

# We are St. Mark's

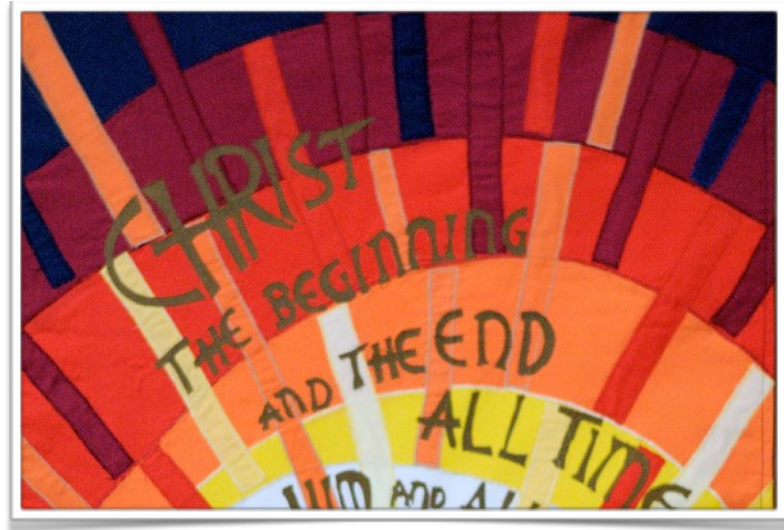


## Our Parish Profile

**St Mark's**  
Forest Gate

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# Welcome

## Thank you for your interest in St. Mark's

Wherever in the world you're from and whatever your background, we warmly welcome you to St. Mark's

Thank you for downloading our Parish Profile.

St. Mark's has a wide variety of services, styles of worship, groups and activities, but running through everything is our love for Jesus - he is at our head and we want to share his good news with everyone.

Our Parish Profile aims to tell you about us - where we are, what we're like, what we do, and the person we believe God is looking for to lead us in the next stage of our church life.

If you would like to know more, please contact me initially by email at [info@stmarksforestgate.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarksforestgate.org.uk) and I will be delighted to help.

Much prayer has surrounded the production of our Parish Profile, and we are now praying for those called to apply for the post of vicar at our church.

God has always richly blessed us at St. Mark's, and we wait with excitement to find out where he will lead us next and with whom.

May his blessing be upon you as you pray for him to guide you.

Mike Richardson  
PCC Chair and Editor of our Parish Profile  
On behalf of all of us at St. Mark's, January 2019



# Life at St. Mark's

We are not just a Sunday church  
Find out what we do throughout the week

Whenever you did this for  
one of the least important  
of these members of my  
family, you did it for me

## Sunday Services : Our Current Regular Pattern

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
8.00 am	Prayer and Breakfast			
10.30 am	Worship Service	Holy Communion	All Age Worship	Holy Communion
6.30 pm	Holy Communion	Persecuted Church	Holy Communion	Praise-T

### Week 1

Our morning service is led by our Music Group and is regularly attended by our deaf members, with a British Sign Language interpreter signing for them

### Week 2

Our evening service focuses on the persecuted church and involves prayer for our brothers and sisters throughout the world

### Week 3

Our All Age service is attended by all the congregation, including our young people

#### **Week 4**

Praise-T is an informal service starting at 4:30pm with tea, cake and fellowship, followed by a time of worship and prayer with a theme

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month we often hold a family communion service in the morning, and are flexible with the style of the evening service

If members are unable to receive communion at the altar rail they are welcome to receive it at their seat

Approximately three times a year we hold a Messy Church service, which is both for our members and an outreach to local children and families

Attendance at morning services is usually around 80 adults and 28 children

Attendance at evening services is usually around 11 adult members



50 members of the church volunteer to assist at services on a rota basis

#### **Other services in 2017**

One wedding

Two infant baptisms

Four funerals in the church and ten at the nearby City of London Crematorium

#### **Prayer**

We hold prayer meetings in the church every Wednesday at 7:30 am and 7:00 pm. There are regular additional prayer meetings, including 24 hour prayer vigils, in response to specific events

After every morning service two people pray in our prayer room with anyone wanting confidential prayer support

The prayer room is open whenever the church building is open, and people are encouraged to leave prayer requests at any time

#### **Music Group**

In addition to playing at most morning services, our talented music group and organist meet together weekly to rehearse, worship and learn together



### **Homegroups & Bible Study Groups**

Three evening groups are held in people's homes, and a lunchtime group is based in the church

### **Other Groups**

Parent and Toddler Club currently holds three sessions a week, with a large and varied group of carers, children and babies - mainly from outside the congregation - attending one or more sessions. It is much appreciated by those who attend

Banner Group meets weekly to make banners and other craft items for our own church and also for other churches - both locally and abroad

St Mark's Players is a music and drama group

Our Men's Group meets regularly at the church and at other venues for fellowship and a range of activities

Nifty Fifties and Tuesday Fellowship are elders' groups, meeting for social activities, friendship, videos, games and quizzes

Coffee Mornings on the first Friday of each month provide fellowship and raise funds for various charities, usually with a connection to members of the church

### **Activities for Children & Young People**

During Sunday services there is a crèche for 0 - 3 years, Scramblers for 3 - 5 years, Sunday Club for 6 - 10 years and Sunday Group for 11 - 18 years

A Brownie pack and a Guide company are connected to the church and meet weekly in the building

### **Electoral Roll**

The number on our electoral roll as of 31st March 2018 is 127  
Of these 77 live in the parish and 50 outside

### **Worshipping Community**

In 2018 our worshipping community of people who attend church at least once a month was 177. Of these 40 were aged 0 - 10, 15 were aged 11 - 17, 95 were aged 18 - 69 and 27 were aged 70+. These figures are approximate, as we do not collect data relating to members' ages

Over the past 25 years a significant number of our congregation have become lay readers and have gone on to be ordained





# Children & Young People

Children and young people are active members of our church, so we seek and value their contributions

:Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me'

At St Mark's we are passionate about seeing young people come to know Christ and discipling them in their faith

Children who have been baptised or dedicated at St Mark's are sent a card on behalf of the church on their birthday, and at Easter and Christmas until their 5th birthday. However, if they are members of our church family attending on Sunday mornings they will continue to receive cards until they go to secondary school

We employ a youth worker who is responsible for encouraging the spiritual and personal growth of the 11 - 18 year olds who attend our Sunday services and mid-week groups

We also have a group of volunteers who help our young people develop their faith and be touched by the love of God

On Sunday mornings we run four groups for ages ranging from 0 - 18: Crèche for 0 - 3 year olds, Scramblers for 3 - 5 year

olds, Sunday Club for 6 - 10 year olds and Sunday Group for 11 - 18 year olds

As well as Sunday morning activities we run two mid-week groups: Tuesday Club (School years 3 – 6) and Tuesday Group (School years 7 – 13). These groups aim to tackle some of life's questions from a Christian perspective as well as be a place where young people can feel safe and have fun

We hold events to involve whole families, with our three Messy Church sessions a year and our Community Harvest Barbecue giving us opportunities to share the gospel with families in different and fun ways. We also lead carols at our local flower shop at Christmas

Children and young people are an integral part of our church life, and we are keen to work not only with those who attend our church, but also to be active in bringing God's love to them where they are



Therefore several members of the church, including our youth worker, work with Faith in Schools to help deliver RE in our local primary schools and at events such as Christmas Journey and Easter Experience, which allow school children to understand further the Christmas and Easter stories and why they are so important to Christians

