



Parish Profile



**The Cross Stands Steady
in a Changing World**

October 2025

Registered Charity: 1155128 (England and Wales)

Thank you for your interest in the role of Rector of Holy Cross Greenford Magna. I am delighted that you are exploring the possibility of applying for this role and I want you to know that there are many of us here in the Willesden Episcopal Area who are praying for those seeking to discern God's calling in this area.



As a Diocese, London has an audacious and ambitious vision to see every Londoner able to encounter the love of God in Christ. To serve this vision, we have committed ourselves to be churches that engender leadership that will nurture people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith among those with whom they do life Sunday to Saturday. We want to foster the emergence of a church that is visibly and meaningfully loving her neighbours. We wish to see a church landscape of ever-increasing varied configuration with new worshipping communities emerging in new and different ways alongside inherited ministry within parishes. We also hold to the aspiration of building church communities that will reflect the rich diversity of our city, welcoming all people across ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritages, and safe places where we enable younger generations to flourish alongside others.

As an Episcopal Area we aspire to enable innovative expressions of ministry, actively partnering with our schools, chaplaincies and Fresh Expressions of Church. We pray for these church communities to be intentionally intergenerational, intercultural, and missional. It has been encouraging to explore and develop new opportunities for the resourcing and revitalisation of mission and ministry across the Area. As you discern whether you are called to minister in Willesden, you will need a healthy dose of enthusiasm about being part of this fluid landscape.

Here in the Willesden Episcopal Area, we have been blessed with a rich diversity in theological and liturgical traditions. These have come with some remarkable examples of partnership and mutual support in mission and ministry across church traditions.

For the right candidate, there is the possibility that I will also invite them to take on additional responsibility across the Episcopal Area. This is part of our commitment to better resource our shared mission and ministry, and release particular gifts brought by those God sends to us in Willesden.

If this is something that you find exciting and daunting, then perhaps God is calling you to this role. Please keep reading, and if you need more insight into this parish and the Episcopal Area, do get in touch for an informal chat.

Yours in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '+ Lusa Willesden'.

Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy
Bishop of Willesden

Archdeacon of Northolt

A Letter from the Archdeacon

I am delighted to be able to commend to you the role of Rector of Holy Cross Greenford Magna.

The parish of Holy Cross is a diverse and exciting place to live and work. It is well connected by public transport, which contributes to the sense of it being a place where many cultures meet. I have met with the PCC and been involved with leading worship and have found them to be an engaged and motivated congregation, willing to listen to one another and provide active leadership. They are proud of both of their two churches and celebrate and care for each as different expressions of who they are. When you access the relevant section of their website, don't miss the video they made of their parish, helping showcase its geography and opportunities.

There is a complexity to the housing situation at Holy Cross which I need to share with you. You will initially move into the current vicarage which is large and in extensive grounds. The plan is that, during your time as Rector, a new vicarage will be built in the grounds and you will move into it during your time as Rector. It will be easier to picture when you visit the site, but the new vicarage will be far enough away from the old one for the works not to be unduly disruptive. The current Rectory will then be sold with a restrictive covenant which will ensure it is converted rather than demolished.

Ealing Deanery is (arguably) the largest in the country and holds within it a wide variety of Church traditions. The chapter meets regularly and is ably led by David Neno, the area dean and Julia Jagannath, assistant area dean.

If you would value an informal conversation about this post and/or about the housing, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at archdeacon.northolt@london.anglican.org.

With every blessing for your discernment journey



Catherine Pickford

Catherine Pickford
Archdeacon of Northolt

We have welcomed this opportunity to look at where we are as a church and, more importantly, how we would like to move forward.

We are looking for a Rector who will provide leadership and work with us to achieve our aspirations to:

Provide opportunities for people to further their journey of faith

Grow and energise the congregation

Continue to make our church a safe and welcoming space

Develop our work with young people

Revitalise our use of music in the liturgy

Help us to take our place at the heart of the community

Grow our committed giving and find new ways to fund the maintenance and development of our buildings

Make better use of our buildings as a community space

Make our buildings more energy efficient, and environmentally sustainable

Build on our links to organisations and other places of worship to make a greater contribution to the life of Greenford

