

*Parish of St. Anne, Chingford*



*Additional reports for the APCM  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025*



## **Report of the Electoral Roll Officer**

Last year there were 63 people on the Electoral Roll, 36 resident and 27 non-resident.

This year we have produced a completely new roll which has 51 members, 29 resident and 22 non-resident.

There are four new members on the new roll. Three members of the 2024 roll died during the year and 13 did not apply for membership of the current roll.

*Mick Scotchmer, Acting Electoral Roll Officer  
March 2025*

## **Churchwardens Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

### **Overview:**

In his May 2024 Quinquennial Review of the church building, the architect commented:

“The church is showing its age but has been looked after by the congregation over the years. It is generally in good condition without major defect. “

This report gives further detail on the main issues that have arisen this year in caring for the church and its contents.

### **February 2024 Break-in**

There was a break-in to both the church and the Centre in February. Although there was some damage to doors and windows, this was relatively minor and no significant property was lost. The church and centre were quickly made secure and cleaned, and the CCTV cameras repaired. The most significant damage was done to the sacristy door during an unsuccessful attempt to enter the sacristy. However this has since been excellently repaired to match the existing church woodwork and furnishings.

One lesson from this episode was the need for further work on and more regular maintenance of our CCTV system.

### **Quinquennial Inspection 2024.**

These regular 5 yearly inspections provide a thorough review of the state of the building and identify any necessary repairs, items for routine maintenance and issues to be monitored.

As part of this review, we had specifically asked for advice on the cracks that had appeared in the south wall of the children's chapel. We were advised that the most likely cause was damage from the roots of the leylandii trees on the far side of the vicarage drive. The next steps were complicated by the fact that the vicarage and its driveway are the property of the diocese, not the church. We are very grateful for the expertise of Bill Gloyn, who took the lead, with the PCC's agreement, in subsequent dealings with our insurers and the diocese.

Any repair work on the chapel will need to await the removal of the trees, repair work on the vicarage driveway, including removal of the tree roots, and a period for the ground to settle.

In total, the architect's recommendations for **urgent works requiring immediate attention** were

- Arrange an inspection of the gas heaters.
- Repair detached downpipe on the south aisle wall.
- Repair burglary damaged door to the vestry.
- Change any older light bulbs for low energy fittings.
- Contact the diocesan surveyor about the trees on the south boundary and also inform the DAC secretary about the risk of further damage to the church caused by the trees.
- Contact your insurer about the cracking in the southwest chapel if you have not already done so.

All these actions have been completed.

The recommendations for subsequent action are:

**Works recommended to be carried out during the next eighteen months.**

- Repair the corner of the brick pier on the south side of the porch.
- Repair broken cill of south clerestory window.

### **Works recommended to be carried out during the quinquennial period.**

- After the ground has settled following tree works, Consult a historic buildings structural engineer about the cracking in the southwest chapel. and proceed with repairs.
- Paint the vent grille on the tower east face.
- Replace missing cords to clerestory windows to enable them to be opened.
- Repair the parquet floor in the choir vestry, north aisle and renew the cork movement joint at the threshold.
- Repair west boundary wall where cracked.
- Replace missing sections of concrete kerb.
- Replace the glazed panel of the noticeboard to the north porch.
- Repair brick planter by north porch.

### **Works needing consideration beyond the quinquennial period.**

- Plan for significant roof renewals.

There is also a list of maintenance items and issues to monitor. We shall follow up on these, with the help of the Plant Committee.

### **Conclusion**

We are fortunate to have a church that is in good repair and has been so well looked after through the years. We are especially grateful to Anthony Sullivan and Steve White for all they continue to do throughout the year to help keep the Church and its surroundings in good order.

*Churchwardens  
March 2025*

## Deanery Synod Report

The Waltham Forest Deanery Synod brings together clergy and lay representatives from every Anglican Church in the Borough, to work and worship together on issues of common interest, to take forward issues communicated from the Diocese and to offer input to the Diocese. Scheduled meetings took place in February, April, June, September and November 2024. There were also two extraordinary meetings in July and October for specific briefings on the Barking Episcopal Area's funding bid to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB). Updates on this process were provided in the scheduled meetings also and there is a summary at the end of this report.

The **February** meeting took place via Zoom. Its purpose was to **consider the appointment of an Interim Area Dean for Waltham Forest**. Since the resignation of Vanessa Conant as Area Dean of Waltham Forest, Bishop Guli has been consulting on a replacement, but none of those nominated within the Waltham Forest Deanery felt able to take on the additional responsibility of Area Dean at this time. Following an additional consultation period, there were no further nominations from WF Deanery.