Our youth worker is actively involved in borough-wide youth projects as he also works part-time for Newham Youth for Christ, who seek to encourage church partnerships and see young people from across the borough changed by God's love

This also offers our young people an opportunity to engage with borough-wide worship events, leadership training, prayer, residential and much more. Our youth worker also sits on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which contributes to the Religious Education syllabus in the borough

We do everything we can to help our young people grow in their faith and to enable Forest Gate's young people to know and be touched by God's love

More details [stmarksforestgate.org.uk/youth](http://stmarksforestgate.org.uk/youth)





# Our Links & Events

A flavour of our work with other churches,  
charities and organisations

Love your neighbour as yourself

## **Organisations**

Asian Friendship Centre: a locally-run charity which seeks to serve the Asian community in Forest Gate and East Ham through social events and a small house church. The missionary in charge of this project collaborates with our church and advises us on ways to reach out to the Islamic community

## **Churches**

St. Mark's works ecumenically with a variety of Forest Gate churches of different denominations at events such as the Easter Walk of Witness and services at Christmas and Easter. Our church is part of a group in Forest Gate whose ministers meet monthly

We collaborate in other projects including a local food bank and community carol-singing

## **Charities: Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Release International**

We support the persecuted church through these charities and hold regular services to highlight and pray for the persecuted church

More details: [csw.org.uk](http://csw.org.uk); [releaseinternational.org](http://releaseinternational.org)

### **Asha Trust**

A charity based in Sri Lanka, founded by members of our congregation who have personal links with the country. St. Mark's has supported the charity for 14 years through fundraising, prayer and visiting groups

More details: [ashatrust.co.uk](http://ashatrust.co.uk)

### **Mugoma Trust**

A charity based in Tanzania, also founded by members of our congregation. St. Mark's has supported the charity for a number of years through fundraising and prayer

More details: [mugomatrust.org](http://mugomatrust.org)

### **Newham Youth for Christ**

A branch of the national charity Youth for Christ, supporting churches all over the borough to produce sustainable and effective youth ministry. Our youth worker divides his time between youth ministry at St. Mark's and the work of Newham Youth for Christ

More details: [newham.yfc.org](http://newham.yfc.org)

### **Faith in Schools**

An educational charity that provides the Christian element of the primary school syllabus in Newham, including at the schools in the parish

### **Traidcraft & Tearfund**

Congregation members support these charities through buying fair trade goods after each All Age service and on the Sundays leading up to Christmas

More details: [traidcraft.co.uk](http://traidcraft.co.uk); [tearfund.org](http://tearfund.org)

### **London City Mission**

A charity focusing on homelessness that we support both financially and in kind from our Harvest services

More details: [lcm.org.uk](http://lcm.org.uk)

### **Coffee Mornings**

Congregation members hold monthly coffee mornings to raise money for a variety of charities

We also support many other charities, including the Children's Society through collecting boxes

### **Food Bank**

Each month we collect different items to donate to a neighbouring food bank



### **Shoebox Appeal**

In November each year we fill shoeboxes with items suitable for families, and the boxes are then sent to Romania

### **Jumble Sales**

We organise and hold jumble sales at the church three times a year. These raise money for the church and also serve to bring in people from around the parish who would not normally come to the church. A team of members welcome and talk to visitors and invite them to find out more about us

### **Debden Camping Weekend**

Once a year a group of members organise a weekend of fellowship and fun at Debden campsite, not too far from the church, in Epping Forest. Members and their families can camp for the whole weekend or attend on a daily basis. This is an important opportunity for church members to get to know one other better and witness in a relaxed way to those who may not attend church



### **Forest Gate Festival**

This is a community event that takes place in Forest Gate every July. St. Mark's has a stall selling Traidcraft and Tearfund goods and offering refreshments, leaflets about St. Mark's and an opportunity for local people to ask questions about us and our faith

### **Community Harvest Barbecue**

We hold our barbecue at the church each year on the day before our Harvest Festival. It is well attended by a mix of congregation members and local families, and is an opportunity to witness in a relaxed manner

### **Christmas Fayre**

Each year towards the end of November we hold our popular Christmas Fayre with craft, card and gift stalls, as well as refreshments

### **Current Seasonal Services**

Every Christmas we hold a nativity service, which is always a joyful event that everyone looks forward to. We lead carols and witness at our nearby local flower shop. We hold two carol services, usually on the Sunday before Christmas - an All Age service for families and younger children in the morning, and a more traditional Carols by Candlelight service in the evening. In the week leading up to Christmas we offer an opportunity to escape from the busyness of preparations and reflect on the

real meaning of Christmas through three half-hour evening meditations. On Christmas Eve we hold a traditional midnight communion, and on Christmas morning there is an All Age Christmas Praise service followed by a short Holy Communion

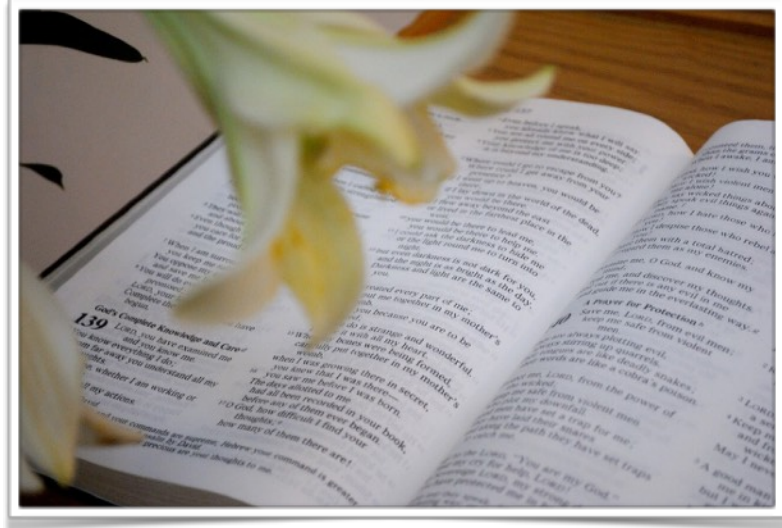
On Palm Sunday we decorate the church with palms, and the children lead us in a procession. We also hold meditations in Holy Week, and on Good Friday morning we spend a reflective hour at the cross. On Easter Day we hold a joyful Easter Praise celebration with Holy Communion and reveal our Easter Garden

We also hold special services to mark other festivals such as Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Pentecost and on Remembrance Sunday

### **Other Events**

We offer a variety of other events throughout the year, including an annual Christmas gift swap in early January in aid of Asha Trust, quiz nights in aid of various charities, Christian book swaps, fun runs and walks and more





# Where We Stand

## An outline of what is important to us

Love the Lord your God with all  
your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your strength and  
with all your mind

At the time Synod considered the ordination of women the  
PCC voted to support this

The PCC have not recently considered other specific questions  
of doctrine and faith and have therefore followed the Church  
of England's guidance and biblical teaching

At the discretion of our previous minister, marriage of divorced  
people has taken place in the church

Although our neighbourhood has an overall majority of people  
of other faiths or no faith, we currently have little formal direct  
interaction with other faith groups

Our activities such as Parent and Toddler Club and our youth  
groups are open to, and attended by, people of other faiths  
or none

We have relatively few symbols in the church - a plain wooden  
cross and one stained-glass window, which was transferred from  
the previous church. There is a full immersion baptismal pool

