

# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH. BARKING

"The Abbey Church"



## Our Parish Profile

Welcome to St. Margaret's Church, Barking.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The Abbey Church

Reflecting God's love in our lives.

A Community Church

Support Christian families

A Word based Church

Love & worship God

# Parish Profile 2020

Parish Profile  
2020

***A church full of traditions and diversity which likes to get involved in many aspects of church life and the outlying areas. He or she would have the love and support of the congregation, be willing to accept change, and we would welcome someone who has new innovative ideas.***



## PERSON SPECIFICATION

Parish Profile  
2020**RECTOR OF ST. MARGARET'S;**

We are looking for a rector who will draw upon the broad traditions of our catholic and openly evangelical congregation.

- A leader who bases their teaching on Scripture, is a person of prayer and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Ability to work with those of a broadly open evangelical tradition and also those of a more Catholic tradition.
- Demonstrate an effective approach in relation to doctrine and the creeds; whilst basing teachings on scripture
- An exceptionally prayerful person and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Possess ability to demonstrate a well-integrated teaching and preaching that must be able to connect with the diverse people in Barking Borough.
- Possess a high standard of pastoral skills to engage with and enable others to engage with the range of needs identified in the parish profile.



- Extensive experience in parochial ministry whilst demonstrating the ability to understand and work across the diverse cultures found in our congregation.
- Demonstrate the ability and vision to think creatively as they develop with us the church in its mission, whilst remaining sensitive both to the traditions of the church and to changes in the surrounding community
- Possess a proven commitment to lay ministry including the ministry of Readers.
- Ability to work collaboratively with other Mission and Ministry units (MMUs) in the diocese.
- Have an ability to combine first class management and interpersonal skills to engage at all levels.
- Has evidence and past experience of good standards and understanding of finance and robust fundraising ability.



- *Demonstrate a positive passion and be excited by the opportunities that exist, be willing to be both approachable and available.*
- *Be well organised and able to manage well and work to consult openly with parishioners as we seek to develop a vision for the future.*
- *Strong track record of good and effective people management and communication skills*
- *Possess a systematic ability to delegate and develop a common vision.*
- *Demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding and the experience to make it a priority.*
- *Flexible and able to accept, support and enable the diversity of worship styles contained within the congregation.*

We are looking for a leader who possesses a high level of honesty and openness to sustain and develop a clear vision in our diverse, urban community.



## BARKING AND DAGENHAM DEANERY PROFILE

## Parish Profile 2020



The Deanery of Barking and Dagenham is almost co-terminus with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham which contains the Becontree Estate and the remnants of Ford Motor Company. The existing population is having to come to terms with rapid change especially in demographics which many find hard to accept, hence the recent rise of the British National Party. Thankfully due to the combined efforts of many, including the churches, the threat is much reduced.

There are 11 parishes in the Deanery. We are working hard to be a cohesive, supportive group of parishes with a shared vision. The Chapter and Deanery meet regularly for mutual support and development.



Within the Deanery there is much housing development especially within the Parish south of the A13. This opens up many opportunities for mission and ministry.

Relationships between Faith Groups are good and there is an active Faith Forum.

We would welcome a new colleague to continue the active involvement within the Deanery and the community that has very much been part of the ethos of the Church. With a strong vision that is part of the wider Deanery and area vision, we look forward to the future together.



## A RICH HISTORY

## Parish Profile 2020



The Parish of Barking is a historically significant area which has a multicultural present and a future that includes major regeneration projects. It is an area with significant challenges and opportunities for mission and ministry. Behind the church is a new development which promises to house over 500 flats with planned completion within a year. This development offers a great opportunity for evangelism and ministry. St Margaret's church is at the center of this development.

Some interactive history of the Barking Abbey and St Margaret's Church's significant historical locations include:

Barking Abbey, situated alongside St. Margaret's Church, is one of the most important religious archaeological sites in Europe today. The great Barking Abbey grounds beside our church attract hundreds of visitors and tourists who are welcome in St Margaret's Church centre to see and experience more of the movement of God in England.