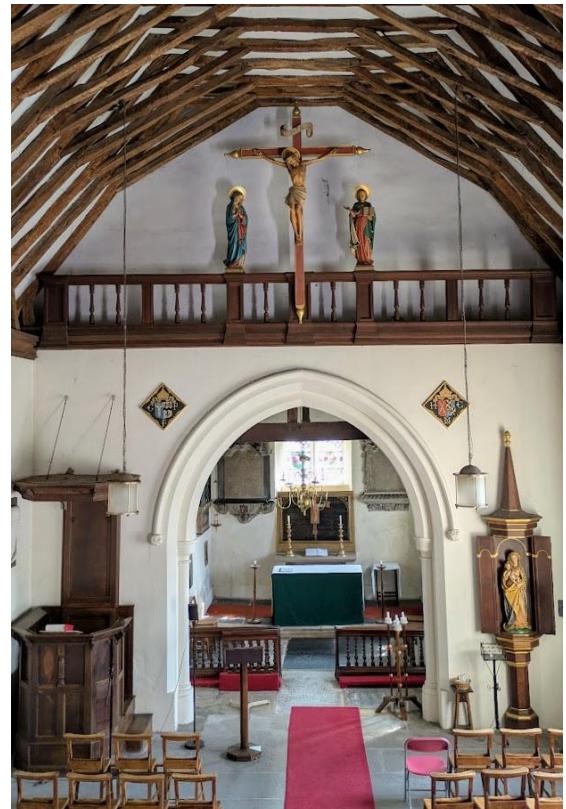
We Are Holy Cross Greenford

On Sunday mornings the church doors are open to welcome the people of Greenford to a celebration of the Eucharist in the liberal Catholic tradition with incense, bells, servers and music.

As disciples of Jesus we try to follow his example of love and tolerance in our relationships with all we meet. There is a sense that we are sympathetic to the Living in Love and Faith process that the Church of England is taking to listen, learn and respond to changing views in society towards the inclusion of all regardless of identity sexuality, relationships and marriage, but as a PCC and a congregation we have yet to formally engage with this process.

Our two church buildings stand side by side and both are used regularly for worship. Each has its own distinctive character. The Old Church promotes a sense of stillness and calm, a place for reflection and prayer.

The New Church, by contrast, is the place where many people can come together in celebration of the great festivals of the Faith throughout the year – Midnight Mass, Easter Sunday, Education Sunday in February, Confirmation in the summer and our Feast of Title in September. Throughout the year children, staff and parents of Edward Betham school fill the church for their school masses. We also host joyful weddings and big funerals where lives well lived are remembered.



The closure of churches during Covid forced us to go outside, and we moved our Sunday worship to the churchyard. We enjoyed this very much and even had Midnight mass in the churchyard, which was magical! The 'al fresco' service is now how we worship during August and the churchyard is now our third place of worship.

After the 2025 revision we have 81 people on the Electoral roll. Our congregation comes from a variety of cultures, nationalities and Christian traditions. We embrace our differences and enjoy the diversity when we come together not only for worship, but also for social events. At a bring-and-share lunch you will find a variety of foods including quiche, sausage rolls, couscous, jollof rice and curry. We regularly share home baked cakes at our parish breakfast on Sunday mornings. Being able to 'break bread together' is very important to us.



The New Church is also the main church hall, licensed for use for social events, including our popular quiz nights and the festive Christmas market.

In the following pages we provide more information about the church, its people and the parish. We also set out our aspirations for the future.

More information about parish life can be found on our website, along with a video tour of our churches and the surrounding area.

<https://greenfordmagna.info/>



Christmas market in the New Church



Celebrating Holy Cross Day in the Parish Room

**Are you the person we're looking for?
Can you help us to deepen our faith, celebrate our diversity and grow our congregation?**

Promote and live the life of Jesus

Currently our regular worship consists of two services on a Sunday, one a Said Mass at 8am, the other a Sung Mass at 9.30am. The average attendance at these services in 2024 was 54 adults and 6 children.

Booklets with a Mass text for each liturgical season, based on Common Worship, are used. Masses for major feast days are usually celebrated on the Sunday nearest to the date if this occurs on a weekday, using specially written texts. Holy Week, Easter & Christmas are celebrated with a full range of services. Total attendance at Easter 2024 was 161, and Christmas 221.



A team of servers, adults and children, participate in the sung masses. A small choir leads the sung worship. We use a number of mass settings, including ones specially written for Holy Cross Church by a previous organist. Professional musicians play on Sunday mornings, usually the piano, although there are working organs in both churches.

At all masses, members of the congregation participate in the liturgy, through reading the lessons, leading intercessions, and administering the chalice.

