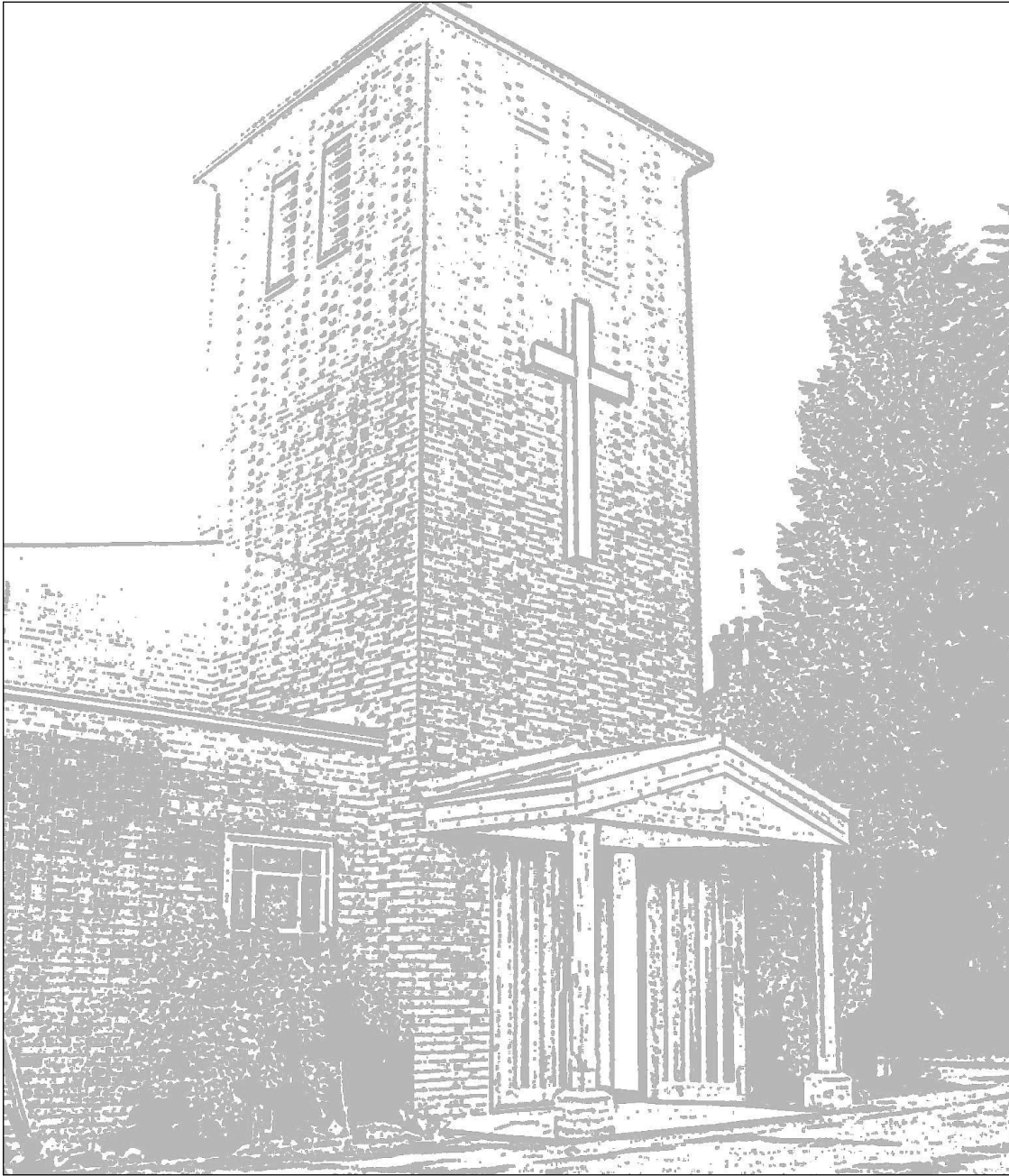


*Parish of St. Anne, Chingford*



*Additional reports for the APCM  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024*



## Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

Last year there were 63 people on the Electoral Roll, 37 resident and 26 non-resident.

During the year Clarence George Mayhew, Colin Anthony Smith-Pryor, and Roy Malcolm Stratton have died and Resty Musisi has ceased attending and is non-resident. Miss Mia Penelope Acton, Ethlyn Lawrence, Victoria Terisa Nabukola, and Nesigamye Merisa Namusoke have joined the roll.

There are still 63 people on the electoral roll, 36 resident and 27 non-resident.

This is the third year of consistent membership. 2025 is a year when we prepare a completely new Electoral Roll so there is likely to be change then.

