



East Dartford

BENEFACTICE



East Dartford Benefice (EDB) Profile

Archdeacon's Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to be the next vicar for East Dartford Benefice. 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 Jesus. Our Diocesan vision and strategy prioritise parish ministry and we are committed to supporting our clergy and lay leaders in their mission and ministry in their local context. We have recently been awarded £11m of SMIBB funding (from National Church) to support this vision.

East Dartford Benefice is mission driven and led by the vision of building God's kingdom on earth and follows the principles of Inclusive Church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. The benefice comprises of two churches, St Alban and St Edmund with an overall population in the region of 28,278 people. There are significant missional opportunities to further develop outreach and to deepen connection with the local community which is increasingly growing younger and more diverse. The right person for this role would be experienced and gifted with a strong pioneering heart and the ability to serve and reach all the estates in this benefice, particularly those that may be disconnected with church. The ideal person should demonstrate their ability to enable the worshipping communities to grow in both numerical and spiritual terms as well as enabling lay leadership to flourish.

Due to the complexities of the building at St Edmund, we are looking for an experienced, strategic and enthusiastic leader who will be able to capitalise on the opportunity to develop a potential of five new worshipping communities in the foreseeable future. These are two warm and caring churches who would really value and appreciate a faithful, loving and wise Vicar. Is that you?

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 stage of mission and ministry in Rochester Diocese. I'd be delighted to have a conversation with anyone who may be interested.

With every blessing as you discern God's will.

Archdeacon Sandra

1. Who are we and what is our 'patch'?

East Dartford Benefice (EDB) is a 'roll-up-your-sleeves' kind of parish where Christians from St Alban's Dartford and St Edmund's, seek to live out the radical love of Jesus Christ by welcoming and offering practical and emotional support to the communities round about them.

The benefice, formed harmoniously by the joining of the two churches on 1 January 2023, covers an extremely large, very densely populated area with distinctly different geographical areas (Temple Hill estate established 1947, New Town, Fleet Estate and Bridge Estate) that include high economic and social deprivation. The churches are approximately 15 minutes apart on foot.

Both churches reflect the demographics of their neighbourhoods, have a strong presence in their immediate communities, are outward-facing, and exemplify the benefice's vision that "all are welcome". Many members have lived in the local area for many years and have deep-rooted and longstanding connections with their church and community. St Alban's and St Edmund's retain their separate identities while also identifying with the larger benefice.

St Alban's Church, DA1 1TE

Built in 1880 as a Mission Hall to Dartford's town centre Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, St. Alban's was enlarged in 1902 and became a separate parish in its own right in 1903. In a residential street in the Newtown area of Dartford characterised by closely knit Victorian terraced streets, St Alban's is opposite a primary school (where we can park on Sundays) and a Buddhist Wat and Vietnamese Community Centre. St Alban's parish includes a remote estate (Fleet Estate) separated from the rest of the Benefice by busy main roads.

<https://www.kentchurches.info/church.asp?p=Dartford+3>



St Edmund's, DA1 5ND

Originally a church plant from St Alban's, St Edmund's opened in 1956 as the Temple Hill estate grew up around it. The site was redeveloped with distinctive green and glass building situated in the heart of the Temple Hill estate. Building shared with a GP surgery and, previously, Sure Start Centre and other users to deliver a 'Living Well' community hub, opened 2004, as a focus of support and care for local residents.

The parish includes 'The Bridge' area to the north of the A206, including the site of the former Joyce Green hospital which has been redeveloped since 2000, mainly as housing, by Wimpey and Moat. There are no direct road links from the Bridge to St Edmund's; vehicles travel circuitous routes via Dartford town centre or via Stone parish.

<https://thebridgedartford.co.uk/explore/>

The Benefice electoral roll membership stands at 60. Some congregation members go to activities at both buildings, some only to their original 'home church'. Although some people have stopped coming as often during the interregnum, the trend at both churches before the previous incumbent left was a steady trickle of new people coming along – and new babies arriving fairly regularly, too!

Both churches have a welcoming family feel, with an emphasis on comfort and ease through sofas, toys for the children and well-maintained garden areas. We delight in regular attendance from families with babies and pre-school children up to members in their nineties. Children are encouraged to be themselves and take an active role in the services. The congregations are not fazed by sound of children playing or seeing small children dancing or moving around. Sometimes during the more upbeat songs, especially at the end of the service, some of the grown-ups catch onto the exuberance of the children and enjoy shaking a maraca or moving to the music.

Living with physical and mental health challenges directly and/or as a carer is a widespread experience in the congregation and can limit how much people feel able to take on in church activities.

