

# The Parish of the Holy Trinity, East Ham



St Bartholomew St Mary Magdalene St Edmund



## Parish Profile and Role of Team Vicar



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*Photos on title page: scenes of feast day liturgies at St Bartholomew's Church; fellowship at St Edmund's, St Bart's and St Mary's Hall Christmas Market; Good Friday walk of witness in Barking Road, East Ham. Photo on this page: members of our ministry team together with the Chaplain to the Bishop of Chelmsford at St Edmund's Patronal Festival.*

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

## **The Deanery: a message from the Area Dean of Newham**

*Newham Deanery*

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

*Where the world meets.*

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

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

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

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

Rev Amy Stott  
Area Dean

## Invitation



Might God be calling you to East Ham at a time of opportunity and growth in our parish?

All three of our churches are experiencing growth in congregation numbers and an emergence of new lay leaders. We have discerned a need for a new Team Vicar to work primarily at St Bartholomew's Church & Centre and St

Edmund's Church to refresh and reimagine mission and ministry in the vibrant commercial and residential centre of East Ham.

This is a full-time incumbent-equivalent status post with full stipend and vicarage.

The Team Vicar will work with the rest of the ministry team which is led by the Team Rector. The Team Rector has oversight of the parish with particular pastoral responsibility for the ancient parish church of East Ham, St Mary Magdalene.

The parish has a well resourced parish office based at St Bart's with a full time parish administrator, two dedicated and hard working lay pastoral assistants based at St Bart's, and committed churchwardens and laypeople.

A warm welcome and support from a committed team awaits you, should you be appointed as Team Vicar.



## Role Description

### Details of post

Role title (as on licence):	Vicar in the Team Ministry established for the Benefice of East Ham, Holy Trinity
Parish:	East Ham, Holy Trinity
Benefice:	East Ham, Holy Trinity
Episcopal Area:	Barking
Archdeaconry:	West Ham
Deanery:	Newham

### Role purpose

Priestly ministry and mission across the whole parish with particular responsibility for St Bartholomew's Church & Centre and St Edmund's Church.

### Accountability at parish level

The Team Vicar is accountable to the Team Rector and Parochial Church Council (PCC).

### Summary of responsibilities and objectives

- Pastoral, sacramental, preaching and teaching ministry across the parish with particular day to day and pastoral responsibility at St Bartholomew's Church & Centre and St Edmund's;
- Congregational development and growth across the parish with particular responsibility at Bartholomew's Church and Centre and St Edmund's, especially encouraging and nurturing
  - o lay leaders;
  - o those new to faith;
  - o lay participation in the liturgy;

- o children and youth ministry and outreach, in collaboration with the deanery youth champion;
  - o good stewardship;
  - o ongoing discipleship, e.g. Bible study and other courses;
- Strengthening the missional presence of the church in the community, including strengthening and developing relationships
  - o between the congregational life and wider community life at St Bartholomew's Church & Centre;
  - o with local schools and other community organizations;
- Working with the parish administrator in matters relating primarily to the operation of St Bartholomew's Church & Centre, and general operational matters of the parish;
- To play a full part in the PCC, St Bart's and St Edmund's DCCs and to attend ministry team meetings weekly;
- To play a full part in the parish, deanery, borough and diocese by nurturing the shared diocesan values as set out in *Travelling Well Together* (2023), namely
  - o Awareness of Grace
  - o Valuing the small, the vulnerable and the marginal
  - o Focusing outward
  - o Sustaining healthy rhythms
  - o Kindness, mutual respect, gentleness and humility
  - o Generously collaborative
  - o Faithful, creative, courageous and open to the unexpected and surprising
- To be a role model to the congregations in terms of personal spiritual discipline and accountability, emphasising reliance on God, openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the centrality of prayer;
- To set a high standard in personal conduct, setting and maintaining appropriate boundaries;
- To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy and other relevant legislation including safeguarding.

## Person Specification

### Essential

- commitment to collaborative ministry and servant leadership, able to work collaboratively with clergy colleagues, churchwardens and other lay leaders;
- a heart for Christ-centred ministry in urban East London in all its diversity and complexity;
- The interpersonal and organizational skills and enthusiasm for working in a community centre context and for engaging with community groups;
- A sacramental and liturgical priest, who is at home in the catholic tradition and lives it in their day to day life;
- A person of deep faith and theological knowledge, who is ready to help God's people there to grow more deeply into their faith;
- A good communicator and relationship builder;
- A priest who is accessible, pastoral, and caring with people of all ages.

