in our own efforts to grow in faith and understanding.
- **Encourage us to take risks in trying new ways of worship and ministry**
and we will be open to be challenged!
- **Feel able, in time, to share any matters causing disquiet**
and we will accept the need to address our frailties.
- **Take advantage of continuing training development opportunities**
and we will encourage you and ensure you have the time to devote to study.
- **Strive not to allow your ministerial role to impact on your personal time**
and we will endeavour to cover routine tasks and not overburden you.
- **Be open to humorous exchanges of faith and fellowship**
and we will be respectful and engender a joyous atmosphere.
- **Have good co-ordination and administrative skills**
and we will continue to offer clerical assistance where possible.

We very much look forward to welcoming the next incumbent into our midst. However God is gifting and preparing that person, we know with certainty that we will move forward together and become stronger and more effective in ministry and mission.

Believing in Barking

Believing in Barking is a project financed by funds secured from Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board as part of the Diocesan Investment Project and is resourcing a full time incumbency (38% funded through DIP governed by SMMIB for 3 years), so time limited under regulation 29 The Clergy (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009

The following additional areas of focus and responsibilities are required in this role in addition to the PCC parish profile:

- Develop mission activities among the significant number of overseas students resident within the parish and explore the possibility of services in other languages (or multiple languages)
- Pioneer models for parish-based estates ministry which may offer sustainable pathways for mission and ministry within the parish and in similar parish-based estates contexts.
- Connect with and make a substantial contribution to the work of the Diocesan Estates Network and connect to this field of ministry nationally.
- Develop lay ministry within the parish and across the Deanery to support an active engagement with the other SMMIB funded missional work, especially in the deepening of relationships with neighbouring parishes.
- Provide support and encouragement to parishes within the Barking and Dagenham Deanery who are seeking to develop missional Estate based ministry.

Introduction to who we are now

The following sections are but a flavour of where we are at present and what we will build upon together, to help us fulfil God's purposes for St Patrick's and its Parish.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

Psalm 46: 1-2 – our memory verse for 2025.

There is a Sunday service at 10.00am, led by the Incumbent or our Licensed Lay Minister. The style of worship is contemporary and gently evangelical.

At 10.00am:

- Generally, services follow the Book of Common Worship, though not exclusively Lectionary Readings during Ordinary Time.
- Holy Communion is held at least twice-monthly.
- Worship and Word services last approximately for an hour, Holy Communion one and a half hours.
- Once a month is an All Age Service where we are mindful of, and hope to be more engaging with, the young of the church.
- The most significant change in recent years is that the minister is not the only person to lead and preach on a Sunday and other special occasions. We have 're-imagined' our services and sometimes the minister is able to simply come and be!
- We are blessed with a Licensed Lay Minister who regularly preaches and who also leads the Singing Group.
- Lay people serve and assist at the communion rail.
- Intercessors meet on the Chancel prior to the service to pray and listen for God's prompting.
- Prophetic words are occasionally announced during the service and many respond and come forward for prayer ministry at the end of the service.
- There is an opportunity for Testimony, where members can share events of the previous week and we take much encouragement hearing how God is working for good in everyday life.
- Occasionally we have a "This Time Tomorrow" slot.
- Reading the Word is undertaken by both the old, the young and those in-between.
- Intercessions are said during the service by a variety of members.
- A telephone-based prayer line is always available.
- Sunday School ministry takes place twice monthly and activity folders are available on the remaining Sundays. The children stay in church until after Time for Testimony and return at the Peace. Towards the end, they eagerly present their work to the congregation.
- We have moved from book-based worship to an AV system.
- A mix of modern and traditional hymns are played through the AV system.
- A singing group helps lead the sung worship once a month at the All-Age Service and teach the congregation new songs.
- We hold a licence for modern worship, and are fully compliant with CCLI.
- Avid arm wavers and flag wavers stand companionably within our midst, everyone united in singing praise.
- Wardens (or a rota of volunteers) open and close the church, and set-up for the service. Many members help tidy up and clear away.
- Refreshments are offered at the end of the service, also by a rota of volunteers, and folk are encouraged to stay for a chat and catch-up.
- There is a monthly information sheet which contains details of news, upcoming events and contact numbers and this is also available on the church website.
- There are currently 40 members on the Electoral Roll.
- There is an average Sunday attendance of 25-35.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY



***“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
Ephesians 4:3 – our memory verse for 2024.***

A time of Testimony during the Sunday morning service has been a catalyst for sharing personal stories. It has reminded everyone of how God never ceases working within our everyday life and how reliant we are on Spiritual guidance and strength. More importantly, we’ve heard personal accounts of how being a disciple in today’s society – especially in an urban area of such diversity as ours - can challenge Christian beliefs and ethics.