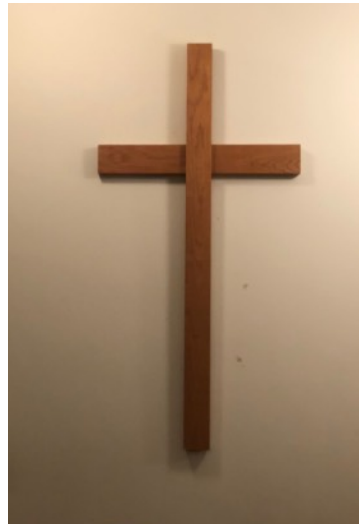
It has not been the tradition of the church for robes to be  
worn for the majority of services

We do not currently take a collection during services; our  
offerings box is placed at the entrance to the church area



Our communion practice is an open table for all who love the Lord, and the self-published communion booklets we use are based on the 1980 Alternative Service Book. These now require updating, which will be led by our new vicar

We have completed the Bishop's paper for admitting children to communion prior to confirmation, and the first course began in September 2018





# Our Vision for the Future

## What the Lord is calling us to do

Your kingdom come  
Your will be done

### **Spiritual Growth and Development**

Greater co-ordination of homegroups - to encourage them and set their direction

Continue to develop our Biblical teaching

### **Outreach**

Greater involvement in our community

A more active role in our Deanery and Diocese

Develop links with other churches and community groups in Forest Gate

More evangelism to our neighbours

Develop links with other faith groups

### **Pastoral Care**

Develop further how we welcome and integrate new people

Ensure full accessibility to every aspect of church life for all

Further work on creating a church membership that looks after each other

Ensuring our processes enable all to receive the care and attention they need

### **Church Members' Ministry**

Helping people to identify and use their own gifts

Understanding what is meant by Christian service

Developing individuals' skills

### **Care and Development of our Church Family**

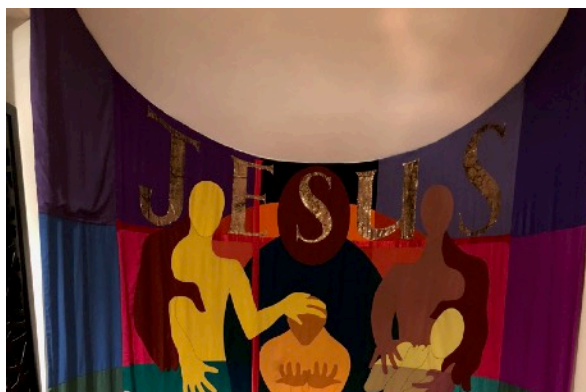
Ensuring we seek, understand and address the needs of all individuals and groups within our church family, and in particular those of:

Children and young people

Our 18 - 30 age group

Young families

Elderly people





# The Person We're Looking For

The qualities, skills and knowledge we believe the Lord has led us to seek in our new vicar

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of God's varied grace

Our new vicar must love the Lord Jesus with all their heart and soul and hold him and his ways above all things. Their Christian faith will be biblically based and they will live their life consistently within these principles, being mature in faith whilst not necessarily being old in years!

Our desire is that they will have a personal calling from God to lead St. Mark's, and that they will have a pastor's heart to love, care and support us across our wide age range and rich diversity of background and experience

They will be open to, and embrace, the low church evangelical traditions that we express corporately within our celebration of the Church of England Holy Communion liturgy, our contemporary worship and our wide range of informal lay-led home grown services, such as our monthly All Age Worship and Praise-T. We seek someone who is an eloquent, effective preacher with sound biblical knowledge to teach, challenge and inspire us as a congregation

Our new vicar will be someone who is led by the Holy Spirit, has spiritual vision and who will be able to develop the spiritual life and gifts of the church family for God's glory within our community

They will be faithful in their personal prayer life and Bible study, spending time each day with God, seeking his will and patiently listening for his voice and direction. This personal discipline will not only be an example to our church family but will hopefully be the catalyst for our new vicar to encourage and nurture our prayer life and Bible study, both corporately and as individuals

We anticipate that the vicar will develop a knowledge of, and play a key part in, all aspects of our church life. Whilst retaining oversight and co-ordination, they will work collaboratively to offer support, encouragement and advice to those with delegated responsibility, and where necessary will sensitively challenge the status quo

We seek a vicar who will lead in planning and developing our vision for the future as we work together to grow the Kingdom of God in Forest Gate



The vicar will also act as the public face of St Mark's in and around the parish, and will involve themselves in the life of the community, expand our connections with other Newham churches, the Deanery and the Diocese, help us develop our evangelism locally, and nurture our awareness of the Anglican communion and its traditions

When we asked our church members to pray and consider who God might bring to us, the following desirable characteristics emerged:

A welcoming, easily approachable, 'down to earth', practical, 'people person'

Honest, understanding, loving and patient

A good listener, who is empathetic and sensitive

Led by God, wise and discerning

Has life experience and can relate to people 'where they're at on their journey'

A skilled enabler who will confidently delegate, equip and inspire

A good open communicator



Enthusiastic, with drive and an infectious passion for the Gospel

Has a quiet confidence and is 'comfortable in their own skin'

Has a sense of humour, fostering a sense of joy and fun for all ages

Someone who is comfortable in their role as vicar and has an easy presentation style which is attractive to the 'churched' and 'unchurched' alike

Someone who is comfortable using information and communications technology, understands the potential of digital and social media in today's church and will support their further development

Be willing and able to evaluate and self-assess, and seek to develop their personal faith and ministry during their time at St. Mark's

Manage and prioritise their own workload and be unafraid to 'switch off' and take time away from 'church business'

Accepts that we, the family of St. Mark's, will want to 'minister' to them and support them prayerfully and practically in their role

And because our children and young people are so important to us, we asked them separately - twice - for their views. You can see what they said in two short videos by following these links:

What we're looking for in our new vicar:

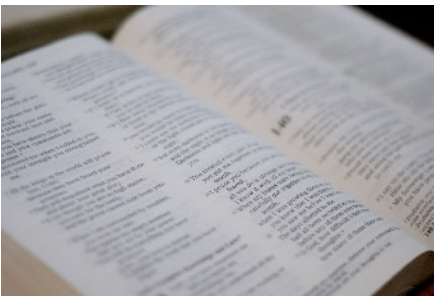
[youtu.be/3z1kpulXvHg](https://youtu.be/3z1kpulXvHg)

What we like about St. Mark's:

[youtu.be/wKhmlzCmEsI](https://youtu.be/wKhmlzCmEsI)

We acknowledge that this is a lot to ask of one person, and realise that none of us are perfect. We recognise and welcome the fact that our new vicar will come to us with their own experience, ideas and vision and an eagerness to lead us on

Above all, our desire and earnest prayer is that the Lord will bring to us the individual chosen by him, who will come to us with an honest, open heart to journey with us and grow in the love of the Lord - someone who has a passion to see God's kingdom flourish in Forest Gate





# The Church Building

Purpose-built in 1986 with input from  
the congregation and local community

It is written, 'My house will  
be a house of prayer'

The church was built in 1986 and is the second building on the site. It opened the following year as a multipurpose church centre

The church faces onto Lorne Road and although it is very distinctive in design, it fits in with the surrounding buildings

The vicarage and a small car park are at the rear of the building

There is no churchyard

The interior of the building is well-lit and airy, and so does not always feel very 'churchy' to those more used to a traditional building

The church is separated from the hall by rolling walls. This space is flexible and can be opened up into a single large space or divided into three smaller areas

