

*Parish of St. Anne, Chingford*



*Additional reports for the APCM  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026*



## Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

Last year there were 51 people on the Electoral Roll, 29 resident and 22 non-resident.

During the year Beryl Florence Stratton has died. Twelve new people have joined the roll.

There are now 62 people on the electoral roll, 37 resident and 25 non-resident.

This is very encouraging as it is the largest yearly increase for many years and the roll is larger in its second year than the previous roll reached in six.

*Mick Scotchmer, Acting Electoral Roll Officer  
May 2026*

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

The Church, generally, is in good condition, although cracks in the North Porch and Children's Chapel need to be regularly monitored.

### January 2025 to December 2025

The biggest project during 2025 was the reroofing of the flat North side roof of the church in April – May, due to leaking in the Vestry area plus bubbling of felt in other parts of the roof. After this resurfacing, the Vestry was redecorated and made good.

### Follow up to Quinquennial inspection 2024

**Cracks in the wall of the Children's Chapel.** After the removal of the trees on the South side of the church and vicarage driveway, and subsequent resurfacing of the driveway (which is Diocesan land) in August 2025, the drive and cracks need to be monitored. It's not known whether the tree roots were removed when the work took place, but if not this may possibly lead to further cracking.

### Other recommendations from the inspection report still to be addressed:

#### Works recommended to be carried out by December 2025: -

- Repair corner brick pier on South side of the front porch.
- Repair broken sill on clerestory window (high window)

(These are both small repairs which will be fitted in among more pressing maintenance work)

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

- After the ground has settled following tree works, consult a historic buildings structural engineer about the cracking in the southwest chapel. and proceed with repairs.
- Paint the vent grille on the tower east face

- Replace missing cords to clerestory windows to enable them to be opened. ( *This is a recommendation from the architect, although we have never had any*)
- Repair the parquet floor in the choir vestry, north aisle and renew the cork movement joint at the threshold.
- Repair brick planter by north porch.

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

- Plan for significant roof renewals.

#### **Conclusion**

We are fortunate to have a Church that is in a reasonable state of repair.

We thank everyone for their hard work and commitment towards maintaining the Church for our community. A special mention goes to Steve White and also to Bill Gloyn for taking the lead with the insurers in respect of work needed in the Children’s Chapel.

*Churchwardens  
March 2026*

## **Eco & Environmental Committee Report – 2025**

This committee met on 4 occasions in 2025. As mentioned in the main APCM report, the overriding objective of this committee is an increased appreciation of and care for the environment. However, it continues to use the original Eco Church framework within which to plan and manage its initiatives.

#### **Worship & Teaching**

- In 2025, we linked the welfare of our environment to our Year of Spirituality - YES 25 and, as we had in 2024, we continued our focus on climate change concerns in our worship and in our prayers. During the year, we welcomed Mike Powell, from Christian Aid, who gave a very good talk on its work and Becca Rogers who gave a talk on the spirituality she had witnessed in the travelling community.
- *Creation Care*, the personal household website version of Eco Church, is now run by A Rocha, which introduced Eco Church in the first instance. Creation Care was introduced to St Anne’s in 2024 to encourage the congregation to think more deeply about their own personal impact on the environment. Although there has been no increase in the ten households, which signed up initially, it is hoped that more of St Anne’s membership will do so in 2026.

#### **Buildings**

- In 2025, the solar panels generated £278 for church funds.
- All cleaning products available for use in the church and centre are environmentally friendly.
- We continue to keep an eye on the central heating timings for the church centre to ensure they fit in with the timings of the groups meeting there.

## Land

- The raised vegetable patch between the church and the centre continued to do well in 2025 and we are very grateful to Anthony Sullivan for this very successful initiative, which he continues to manage for us. The money raised from the donations received for the vegetables grown are a welcome contribution to church funds.
- We continue to allow the grass in front of the church to grow long as part of our commitment to caring for the environment. The grass in the memorial garden is kept shorter though to help provide a calm environment for the thoughtful reflection of its visitors.
- As reported last year, there are some gaps in the border around the memorial garden grass and, it was agreed that these be filled with *bee and butterfly friendly* plants. A list was circulated and members of the congregation have committed generously to sponsoring these plants, which will be obtained and planted by Anthony Sullivan this spring.

## Community & Global Engagement

- As mentioned in the main report to the APCM, there was another exchange visit with Rabbi Richard and members of the East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue in May.
- Unfortunately, other multi-Faith initiatives seemed to have stalled in 2025. However, Jude did contact our Archdeacon, Mike Power, regarding the re-opening of communication with the Abrahamic faiths, which halted following the Hamas' attack in Israel in October 2023. Mick is following this up.
- Litter picks continue to be part of St. Anne's events calendar and two were held in 2025 – in March and September. It was disappointing that, despite the advanced publicity in the newsheet, few people took part. Please consider whether you can take part in these events, which are so valuable in helping to make our surrounding area a much better place for us and the local community.