The celebration of the 800th year of the Church was a marked year long event that brought many positive developments in St Margaret's Church and the surrounding community.

Eastbury Manor House is a listed mansion house built in the reign of Elizabeth I and is located in the neighboring parish of St. Patrick's Church.



*Barking's fishing heritage is celebrated with several memorials in St. Margaret's Church and at the restored Town Quay. Barking Town Hall was opened in 1958 when Barking was a borough in its own right. St. Margaret's Church has recently become custodian of the Coat of Arms for the former London Borough of Barking.*

The Parish covers most, but not all, of two local authority wards (Abbey and Gascoigne). With the highest 0 - 19 years growth in England this area generally has more young people and less elderly people in the borough and a community in need of Christian fellowship and outreach.



The area is ethnically diverse reflecting over 60 different languages and communities in St Margaret's Church Barking.

A Sikh Gurdwara is based within the Parish while a Muslim Mosque is just outside the Parish boundary in Ilford. These communities are frequent visitors welcome to the use and rent the church centre facilities.



## A FAST CHANGING & GROWING COMMUNITY

## Parish Profile 2020



A good percentage of residents work within the Parish primarily in the retail trade (e.g. Barking Town Centre), for the local council, in real estate, manufacturing and transport (the parish is close to London City Airport). Many residents also commute to the City and other London boroughs for work, using the good transport links in the area. Barking Station is a major interchange with rail and tube links to Essex and to Central and North London.

Abbey and Gascoigne wards are listed in the 10% most deprived in the UK. The economic activity rate in the borough is lower and the unemployment rate significantly higher compared to London or the country as a whole. However a vibrant potential is growing with new developments and a dynamic community. There is a marginally larger proportion of benefit claimants than is typical across London, and a higher proportion than Britain as a whole. This can also be attributed to the growth of many migrant continuities in Barking. Barking is a key attraction for many professionals leaving the city in search of affordable housing for growing families. As the population grows so should the outreach and St Margaret's Church is a key part of this vision.



Housing in the parish is very mixed ranging from modern estates in major new developments, tower blocks (Gascoigne), Edwardian terraces (Barking Town Centre), private (Barking Park) and council/Housing Association (Gascoigne and Harts Lane). There are major regeneration developments on going with more planned in Barking Town Centre which will add considerably to the housing stock in the Parish.

There are many primary schools (including our own Church School and St. Joseph Roman Catholic School) plus one secondary school in the parish. Many children go outside the parish, to St. Edwards Church of England School (Romford) or Barking Abbey School, for secondary education



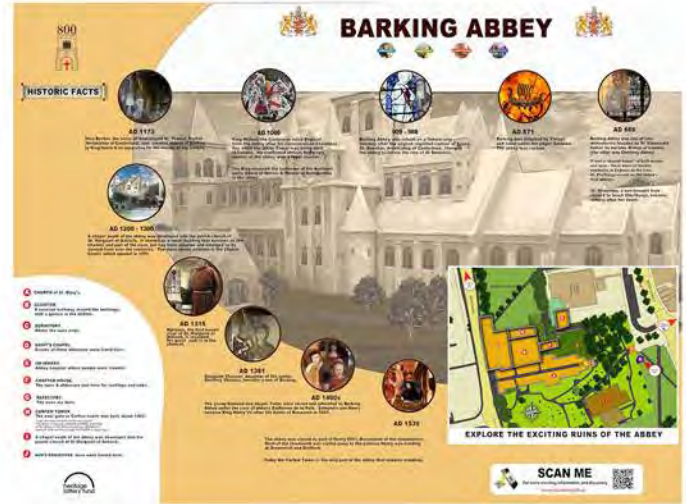
Our Church & Our Services

Parish Profile  
2020

The town centre Parish Church of St. Margaret of Antioch was built in the grounds of Barking Abbey early in the 13th century and is situated a short walk from the Town Hall and main shopping centre. An excellent stop over for many visitors to the community on tours.