There are three smaller rooms: a meeting room which is also the base for youth activities, a lounge which can also be used for meetings, and a crèche area with visibility into the church

There is a separate prayer room, opened in 2017

The building also has female, male and disabled toilet facilities, a well-appointed kitchen refurbished in 2017 and a parish office with desk, computer and printer/scanner/photocopier and ample storage space

There are a considerable number of other storage areas around the building

Our quinquennial inspection in summer 2018 noted that overall the church is in good condition, with some general maintenance issues requiring attention in the coming year

The church area has a simple wooden cross, wall banners, plain wooden furnishings, with chairs rather than pews, and a stained-glass window transferred from the previous church

There is an Allen digital computer organ and a full immersion baptistery with plumbing and drainage

The church is on one level, and all areas are accessible to those with limited mobility. There is a hearing loop, sound system, data projector, and wifi. The building is centrally heated, so is warm in winter

Fresh flowers are provided every week by members of our Flower Guild. Our altar frontals, which change according to the church season, have all been made by our Banner Group, and our altar linen is laundered each week by members of the congregation

There is good security, including CCTV and an alarm system

We employ a cleaner, and organise regular work days where members of the congregation undertake maintenance tasks in the church and its grounds





# The Vicarage

Purpose-built at the same time as the church and close by, the vicarage is spacious and has an enclosed garden

As for me and my house,  
we will serve the Lord

Completed in 1987, this generous sized double fronted house provides a home right in the heart of the parish

The front door opens into an entrance lobby, from which the spacious vicar's study can be accessed without the need to enter the main body of the house. Beyond the dividing door there is a large lounge with patio doors to the garden. The kitchen has recently been re-fitted with ample cupboard space and there is a separate utility room. Beyond the kitchen is a separate dining room with a west facing window looking out to the garden and benefitting from afternoon sunshine. There is also a WC cloakroom on the ground floor

Upstairs there are four double bedrooms, two of which have fitted wardrobes, and a separate WC and family bathroom

The vicarage benefits from a large enclosed garden, mostly set to lawn and shrubs, with a small patio. The garage is positioned half way down the garden and can be accessed from within the garden. Access to park a car in the garage is via the church car park adjacent to the garden

The vicarage is situated to the rear of the church, meaning the church is easily accessible either through the car park or via the gate at the end of the garden



### **St. Mark's Vicarage**

Clockwise from top right: Kitchen; Garden; Main bedroom;  
Garden showing church and garage; Living room looking  
towards garden; Study

Below: Rear of vicarage from garden

Further photos are available on request







# Forest Gate

Close to London yet adjoining Epping Forest,  
and experiencing a period of rapid change

But the Lord is still in the city;  
he does what is right and  
never what is wrong

Our parish is in the Forest Gate North ward of the London Borough of Newham, a wonderfully diverse community

It is bounded by Wanstead Flats, the Liverpool Street to Norwich railway line, Manor Park Cemetery and Woodgrange Road, which makes it feel like a discrete area and so fosters a sense of community. Non-members in the area still view St. Mark's as 'their' church

Forest Gate is made up mainly of Victorian terraced housing, with one high rise building and a block of modern high-density housing. It is seen as an up and coming area popular with a variety of people enthusiastic to move here, drawn by our proximity to Stratford and the regeneration resulting from the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from 2007

Nearby, along Woodgrange Road there are shops, including two small supermarkets, a library, two doctors' surgeries, two dental practices, a number of coffee shops, two pubs and the station, together with a post office, a number of betting shops and fast food outlets and a pawn shop. Woodgrange Road also hosts a weekly Saturday market

Within the parish there are an infant school and a junior school, both rated good by Ofsted, with a large secondary academy rated outstanding nearby

Forest Gate has excellent transport links. Trains run every ten minutes from Forest Gate station in Transport for London Zone 3 to Stratford (Central and Jubilee Underground lines and Docklands Light Railway) and on to Liverpool Street mainline station. The line is currently being upgraded as part of Crossrail, and in 2020 Forest Gate station will become part the new Elizabeth line, with frequent direct services to Tottenham Court Road in the heart of the West End in 17 minutes. Nearby Wanstead Park station is part of the upgraded London Overground line from Barking to Gospel Oak. There are frequent bus services from Forest Gate to other parts of the local area and to the City

There are high levels of employment, with the majority of people commuting to work, mainly in Central London

There is greater deprivation in surrounding areas, and some members of the congregation come from these areas

Although normally a safe area with good relationships within the local community, and with knife and car crime reported as reduced, Forest Gate experiences crime, including fly-tipping, in the same way as other inner-city areas

We are extremely fortunate to be a few minutes' walk from Wanstead Flats, a large common forming part of historic Epping Forest, belonging to and run by the City of London Corporation. There are two lakes on the Flats, and the area houses a wide variety of flora and fauna. The Brownies, Guides and our youth groups undertake activities on Wanstead Flats, and the church holds picnics there in the summer

More detailed information can be found in the Appendix 6 and from Wikipedia: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest\\_Gate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_Gate)

Woodgrange Road,  
Forest Gate's main street





# Finance & Planned Giving

## Information about our finances

For where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be also

### **Income Summary**

In recent years our annual income has normally been between £100,000 and £110,000, over 80% of which is giving from church members and associated Gift Aid. Our income in 2017 was above average, at over £138,000, due to some generous gifts for the kitchen refurbishment, together with our Gift Month in October

### **Planned Giving**

More than 40 members support our ministry by regular monthly or weekly giving, with an average giving of £86 per person per month. This includes members who give via Charities Aid Foundation or the Parish Giving Scheme

### **Gift Aid**

We reclaim the income tax paid on money given under the Gift Aid scheme and also use the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme for small cash donations given in the collection. In 2018 these have raised £13,745 and £1,704 respectively

### **Gift Month**

In 2017, for the first time since 2013, we held a Gift Month to focus on giving. This raised a total of £19,223 in one-off gifts, but regular monthly/weekly planned giving was unchanged

### **Legacies**

Very occasionally we receive legacies from church members. In 2018 we have received a legacy of £99,770 from a church member. The PCC is considering how this should be spent, but have decided in principle that it should not be used to cover day to day expenditure

### **Expenditure Summary**

In recent years our spending has typically been between £92,000 and £117,000. However, in 2017 we spent £146,000 due to the kitchen refurbishment, which cost just under £47,000

### **Parish Share**

Each year we pay our parish share in full to the Diocese of Chelmsford by monthly direct debit. Our contribution in 2018 will be £34,007

### **Giving**

The PCC has agreed a policy to give away 10% of our income (excluding money given for specific purposes). Our planned giving supports five Christian charities each year, and we support a number of other Christian charities and individuals on an ad hoc basis

### **Our Mission & Outreach**

We spent £22,000 on our mission and outreach in 2017; this included our contribution to Newham Youth for Christ for our shared youth worker

### **Income vs Expenditure**

In 2016 and 2017 we spent more than our income, as our regular annual income is currently less than our normal outgoings, due to costs increasing whilst the amount given by church members has either declined or remained static. The PCC is currently looking at a range of strategies to address this

Our most recent Summary Financial Statement and associated graphs can be found in Appendix 4





# Communications

## Sharing the Good News

Tell out my soul the  
greatness of the Lord

We believe that the Good News should be spread far and wide by every means possible

In today's world this means harnessing the power of digital communications, and St. Mark's has a group of people who are able to lead this