To this end we’ve sought ways of nurturing individual discipleship; growing as a church in collective discipleship and collaborating in the wider Christian community; drawing upon resources available within and outside of the church.

In recent years -

- We have been a hub for the Course in Christian Studies: many attained a deeper knowledge of scripture and application for discipleship; one is now a Licensed Lay Minister and another leads services.
- We’ve held courses on: Listening to God, Healing, Growing Healthy Churches, Prophetic Ministry, a Bereavement course in conjunction with a local funeral directors, Lent, and developing one’s Prayer life through various styles of prayerful obedience.
- Mid-week meetings are encouraged and led by members: opportunities for teach-ins to increase Biblical knowledge and understanding; exploring ethical issues; debating those challenging questions that non-Christians want answered; inviting guest speakers from the Christian community and people of other faiths or local organisations.

And our focus has not just revolved around adults -

- Young children, teens and especially the young adults have been encouraged to think about their own discipleship role; how they can witness to their peers and form their own vision for the church.
- Sunday School leaders have a wealth of experience and knowledge, and with the help of modern technology and resources, sessions are vibrant and imaginative.

During the last incumbent’s five year stay, the Vicar was also Priest-in-Charge at St Elisabeth’s Becontree for two years and then, subsequently, 35% of his time was spent working with Churches Together in East London and Essex.

The congregation is open to change and would welcome fresh perceptions on empowering disciples and nurturing vocations.

DISCIPLESHIP - TOGETHER

Bradwell Pilgrimage July 2024

At last we got there, after many years of wanting to have a day out together and a chance to bond closer. We were able to use the Deanery minibus and the day began with great camaraderie during the journey. Despite torrential rain and howling wind in the morning, the sunshine came out in the afternoon and it was a joy to walk along the deserted beach and feel God's presence. The ancient Chapel held us spellbound, as we listened to scripture and raised our voices to the rafters. Our sodden raincoats didn't deter us from sharing an array of picnic food in a leaky tent! As always happens, there was far too much food and we shared the leftovers after the following day's service! What a day it was for the church family to praise God and share precious time together. It was also a great opportunity for new church members to get to know others in such an informal setting. We may very well repeat the experience and certainly look for other similar opportunities.



***“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”
Philippians 2:3-4 – our memory verse for 2022.***

We are a church that seeks ways of sharing time together, affirming friendships and bonding with new members. We are all at different stages on our journey of faith but share a common purpose for seeking a closer relationship with God and one another.

- Singing is greatly enjoyed and we are blessed with a Worship Group and a skilled musician who once a month sets about teaching us new songs – and we do try to be good pupils.
- Prayer is at the centre of all we do and yet some, perhaps even most, struggle to pray at times. In addition to collective and individual intercessory prayers on a Sunday, a prayer evening is held once a month. This is led by different members, in a variety of formats. Members may join in with as much or as little as they wish, some simply come and enjoying being still in the Lady Chapel.
- The St Patrick’s Debt Centre sadly had to close (October 2023) due to lack of funding but we do signpost those in need to agencies providing free advice.
- We welcome all into our church and, through much love and prayer, two Muslims have converted to Christianity.

We are also a church that enjoys having FUN! A small band of members gather together to devise ways for fellowship and evangelical events. Recent recurring and one-off events have been:-

- Regular fortnightly Craft and Natter group.
- St Patrick’s Day Gospel Karaoke in 2024 and a Quiz Evening in 2025 were both outstanding successes.
- Joint Pentecost service in Barking Abbey grounds with other nearby churches May 2024.
- The Big Help Out June 2024.
- Bradwell Pilgrimage July 2024.
- Pop-up drop-in clinic September 2024.
- Open House September 2024.
- The Queen’s Jubilee and King’s Coronation were also open and well-attended events.
- A community Litter Pick and VE Day Garden Party event is planned for May 2025.
- 85th Church Anniversary and Fete event is planned for July 2025.