Several members in each congregation have mobility issues and/or use wheelchairs, and we are blessed by them actively exercising their ministries, including preaching, leading prayers and organising activities. People 'look out' for one another.

The congregation is generally financially poor. Neither congregation is characterised by a lot of available 'professional services' expertise and capacity e.g. for legal/financial/ fundraising/people and project management input.

The East Dartford Benefice has the following maintained schools within its boundaries.

- Rivermill School Primary, Central Rd, Dartford
- Dartford Bridge Community Primary School, Birdwood Ave, Dartford
- Temple Hill Primary Academy, St Edmunds Road, Dartford
- Fleet Primary Academy, Lunedale Road, Dartford
- Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy Secondary School, Green Street Green Rd, Dartford
- Leigh Academy Primary School York Road and St Albans's Road, Dartford

Currently there are very close links with Rivermill, Temple Hill and Leigh Academy. These schools enjoy visits to the churches to explore Christianity through fun activities and by invitation our clergy visit Temple Hill and Leigh Academy for Assemblies and Christingle Services. All schools are supported at Christmas through our support to vulnerable families' programme.

2. What is our vision?

As members of *Inclusive Church* <https://www.inclusive-church.org/> we aim to be a benefice that 'celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate'. We are strongly in favour of women and lay people in leadership and full equality in the outreach and sacraments of the church for all people, regardless of gender, sexuality or other characteristics.

Our decisions about who to let our spaces to and which organisations to partner with are guided by our gospel-inspired vision of welcome and inclusivity and the strategic aim of increasing the wellbeing of people in our local communities.

Looking to the future, we want more of the same but to reach further into parts of the benefice where we do not yet have strong connections, growing stronger and going deeper with the practical expressions of God's love that are in the benefice's DNA.

We have outreach initiatives to build from, including a new and growing Anna Chaplaincy to two care homes, involvement with three of the benefice's seven schools, hosting the Porchlight homelessness charity, a monthly coffee morning on the Fleet Estate, excellent relationships with many organisations from the animal sanctuary in the benefice to Dartford Borough Council whose local councillors hold their surgeries in each of our buildings once a month.



Both buildings are hubs for community activity and offer 'Warm Spaces' during cold weather (see Appendix for list of hirers). Uniformed organisations and a toddler group meet at St Alban's and community wardens drop in to the church's community café open there once a week. The church is opposite a three-form nursery and infants' school (Leigh Academy Dartford) and a Buddhist Wat with which we have warm relationships.

The redeveloped St Edmund's was conceived as a 'Living Well' to provide holistic support for the local community. The church offers hospitality, spiritual, and practical care through a busy café, food parcels and donated coats, and a pastoral presence, alongside a GP practice, social care providers, and a very wide range of community organisations. At the invitation of the Diocese, we applied in early 2025 for project funding to maximise the in-reach and outreach potential of St Edmund's through employing a Lay Community Pioneer and a Project Manager who would oversee capital works.

Whilst we are serious about serving our communities, our style is open and sociable. Many of the people whose lives we touch are living through very difficult times. We enjoy helping to lighten their load and sharing moments of brightness, connection, comfort, and hope.

3. What is our style of worship?

Although each church has a different style, over recent years we have enjoyed coming together for shared worship and currently alternate services between the two parishes week by week. Both churches appreciate liturgy and we neither stand on ceremony nor have a worship 'free-for-all'.



St Alban's

10.30am - Holy Communion following Common Worship and Lectionary

Vestments are worn. Music is traditional and contemporary with songs projected onto the screens. The church retains the ability to enjoy organ music if an organist were ever available. There is a rota of volunteers, including several young people, who assist with serving, reading scripture, leading intercessions and administering the chalice. St Albans would say it is Liberal Catholic and enjoys a more traditional feel to services. Refreshments are enjoyed after the service

St Edmund's

Sunday 10.30am - Service based on Common Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated every week with the offer of prayer for healing in the chapel. The congregation has previously enjoyed exploring different types of worship including Café Church, dramatisations of Bible stories and animal blessing services. The music is a mixture of contemporary and traditional songs projected onto a screen.

St Edmund's use of vestments reduced during the time of the last incumbent. As at St Alban's, volunteers assist with all the key roles. St Edmunds has the most relaxed attitude towards liturgy. Refreshments are enjoyed after the service.

Thursday 9.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer and once a month, Communion with anointing and healing

Before the last incumbent left, our monthly pattern of services was:

Week 1 - own churches

Week 2 - Joint at St Alban's

Week 3 - Own churches (with Cafe Church at St Edmund's)

Week 4 - Joint at St Edmund's

Week 5 - Songs of Praise at St Alban's

Both churches have regular attendance from families with babies and pre-school children up to members in their nineties. Children and young people read, lead prayers, collect the offering, bring up the communion elements and, just starting in autumn 2025, teenagers are serving communion.