Barking Abbey was founded by St Erkenwald in 666AD and his sister St. Ethelburga became the first Abbess. The Abbey was endowed with land and property across an area whose boundaries were similar to the former municipal Boroughs of Barking, Dagenham and Redbridge making it one of the wealthiest in England until it was dissolved by order of Henry VIII in 1541.

The Patronage of the Parish was then transferred from the Abbey to William Pounsett of Loxford (now in the Parish of St Luke, Ilford) upon whose death the Patronage was given to All Souls College Oxford. Today the Patronage lies with All Souls.



At the entrance to the Churchyard is the "Grade 2\*" Listed Curfew Tower (or Fire Bell Gate), the only part of the Abbey still standing.



In 2005/06 this was the subject of a conservation project with financial help from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The Abbey ruins and the Churchyard, with the area surrounding the Church and Church School, were designated a Conservation Area in 1975.

The Churchyard is maintained by the Local Authority as a public open space under a lease signed in the 1930's.



Services

Parish Profile  
2020

On the Sunday before Christmas the morning service's "Family Carols" are enjoyed by both regular members and visitors including family members on holiday. The evening service is one of "Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight".

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant and his wife the, Mayor and Mayoress of Barking and Councillors are invited but do not always attend. Both services often average over 200 people.



Robes are worn by Choir, Clergy and Servers at all services. It has been our tradition that the Rector wears a Cope for Civic occasions and the main services on the Patronal Festival and at the Festivals of Easter and Christmas.





Services

Parish Profile  
2020

Day and time	Type of service	Typical attendance	Hymn books used
Sunday 8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)	20	Common Praise
Sunday 11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist or Morning Worship  (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, sometimes with Baptism)	150 adults and 15 children (in Dove Club)	Common Praise
Sunday 6.30p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month = Sung Eucharist  2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays = Said Evensong with Psalm)	20	Common Praise
Wednesday 12.30 p.m.	Said Eucharist	6	N/A
Friday 10.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist	3	N/A



## Our Church Building

## Parish Profile 2020

The Parish Church is an impressive "Grade 1" listed building and has been extended at various times over the years. It houses both a rich history and living Christian worship, standing strongly as a living testament of Christian faith.



In 1991 the Church Centre was built on the south side of the Church and allows access to the Church for visitors and those seeking a quiet time for prayer and meditation. Wheelchair access to the Church is via the Church Centre where there is an accessible toilet and baby changing facilities.



St. Margaret's has a good pipe organ and many fine windows, monuments and memorials. For many years Barking was a fishing port and Captain James Cook was married here in 1762. Evidence and information about these pieces and periods of rich history bring many visitors from far and wide to the church across the year.



*The present Church can seat a congregation of about 400 comfortably. The Bell Tower houses eight bells which are rung on a regular basis. The 2015 Quinquennial Inspection Report raised concerns about the Bell Tower. We are still fundraising to carry out repairs.*



Clergy

Parish Profile  
2020

At present we have a non-stipendiary assistant priest Revd. Elwon John and a Parish Reader (PTO) Canon Pat Nappin



A Choir Master/Organist oversees the Sunday Worship music.



The Church office is run by Parish Administrators assisted by volunteers.



The Church Centre Tea Rooms are run by a team of volunteers.



MUSIC WORSHIP

Parish Profile  
2020



Music is well supported at St Margaret's. The congregation at both 11am and 6.30pm services enjoy singing. The robed choir is undergoing changes currently breaking with the old tradition of growing members from within the church congregation.

We are working to improve this benefit.



Changes in working patterns and difficulties committing to rehearsal time have resulted in a reduced number of choir members, who attend as and when they are able. This is an area that needs to be given some thought in the future.

