



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS GIDEA PARK PARISH PROFILE



We seek to bear witness to the God who we believe has revealed Himself to us in the person of His Son Jesus, and to serve the people who live in the Parish together with all others who join us.

St. Michael & All Angels Mission Statement

THE GREAT COMMISSION

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Matthew 22:36-39

Welcome to St. Michael's Gidea Park



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The Body

St Michael's has two Church Wardens with four assistant wardens.

There are 12 elected members of the Parochial Church Council, including 3 members of the Deanery Synod and 1 member of the Diocesan Synod, Deanery Standing and Pastoral committee, Vacancy in See committee, Parochial Safeguarding Officer, Diocesan Board of Patronage and Deanery Lay Chair.

We have a pastoral assistant and employ a part-time church administrator.

3 members hold a Bishop's Certificate in children's ministry.

Until recently the church had an organist who led a small but enthusiastic & committed adult choir. The music style is now generally contemporary complemented by traditional hymn interludes. Members of the congregation have set up a music group with the express purpose of enhancing the praise and worship at St. Michael's.

The website is maintained by the 'Technology Task Group' and full details of our church and area can be found using the address below. Other miscellaneous jobs are undertaken by volunteers 'pitching in' as you would in a family environment.

www.stmichaelsgideapark.org.uk



We are a welcoming, relaxed, community-friendly, family church with a diverse congregation. We do not focus on ceremony, but tradition and respect are important to us.

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

The Ministry



Gemma-Louise
Piggott,
Children &
Families



Ken Perkins,
Curate



The Congregation – the ministry
(Led by the Wardens, PCC, House Groups and Ministry Group Leaders)

Achievements & Progress

At St. Michael's 2014-2018

Achievements and progress over the past five years have included:

- Delivering an engaging Bible-based preaching programme that exposes the congregation to the riches of God's Word and shows its relevance to Christian faith and life today;
- Establishing midweek House Groups, as forums for Bible study, pastoral support, and prayer. Nearly half of our adult congregation now attend a fortnightly house group;
- Expanding and improving our Sunday School provision, to deliver more age-appropriate, Bible-based teaching and fun activities for children aged 3 to 16. We have also set up a crèche for under 3s;
- Introducing a range of events with an evangelistic intent, including regular Christianity Explored or Alpha courses, ladies' craft evenings, and men's breakfasts;
- Ad hoc events, including a family fun day, a Church away day and quiz nights;
- Helping to establish a new 'Partnership in Ministry and Mission' with three neighbouring parishes, expressed through joint services, 'pulpit swaps' and more;



Achievements & Progress

At St. Michael's 2014-2018

- Taking assemblies at two primary schools in our parish, and running an Easter Experience event annually in church for over 200 plus local pupils from Gidea Park Primary School;
- Modernising our public profile and communications, including our website, Facebook page, Twitter feed, Parish magazine and physical signage;
- Building a staff team from scratch, which now includes an SSM Curate, a part time Children's Minister and part time Church Administrator;
- Investment in a new audio-visual system, including a projector and screens;
- Introduction of a music group and contemporary worship songs, to complement traditional hymns;
- Introducing more flexible and comfortable seating in our church nave, by replacing pews with upholstered wooden chairs, and also repairing the church floor at the same time.

Over the past four years our usual Sunday attendance at St. Michael's has nearly doubled, including a significant growth in the number of children attending. On a typical Sunday we now welcome 75 adults and 25 children across two services, and our congregation has become much more representative of the parish we serve.



We Pray For...

An evangelical leader

- ❖ A compelling teacher who preaches by exposition, application and evangelism the gospel of truth. A preacher who through bible based teaching leads the congregation to spiritual maturity in Christ. A true transforming presence amongst us to inspire and encourage through word, prayer and action so that we may be a transforming presence in our community.
- ❖ A people person who wants to become part of our family and make a commitment to our growth, unconditionally loving the young, the old and everyone in between.
- ❖ A physical presence in the community of Gidea Park both inside and outside the church who is creative in finding ways to engage with the local community.
- ❖ A positive influence who has the spirit of discernment to identify people's skills and strengths so that everyone can fulfil their potential in contributing to Great commandment and Great Commission.
- ❖ A contagious believer in the power of prayer personally and corporately and the healing ministry given through the Spirit.
- ❖ Someone who will help us to use the resources we have now or in the future to create and maintain a legacy for generations to come. A creative leader who will support the Children and Families worker and establish youth ministry for older children.
- ❖ A visionary who shares our belief that miracles are possible at St Michael's.



