



Parish Profile

St Michael and All Angels Church, Enfield



<https://stmichaelsenfield.org.uk/>

 /StMichaelAllAngelsChurchEnfield

 @stmichaelsgh



Our Vision and Mission

We want St Michael's Church to be a strong and supportive community, open and welcoming to all.

- To build on our roots so that together we can reach up to God with thanks and praise.
- To extend our branches and reach out to share God's love with all.
- To reach into ourselves and nurture our faith in God.

At St Michael's our mission reflects the three key themes of 'Reaching Up, Reaching Out, and Reaching In'. This is developed in the section on 'Our Church and its People'.

Our Strengths, Opportunities and Challenges

What is St Michael's about? We describe ourselves as the "village at the bottom of the hill."

We have a vibrant community with a notable youth engagement that is evident by our well-attended Sunday clubs and Thursday evening youth club.

Our services promote a welcoming environment for parents wishing to satisfy attendance criteria in local faith schools.

We are keen to explore fresh thinking and embrace new ideas that will help us build on what we have so that we can do more with what we've got.

What we love and want to retain about our parish

- **Our approach to worship.** We pride ourselves on our relaxed approach to formality with a no nonsense style that offers a friendly welcome to established parishioners and newcomers. We like the current approach and frequency of our services, with a focus on our family friendly Sunday morning all age Eucharist. Music plays a significant part in St Michael's worship, reflected in our choral matins and evensong services.
- **Our Spring & Autumn Ministry.** Our youth groups are thriving. We have a strong group of volunteers who lead our Sunday clubs and support with our weekly youth club (Cornerstones). We've seen these evolve, with younger children remaining with us to early teenage years, helped by the recent opening of a new local faith-based academy secondary school. Opportunity for older parishioners to get together is going from strength to strength with an active sewing group and autumn group.
- **Our community outreach.** We do a lot in our local community with links fostered with local pubs and other businesses.

What we'd like to see a new incumbent doing more with

- **Extending our worship.** Helping us to explore faith in ways that extend beyond church services such as Bible study or Alpha group.
- **Capitalising on our links with local faith schools.** We are blessed with our current links with our parish school. We'd like to build on these and foster stronger relationships with other local schools, including Wren Academy.
- **Preparing for the next 150 years.** Looking at what more we can do with our church buildings and our digital presence.





Our Next Vicar

We fully support the ordination of women, and the successful candidate, regardless of gender, must be willing to work with women priests and bishops. We hope our next vicar will help us realise the opportunities within our parish whilst retaining the current ethos.

Our next vicar must:

- Preach the gospel with faith and passion, blending tradition and modern elements that resonate at St Michael's.
- Build and nurture the large congregation, recognising the various benefits people gain from attending church.
- Continue to build the relationship with our parish school and other schools – both church and non-faith-based – in and around the parish.
- Have a love for music in worship and a commitment to further developing this aspect.
- Be responsive to the changing demographics within the parish.
- Be approachable, friendly, and able to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds.
- Develop the church's role within the community, maintaining its presence as a cornerstone of community life.

Ideally, our next vicar will also be adept with technology, and make optimal use of it to pursue our mission.

Our Parish

Enfield is a very diverse borough, with areas of some affluence and areas of desperate deprivation. There is some clear demarcation of these areas, but St Michael's falls in one of those patches which is hard to quantify: it is not affluent, nor is it at the lower end of the deprivation scale in all areas, but very mixed, with households who mainly have only enough income to cover their outgoings each month.

Apart from the City Parishes, it is one of the smallest geographical parishes in the Diocese of London, although its housing is fairly tightly packed, leading to a population of about 6,000. There has been some new building on brownfield sites, but these are all now used and there is little room for further expansion. IMD data suggests that 26% of the parish has some barrier to housing and services, whilst some residents fall in the top 10% deprived in this category. 5% of the population are on benefits.

We are an inclusive and welcoming Church, helped by the surprising openness and light of the Victorian church building, and is supported by a congregation mostly comprising young families (85%).

We offer our main weekly worship, which is centred on the Eucharist but styled to meet the needs of those with young children (and during which there are very active Sunday Clubs with age-appropriate groups and teaching), with quieter, reflective services at different times, to meet other needs. On festivals, the whole Sunday morning service is geared to an all-age setting during which the Guiding units parade.

We fit in well with the tradition of the other parishes nearby, which range from Traditional Catholic to Conservative Evangelical. Good relationships are held with many of the Free Churches in the locality, as well as with the local Roman Catholic Church.

