

The Team Parish of Chigwell & Chigwell Row in the Diocese Chelmsford, Barking Episcopal Area

Team Rector - Rev'd Ben King

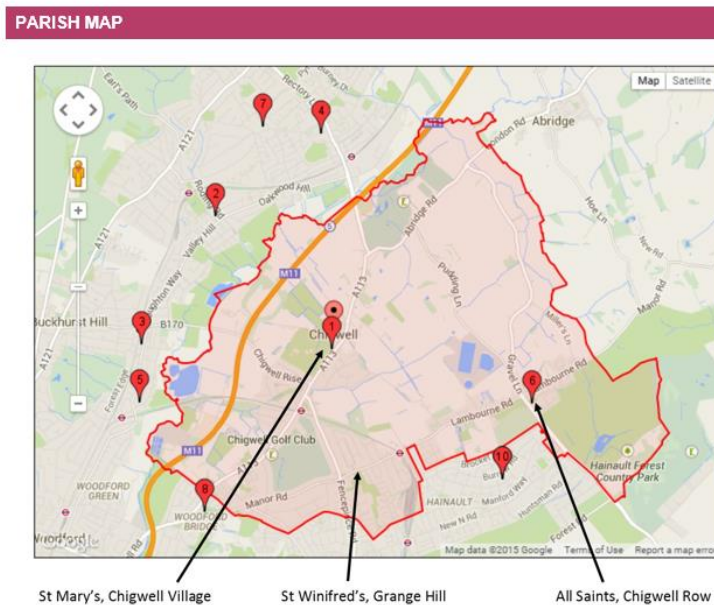
The context

The Parish of Chigwell and Chigwell Row is a suburban area, 30 minutes Underground ride to Central London whilst also bordering Epping Forest. It has a population of 14,300 (2011 census). It is an area of great diversity of ethnicity, age, culture and faith. Whilst the area is roughly at the mid-point on the Index of Multiple Deprivation List, it is held in that position by averaging areas of affluence with areas of great deprivation.

There is one senior school, two junior schools and three infant schools, together with a public all-through school.

Detailed information from the last census is available in the parish spotlight:

<http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/pdfs/02.02.pdf>



The Churches

Three: St Mary's, All Saints, and St Winifred's

In all three churches, Sunday services follow a pattern of Holy Communion alternating with Morning Worship, one of the latter being a Parade service. These services are based on the Common Worship liturgy. Additionally, St Mary's has an earlier Sunday morning service from the Book of Common Prayer. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month and for four weeks during the summer, the churches all meet together for a united Holy Communion service.

TABLE OF SERVICE PATTERNS

	SM 9:15	SM 10:45	AS	SW
1 st Sun	HC CW	Parade	Parade	Parade
2 nd Sun	Sung HC	HC CW	HC	HC
3 rd Sun	Said HC	HC CW	MW	MW
4 th Sun	Matins BCP	MW	HC	HC

A typical month; united services are held on 5th Sundays and during the summer. Parade may move occasionally to fit in with Mothering Sunday, Harvest etc.

St Mary's

The earlier, 9:15am, is more traditional and normally follows the Book of Common Prayer, both for Holy Communion and Matins. There is a robed choir and organist. The later service, at 10:45am, follows Common Worship. Family Communion normally happens twice a month and Morning Worship or All Age Worship with Church Parade on other Sundays. Musical lead is given by a small worship group.

All Saints

Worship is led by a small worship group of singers, with piano and organ for both traditional hymns and more modern worship songs.

St Winifred's

Most charismatic of all three churches in style of worship, having a talented worship group (including a young member who plays drums when appropriate) with an emphasis on contemporary songs.

Electoral roll number(s): 228 in total

(St Mary's 109, All Saints 58, St Winifred's 61)

Prior to 1994, the Parish of Chigwell and the Parish of Chigwell Row were separate. Chigwell (St Mary's and St Winifred's) was staffed by the Rector and a Vicar, and was run as a single entity with a combined church fund. Chigwell Row (All Saints) ran as an entirely independent parish.

After unification, there were three stipendiary clergy serving three churches. St Winifred's, until then the daughter church of St Mary's, became more independent with its own church account. As each church had its own clergy, pastoral oversight was easily allocated.

