



St Edward the Confessor
The Parish Church of **Romford**
www.stedwardsromford.com



PARISH PROFILE



We are committed to making
St Edward's Church the most effective
witness of our faith that it can be.

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Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to our Parish Profile. As you read through this profile, we hope that you will prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to take on this key role in the life of St. Edward the Confessor, Romford and its wider community.

It is a broad and challenging role, requiring significant relevant previous experience, but for the right person, we are sure it has the potential to be highly rewarding.

We are committed to growing the congregation, and want to ensure that those who visit us feel welcome and can engage with our worship. We aim to be a centre for the whole community, so that everyone who lives and works in Romford feels a connection to 'their' church.

As a PCC we are committed to making St Edward's Church the most effective witness of our faith that it can be. With church growth, our aim is to be increasingly financially secure, and to continue to grow personal discipleship within the congregation.

The PCC has reviewed key areas of our church life and ministry, and below is an outline of our vision for the future as well as areas of progress we hope to build on with our new incumbent.





Key areas of strength identified by the PCC

- Work with children and young people – there has been much progress here, especially with the introduction of our All Age Service, Junior Church involvement in our regular services, and Diddy Disciples for pre-school age children, where we encourage active learning and participation.
- A commitment to excellence in worship.
- Our PCC is a team that works collaboratively, encourages community and role models a welcoming church, which remains at the heart of everything we do together.
- Music and our choir are crucial aspects of our style of worship and liturgy, and after a challenging post-Covid era, including the retirement of our long standing Director of Music, we are fortunate to have a new Director who is making great progress in rebuilding our choral life and looking to develop our church as a cultural hub of the community.
- Continued development of our Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Training – The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding, and is accordingly committed to safeguarding our community. St Edward's has two 'Safeguarding Officers' along with trained leaders and a Safeguarding Training Officer. A formal well-run process for safeguarding is in place for all our volunteer workers.
- Our links with the local community in partnership with our local authority leaders and member of parliament, who are hugely supportive of St Edward's Church.
- Dedicated volunteers who give of their time and skills: pastoral lay team ministry, church-sitters, flower arrangers, brass cleaning and embroidery team to name just a few.

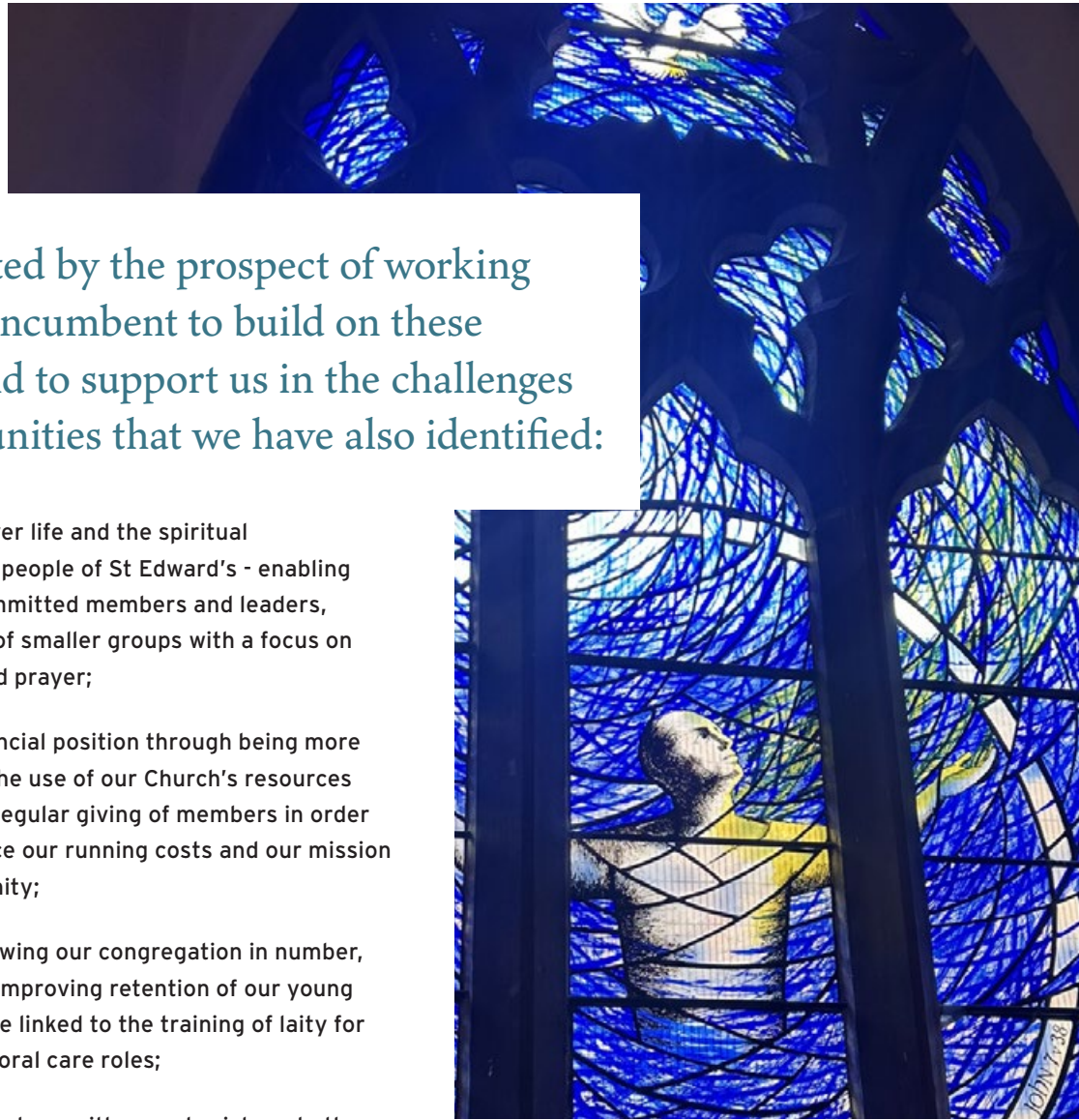
We are a welcoming, inclusive church in which all members of the community can feel accepted.