Other options for our Deanery Leadership were discussed prior to this meeting and a recommendation made for Revd Dr Sue Lucas, Rector of East Ham for the past 8 years, to take on the role on an interim basis for up to one year. Sue is an experienced incumbent and has acted as Area Dean of Newham for a three-month period recently to cover for Dave Chesney's sabbatical, which went well. Sue was willing to "hold the space for a season" until a new Area Dean could be identified.

Bishop Lynne Cullens took legal advice from Aiden Hargreaves-Smith, our Diocesan Registrar and it was agreed that the best option for all concerned would be to co-opt Sue on to the WF Deanery. This would allow the WF Deanery to withdraw the co-option at any time, including if a suitable candidate was forthcoming from within the Deanery before the year was up. Prior to this meeting also, the Waltham Forest Chapter met with Sue via Zoom and those present endorsed her unanimously for this role.

Sue introduced herself to the meeting and outlined her plans for the role and following her withdrawal from the meeting, it voted unanimously in favour of her taking up the position of Interim Area Dean for up to one year.

In **April** the meeting took place at St Margaret with St Columba Leytonstone. The main business of the meeting was **a visit by Bishop Guli**, during which she thanked all present for the work they did for the deanery and in their parishes. Since arriving in the diocese +Gul

had been visiting all Deanery Synods in the diocese. Her visit to Waltham Forest completed her schedule.

+Guli reflected on her experiences in Iran during the revolution in 1979 and the way they had formed her life and ministry. She spoke at length about her childhood there and the huge change which happened following the revolution, when Christians became enemies of the state and her father, a bishop in Iran, was attacked and imprisoned. +Guli went on to describe the events which followed and led her to come to England to finish her education. +Guli's is due to come to St. Anne's in October 2025 to speak about her life during this period.

+Guli has a husband, Lee who comes from Northern Ireland and is an ordained CofE priest. They have three children at university. Her husband is the vicar in the parish for Bishops court, and so is her vicar! When +Guli arrived at Chelmsford, she soon sensed a battered and bruised diocese suffering from the pandemic, a long vacancy and financial problems. The "Travelling Well Together" document was born from her early visits.

Following some questions, +Guli advised that:

- She had met with the Bishop of London and there were at present no plans to pursue the suggestion that the London Boroughs would move to the diocese of London.
- The struggle for unity is worth the effort. It is that unity which gives shape to the Anglican Church which holds differences together, is part of our calling and is worth effort.
- Whilst the CofE struggled with racial equality, + Guli sensed that the pandemic had exposed inequality which was already there. There is a long way to go but superficial change would not solve the problems. There is a need to enable different people to thrive and develop. + Lynn is trying to bring more diversity into the Bishops Team in the Barking Area.
- Iran is demonised; often with reason. However, at present we live in a time of risk. Neither Iran or Israel wants all-out war but bad decisions would be catastrophic. We should pray for peace and the Christian community in Iran. Churches there had not opened since pandemic. The government was squeezing the community.
- +Guli does not like the church having a strategy targeting growth as a business but accepts it can be needed to access funding. She sees the local church as the real basis of the church.

The **June** meeting was held at St. Andrews, Leytonstone and there were two main items on the agenda:

**1. Briefing from Area Dean, Reverend Sue Lucas, on the SMMIB Bid Process**

Please see the final item of this report.

**2. Bishop of Barking, Reverend, Lynne Cullens – Prayers of Love and Faith**

This is a sensitive subject, with opposing views being held, not only within this Deanery, but also in the wider Church of England. +Lynne gave a very candid summary of her position on prayers for blessing same-sex couples, saying that scripture was at the heart of this, which she believes is to be used as a continuing revelation of God to humankind. Whilst she takes

the Bible very seriously, she also feels that it should not be taken literally, but read in the context of the 21st century. The bigger story is that love should prevail and that we should love all others, without considering whether or not we believe they are worthy of it.

+Lynne gave a brief account of a visit to the Holy Land, where she encountered a Rabbi and a Palestinian freedom fighter, who joined forces with each other to campaign for peace. When asked by someone from the UK which side she stood on, she replied she stood on neither side, but in the gap, which for +Lynne is not an inert action, but actively holds that space to help build something good.

+Lynne has some personal experience of dealing with differing opinions in her own family. She had to raise her 3 children as a single parent. One of her children is married to an Orthodox Christian, who doesn't support women priests, and the other two are gay. But the family are managing their differences and are held together by their love for each other. In summary, she said that we should aim to find a way of working well together so that everyone can feel included, irrespective of differing points of view.