4. What qualities do we seek in a minister?

To extend and deepen our work with local people, we are praying for an incumbent who:

- **Reflects Christ to the community**
 - Genuinely knows God, with a faithful, passionate and deepening relationship with God
 - Humble and holy, willing to listen and learn
 - Clearly filled with the Holy Spirit, showing love for people, prayerful, and discerning in sharing wisdom from scripture.
- **Is faithful to the people they serve**, able to be alongside the groups that use the buildings and to connect with the community
 - Approachable, inclusive and empathic - celebrating difference and welcoming to all
 - Outward-looking and socially aware – a defender and champion of the weary, weak, disadvantaged and oppressed
 - Caring, compassionate and hospitable -- fostering safety, friendships and partnerships
 - Diligent, practical and realistic.
- **Can grow the Benefice through spiritual outreach and practical support**
 - Able to hold and convey a vision clearly - good communicator to individuals and large groups
 - Courageous and tenacious, able to manage workload and accept help; sensible about maintaining their own wellbeing and resilience
 - Creative team leader who listens to the church and can both lead and make space for others to do so, encouraging people to follow their calling and develop their own ministries
 - Wise guide and teacher
 - Competent with IT and organised enough to work effectively within local, diocesan and national church governance, finance and other regulatory systems.

5. What we offer

Strengths

- **Very united Benefice** with togetherness between churches while retaining distinctiveness.
- **Highly committed leaders, clergy and lay**, who are very generous with their time and skills
- **Open doors and effective outreach** to local community
- **Lay-led ministries** you will not be on your own, we work together sharing our gifts
- **Practical competence in managing and maintaining fabric and fittings**
- **Strong creative and craft skills**
- **Open-minded, adaptable and resilient**, we wish to support our new incumbent to help us to move in the direction the Holy Spirit plans so that more people are welcomed into the Kingdom of God
- **Partnerships and connections** (see Appendix for list of hirers and partners)
- **Communication with the Deanery and the Diocese**
- **Sense of fun!**

Opportunities

- **Unexplored areas of mission field on our own doorstep**
- **Attractive premises including open space**
- **Exciting Missional Focus - “Equipping to serve new populations for more growth, diversity and sustainability”** Our vision includes establishing new worshipping communities on the estates, reflecting local demographics and outreach reflecting need. The aim of this vision is to releasing clergy to take the strategic, pastoral and missional lead with the assistance of lay leaders at all levels. There is the possibility of funding for a Community Pioneer and a Project Manager.
- **Schools:** Clergy have historically had reasonably regular contact with the schools closest to the church buildings – Temple Hill and Leigh Academy Dartford, as well as a connection with Rivermill School on the new Estate. There are four other schools we could build links with.
- **Engaging online presence**
 - Website: www.2dartfordchurches.org
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastdartfordbenefice
- **Development and formation**
 - One member exploring vocation towards ordained ministry, one who has permission to preach six times per year, and others who have led services
 - Congregation members coming forward for confirmation.
- **Follow up** with families who have had a baptism, wedding or funeral in the church
- **Build up ‘teams’ (rotas) and resources** e.g.
- **Develop small group pattern**
- **Music and drama** - several members of both churches are strong singers and/or enjoy acting.
- **Fledgeling youth group.**
- **Prayer**
 - Different people lead prayers in the services each week
 - Benefice email prayer chain
 - Small prayer group offers prayers during communion.
- **Stewardship** - Build on successful use of donation machines to support giving.
- **Outreach through shared interests** - develop interest groups e.g. Dartford Football Club supporters.

- **Increased fundraising** through approaches to local businesses and small grants fundraising.

Our Aspirations

- Strengthen **St Edmund’s financial position** to become secure and sustainable.
- More effective **partnerships with other local churches**.
- **Build on existing links with Kikore**, the benefice’s twin parish in Tanzania.
- **Extend caretaking cover** at St Edmund’s beyond 8pm to increase potential for letting out rooms and relieve pressure on small church team who lock up.
- **Increase pool of people who can offer lifts** to church and activities.

Our Achievements

- **Relief of poverty** through partnering with Foodbank, and other agencies.
 - In 2023, Foodbank at St Edmund’s was feeding an average of 120 per week who left with three days’ worth of food.
 - We support a range of charities including the Children’s Society, Spirit’s Rest Animal Sanctuary, Toilet Twinning, World Aids Day, and Hope and Poverty.
- **Effective maintenance and development of the buildings and sites.**

6. Finances

We rely on two main streams of income: letting of our premises and congregational giving. St Alban’s has monthly income of £950 from a house, valued at £400,000 we let out to tenants. St Alban’s needs a more robust financial solution to meeting the Benefice’s financial commitment. We hold regular fund-raising events, such as quiz nights, boot fairs, Christmas and Summer Fayres and apply for grants when needed. There are accounting intricacies in relation to the management of the Benefice monies, in particular, the structures around day-to-day management of St Edmunds which involve several stakeholders. We are grateful for expert support we receive from the diocese.