- Our improved communication with the wider community, as we have embraced new technology through the creation of our website, Facebook / Instagram / You Tube pages. We have also signed up to the Church Near You site.

Consistent messages are shared on a daily basis, and as a result, we are seeing great outcomes with in excess of 12,000 people accessing our Church Near you Page this year. We work closely with Havering Council and the Diocese Communications Teams to ensure that our messages reach all Havering residents.

- St Edward's Church is situated in the centre of the Market Place in Romford. It is a key focal point of historic interest, having been a church on this site since 1410. We work hard to ensure that the church is open as much as possible, for private prayer and reflection.
- St Edward's Church prides itself on being a welcoming, inclusive church in which all members of the community can feel accepted - and this is reflected in our diverse congregation.





We are excited by the prospect of working with a new incumbent to build on these strengths and to support us in the challenges and opportunities that we have also identified:

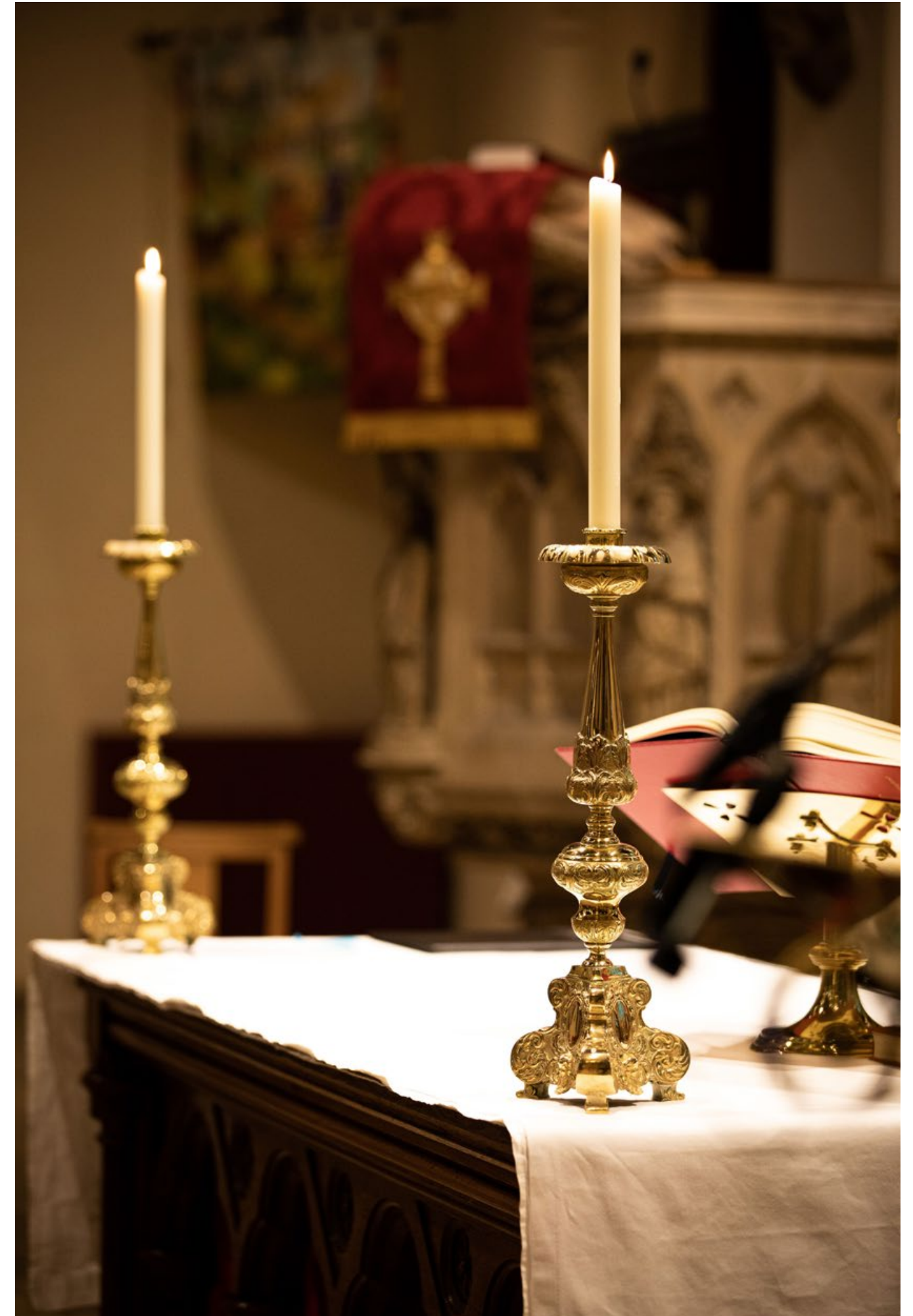
- To improve the prayer life and the spiritual development of the people of St Edward's - enabling them to be fully committed members and leaders, through setting up of smaller groups with a focus on biblical teaching and prayer;
- To improve our financial position through being more entrepreneurial in the use of our Church's resources and increasing the regular giving of members in order for us to fully finance our running costs and our mission work in the community;
- To find ways for growing our congregation in number, and particularly, in improving retention of our young people. This could be linked to the training of laity for leadership and pastoral care roles;
- To build up choir numbers with new choristers, both trebles and lower voices, in order to maintain and continue our long-standing choral tradition in future years;
- There are opportunities for St Edward's Church to become a cultural hub of the community - we are regularly hiring our space to outside organisations, encouraging new people into the church.