Since 2010, there has only been one Team Vicar, sharing duties with the Team Rector for all three churches, although recently we have had the services of a Curate. When the Team Vicar leaves, the role will cease. Having been able to retain a post for a second full-time minister at

this time, we realise the responsibility that falls on the team to support neighbouring parishes who are less well-staffed.

Usual Sunday attendance is as follows:

St Mary's 9.15: 30-40 adults

St Mary's 10.45: 35-45 adults and 3-10 children

All Saints' 9.30: 35-45 adults and 2-5 children

St Winifred's 11.15: 40-50 adults and 20-30 children

Parade across all three churches: numbers rise by about 15%, but attendance of our uniformed groups is quite erratic.

Occasional Offices:

Approximate numbers p.a. of baptisms, weddings, and funerals:

Baptisms 10

Weddings 14

Funerals 45

Pattern of daily offices:

Morning Prayer takes place in St Winifred's on Tuesdays, St Mary's on Wednesdays and All Saints on Thursdays. Preceding one of the services is a more informal weekly prayer meeting, alternating between venues for a few months at a time.

Staff or team members:

Team Rector:	Rev'd Ben King
Team Vicar:	Rev'd Paula Preston
Licensed Lay Minister:	Stephen Potts
Authorised Local Preacher:	Bill Darke
Parish Office:	Karen Fleming
Clergy PA:	Sandie Forshaw

Lay involvement

We believe strongly in every member ministry. All aspects of worship, including leading the service, preaching, and leading intercessions, are undertaken by lay members; we wish to see more people released into their gifts for God's service. Lay people also lead children's work, home groups, prayer groups and "fresh expressions" style outreach like Cafe Church.

House, study and prayer groups

There are 6 home groups currently with plans for two parish-wide groups to begin shortly.

Parochial organisations

All of the churches are involved in either or both of the Scouting and Girlguiding movements. Each has a nursery (St Mary's is CofE, the other two are private). The halls are hired out to many and various organisations during the week. We have also hosted the Course in Christian Studies in previous years.

Areas of particular mission and ministry of parish(es) (e.g. schools, hospitals, industry, prison, youth, elderly people, single parents, homeless, healing):

Our LLM is a part-time hospital chaplain at two local hospitals and conducts monthly communion services at two of our old people's homes. Operation Valentine is a group of dedicated Christians who provide food and fellowship to the homeless of Ilford every Saturday evening from October to March.

Particular future plans already established

We are looking to introduce a more contemporary monthly evening service with an emphasis on personal ministry. We also hope to introduce some kind of men's fellowship, possibly monthly breakfasts.

We were part of the local Churches Together group until it was disbanded. There are tentative plans to gather the leaders of local churches together for regular prayer.

Vision and Priorities

One of our churches has experienced vigorous growth in the past few years and its involvement in the locality has also increased. It sees itself as integral to the community and is in a buoyant state. A very elderly demographic at another church is cause for concern, but children's work and mission activities are underway to bring fresh hope and new life and this has served as a boon to people's confidence about the future. The third church is well-resourced with established links in the community, but feels somewhat sidelined and introspective. Redressing this is a long-term goal.

In brief, mission is becoming more of a priority all the while. The church is committed to building on existing relationships in order to reach out to the lost whilst also setting up fresh expressions to introduce new people to Christ. Our annual mission weekends (introduced in 2014) have also reinforced the importance of mission as part of our identity as God's people.

God has given us a wonderful vision for unity among the three churches. It is clear from Scripture that when God's people come together, powerful things happen. We have spent considerable time on Sunday mornings and in home groups looking at unity itself, relationship-building, prayer and discipleship in order to forge a closer bond among the three churches. In turn, this has led to a number of new initiatives within the life of the church. Admittedly, there are some more recalcitrant members of the PCC, but largely people are on board.

What is the likely role of the curate in future plans?

Clearly, there are a number of requirements that need to be met and I would make these a priority. The 'likely role' rather depends on the curate's skill set, gifting, experience and vocation as well as the needs of the parish at the time. I am open to suggestions and the leading of the Holy Spirit!

Accommodation 4 bedroomed detached house