### Desirable

- Experience of
  - working with a community centre, community groups and charities, and mission in a community centre context;
  - developing ministry with young people and children;
  - working in a diverse community context;
  - working in a collaborative structure such as a Team Ministry.

## What does the role offer?

- A dedicated and supportive congregation, lay leadership, Team Rector and ministry team, ready to support you and with openness and encouragement;
- Commitment to ensuring you have time and space for your own spiritual growth including visiting your spiritual director, personal prayer, study, training and retreats, and to enjoy adequate rest, recreation and time with family and friends;
- Opportunity for regular Bible study and time for reflection and mutual support at ministry team meetings;
- A well resourced parish office with full time parish administrator;
- A well located purpose-built vicarage with garage and large garden (see the section 'The Vicarage' below).

## Parish Profile

### The Parish of the Holy Trinity, East Ham

The Parish of the Holy Trinity, East Ham is a single parish Team Ministry with three churches in the Deanery of Newham. The parish covers the wards of East Ham South, East Ham and Boleyn. Newham is one of the most rapidly changing areas in the Diocese. The Parish of the Holy Trinity is large numerically, at 62,000, and very diverse. The tradition of the parish as a whole is liturgical and sacramental, with the Eucharist at the heart of our life together.

The Team Rector oversees the parish, and has particular responsibility for St Mary Magdalene's (known as 'St Mary's'), located at the southern end of the parish. He works



alongside three Associate Priests (one of whom is also Priest in Charge of a neighbouring church and an Honorary Assistant Bishop), two honorary Honorary Associate Priests with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate and two lay pastoral assistants.

The Team Vicar role will be largely based at St Bartholomew's Church & Centre, a multi-purpose church and community centre, located on Barking Road in the centre of the parish and at the commercial centre East Ham.

The 'East Ham Team Ministry' was formed in 1976 composed of St Bartholomew's, St Mary's and St Alban's Upton Park (the latter having since closed). In 2013 St Edmund's, Forest Gate, joined the Team to form the single parish and benefice of 'East Ham, Holy Trinity', though generally known as the 'Parish of the Holy Trinity'.

## St Bartholomew's Church & Centre

St Bartholomew's Church & Centre, Barking Road, is situated in the commercial centre of East Ham, near Newham Town Hall and Central Park. This is a busy shopping and residential area with some high-rise flats and terrace houses in an ethnically diverse borough. The area has good amenities and good transport links, the church being close to East Ham Underground Station (District Line and Hammersmith & City Line) and being served by several bus routes.



## The Building



The original church of St Bartholomew on Barking Road was built in 1902 to replace St John the Baptist, High Street North, itself a chapel of ease of St Mary's since 1866. St Bartholomew's was damaged by bombing in the Second World War and restored in 1953, then demolished and replaced with the current St Bartholomew's Church & Centre in 1983.

St Bart's consists of the worship space, associated rooms, sheltered housing flats, and a separate office suite (a former NHS General Practice) all of which have their own entrances.

The Centre consists of an entrance foyer, café area, kitchen, toilets and a meeting room (the Luke Room). Access to the Church and the sacristy beyond is through the foyer. The



Church consists of a wide worship space, principal altar, organ and Lady Chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved and weekday Eucharists are celebrated.



The Church has a removable partition to the liturgical west, creating a separate hall with a large kitchen. That area is licensed to a day nursery.

On the first floor is the Parish Office, Rector's office, and further small rooms and a meeting-room which overlooks the worship area.

Above the Centre are several flats for the elderly, managed by a housing association.

## Worship

St Bart's sits within the modern catholic liturgical tradition, with Sung Eucharist at 10am each Sunday and Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel at 12.15pm on Thursdays.

The lunchtime Communion is attended by many of the Centre users, reflecting the porous relationship between Centre and Church. There are good opportunities to build on this relationship to increase the Church's presence in and service to the local community.

St Bart's, being in one of the most ethnically mixed boroughs in London, attracts people from many cultures and backgrounds. This presents opportunities to use new and creative ways to engage with newcomers and help them feel a part of the church family in worship and church life.



We have good relations with two local care homes where we hold regular Eucharists and services for special occasions, supported by clergy and lay members.

St Bart's hosts three congregations from different churches on Sundays, each a reflection of the denominational and ethnic diversity of Newham.

## **The Centre and Café**

St Bart's Centre, with the St Bart's Café at its hub, is a key point of connection between the church and wider community, being available, active and welcoming to all.