A small visiting choir of former members sings for the Good Friday service, and the combined forces of current and former members mean we are able to present a standard Nine Lessons and Carols with choral input. The organ is the work-horse of the church's musical requirements. Most recently the action was electrified in 1990.



Lay Involvement

Parish Profile  
2020

There are three Churchwardens (Town, Country and Vicar's) ably assisted by Assistant Wardens, licensed Eucharistic ministers, Sacristan and Sidespersons.



Lay people are involved in administering the Chalice at Holy Communion Services, reading lessons, leading intercessions and worship.



St. Margaret's has a robed RSCM affiliated choir and a Guild of Servers.



Our Church Family

Parish Profile  
2020



St. Margaret's is an urban church with history and vision. Its congregation is multi-racial with over 20 nationalities and 30 different languages/dialects spoken by its many members. Our cultural mix is a beauty offering the many different voices of Gods people.

There is a broad spread of ages within the church, with significant numbers of families with children / young people at the 11.00a.m. service which is usually a vibrant experience.

A church creche and children's church offers a much needed assistance to parents and gives the children an opportunity to engage with Christ in a less formal setting. There are 180 people on the Electoral Roll at St. Margaret's of which 101 are non-residents.



Fellowship, organisations and events

Parish Profile  
2020



Fellowship is a central mark of our congregation and this comes alive through the various organizations and groups in the church.

The following groups offer opportunities to meet, share and grow in our christian walk

Baptism Preparation, Bell Ringers, Choir, Dove club (Sunday morning children's groups), Youth group, Junior Confirmation, Ladies Breakfast Bar (open to and attended by a range of local churches), & Fellows of Antioch (Men's Fellowship)

Our many "bring and share" gatherings hosted by various groups in the church. bring food, fun, and smiles and sharing this is a powerful opportunity for Christian evangelism .



The grounds around our church encourage a garden atmosphere which we all look forward to especially in the summer time. The Halls in the church Community Centre are more than adequate in cooler seasons as we share tea, biscuits and a rich variety of international dishes.

Please refer to the Parish Annual Report 2018 for more details of church organisations and groups



## Youth & Social Media

## Parish Profile 2020



St Margaret's Church Barking Youth Group has a very long history dating back to pre 1940's. Over the years our vibrant Youth Groups have been the root of the Church and a dependable source of dedicated Christians skilled in ministry. A special focus has always been on the worship skills of the several young men and women. As far back as the late 90's some of them now populate choirs and church media departments across the UK.

With a rich history St Margaret's Church Barking has always had a powerful message to share. As early adopters of new technology the youth groups have always been eager to connect and share their faith in fellowship with their community.



1970's - St Margaret's Church, Barking had a Youth acapella singing group who performed in Church and across Barking.

1990s - 2009 - The 3.16 youth group led Church services once a month, growing a youth band and reaching out to other youth groups outside the borough.

The 3.16 a youth group was renowned for bringing a vibrant and dynamic Christian Worship experience enjoyed by all. While only few of it's former members remain in the Church they are eager to lend a hand as we begin a new and exciting chapter in the Youth fellowship in St Margaret's Church.

### Structure

The Youth group today is made up of three age grades:

7 - 9

10 - 18

20's - Young Adults (up till 26)

Young adults often work with the younger age groups in cross mentorship activities during our regular 1 hour meetings every Sunday after 11am Worship service.





Youth & Social Media

Parish Profile  
2020



*The youth group, coordinators and some parents join the making of the Christmas short film.*

WATCH @ - <https://vimeo.com/381379084>

**Coordinators**

We have over 6 youth coordinators and guides with the relevant experience and clearance to work with our youth group, all of whom are members of our church and local community.

Certified members of the Men's fellowship and other parents often volunteer to support the coordinators when we need more hands especially during an event or a group outing, further enhancing the parental bond for where it is lacking.