Both churches’ finances were hit hard by losing rental income during and after Covid. We are now up to capacity with our bookings. Our letting decisions are based on achieving wellbeing returns for local people, so we privilege community-focused hirers rather than commercial organisations, although this can create a shortfall in our income.

St Alban’s paid parish offer of £15,000 in 2024 and 2025. In 2026 this figure has increased to £15,570. We have however had to draw on St Alban’s reserves to pay the parish offer and recognise that this is unsustainable. St Edmund’s does not pay the parish offer due to building management service charge commitments of £3,368pm. We keep the financial health of the benefice, particularly St Edmund’s, actively under review.

6.1 EDB Financial Reserves Policy

The PCC recognise that each church should always maintain sufficient ‘unrestricted’ funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to approximately three months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs and to respond to occasional emergency applications for hardship grants.

7. Challenges and how we have responded to them

Challenge	Description	Response
Size of the Benefice	The geographical area and population in the combined parishes are both very large	We have applied to the Diocese for outreach project funding. <i>The</i>

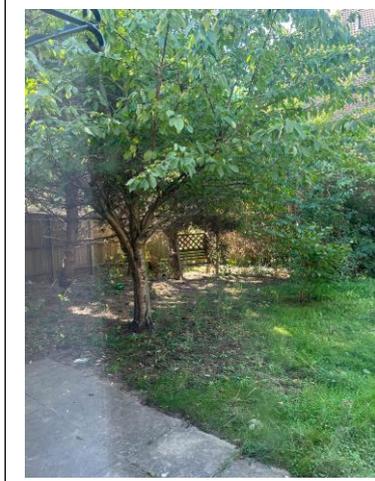
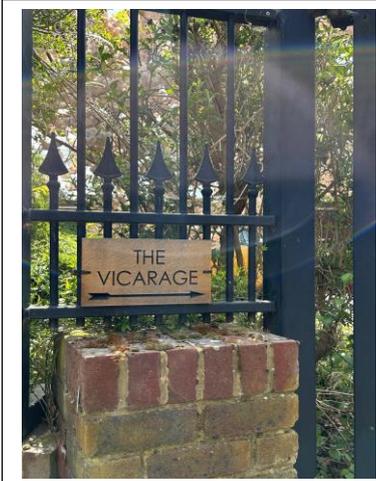
Challenge	Description	Response
		<i>Archdeacon of Rochester would be happy to discuss the plans for this with any candidates.</i>
Complexity of set-up at St Edmund's	<p>St Edmund's historic financial and contractual challenges have drawn a lot of focus for incumbent and Benefice PCC.</p> <p>As a result, the distinctive strengths and challenges of St Alban's have not always received as much leadership time and attention.</p> <p>The partnership arrangements at the 'Living Well' (St Edmund's, GP practice and KCC-funded social care partner/s) are complicated and now require some 'unpicking' and 'resetting'. For example, the GP practice has stalled for some years to pay its full share of the lease charges and has taken over use of spaces beyond what it is contractually entitled to. There have been frustrations with the agents appointed by the Diocese to manage the building.</p>	<p>St Alban's, apparently the stronger of the two churches financially, has supported St Edmund's economically during crisis periods and has been very understanding about the unequal focus of incumbent and PCC time and attention on St Edmund's.</p> <p>The Benefice's Standing Committee has liaised closely with representatives of the Diocese to keep things moving forward and is committed to keeping up the necessary pressure on the agents and the GP practice, while retaining the best achievable working relationship with them.</p>
Problems with fabric and fittings of building	<p>St Edmund's, though a fairly new building, has some serious fabric issues, especially several leaks in the roof. The construction company who built it have gone out of business and getting things fixed has proved extremely difficult.</p>	<p>We have sought expert advice from the Diocese about contractors to repair and maintain the building.</p>
Safeguarding and responding to people in distress / with complex needs	<p>People with complex and high levels of need, including homelessness and acute mental health problems, turn to us for help.</p> <p>People in a high state of distress can pose a risk to the safety of others in the building and/or damage to the fabric. Helping them can take a lot of time and focus for people contracted for other roles (e.g. caretaking and centre administration).</p> <p>We are not trained or resourced to meet acute material or psychological needs, except as an emergency very first response through welcome, basic material support and directing to local services. We have not found social services very helpful.</p>	<p>The PCC receive Safeguarding reports at every PCC meeting, and all PCC members are DBS checked.</p> <p>We work closely with the police in situations of acute need and have partnered with Porchlight (local homelessness charity) and have good relationships with Dartford Healthy Living Centre, Temple Hill Youth Club (v close to St Edmund's) and Home-Start Northwest Kent.</p> <p>In urgent situations when we can't get other support, we have the contact number for person who used to run the winter shelter, and we also work with and through our local councillors to resolve problems.</p>