Baptisms are celebrated at the 9.30 Mass or privately in the Old Church. There were five baptisms in 2024. Wedding and funeral services can be arranged for either church. There were four funerals but no weddings in 2024. So far this year we have had two weddings.



Bible study, prayer meetings and 'adult Sunday schools' have been a feature of church life in the recent past, but have not been revived since Covid. Members of the congregation welcome the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the faith and to pray together. Recently, during the current vacancy, weekday prayers and bible study have been re-introduced.

Can you help us to:

Broaden the range of our worship?

Provide opportunities for people to further their journey of faith?

Revitalise our use of music in the liturgy?

Jesus welcomes you all

As a church community we are very conscious that fewer young people attend church now than previously - and there may be many reasons for this - and we would love to see our services full of children and their families each week. In order to do this we need to identify what young people need from us. There is some money from a legacy for work with young people which is available to further this ambition.

We currently have regular All-Age Masses involving young people in presentation, readings and prayers. The 9th Greenford Scouts also take part in these. Children are also encouraged to assist in the 9.30 baptism services.

There is an area in the church with quiet activities for parents and younger children during the service.

The Children's Nativity, performed at 4pm on Christmas Eve, has a regular following and is one of our Christmas highlights.

Children and adults are prepared for confirmation each year and a service usually takes place at Holy Cross Church.



**Can you help us to:
Develop our work with children and young people?
Make use of the legacy to grow our work?**

Trusting in Jesus, caring for others

We take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Key elements include fostering a culture of accountability, and implementing clear procedures for managing allegations and supporting survivors. We work with "Promoting a Safer Church" Policy, to maintain a safer environment for all. We aim to respond sensitively to others needs to keep them safe from harm and to practice Christ's ministry compassionately towards children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Our Safeguarding Officer, a member of the PCC, ensures that the PCC are kept up to date with the requirements of the Diocese Safeguarding team.

- We complete DBS checks for all PCC members and other congregation members as appropriate.
- We ensure safer recruitment practices are adhered to when recruiting paid and unpaid workers.
- PCC members carry out the necessary safeguarding training
- We display information on our responsibilities and where to seek help.
- Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed by the PCC
- An annual audit and policy review is carried out with the Rector.



We understand that Safeguarding is an ongoing process, which is the responsibility of everyone.

**Can you help us to
Ensure that our churches continue to be safe places for all who use them?**

Grow with Jesus, Grow like Jesus

Within the parish we have four primary schools and one high school. Edward Betham C of E Primary school is very much a part of the Holy Cross family. Junior, Infant and whole school masses take place in the New Church each term, and a Mass for the school staff takes place in September at the start of the academic year. The PCC appoint three members of the Governing Board.

The headteacher has provided us with her thoughts on this relationship:

“Partnership with The Edward Betham Church of England Primary School

The relationship between Holy Cross Church and The Edward Betham CofE Primary School is one of historic depth. Founded in 1780 by Edward Betham (the then Rector of Holy Cross), the school continues to be a natural extension of our parish mission: nurturing young hearts and minds in the Christian faith.

The rector of Holy Cross serves ex officio on the school's governing board and plays an active pastoral role: leading whole-school Masses, participating in the spiritual life of the school community, and fostering a visible, encouraging presence for both staff and pupils. Members of the school community are invited to join Sunday worship at different points during the year.

On a weekly basis throughout the year, children come to the church for prayer and reflection: a chance to pause in a sacred space, and explore what faith and spirituality mean to them.

This is a rich opportunity to deepen the connection between church and school, to walk alongside children and families, and to share the gospel in ways that are rooted, relational and alive with possibility.”

More information about the school can be found on their website
<https://www.edwardbetham.ealing.sch.uk/>



The Victorian clock tower building, now home to the Infants at Edward Betham



The Betham Trust is a registered charity which exists to administer the financial legacy of Edward Betham. The Rector is an ex-officio trustee, and the remaining trustees are drawn mainly from the congregation at Holy Cross. Its income is about £3,500 per annum which is used in different ways to support the life of the school. It also appoints governors to the school. There are three other local primary schools within the parish, with which we have strong links. Pupils either visit the church or the Rector visits the school as part of their religious education and talks to them about various aspects of the Christian faith. The Q and A Sessions tend to be quite lively with very interesting questions!



Can you help us to:

Expand our work with young people to enhance their faith beyond what they experience in school?

