

PARISH PROFILE

2023



Christ Church, Warley



St Mary the Virgin, Great Warley



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Introduction

A very warm welcome to the parish profile of **Christ Church, Warley and St Mary the Virgin, Great Warley.**

Both churches are attractive, well maintained, friendly and welcoming. Both have facilities which are valued and used regularly by the wider community.

The congregations are servant hearted, ready for deeper Christian teaching and godly leadership.

A spacious and comfortable vicarage is available, located in the attractive town of Brentwood with good links to London and the surrounding countryside.

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

- Philippians 4:13



THE DIOCESE: A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GULI



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



The Deanery of Brentwood is a wonderful place to live and work and offers worship from across the different traditions of the Anglican Church.

Brentwood Deanery covers the four Churches Together areas of Brentwood, Doddinghurst, Ingatestone and District, and Hutton and Shenfield. We have many superb church primary schools along with Becket Keys, our outstanding C of E Secondary School which is served by the Deanery for regular acts of worship and offers faith-based entry as one of its criteria.

Our excellent transport links make Brentwood a well-connected town for people from all walks of life, especially for London. There are many who commute to the capital for work, as well as the excellent theatres, museums, restaurants and sporting events. The local area is also well served with shops, supermarkets, restaurants, cinemas and schools. There are also many areas of natural beauty close by with Brentwood enjoying a number of excellent country parks within its' borders.

The Deanery also offers a close knit and supportive Chapter, who are always looking to uphold one another in mission, ministry, and fellowship. The Chapter meets regularly for business lunch meetings, discussion, prayer, and annually for a retreat or quiet day – not to mention for some social time together over food and drink. There is work being done on the development of the Deanery Plan, as we seek to serve in mission together whilst facing the reality of tighter budgets, reduced clergy numbers and fewer resources. Our Synod is also working hard to address issues such as the new parish share scheme, mission, social action, ecumenical working all whilst celebrating the many good news stories from around the parishes as we share the light and love of Christ with our neighbours and parish communities.

It is my prayer that any colleague joining the Deanery would take a significant and supportive role in the Synod and Chapter in this next stage of our common life together. This is likely to include playing a part in supporting some of our struggling parishes and helping reimagine ministry in the Deanery as we move beyond our budget targets in 2025.

With every blessing, **Rev'd Andy Smith** Area Dean of Brentwood



Our Vision

Our vision is to be welcoming and bible-focused churches, sharing the love of Jesus in our local communities with confidence and compassion.

Our Aspirations

Our future goals are:

- to deepen our fellowship and bible study through midweek groups and activities
- to discern people's gifting and encourage every member to understand and develop their own ministry
- to build on the work we are doing with our young people, children and families

Our New Vicar

We trust God will send us the right person to help us to grow in His service. We would like someone who:

- is an able and engaging bible teacher and preacher
- will get to know the congregation as individuals
- can balance commitments and resources
- works well in a team and is willing to delegate
- will help us to reach out into the community of Warley



Christ Church

Our congregation

Throughout the pandemic, Christ Church livestreamed services through Facebook and maintained fellowship through Zoom. We maintained contact with the congregation through this difficult period in many creative ways.

The congregation has grown significantly in number since we were able to meet in person again and the ethnic diversity of our congregation has also increased. Christ Church has a congregation of around 60 adults and 20 children in the morning and about 12 adults at evening services. Recently it has been our custom for the vicar not to robe.

Celebration services are Ash Wednesday, Easter Sunday, Good Friday (interactive prayer space in church) and Harvest Sunday, an evening Christmas Carol service and Christmas Eve Christingle, Holy Communion Christmas morning and one evening service a year is dedicated a memorial service remembering bereaved.

Messy Church ran monthly Sunday afternoons for 18 months. This was enjoyed by visitors but was suspended as we felt attendance didn't justify the resources. This might be reconsidered if the right time and team was found.





Our PCC

Christ Church has a committed PCC team which supports the Vicar, the work of the church and the community.

