St Augustine's

Slade Green | London Borough of Bexley



PARISH PROFILE

2026

Diocese of Rochester

called together

CONTENTS

Archdeacon's Welcome	2
Our Church	3
The Local Community	4
Church Life	5
Buildings and Grounds	10
Our Vision for the Future	11
Our new Vicar	12
How to apply	13
Appendix – Diocesan Vision	14

ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to serve as Vicar of St Augustine, Slade Green.

This is an exciting time in the life of Rochester Diocese as we reflect on how we as a diocese, and in different ways in each of our parishes, might Change and Serve and Grow so that God's Kingdom can be increased, and more people can come to know the love of Christ. Our diocesan strategy prioritises and supports parish ministry and clergy well-being. St Augustine's is supported by our Missional Development Places workstream, providing non-time limited funding to increase this vicar post from half time to full time as we recognise the potential in this parish. In addition to the enhanced clergy post we have allocated 5 years of tapered SMIBB funding for a Children, Youth and Families Worker to build on the good work of the previous SDF funded CYP role. This worker, to be recruited as soon as the new vicar is in post, will be 0.6FTE and will build on the existing strong relationships the 3 local primary schools, creating 4 new worshipping communities, and building lay leadership.

St Augustine's is a growing church, with a diverse and welcoming congregation, made up of people of all ages and ethnicities. The congregation are looking forward to welcoming a new vicar who will lead them in mission and ministry. The church is of a central tradition with a serving team consisting of teenagers, and a small but faithful choir.

There are some challenges to be addressed. Although this is one of the most economically deprived parishes in the Diocese work does need to be undertaken to improve financial stability and giving. Sunday morning numbers are healthy and growing, however work needs to be done to increase discipleship and volunteering.

The parish of Slade Green is a distinct community between Dartford and Abbey Wood on the Thames in the London Borough of Bexley and provides easy access to Central London, Kent and Bluewater Shopping Centre.

This is a parish with lots of life and potential and I am excited to see where God will lead over the next few years. Please be assured of my prayers as you discern whether you are the person the Holy Spirit is calling to join us in this next exciting stage of mission and ministry in Slade Green.

Allie Kerr

Ven. Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley.



OUR CHURCH

St Augustine's is a welcoming, open and inclusive church serving a diverse and growing community in the London Borough of Bexley. We are a friendly multicultural church committed to worship, community outreach and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Originally a small farming village, Slade Green has grown over the years into a community of around 10,000 residents. In 1925 it was established as a parish with the Victorian church of St Augustine's at its heart.

As part of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Church, St. Augustine's embraces the diversity and richness of our surrounding community. We welcome all into a congregation grounded in the love and teachings of Jesus Christ. Guided by Christ's example, we strive to be a beacon of love, peace, and inclusion, extending our faith and service to our neighbours and beyond.

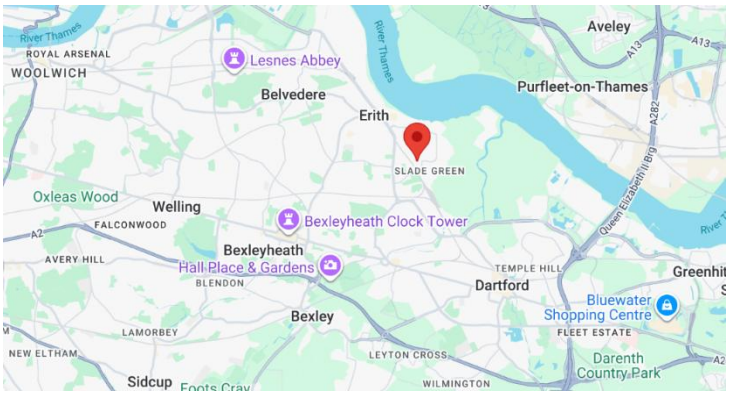
We are looking for someone who embraces diversity and makes everyone feel truly welcome, no matter their background or circumstances. With a compassionate heart, you will handle challenges with fairness and wisdom, upholding our safeguarding responsibilities and ensuring that St Augustine's remains a place of safety, belonging, and hope.



There is a strong sense of fellowship at St Augustine's, and we value worship, prayer and service to others. While the current Electoral Role is 60, we have a growing congregation of more than 100, including 30 children and young people at the main Sunday service. The style of worship is central, Eucharistic, with a robed choir of adults and children.