## Lifestyle

- *A thought for the month* continues to feature on our weekly newsheet to encourage us all to think about living more sustainably.
- The *Thoughts on Eco Church & Personal Commitments* leaflet remains available at the back of church and is displayed on the church and centre noticeboards. Sitting alongside *Creation Care* its aim also is to encourage church and centre users to consider the environment in their regular life choices.
- Recycling remains a priority for St. Anne's:
  - In addition to the goods sold in sales held in the centre, we've continued to send textiles to the recycling centre, making a very positive impact on St. Anne's carbon footprint, whilst generating £432 for church funds.
  - Continued use of recycling bins provided by Waltham Forest, aiming to ensure that all waste, which can be recycled is recycled.
  - The food waste bin in the kitchen is regularly full!

## Deanery Synod Report

The Waltham Forest Deanery Synod brings together clergy and lay representatives from every Anglican Church in the Borough, to worship and work 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 March, June, September and November 2025 and all commenced with a short service of worship, led by the host churches.

**The first meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025** at Emmanuel Parish Church, Leyton, where the main agenda item was *The Environment and Eco Church*.

The first to speak was Michael Forbes, Environmental Advocate from St Mary's, Walthamstow and here are the notes from his talk:

### Some Facts

Sea – getting warmer, affecting weather patterns in unpredictable ways, and getting higher, threatening dangerous floods in coastal areas.

Sky – atmosphere heating up, more areas getting temperatures greater than body heat more often.

Land – Forest fires increasing in number and ferocity, affecting biodiversity.

We are in a climate emergency! Action is needed.

### What the Diocese of Chelmsford wants all churches to do:

1. Complete the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT).
2. Join the Eco Church Project, from A Rocha Uk, <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>
3. Nominate someone in the clergy team or the congregation of your church to be an Eco Link person, whom the Diocese can contact about environmental matters.

### Actions to take!

#### FOR INTERCONNECTEDNESS WITH NATURE:

If you have a churchyard, try to use this to develop and increase our love of nature.

Hold services wholly or partly in the churchyard.

Have Muddy Church for adults as well as children.

Take Prayer Walks round the neighbourhood, celebrating nature, or lamenting its absence and considering remedies.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF CLIMATE JUSTICE TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

Know the facts of Climate Change.

Identify vulnerable communities.

Choose a campaign to follow.

Adopt a community to support.

#### THE POTENTIAL FOR WELL-BEING WITHOUT EVER-INCREASING CONSUMPTION

Acknowledge the dangers of consumerism.

Reduce our carbon footprint.

Find ways to enjoy life without buying things and using services, which cost the earth.

Examine critically the way we spend money.

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOPE IF CHANGE IS TO BE ACHIEVED

Know that prayer is knowing that hope is a resource we can truly access.

Campaign in hope, not in fear.

Use the hope we have to bring comfort to others who fear for the future.

The hope that God gives us is a treasure that can be mined without ever being exhausted.

Second to speak were Derek James and Alison McLucas, Environmental Advocates for St. Mary Magdalene, East Ham (Newham Deanery). Derek and Alison outlined what steps this church had taken to achieve the Eco Church Silver Award as follows:

- Addressed congregation and created a committee, which meets every month or two.
- Achieved Bronze relatively easily with what they were doing already.
- Contacted a church which had already achieved Silver to share ideas.
- Use church notice boards for events' publicity and to recommend habit change.
- Include an item on their newsheet every week.
- Worked with local council, which now runs a nature reserve on their huge 9-acre plot of land, where they grow vegetables.
- Run recycling schemes.
- Conducted a lifestyle audit with the congregation.
- Had a table at the church's Christmas Market.
- Created an Eco Church Garden with a small pond, in which containers, which would otherwise be discarded, are used. Metal candle holders are used instead of stones in the bottom of pots
- Awarded Silver last summer and are at Gold in three of the five categories.
- Lifestyle and Global & Community Engagement are the categories in which Gold has yet to be achieved, and Derek and Alison acknowledged that this would require a big step up.

Also during the meeting, Revd Tim Scott announced the £14.95m award from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) to the Barking Episcopal Area. This is to be made in two stages - £6.45m for the first phase, followed by a further £8.5m in principle, subject to decisions on available funding and approval of second phase plans. More detail will follow in due course, but this is good news and we were asked to pray for all those involved. On behalf of Vevet Deer, Revd Tim Scott (who has since been appointed as our Area Dean) thanked everyone for the support given to Revd Sue Lucas, our Interim Area Dean for the past year, who has recently been appointed Archdeacon of Southend.

**The second meeting was held on 10th June 2025** at St Anne's, Chingford, where the main agenda item was a talk on **Racial Justice** was given by Revd Sharon Quilter, Racial Justice Officer for Chelmsford Diocese, who was appointed in response to the death of George Floyd in 2020.

