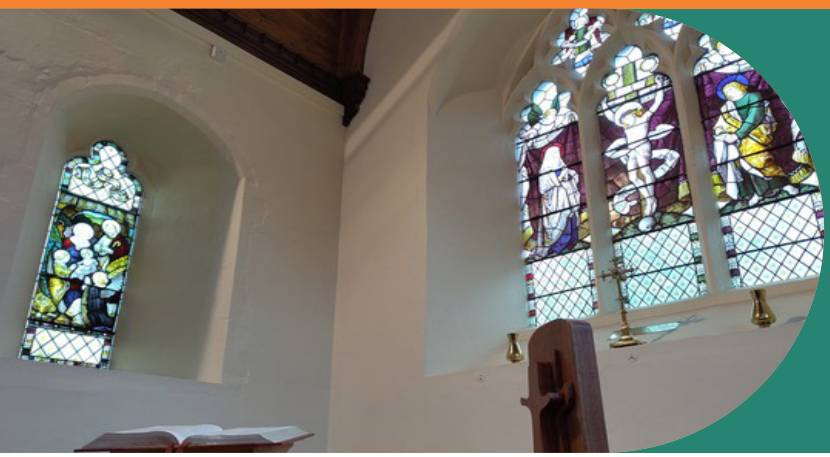






GRAYS THURROCK TEAM MINISTRY

PARISH PROFILE

The Church of England
in Essex and East London

Diocese of Chelmsford

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A message from Bishop Guli



Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehquani, Bishop of Chelmsford
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

An introduction to our churches

We are four churches served by one team ministry in Grays, West Thurrock, Little Thurrock and Chafford Hundred. We also provide ministry to the two churches in the neighbouring parish of Chadwell St Mary. Our congregation sizes vary from 15 to 100+ and all enjoy a diverse range of nationalities and ages.

We have a team of ordained and lay ministers leading worship across the two parishes. The team has a strong history of encouraging and developing vocations to lay and ordained ministry.

Each congregation has its own character, patterns and style of worship. We recognise the need to nurture the distinctiveness of each church as well as building our team identity, encouraging our church members to learn from each other and participate in the life of the whole team.

We want to change our over-reliance on ordained and authorised lay ministers in the life of the church and we are actively developing the gifts of the laity for leadership in the church. We now have a small team of locally authorised lay leaders of worship, one authorised local preacher and three more people on the pathway to authorised local preacher ministry.

During this period of vacancy we have actively been getting to know our congregations and area better, through conversations and surveys, so that our next team vicar can be part of developing our vision and mission.

We are looking for a creative and inspirational priest to have a focal ministry in All Saints Church, Chafford Hundred and to be part of an emerging team of deanery priests as we re-imagine collaborative ministry between parishes across the deanery.





The person we are seeking

The successful candidate is likely to be someone who:

- Demonstrates a passion for Jesus Christ and seeing God's kingdom grow through prayer, preaching and loving the people in our churches and the area we serve.
- Has experience and passion for pioneering community engagement and mission.
- Possesses the skills to minister across different worship styles reflecting diversity of age, ethnicity and experience.
- Is an engaging biblical teacher, able to inspire and equip God's people for mission and ministry within and beyond the doors of the church.
- Has a pastoral heart for people of all ages, ethnicities & backgrounds.
- Welcomes the opportunity to serve alongside team and deanery colleagues who meet together regularly to pray.
- Embraces change and is willing to take a lead role as we seek to reimagine ministry, both at a local level and across the deanery of Thurrock.





What we are looking for from our new vicar





We seek someone who will:

- Lead, pray, and live alongside the church and local community of Chafford Hundred, nurturing faith and inspiring growth in numbers and in discipleship.
- Be part of developing a refreshed vision for the team, open to the possibility of All Saints Church, Chafford Hundred becoming a hub for community engagement and local mission.
- Continue our commitment to welcoming women into ordained ministry,
- Welcome and care for people in our churches who have a range of experiences and theological positions on LLF and human sexuality,
- Be committed to excellence in safeguarding practice.
- And, with our support, model a healthy habit of regular rest, retreat and prayer.



