

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH and CENTRE EAST HAM PARISH

#### THE PARISH VISION

In the light of God's call and our situation here our vision is that East Ham should be a place where the signs of God's kingdom are discerned and nurtured, and where people, in all their diversity, share in the abundant life of God's creation.

We seek to worship in ways which honour both the long tradition of Christian witness here and also our constantly changing and very mixed congregations.

We strive to be inclusive and hospitable, to serve and learn, reflecting God's love for the world through the work which takes place in our buildings and in our lives beyond the buildings.





#### **EAST HAM PARISH**

East Ham Parish, formed in 1968, lies north of the A13 and West of the A406 North Circular Road in East London (Newham's Location), in the hinterland of London's docklands. Much of the housing dates from the early 20th century when terraces were built to house workers in the docks and in dock-based industries. Bomb damage from the Second World War left spaces which have been filled by blocks of flats, most of them low-rise.

Approximately half the housing stock is owner-occupied, and there is a large private rented sector as well as local authority and housing association provision. The population, of approximately 32,000, is ethnically very diverse; over 70% of the London Borough of Newham's residents in 2008 were from non-white ethnic groups, with substantial Asian and African communities, and there is a growing Eastern European population. The Parish Patrons are Brasenose College, Oxford University.





"St Bart's" is a contemporary Church and Community Centre opened in 1983. It replaced a Victorian (1901) building which was no longer suitable.

The Building consists of the Church reached via a foyer/café area with catering size kitchen, activities/meeting room, (with separate office), a large hall and two "Vestries", one also used by groups. On the first floor there is the Parish Office and further offices and meeting rooms.

Behind the offices are several flats (on two levels with separate lift/stair case access), for the elderly, managed by a housing association and a Doctors' Practice Surgery: both of these have separate access.

To the rear of the Centre is the original, Georgian Grade-II listed rectory (Fellowship House) which has been extended and converted to provide affordable housing, again managed by a housing association. The ground-floor space is leased to a Children's' Day-Care Centre.

Income from the various lessees, regular room hirers and occasional users covers the cost of maintaining and staffing of the Church and Centre.



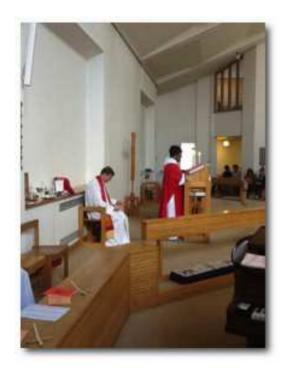


The Centre, and the Church and chapel area, is open every day from 8.30 am till 5.00 pm and again into the evening to accommodate a variety of local and community groups such as Community Counselling, Al-Anon, as well Scouts and Guides and more commercial users such as Weight-watchers. During the day the principal users are the playgroup and a Council-funded group which cares for vulnerable adults.

We have a busy café (The Kitchen Table Café) which, although run as an independent enterprise (Community Interest Company), works in association with the Church. In addition to staples it serves meals throughout the day, and organises its own programme of social and community events.

The Centre and its community provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere and attracts people of all ages, abilities and ethnicities, drawn from the congregation, from neighbouring Churches and from the wider community. We hold regular tenants' and users' meetings and regard all our Centre and Fellowship House users as stakeholders and partners in the joint venture of the Church and Centre.

We also open our Church and Centre to be used for worship by other authorised faith groups, including for over three decades The Church of God in Christ Congregational Independent.



The Worship at St Bart's can best be described as being in the liberal, "light" Anglo-Catholic tradition. We have a 10.00 am Sung Eucharist with liturgy adapted to the church seasons and rites such as baptism. The service for the first Sunday of the month is slightly shorter and less formal in order to attract worshippers of all ages. On the other Sundays the young people take part in "Sunday Club" in a separate room and join the rest of the Congregation after the Eucharistic Prayer.

There are many opportunities for Ministry within the services (serving, interceding, reading etc) and every other month a chance for the whole congregation to take part in "open intercessions". Every other month a small team offers "laying on of hands" as an extra ministry during the distribution of the bread and wine. We hold a Thursday lunchtime Communion which is increasingly popular and attracts people who are not all members of the Sunday Congregation.

Newham is one of the most ethnically mixed Boroughs in the country and our Congregation very much reflects that diversity - we have members who are traditional East-Enders (some of whom have vivid memories of the Blitz!) and newer, often younger, members whose ethnicity may be Caribbean, African (East and West), Asian and, most recently, Eastern and Central European. We very much value this richness and are working on incorporating some of those different Christian traditions in our thinking and in our worship, as well as in our Church leadership.





Adjacent to the site is the 1983, 4-bedroom Rectory with garage and large garden which the Diocese has upgraded in recent years.

Newham has one of the youngest populations in the country (30% are under 20) and, again, this is reflected in our congregation. We have a lively and enthusiastic Sunday School for younger children and a small group of teenagers who have been meeting regularly for Fellowship as part of a Sunday afternoon "Club". This is an area of our ministry which we are keen to see developed, particularly with regard to teenagers, and recognise the potential for co-operation with other neighbouring Churches in this work.

One of our best-supported activities is the annual weekend away for young people at a local outdoor activity centre. We get participants from neighbouring churches and the wider community and often have to turn people away. We would like to see more of these kinds of events!



Whilst we expect the incumbent to exercise the normal aspects of pastoral care we would also recognise that some of these responsibilities could be shared with lay ministry – something we are keen to continue to develop. Several of our congregation have been or are taking part in Christian education and training courses.

We also have a licensed Pastoral Assistant much of whose present ministry takes place among Café users and finds engaging in conversations about life and its problems to be the best opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love. We now have a real fellowship of people sharing their joys and pains. A few have joined the church through this route without any overt evangelism.

In addition we hope to set up a Pastoral Team to exercise care e.g. home, hospital, baptism and bereavement visits for congregants and to develop schemes to minister to those in the wider community.



#### THE FIRST LICENSE FOR MARRIAGES

When John Tyerman and Win Morley were arranging to be married in 1922, they wanted the service to take place in the church of St. Bartholomew, East Ham.

But at that time the parish did not possess a license for the 'solemnisation of marriage'.

So they arranged for the purchase of the first license and were married in the church on July 6th 1922, becoming Walter John and Winifred Irene Tyerman.

At the time they were living in Outram Road and Frinton Road (respectively) and for a short time they lived at 3 Erlham Grove, Forest Gate after which they moved to Romford, during which time they had four children, Jack, Geoffrey, Kathleen and Arthur.



#### CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

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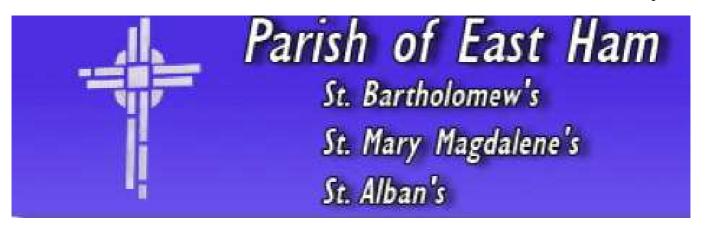


### In loving memory of John and Win Tyerman $\label{eq:July 2012} \text{July 2012}$

Produced by Arthur Tyerman
Tan y Foel, Llanarmon Mynydd Mawr
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (Powys)
Oswestry SY10 0EB



The Parish Church of St. Garmon Llanarmon Mynydd Mawr



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