We are focused on preparing them to speak and enter the world with a bold and effective stand as young Christians. The youth program is geared towards regular drama rehearsals time, out reach training through media skills, training outside the Sunday services to allow them to gain the confidence for expression and sharing their faith experience.



In addition to growing their Christian faith, we are focused on developing sustainable skills that will empower these youth and other young adults in the community.

*Reading scripts and preparing for filming*

Both children and the youth groups have a passionate desire to grow in musical and media skills. These are areas we hope the new rector will encourage, to help retain and give a strong purpose to those who are the future congregation of St. Margaret's Church.



*Youth group during an Easter drama rehearsal in the church*



Youth & Social Media

Parish Profile  
2020

Social Media

St Margaret's Church is currently working to strengthen it's social media outreach. With the regular visits to the grounds and the church we have a vibrant trip advisor record.



*There are 3.5 billion social media users worldwide. Facebook is the most popular social media platform. 90.4% of Millennials, 77.5% of Generation X, and 48.2% of Baby Boomers are active social media users. Users spend an average of 3 hours per day on social networks and messaging.*

*We cannot ignore sharing our faith and having a presence on social media*

We are working on updating our website, facebook and other links.

Our fellowship groups such as the Men's fellowship and the Youth groups are dedicated use of WhatsApp group chats.

With the growth projections in our community, reaching the younger generation will be a key component we hope to work with the new rector to bring alive.



The Centre

Parish Profile  
2020

Friday the Centre is closed but a Eucharist is said at 10am. Saturday morning there is a School for extra curricular, maths and English for Eastern European children. There are other activities that go on in the Centre, that are part of our community work, Community police hold an Abbey Ward surgery once a month, for advice, assistance and concerns. Care Mark also attend every week to give assistance to anybody that needs care or assistance at home and have been able to help Tea Room customers and some of our congregation. This has been a very fruitful experience.



Members of the congregation regularly have family events ranging from birthday parties to receptions. Hosting a Jazz event with a band in the centre The helpful hands of the centre volunteers is an added blessing offering excellent catering services

Upstairs there are large storage areas and a two bedroom flat currently occupied by the organist and his wife.



Various schools in the local area, visitors from abroad and local events are given tours and general history of our grade one listed church, with some of it's beautiful stained glass windows and artifacts. There is so much that goes on in the Centre, with various meetings, visiting groups, parties, church events, Brownies and even a Chess Club meet nearly every week.



The Centre brings people together regardless of race, creed, colour, lifestyle orientation, physical or mental disability. We are The Hub

A  
SUMPTIOUS  
MEAL  
OR  
STAY FOR TEA.



## Our Civic links

## Parish Profile 2020



St. Margaret's is the main Civic Church for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. In May each year the newly elected Mayor and Councillors usually attend a Civic Service. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant and local M.P. also attend. The Sermon is generally preached by the Mayor's Chaplain (who may be a visitor).

On Remembrance Sunday the Vicar leads a service with the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial in Barking Park before the "Civic Service" in Church with The Mayor, other Dignitaries and uniformed organisations. At the Job Drain VC Memorial Statue opposite the Abbey Green a service is held on the 11th November at 11.00a.m.



With the Local Authority making a significant contribution to the building of the Church Centre and the work on the Curfew Tower it is important that the Rector takes the lead in maintaining a close working relationship with the Council.



Home & Overseas mission

Parish Profile  
2020



We have had a link with the parish of Kristinehamn in Sweden since 2000 (the Diocese of Karlstad is linked to Chelmsford). Members of the Swedish Parish, including their Youth choir, have visited us and we have also visited them. We are hoping to renew it.

Both churches have shared in each other's services and we remember those of their congregation who are ill each week when we pray for our own members who are unwell.

St Margaret's Church used to support Overseas Mission but not since the last mission partner returned to the UK. We see a great opportunity here being blessed with a large international congregation.