St Patrick’s refers to itself as a ‘family church’ but it is difficult to be objective in assessing how we appear to those visiting us for the first time. We were therefore encouraged by comments made by a Mystery Worshipper. Although this happened nearly 10 years ago now we feel the comments received are still representative of the same atmosphere and environment that has been maintained. Numerous “brilliant” boxes were ticked and comments included:

“The welcome was good this was possibly the most relaxing place I’ve been to. It was very easy to feel at home.” “The overwhelming feeling was one of joy at being with a growing congregation who were comfortable with themselves, each other and where they are heading.”

Whilst those words were affirming, we do not underestimate the challenges of ‘inhabiting the world distinctively’ in a highly diverse urban community. The congregation broadly reflects the ethnic, age, and socio-economic profile of residents in the Eastbury Ward and the Borough in general.¹ There are 5,200 households in our Parish, with an estimated 15,600 residents. Approximately half of homes are owner-occupied and the other half predominantly renters of social housing. 46.6% classify themselves as Christian, 24.1% Muslim and 19.6% No Religion. 74.9% of the population state they are proficient in English.²

Many members choose to travel and make St Patrick’s their home church.

The congregation is open to fresh thoughts that would deepen our relationship with one another and shine God’s light and love in our community.

¹Census: <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/statisticsanddata>

FELLOWSHIP - SOCIAL

Karaoke evening on our Patronal Saint's Day March 2024

For once, in 2024, St Patrick's Day fell on a Saturday and we pondered how to celebrate. Many members had wanted to have an evening singing along to songs that had a scriptural message. It was a huge success. Never before have we seen so many 'quiet' church members throw themselves wholeheartedly into singing and jigging around! The sound was not altogether harmonious but we had not a care. It was simply great to sing along to songs from our youth and, amazingly, so many words sprang out from our memories. We were also amazed that there were several songs we all knew, despite our age range. As with most events, we had a bring-and-share supper. Never can it be said that St Patrick's people are not foodies. Green clover banners surrounded green iced cakes – green was everywhere. It was almost hard to tear ourselves away from the singing to enjoy the food – but we did!



Luke 22:27b "... I am among you as one who serves."

When the congregation sees 'ordinary' people being transformed for 'extraordinary' ministry, it encourages and inspires all members to search within themselves and many have discovered their hidden talents.

God has been greatly commissioning people within our church and Lay Ministry involvement has increased dramatically in recent years.

- We are currently blessed with one Licensed Lay Minister who preaches and teaches.
- An increasing number are willing to be stewards when required.
- Intercessors are always available in person or by telephone.
- After Sunday service Prayer Ministry teams are well-established.
- Many have become vessels for prophetic words.
- Prayer line ministry continues via the telephone.
- An Evangelistic Enabler has sadly moved so we seek God's help in finding another.
- Ministry to children and young adults is growing.
- The Safeguarding Officer is ensuring good practice, with ongoing training and updating DBS checks.
- But lest we become too focused on the achievements, we acknowledge that co-ordinated pastoral care is an area where a fresh look at ministry is needed.

Many are involved in community outreach projects and organisations.

- There are strong links with the Barking Foodbank.
- Some have assisted at former Night Shelters.
- Two members regularly assist at The Source, a free aid and advice shop situated in the town's main shopping precinct, financed by Barking Churches United whom we also support with a small annual subscription.
- Barking Intercessory Network (BIN): at least one church member has been involved in this Barking Prayer group for over ten years. Set up by Barking Churches United (BCU), Intercessors from a variety of Christian churches meet on Zoom and share their own experiences. It helps to keep us all informed of what is happening in different parts of the Borough and also in the voluntary aid and advice work of BCU itself. Frequently, we find that church parishes suffer from the same kinds of deprivation. It has also led to churches combining resources and running joint events. We attend BCU quarterly Prayer Evenings and host them when intercessions are focused on our area of Barking.
- A member works one day a week with Thames-Life, is also involved with the BD Collective, on the Committee of the Ripple Nature Reserve and Chairs the Ripple Effect Resident Group.