During services we use a data projector and a Windows computer running EasyWorship to show the liturgy, songs, videos, presentations and photos. These enhance sermons, prayers and other parts of the service. This is supported by a modern sound system with a console and both wired and wireless microphones to ensure that at all times everyone can hear what is being said and sung, including in the crèche. The sound system also allows us to record sermons for streaming or download from our website

Our website is our showcase to the world and a point of reference for many of our members. It is updated constantly and attracts visitors from all over the world, as well as people nearer home, some of whom have gone on to become members. You can find our website at [stmarksforestgate.org.uk](http://stmarksforestgate.org.uk)

Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are used principally to disseminate information about us, and from time to time we



post Christian messages on them - an aspect which we are looking to develop further

Our YouTube channel is used principally to store videos accessible from our website

The church emails a weekly newsletter to members of the congregation and others who have signed up to receive it

However, we realise that not all our members have access to the internet or wish to use it. We produce a paper version of the weekly newsletter which is distributed at Sunday services, and we publish a paper magazine each month. Our magazine offers news of our church, congregation and services, information from the local area and further afield, as well as a wealth of articles with a Christian perspective. The last three issues of our magazine can also be read or downloaded at: [stmarksforestgate.org.uk/st-mark-s-magazine](http://stmarksforestgate.org.uk/st-mark-s-magazine)



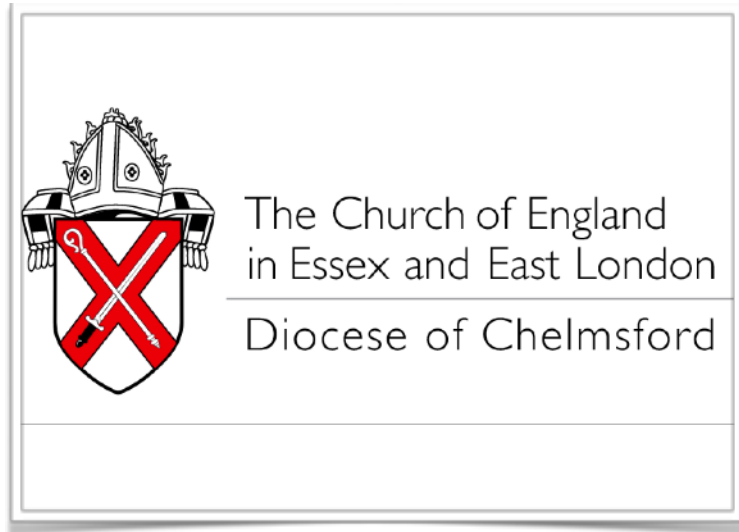
At Harvest, Easter and Christmas we leaflet homes in our parish with details of services and events, along with a Christian message and details of who and where we are, in order to maintain our presence in the parish. We produce posters, flyers and videos for church events and aim to make these as professional as possible, ensuring that the message is clear and presented in an engaging way

We self-publish everything, printing either on our leased colour photocopier/scanner/printer located in the church office or using a commercial printer for larger runs such as our magazine

St. Mark's has talented photographers among its members, and so we are able to capture important moments of church life

Much of the church administration is done electronically. We have a secure Excel database for our membership and electoral roll records, and this is being extended to other church organisations' records in the final phase of our ongoing plan in response to GDPR. We provide mailboxes and email addresses ending in @stmarksforestgate.org.uk for those who need them, as well as the ability to create temporary St. Mark's email forwarders for those organising events, so that they do not need to use their own address. We have developed a consistent style for our publications using a mix of Mac and Windows software and our professionally-designed St. Mark's logo

The office computer and wifi in the church require upgrading, and this will be done in consultation with our new vicar once their requirements have been established



# The Diocese of Chelmsford

Transforming the communities of Essex  
and East London through Christ's presence

460 parishes and  
140 church schools

The Diocese of Chelmsford serves the people of Essex and East London and the 460 Church of England parishes and 140 church schools in the region

The average weekly attendance of adults, young people and children is about 40,000 in the diocese. More than 6,000 extra adults and children attend a 'fresh expression of church' - a new form of church

The lives of 100,000 young people are touched through church schools and other groups

More details: [chelmsford.anglican.org](http://chelmsford.anglican.org)

The diocese aspires to be a transforming presence in every community, open and welcoming to everyone and living out God's love for all people

Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford writes:

‘As the Church of England in East London and Essex we have a strong presence, but we are part of something infinitely bigger than ourselves and the geographical patch that we represent and are responsible for. We are members of an international movement which encourages human flourishing, works for justice and peace and displays signs of God’s activity in the world. And as such we are called to be beacons of hope and carriers of joy!’

Parishes are actively addressing four strategic priorities:

Living a distinctive Christian life in the world

Evangelising effectively

Holding themselves mutually accountable over the basics of Christian ministry

Developing a new vision for a Church serving in a missionary context

More details: [transformingpresence.org.uk](http://transformingpresence.org.uk)



Episcopal Areas, Archdeaonries and Deaneries





# A Message from Bishop Stephen

God is calling us to be a transforming presence

The Diocese of Chelmsford is  
an exciting place to serve

In the Chelmsford Diocese we believe that God is calling his church to be a transforming presence. Our vision is that the church - that is the people of God here in Essex and East London - should be a transforming presence in every one of our parishes.

These are our priorities:

To inhabit the world distinctively;

To evangelise effectively;

To hold ourselves accountable to one another and to God for the stewardship of the gospel;

To re-imagine the way we minister so that each ordained minister and each individual Christian discovers their part in God's ministry and so that each church flourishes.

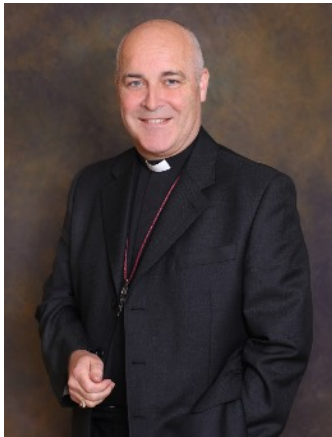
To this end we are looking for priests who are excited by this vision of becoming a church which is itself transformed, and which is becoming a more visible and effective presence in the

huge diversity of communities that make up this most exciting and energetic part of England.

There are many challenges ahead of us:

We are a diocese generously subsidised by the national church. We need to become financially self-sufficient.

Leadership often seems distant. We are creating patterns of leadership that are closer to the parishes. And we are looking to develop missionary leadership at all levels of church life. Nearly half our clergy will retire in the next ten years. We need to find out how to minister with fewer stipendiary clergy and with a re-imagining of how stipendiary ministry works. We need to re-organise the way parishes relate to each other in what we are calling Mission and Ministry Units.



Bishop Stephen Cottrell,  
Bishop of Chelmsford

Some of our congregations still think ministry is what vicars do. We have a vision of ministry where the whole people of God are involved in the whole of God's ministry. We are also experimenting with new forms of authorised lay ministry.

Church must be a safe place. All those in ministry will be expected to undergo training that will equip them to respond well in situations associated with safeguarding.

Levels of churchgoing are below the national average. We need to get evangelism on to the agenda and into the lifeblood of every church. We encourage and train churches to put on weekends of mission and outreach. One of our aspirations is that every benefice should have a trained lay evangelism enabler.

We are developing missionary discipleship, so that every church in the diocese is a place where Christians are formed in order to be sent out in witness and service.