What our children said they'd like in the new vicar







Further general information is available from the Team website:
www.graysthurrockteamministry.weebly.com

An introduction to our team

GRAYS THURROCK **TEAM**

Revd Dr Kate Carter - Team Rector for Grays Thurrock Team Ministry (St Peter and Paul's Church, Grays)

Revd David Peterson - Team Vicar (St Mary's Little Thurrock and St Clements West Thurrock)

Current vacancy - Team Vicar (All Saints)

Pam Kirby - Reader with PTO

Alyson Davies - Licensed Lay Minister

Tina Bailes - Licensed Lay Minister

Margaret Mumford - Pastoral Assistant and Authorised Lay Preacher

Lize Ringelmann - Parish Administrator and Beacon Centre Administrator

Each Tuesday morning the ministry team gathers for morning prayer followed by a team meeting. Our colleagues from across the deanery join us for the first half of the meeting. This enables us to support each other and to work together on some worship and seasonal events as well as planning for greater collaborative ministry across the deanery.

Our congregations are diverse in age and nationality and this diversity is increasingly reflected in lay roles within the church, including participation in District and Parochial Church Councils.

Our recent church surveys showed that many people feel that the church has strengthened them in faith and in their trust in God. At the same time there is also a hunger to learn and grow more in faith.

Our congregations include many families with children. Provision of Sunday school activities varies across the team but where it is absent, we have been seeking to increase our skills in intergenerational worship. We are conscious of the need to increase engagement with teens and young adults; both within the church and in our ministry beyond the doors of the church.

Our congregations have a sincere desire to grow in faith and to see others come to faith in Jesus. The busyness of life for many of our families who are working and raising children, along with uncertainty about how to engage in ministry and mission, mean that there is currently a gap between what people long to see in their church and finding a way to make that happen.

We are conscious of the needs in our local communities. We seek to meet some of these needs across the team through the Foodbanks we host, weekly tea and chats, a craft group and a community hub and a Toddler group for the local community in Chadwell St Mary. We also work closely with the Angel Cafe, based at All Saints Church, to grow connections with our local community. We are currently supporting the development of a cross-denominational Street Pastor initiative for Thurrock.

The rich cultural diversity of our congregations brings with it a wide range and depth of experience in different approaches to worship and mission. There is potential for us to learn more from each other and to allow this to inform our vision and mission for the future.

Two of our churches have A Rocha Bronze EcoChurch status and St Peter and St Paul's is in the process of undertaking the work needed to apply for silver status.



An introduction to each of our congregations

All Saints Church, Chafford Hundred

Chafford Hundred is a late 20th century housing development with around 5,500 houses and flats on land that was once a large chalk quarry. All Saints Church is on the eastern side of Warren Gorge, part of Chafford Gorges nature reserve, and close to a small hub of local shops. All Saints Church began its life in one of the local primary schools while waiting for the building and development of the Beacon Centre, in which the church would be housed. Initially planned as a Local Ecumenical Project, the building is held under a four-way sharing agreement and is now a designated Anglican Place of Worship. The PCC of GTTM acts as trustees and administrators for the Beacon Centre.

Sunday morning services have an informal and relaxed feel, with Family Communion and Family Worship on alternate weeks, using a mix of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs.

The early life of the church being hosted by Warren primary school has enabled an ongoing warm relationship between the congregation and the school. There are now three local primary schools with links with All Saints church for seasonal services and assemblies.

Highlights of the relationship between the church and the local community include an annual Remembrance Sunday parade which is led by ministers from GTTM and from Chafford Hundred Community Church. Similar collaborative events between All Saints and Community Church include 'Carols on the Green' in mid-December and an outdoor Easter Sunday sunrise prayer service overlooking Chafford Gorge.

All Saints Church has a valuable presence in the local community, having an onsite cafe and various groups hiring space in the Beacon Centre. We are actively seeking ways to partner with charities relevant to local people in some of our community events. Most recently, this included inviting charities to participate in a Family Fun Day at All Saints Church.