- ❖ Someone willing to communicate the Gospel in a way appropriate to the diverse Christian experience within this parish. This ranges widely between those who are very new to the faith with little church background to those who have been committed Christians throughout their life.
- ❖ A person who is socially able, gregarious, and has a sense of humour.
- ❖ A person who is financially aware, IT literate and musically appreciative.
- ❖ A person who can manage change effectively; is prepared to consult and listen but will also provide effective leadership both within the church and the wider community.
- ❖ Preferably a person with some experience of work away from the ministry, giving an understanding of life in the community.
- ❖ A person who is persistent, with good sense of vision and adaptable. A person who seeks to develop strong working relationships in particular with the churches in our MMU.

We Will

- ❖ *Pray for and with you*
- ❖ *Respect your calling and your authority under God*
- ❖ *Help you to develop your ministry and be open to your guidance in our corporate ministry*
- ❖ *To stand by you in faith and in service to God*
 - ❖ *Encourage you*
 - ❖ *Love you*



Our Church Building

Gidea Park is situated geographically in the London Borough of Havering, the most easterly of the London boroughs. Havering includes the towns of Romford, Hornchurch, and Upminster, together with a number of interlinking communities, of which Gidea Park is one of the more affluent areas. In church terms, we are situated within the Deanery of Havering, part of the Barking Episcopal area in the Diocese of Chelmsford. Directions can be found on our website or using the postcode RM2 5EL.

St Michael's Parish is bounded by Raphael Park and Lodge Farm Park to the West and the A127 to the East. Excellent transport links to central London and the City are provided by TfL Rail (Elizabeth Line from 2019).

The church was built in 1938, is well-maintained and in a good state of repair, a highly efficient heating system was recently installed in the church, making it an ever more popular venue for special occasions. It is seen as a good example of its period, with a traditional layout and a wealth of high quality stained glass. The main body of the Church seats 250, with space to provide additional seating on chairs. There is a small Lady Chapel seating 21, which is used for prayer and services during the week. Disabled access has been improved but is not yet fully catered for.

The rear of the church in front of the west door was re-organised a few years ago to provide for parents with pushchairs and young babies to sit in a roomy place with soft toys and still enjoy the Service.



Church Halls

Rowswell Hall

To the left of the car park there is a large purpose built Scout/Guide Hall and extensive storage facilities. The Scouts and Guides lease the land, but they built and maintain their own facilities.

Manley Hall

Set at the back behind the Rowswell Hall the smaller Manley Hall is reserved for meetings. The Hall is in need of attention, please read on to the section on our future focus.

Main Hall

To the rear of the car park is the 1930s Main Hall. This has a large stage and a steep roof accommodating two badminton courts. A large foyer provides cloakroom facilities and disabled access. There is seating for 140 people, and it is a popular venue for many community events.

Chadwick Hall and the Hedley Room

Located behind the Church these two smaller halls, each with a capacity of 70, are linked by a lockable door allowing the flexibility of use separately or together.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated at the rear of the Church. It is approached from a tree lined drive, stands in substantial grounds and would be ideal for someone who enjoys wildlife, gardening and / or landscaping. The house was purpose built for the Vicar of St Michael's in the late 1930s. There are 5 bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, study and a morning-room. The house is centrally heated, has double-glazing to all windows and was designed in the style of the Gidea Park Exhibition Estate and Conservation Area.