The Archbishop's Commission for Racial Justice (2022-2024) produced 6 reports, the last of which called for action in all parts of the church. The Diocesan website has a section on Racial Justice under 'Diversity and Inclusion', and are working on engagement, training and statistics, because "What you count matters". Revd Sharon is trying to collect data to understand what the diocese really looks like and where help is needed so there will be no 'hidden people'.

Synod then broke into small groups for 30 minutes, with a facilitated activity aimed at raising everyone's awareness of racial issues and injustice. Everyone received a discussion document entitled 'Racial Awareness through the Eyes of the Pastoral Principles'. The Six Pastoral Principles were outlined as: 1. Acknowledge Prejudice; 2. Speak into Silence; 3. Address Ignorance; 4. Cast out Fear; 5. Admit Hypocrisy; 6. Pay attention to Power. We were reminded of the Values from Travelling Well Together also: a. Awareness of Grace; b. Valuing the small, the vulnerable and the marginal; c. Focusing outwards; d. Sustaining healthy rhythms; e. Kindness, mutual respect, gentleness and humility; e. Generously collaborative; f. Faithful, creative, courageous and open to the unexpected and surprising. A short plenary session thereafter produced the following points:

- Each of the principles led into the next. Ignorance led to fear and so on. The first step is accepting that we all have prejudices, only then can we recognise our hypocrisy and that will cast out fear.

- Having time, being intentional in getting to know people who are different to us. We are called to love because God loves us.
- Stats don't explain everything. Prejudice happens when people don't know each other well. This needs to be said from the front and needs to be everywhere. You can't know others until you know yourself and are honest with yourself.
- In churches with diverse communities, people should be encouraged to talk about their cultures.
- It was pointed out that we have just celebrated Pentecost when everyone heard the deeds of God's power. God does not distinguish between us, so why should we!

**The third meeting was held on Thursday 18th September 2025** at St Andrews, Walthamstow. Unfortunately, nobody from St. Anne's was able to attend, so the following information is from the notes received after the meeting.

The guest speaker was Diocesan Secretary, Michaela Southworth, who presented on ***Giving and Diocesan Finances: Parish Share for Waltham Forest Deanery***. Michaela gave a thorough explanation on the history and current rationale for how parish share is worked out. Towards the end of the presentation Michaela pointed out Waltham Forest Deanery needed to think and pray how it was going to meet its parish share of £822,000. Revd Tim Scott explained the parishes had received their assessment for 2026 and he was committed to ensuring laity and clergy were involved in the discussions on parish share. Also, it was pointed out that if any parish withholds its share, this is likely to cause concerns in the long run, particularly if the parish goes into vacancy.

**The fourth meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025** at St. John the Baptist, Leytonstone, where the main agenda item was a presentation on the work of the ***Diocesan Board of Education and the Education Department*** by Director of Education, Carrie Prior.

***'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.'* John 10:10** – this underpins the work of this board, where they focus on the spiritual, emotional and academic development of children. More information may be found at: [Diocese of Chelmsford Church Schools and Education team](#).

Here is a summary of some of the key points:

- There are 139 CofE schools in the Diocese of Chelmsford, 5 of which are secondary schools. In Waltham Forest Deanery, there are 3 church schools– St. Saviour's Church of England Primary, St. Mary's Church of England Primary - both in Walthamstow and Chingford CoE Primary.
- However, within Waltham Forest's Local Authority, there are 79 schools – 53 primary, 17 secondary, 4 special and 5 independent schools.
- All schools are required by law to have a daily act of worship, which is broadly Christian. The daily act of worship in CofE schools are wholly Christian (Anglican tradition).
- In addition to supporting CofE schools, the board is there to support our work with all the schools in our parishes, with some suggestions in the presentation for how relationships with schools may be developed.
- Unsurprisingly, a younger and more diverse church is key to its future, and the wider Church of England is aiming to double the number of children and young people in our churches by 2030.
- Therefore, we are encouraged to prioritise our engagement with children and their families, and our local schools provide a great opportunity to do that.

- According to the January 2025 school census, there are 42,500 children in Waltham Forest Schools, which gives this Deanery a huge missional opportunity.
- Following the presentation, we were asked to chat to those nearest to us (Mick and I, Lindsey were sitting together) to think about how we can engage more with the young people in our parishes:
  - In St. Anne's Parish, there are 3 schools, Longshaw, Whitehall and Heathcote.
  - Whitehall and Heathcote are closer to SS Peter & Paul geographically.
  - Longshaw holds its annual Carol Service at St. Anne's.
  - Access to schools is a challenge!
  - But we should aim to do more – *perhaps a discussion to develop an action plan in one of our strategic sessions at PCC should be considered?*
- In answer to a question from the floor, asking why we can't open more church schools, we were advised that it is only possible for academies to open as church schools, providing they are willing to do so.

*Julie Adesina. Lindsey Archer, Revd Mick Scotchmer  
St. Anne's Deanery Synod members  
March 2026*