Our regular Sunday worship attracts on average 120 people (25% of whom are children), with around 10 people attending our mid-week service. Many people attend on a fortnightly basis, so the actual congregation is closer to 300. On festival days we can expect around 160 people to attend.



High Quality Cards for Sale

All sorts of occasions - general thank you etc.

£1 each



There is a large Halls Complex on site which is a fantastic community facility, and which is rented to various groups (our Church-sponsored Toddler Group, Youth Group and the Parish Brownie and Guide Units and Autumn Group also meet here) throughout the week. We continue to cultivate use by groups such as local charities as a real community outreach.

The finances are in good order, with an experienced Treasurer in post, and whilst there is no pot of savings, yearly income meets expenditure and allows the PCC to manage its responsibilities well. A Stewardship Sunday is designated each Lent for the purposes of both teaching and the making/renewing of pledges of finances and gifts of time and talents.

There are very good relationships with local businesses, with some of whom St Michael's co-hosts events (one example being the annual Carols & Brass band evenings).

The Parish has popular and oversubscribed Brownie and Guide units which are PCC sponsored, and also an Explorer Unit (which is Scout District maintained). It also has a very popular and well attended Youth Group divided into Junior and Senior sections which is run by the Parish Youth Worker.

There is a two-form entry Parish School two minutes' walk away (the original buildings are now the Parish Halls) which is extremely popular and oversubscribed. The latest OFSTED rating is Good and is awaiting a SIAMS inspection this academic year (under the old system of rating, the last SIAMS outcome was 'Outstanding'). The current Head Mistress was appointed in September 2022 and the School continues to flourish and grow in all aspects of education and community service. The School holds regular services in the Parish Church throughout the academic year.

Our Church and its People

Reaching Out (Our Community Beyond Church)

It is important to note that there is much good work already going on in this area. Such examples would be the mission of the Toddlers group, the social networking and fellowship provided by the activities of the Community & Outreach group, the work through the uniformed organisations, the Cornerstones Youth Club, the Autumn Group, support of various community groups who hire the Hall, our work with The Wonder and Cricketers public houses, Ashes-to-go, and our tight link and work with the Parish School.

We hope that this would continue and grow as we dovetail our new areas of mission within the whole fold of our mission and ministry. It is also important to recognise that the new areas noted below all have short, medium and long term goals, due to the very nature of what can be accomplished both now and in the future and the need for the church in general to grow its branches ever outwards.

What are the key things we want from this?

- We want to encourage people of all ages to recognise the church as being at the heart of the community, there for the whole people of the parish, and not just those that come to worship (although it is hoped that through our work, more may come to know Christ, and so join the worshipping community).
- We want to continue to grow into the community, proclaiming a social gospel, exploring and meeting the needs of the people around us, so that all might know that together we are all loved by and valued children of God.
- To communicate our mission and ministry more widely using a range of various media that is available, thereby promoting the Gospel and the Church, and so enhancing mission possibilities.





Reaching In (Our Community in Church)

The Sunday Clubs work as three groups, with a good number of leaders (including men) – giving our large number of children age-appropriate teaching, which is keeping them engaged and interested in their faith. The Confirmation groups have become a feature of the parish year, and so we want to build on these (and explore new areas), to capitalise on the various ways we can be creative in deepening peoples experience of God and their own deepening of their faith.

What are the key things we want from this?

- We want people to be able to grow spiritually (also see 'Reaching Up'), rather than just "attend" church (for whatever reason that might be), so that over time worship takes on a new and added meaning, and that God then becomes a natural part of our everyday lives, and we truly are a people of faith.
- To help people to move on spiritually from where they are – recognising that in a community like St Michael's, there will be people of all ages, at all stages of their growth in faith.



"I like coming to our Church because of the Communion, and meeting a wide variety of different people."

– Ella-Grace, 13, pictured at her confirmation

Reaching Up (Our Worship)

We wish to embed people in the worshipping life of the church as opposed to attending being just another option that might be ticked in a whole list of other things one might do that day, and also to continue and increase the involvement of people in the worshipping life of the church, thereby bringing a deeper sense of reverence and ownership, strengthening faith and giving them confidence to take the gospel out of the doors of the church and into the community.

What are the key things we want from this?