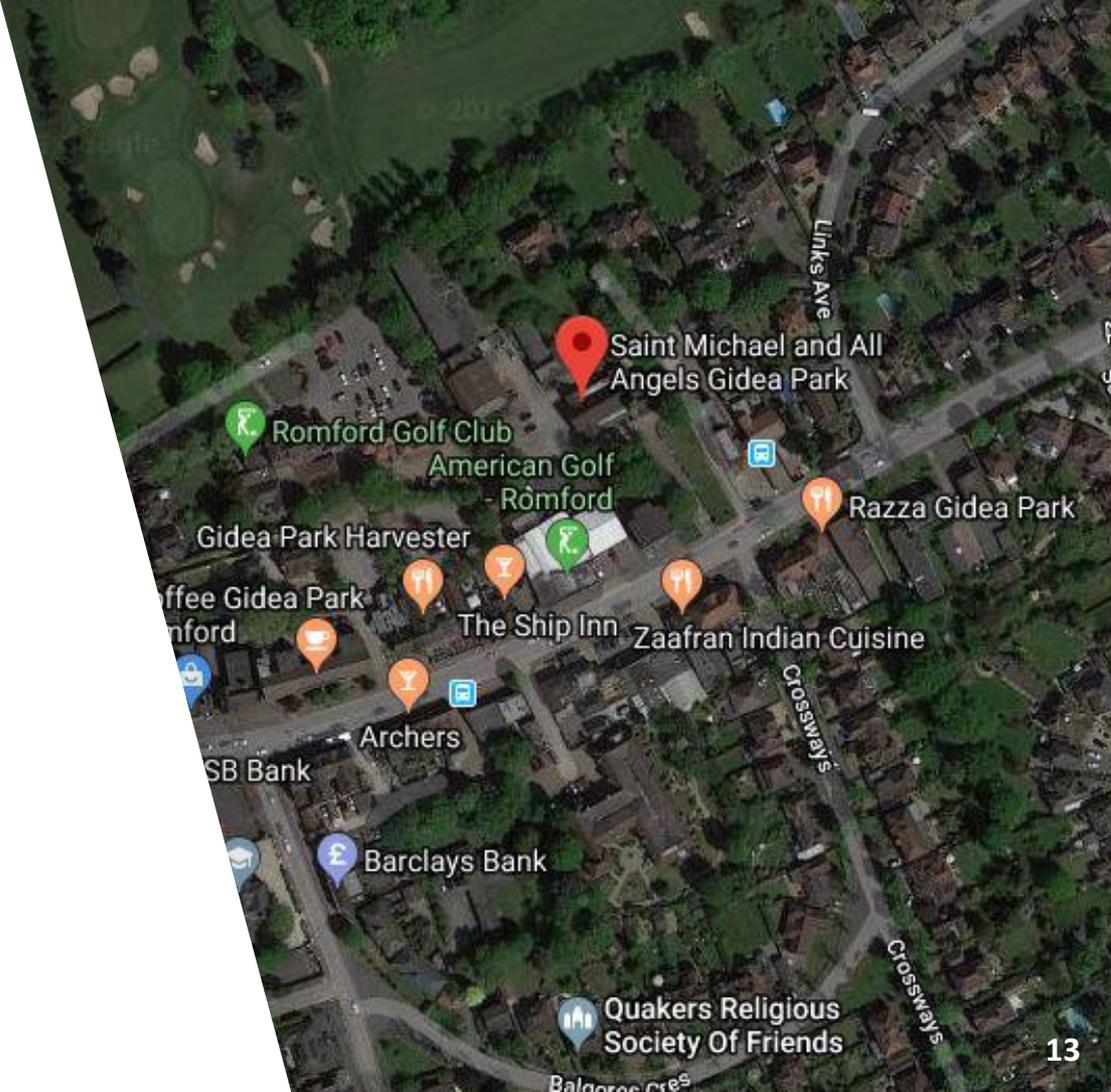
Community & Outreach

The Church itself is set back approximately 70 metres from Main Road Gidea Park. Its grounds and buildings form a leafy oasis just two miles from the busy town centre of Romford. The grounds are also home to a number of trees on which there are preservation orders, or which are simply too beautiful or mature to remove.