We are keen to build on this moving forward, by organising our own events and reaching out to a wider audience. Doing so will also contribute to our financial growth.

- The effects of the COVID pandemic have impacted the pastoral care our lay team can provide, with a very limited number of volunteers now active.

We aim to rebuild pastoral support and care for the elderly in the community, including the giving of communion in their home, and visits to unwell parishioners.

- We regularly live stream our 10am service. This is an extremely valuable part of our worship for those who are unable to attend our services. We have recently seen in excess of 80 people watch the service. We are keen to build on this, seeking opportunities and links with the schools to recruit more young people as trained volunteers.
- A report commissioned by St Edward's in 2021 revealed that the demographic of the wider community of Romford has changed significantly with 58% being in the 20 - 40 age group. We have found it challenging to attract this group into the church and are eager to explore ways of doing so with our next incumbent.
- We aim to be a welcoming, inclusive church - actively using in our communications, the hashtag #yourchurch. Due to our geographical location, and historical interest, we do see a large number of visitors and people "passing through". We need to enlist the support of more volunteers so the church can be kept open for the community when they need it.



We are looking for an inspirational leader who has a vision for our future mission, ministry and discipleship

We seek a priest who:

- Has the experience and proven ability to lead a complex and demanding parish;
- Recognises the importance of music and Eucharistic liturgy within our worship and who can adapt and re-shape liturgy with sensitivity and courage, offering openness and hospitality to those currently outside the church community.
- Understands the importance of ministry to children and young people and who can take on the challenge of taking this important work into new directions, building on what has already been achieved;
- Recognises what it means to be a civic church, reaching out to the local community and beyond; and rebuild our relationship with community leaders, local councilors, market traders, local businesses as well as other churches and faith leaders in Romford;
- Is able to lead and motivate staff and volunteers, happy to work in a team, allowing lay led activities to flourish by enabling and encouraging their initiatives and giving direction when needed, enabling them to thrive by using their expertise to support the church.
- Has experience of mission planning and development and has experience of leading growth in church membership;
- Can use IT creatively and confidently, using office systems and social media and has a good level of administration skills;
- A self-aware and emotionally intelligent leader, instinctively collaborative and adept at good communication, willing to listen and committed to building a community centred in the affirming values of Christian fellowship.
- An individual who is comfortable dealing with people from different backgrounds and is passionate about developing others and ensuring their contributions are recognised and valued.
- A financially astute custodian who recognises the importance of sound financial stewardship and will want to be creative with income generation. Our new incumbent will be comfortable interpreting budgets, planning and overseeing fund raising projects and have a good understanding of basic accounting.
- We aim to be an inclusive church open to all, regardless of gender, disability, race, social class or sexuality. We hope our new incumbent can help us explore the possibilities offered by Prayers of Love and Faith and discern the right course for our church.
- St. Edward's values the ministry of male and female priests and we expect our new incumbent to share in our enthusiasm.

This is a complex and challenging role, which requires resilience, a good sense of humour, lots of energy and focus. Recognising this, we work to support the incumbent to achieve a good work life balance, whilst also looking after your own wellbeing.

What we can offer a new incumbent



A welcoming community and a firmly supportive lay leadership

Support of our self-supporting Associate Priest, who is with us every Thursday and three Sundays out of four.

Support from an efficient and enthusiastic Parish Administrator and a part-time caretaker.

Support for personal development and well-being in ministering to the people of Romford;

Eucharistic tradition of worship with a fine choir and music to match;

A collaborative and supportive PCC that is keen to work well together with the new incumbent for the benefit of our congregation and local community;

The opportunity to work in a town centre church and to build on long-standing relationships with civic leaders and other churches;

The opportunity to work closely with our St. Edward's schools;

A large and well-appointed detached 4-bedroomed family vicarage in a good location with access to schools, shops and recreation facilities;

Excellent transport links by road, rail and local buses to London, Essex and Kent, plus direct access to the Elizabeth Line.





About our Church

The church of St Edward the Confessor stands in the inclusive modern catholic tradition, and we fully support the ordination of women. We aim to be open and welcoming to all.

St. Edward's falls within the Diocese of Chelmsford, being situated in Romford, the principal town and civic centre of the London Borough of Havering. At the heart of the town is the market which has been operating since 1247, when it was granted a Royal Charter. Of late, this market has been much reduced in size but Romford Business Improvement District (BID) actively work to promote a thriving Romford Town Centre. We have close working relationships with the BID Team. St. Edward's sits immediately adjacent to the market and the surrounding shops.

The church is geographically at the centre of the town, and therefore we benefit in being accessible to everyone in Romford. Our Sunday congregation typically contains a significant number of irregular and occasional members who are passing through. Our church can also be sought out as a source of safe refuge and assistance by people in the community that may be homeless, have substance addictions, and those suffering with mental health problems, which can also present challenges.

Romford has also seen rapid change, as the town has experienced a marked increase in housing development. Havering has become an increasingly diverse and multi-ethnic community. These developments represent both opportunities and challenges to our church.

There is a primary and a secondary St. Edward's Church of England school nearby with which the church has traditionally held close links, however with a changing population some work is needed to retain this connection. The town has a hospital which provides chaplaincy opportunities for local clergy if they so wish.