All Saints Church, Chafford Hundred
Average congregation numbers at principal Sunday services in October 2025:

- **Adults: 24**
- **Under 16s: 4**



St Peter and Paul's Church, Grays

The Grade II listed church is located next to Grays train station in the town centre and close to the High Street. A significant centre for shopping is now at Lakeside Shopping Centre and Retail Parks. However, the town centre still hosts local shops, Thameside theatre, library and museum, the Civic offices and South Essex College. There are several popular primary and secondary schools and academies with good Ofsted reports within the parish and the ministry team enjoys good relationships with the schools and regular opportunities to welcome school groups into the church and to deliver assemblies around Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

The interior of the church is a joyful place to lead worship, surrounded as it is by beautiful stained-glass windows and incorporating a glass-enclosed space, the Oak Room, which enables families to keep small children engaged whilst still participating in the church service. The Palmer Chapel to one side of the chancel is a peaceful space for prayer and for weekday communion services.

Adjacent to the church is the Grays Parish Hall complex which includes a hall and meeting room plus the Parish Office where a part time paid Team Administrator works. The Hall is extensively used for church and community groups.

Sunday mornings services, most of which include Holy Communion, have a relaxed formality. One Sunday each month is Family Worship and a separate Children's Church happens on two Sundays of the month. St Peter and Paul's has a thriving choir which attracts children as well as adults from the congregation, and which is usually accompanied on the organ or keyboard.

This year we have introduced twice monthly Worship practice sessions which are open to the whole team and neighbouring parishes. Daily Prayer happens on Tuesday mornings ahead of the team meeting and there is a Thursday morning communion service each week.

St Peter and Paul's hosts a popular Tea and Chat each Friday morning for the local community and has regular meetings of a local branch of the Mother's Union.



St Peter and Paul's Church, Grays
Average congregation numbers at principal Sunday services in October 2025:

- **Adults: 88**
- **Under 16s: 33**

St Clements Church, West Thurrock

West Thurrock and South Stifford are to the west of the town centre and are a combination of residential housing, warehousing and light and heavy industry. St Clements Church and Community complex, opened in 2005, is situated within the heart of West Thurrock and fronting the main road through from Purfleet to Grays. The complex also houses GP and dentist surgeries and a commercially operated day nursery.

St Clements Church has a hall and meeting rooms that are widely used by St. Clements and a variety of community groups. The building is operated under a three-way agreement between the PCC, NHS and the day nursery provider.

Sunday Services are at 11am and have an informal and charismatic feel. Holy Communion takes place on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month. Sunday school happens twice a month.

St Clements hosts a local community hub and opens the kitchen as a community cafe once a week. St Clements Church organises annual Christmas fetes.



St Clements Church, West Thurrock
Average congregation numbers at principal Sunday services in October 2025:

- **Adults: 33**
- **Under 16s: 16**

St Mary's Church, Little Thurrock

Little Thurrock is an established mainly privately owned residential area to the east of the town centre. St Mary's, built in 1170, is one of the pilgrim churches along the Thames and is a Grade II* listed building. It is situated within the heart of Little Thurrock set back from the main road leading to Grays town centre.

The main service is at 9.30am. Holy Communion takes place on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month.

The church of St. Mary's, together with the church hall, is a focal point within the community of Little Thurrock, providing a Foodbank and hosting a private nursery which runs from the church hall.



St Mary's Church, Little Thurrock
Average congregation numbers at principal Sunday services in October 2025:

- **Adults: 10**
- **Under 16s: 2**



Chadwell St Mary

Chadwell St. Mary, with about 10,000 residents, is situated on the higher ground overlooking the former Thameside marshland two miles to the east of Grays. At the southern end of the village, St Mary's Church is a grade I listed church, the oldest part of which was built in the 12th century. At the northern end of the village, Emmanuel Church was built in the 1960s.