There is also a team of young altar servers; children and young people are central to our ministry. We are privileged to have had a Children and Young People's worker in recent years, financed by Rochester's Strategic Development Funding, and are keen to build this work further. We now have a grant for a CYP Worker (tapered for five-years) from the Diocesan Investment Programme bid and look forward to working with our new Vicar to enable, support and sustain this mission initiative.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



The parish population is 9699 at the time of writing, with 3459 occupied households, a high proportion of global majority heritage residents compared to the rest of the borough. The deprivation rank is 1466, among the most deprived in the country and with a higher-than-average proportion of social housing and single parent families. Accommodation is predominately terraced, semi-detached or flats; mainly owned with mortgage or social rented. There are also some residential homes.

Slade Green ward is currently a Labour stronghold. There are local initiatives focusing on community building in this area, historically noted for its socio-economic deprivation.

Facilities and attractions include a community centre and library, a sports hall, parks and green spaces.

There are three infant and primary schools close to the church:

- Haberdashers' Slade Green
- St Paul's Church of England Primary School
- Peareswood Primary School

We enjoy strong and positive relationships with the schools as outlined in the next section of this profile.



Morrisons Daily, Pharmacy and other local shops outside train station



Slade Green graffiti wall art opposite the train station

The church is conveniently located with good local transport links for this commuter-friendly suburb of London. A bus stop is approximately two minutes' walk from the church with services to nearby centres including Erith, Bexleyheath, Bluewater and Dartford.

Slade Green railway station is around five minutes away on foot and provides direct connections into central London and surrounding areas, with the nearby M25 providing easy access to the rest of the country.

CHURCH LIFE

Worship and Congregation

Our main Sunday service, which is the parish Eucharist, Common Worship, takes place at 10:30am. There is much involvement of the laity, especially the young people, including a robed choir and altar party.

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we hold an All-Age Worship service which encourages participation from all generations.

There is an atmosphere of joy and reverence in these services, not least because of the mix and diversity of those who come to worship together each Sunday and the love of God in Jesus Christ. The relaxed and friendly spirit is woven into the liturgy, which has its formal structure but is never stuffy.

We are a child-friendly church with a play area for children under five years old.

Junior Church is supported by a team of Sunday school teachers and around twenty children regularly attend.

We have a team of young acolytes and servers and a small but enthusiastic choir.

At present we do not have a regular organist. Hymns are programmed into a digital hymnal system and displayed on screens during services.



Children joining in with the sermon, Easter 2026

Prayer and mid-week activities

Morning Prayer at 9:00am and Evening Prayer at 9:00pm take place online each day led by members of the PCC.

A Dementia Friendly Café takes place every Tuesday providing companionship and support for people living with dementia and their carers.

Toddler Church and Messy Church currently ran until March 2026 when the present leader retired. Junior Church will continue and it is hoped that Toddler Church will be reinstated when the new Vicar and CYPF worker are appointed.

St Augustine's Church continues to serve both the congregation and the wider community through its ministry of baptisms, weddings and funerals. During 2025, the parish celebrated:

- 2 weddings
- 13 baptisms (8 children and 5 adults)
- 6 confirmations (5 adults and 1 child)
- 6 funerals
- 3 services for the interment of ashes

In addition, 8 children were admitted to Holy Communion, prior to Confirmation, reflecting the church's commitment to nurturing young people in their faith journey.



St Paul's CoE Primary Easter Service

The church regularly hosts special services for local schools, particularly at Christmas and Easter. These services provide opportunities for pupils to engage with the Christian story and celebrate the church festivals as part of the wider community.

St Paul's also holds a service for pupils moving on to secondary school.

Pupils from St Paul's Church of England Primary School attend services for particular year groups and visit the Dementia Friendly Café, sharing lunch and spending time with members of the community. This has potential to be extended to other local schools.

Pupils are also invited to attend voluntary Bible classes offered by the church. In addition, the church presents Bibles to pupils in Year 6 as they prepare to move on to secondary school.

On Remembrance Sunday, the local uniformed organisations attend the service at St Augustine's:



Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team supports members of the congregation through prayer, visits and messages of encouragement. Each week a prayer sheet is available in church so that people can request prayers for those who are ill or in need.

During Christmas the church works with three local schools to provide gift vouchers or hampers for families in need. Harvest gifts are shared with Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice and Bexley Women's Refuge.

Social

A small team of volunteers organises social events throughout the year including:



- Summer Fair
- Christmas Fair
- Parish barbecues
- Harvest bring-and-share meals
- Remembrance Sunday
- Harvest festival collection, in aid of Greenwich Hospice and the Women's refuge
- Macmillan Coffee Morning in September

These events raise funds for the church and strengthen our relationship with the local community.

Ministry



St Augustine's Church PCC

The church is supported by active volunteers who contribute through the PCC and working groups for Church Grounds, Church Hall, Social Events and in Mission Planning.