Olive Law

Church Warden, Authorised Local Preacher and Deanery Synod Representative

Sylvia Partridge

Church Warden
PCC Secretary

John Kettlewell

Qualified Accountant

Church Treasurer and Authorised Local Preacher

Louise Kearns

Pastoral assistant and Deanery Synod Representative

Brendon Horrocks

Safeguarding officer

Mark Townsend

Leads the building maintenance team

Heather Bradshaw

Co-leads the Kidzone team

Amy Horrocks

Youth representative

Liz Edwin

David Fisher

Elaine Le Rasle

Harry Stimpson

Richard Watts

Tim Wood

We also have a paid part time church administrator Gemma Butfield, a member of St Mary's congregation.



Supporting teams

Christ Church is a welcoming and caring community. In addition to the PCC, a wide variety of teams support different aspects of church life.

Fellowship and Prayer

Two fellowship groups are held weekly at church, one at lunchtime to facilitate those with young children and those who prefer not to venture out at night, the other on a Thursday evening. The groups include bible study, thought provoking discussions and an opportunity to pray with others for support where needed.



In spring 2023 we ran three well attended groups of the **Bible Course**.

Whilst focusing on bible study, these sessions also provided an opportunity to get to know other members of the congregation and forge bonds.

The Alpha course has previously been run at Christ Church and has been a successful way of growing faith for new church members. Christ Church sometimes holds monthly prayer breakfasts to give more dedicated prayer focus.

Pastoral care

Our Pastoral Assistant is authorised by the Diocese of Chelmsford to offer pastoral support to members of the church family and local community. This includes home, hospital or care home visits, telephone calls and email



messages to those who are unable to attend church in person. We aim to offer both spiritual support and companionship, and to maintain regular contact and connection so that those who are housebound are still included in the church family.

We strive to embed pastoral care within our existing ministries, with support and prayer within the framework of our Sunday services, fellowship group, young people's groups, the Pop-Up Cafe and through the many relationships and networks within the church family.

A confidential prayer sheet is maintained to record current prayer requests which are then reflected in the Fellowship groups and those in the church family who are called to a ministry of prayer.

Music

Three members of the congregation currently play piano and organ for services. A young violinist often accompanies the service and at special occasions other instrumentalists take part, including flute, clarinet, cello, saxophone, trumpet, ukulele and guitar. The music is a mix of traditional hymns and more modern worship songs. A Christ Church "Songs of Praise" evening is planned for October.



In recent years, a choir has been formed for Christmas and Easter services. Open to all, ages ranged from eight to mid-seventies and featured accessible music, taught by ear by members of the congregation. A more regular choir is planned for September, rehearsing before the Sunday service, and open to all.



Supporting teams

Social events

A Social Sunday has been introduced on the first Sunday of each month. Tables are laid and the congregation is encouraged to sit with people that they don't know well. Drinks and cakes are served at the table and a quiz keeps the conversation going.

INVITATION
join us for
Social Sunday.
3 September 2023

A great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.
Welcome back from the summer holidays and welcome to all who haven't been to church for a while! It would be good to see you again and find out how you are.

Olive and Sylvia
Church Wardens

Welcome to
Christ
Church
Parish Church

[christchurch.warley](https://www.facebook.com/christchurch.warley)
www.christchurchwarley.org
A vibrant Christian community

Other events

A regular film night, annual barbecue and family fun day all demonstrate the church's commitment to engage with all the congregation.

Other events include a Harvest Supper, a Maundy Thursday meal, men's and women's social outings and a book club.



Building maintenance

A quarterly Saturday morning maintenance session keeps the garden and other aspects of the church in good shape, fortified by excellent bacon sandwiches. It is a very social session with all ages participating. More regular maintenance is undertaken by members of the buildings team.





Families and children

Kidzone

Kidzone is our Sunday children's group. It meets two or three times a month during morning service providing a space for youngsters to have fun, to learn and grow spiritually. Kidzone is divided into two age groups from pre-school to school juniors. Older children attend the service and contribute in a variety of ways, including becoming Kidzone helpers.