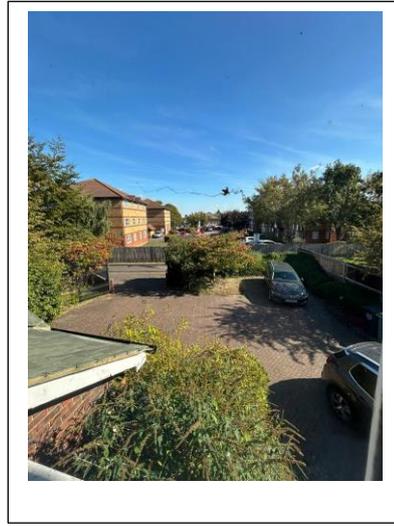
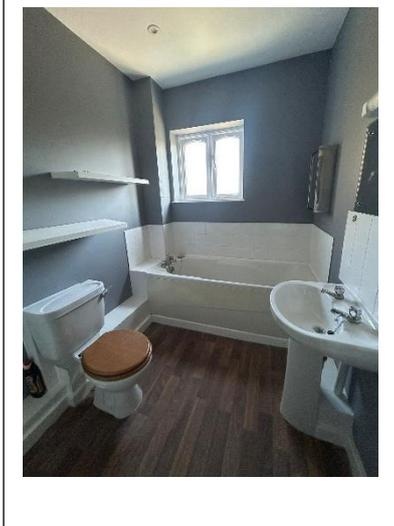
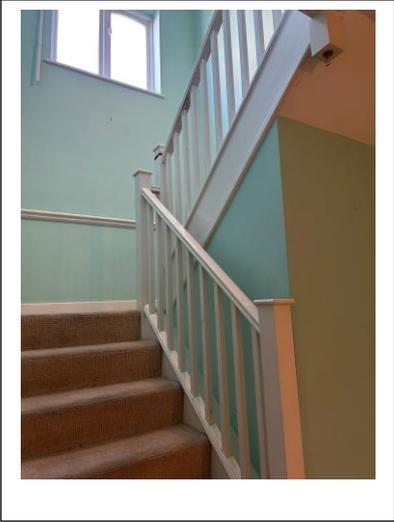
Challenge	Description	Response
	<p>At times, the staffing in the buildings is minimal (lone working). In the past, we experienced an act of religiously motivated vandalism and have few people willing and available to lock up St Edmund's at the end of the day.</p> <p>Despite energetic reminders and support of Safeguarding Officers, slow / patchy uptake of mandatory diocese safeguarding training across the PCC.</p>	<p>People who have turned to us in acute material need occasionally come to services and we try to be welcoming, providing something to eat and drink and occasionally draw on a very small hardship fund.</p> <p>Front-facing volunteers at 'Living Well' (café and public areas) and members of congregation offered opportunity to do online safeguarding training, and we have begun to explore mental health and wellbeing training provided free by Mind in collaboration with Kent County Council.</p> <p>Although we have scaled down our own direct giving of food (foodbank), we have a very close and positive relationship with the Dartford Foodbank. When we could not get enough statutory support to respond to someone who was very distressed and spread blood on the walls of the disabled toilet, we kept our toilets locked for a long period of time but worked with our caretakers to make it possible to reopen facilities.</p>
<p>Income and financial management</p>	<p>Income following our strategy of prioritising community-focused lets does not fully cover the costs of keeping St Edmund's open.</p> <p>Our financial reporting, especially in relation to St Edmund's is complex and we do not have any in-house experts with professional accounting training.</p>	<p>We take pragmatic decisions about managing our finances including temporary cancellation of contribution to Diocesan Offer for St Edmund's.</p> <p>The Parish and Centre Administrator has worked extremely closely with the diocesan Finance Team to get our accounts in order.</p>
<p>Human Resource</p>	<p>Things run smoothly but not with spare capacity. A very small team of people, including the clergy, bear the burden for most of the work at the two churches and we have a great many jobs that we need help with e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up and hospitality for the Toddler groups • Giving lifts to church • Running Sunday School • Setting up or cleaning up after church • Doing the sound and tech during service 	<p>The highly valued Retired Canon who leads many of our services has worked tirelessly not only to maintain our regular service pattern but also to spearhead outreach initiatives, like the Anna Chaplaincy and the Community Café at St Alban's.</p>