St Edward's Church encourages working together with other churches in the local area, parishes within the Havering Deanery and inter-faith dialogue, something we are keen to maintain. Ecumenical activities include a service for the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity and a united service in St Edward's Churchyard on Good Friday.

By virtue of office, the vicar of St. Edward the Confessor is also the Vicar of Romford', a 'Trustee of Hornchurch, Romford & Havering Educational Foundation', and the 'Chair of Romford Combined Charities.'

Worship

The ethos of our church is Inclusive Modern Catholic with services taken using Common Worship. There is a firm emphasis on the Eucharist which takes place on Sundays at 8am (said) and the Parish Communion Service (sung) at 10am. We use the Book of Common Prayer for one 8am Eucharist each month, and during our monthly sung Evensong.

The daily offices are said in the morning and evening and there are regular weekday Eucharists. Sung Eucharists take place on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension as well as the sung liturgy on Good Friday. Evening Prayer is 'said' on other Sundays.

The sacrament is reserved in the Lady Chapel and the Sacraments of Anointing and Absolution are available. Vestments are worn for all Eucharist services and choir dress for our regular monthly Evensong services. Lay communion assistants, servers, intercessors and readers assist in the leading of worship, making this an important contribution from the laity.

Refreshments are served in church after the 8am and 10am services on Sundays, this being a great opportunity to build a community feel and a sense of belonging to St Edward's.

Attendance

There are 217 people on the Electoral Roll, 40% of whom are resident within the parish and 60% non-resident. The worshipping congregation is diverse, embracing all ages and nationalities and celebrates our commitment to inclusion. The average weekly attendance for Sunday services is over 110 adults and between 10-20 children.

A significant group in the 10am Sunday congregation are irregular or occasional attendees. The overall attendance for week-day services is about 20. We have restarted live streaming our Sunday morning 10am Eucharist service in 2024.



Choral Liturgy

St. Edward's has long maintained a strong choral tradition, with a semi-professional choir singing at the Sunday Eucharist every week, in addition to regular Evensongs as well as carol services and other occasional events.

The Director of Music is supported by a team of other music professionals and a wide network of singers and instrumentalists in delivering a music programme which creatively combines traditional hymnody with a broad classical repertoire ranging from plainsong to baroque to new works.

We combine accessible classics with the best of contemporary repertoire at our regular All Age services.

Children's Worship

In addition to our monthly All Age Service, our junior church, made up of children aged 3 to 14 years, meets at the back of the church at 9.45am. A programme of learning and fellowship is followed, and a variety of activities are undertaken to encourage participation of all abilities.

The children join in worship with their families at the 'Offertory' - after sharing with the congregation what they have experienced during the morning, as part of the notices. Children are actively encouraged to participate in delivering the All Age Service.

School Services

Both St Edward's Academy and St Edward's Primary School regularly bring year groups to the church for special services throughout the year.

The children follow a printed order of service, which includes hymns, a short interactive talk, given by the clergy, and this is then followed by a celebration of the Eucharist.

Baptisms

Baptisms take place either during the 10am Sunday morning Eucharist or following the service at 12.00pm.

A welcoming and an 'open policy' for baptisms is offered, and initial requests are taken by the parish office secretary. In 2023, 15 children and 4 adults were baptised at St. Edward's.

Weddings

Weddings are arranged by the clergy, in consultation with the couple, following their registration of interest. Couples are also offered a meeting with the organist to discuss their music choices.

Historically we have a low number of church weddings, but considering our location, beautiful church interior and choral tradition, this is an area we want to develop and we hope our new incumbent may help us.

In June 2024 we had our first wedding in St Edward's since Covid which was encouraging and a first step in the right direction. Often people who get married in our church have a link to the church or have attended one of our church schools, making it all the more personal for us and them.

Funerals

In 2023 the clergy conducted 18 funerals (9 of which were both at church and crematorium). South Essex Crematorium organises memorial services in February and October each year hosted by our Church, that enable families and friends to come together to remember their loved ones.

These two memorial services are very well attended.



Mission, outreach and fellowship

St. Edward's is a busy place, and is kept open daily (except Mondays) with a team of church sitters whose purpose is to welcome the many visitors.

Children and Young People

Our children are an integral part of the life of our church and mission to the community of Romford.

Caterpillars

Our Caterpillars pre-school group is led by an enthusiastic team of volunteers. It is held every Tuesday morning during term time in the Church where parents/carers and children are welcomed and encouraged to participate and learn about God in a very relaxed and informal atmosphere.

There is a regular format, starting and closing with prayers and including songs with actions, 'what's in the box', Bible story and crafts. This is followed by free play time and refreshments. The group has a regular attendance of 12 children plus accompanying adults.

St Edward's Playgroup

The Playgroup meets every Thursday morning in the Wykeham Centre during term time. We offer a regular meeting place with the opportunity of forming new friendships in a safe and caring environment, and where the children can play and interact with other children thus aiding their development.

We pride ourselves on this being a fully multi-cultural group, representative of the diversity in the borough. Refreshments are served at a very low cost that helps with the funding of the playgroup activities.

Parents and carers are each responsible for their own children, and they are encouraged to participate in the children's activities.

The Playgroup is a key part of our outreach in the community. We have around 35 adults and 35 children joining us on a regular basis, making us one of the biggest Playgroups in the area.

We are very proud of the fact that there has been a Playgroup in the Wykeham Hall for over 50 years.

Junior Church

Junior Church is aimed at children aged, three and upwards, and meets at the back of the church every Sunday, in term time at the beginning of the 10am service.