Maintain our close relationship with Edward Betham School?

Nurture our community through Jesus

The 9th Greenford Scouts have been attached to Holy Cross Church since their inception. There are currently 3 sections - Beavers, Cub Scouts, and Scouts. They meet in their own hut which is situated on church land at the rear of the New Church. The Scouts parade their flags at some All-Age services where they help lead the worship.

The Community Centre faces the churches on the opposite side of Oldfield Lane South and forms part of a group of historic properties in this part of Greenford. It is currently the base for AgeUK Ealing, but it also makes its rooms available for other organisations.

The church is a collection point for the Ealing Foodbank.

Greenford Parochial Charities is a charity administered by Holy Cross Church. The Rector and Church wardens are trustees. Other trustees are appointed by the church. In recent years they have supported Salvation Army and Homestart with monetary donations.



The church choir and other members of the congregation have for many years sung carols at Christmas at Greenford station for charity.

Holy Cross Church joins with the Greenford British Legion and the Scouts to plan the annual Remembrance Day parade and service at the Greenford War Memorial which is led by the Rector and involves clergy from other denominations.

Local churches also combine on Good Friday for a walk of witness with Stations of the Cross, starting at Our Lady of the Visitation and ending at Holy Cross Church where prayers are said and refreshments served.

There are good links with two local care homes which are regularly visited by the clergy. The choir has sung carols for residents and carers for several years.

Can you help us to:

Build on those links with local organisations and local churches to become a vital part of our local community?

Opening Doors to Jesus and the people of Greenford

Greenford Magna Parish has two churches situated south of the A40 in an area of Oldfield Lane that still reflects some of the character of the old village. The Old Church is a Grade I listed medieval building, much modified over the years but still used for services on a regular basis. It has some fine Tudor stained glass.

The striking New Church, built during World War II, is Grade II* listed and included in “100 churches, 100 years”. Within its timber-framed barn-like structure is a large flexible open space that can accommodate hundreds of worshippers or all the children of Edward Betham school.

The church has a small parish room, with attached play area, a kitchen and toilets, which is available for hire. Currently, the Parish Room is let Monday to Friday for a nursery and a brass band rehearse there on Thursday evenings. A Rainbows group meets in the parish room on Mondays.

We would love to be able to use the new church more regularly for other activities, however, it is challenging and expensive to heat in winter. We would welcome the opportunity to develop a creative scheme to reshape the church's interior to better meet modern needs.

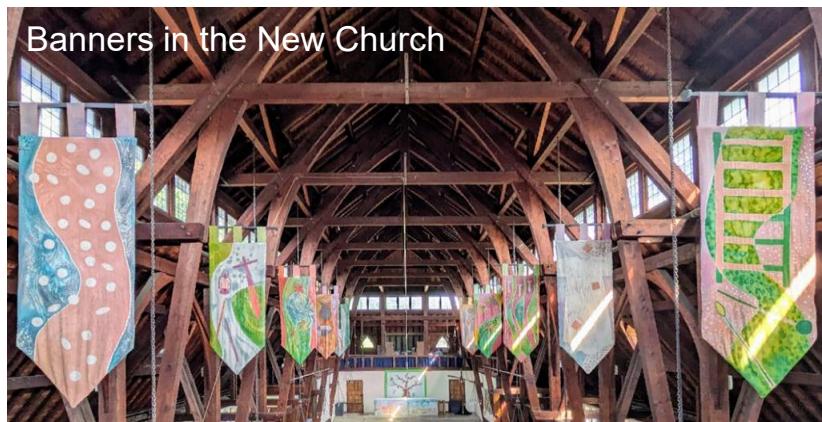
The churchyard has been closed for some years and since 2010 it is maintained by Ealing Council. There is a garden of remembrance set aside for the burial of ashes.



The two churches are next to each other



The Old Church



**Can you help us to
Reorganise the interior of the New Church to create spaces for worship and for
use by the local community?**

The fabric of our buildings

Our two churches are both a blessing and a challenge to us.

Both are in a reasonable state of repair, but the 2023 Quinquennial Inspection identified a number of areas for action in the short to medium term of which the major and most pressing one is the retiling of the south facing roof of the old church where there is a lot of tile slippage.

We also need to consider better fire protection in both churches.

Our buildings team keeps a close eye on maintenance and carries out minor repairs as necessary.