The **September** meeting was at All Saints, Highams Park in which a number of clergy appointments and farewells were announced, the most notable for us being that our vicar, Jude has been elected to the Diocesan Synod. Additionally, Reverend Ruth Holmes was welcomed to her first Deanery Synod since her Collation and Induction at St. Edmunds, Chingford in July.

The main agenda item was **a talk from Nathan Medhurst, Diocesan Buildings Support Officer.**

Nathan is a churchwarden in Southend, with an architectural background. In 2018, the Taylor review highlighted that there is insufficient support for church buildings. Nathan's role is to help parishes with required building work/maintenance for church and associated community buildings (not vicarages), including help with the funding as follows:

Between £10k and £250k, no match funding is required by the parish

Above £250k, match funding is required.

However, recent requests account for 3X the amount of funding available from the Church Commissioners and the most urgent needs will be dealt with first. New funding should be available from 2026 though.

Nathan works closely with the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer, Paul Thompson and also collaborates with Sandra Eldridge, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, to help ensure building projects are sustainable.



The **November** meeting was held at St. Edmund, Chingford. The main agenda item was a talk from **Reverend Becca Rogers, Chaplain to Traveller Communities**. Becca has been in this role for just over 2 years and described it as a steep learning curve.

There are 3 main traveller communities in Britain:

Romany (Gypsy), originally from Northern India and present in Britain for well over 500 years.

Travellers, coming from Ireland in the 19th Century, mainly in response to the potato famine.

Roma, from Europe since the 1990s.

During her inspirational talk, Becca spoke at length about her visits to sites and Becca is coming to speak to us at St. Anne's about her experiences with these communities in June, as part of YES 25.

### **Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) Bid Process**

Reverend Sue Lucas, our Area Dean, briefed the Deanery Synod on this funding process in June 2024. SMMIB will replace Strategic Development Funding (SDF), which tended to be more project based, rather than have a clear overall plan. SMMIB will focus on what church looks like at Deanery, Episcopal and Diocesan levels by 2030. Further updates in July and October were provided by the Venerable Christopher Burke, Archdeacon of Barking. The aim was to secure financial support for the Barking Episcopal Area, which includes Waltham Forest, from one of the funds run by SMMIB – the Diocesan Investment Programme. This is targeted towards dioceses which are engaged in change/reimagining. A huge amount of work went into this bid, with the final presentation to SMMIB taking place in January this year and the main part of an e-mail received on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 below provides a great summary:

*The Church of England Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board has awarded £14.95 million to the Barking Episcopal Area to support missional work with deaneries and parishes, with £6.45 million for the first phase of work and a further £8.5 million in principle subject to the Archbishops' Council's and Church Commissioners' decisions about the future availability of Diocesan Investment Programme funding, and the Strategic Mission and Ministry Board's approval of detailed plans for the second phase.*

*The funding has been awarded through the Diocesan Investment Programme to 'Believing in Barking', a missional plan developed over the past two years in partnership with local church leaders and volunteers across more than sixty parishes and church communities in the East London boroughs that are part of the Diocese of Chelmsford.*

*In keeping with the Diocese of Chelmsford's approach and values articulated in Travelling Well Together, the Believing in Barking plan has been developed by working with those who serve and lead in local church communities to ensure that the investment meets locally discerned needs and missional opportunities. Believing in Barking will focus on supporting churches in four key areas:*

- *Working to encourage greater attendance and participation of children, young people and families in our church communities*
- *Supporting and developing intentional discipleship; growing, supporting and developing volunteers and leaders in our churches and increasing leadership diversity*
- *Supporting churches and church leaders in their work to help transform the communities they serve*
- *Developing sustainable structures to support local parish mission and ministry*

*The investment will support missional work in the many parishes that have contributed to the development of the plan as well as others in the Barking Area.*

*The Barking Episcopal Area is the first in Chelmsford Diocese to be awarded investment from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB). Investment applications are currently being prepared with local church leaders and volunteers in the Bradwell and Colchester Episcopal Areas.*

*Believing in Barking is one part of a wider approach to supporting local parish mission and ministry that continues across Chelmsford Diocese, and seeks to resource and support all parishes whether they are direct beneficiaries of SMMIB funding or not.*

*Naturally, we look forward to hearing how this will impact St. Anne's in the coming months/years.*

*Julie Adesina*

*Lindsey Archer*

*Rev Mick Scotchmer*

*St. Anne's Deanery Synod members*

*March 2025*

## Eco & Environmental Committee Report – 2024

This committee met on 5 occasions in 2024. As mentioned in the main APCM report, the overriding objective of this committee is an increased appreciation of and care for the environment. However, it continues to use the original Eco Church framework within which to plan and manage its initiatives. In the latter part of 2024, a new Eco Church survey changed the names of two of the five categories, which are detailed under the relevant sections below.