Despite planning for a future with fewer stipendiary clergy, we remain as committed as ever to the local church. And what is the local church, but that community of men and women gathered around Christ, and living and sharing the gospel in the networks and neighbourhoods of their lives? But we need priests to lead and to serve.

We know we need to change. We can only be a transforming presence when we have allowed God to transform us.

Therefore at the heart of all we do is a longing for intimacy with God and a renewed life of prayer. First and foremost a priest is a minister of the word and sacrament. All ministry flows from this. But a priest shares the ministry of the bishop;



therefore presbyteral ministry will increasingly be a ministry of oversight, guiding, nurturing and directing the mission of God's church in the communities we serve.

It is an exciting time to be part of God's missionary movement for the world, and the Diocese of Chelmsford is an exciting place to serve. We have a clear vision and we are looking to appoint clergy who will share this with us. In every parish we long to see each person and each community grow in faithfulness and ministry so that together we may serve in the world and Christ may be made known.

**+Stephen**





# 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 nearly 400,000 residents.

We are so large that if we were elsewhere we would be an Archdeaconry or even a Diocese. We have 24 churches and currently three churches being planted, two of which have no building. Our growth has come through our diversity, not just in styles of worship, but in the nationalities who 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 and Myanmar. In the last year our church plants have added over 250 new members.

We have a strong chapter, and the Deanery Synod has recently written our vision document, available by clicking [here](#).

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-orientated and alive!

Bless you,

Jeremy Fraser, Area Dean

# Appendix I

## Church Leadership

St.Mark's has always been a church that recognises, values and develops its members' gifts and talents, and our two previous vicars were keen to use these to develop the church as the body of Christ - in this way we feel that we are able to achieve more, rather than relying on our vicar to do everything

Each year, before our Annual General Meeting, we produce a booklet for members outlining roles and their commitments, and members are free to leave a role as well as to sign up again or try a different one

In 2018 we changed the format of our Annual General Meeting and its documentation. Instead of each organisation writing a report, they submitted a photo and three words about their mission and activities. We made these into a PowerPoint presentation that we showed at the AGM, which for the first time we held immediately after a short Sunday morning service rather than on a Sunday afternoon. This improved accessibility and attendance

The PCC, which meets every six weeks, is composed of a cross-section of committed members who are willing to learn and take the church forward under the leadership of our vicar. We have developed a summary of the role for prospective members and a code of conduct for those elected, which is revisited every year. We make every effort to ensure PCC membership is representative of the make up of our church family

To ensure continuity, we have moved from all PCC members being elected annually for a one year term to all members being elected for three years, with a third being elected each year. In 2018 we co-opted two additional members to strengthen the PCC further during our interregnum

In recent years we have developed the servant leadership aspect of PCC membership - notably by placing each church organisation into one of six 'clusters' led by two or more PCC members. The PCC members are the organisation leaders' first point of contact whenever they need prayer, support, resources or training. Meetings are scheduled from time to time to discuss these needs and to ensure that all is going well and that leaders feel supported. PCC members report back to the whole PCC after these meetings

We are fortunate always to be able to elect our Churchwardens, Treasurer and Deanery Synod representatives, all of whom have fulfilled these roles for a number of years and give of their time and expertise unstintingly. Two PCC members are also part of the Youth Management Committee

We have a Welcome and Hospitality Group, composed of PCC members and members of the congregation. They are working to seek and implement ways to ensure that new and current members feel welcome at St. Mark's. They also plan to assist in reviewing our processes for developing new members' faith and roles

# Appendix 2

## Our Interregnum

Our previous vicar came to us in 1989 as a curate and was appointed as vicar in 1993, retiring in May 2018. From 1997 to 2000 he was assisted by a full-time curate, a former lay reader in the church

Our vicar disciplined and pastored us, so as to enable us to live out our faith in our lives. Understandably after such a long period of ministry, there was a sense of loss among our church family, the majority of whom had never experienced an interregnum

The churchwardens formed a team, known as the Wardens Team, to lead the church during and through the interregnum. The team consists of the two current churchwardens, two former churchwardens and a churchwarden in training. The PCC also elected one member of this team as PCC Chair. The Wardens Team's vision is that our interregnum should be a time of transition and preparation for the next phase of our church life, opening us up to different aspects of the Anglican liturgy and to the different styles of our visiting ministers

With this in mind, the Wardens Team drew up a timeline and a plan for the interregnum covering the following areas:

Ensuring our Sunday worship continues, with a smooth transition between our former vicar and our visiting ministers

Ensuring our wider church life continues with as little change as possible and that the spiritual and pastoral needs of our church family continue to be met; administrative matters related to the interregnum and everyday church life; general administration and communication; leadership

Maintaining our presence in the local community and evangelising to its members

With our members and the PCC, discerning the qualities we are looking for in our new vicar

Recruitment, appointment and induction of our new vicar

The Wardens Team meets weekly to review the services and events of the past week and to prepare for those of the coming week, to discuss any correspondence, to address members' and organisations' needs, to ensure the building and its grounds remain safe and welcoming, to allocate items to the next PCC meeting, and to take any actions related to the process of the appointment of our new vicar. The team plans strategically, including organising services and events and establishing where cover is required for services. The Wardens Team is willing to work alongside our new vicar for a short period to ensure their smooth introduction to the life of the church

The Wardens Team reports to the PCC at every meeting and gives regular oral and written updates to the membership and in the church magazine, so as to ensure everyone is aware of developments. Members of the Wardens Team are also available for prayer and discussion in church after every morning and evening service and at times during the week, and are contactable by phone, text and email

# Appendix 3

## Our Consultation Process

Every member of our church family has had an opportunity to contribute to our Parish Profile, and we are delighted that a large number have engaged willingly and prayerfully in the process

The Wardens Team and the PCC drew up an outline structure for the areas to include in our Profile

The PCC held a day away in July 2018 focusing on the following areas:

Strengths of St. Mark's

Areas we would like to develop

The qualities, skills and knowledge we are looking for in our new vicar

Our church building

Life in Forest Gate

In its discussions, the PCC also took account of the results of the whole-church survey of our worship that it conducted in late 2016, including those areas still left to address

The PCC presented its initial ideas to the whole congregation at the morning service a week later, when members were able to pray, comment and add further suggestions. This provided the raw material for what appears in our Parish Profile relating to the five areas above

Members of the PCC took responsibility for writing each section of our profile, filtered through the Wardens Team, with one member of that team acting as editor and publisher. The photographs of the church, and the videos, have all been taken by members of St. Mark's and are used with their, and the subjects' permission

The whole PCC then commented on the first draft and approved it to be sent to the Patron, the Archdeacon and the Area Dean, who then gave further advice prior to the publication of this final version

As part of the timeline for the whole interregnum, prayer times were built in at key points of the process, including the writing of the profile, to ensure that at all times we are surrounded and upheld by prayer