A Pioneer Missioner was commissioned and is heavily involved with Rescue & Care, a Ghanaian based charity helping women cope in the brutal penal system and assisting them when returning home to their families and children. A church member has been visiting Ghana twice a year and is a leading member in fundraising for such a valuable cause. We tithe to this charity.

As described earlier, ministry in an urban area and in a greatly changing society is challenging. And yet, it also provides opportunities to serve and minister in ways previously unknown and unthought. Our prayer is for the church to be a stronger presence of love and hope in our community and respond to its needs, and to engage with more families and young people.

Drawing people in, equipping and encouraging people to go out and be the church every day of the week.

The congregation is seeking a fresh understanding to help revitalise our pastoral support network and reignite evangelism.

“Focusing outward. We are called always to look to the needs of those beyond the Church. When we fail to do this we risk becoming embroiled in our own internal divisions. Instead we are invited to join in God’s mission, embodied in the person of Jesus Christ, to share the good news, to serve our neighbours, and to work for greater justice, especially for those who are most oppressed and marginalised.”

Travelling Well Together – Diocese of Chelmsford

In the previous sections we have described what we have been doing in recent times to equip ourselves and the church for ministry and mission, and how and with whom members are involved in the community and borough. We continue to strengthen church unity with Away Days and these have proved both successful and enjoyable. Baptism and Confirmation courses are held but we have had just one joyous member’s Wedding in the past few years. St Patrick’s members made their first trip to the Bradwell Pilgrimage in July 2024, a great day transpired.

Church giving has remained fairly constant which has helped not only with running costs but in mission Tithing to local, national and international charities whenever possible. Recent Tithing went to: Compassion, The Barking Foodbank and Rescue and Care (Ghanaian prison project).

There are two large Primary schools within the Parish but contact has been sporadic, mostly depending on the willingness, or not, of the Headteacher to engage with the vicar. For the past three years, a good relationship with Ripple Primary School was attained. St Patrick’s opens its doors to the public as part of Open House London every September and in 2024 we hosted a Pop-Up Clinic with more to follow. Through our churchwarden Marion Hull, we actively support Roding Rubbish and often offer hospitality at the end of one of their litter-picking sessions. In June 2024, we hosted lunch on The Big Help Out day.

We have never been a church that simply marks time during interregnums but there is no doubt that a leader co-ordinating all the various elements of church life greatly increases the success of plans and visions. There is great potential for outreach within our Parish and last year we included a Provocative Proposal on our website:

“St Patrick’s Church is a group of ordinary people bound together by faith and love of Jesus, coming alongside others where they are. We include everyone. We are confident in being loved by God, our Father. He especially loves it when we love one another as we love ourselves. We are a grace-filled community in which people can find relationship, healing, faith, hope and love. Accountability, responsibility and transparency between all are important to us. Here everybody contributes something. We have talents given by God’s Holy Spirit and use them. We heal as Jesus healed. We encounter God spiritually through people’s gifts. We take Jesus into the community. We are a missionary movement to love and reach the lost, care for the poor and bring justice to homes, our neighbourhood and workplaces. We ‘walk on water’ by getting ‘out of the boat’. We are growing in numbers, maturity and public influence. We like passionate, modern, vibrant, informal and moving worship. We celebrate God’s awesome power, supreme splendour and sovereign work, while at the same time experiencing His intimate presence - encountering Him in heartfelt worship. All we believe, teach and do comes from the Bible, the written word of God. We also listen and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us individually and corporately. We believe Sunday to be a special day and therefore we respect it.”

The congregation is open to fresh opportunities to harness our skills and our passion for spirit-led Mission in our Parish

Drop-in Clinic - September 2024

We initiated discussions about holding one of the Borough's free Drop-in-Clinics in our church. Many of our parishioners are on low-incomes and cannot afford to travel to events further afield. Our beliefs were confirmed when so many local people arrived and appreciated the opportunity, for example, to see a local Doctor without an appointment. They were also grateful to have immediate access to other health and welfare advice. Among the Visitor comments were –

- “The shoulder massage helped no end with the stiffness I've had for a while.”
- “Great to speak in confidence with a doctor without having to wait for an appointment.”
- “Received helpful advice, very thankful for the service.”
- “Was signposted to where I could get help.”
- “Friendly atmosphere, felt at ease.”