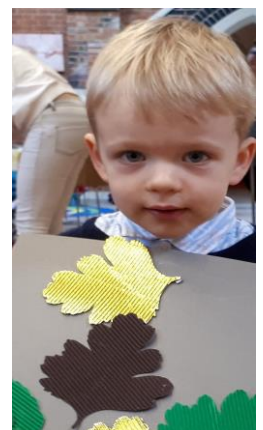
Youth Groups

Youth groups met in two age groups (school yrs 7-9 and 10-13) alternate Sunday evenings at the vicarage for fellowship and learning together. They had a time of real deepening of faith and made firm friendships.

Since the vacancy, we have run well attended joint sessions for the two age groups at the church centre with games and an epilogue or bible study.

Toddler Time

A toddler group with Christian content has run for many years at Christ Church for about twenty families at any time. It is an important means of serving the community with many nationalities finding a welcome and a route into church for some. This was suspended at Easter and we hope to restart the group when we can.





Community links

School Links

Christ Church has strong links to the two primary schools in the parish, hosting regular school visits and carol services.

One of our congregation is an associate worker with Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust, helping with projects and regular activities in our local schools (see: www.bscwt.org).

Community Links

The Walter Boyce Centre for disabled adults is across the road from the church. We host an annual carol service and tea. There is potential to develop this link further. Winifred Dell Care Home lies close to the church, and we have held services there.

1st Warley Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and 1st Warley Boys Brigade meet weekly in the centre. The leaders include church members and the groups attend our monthly Church Parade service.





Community links

Pop-up Café

In 2022 Christ Church launched its **Pop-up Café** with help from a council grant.

It provides a service to the community by providing a safe space. Members of the congregation are on hand to chat, offer support. This strengthens links between the church and the community.

The café opens on Thursday mornings, 9am-1pm, serving drinks, sandwiches and homemade cakes, including during the summer holidays.

The café attracts a regular group of visitors, including mums with small children and older members of the community.





Church buildings

Church Building

Christ Church was built in 1853 to serve the growing population at this end of Warley, including the barracks. It was changed internally in 1990 when the choir stalls were removed and the chancel floor extended into the nave to form a dais. At this time, the pews and their doors were also restored by a group of volunteers from the congregation. It has an audio-visual system and an open meeting area.

Christ Church also has attractive outdoor spaces, including a large grass area, a courtyard and ample parking.

Christ Church Centre

Our Church Centre has professional kitchen facilities to prepare full meals or lighter refreshments, together with a lovely airy hall and a separate comfortable seating area.



The centre is used for a wide range of church activities and is let to community groups and for birthday parties etc. We have some regular lets for the Townswomen's Guild, Pilates, "Learning for Pleasure", music exams and polling station.



Words from the congregation

During a recent Social Sunday we asked the congregation to share three words to describe Christ Church.





St Mary the Virgin Great Warley



Our vision

Developing our local Christian community is our vision and prayer is central to our worship. We provide tea, coffee and biscuits after services and are concerned to listen to the needs of the local community. Bible Study/Christian Fellowship group for the benefice are held most weeks at Christ Church.

The congregation

Although the population of the parish is only approximately 600, the combination of a welcoming friendly Christian atmosphere and the sheer beauty of our church helps us to maintain weekly services.

St Mary's has a congregation of between 10 and 20, with 40+ at Easter and 100+ on Remembrance Sunday including TA cadets and their families. The style of worship is traditional central Anglican with robed clergy. Music is traditional with two experienced organists providing accompaniment.

We have both older folk and younger families attending services - the carpeted aisle is particularly excellent for toddlers! Older children are encouraged to participate, carrying the water and wine at Holy Communion on occasion, reading prayers, offertory collection, and extinguishing the candles at the conclusion of our Sunday celebrations.





St Mary the Virgin Great Warley

Special services include Sea Sunday parade service with the Royal Naval Association and a noon service on Good Friday.

At Christmas, we hold a candle-lit Nine Lessons and Carols with a visiting choir and Christingle Crib service. 11.30pm candle-lit Eucharist on Christmas Eve.



We have plots for burial and cremation for villagers and members of the church community.

PCC

We have active churchwardens, PCC and congregational members faithful to the Christian message and our church community. We have a member currently training to be a Licensed Lay Minister.