The Centre is open every day and accommodates a variety of local and community groups, for example: the Parkinson's UK East London & Newham Support Group, Community Counselling East Ham, Alcohol Anonymous, St John's Ambulance, Brownies, a community choir and line dancing.

St Bart's Café offers a friendly welcome to all and is invaluable to those who might otherwise experience loneliness. It opens four days a week, offering light lunches, cakes and beverages. The café hosts weekly craft groups, a Scrabble group and holds monthly quizzes and film shows. It is run by a manager and assistant, supported by a team of volunteers.



## Food Pantry

The Church hosts a weekly food pantry, serving individuals and families struggling to afford enough food due to financial hardship and unemployment. About twenty to thirty people use this service weekly.



## St Edmund, King and Martyr, Forest Gate



St Edmund's is a small, neighbourhood church, the current church having been created in 1988 from the vicarage of the Edwardian Church (now demolished) and is on a busy road in Forest Gate.

Part of the Team Vicar's role will be to work with the Team Rector in providing pastoral oversight at St Edmund's.



St Edmund's has the smallest congregation of the parish and is diverse and devout with Mass on Sundays at 10am and Tuesdays at 12.15pm. The building is flexible with the church on the ground floor seating 40 and can be extended to accommodate a further 20 people; there is also a small chapel, the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, and a vestry. There is an organ and a grand piano.

The first floor of the building is licensed to Alternatives Trust East London, a local charity which supports underprivileged women and families, and the top floor is let as accommodation; both these are instrumental in the sustainability of the church and parish.

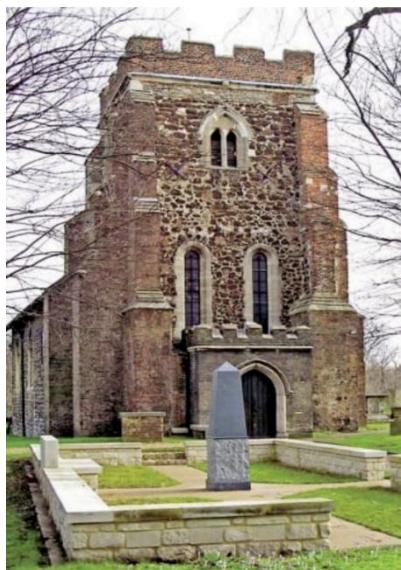
The building is also used weekly by a congregation of the Bibleway Church, UK.

The congregation is faithful, warm and welcoming and happy to be part of the wider parish, joining with the other congregations for festivals and social events.



*Above: St Edmund's Patronal Festival 2025 joined by members of the congregations from St Mary Magdalene's and St Bart's.*

## The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene



Built in the 12th century, St Mary Magdalene's is a grade 1 listed church and is one of the oldest churches in London. It also has the largest churchyard in the city which is now East Ham Nature Reserve managed by the local authority. Despite the age of the church it is in good condition and we are blessed to have the resources to maintain and repair it far into the future.

St Mary's is a popular and active church with people from a wide range of backgrounds and ages including several young families. Our main Sunday service is Sung Parish Mass with music and choir led by our organist and choirmaster. There are also Said Masses at 8am on Sundays and 6.30pm on Wednesdays. We hold a weekend celebration for the feast of St Mary Magdalene in July where we hold a church tour, a market and music performances. We also have a large and active District Church Council. We host a popular Christmas market, visits from local schools, and we gather for events like the coronation and other occasions. St Mary's holds the Rocha Eco Church Silver award.

Pastoral ministry at St Mary's is the principle responsibility of the Team Rector (who was previously Team Vicar at St Mary's). There will be opportunities to share in the ministries at St Mary's as part of the Team Vicar's wider parish role, especially youth and children's ministry, links with the nature reserve and special liturgical occasions.

*Right: Wednesday evening Mass at St Mary's*





*Left: Carol Service 2024 at St Mary Magdalene*



*Right: Eco Church Garden alongside St Mary's Hall*

## Fellowship House and St Alban's Hall

Fellowship House is to the rear of the Centre. It is the original, Georgian, Grade-II listed rectory which has been converted to flats for affordable housing, managed by a housing association. The ground-floor space of the building is leased to a children's nursery.

St Alban's, situated in Wakefield Street, was rebuilt in the 1970s and is no longer used for worship. The building comprises sheltered housing, and office space and a large hall (formerly the worship area) which are currently leased to a children's nursery.