*Mick Scotchmer, Acting Electoral Roll Officer  
March 2024*

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

The last Quinquennial Review of our church building was carried out in May 2019 , with a further review due in May 2024. In these annual reports we set out progress on the Review recommendations.

**General Condition of the church building** The report stated:

“ The church is showing its age but has been looked after by the congregation over the years. It is generally in good condition without major defect. Owing to the nature of the roof coverings, the church should plan for renewal of mineral felts over the next 2 decades. There is however opportunity to plan this and treat each roof separately, as it reaches the end of its serviceable life.

“ The crack at the north porch has been checked by a structural engineer but should continue to be monitored.”

**Recommendations for action** and progress to date:

The pace and order of action on the recommendations was affected by the successive lockdowns during 2020 and 2021, and the reordering of the church for much of that period to allow for social distancing. However we can report the following progress

### 1. Urgent works requiring immediate attention

- Arrange an electrical inspection – *done*
- Repair detached downpipe on the south aisle wall - *done*

- formalise fire plan unless this has already been done *in hand* – *delayed by lockdowns. Fire precaution practices have been reviewed, a “fire drill” was held in Autumn 2022 and plans updated to take account of lessons learnt. Our fire plan now needs to be formalized – in hand for completion by end April 2024.*
- change any older light bulbs for low energy fittings –*done*

## 2. Works recommended to be carried out by the end of 2021

- Repaint cast iron downpipes that discharge on to the south aisle roof - *done*
- Repaint cast iron downpipes on the south side of the chancel - *done*
- Revarnish the plywood fascia to the west porch – *done in 2021. Further repair work, re-staining and varnishing, completed 2022*
- Repair the corner of the brick pier on the south side of the porch\*
- Rake out and replace all defective putties in the windows - *done*
- Rub down and redecorate all windows - *done*
- Repair broken cill of south clerestory window - *done*
- Consult the fire service after a fire plan has been drafted – [*see item on the fire plan, above*]
- Remove plants growing in tarmacked areas – *done as part of regular maintenance*
- Repair eroded steps to the north porch\*
- Repair broken bollards at the south side of the west carpark - *dealt with as part of carpark resurfacing*

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

- Paint the vent grille on the tower east face
- Replace missing cords to clerestory windows to enable them to be opened
- Repair the parquet floor in the choir vestry, north aisle and renew the cork movement joint at the threshold *to be carried over to next 5 year cycle*
- Repair west boundary wall where cracked - *done*
- Repair tarmac of west end carpark and on the south side of the nave – *west end of the carpark dealt with through carpark resurfacing Jan 2022*
- Replace missing sections of concrete kerb - *dealt with during carpark resurfacing Jan 2022*
- Replace the glazed panel of the noticeboard to the north porch - *done*
- Repair brick planter by north porch\*

## 4. Works needing consideration beyond the quinquennial period

- Plan for significant roof renewals

*\*We need to discuss with the quinquennial architect a number of the minor repair items listed above, as in some cases it will not be easy to do these in ways that achieve an attractive result and avoid related damage.*

## **Maintenance items and items to monitor**

The architect's report also includes a checklist of items for regular maintenance, and of items to monitor to check for any emerging problems. The Plant Committee has prepared a comprehensive checklist to help keep track of progress on these as well as the specific timed recommendations. The maintenance items, notably keeping gutters, drains and roofs clear, are already being tackled. We have taken a series of photos of the crack in the north porch, to assist with ongoing monitoring.

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

## **Other**

**WiFi.** WiFi was installed in the Church and Centre in Spring 2023. The church subsequently acquired a Payaz card reader to enable contactless donations and this is now in regular use. We are grateful to Mick Scotchmer for leading on both projects.

**Children's Chapel** At the end of October we observed a number of cracks in the walls of the children's chapel. We consulted our quinquennial architect, who asked that we keep them under review pending a fuller examination as part of the May 2024 Review. We have not observed any deterioration since then.

**STATIS Garden.** As set out in last year's report, LBWF advised us during 2021 that they would not be renewing our lease on the STATIS Garden and wished to make use of the area for additional allotment sites, including raised beds for use by those who need them. All St Anne's property has been removed from the site. LBWF work to complete preparation of the site for allotment use appears to be on hold. We are therefore still waiting to confirm whether LBWF wish there to be any remaining access to the site via the current entrance gate from the pathway between the church centre and the church/vicarage garden, and if so how that might be managed..

**The organ** We have reported previously that our digital organ is showing its age, and after previous repairs is reaching the stage where we may need to look at replacement or major refurbishment. This remains under review.