Helen Burgess

Churchwarden

Stephen Brabner

Churchwarden

Fiona Agassiz

Deputy Churchwarden

Elizabeth Stanford

Church Visits Co-ordinator

Donald Fraser

PCC Secretary

Jennifer Cannon

PCC Treasurer

Steven Crisp

Safeguarding Officer

Annie Fraser

Deanery Representative

Juliet Van Der Lith

Trainee LLM

Ruth Crisp

Schools

St. Mary's has good links with Warley Primary School and Woodlands School via the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust, and one of our churchwardens is an associate worker with the Trust.

Other community links

We welcome the Warley Cadets at the annual Remembrance Day service in church and commemorate the event with a short service at the War Memorial in the village after our own gathering. We mark Sea Sunday by welcoming the local sea cadets.



Visitors

From March to October the church is open for visitors on Thursday afternoons. Many groups book tours (U3A, Arts Groups, Rambler groups, WI etc) where we offer refreshments before or afterwards in the Rectory Hall which is opposite the church next to our small car park.



Service Pattern

Although we occasionally hold joint benefice services, particularly at Christmas, our churches operate independently. The pattern of services has been structured to be sustainable for one Vicar with lay assistance.

Regular evening services at Christ Church are suspended given the vacancy. We are currently running a monthly evening service at 6pm.

	Time	Christ Church	Time	St Mary's
First Sunday	10 am	All age Holy Communion	1130am	Holy Communion (Common worship 02)
Second Sunday	10am	<i>All age Parade Service*</i> <i>Colours presented</i>	1130am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	6pm	Evening prayer		
Third Sunday	10am	Holy Communion Kidzone	1130am	Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	10am	<i>Morning Worship</i> <i>Kidzone</i>	1130am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	6pm	Evening Holy Communion		
Fifth Sunday	10am	<i>Morning Worship</i> <i>Kidzone</i>	1130am	<i>Sung Matins</i>

*Services in italics are usually run by lay ministers.

Occasional Offices

		Weddings	Funerals (church)	Funerals (crematorium)	Baptisms
2021	Christ Church	1	4	1	2
	St Mary's	2	4	1	4
2022	Christ Church	2	1	1	2
	St Mary's	3	2	-	2
2023 (7 months)	Christ Church	-	6	1	2
	St Mary's	1	2	-	-

Current Parish Share

The last few years have been difficult financially as for most churches.

In 2022, the benefice's combined parish share was £94,640. Historically, 82% has been paid by Christ Church and 18% by St Mary's.

Although some years this has not been paid in full, we have always met the ministerial contribution. This year the benefice share has been recalculated to £82,147 by the diocese and we are confident that we will be able to meet this in full going forward.

Christ Church has worked hard to increase congregational giving and to make savings. A gift day was introduced in 2022 in place of the usual Christmas market, which focused on helping the congregation understand the costs faced by the church. This improved understanding was met with a very generous response.

We have income from a local training centre who pay to use the church car park and there is income from community hires of the church centre. We also have investment income from a recently sold property, that was part owned by the diocese. An aged and infirm fund provides dividends which have been used to provide taxis for some of the elderly and less mobile members of Christ Church.

Reserves have been put aside against boiler replacement, which is expected to be required soon. Before 2018 the parish was regularly giving 10% of its income to charities and it is hoped that this can be achieved again in the future.

For the full financial report please email: admin@christchurchwarley.org

St Mary's has been able to meet its percentage of the parish share through some very generous and supportive families. The church and its churchyard are regarded as a pivotal focus for the local community and it supports local community events.

Rectory lodge is rented out and we manage that for the diocese and our church. We use our church hall for meetings and for community activities for which rent is paid. We also have after church functions there at Harvest and Christmas for church members and the local community.

The building has been maintained in the last few years via grants being obtained by the churchwardens and generous donations from the congregation and villagers. Work has been completed on the porch and organ and roof but further works need to be undertaken.

For the full financial report please email: donaldfraser134@gmail.com

The Vicarage



The Vicarage is a detached four-bedroom house in Mount Crescent, a mile from Christ Church and nearly three miles from St Mary's.