- We want to encourage every member to feel that they have a valued place in our Worship and something to offer, so that people recognise and own a shared responsibility for mission through their own sharing in a corporate worship.
- We want to continue to share the work involved in a thriving parish life over a wider range of people by expanding the large core team that has developed.
- Through a sense of shared ownership and involvement, the worship, witness and fellowship is enhanced, thereby enhancing mission possibilities.
- That worship really is “worth ship” and that a sense of the transcendence of God is present throughout.





Our Pattern of Worship

St Michaels is “liberal Catholic” – with a curious mix of Old Sarum, English Tradition (Percy Dearmer), and more modern elements too.

Common Worship is used for Sunday 10am Parish Eucharist (and other festivals), BCP for the Wednesday 10am Midweek Eucharist, and BCP for Sunday 6pm Evening Prayer.

Full Vestments are worn (with accompanying frontals, falls, veil and burse), there is a robed Choir and Organist every Sunday, and a full serving team.

Incense is used on high days and the Blessed Sacrament and Holy oils are reserved in the Remembrance Chapel.

Occasional offices are conducted throughout the year, as required.

There are several Icons from both the Greek and Russian Orthodox traditions in the Church, given to St Michaels to represent our mixed community and congregation.

Certain festivals/commemorations have their own ‘St Michael’s way’ about them, which are either historic (and have special reason), or which have built up over the years to give inclusivity or to meet pastoral need (e.g. the children’s pudding stirring on Stir-Up Sunday).

We are an inclusive congregation, and joyfully offer prayers of love and faith to those couples who wish them.

St Michaels is not stuffy, but not lax. “Relaxed but reverential” would sum it up perfectly.

Our Leadership and Support Team

St Michael's thrives thanks to a dedicated and proactive team. Given the parish's demographic, many supporters are working professionals. Under the vicar's leadership, a sensibly sized team has been established to ensure resilience, including an assistant warden team ready to pitch in and provide cover when needed.

Our current church wardens, Andrew Lawrence and Andrew Howarth, will complete their term of office in April 2025. This transition offers a prime opportunity for new wardens to collaborate with the new incumbent and build on the excellent work at St Michael's.

The team is bolstered by Pamela Thompson, our long-serving PCC Secretary, who expertly guides the PCC in its statutory duties. We are fortunate to have Paul Merryfellow, our newly appointed Licensed Lay Minister, supporting the vicar and playing a crucial role as we enter the interregnum.

Music is vital to St Michael's, and our services wouldn't be the same without it! Our Choirmaster, Daniel Spreadbury, has done remarkable work in developing, growing, and inspiring our choir. He is superbly supported by our organist, Robert Hide.

The PCC also benefits from the expertise of our Treasurer, Mark Beckwith; our Halls' Manager, Peter Newbury; and our Youth Leader, Martin Reilly. We have a strong network of supporting roles across the wider congregation, including regular sidespeople. However, there is room to further develop this and welcome new members as the congregation's demographic evolves.

Safeguarding

St Michael's seeks to promote a safe environment and culture in every aspect of parish life. We have both an experienced Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter, and follow National Safeguarding Standards in our mission and ministry.





Our School

The link between St Michael's Church and its Parish School is perhaps the tightest church/school bond ever known. We see the parish as a whole unit – church and school working together in mission and ministry to promote the gospel value of God's love for all people, standing Confident, Compassionate and Creative in all we do for His greater glory.

From our Headteacher

Dear Friends,

As the Headteacher of St. Michael's CE Primary School, I am profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of St. Michael's Church. Our partnership is not just a collaboration; it is a shared journey rooted in the values of love, respect, and integrity. Together, we create a welcoming environment where our pupils, staff, and families feel a true sense of belonging.



The church serves as a vital cornerstone of our community, providing a space where everyone is invited to participate and have their voices heard. I am committed to nurturing this spirit of inclusivity, ensuring that all members of our community feel valued and connected. The sense of oneness we share is essential; our school and church thrive together, and I am determined to expand this vital relationship.

The support we receive from the church is invaluable to me as a leader, and it extends to our dedicated staff, pupils, and their families. The welcoming nature of St. Michael's Church fosters a sense of comfort and ease, allowing us to work collaboratively to ensure that both our school and church remain pivotal in our community. In a time when schools face vulnerabilities regarding enrolment, it is more important than ever to ensure that St. Michael's stays on the map as a thriving institution for many years to come.

I envision further development in our collaborative efforts. I would love to see more joint initiatives that promote intergenerational connections, allowing our

pupils to learn from the wisdom and experiences of our wider church community. Enhancing our outreach programmes can foster a greater sense of belonging and service, empowering our students to further engage with the local community in meaningful ways.