Heating is a major issue in the New Church which lacks insulation and relies on a series of gas heaters, which are both inefficient and costly to run. For this reason worship in the winter months mostly takes place in the Old Church. The current heaters in both buildings are old and will need to be replaced in the next few years, once a better more affordable heating system has been identified. We would like to engage with the Eco-Church strategy.

Whilst the parish has some financial reserves these would not be adequate to fund major works such as roof replacement and it is inevitable that external funding in the form of grants and/or loans will be required.



Can you help us to:

Make our buildings more energy efficient, and environmentally sustainable?

Finance and administration

Church Finance. In 2024 the church's income was £90,660 and its expenditure was £74,987, resulting in a surplus of £15,673.

The church has capital assets of £731,586, comprising a property which is not required as a clergy house, and is rented out, and other investments. These investments have been depleted in recent years by capital spending on the buildings. The rent from the house and the dividends on the investments yield around £21,000 per annum.

Planned giving and collections at services provides £34,000 of income. New members of the church are encouraged to join the committed giving scheme and to gift-aid their contributions. Some members of the congregation now give via card readers.

The Common Fund contribution in the current year is £45,000 and this will rise to £48,000 in 2026, the minimum amount requested by the Diocese, but we are ambitious to get nearer to the full costs of ministry.

The main financial challenges for the parish are the ongoing maintenance of two listed buildings, and the costs of heating the New Church.

At the end of 2024 the assets included £18,222 in restricted funds resulting from grants and legacies, including a sum of £13,027 which was gifted for work with children and young people.

Our Annual Report and Accounts for 2024 can be viewed at [Annual report 2024 – HOLY CROSS CHURCH](#)

Administration. Our experienced administrator works in a voluntary capacity from a desk in the west gallery, where the church's copier is also located. Wherever possible the PCC has reduced its dependence on paper and communicates electronically via shared folders on the cloud. Strict procedures are in place for the authorization of invoices, and nearly all the financial administration is carried out electronically with bills being paid either by direct debit/standing order or via BACs.