CLINIC 3 of 6

Free Drop-in Clinic

AVAILABLE ON THE DAY:

- ✓ Health Checks
- ✓ Social Wellbeing Advice
- ✓ Stop Smoking Support
- ✓ Cost of Living Advice
- ✓ Hand & Shoulder Massage
- ✓ Cancer Awareness
- ✓ Blood Pressure Checks
- ✓ Talking Therapy

See a local DOCTOR for health advice

Next Clinic:
Friday 20th September
2PM - 5PM

Brought to you by:

- Thames Life
- NHS
- Barking & Dagenham
- Ripple Road Medical Centre
- HEAL STUDIO
- St.Patrick's

St Patrick's Church
Blake Avenue
Barking
IG11 9SQ



Open House - September 2024

As we are very close to a great National Trust listed building, Eastbury Manor House, we initiated talks on designing joint publicity. This gained maximum publicity for both buildings and resulted in increased attendance at both locations. We gave guided tours of the church and its history, then invited visitors to join us for free refreshments. Barking Historical Society and Barking Photographic Society were present and their input aided visitor understanding of our Parish and Borough. When we opened in 2023, one visitor remarked they had been a Scout many years ago and the church felt just as welcoming now. Another commented that their Grandmother had been a life-long member of our church. Two visitors later joined the Historical Society and one joined the Photographic Society. In our 2024 Visitor's Book, we later read complimentary comments and that was a reward in itself for the hard work of laying-on such an event. Among their comments were –

“Lovely peaceful Chapel.” Susan, Marylebone.

“Thanks for the warm welcome.” Katherine, Canada.

“A very friendly community.” Cath, Brixton.

“Thank you for your hospitality and warmth.” Faith, Herne Hill.

“A great feeling of past history and present community.” Naomi, SW12.

OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL

St. Patrick's & Eastbury Manor



St. Patrick's Church,
Blake Avenue,
Barking IG11 9SD.
Open Sat 21 Sep,
10am-4.30pm
(7.1.0 for Eastbury Manor opening times)

Visit both St. Patrick's and Eastbury Manor House,
just a short walk apart during Open House Festival
2024- it's completely free!

The following Stallholders will be at St. Patrick's
Church;



Barking Photographic Society



Barking Historical Society

Church Building and Grounds

Blake Avenue, Barking, IG11 9SQ, Tel: 020 8594 4468



The external appearance of the building is most commonly referred to as “plain” but upon closer inspection the round Tower, with its integrated and rooftop crosses, provides a strong and visible sign that God dwells within. The Quinquennial Inspection in 2024 highlighted a number of areas requiring attention, mainly involving minor tarmac and brickwork repairs and a fresh coating of solar paint to all roofs. Since the report was received pigeons have gained access to the Tower and steps to eradicate them and clean the inside brickwork and flooring are being taken. A new heating system is required and a feasibility study is to be commissioned. Estimates are being gathered and formal Fundraising has begun. Overall costs for immediate Tower and Roof works are around £20,000.

The garden surrounding the church is mostly laid to lawn, with flower beds, trees, a steel shed, and with a layer of shale bordering the base of the building. The steel fencing and four gates are of low maintenance. The main entrance for worshippers is at the Hall end on the South facing side but the only access into the building is via the single side gate and back door. There is security lighting but no alarm system. The boiler house is also only accessible through the garden. We use the church grounds as often as we can, especially to invite local parishioners to join in celebrations such as the Queen’s Jubilee and the King’s Coronation. Visitors are also interested to learn about the community project that resulted in the interesting and unusual garden mosaic mural. A few years ago, the St Patrick’s 13th Scout Group merged with the Salvation Army’s pack so it is a joy when they return to use our grounds for tent assembly practise and games, and to undertake their Faith Badge. Our regular gardening team is quite small and the work is hard! However, since October 2024, the Community Payback team has helped us by focusing on litter-picking, landscaping and groundwork. We have been addressing concerns for the environment, wildlife and our carbon footprint, and were awarded the **Rocha Silver Eco Award** in November 2021.