The tradition of Chadwell St Mary parish has been conservative evangelical. The previous Rector and a significant number of the congregation left in 2019 to establish a new AMIE (Anglican Mission in England) church which met in a nearby school. These events were a challenge for those who remained at the time, and a period of prayer and conversation led to the GTTM ministry team being licensed as ministers to Chadwell St Mary. This process was made possible after the PCC of Chadwell St Mary rescinded its request for episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone and welcomed the ministry of both men and women. The current Team Rector has as one of her roles the pastoral lead in Chadwell St Mary.

The relationship between the two parishes is warm and there is increasing engagement by members of the Chadwell St Mary congregations in occasional events in the GTTM churches.

Emmanuel Church service is at 9.30am each Sunday. St Mary's Church service is at 11am each Sunday. Daily prayer is led at St Mary's Church on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings. Both churches have Holy Communion once a month with other services being morning worship or all age worship.

During 2026 a monthly Children's Church service was started on Sunday afternoons at Emmanuel church, and since then we have been encouraged by seeing more families and children coming along on Sunday mornings as well.

The congregations are becoming increasingly hopeful for their future and there are several thriving missional ministries. These include a Foodbank, a weekly Toddler group, a craft group and a Friday morning 'tea and chat'. There are also regular and growing links with two local care homes, a Montessori nursery and two local primary schools. Both churches in Chadwell St Mary have enjoyed hosting outreach events through the year including Open Church events, shared meals, fetes, a 'Halloween Hot Chocolate Stop' and a Community Nativity Trail.



Chadwell St Mary
Average congregation numbers at principal Sunday services in October 2025:

- **Adults: 26**
- **Under 16s: 5**

Thurrock Deanery

The Deanery of Thurrock covers the same area as the Unitary Authority of Thurrock, stretching from west of Purfleet to east of Fobbing. Nearby sites of interest include Belhus Park and woods, Chafford Hundred Wildlife Gorge, Purfleet Heritage Centre, Rainham Marshes (RSPB), Tilbury Fort and Coalhouse Fort. The historic St Clements Church, on a pilgrim route in West Thurrock, is within our parish.

Thurrock is a very mixed economy area, including retail, industrial and agricultural areas, large urban towns and small rural villages. Over the past 30 years the area has seen significant change and growth in population. Among the major changes which have occurred have been the construction and opening of the London Gateway Port at Corringham, the development of the Royal Opera House performing arts and cultural park at Purfleet and a significant increase in the construction of new housing.