Our halls, due to the number and size of them, form a focal point within the community, especially with the Council selling off many of its own for property development or closing them down due to diminished budget for refurbishments. The community hall use has been identified within our Transforming Presence mission.

One of our closest neighbours is a golf club and within the parish area we have:

- 2 parks, a tennis club, golf course, bowling green and cricket club;
- 2 banks, a law practice, an accountancy firm and estate agents;
- Small shops and restaurants;
- A hotel, next to the church; and
- Two nursing homes



Schools & Charities

There is a walk-in health centre just outside the parish. There is also a dental surgery and pharmacy.

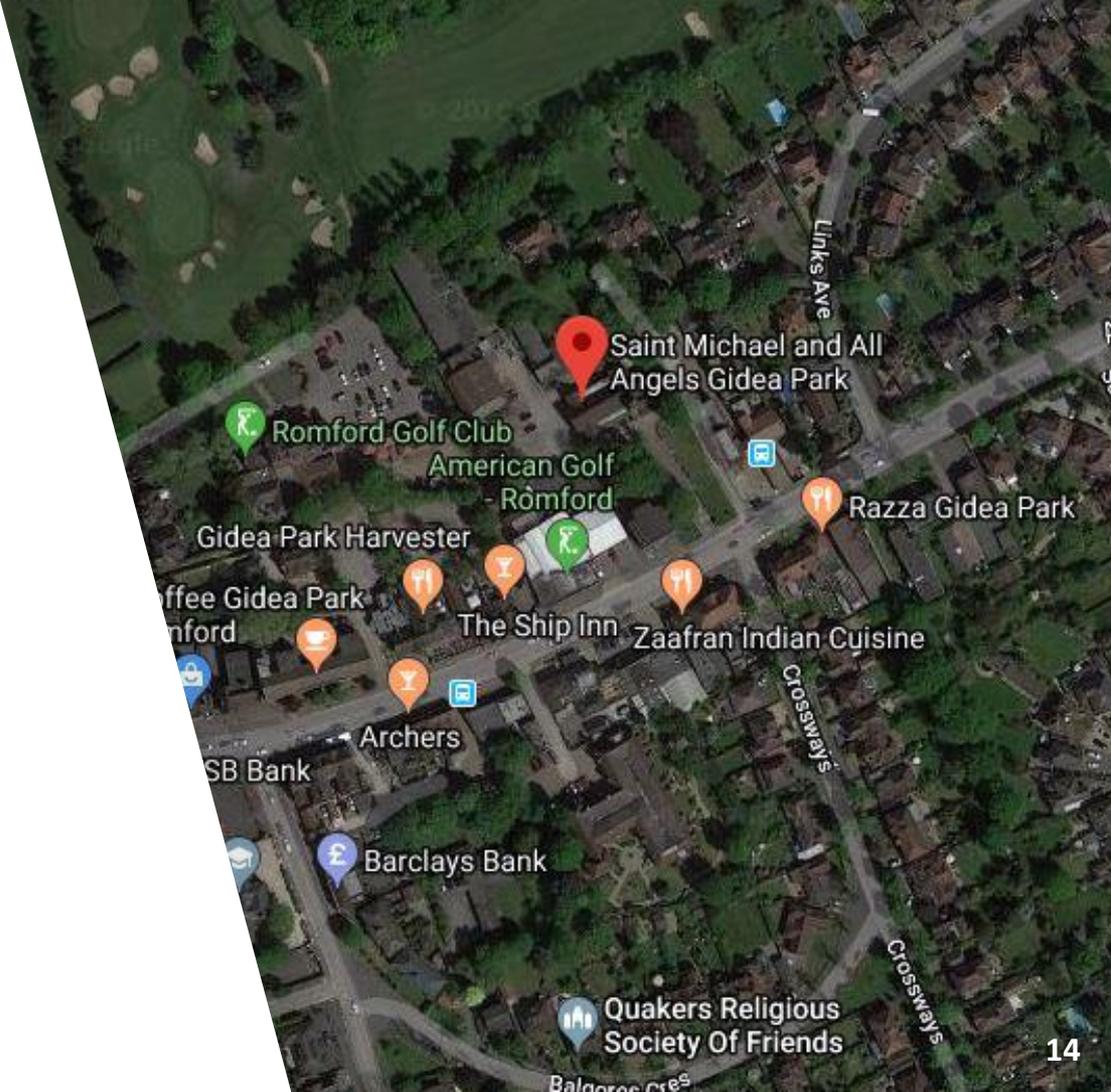
There are four schools in the parish:

- Gidea Park Primary
- Gidea Park College (independent)
- St Mary's, Hare Park (independent)
- Royal Liberty Boys Comprehensive

St Michael's has developed good links with Gidea Park Primary and Gidea Park College over the last ten years, with these schools holding services in the church, using our church halls and contributing to other parish events. The Scout and Guide groups who use the Rowswell Hall (see page 10) also join the 10:30 Sunday service on the 2nd Sunday of most months.

Members of St. Michael's congregation are actively involved in fundraising and social events. Last year, besides our own church fundraising, we also supported:

Bishop's Lent & Advent Appeals | Christian Aid | Crisis | Graceworks | CMS | Stand by Me | Children's Society | FoodBank | Hope 4 Havering | McMillan Nurses | Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox Appeal) | St Francis Hospice | Collection of Easter Eggs & Christmas Toys for local charitable distribution.





Services At St. Michael's

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
8:30am	Common Worship Order One	Book of Common Prayer	Common Worship Order One	Book of Common Prayer	Common Worship Order One
10:30am	Family Service and Sunday School	Parade Service	Family Service and Sunday School	Parish Communion and Sunday School	Family Service and Sunday School
	Fellowship Over Tea and Coffee				



Other Services

Weddings and Marriage Blessings

The church is popular in the local community for weddings or blessings and visitors have commented on feeling welcomed by the ambience.

Baptisms

Families are welcome to bring their children for baptisms. Families are invited to a family service before the baptism to be formally welcomed to the Church. For members of St. Michael's there is the opportunity for a baptism to take place during the service.

Funeral & Memorial Services

Funerals are held in the Church when requested, of which some are held in Church while others were at the crematorium or cemetery. St. Michael's does not have its own graveyard, nor facilities for burial of ashes. Our annual memorial service is held for those who have been bereaved and it is an occasion also to celebrate the lives of those we have loved but are no longer with us. There is also a well attended Remembrance Sunday service every year.



Church Groups

Ladies' Breakfast

Three times a year there is an opportunity for informal fellowship for all ladies over breakfast followed by prayers. A great way to start the weekend.

Men's Breakfast & Curry Nights

Men's fellowship happens a maximum of 6 times a year and this is usually either a cooked breakfast or a curry night. The breakfast is usually followed by a short talk/presentation and prayers. Physical and spiritual nourishment to encourage fellowship.

Bible Study Groups

Organised by members of the church, the group leaders prepare informal sessions fortnightly to help discussion and understanding of the Bible.

Family Social Group

A variety of social events throughout the year for charity, profile raising and building relationships. This could include events such as quizzes, parish picnics and coffee mornings when regular hall users are invited to join us.

Knit & Natter

Meets twice a month in the church for companionship over knitting and crochet.



Sunday School

Sunday School is run by a dedicated and enthusiastic team on a rota every Sunday except for Parade Sundays.