Challenge	Description	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping with the website • Watering pot plants • Helping with Refreshments after church <p>The Benefice has faced a lot of 'loss' in its clergy leadership due to retirement and relocation.</p> <p>We would like to partner more closely with some local churches, but, in practice lack of human resource to comply with the Diocesan regulatory requirements to enable this to happen has hindered some collaboration.</p>	<p>We have rationalised the service pattern by having combined Sunday services every week, alternating between the two church buildings.</p> <p>Lay people lead some services, including our stalwart Lay Reader, Deanery Synod and Safeguarding Rep, as well as a member of the congregation authorised to preach up to six times a year and a young man discerning a vocation to ordained ministry.</p> <p>Lay people lead a wide range of activities, with clergy taking the lead 'spiritual formation' activities.</p>
Parking	<p>Parking is quite limited around St Alban's during the week. There is sufficient on-street parking around St Edmund's for now, but it could be a pressure point in the future, especially for people with mobility problems.</p>	<p>Local residents tend to know where the most likely parking spots are. The school opposite St Alban's let us park there on Sundays</p>
Inclusivity	<p>The benefice fully supports the blessing of same-sex unions and look forward to the day when we can celebrate same-sex marriages.</p>	
Hiring/Lettings at both churches	<p>We hire space and rooms as available at both churches but not without challenges e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapel not available most days at St E's • Locking up at St E's if caretaker is away • Hall usage for toddler group and Over 60's at St E's – this may change • Hiring at weekends depends on availability of someone to open/close • Hiring needs to be affordable 	<p>St Alban's evening hirers are given a key to lock up unfortunately this is not possible at St Edmund's.</p> <p>Hire fees for charities and/or regular hirers can be negotiated.</p> <p>Always open for new hirer discussions.</p>

8. The Vicarage

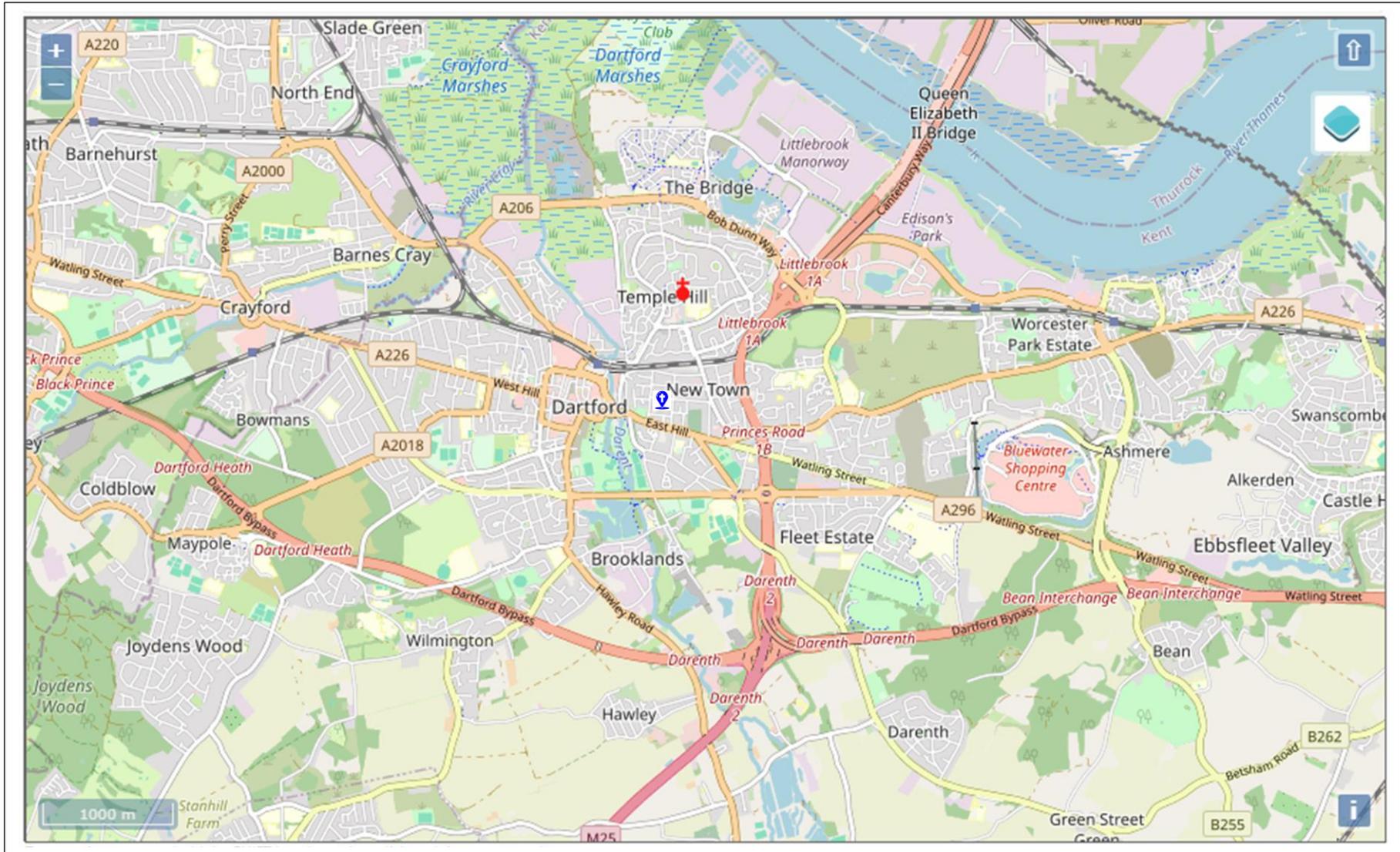
The vicarage is an airy, modern, 4-bedroom house next door to St Edmund's. It has a kitchen, office, and toilet downstairs. Upstairs has the bedrooms (one ensuite) and a family bathroom. Flooring is a combination of laminate and carpeting. There is garden with mature flowering trees, ample parking and a double garage.