Planned programmes are followed and led by Junior Church Helpers. The sessions include bible readings, prayers, crafts and activities.

Our aim is to encourage the children to enjoy the learning in a relaxed atmosphere, being part of the church and aiding their personal and spiritual growth.

Messy Church

Messy Church is Christ centred for all ages based on Creativity, Hospitality and Celebration. Messy Church helps people to encounter Jesus. The sessions take place four times a year, Easter, Summer, Autumn and Christmas. On average fifty children, plus adults attend.

All sessions are themed offering crafts, activities, games, bible stories and prayers. Sessions always end with refreshments and are well publicised in advance including sharing on the Havering website.



Choristers

The church choir includes children aged 7-18, who rehearse weekly in the church and before services. Great care is taken to nurture their musical development, and we follow the RSCM 'Voice for Life' training scheme, with several choristers having gained their Deans' & Bishops' Awards.

We have a Choral Scholarship Program enabling young experienced singers to play a leading role in our worship.

EVOLVE

EVOLVE is St Edward's Youth Group catering for young people in year groups 6-11 and is held term time on Fridays, after school between the hours of 4pm and 6pm in Church House and is led by a team of dedicated volunteers from our own congregation.

Since re-opening its doors in September 2021, EVOLVE has aimed to provide a safe haven for Romford's youth, drawing mainly on the children from our own St Edward's Academy and Marshalls Park Schools. It is a place where young people can socialise, play games both inside and out, team build and receive outreach.

EVOLVE is a self-supporting youth group funded primarily through the weekly £1 membership fee. EVOLVE provides members with a sense of ownership and belonging whilst also allowing them a say in how they would like to see EVOLVE progress and adapt to suit their needs. This is a group that will need continued active development and support by the new incumbent.



Foodbank

Along with 2 other local churches, we support the Collier Row & Romford Foodbank (part of the UK wide Trussell Trust network). We host one of 3 Foodbank distribution sessions per week.

We host on a Wednesday morning in the Wykeham Hall with volunteers from our Church, overseen by a Project Manager employed by Romford Baptist Church who have oversight of the Collier Row & Romford Foodbank as a whole.

We also have a food donation box in Church and our Harvest Festival collection is donated to the Foodbank. The Foodbank as a whole fed 5412 people in 2023 (January to December). 3240 adults and 2172 children, which is a 35% increase over 2022. As a Parish we also support two charities, Smile and Lennox Children's Cancer Fund.

St Edward's Music Society

St. Edward's Music Society was formed in 1978, initially to raise funds for the new Walker Organ that was completed in 1979, and gained charity status in 1999. For many years, the Music Society provided funding for concerts and additional music in services, such as brass quintets at Christmas.

At present, the Music Society has been dormant for several years, but efforts are underway to revive it as a fundraising vessel, to support our Choir and music offering.

Bell Ringers

There is a team of bell ringers who serve St Edward's, ringing every other Sunday before the 10.00am service and on special occasions. They practise on Wednesday evenings and hold regular 'Open Tower' sessions to welcome new members.

Phoenix Club

The Phoenix Club is for people aged 50 and over, and aims to enable them to continue to enjoy the friendship and companionship of others. The group meets every Thursday in St Edward's Church. They have around 27 members.

Mothers' Union

We have an active Mothers' Union membership that meets weekly. There has been a group at St Edward's for 125 years. The MU organise events for the parish. Members are also involved with church fetes and other charitable events.



St. Edward's schools

St. Edward's school was founded as a Charity School in 1710. Originally housed in a small room over the south porch of St. Edward's Chapel in the Market Place to educate 40 boys and 20 girls aged from 7 to 14 years.

In 1728 the school moved to a new site on the south of the Market Place and the school remained on this site until 1926 when it was transferred once again. The secondary school moved to its present site in 1965 and the primary school moved into its new premises in 1976.

The primary school is Voluntary Aided and was rated "Good" in the Ofsted report of 2022. St. Edward's Church of England Academy joined Unity Schools Partnership in April 2018 and the school works closely together with many of the primary school children transferring to the secondary school for year 7.

Students travel considerable distances to attend the schools, from Stratford in East London and parts of Essex, with parents and students choosing a school that has a strong traditional Christian ethos at the heart of their education.

The Academy was rated "Good" in the Ofsted report of 2022. Both schools are graded as "Excellent" in their Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Modern Schools (SIAMS) reports.

The schools have links with the parish, other local churches and the diocese. Regular Eucharist services are held in church and in school.

The vicar is an ex-officio governor of St. Edward's VA Primary School and an ex-officio governor on the Local Governing Body of St. Edward's Academy.

The parish and surrounding area

The parish occupies the central part of the Havering Deanery, comprising Romford Town Centre and the surrounding residential area.

Havering is an Outer London Borough, and is mainly suburban with large areas of protected green open space. It has rail access to central London and to the coast and is a short drive away from the Essex countryside.

There is a frequent train service to London, Liverpool Street, from Romford station with a journey time of 25 minutes. Romford now hosts the Elizabeth Line with great links into central London and then west towards Heathrow and Reading.

Romford is a retail and night-time entertainment centre. There are three covered shopping malls and the market is open three days every week. The town hall, central borough library, museum and leisure facilities such as a combined swimming pool and ice rink are situated close to the church. There are also two theatres in the area, Brookside in Romford itself and Queen's in the adjacent town of Hornchurch.

In recent years there has been a major expansion of residential dwellings in and around the market place and surrounding area in order to accommodate and serve a growing population which is ethnically and culturally diverse.