Internally, the art deco Reredos (Grade II*) never fails to astound and impress. The fabric of the building is in general good order. The original crittall window frames are watertight but aesthetically are not the most attractive. Lighting in the Nave would benefit from being replaced and we seek to restore the tiled flooring to its former glory.

The Hall is available for casual hire when members are available to oversee. The main source of vital letting income has been derived through our Faculty Agreement with a Ghanaian Pentecostal church that hires Sunday afternoons and at other ad hoc times. The Barking Photographic Society now meets alternate Thursday evenings and the Pakistan Prayer Group meets most Sunday evenings. We also host Community Ward Panel and Police Panel meetings. A Craft and Natter group, led by church members, meets twice a month on Tuesdays.

There is an Office, with an answering machine that is checked by the Wardens, as we do not currently employ an administrator. The PCC Secretary responds to email enquiries. As there is no Post Box at the Church address, correspondence is sent to the Vicarage.

The Vicarage

79 Sparsholt Road, Barking, IG11 7YG



The Vicarage is a Victorian five-bedroomed, end of terrace house, owned by the Diocese and situated on the opposite side of the railway line from the church. A pedestrian footbridge over the railway line is due to be rebuilt in August 2025. Until then there is no alternative but to walk to St Patrick's via the Ripple Road flyover. Vehicles have always had to take a short circuitous route. Parking restrictions on the roadside apply from Mondays to Saturdays, from 08.30am to 9.00pm. Incumbents vehicle(s) will need to be registered with the local authority. Visitor's permits can be obtained from the local authority.

On the ground floor, and leading off the entrance hall, is a spacious sitting room, a large kitchen, a separate dining room, the minister's study and a downstairs cloakroom. The basement is accessed from the kitchen. The kitchen back door leads directly onto a small paved area and then into the large lawned garden where an abundance of fruit trees and plants thrive. A double-garage can be accessed via the garden but vehicle entry is through double-gates at the side of the property. There is sufficient room for two cars. The bedrooms are spread over the two upper floors, with the bathroom and additional separate toilet situated on the first floor. Windows are double-glazed, there is a mix of laminate and carpet flooring, and the property has an alarm system. A gas boiler is situated in the kitchen.

As mentioned earlier, the location is blessed with a variety of good transport. From the Vicarage, Barking Town Centre and Station are within a ten-minute walk. A variety of destinations are then easily reached by the underground and overground rail services. The A13 is close-by and that leads easily to the M25. It takes around 35 minutes to reach Dartford Tunnel. The M11, via the North Circular, can be reached in around 17 minutes. Like all outer London Boroughs, the whole Deanery now comes under the ULEZ scheme.

PCC meetings were held at the Vicarage, at the previous incumbent's request, but in the absence of the bridge, it is easier for most members to currently meet in Church.

Please note that the Diocese is very open to finding a suitable house on the Church side of the railway line and we will be actively seeking an alternative property.

Brief History

In the 1920s an extensive social housing estate was planned for the area of Eastbury and a missional church plant was established in a modest building, sited opposite the historic Elizabethan “Eastbury House”.¹ The Church of the Ascension served a growing population until, through a generous benefactor, the building of St Patrick’s was commissioned in the late 1930s. The Borough freely allocated the land it still stands upon and a five-bedroomed Vicarage was purchased nearby. Even for that era, a round tower was uncommon and, to be dedicated to St Patrick, rarer still. The art deco Reredos was considered then – as it is indeed now – to be of an unusual and imaginative design. Its detractors, though, considered it to be more fitting for an Odeon cinema!

It served and witnessed well until the 1970s when a major conversion took place and a Hall area was incorporated at the West End of the church, the Font moved to the Nave, and some windows were enclosed to conserve heat and provide loft storage. The Ascension Hall land was sold, together with half of the church garden, to finance this development. The second major rebuilding programme took place in 2008, following subsidence at the West End of the church, and radically improved both the appearance and adaptability. Internally, the pews were replaced with upholstered chairs, enabling a more flexible space. Externally, steel railings and gates replaced the sorely disintegrating original ironworks. The improvements also enabled further Letting opportunities. 75% of the £180,000 total cost was met by the insurers and the remainder achieved through imaginative and energetic fundraising. The local community was also highly involved, as is evidenced by the quite astonishing mural of St Patrick’s and Barking’s history that stands proudly in the church garden.