Close to home St Margaret's Church is involved in several charity programs and this is expected to grow in the near future. Our community has a significant need for outreach. Every Tuesday morning we serve breakfast to the homeless in the community

Our involvement so far includes a local homeless charity, Feeding the homeless and several more. With the growth and influx of new residents in the community the opportunity to reach out is very rich.

*St. Margaret's hosted the Diocesan service in January 2004 when the Agreement between Chelmsford and four dioceses in Kenya was signed.*



## The Church School

## Parish Profile 2020



St. Margaret's School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School situated next to the church. It has a strong Christian ethos and most of the staff are practising Christians. The P.C.C. has the right to nominate four Foundation Governors and the Vicar of St. Margaret's is usually responsible for proposing five Diocesan Governors.

The school also benefits from a significant amount of voluntary support from the churches. The school has two forms of entry and is oversubscribed. It attracts children from all parts of Barking and Dagenham as well as Newham and Redbridge. End of term Carol and Leaver's services are regular features of the church-school relationship. The children attend services in St Margaret's church on a regular basis and the clergy sometimes contribute to school assemblies.

The Rector is an ex-officio Governor of the School.



## Developments and opportunities

## Parish Profile 2020

There have been two major regeneration initiatives within the parish. The Town Centre development includes new housing, retail developments, an arts facility and a lifelong Learning Centre.

Barking promises to become East London's new cultural hub, to provide a wide choice of good value homes, great places to meet and relax with significant new opportunities for work. With superb accessibility, a growing diverse population and development potential Barking is extremely well placed to continue its transformation over the coming years

St Margarets Church is poised to take advantage of this opportunity in various ways;



Opportunity for Christian ministry

Outreach and playing a vital role in positive in community development such as:

- Having forward looking welcoming programs for new arrivals.
- Active youth and children's programs in computer technology, the arts and sports will be very attractive,

St. Margaret's could link into these developments by further developing its role as a Town Centre church through initiatives drawing on its arts tradition, community facilities and heritage and by developing a role in supporting working people and those seeking a place of peace, reflection and pastoral support.



ACCOMODATION - HOME

Parish Profile  
2020



Home is where the heart is and the Rectory is a semi-detached 5 bedroom, centrally heated house situated outside the parish at 20 Sandringham Road, Barking.



*View of the street from the front entrance*

A lovely neighborhood great for walks and calmer streets. Close to public transportation. Spacious corner house, with newly built garage, 5 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, brand new fitted kitchen and 2 integral staircases.

CLERGY

We have a Clergy House at 48 Sunningdale Avenue, Barking, which is currently let out.





## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 5-year summary

Year	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/(Deficit)
2019	140,388	116,510	23,878
2018	95,528	112,727	(17,199)
2017	108,115	119,694	(11,579)
2016	191,435	210,856	(19,420)
2015	203,733	195,453	8,280

Until 31 December 2016 we were a parish of three churches explaining the figures for 2015 and 2016 in the five-year summary above.

St Margaret's Church is wholly dependent on offerings and donations made by members of the congregation. In line with general economic conditions offerings reduced in the last three years. The increase in income in 2019 is largely due to back dated gift aid tax recovered.

Reduced offerings have directly impacted payment of our parish share. On average 45% of expenditure goes on parish share. Annual shortfall in payment of the parish share is about 28%. We have cut back on non-essential expenditure and are encouraging increased offerings to enable us to pay our full parish share in future.

We have an annual stewardship renewal drive where members of the congregation are encouraged to support St Margaret's Church to ensure its preservation for future generations.

We have net assets of £367,114 as at 31 December 2019 held in the funds listed below:

48 Sunningdale Avenue Fund	165,000
Children & Youth Worker's Fund	20,054
Choir Fund	1,033
Church Memorial Fund	4,062
Church Repair Fund - Bell Tower	16,625
Flower Fund	76
General Reserve Fund	62,564
Housing Fund	79,983
Lake Bequest Fund	16,918
Organ Fund	311
Security Fund	489

We receive grants from time to time for specific purposes.