With our new incumbent, we look forward to encouraging vocations and lay ministry in the church to build a strong ministry team, including the CYP worker.

Community Engagement

The church maintains active links with schools, local charities and community groups. Events such as fairs, community cafés and seasonal celebrations provide opportunities for engagement with the wider community.

The church plays an active role in the civic life of the community and has welcomed visits from local dignitaries. Recent visitors have included the Member of Parliament for Bexleyheath and Crayford, and Mr David Easton JP DL, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Bexley.

In March 2026, Slade Green was granted £20 million "Pride in Place" funding over the next 10 years. This investment aims to support regeneration, improve community facilities and strengthen local services. The programme presents new opportunities for the church to engage with the community and play a positive role in the area's future development.

St Augustine's also supports several local charities through fundraising events and seasonal giving.

Church Hall

The hall is used throughout the week by community groups including the Slade Green Foodbank and for after-school activities for children. At weekends the hall is used for church activities and private events.

Its regular use helps strengthen the church's connection with the wider community and supports the ministry and mission of the parish.

Finance

Income during 2025

Total income £93,074 (2024 £92,623)

- Grants totalled £11,500 (2024 £20, 950)
- Gift Aid reclaimed £7,231 (2024 £6,601)
- Fundraising £1,172 (2024 £1,103)
- Church hall income £26,839 (2024 28,100)
- Income from funerals etc.£4,214 (2024 £4,530)
- £1,213 (2024 £1,116) was received in interest and dividends (mainly dividends from the Colyer Trust, the capital of which is held for us by the Diocese).

Expenditure during 2025

Total £82,001 (2024 £89,125).

- Parish Offer £25,000 (2024 £25,000)
- General ministry £8,709 (2024 £10,068)
- Church hall maintenance £12,100 (2024 £11,026)
- Church maintenance and church grounds £6,112 (2024 £2,091)
- Worship supplies £831 (2024 £2,382)
- Insurance and utilities for the church. £11,591 (2024 £19,366)

We aspire to working with our new incumbent to strengthen financial sustainability, including potential to increase our parish offer and to ensure that funding for our CYP worker can be matched during the five-year programme of support.

BUILDINGS and GROUNDS

The Church was built at the turn of the 20th Century. It is a fine example of Victorian architecture. Substantial rebuilding work was required following a direct hit during an air raid in 1944 and following a fire in 1991 which destroyed the roof and much of the internal fabric. After a major fire in the 1990s the church was restored and reordered, including the addition of an office, toilets and accessible step-free access to the main worship area. At the west end, the large space with kitchenette is ideal for refreshments, meetings, community activities and a dedicated children's area.



The sanctuary

At the rear of the grounds there is a car park and access to the Church Hall. The original hall was also replaced and updated; it is currently used for parish and community events, including the Slade Green Foodbank, and is available for private hire at weekends.



Church Hall



Car park behind the church

Garden of Remembrance

The grounds include a consecrated area for the interment of cremated remains, which is carefully maintained by the parish. This provides a peaceful place of remembrance for families connected with the church and local community.



The Vicarage



The Vicarage is a spacious and comfortable home located next to the Church. Built around 1900, the detached house reflects the period when the local community and church were developing, following the arrival of the railway and growing population in the area.

The property provides generous accommodation with four bedrooms, a box room, bathroom and WC upstairs.

On the ground floor there is the lounge and separate dining room, study, kitchen, utility room and cloakroom/WC. The garage is detached and there is a large back garden (17m by 27m).

The house is within walking distance to the local schools and the railway station, providing convenient transport links to central London and nearby towns.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We aim to continue developing as a welcoming and outward-looking church, deepening our faith in Christ and strengthening our engagement with the local community.

Our vision is to grow spiritually, build even stronger relationships with schools and community groups, and develop new opportunities for mission and outreach within Slade Green.

We hope to continue building a church where people grow in God's faith, deepen relationships in Christ and serve the local community.

Opportunities

- Strengthening links with schools and families
- Developing children's and family ministry with the appointment of a CYP worker
- Expanding community outreach initiatives
- Building on our open and inclusive ethos
- Establishing a pathway of discipleship and nurture of vocations and lay ministry

Challenges

Like many churches, we face challenges including maintaining buildings and developing sustainable ministry and recruitment of volunteers to work together in the work of the church. However, we believe there are significant opportunities for growth through deeper engagement and renewed mission, commitment from the Diocese and the energy of this vibrant and prayerful congregation.