Havering Council remains committed to the regeneration of Romford Town Centre, to ensure it continues to be a place where people want to live, visit and become part of a thriving community. These plans were put on hold after Covid, however Havering Council completed their consultations in April 2024 after asking residents and businesses for their thoughts on how to improve Romford Town Centre and the surrounding area.

The key ideas of focus are as follows:

- The Market - Starting and focusing on the market as a key transformation area for Romford
- River Rom - Opening up the Rom and creating a high quality, exciting piece of public space
- Public spaces - Creating and improved public spaces across the town centre so people want to spend time there and this will increase footfall for businesses.

Previous Incumbents and church members have contributed their views to this work.



The Deanery and Synod

St. Edward's, Romford is part of Havering Deanery which in turn sits in the Archdeaconry of Barking. Havering Deanery Synod is a church council which is convened jointly by the Area Dean and the Lay Chair of the Synod.

It consists of all clergy licensed to the benefice within the Deanery plus elected lay members. It acts as an intermediary between the parochial church councils of each parish in its Deanery and the Synod of the Diocese.

St. Edward's Church is a major church in Havering Deanery and has an important part to play in the future direction of the Deanery.

St. Edward's has four Deanery Synod representatives one of whom is currently also serving as Lay Chair of Deanery Synod in addition to being a Diocesan Synod member.

Deanery Synod meets four times each year and is well attended. There is good support and fellowship between the clergy and licensed lay ministers in the Deanery, who meet monthly in a Chapter in different churches and vicarages.

We expect our new Vicar to fully engage with both Deanery Synod and Chapter.



The Church

St. Edward's Church is a Grade II* listed church, built in 1850 to replace a previous chapel that stood on the same site since 1410.

Designed by John Johnson in the Gothic style using Kentish Rag with Bath Stone dressings, the church has five bays with clerestory windows. Three 16th Century memorials from the earlier chapel are in the present church.

The Chancel was reordered in 1976 and a nave altar introduced. The sacrament is reserved in the Lady Chapel. The votive candle stand is a focus for those who come to church to reflect and pray.

In 1988 major work was undertaken in the nave and underfloor heating was installed and a new floor laid. The pews were eventually removed and replaced with chairs. In 2018 we replaced our old chairs with new, modern stackable chairs making the building more adaptable for our services, concerts and other events associated with a town centre parish. The church seats 300 but capacity can be increased to 400 for special events or services.

In 2017 we had new state of the art lighting installed and in 2019 we upgraded our old sound system. In 2020 we had new audio visual equipment installed to enable us to provide a high quality live streaming experience, as well as having the facility to record and archive various events, such as special services and concerts, on our website and YouTube channel.

We had a new boiler installed in 2023.

Over the past 15 years two windows, donated through fundraising activities of parishioners, have been installed. One is a Baptismal window, and the other a Children's window depicting Noah's Ark. A commemorative window celebrating the 600th Anniversary of St. Edward the Confessor Church has also been installed.

The rear churchyard has been enclosed and secured by an 'Order in Council' and is maintained by the local

authority. The churchyard at the back of church has been remodelled and is used for church functions and by our nursery.

The latest quinquennial inspection took place in 2020, and we established a Fabric Group to concentrate on two main projects highlighted as urgent repairs in the report: the church roof and the stone work. With the professional advice and guidance from our architect, a specification for a tender has been prepared, and a CAD survey of the church has been completed. These are long term projects and rely heavily on the generous giving as well as the active exploration of grant application funding strategies. The Fabric Group hope to make progress in the next year with these projects.

Organ & Piano:

An Organ by J.W. Walker & Sons was installed in the church in 1866 on the north side of the Choir. Before 1866 it seems possible that the organ from the old church was used between 1850 and that date. The Walker organ was rebuilt in 1905 by Henry Speechly & Sons, but by the 1970s it was in need of major reconstruction and overhaul. In 1978 a new organ was commissioned, once again from J.W. Walker. This instrument incorporates the best pipe work from the old organ and now stands on the west gallery where it can be heard to full advantage. However, four ranks of pipes were only 'prepared for' and following a period of fundraising the instrument was cleaned and completed in April 1994.

The organ has undergone a clean and overhaul along with the replacement and renovation of some of the pipework in 2020 to mark the 40th anniversary of the initial installation. St Edward's also has a Schimmel grand piano that is often used for services, recitals and other occasions.

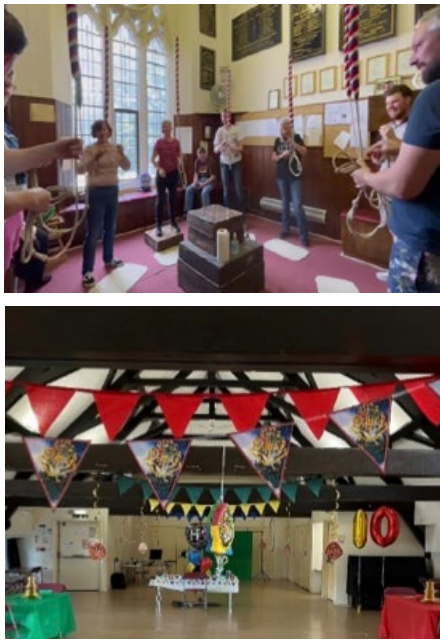
Bells

The tower, which is surmounted by a spire of 162 ft, contains a peal of eight bells, all of which predate the present church by a considerable period.

The oldest bell is the tenor bell and dates back between 1390-1418.