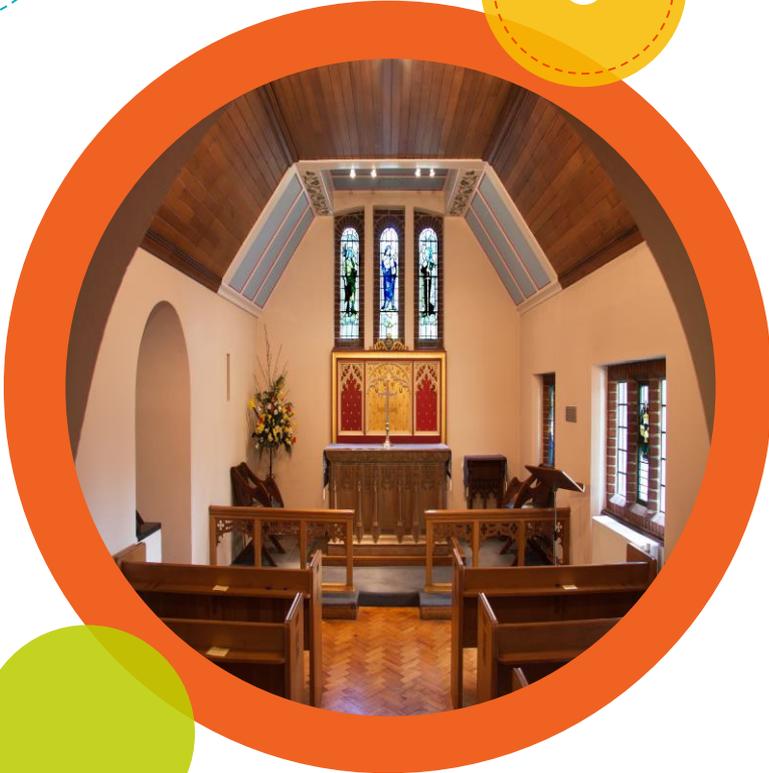
Children start in the church with their families, leaving after the first hymn and return mostly after the intercessions when the children share with the rest of the congregation what they have been doing. At family communion services they return earlier to allow them to receive communion or a blessing.

Little Angels

Little Angels is a warm and welcoming community group for all children from 0 to 4 years old with their parents/carers. The group is very popular and there is currently a waiting list in operation.

St Michael's Fellowship

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 9:30am – 12:00 noon. The St Michael's fellowship was founded in 1992 to promote Christian Fellowship and friendship. It is now open to everyone. The Fellowship's motto is "Bring a Friend, Meet a Friend, Make a Friend". Meetings include a guest speaker, refreshments and a raffle. Social outings are well supported.



Prayer and Care

St. Michaels has always regarded prayer as extremely important part in the life of the church. There is a prayer team that is available after the family service in the Lady chapel to minister to anyone requiring prayer support. A monthly prayer evening in church focusses on thanksgiving for answered prayer and impending needs for the future programme of church events and activities. The intercessions group meets regularly in the home of the pastoral assistant. There is a devotional intercessions list that is distributed to church members to pray for those in need. Little Angels has a prayer book whereby the written requests are communicated to the church members for regular prayer support. Regular pastoral visits are made to the sick and housebound and also to the local hospitals and hospice.

Flowers in Church & Memorial Table

For many years a dedicated group from the congregation has kept the Church beautifully decorated with flowers.

Bishops Affordable Housing Programme

Our new incumbent will be expected to lead the church through the potential building programme for the site expected to provide 25-35 affordable homes for the local community.

This is currently at pre-application stage, with architects soon to produce an updated version of the plans for the PCC and its sub-committee.

Building grants will be provided by the Greater London Authority towards the development and the church will have significant influence over the choice of tenants. The main benefits of this initiative include:

- ❖ The church would be 'part of the solution' to one of the bigger social problems of our times
- ❖ The programme should provide grant funding for new church halls. The halls will provide a modern and well equipped meeting venue for church and social community groups
- ❖ New residents around the church should provide a close source of new members for our congregation and the outreach element of this programme should encourage those in the wider community to visit St. Michael's to hear the Word of God.



St Michael & All Angels ~ Gidea Park

Bishops Housing Initiative

Links With The Wider Church



All Saints, Ardleigh Green

St. Michael's is in a Partnership in Mission and Ministry (PiMM), also known as a Mission and Ministry Unit (MMU), with four other local churches in North East Havering. These are: All Saints, Squirrels Heath, St. Peter's, Harold Wood and St. Paul's Harold Hill with St. Thomas Noak Hill. This was commissioned in April 2017 by the Area Bishop, Peter Hill. The partnership has already been very productive in the shape of 'pulpit swaps' with St. Peter's.