OUR NEW VICAR

We pray for a vicar who:

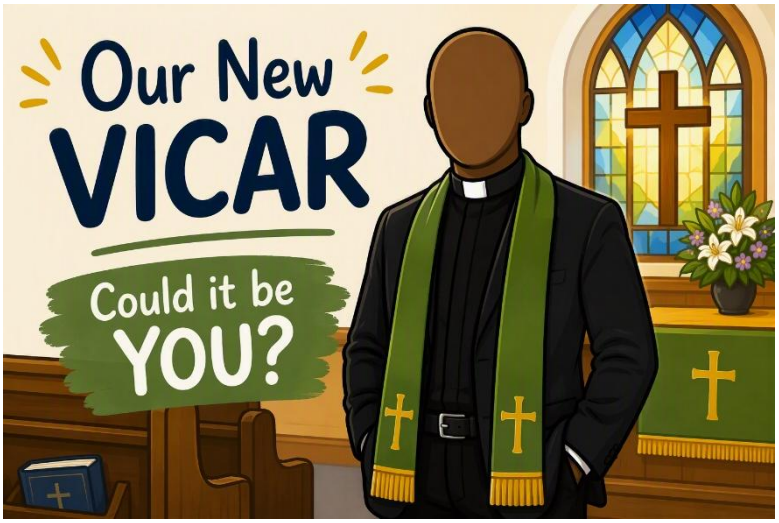
- ✓ Has a heart for mission and growth, experience in creating and implementing mission plans and can help us to listen to God's call.
- ✓ Is a collaborative leader, nurturing discipleship, identifying and releasing gifts in others.
- ✓ Will demonstrate and nurture spiritual growth through worship, prayer, teaching and pastoral care.
- ✓ Is committed to inclusion for people of all backgrounds and ages.
- ✓ Has excellent communication skills.
- ✓ Has experience of developing strong relationships with schools and the wider community.
- ✓ Will prioritise work with children, young people and families, including recruitment and line management of our CYPF worker.
- ✓ Will support teenagers and young adults, helping to guide them in their faith journey and encouraging them to grow in their relationship with Christ.

What we offer:

- ✓ A supportive, welcoming multicultural and all age congregation.
- ✓ An active PCC.
- ✓ Funding for a CYPF worker, tapered over five-years.
- ✓ Diocesan support, learning and wellbeing communities.
- ✓ A parish with strong community connections and mission opportunities.
- ✓ Excellent relationships with local schools.
- ✓ A parish with clear opportunities for future mission.
- ✓ Fully refurbished Vicarage

HOW TO APPLY

If you believe God might be calling you to join us in sharing the love of God with the community of Slade Green and to play your unique part in building the Kingdom of God as Vicar of St Augustine's we'd love to hear from you. Application details are available on the Diocese of Rochester website at www.rochester.anglican.org



If you'd like an informal conversation about this vacancy please contact Fiona Porter (EA to the Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley) on fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org

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OUR VISION

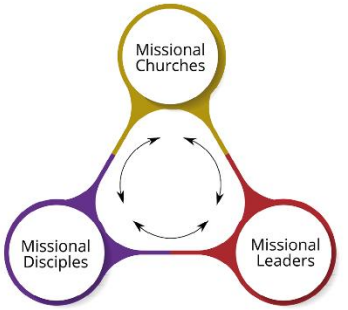
As a family of faith across the areas of Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley we understand that we are:

Seeking first the Kingdom of God, and are called together by God to change, serve and grow with compassion, courage, and creativity.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

Within this vision, our key objectives are to grow **missional churches**, with **missional leaders** and **missional disciples**, that are:

- Growing a safe and healthy culture for all
- Growing younger and more diverse
- Growing spiritually and numerically
- Impacting their communities
- Releasing financial resources for mission
- Planting and growing new missional churches



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Four workstreams help focus our work to **grow God's Kingdom** and ensure a **flourishing and well-resourced parish structure.**

All are seen through the lens of **growing safe and healthy cultures**, because if we are truly seeking God's Kingdom, then we must reflect it's values of righteousness, peace, wholeness, and fullness of life for all.



BE PART OF IT

The vision stands on the shoulders of a generation of previous post-war pilgrims of the Diocese of Rochester who, also at a great moment of societal change, upheaval and challenge, had a steadfast belief that through their combined endeavour, generosity, and faith, they could grow the Church and God's kingdom.

This is what we are being called to - let's make it happen!

Dear God,

Fill us with courage and vision to carry your light into new places, meeting people where they are, and sharing the life-changing truth of your gospel.

Bless these communities with strong and Spirit-filled leaders, faithful disciples, and hearts ablaze with love for you.

May our churches and communities become vibrant and healthy expressions of your Kingdom—places where your Word is proclaimed, lives are transformed, and communities are renewed.

Guide us, Lord, and remind us always that you are with us, empowering our every step, even to the end of the world.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.