### Worship & Teaching

- Following our Year of Prayer for the Planet (YOPP) in 2023, our focus on the environment in our worship was felt to be established and in 2024, we continued to keep climate change concerns in our prayers. Most informal services were used as a way of promoting these concerns also.
- During Lent, we joined forces with St. Andrew's and St. Edmund's, and used the Christian Aid course, *Act on Poverty*, which had an indirect link with environmental issues.
- In one of our Informal Services, Mick Scotchmer introduced *Creation Care* which, as mentioned in the main APCM report, is a personal household website version of Eco Church. The aim is to encourage members of St. Anne's to think more deeply about their own personal impact on the environment. By Harvest Festival 2024, ten households had signed up, six of which are at *Bronze* level and three of the Bronze are *Commended*. It would be great to see more members of St. Anne's join in this initiative, which has been so successful in the wider church, it has received funding from the Church of England and will be taken over on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 by A Rocha, who introduced Eco Church originally.

### Buildings

- During 2024, there was much discussion regarding the possible installation of a battery in the centre loft, with the aim of storing some of the electricity we generate from our solar panels. Quotes for the work were obtained. However, as the feed in tariff from the grid more or less pays for the electricity used in the centre, it was agreed recently that there is little benefit, either environmentally or financially, to installing a battery at this time.
- In 2024, the solar panels generated £2,478 for church funds.
- A rainwater butt, recycled from the allotment site, was installed by Steve White in the church garden used by the pre-school. The cost was covered by a grant the pre-school received from Tesco's.
- A box has been placed near the book stall in the centre for the charitable recycling of mobile phones and spectacles.

- Following approval by the PCC, a communication has been sent to the current regular centre users asking them to refrain from using disposable plates, cups and cutlery. Contracts for new centre users will have this clause added.
- All cleaning products available for use in the church and centre are environmentally friendly.
- This section has been re-named in the new Eco Church survey as *Building and Energy* and it now looks in more detail at a church's pathway to net zero.

## Land

- As reported to the APCM last year, we are committed to doing as much as we can with the land we do have, now we no longer have access to the allotment. To this end, it was proposed that we replace the buddleias at the side of the centre with a raised vegetable patch. The vegetables grown were placed in the centre on Sunday mornings and all money donated was added to the coffee donations for church funds. This was and is a great and successful initiative and we are very grateful to Anthony Sullivan for its building, planting and management.
- The grass in front of the church is allowed to grow long as part of our commitment to caring for the environment. The grass in the memorial garden is kept shorter though to help provide a calm environment for the thoughtful reflection of its visitors.
- It was agreed that we ask the congregation, at Harvest Festival, if they would either plant a *garden friendly* tree or a pack of wild seeds in their own garden. Anthony agreed, kindly, to provide the trees and seeds.
- There are some gaps in the border around the memorial garden grass and, it was agreed that these be filled with *bee and butterfly friendly* plants, sponsored by willing members of the congregation. This will be followed up in 2025.
- This section has been re-named in the new Eco Church survey as *Land and Nature*.

## Community & Global Engagement

- As mentioned in the main report to the APCM, there was an exchange visit with Rabbi Richard and members of the East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue in May, which included prayers for peace and climate justice.
- Litter picks continue to be part of St. Anne's events calendar and two were held in 2024 – in March and September. March was the more successful of the two in terms of people taking part and it is hoped that more members of St. Anne's will engage in this initiative going forward.
- COP 29 was featured in our Intercessions in November.

## Lifestyle

- *A thought for the month* continues to feature on our weekly newsheet to encourage us all to think about living more sustainably.
- The *Thoughts on Eco Church & Personal Commitments* leaflet remains available at the back of church and is displayed on the church and centre noticeboards. Sitting alongside *Creation Care* its aim also is to encourage church and centre users to consider the environment in their regular life choices.
- Recycling remains a priority for St. Anne's:
  - In addition to the goods sold in sales held in the centre, we've continued to send textiles to the recycling centre, making a very positive impact on St. Anne's carbon footprint, whilst generating £973 for church funds. This is £100+ more than in 2023.
  - Continued use of recycling bins provided by Waltham Forest, aiming to ensure that all waste, which can be recycled is recycled.
  - The food waste bin in the kitchen is regularly full!

*Eco & Environmental Committee*

*March 2025*