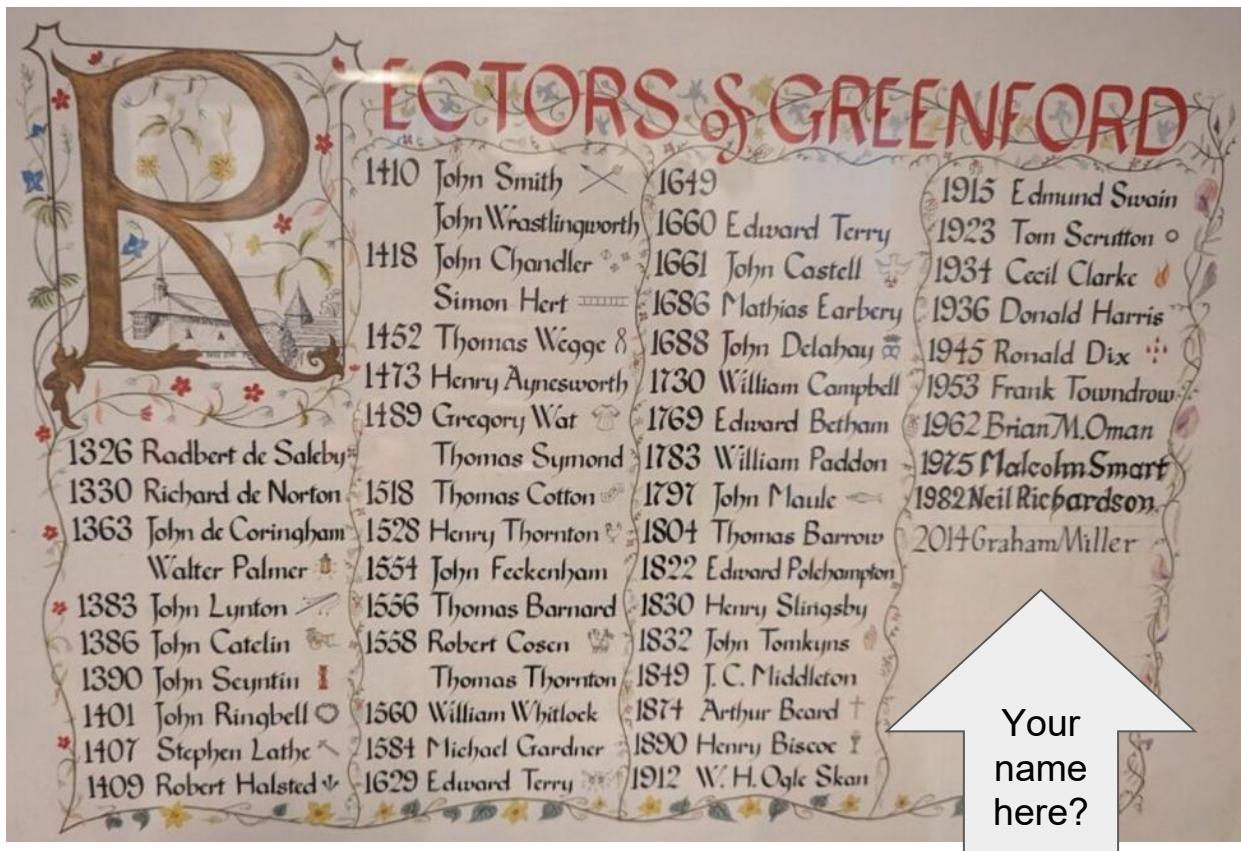


Can you help us to:

Grow the congregation and increase the level of committed giving to better meet our financial obligations?

Make the churches more energy efficient and thus reduce expenditure?

Are *you* who we are looking for?



This list of Rectors is on display in the Old Church, illustrating our history. Are you the person to lead us in the next chapter at Holy Cross?

Will you break bread with us, offering prayerful and focussed leadership, and working with us to serve our church and community?

Will you work with us to engage with our Church schools, uniformed organisations, and children and young people across the parish?

Will you empower and release lay leadership?

Are you committed to working alongside us to explore opportunities to encourage church growth in numbers, faith, and outreach?

We look forward to meeting you.

Appendix 1: The Rectory House

The Rectory is a large detached house surrounded by an extensive garden next to the churches. It was built 150 years ago on the site of an earlier building and is a typical building of its period. Part of the house is a flat with its own entrance and fenced-off garden let by the Diocese.

The Rectory is separated from the churchyard by a wooden fence and from Oldfield Lane South by a brick wall (with gate).

The Diocese has recently started to look at ways in which it can build a new carbon neutral parsonage in the grounds of the existing house in the next few years.



Appendix 2: The parish of Greenford Magna

Home is the ancient parish of Greenford Magna which lies in the west of the present London Borough of Ealing. Much of the area consists of suburban housing, but with a sizeable industrial/warehouse complex in the north-west. The parish is quartered by two major roads, the A40 running east to west and the Greenford Road from north to south. There is a major new housing development in north Greenford, Greenford Quay, partly in our parish and partly in the parish of All Hallows.

There are good transport links: Greenford Station provides access to the Central Line and the GWR branch line to West Ealing, and many bus routes pass through Greenford Broadway. Greenford Broadway is the main shopping area with more specialized shops at Westway Shopping Park. Smaller parades of local shops serve other parts of the parish.

Ealing is rated as one of the greenest London boroughs and Greenford is fortunate in having several parks and open spaces providing the opportunity for exercise and recreation including Rivenor Park and Perivale Park. The larger open spaces of Horsenden Hill and Northolt & Greenford Countryside Park are easily accessed.

There are six schools within the parish, four of them primary schools, as well as a school for children with autism and other special needs. There is one high school a few minutes' walk from the church.

There are good links with the local Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Salvation Army churches. The area also has a Hindu Mandir and Muslim mosque.

The population of the parish is 18,161 living in 6,389 households. The age distribution of the population is largely in line with that of England & Wales, but there are fewer people in their twenties and more retired people than the London average. Home language data, from Edward Betham school, shows 33% of pupils identify English as their family's first language, 11% Polish, and 10% Arabic out of a total of 50 different languages reported.

The ethnic mix of the local population is as varied as many other parts of London, with the number of white people being below the London and national averages. There is a significant Black, Asian and Middle-eastern population and the white population includes many people who have emigrated from eastern Europe. Their presence is reflected in local shops and businesses.

The parish mirrors England and Wales in that there is no longer a Christian majority. Followers of Sikhism and Hinduism reflect the presence of Asian people in the local population, and the proportion of Muslims exceeds both the national and London averages. Currently, at Edward Betham school 63.4% of children identify Christianity as their religion, 11.5% Islam, 9.3% Hinduism, and 1.71% Sikhism.

Can you help us to:

Reach out to the communities who are moving into new housing developments?