Appendices

A. Map



<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/church-heritage-record-dartford-st-edmund-the-king-martyr-631094#Location>

B. Community support through use of our buildings

Partner = Service deliverer through our premises with whom we collaborate to meet local needs

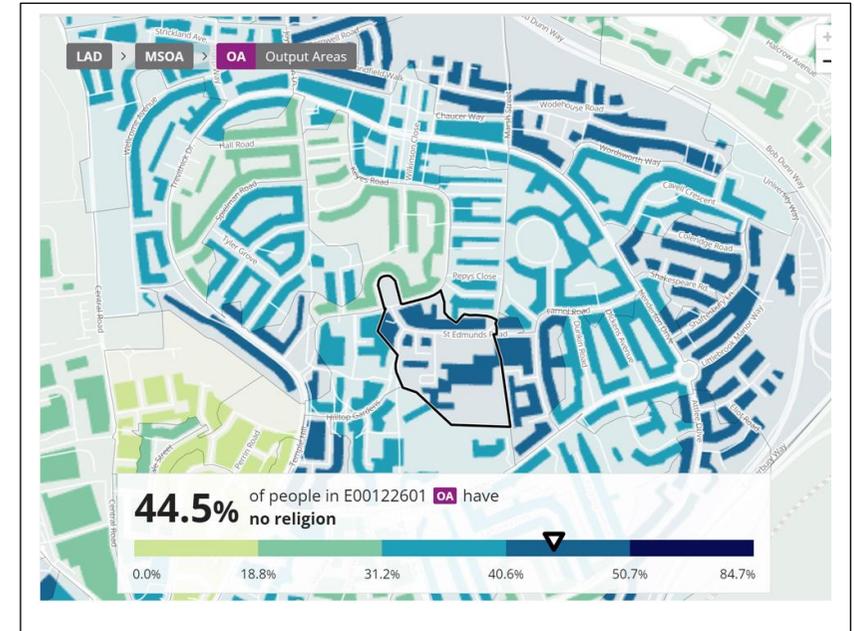
DBC = Dartford Borough Council

Activity	Church run	Hirer	Partner	Physical Health & Fitness	Babies, Children, Young People	Mental health/ Reducing Loneliness/ Substance Misuse	Arts, Crafts, Creative	Older People	Neuro-diverg./ SEN	Homeless-ness	Information, advice & guidance	Connects to	Space Hired
Stepping Stones Toddler Group (St A's)	✓				✓								STA/Church
Little Edz (St E's)	✓				✓								STE/Hall
Community Café (St E's) (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)	✓					✓							STE/Café
Community Café (St A's)	✓					✓							STA/Church
Men's Breakfast (monthly)	✓					✓							STA/Kitchen annex
Over 60's, inc. lunch & bingo (Thurs) (St E's)	✓					✓		✓					STE Lunch/Hall Bingo/Church
Steady, Strong & Able (every other Thurs)	✓			✓		✓		✓					STE/Church
NHS Temple Hill Doctors Surgery		✓	✓	✓							✓	Living Well Centre + Porchlight	
Porchlight Health Hub		✓	✓							✓	✓	Foodbank + DBC + Barber Van + HEP C Testing + Kent Association for the Blind + Dentistry	STE/Corner Office/Car Park
KCC Family Hubs		✓	✓		✓						✓	Living Well Centre	
Dartford Larder		✓	✓	✓							✓	Grants + DBC	
Sensory Sees SEN Tuition		✓	✓		✓						✓		STE/Hall STA/Office
Dartford Borough Council		✓	✓								✓	Porchlight + Foodbank + Grants	