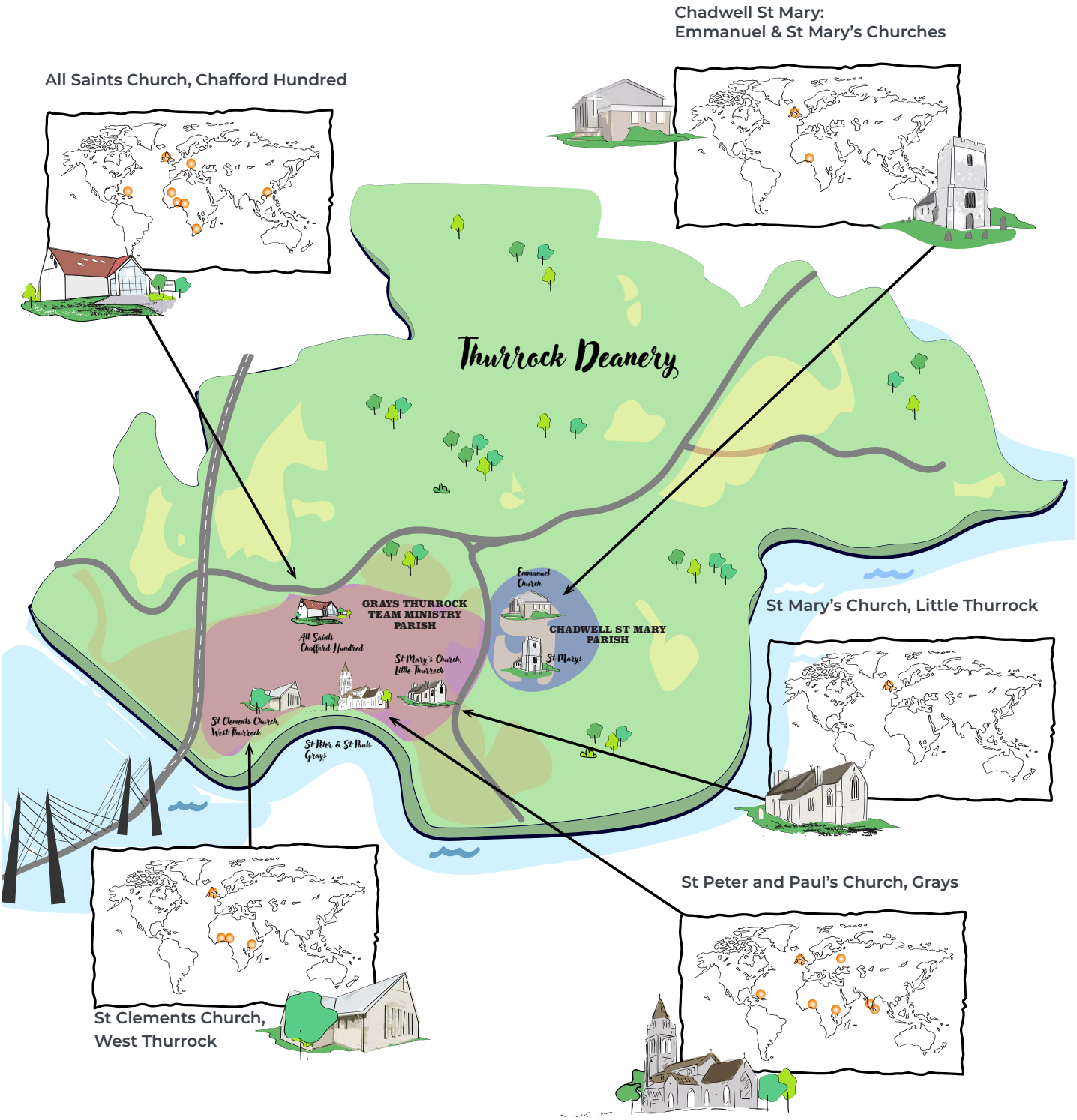
Thurrock Deanery has been impacted by reduced clergy numbers as well as the financial pressures and challenges of recruitment faced by the wider Church of England. Under the 'Abundant Thurrock' vision for sustaining ministry across the deanery, clergy and parishes are working together strategically to develop a model for ministry that crosses parish boundaries and which supports a vital Christian presence across our diverse communities within the deanery.

This appointment, therefore, incorporates both a local and a wider vision: we are seeking a collaborative and mission-focused priest who is energised by and willing to lead change at both local and wider levels within the deanery.



CONGREGATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Some of the nationalities represented in our churches



Structure and Finance

We have one PCC for the parish of GTTM along with a DCC for each of the four churches. There are two team wardens working with the team rector in the leadership of the team. Each church appoints two district wardens who work with their team vicar and DCC in the leadership of mission and ministry in their church. A small Finance Team exists to support the treasurer in enabling all the accounting, regular giving and gift aid tasks to be fulfilled. We continue to set our budget to meet our parish share in full.

The parish of Chadwell St Mary, currently in vacancy, has one PCC covering the two churches. The patronage for the parish is suspended pending a pastoral reorganisation which consists of formalising the link between GTTM and Chadwell St Mary. The current relationship between the two parishes consists of both parishes being served by the same team of ministers and uniting some of the administrative tasks in the parish office at St Peter and Paul's. In practice there is a steadily strengthening link between the two parishes as church members participate in the life of their neighbouring churches.





The vicarage

There is a modern, purpose built, four bedroom vicarage in Chafford Hundred, with an office and downstairs cloakroom. The vicarage has good-sized front and back gardens and a double garage, is less than five minutes walk from All Saints church and close to Chafford Gorges Nature Reserve.



Please do get in touch with us.
Further general information is available
from the Team website:
http://graysthurrockteamministry.weebly.com/

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