In 2008 a Restoration Appeal was launched and thanks to the generosity of members of the congregation, bell ringers and grants from The Pilgrim Trust Essex Association of Bell Ringers' Restoration Fund and the Tovell Bequest, the sum of £12,000 was raised.

The bells were re-hung in their present frame, with new fixtures and fittings. The bells themselves were cleaned and the cast-in crown staples were removed from all bells.



The Wykeham centre and Church house

St. Edward's is fortunate to have, for parish use, the facilities of the Wykeham Centre which is situated adjacent to the church.

The Wykeham Centre comprises Church House which dates back to the 15th Century and The Wykeham Hall. Church House has a long history being reacquired by the church in 1909.

The Parish Office is in this building and being situated in the heart of Romford Market, this unique space offers a real opportunity for mission and outreach in the community.

We have hosted the Ukrainian Cafe, market research, AA support Group, as examples and our EVOLVE Group meet in Church House every Friday.

The Wykeham Hall, behind Church House, dates back to 1909 and was remodelled in 2001. The Hall is used by a breakfast/after school club during term time. It is well used for parish and community activities and is available for lettings. A portion of the ground floor is currently leased to an independent day nursery.

The Centre is a charity whose ex officio trustees are the Vicar and Churchwardens. The Wykeham Centre and Church House Charity No. is 291485.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated in Oaklands Avenue, an attractive and highly sought-after road in Romford, only a 10 minute walk from the Church through the Market Place and past the civic buildings.

The double fronted detached accommodation comprises four bedrooms (3 x double and 1 x single), two bathrooms, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs cloakroom and a study.

The study can be made secure from the rest of the house. There is a sweep drive with room for four cars and an integral garage.

To the rear there is a large mature garden with patio.



Vicarage Floorplan

The team and finance

Address:

Parochial Church Council of St. Edward the Confessor, Romford, Church House,
Market Place, Romford RM1 3AB

Email: office@stedwardsromford.com

Website: www.stedwardsromford.com

Parish Office Telephone: 01708 744973 **Registered Charity Number:** 1128998

Ministry Team

Incumbent - vacant

Self-Supporting Associate Priest - Revd David Perry

Director of Music - Erik Eichelberger

Churchwardens

Johanna Hardy and Alex Quinn

Treasurer

Peter Quinn

Safeguarding Officer

Jenny Card

Support Staff

Parish Secretary - Angela Butt

Caretaker (Part-Time) - Paul Collins

In addition to the two Churchwardens and PCC Members, there are a large number of volunteers who help keep the building and grounds in good order, including brass cleaners, flower arrangers, money counters, church sitters, linen cleaners and those serving coffee after services.



Finance:

Our finances are managed by the Treasurer and PCC Finance Committee and the report, Appendix 1, is based on the financial period for the Year End 31 December 2023 and lists all expenditure and income for this period. Last year there was a small surplus after having been in deficit in previous years, so we must remain prudent in the use of our resources.

The church pays for a finance officer in the Diocesan office to do the bookkeeping.

We benefit from regular agreed donations from the Wykeham Centre as well as some other bookings in the church and Centre. The curate's house is currently rented out providing additional income.

The Church has also benefited in the recent past from a generous bequest and the proceeds of sale of a daughter church. This has helped with paying for investments in the fabric of our church and to help fund deficits each year, particularly during the Covid period, when we were able to draw on these funds.

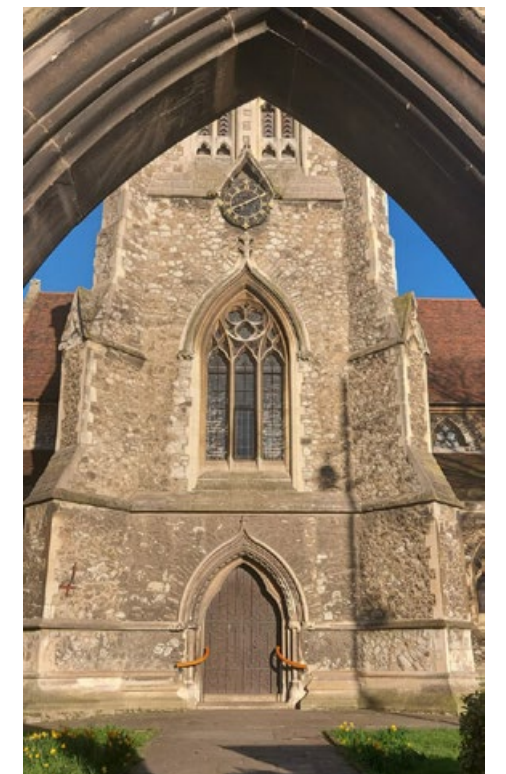
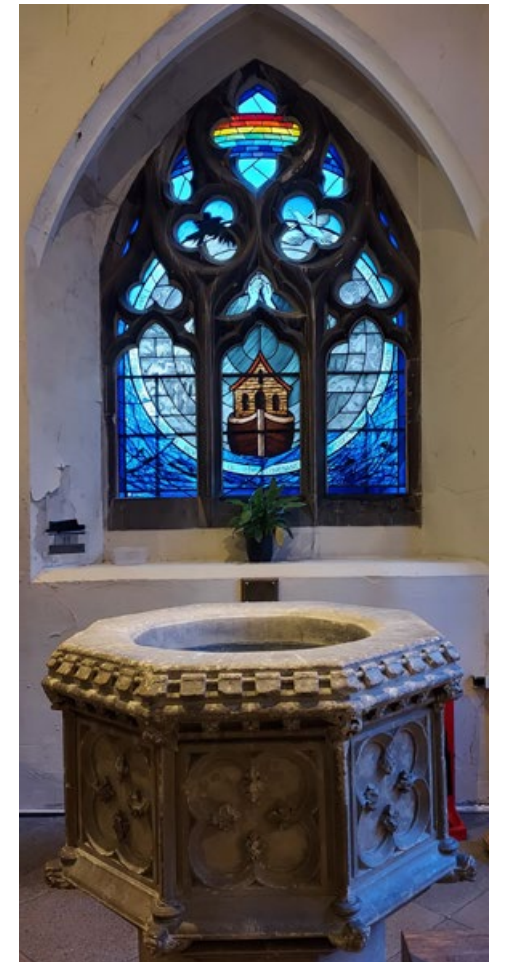
We seek a Vicar with financial acumen, who has the ability to encourage generous giving and promote successful fundraising events. The Church has also received some grants from charities for the music and would hope to make further applications.