The partnership has four guiding principles:

1. Sharing the Vision: each parish will advertise on its noticeboard/website that it is part of a PiMM, what the PiMM is and what the hopes for it are.
2. Friendship – the incumbents will meet a minimum of three times a year. There will be at least one annual meeting for wider, including lay, leadership.
3. Collaboration and Mission – sharing of news and advertising of special events, services, etc. between the partner churches.
4. Prayer – parishes will pray for each other a minimum of three times a year.



St. Paul's, Harold Hill

Our shared vision is: Our North East Havering PiMM is based on our common faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and our mutual submission to his Word in Scripture. The goal of all our churches' ministry and mission is the glory of God, the discipleship of his people and the growth of his kingdom. We pledge to pursue this goal in partnership with one another, under the guidance of the Word and in the power of the Spirit.



St. Peter's, Harold Wood



St. Thomas', Noak Hill



Havering Deanery is broadly coterminous with the London Borough of Havering. The Borough population was 237,000 in the 2011 Census, but is now nearer to a quarter of a million. Covering 43 square miles, Havering has a lower population density than other London Boroughs, as large areas are parkland and 23 square miles (more than half the borough) is Metropolitan Green Belt protected land. Havering comprises a number of former Essex towns and villages, which over the years have grown and in some cases merged, particularly during the housing expansion of the 1930s. Havering was transferred from Essex in 1965 to become a London Borough. The name originates from the Royal Liberty of Havering which covered broadly, but not exactly, the same area, and had been abolished in 1892.

The Royal Liberty gave the area a strongly independent approach. The main towns and villages comprising Havering also retain a sense of independence, with the London Borough having collected them together as a result of the London Government Act 1963. Older residents can still feel they are a part of Essex, rather than a London Borough, and so Havering has a sense of transition between London and Essex. Of the East London Boroughs Havering is the least ethnically diverse, with 87.7% (2011 Census) of the population being white British, but this is changing rapidly with the migration, in particular, Black African (3.2% in 2011), Caribbean, Eastern European and Asian heritage.

The Deanery of Havering comprises 21 benefices, with 27 church buildings. There are 39 clergy (with full time or part time stipends, house for duty, self-supporting and title posts), plus a host of Licensed Lay Ministers, Readers, Authorised Lay Ministers, Youth, Children's and Family Workers, and Administrators. The combined parish share for the deanery is assessed at over £1.25M, and the combined church Electoral Roll is around 3,500. These are the both the largest of all deaneries in the Diocese of Chelmsford, but the task of mission including evangelism remains enormous.

As congregations the deanery embraces the full spectrum of church tradition. Once a major tension, this is now seen as an opportunity to engage more holistically in God's Mission to Havering, although differences remain. With good clergy relationships and a growing combined sense of purpose in the Deanery Synod and Chapter, we are developing a Deanery Plan in response to the Transforming Presence vision of the Diocese of Chelmsford. The Deanery Plan derives from a Kingdom of God perspective with mission at its heart, expressed through the Five Marks of Mission. Our vision is to join the mission of God, in order that lives will be transformed and thereby the communities of Havering will be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Together we desire to see more people become disciples of the Lord Jesus, and for all of us to go deeper in our discipleship as we follow Him. In response to the initiative of the Archbishops' Council Setting God's People Free, the Deanery Synod has been working together on how we can be ever more effective as missionary disciples. Identified in the Deanery Plan are mission priority areas, where working together with the Holy Spirit we can bring hope and transformation. Examples include certain geographic areas; young people, children and education; the elderly and family life. With a heart for those on the margins, pioneer ministry is being encouraged in the Deanery. The St Cedd Centre for Pioneer Mission is based at one of the Havering churches.

We see mission outworking at parish, Mission and Ministry Unit (clusters of parishes working in covenant relationship, which in Havering we call Partnerships in Mission and Ministry (PiMM) and deanery levels, according to the area or issue to be transformed. Each parish has a particular gift, or charism, to contribute to the whole so together we can be more effective in mission. St Michael & All Angels has always played a strong part in the life of Havering Deanery. We look forward to welcoming the new Vicar to bring his gifts to Gidea Park, the NE Havering PiMM and the Deanery of Havering.