*Churchwardens  
March 2024*

## Deanery Synod Report

The Waltham Forest Deanery Synod brings together clergy and lay representatives from every Anglican Church in the Borough, to work and worship together on issues of common interest, to take forward issues communicated from the Diocese and to offer input to the Diocese. Scheduled meetings took place in February, June, September, November 2023. All meetings included a service of worship.

The **February** meeting took place at St. Mary's Walthamstow. Unfortunately, none of the St. Anne's members were able to attend, so the following information is taken from the minutes of that meeting.

Revd. Alan Moss, who serves in the team ministry of the Parish of Walthamstow and specifically at St Mary's, explained the main focus of this Synod: **'How might churches respond to the challenges of violence and drug use in our parishes?'** He introduced Richard Graham a serving Met Police officer, to address Synod by Zoom.

Richard Graham is a Met Police Liaison Officer with 22 years' experience of service in LBWF. He explained that he has nothing to do with local police on the beat. His remit involves liaising with young vulnerable children and families, parents and carers. A major concern is trying to prevent children and teenagers in care being subjected to exploitation and targeting by criminal gangs. Lonely children are offered easy rewards if they will act as distributors of illegal substances. They easily become users themselves and are then part of the drug network. Use of cannabis degenerates into use of a stronger and more dangerous strain 'Skunk'. Recreational week-end users find themselves collecting their own stash at gang distribution points, often on housing estates. Parents and carers find it difficult to report suspected users. There is distrust of the police. Adults who were once 'users' in the past may be re-housed on estates and begin dealing to pay for their lifestyle. Gangs then move in and monopolise the drug market. Younger children are targeted by social media and texting, offering all sorts of 'goodies' in return for what at first appears to be friendship and easy money by joining the gang.

Churches might be able to help by offering safe spaces where confidential meetings between liaison officers and clients might take place. Synod members wishing to discuss anything arising from this synod should contact the Area Dean's Office first for information.

The **June** meeting took place at St. Andrew's Church, Leytonstone. Once again, the information below is taken from the meeting minutes, as none of St. Anne's members were able to attend.

Revd. Polly Kerseys-Hull, recently appointed as Assistant Area Dean led an **Introduction to Waltham Forest Deanery Synod/Travelling Well Together**. This document is produced by the Diocese as a resource for discussion, reflection and prayer in parishes and worshipping communities.

Revd. Vanessa Conant, the Area Dean spoke about **Deanery Planning Next Steps**. The Diocesan Bishop, Guli, has set out a direction for Chelmsford based on local discernment, how we travel together, how we live as God's people. The Bishop of Barking, the Rt. Revd.

Lynne Cullens, has identified a need and opportunity focusing on the Barking Episcopal area to deliver Bishop Guli's vision.

The Church of England Vision and Strategy Unit, has offered help with data and accessing resources for growth and development. A pilot scheme working with three deaneries including Waltham Forest, has been set up to identify key opportunities, challenges and how they might be tackled. The results of this pilot scheme will be offered to the Area and the Diocese.

Barking has a population of 1.6 million; large enough to be a diocese in itself. Barking's Deaneries are the size of towns. They lack the church infrastructure to support this. Statistically Waltham Forest has a population of 276,000. Attendance per capita: 0.8%; 10-year change: -5%; child attendance per capita: 0.5%

Next Steps: 1. Engagement with the listening process; 2. Further meetings; 3. Possible proposals.

The **September** meeting took place at SS Peter & Paul's Church, Chingford. The service was a Choral Evensong for the First Evensong of St. Matthew, led by Rev Dr Justin Anthony, Rector of SSPP.

The remainder of the meeting focussed on **Elections & Appointments**. The meeting was required to select a Standing Committee for the next 3 years, the role of which is to plan the agenda for our 4 Synod meetings each year and to conduct the business of the Synod between those meetings. The Committee also considers London Over the Border fund applications and makes recommendations to the LOB Committee.

#### **The Standing Committee consists of:**

##### ***Ex-officio***

Area Dean\* – Revd. Vanessa Conant remains as Area Dean as this position was not included in these elections.

Lay Chair – Vevet Deer was only candidate and duly elected.

Secretary – Donna Gwilliams – narrowly elected by one vote over Diana Kennedy, who was thanked for her many years of service in this position.

Treasurer – this position remains vacant

##### ***House of Clergy***

5 further members are permitted but only 3 were elected on the day – Revd. Eileen Rose, Revd. Kieran Bush and Revd. Steve Opie.

##### ***House of Laity***

5 further members are permitted, but only 3 were elected on the day – Helen Beech, Diane Jameson and Jack Baker.