In previous years we have been able to invest in the fabric and equipment of the church which included the replacement of the internal Church lighting, the purchase of light-weight stackable chairs, repairs to the Church tower clock, recent overhaul of the organ, upgrading of the sound system and the instalment of video streaming equipment to allow live viewing of the Church services through our Facebook page. All this has been made possible through the generosity of bequests and individual donations .

The Parish has met its parish share in full since 2016 and will do so again in 2024, though that achievement together with meeting the demands put on us in our mission work and daily expenditure, continues to be a major challenge for all of us and one that needs to be addressed as we move forward.

The Wykeham Centre is a connected Charity No. 291485. The charity supports the church financially and produces its own annual Accounts which are independently examined. The main source of income of the Wykeham Centre is from the rent paid by the Nursery and in addition income is derived from lettings and car parking fees.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the income of the Wykeham Centre due to the closure of the nursery and other facilities. However, from 2022 onwards, the financial situation started to improve and the Wykeham Centre is now in a good financial position.



Statement of Financial Activities (Year End 31 December 2023)

Income	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Voluntary income	151,761	5,000	18,041	174,802	165,437
Activities for generating funds	4,411		5,331	9,741	9,562
Income from investments	25,976			25,976	20,342
Church activities	1,774			1,774	2,236
Other income resources					
Total income	183,921	5,000	23,372	212,293	197,577

Statement of Financial Activities (Year End 31 December 2023)

Expenditure	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Church activities	173,608	13,999	9,313	196,920	223,961
Costs of raising funds	6,166			6,166	5,402
Total expenditure	179,774	13,999	9,313	203,086	229,364
Net income/ expenditure	4,147	-8,999	14,059	9,207	-31,787
Transfer between funds	-175,000	175,000			
Net movement in funds	-170,853	166,001	14,059	9,207	-31,787
Total funds brought forward	294,283	404,353	2,154	700,790	
Total funds carried forward	183,921	5,000	23,372	212,293	197,577

Regular Services in 2024

Sundays

8.00am	Said Eucharist	Common Worship Book of Common Prayer used once a month (usually when All Age Service at 10.00am)
10.00am	Sung Eucharist	Common Worship
6.30pm	Evensong	Both Choral (once a month) & Said Evensong

Tuesdays

8.30am	Morning Prayer
10.00am	Caterpillars
5.00pm	Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

8.30am	Morning Prayer
10.10am	Service of the Word (Said Eucharist once a month)
5.00pm	Evening Prayer

Thursdays

8.30am	Morning Prayer
12.30pm	Said Eucharist
5.00pm	Evening Prayer

Fridays

8.30am	Morning Prayer
1.10pm	Said Eucharist
5.00pm	Evening Prayer

Festivals and other Services

Advent

Advent Carol Service - First Sunday of Advent at 6.00pm
School Carol Services
Lunch Time Carol Service - A half hour service at 1.10pm

Christmas

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols - Sunday before Christmas Eve
Crib Service
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Eucharist
Epiphany Carol Service

Candlemas

Christingle

Ash Wednesday

The Eucharist with Ashing

Mothering Sunday

A special All Age Service

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday - Blessing and Distribution of Palms, narrated reading of The Passion
Mon-Wed - Additional special services
Maundy Thursday - Chrism Mass at Chelmsford Cathedral
Sung Eucharist, washing of feet and The Watch at 7.30pm
Good Friday - A mixture of events and services in church and outside concluding with the Liturgy at 2.00pm

Easter Day

7.30am Easter Ceremonies and blessing of the Paschal Candle
10.00am Sung Eucharist and Renewal of Baptism Vows

Attendance in 2024:

Easter Sunday - 225 adults & 50 children (across 2 services)

Advent Period & Christmas (2023) - 1,685 (both adults and children including school services)



A message from the Bishop of Chelmsford

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqan

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



A message from the Archdeacon of Barking

The Ven Christopher Burke

Dear enquirer,

Thank you for taking the time to explore the possibility of coming to join the community at St Edward's, Romford as their Vicar. The Church has worked hard to put together a profile which offers an insight into their ministry and the broader context within which they serve and how they see their new Vicar making an important contribution to their on-going development and mission.

I hope that you will find the Parish Profile helpful in your discernment and prayers.

Please be assured of my prayers, and the prayers of the community at St Edward's, as you reflect on the possibility of this ministry. If you would welcome an informal telephone conversation with me to explore further any aspect of this role please contact Julie Nagle, my PA, and she will be very happy to find time for a chat.

I am aware that the discernment process can be an exciting and unsettling experience. Thank you for considering this possible ministry and I look forward to hearing from you if you would like to explore this further.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

Chris Burke



St Edward the Confessor
The Parish Church of **Romford**
www.stedwardsromford.com