We're proud of what we've achieved so far together. And yet, there's a sense of excitement too—of possibility. With the arrival of a new incumbent, we're hopeful and open to fresh ideas and renewed energy. Could this be the next chapter in our shared journey? We're in a strong place, but we know that the right kind of change can deepen our impact and bring even more joy and purpose to what we do.

My team and I pride ourselves on being lifelong learners, and we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, we can flourish, creating an environment where our pupils thrive academically and spiritually, inspired by the teachings of our faith.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our shared mission. Together, let us nurture a community with strong faith where everyone feels welcome, valued, and empowered to make a difference.

Mrs Jade-Simone Bacon
Headteacher, St Michael's CE Primary School

Wren Academy

In September 2020, Wren Academy opened a church secondary school at the Chase Farm site in Enfield. Although there is no formal relationship and it is not within the Parish boundary, it is significant due to the number of worshipping parents at St Michael's considering church attendance to enrol their children in this school.





Our Buildings

The Church

In late 1872, St Andrew's parish church was no longer able to cater to the needs of a growing congregation that had been increasing in number due to the expansion of North Enfield as a response to the popularity of the railways. As such, it was proposed to consider the erection of a new "annexe" to St Andrew's. The generosity of several benefactors resulted in the laying of the memorial stone for the new church in 1873, and the completion of the building in 1874.

Originally built as a "daughter" church of St. Andrew's, St. Michael's and All Angels was constituted a parish church in its own right in 1931 – prior to this, all confirmations, weddings and funerals had to take place at the "mother" church in Enfield Town. The Reverend John Mare, who had been a very popular curate in charge of St. Michael's for ten years by that point and had served St. Michael's for thirty years overall was inducted as the first Vicar of the new parish on the 17th of January 1931. He retired in 1936 at the age of 91.

During the Second World War, the church escaped serious damage due to the steep slope of its roof – incendiary bombs simply rolled off the roof and burnt out harmlessly in the grounds! However, many church records were lost due to a V2 rocket exploding in the gardens between Lavender Hill and the upper part of Gordon Hill, which extensively damaged the house that was being used as the vicarage. The current vicarage next to the church was built in the mid 1950s, once building materials were more commonly available in the post-war years.

The present entrance to the church was added when the church building was "finished" in 1963 – prior to this the entrance door was in the centre of the building.

The church celebrated its centenary in 1974, with two special services in May of that year – children from St. Michael's School attended a flower service and older members of the congregation attended a service in the evening presided over by the Vicar, the Reverend Vernon Scott, and the Reverend Dennis Connor, Rural Dean of Hillingdon and a former member of St. Michael's congregation.

By the mid 1980s, the church was showing signs of wear, and the then-incumbent, Reverend Raymond Brown, made an appeal to parishioners in 1988 for funding to repair the stonework and windows, renovate the church organ, and repair and maintain the church halls for community use. The appeal was successful, and work continued for many years, culminating with the renovation of the halls in 2010.

This made an enormous difference and the church is well loved and maintained with other additions having been made subsequently to enhance and future-proof the building.

St Michael's celebrated its 150th anniversary in July 2024 with great festivity and the blessing and installation of a new parish banner celebrating both church and school.

The Halls

We have five community halls and a self-contained suite to rent out either for a one-off event or an ongoing series of meetings/activities.

Our halls generate significant income for the parish, and we have long-standing relationships with several regular renters. These include church groups, a pre-school, and various dance groups.



Our Finances

The finances are in good order, with an experienced Treasurer in post, and whilst there is no pot of savings, yearly income meets expenditure and allows the PCC to manage its responsibilities well. A 'Stewardship Sunday' is designated each Lent for the purposes of both teaching and the making/renewing of pledges of finances and gifts of time and talents.