*\*Vanessa has since resigned as Area Dean to focus on her family and an interim Area Dean, Revd. Dr Sue Lucas, Rector of East Ham has been appointed for a period of up to one year. As Sue's incumbency is outside Waltham Forest, her appointment required her to be co-opted on to the Waltham Forest Deanery and it is hoped that a suitable candidate from the Waltham Forest Deanery will be found during the year.*

The meeting in **November** took place at St. Peter in the Forest Church, Walthamstow.

Rev. Brunel James, Project and Secretariat Manager for the ***Church of England's Racial Justice Directorate*** spoke about the initiative to facilitate change within the church - so it becomes a more diverse institution, which sees Christianity as a global faith. Attracting more young people is a large part of this project's focus. By engaging with them to find out what they want from church, it is hoped that more may be encouraged to join our faith community. Whilst commitments have been made in the past, they have not been resourced or actioned and the aim of this project is to hold the church accountable to this vision. Funding will be available at all levels of church. Work has begun with the Theological Colleges to influence the clergy of the future, but much more work is required in cathedrals and parishes, which may still be distracted by post Covid issues.

Discussions with the 2/3 people we were sitting with followed, with feedback and questions being asked. Some were positive and some negative. Vanessa summed up by asking that we think about what's needed at Parish level, with reflections being fed back to her so we can focus on this and access any required funding as a Deanery.

*Julie Adesina  
Lindsey Archer  
Rev Mick Scotchmer  
St. Anne's Deanery Synod members  
March 2024*

## **Eco & Environmental Committee Report – 2023**

This committee met on 4 occasions in 2023. Whilst this committee continues to use the Eco Church framework within which to plan and manage its initiatives, our overriding objective remains an increased appreciation of and care for the environment. That said, the Eco Church framework has been used to summarise this committee's 2023 activities as follows:

### **Worship & Teaching**

- Jude planned a themed year for 2023 – A Year of Prayer for the Planet or YoPP, with a focus on God's Creation. Informal services throughout the year were themed accordingly.
- Climate issues are now included more in sermons and always in the weekly intercessions.
- It was agreed that every committee should have relevant ecological outlooks in their initiatives.



## **Buildings**

- All cleaning products available for use in the church and centre are environmentally friendly.
- Consideration was given to the installation of motion sensitive lights being fitted in the toilets, but we were advised that the cost would far outweigh the benefits, especially as the lights we have use LED bulbs.
- Heating times in the church have been reduced and pilot lights are switched off when the heating is not in use for long periods. Heating in the centre is switched off when there are no groups meeting and we are looking at the timing schedule to ensure the heating is not on for longer than necessary.
- In 2023, the solar panels generated £2,311 for church funds. The installation of a battery in the centre loft, to store some of the electricity we generate, remains under consideration.

## **Land**

- A pink hawthorn bush, the cost of which was donated by the Brownies, was planted to replace the dead cherry tree on the front green. It was blessed by Jude on the evening of St. Anne's current church building's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in May 2023.
- Our ability to make a difference in this area is significantly limited now we no longer have use of the allotment land. However, we are committed to doing as much as we can with the land we do have.

## **Community & Global Engagement**

- We are now part of the North East London Eco Faith Group (NELEF), which provides the opportunity to interact more with other faith communities on climate change. There were 4 meetings last year, the second of which was held at St. Anne's.
- Two litter picks were held in 2023 – in April and October. These are a standing item on this committee's agenda.
- The congregation were encouraged to take part in:
  - Big Help Out on 8<sup>th</sup> May (Highams Park Litter Pick) – a King Charles initiative.
  - Christian Aid's London Freedom Walk on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May
  - Business, Human Rights & Environment Act – a CAFOD petition to MPs to support a new law.
- The outcome of COP28 was disappointing, with more talk than action being the general feeling of the committee. Concern was expressed for the use of many private jets by delegates to get to the Dubai venue and the watering down of the agreement to compensate countries most affected by climate change.

## **Lifestyle**

- A "thought for the month" continues to feature on our weekly newsheet to encourage us all to think about living more sustainably.

- The “Thoughts on Eco Church & Personal Commitments” leaflet was used to conduct an anonymous survey of the congregation in August/September 2024. The returned leaflets were used during the Harvest Festival Service on 17<sup>th</sup> September as “our gift of giving to the environment”, along with the gifts of food. The results have been analysed and will be presented during the APCM.
- Recycling remains a priority for St. Anne’s:
  - In addition to the goods sold in sales held in the centre, we’ve continued to send textiles to the recycling centre, making a very positive impact on St. Anne’s carbon footprint, whilst generating £865 for church funds.
  - Continued use of recycling bins provided by Waltham Forest, aiming to ensure that all waste, which can be recycled is recycled.
  - A new food waste bin was purchased for the kitchen and compostable bags are available to use therein.

*Eco and Environmental Committee*

*March 2024*