## Joint Parish activities

We very much appreciate the worship and fellowship we enjoy together. We have joint Sunday worship services throughout the year, rotating among the churches. We hold a number of joint social and spiritual events and try to support each other's activities. We value being in a team.

## Mission and Ministry Partnership (MMP)

In 2022, our Parish encouraged three other local churches to become 'partners' in an Mission and Ministry Partnership (MMP). We concentrated on relationship-building events and began to form valuable bridges among the laity, including prayer walks, walks of witness, joint Lent and Advent courses and social events.

We are seeing the fruits of our partnership by setting up a peer support group for pastoral workers, sharing administrative support and shared 'in person' safeguarding training.

## Finance and Governance

The Parish is fortunate in being in a stable financial position. We derive considerable rental income from St Alban's Hall, Fellowship House, and St Edmund's, as well as from the building at St Bartholomew's and users of the Centre. This income is used to cover the cost of the worship areas of St Edmund's and St Bart's, staff salaries and office costs.

It can also be used to subsidise some of our activities, such as the Cafe. The costs of St Mary's Church are met from a substantial, dedicated fund.

Being a single parish, we have a single Parochial Church Council and each church has its own District Church Council (DCC) and there are Churchwardens from all three churches.

We take safeguarding very seriously and have three Parish Safeguarding Officers.

The Parish currently employs a full-time administrator, a caretaker, a food pantry manager and a café manager and assistant, all based at St Barts.

## Newham and East Ham: Demographics

Detailed demographic statistics for Newham can be found here:

<https://www.newham.info/newham-facts-and-figures/>.

Newham is both one of the youngest boroughs in the country, with a large increase shown in the 2021 census from 2011, and, paradoxically, also an ageing borough with numbers of those aged 65 and over increasing between 2011 and 2021.

It is a hugely diverse and constantly changing area. It is also a faithful borough and a place of religious diversity.

Young professional families are moving into the houses around the parish; yet alongside them are houses and flats in multi-occupancy, indicative of instability and low income.



Alongside locals who work in our schools, or commute to Canary Wharf and the City, there are large numbers of construction workers, often unstably employed, mini-cab drivers, and care workers. Also, many people work in the family businesses – shops, restaurants etc – throughout the parish.

The main shopping area in the parish is High Street North, and one of two Tube stations in the parish is located here. Transport links are excellent – as well as the Tube, there are good bus services. The two branches of the Elizabeth Line are to the North and South of the parish and serviced by local buses.

There are eight primary schools, two secondary schools and two tertiary colleges in the parish. We have substantial engagement with several of the primary schools and there are pre-schools and nurseries based in various church properties.

Newham Hospital is just outside the parish. There are also several care homes and blocks of sheltered accommodation in the parish.

The parish is a vibrant, exciting place – full of energy alongside paradox and challenge, and a wonderful place to reflect on what it means to be a transforming, sacramental presence in a diverse and constantly changing context.

## **Electoral Role and usual Sunday attendance statistics**

### **Electoral roll numbers (published Low Sunday 2025):**

	St Mary Magdalene	St Bartholomew	St Edmund	Total
Resident	26	17	5	<b>48</b>
Non- Resident	31	14	4	<b>49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>97</b>

### **Usual Sunday attendance (estimates based on October 2024 count for Statistics for mission attendance)**

Parish total **105** age 16+, **12** under 16s

St Bartholomew's – 25 age 16+, 2 under 16s

St Edmund's – 10 age 16+, 2 under 16s

St Mary Magdalene's – 70 age 16+, 8 under 16s

## The Vicarage

*The Vicarage  
Navarre Road  
London  
E6 3AQ*

The Team Vicar's accommodation is a purpose built parsonage situated next to St Bartholomew's Church & Centre. Unusual for the area the house has dedicated off-street parking, a garage and a large walled garden.

Built 1961 with major alterations in 1988 and more

recent renovations, it is a detached two storey cavity brick-built parsonage. Windows and doors are replacement UPVC, rainwater goods are a combination of cast iron and UPVC.

At ground floor there is an entrance lobby, vicar's study, cloakroom/WC, kitchenette, allowing usage for ministry separate from the rest of the house if so desired. The rest of the ground floor includes two reception rooms, utility room and kitchen.

On the first floor there are two double bedrooms, two single bedrooms, bathroom with WC, landing with airing cupboard and linen cupboard.



[easthamparish.org.uk](http://easthamparish.org.uk)