It was during that time when the Reredos was evaluated by Historic England. Professional renovation took place and this led to St Patrick’s becoming a Listed Grade II* building. English Heritage said: *“This is a striking church with a dramatic east tower and tall nave, boldly cinematic and even nautical in its design. The interior is lofty and boldly expressed with a distinctive chancel. Finished after the out-break of war, the church also has historic interest. It fully merits listing at Grade II.”*²

In more recent years, an electric Piano and Guitar music-led worship has replaced the ancient piano and extensive audio-visual equipment has replaced book-based led services. As with all modern technology, this continues to be remodelled and updated, to meet changing times and styles of worship.

Throughout its history, St Patrick’s has evolved to reflect changing times and styles of worship, and through God’s great grace and spiritual presence we are confident it will continue to be a beacon of Kingdom light witnessing boldly within our Parish.

¹ www.nationaltrust.org.uk/eastbury-manor-house

² <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1393196>

and <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/.../Statutory-Listed-Buildings.pdf>

Summary

We give thanks for God's faithfulness in guiding ministers to St Patrick's and we trust that this Profile will enable ministers to prayerfully consider what it might be like to be part of the church family and inspire them to want to help nurture our future growth and development.

A few years ago, we commissioned an Appreciative Enquiry report for Growing a Healthy Church and the following is our weekly prayer, as we continue in Mission to love and serve God and the people of our Parish.

"Father, we pray that the whole church may be energised by faith
rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive;
That we may be outward-looking with a "whole life" rather than a "church life" concern;
That we may seek to find out what you want,
discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please everyone;
That we may face the cost of change and growth rather than resisting change and fearing failure;
That we may operate as a community rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation;
That we may make room for all, be inclusive rather than exclusive;
And that we may do a few things and do them well and be focused rather than frenetic;
And we ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour, the head of your Church."

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

Appendix 1 - Accounts 2024

Our monthly accounts are prepared by the excellent Diocesan Parish Accounts Service for a small annual fee. The annual audit of the accounts is also organised via the PAS.

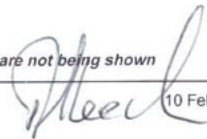
Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642

Analysis of receipts and payments Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Receipts						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	8,005	—	—	—	8,005	10,000
0103 - CAF	200	—	—	—	200	—
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	2,937	—	—	—	2,937	3,475
0201 - Other planned giving - small donations	4,484	—	—	—	4,484	3,874
0301 - Loose plate collections - GASDS	523	—	—	—	523	970
0302 - Sumup offertory - GASDS	1,304	—	—	—	1,304	769
0304 - Sumup offertory - Non Gasds	968	—	—	—	968	—
0550 - Donations appeals etc	113	—	—	—	113	830
0551 - Donations - Family Support Fund	—	—	—	—	—	387
0553 - Donations - Gardening Fund	—	—	180	—	180	145
0556 - Donations - Barking Debt Advice Centre	—	—	—	—	—	370
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	3,040	—	—	—	3,040	3,230
0602 - GASDS - Govt Top Up	1,433	—	—	—	1,433	1,404
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	—	—	—	13,140
0901 - Other funds generated	—	—	—	—	—	21
Donations and legacies Totals	23,009	—	180	—	23,189	38,619
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	78	—	—	—	78	345
1230 - Hall Letting Fees	12,731	—	—	—	12,731	10,865
Income from charitable activities Totals	12,809	—	—	—	12,809	11,210
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
0910 - Fundraising	234	—	—	—	234	—
Other trading activities Totals	234	—	—	—	234	—
<i>Investments</i>						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	162	—	21	—	184	167
Investments Totals	162	—	21	—	184	167
<i>Other income</i>						
1310 - Insurance claims	—	—	—	—	—	2,950
Other income Totals	—	—	—	—	—	2,950
Receipts Grand totals	36,216	—	201	—	36,418	52,947

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

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10 February 2025 Page 1
13/2/25

Appendix 2 - Parish Map