Local Councillors' Surgeries		✓	✓								✓		STE/Café STA/Church
Babyslings (for new parents)		✓			✓								STE/Café
Brownies & Rainbows		✓			✓								STA/Church
Karate		✓		✓	✓								STA/Church
N/A		✓				✓							STA/Church
Family Matters		✓			✓	✓							STE/Chapel
We Are With You		✓				✓							STE/Chapel
Counselling (Private)		✓				✓							STE/Chapel
Maths with Shiva		✓			✓								STE/Chapel
Zumba		✓		✓									STE/Church
Keep Fit		✓		✓									STE/Hall
Slimming World		✓		✓							✓		STE/Church
Knit & Natter		✓				✓	✓	✓					STA/Church
Kindness Community		✓				✓							STE/Church
HomeStart NW Kent		✓			✓						✓		STA/Church
ADHD Group		✓							✓		✓		STA/Church
Hi Kent (Hearing Aid Maintenance)		✓		✓				✓					STE/Chapel
Activity	Church run	Hirer	Partner	Physical Health & Fitness	Babies, Children, Young People	M. health/ Reducing Loneliness/ Subst. Mis.	Arts, Crafts, Creative	Older People	Neuro-diverg./ SEN	Homeless-ness	Information, advice & guidance	Connects to	Space hired

Demographic profile of the Benefice

	Bridge	Temple Hill	Newtown	Fleet Estate
Population	4400	9300	6100	2750
Number of households	1500	3700	2400	
Age profile in 2022				
0-4	11.5	7.1	7.5	
5-9	12.6	7.7	7.0	
10-14	8.8	8.6	6.6	
15-19	4.2	6.5	5.3	
20-24	2.4	5.0	5.0	
25-29	6.6	7.7	6.6	
30-34	11.5	8.6	8.5	
35-39	14.6	8.1	9.1	
40-44	12.4	7.4	8.4	
45-49	7.7	6.9	6.1	
50-54	3.4	6.2	7.3	
55-59	2.1	6.1	6.3	
60-64	<1%	4.2	4.7	
65-69	<1%	3.4	3.6	
70-74	<1%	2.4	2.7	
75-79	<1%	1.5	2.3	
80-84	<1%	1.2	1.3	
85+	<1%	1.4	0.9	
Sex				
Live births in 2023	54	87	68	
Deaths	0	56	24	
Legal partnership status				
Country of birth				
In UK	62%	78	74	
Outside UK	38%	22	26	



Household size (4 or more)	37%	25%	24%	
Household deprivation				
Deprived in one dimension	21.6%	35%	34%	
Deprived in two dimensions	4.0%	21%	13%	
Deprived in three dimensions	0.1%	6%	3%	
Deprived in four dimensions	0.0%	1%	0.20%	
In employment	84%	60%	67%	
Unemployed	3%	5%	4%	
Economically inactive	14%	37%	29%	
Not worked in last 12 months	39%	55%	60%	
Never worked	36%	31%	25%	
Ethnic Group				
Asian	18	9	12	
Black	28	13	12	
Mixed	5	4	4	
White	46	72	69	
Other	4	2	3	
Religion				
None	26%	38	34	
Christian	48%	48	48	
Hindu	9%	3	4	
Muslim	9%	3	4	
Sikh			3	
Disabled	5%	19	14	
Accommodation Type				
House	72	63	86	
Flat/maisonette/Apartment	28%	37	15	

Local extremes

We can also examine the gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods in each local authority, to see which have the greatest gaps between the extremes.



Range and population weighted average of income deprivation levels for neighbourhoods within Dartford

In the **least deprived** neighbourhood in Dartford, **1.9% of people** are estimated to be income-deprived. In the **most deprived** neighbourhood, **30.0% of people** are estimated to be income-deprived. The gap between these two, which we will call internal disparity, is **28.1 percentage points** in Dartford. We also know the **overall income deprivation** score for Dartford is **9.5%**.

For a general introduction to Dartford, see:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dartford>

For school performance league tables, search GOV.UK for 'All schools and colleges in Dartford'

Fun Fact

Rolling Stones front man,
Mick Jagger, was
baptised at St Alban's!



East Dartford Benefice
 St Edmund &
 St Alban
www.2dartfordchurches.org