The property has a large office and cloakroom on the ground floor, separated from the rest of the living space. There is a good-sized dining room separated from the lounge by folding doors, this leads out to a large garden mostly laid to lawn. There is a fitted kitchen with small utility space, also leading to the garden. Upstairs are four bedrooms, the larger with an en-suite, together with a family bathroom. Outside are several outbuildings and an attached garage.

Close by is King George's playing field with a children's playground adjoining a large area of woodland. It is a short walk to the rail station and local shops.



Brentwood (originally known as “Burnt Wood”) has a long connection with Christianity with some of the first Canterbury pilgrims stopping for rest at the chapel in the High Street (now a ruin).

Travel

Brentwood is an attractive place to live, situated on TFL’s new Elizabeth Line providing easy access to all parts of London. Stansted Airport is a short drive away and the coast is also within easy access.

Facilities

Brentwood has a vibrant High Street with mix of shops, pubs and restaurants as well as country parks, a local theatre, museum and sports centre. The town is served by a selection of private and state schools including Church of England primary and secondary schools.

There are two large country parks near Brentwood: Weald Park and Thorndon Park, which is in Warley itself and comprises attractive woodland and open parkland, and is popular with walkers, families and cyclists.



The Parish of Warley

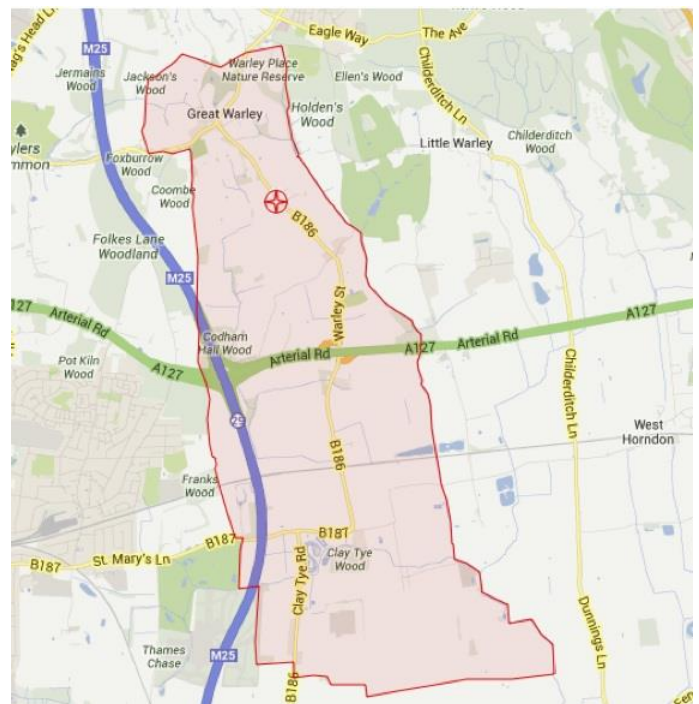
The Parish of **Warley** lies to the south of Brentwood. It is a largely residential area with a mix of Victorian and pre-war family homes and modern developments of houses and apartments including a new redevelopment of the old Ford Headquarters together with blocks of flats and social housing, population approx. 8,000.



Warley has a business park serving a variety of medium size organisations. There are many shops and restaurants and a dry-ski slope, Karting centre, Trampolining centre, golf club. Brentwood Rail Station is on the parish border.

The Parish of Great Warley

The parish of St Mary, **Great Warley** is a semi-rural area, it consists of 160 houses with a total population of 717 and is an attractive village mainly surrounded by farmland and wooded areas. Housing is scattered, it is an interesting mix of late medieval and large nineteenth century dwellings with extensive grounds, as well as well-appointed modern housing, modernised cottages and farmhouses.



Great Warley has a very active Conservation Society that seeks to preserve the area from inappropriate development and holds a range of social and fund-raising activities. The Society joins with the church to publish a bi-monthly magazine, The Great Warley Lychgate, with news and events of the village and church.

Great Warley has a pub and a restaurant. The parish contains three small industrial estates and a well-known EWT nature reserve, Warley Place which attracts many visitors.