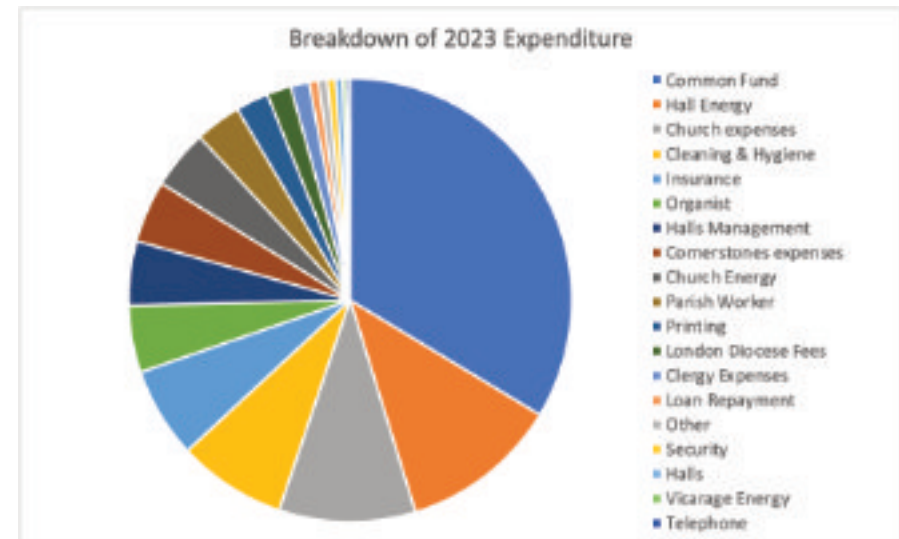
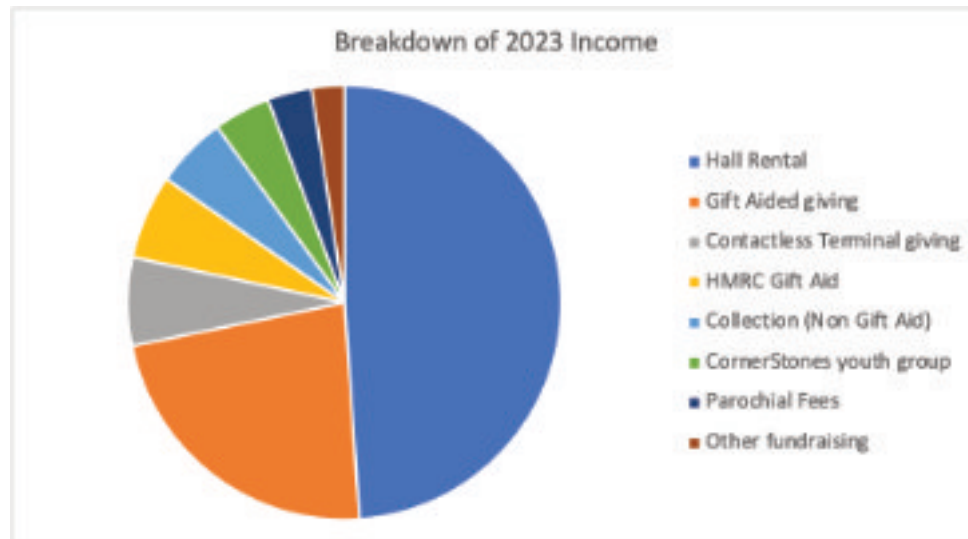
In 2023 we broke even, whilst in 2022 and 2021 we had a surplus of income over expenditure of circa £5k. At the time of writing, 2024 accounts are not yet complete, but we expect to maintain a similar position as 2023.

Annual expenditure in 2023 was £89k with receipts of £89.5k. Our expenditure in 2023 included a Common Fund payment of £30k, which increased to £31.5k in 2024 and will increase to £34.5k in 2025. A breakdown of expenditure and receipts can be found below.

Our giving is made up of gift-aided standing orders or via CAF Charity accounts (16 parishioners at present), cash donations during our services (that are increasingly gift-aided), or via our contactless terminal in church.

Almost half of our income comes from hall rental.

Unexpected expenditure (for instance, felling a tree in the church gardens in 2024) is almost always covered without the need for additional fund raising.



Our Vicarage

The Vicarage is at 2 Gordon Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0QP and perfectly sited, being immediately next door to the church and halls complex.

The building is a good, solidly built detached house around 75 years old, with an inner vestibule containing a cloakroom/WC and separate entrance into the study (which under the current Incumbent has doubled as the Parish Office).

The main house can be completely locked from this (with a second lockable door from the study into the main part of the house) containing a large bay lounge with door to the garden, a dining room, kitchen, scullery with rear entrance door, four bedrooms (two with wash basins, and the main one having an exterior balcony over the lounge) and a separate bathroom and WC.

The building is in good condition and has a large mature garden.

There is also a detached garage at the end of a lane between the Vicarage and Church complex.

The vicarage (like the Church) is adjacent to the High Street with local shops and businesses, and 10 minutes' walk from Enfield Town centre. It is also within walking distance of several primary and secondary schools.





GORDON HILL

HAND
CAR
WASH
→