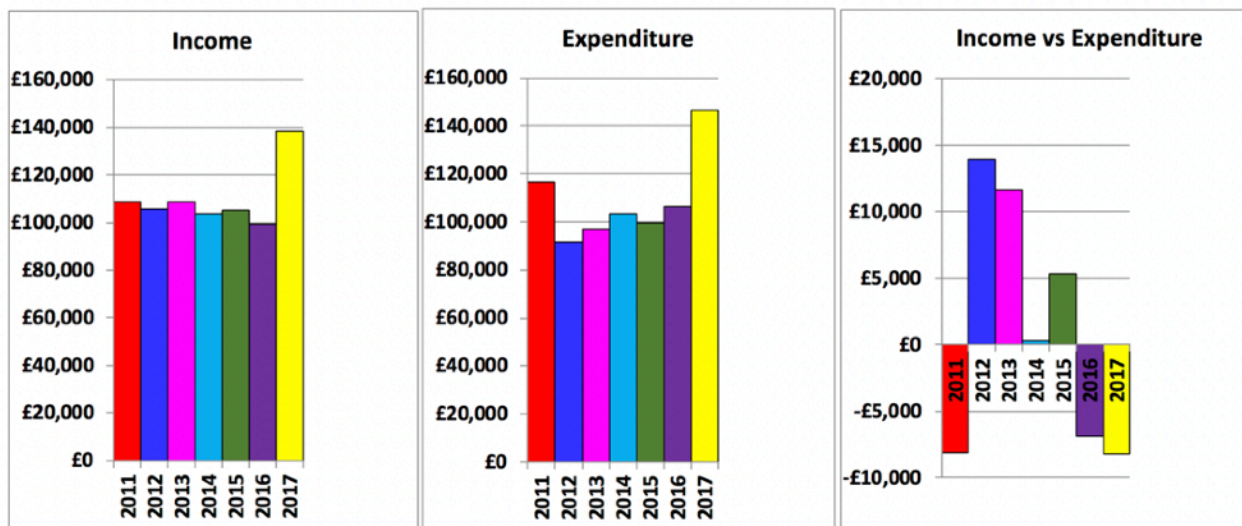
# Appendix 4

## 2017 Financial Data

### Income and Expenditure 2017

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds			Totals
		Flowers	Special Collections	Maintenance	
<b>How we were funded in 2017</b>					
Collections, Planned Giving & Gift Aid	89,009	0	1,791	27,500	118,301
Grants & Legacies	0	0	0	3,500	3,500
Fundraising (Jumble Sales & Christmas Fayre)	1,474	0	250	0	1,724
Dividends & Interest	136	0	0	0	136
Church Activities	12,601	0	0	0	12,601
Other Receipts	2,092	0	0	0	2,092
<b>Totals</b>	<b>105,313</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>138,354</b>
<b>How we spent our funds in 2017</b>					
Planned & Adhoc Giving	8,935	0	2,041	0	10,976
The Ministry (Diocese, Deanery & Parish)	33,993	0	0	0	33,993
Mission & Outreach	31,213	0	0	0	31,213
Church Running Expenses & Repairs	25,138	0	0	36,815	61,953
Administration	8,397	0	0	0	8,397
<b>Totals</b>	<b>107,676</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>36,815</b>	<b>146,532</b>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	2,363	0	0	5,815	8,178
Funds Brought Forward 1st January 2017	28,989	30	1	5,815	34,835
Funds Carried Forward 1st January 2017	26,625	30	1	0	26,656

### Income and Expenditure 2011 - 2017



At present we pay our part-time youth worker and part-time cleaner. All administration is being carried out in the short term by a small team of volunteers

# Appendix 5

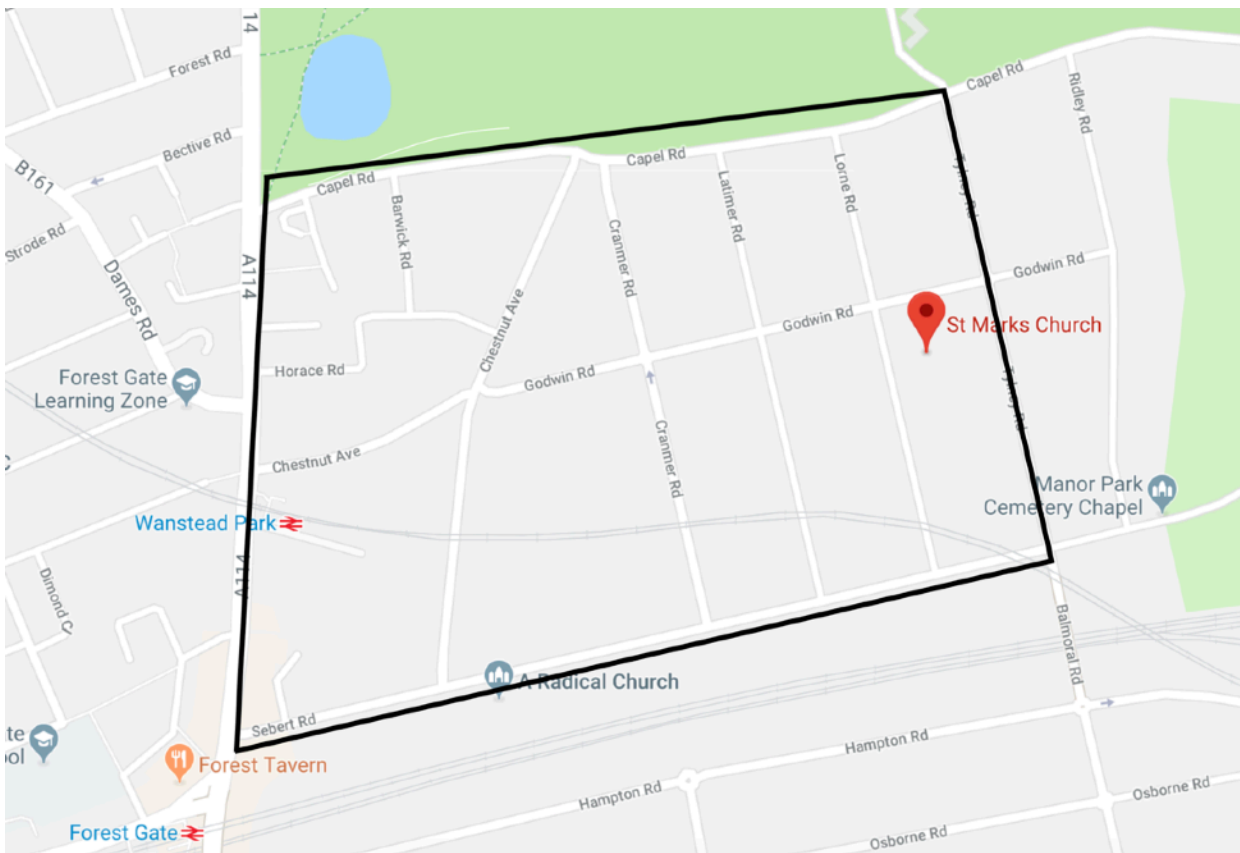
## Our Location



Our location in relation to London and the South East



Our location in relation to the surrounding area



Our Parish

# Appendix 6

## Population Data

### St. Mark's Parish Spotlight

This is a report based on the 2011 census for our parish, from data provided by the Church of England statistics unit. It brings together a range of information about the parish, both in terms of our congregation and also the wider community living in our area. It covers areas such as Christian affiliation, population age and ethnicity profiles, household structures, deprivation, employment, schools and qualifications, alongside church statistics such as attendance

### What the Census tells us about our Parish

Population	Census	St. Mark's
Parish Residents	3,700	143
Declared as Christian	41%	
Attending St. Mark's		4%
Age Profile	Census	St. Mark's
0 - 4 years	8%	29%
5 - 14 years	11%	
15 - 29 years	30%	
30 - 44 years	24%	71%
45 - 59 years	16%	
60 - 74 years	7%	
74 years and over	4%	

### Deprivation Issues in the Parish

Barriers to housing access

Income deprivation for the elderly

### Housing and Families

There are 1300 residences in the parish:

42% owner occupied,

33% private rental

25% social rental

There is an average of 2.85 people per residence

30% families with married or civil partnership parents  
 7% families with co-habiting partners  
 14% families with lone parents  
 23% single person households under 65 years  
 5% single person households over 65 years  
 21% other households – multiple occupancy (2 or more and no children)

### Socio-Economic Classification

For people of working age one person per household is classified. There is a more detailed description in the full report, but in broad terms 25% are unemployed or not earning, 48% employed, 27% employed in managerial, professional or administrative jobs. Of these 31% are part-time workers

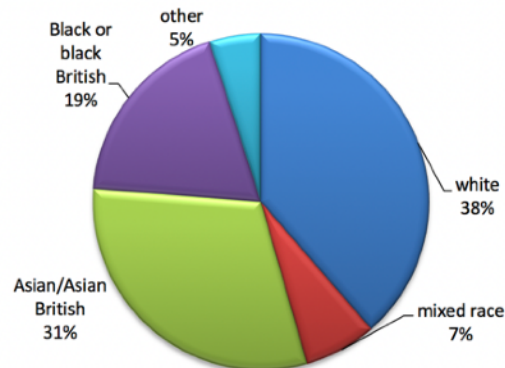
27% of the local population are in receipt of pension benefits  
 49% do not have access to a car  
 16% of those over 16 years have no qualifications

### Health Issues

Generally a healthy population with 84% saying they have good health and no limitation on their day to day activities

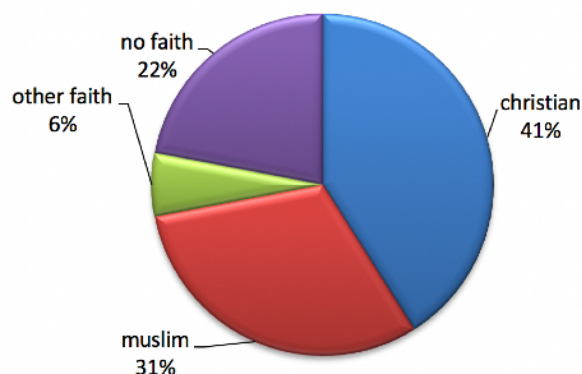
### Ethnicity of the Parish

This is the ethnic category that people who live in the parish said they belong to on the census; St. Mark's does not collect this information about the church congregation



47% of the residents in the parish were not born in the UK, and 8% do not speak much English

### What People said about their Faith





# Appendix 7

## St. Mark's Calendar 2018 - 2019

Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> September		PCC Diocesan Resource Day
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> September		Parent and Toddlers re-starts
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> September		Epping Forest Walk
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> September	12.00 pm	Christian Book Swap
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup> September	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting & Section 11 Meeting
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	10.00 am	Church Work Day
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup> September	3.00 pm	Harvest BBQ
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am	Harvest Festival
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup> October		Standing Committee
<i>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>		<i>School Half Term</i>	
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup> October	2.00 pm	Jumble Sale
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup> October	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> November		All Saints
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> November		Remembrance Sunday Standing Committee
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00 pm	Christmas Fayre
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> December		First Sunday of Advent – Christmas Celebration
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> December	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30 pm	Christmas Cabaret
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Bishop Stephen/All-Age Carol Service
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
<i>Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>		<i>School Christmas Holidays</i>	
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Christmas Praise/Short Holy Communion
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> January	1.30 pm	New Year's Day Walk
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am 11.45 am	Re-Dedication Service Asha Trust Gift Recycling Standing Committee
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup> January	7.30 pm	Asha Curry Night
Monday	28 <sup>th</sup> January	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> February	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> February		Standing Committee
<i>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</i>		<i>School Half Term</i>	
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> February	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> March	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> March		Standing Committee



Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> March		Ash Wednesday
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00 pm	Jumble Sale
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> March	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup> March		Mothering Sunday
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
<i>Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr</i>		<i>School Easter Holidays</i>	
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> April		Palm Sunday
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> April		Good Friday
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup> April		Easter Sunday Standing Committee
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup> April		Annual Review and Celebration
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> May	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup> May		Standing Committee
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup> May		Ascension Day
<i>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May</i>		<i>School Half Term</i>	
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> June		Pentecost
Fri - Sun	14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> June		Debden Camping Weekend
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup> June	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	2.00 pm	Jumble Sale
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup> June	4.30 pm	Praise-T Picnic
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup> June		Standing Committee
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
<i>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> July – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>		<i>School Summer Holidays</i>	

# Appendix 8

## Policies and Procedures

St. Mark's complies with all national, local and diocesan legislation relating to safeguarding, health and safety, insurance, finance and governance

Our privacy statement complies with the General Data Protection Regulation in force since 25th May 2018 and we are still modifying some aspects of our practice as a result

All policies and procedures are available for inspection by arrangement

# Safeguarding

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mark's Forest Gate takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults at all times

Our Safeguarding Statement applies to all who make up the church 'workforce,' which includes all clergy, holders of Bishop's licence or permission, those commissioned or authorised by the Bishop, those, paid or unpaid, who hold positions of responsibility in a parish and work with children or vulnerable adults, and those with representational parish ministry, for example; churchwardens, PCC members, music leaders and those assisting in services

For the purposes of our statement the term 'Parish' is used to denote the PCC and Incumbent, who are together responsible for ensuring that diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented

For the purposes of this statement a child is anyone under the age of 18 years

# Contact

St. Mark's Church

Lorne Road

Forest Gate

London E7 0LJ

Website: [stmarksforestgate.org.uk](http://stmarksforestgate.org.uk)

Email: [info@stmarksforestgate.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarksforestgate.org.uk)

Phone and Text: 07909 279100 and 07824 859075



St. Mark's Forest Gate



@stmarks\_e7

## **Travelling to St. Mark's**

TfL Rail: Forest Gate Station (0.4 miles)

Bus: 25, 86, 58, 308, 325 and 330

London Overground: Wanstead Park Station (0.5 miles)

Parking restrictions are in force in all surrounding roads between 8.00 am and 6.30 pm Monday to Saturday

St. Mark's is a Registered Charity: No. 1132240

Download our Data Privacy Notice [here](#)

# Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the following:

All members of our church family for their prayerful engagement with suggesting ideas and material for the Parish Profile, and for their prayers and support for the Wardens Team and the PCC during our interregnum

All the organisation leaders and all who have roles in services, for ensuring that our church life continues as normal

Those members of St. Mark's who have kindly taken photographs and made videos specifically for the Parish Profile, and those who have allowed photos taken for other purposes to be used

The members of the PCC, who have given willingly of their time to ensure our church continues to function smoothly, and who wrote sections of our Parish Profile to their brief and within tight deadlines

Our former vicar, who led us faithfully and helped shape us into who are today, and to whom we wish a long and happy retirement

All the ministers who have visited us from other parishes, both near and far, to lead our communion services and to teach and pastor us during our interregnum

Our Area Dean for ensuring that we have cover for services when we need it

Our Bishop, our Patron, our Archdeacon and our Area Dean, whose prayers, support and advice during our interregnum have been invaluable and greatly appreciated

Thank you to *you* for reading this far - we hope you have enjoyed finding out about us and pray that our Parish Profile has helped you discern what God is calling you to do

Above all, thanks and praise to the almighty Lord God, who has always blessed us so richly at St. Mark's, and who continues to do so as he prepares us for the next exciting stage of our church life