



The United Benefice of St James and St Michael with St Augustine, Beckenham



Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to prayerful consider whether God might be calling you to be the next Priest for the United Benefice of St James and St Michael with St Augustine, Beckenham. 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 Christ.

The congregations of St James and St Michael are looking forward to welcoming a new Priest to lead them in worship and in loving and serving their local communities. I can guarantee a warm welcome, an openness to exploring where God is leading, and a rich heritage of sacramental worship. These churches have much to offer to their communities.

St James and St Michael with St Augustine is part of the Beckenham Deanery, in the London Borough of Bromley at the Western edge of the Diocese of Rochester. This is a great location with easy access to central London, the bustling centre of Beckenham with lots of cafes and restaurants, and just a short drive or bus journey to Bromley where all the shops you might need can be easily found.

The new Priest for these parishes will be welcomed into a supportive Deanery and being ideally located for London. There is a good network of Society parishes and clergy in the Diocese who work closely together and support one another.

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 exciting stage of mission and ministry in Beckenham.

Ven. Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley.

Parish life at Saint James and Saint Michael with St Augustine will always be rewarding, dynamic and fulfilling.

The congregations are most definitely looking for a creative and prayerful and engaging priest equipped to help take them forward into the next and exciting stage of Christian witness.

I have been impressed with the way the congregations have responded to the challenges of these last few years. Prayerfully and sensitively, they have reflected on their identity and self-understanding and how best to honour the tradition they inherited while engaging with the Church of today. Although faced with a vacancy, the longer-term effects of the pandemic and coming together as a benefice they have very much risen to the challenge and are open to and excited about the future.

Both churches are set in the heart of their parishes with wide arms and welcoming hearts. Worship is attractive, numinous and accessible and the congregations are keen to deepen their faith and to resource their diverse and vibrant communities.

+ Norman
Richborough

The United Benefice of St James and St Michael with St Augustine, Beckenham	1
Welcome	2
A Catholic Presence on The Borders of London And Kent	4
Style of Worship.....	4
Current Patterns of Service Within The Benefice.....	4
Safeguarding	4
Benefice Administrator	5
Benefice Office	5
Accommodation.....	5
Person Specification	6
Welcome To Our Town!.....	7
The Benefice Churches.....	8
ST. JAMES'S CHURCH: A Welcoming Community, Approaching 150 Years of Service to the People of Beckenham	8
THE PCC.....	9
ELECTORAL ROLL	9
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW.....	9
ASSETS:.....	9
ST. MICHAEL WITH ST AUGUSTINE CHURCH: A Vibrant Community Hub.....	10
THE PCC:.....	11
ELECTORAL ROLL:	11
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:	11
ASSETS.....	11
Supporting Each Other And The Benefice Community (Collective Events)	12
How to Apply.....	13
Appendix 1 - Financial Statement 2022, St James Beckenham.....	14
Appendix 2 - Financial Statement 2022, St Michael With St Augustine Beckenham.....	15

A Catholic Presence on The Borders of London And Kent

The United Benefice of St James and St Michael with St Augustine was formed in 2015, and joined the two Beckenham Parishes of St James, and St Michael and All Angels with St Augustine. It now serves a resident population in excess of 17,500 people. Our benefice community is a diverse group of people of all ages and backgrounds, called and united by our faith in Christ. We are a warm and welcoming community, and we strive to create a space in both Churches where everyone feels safe and valued.

Style of Worship

The Anglo-Catholic tradition of the Church of England is a rich and lively one, and we are proud to worship in this tradition as part of the Richborough family. Our worship is centred on the Eucharist, and we believe that the Eucharist is the central mystery of the Christian faith. We also place a strong emphasis on the sacraments, prayers of intercession, and keeping of Holy Days in the Catholic liturgical calendar.



Our worship is also characterised by its beauty and reverence. We use incense, candles, bells and other liturgical elements at both Churches to create a sense of awe and wonder in our worship. We also believe that music is an important part of worship, and we have a strong musical tradition.

We welcome people of all backgrounds and traditions to worship with us and hold that everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

Current Patterns of Service Within the Benefice

St. James's and St. Michael's Churches have joined together for the main feasts and confirmation services over many years and are now the only Society Churches in the Beckenham Deanery. Our current pattern of worship is to alternate Sunday Masses, major feasts and festivals between the two Churches, with the service held at 10:30am.

The uniformed organisations join the congregation at the family service and church parade on Mothering Sunday and harvest festival services at St James's; we would like to encourage more family services in the future.

Prior to the present interregnum, Sunday Mass was held each week at 9:15am at St James's and 11am at St Michael's. Both Churches held weekday Masses in the past and this is something we would like to reinstate.

Safeguarding

As a United Benefice, we take safeguarding seriously and are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. We have a safeguarding officer who is responsible for overseeing our safeguarding policies and procedures, and for providing support and advice to our clergy and PCCs. We also discuss safeguarding issues at each PCC meeting, to ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.

Benefice Administrator

The benefice employs a knowledgeable and experienced part-time (16 hours a week) Administrator to support the Priest and PCCs in the day-to-day work of the parishes. Duties include: managing the Churches' diaries, preparation of service booklets and notice sheets, handling of enquiries for occasional offices, managing room bookings, managing suppliers and service contracts, and assisting the PCC treasurers in the financial management through paying bills, claiming Gift Aid, submitting parish returns and statistics for mission, bookkeeping and preparation of end of year accounts. The Administrator is a valuable and integral member of the benefice team and plays an important role in keeping the Churches running smoothly.

Benefice Office

The benefice has a fully equipped, dedicated office upstairs in St Michael's Church.

Accommodation

The current benefice vicarage is a large, detached house, situated next to St Michael's Church. Downstairs the property comprises a spacious hallway, leading to a study, living room, dining



room, a large kitchen with pantry as well as a utility room which has a door on to the garden. There is also a downstairs toilet.

On the first floor, there are 4 double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The house has a large mature garden with built-in hard standing parking space for 2 cars and dropped kerb. The garden has a direct link to the vestry door of the Church.

The Diocese of Rochester are exploring options for building a house on land on the St James' site in the next few years. Once the property is built the Diocese will consult with the incumbent and PCCs about which house is most suitable to be the benefice vicarage.

Person Specification

Are you a passionate, dedicated, and devoted Anglo-Catholic Priest who is looking for a new challenge?

The United Benefice of St James and St Michael with St Augustine Beckenham is seeking a new Priest of the Society to lead us in faith and worship. We are a spirited and inclusive community, anchored in the Catholic faith, and are looking to welcome a Priest who can help us to grow our congregation and serve our local benefice community.

We are a diverse congregation, representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and experiences. We are also a very welcoming faith community, committed to making everyone feel at home when they enter through the doors of our Churches.

Our ideal candidate will be a strong leader, motivated by a love of God and His people to:

- Lead and inspire our congregations through his personal dedication to Christ and His teachings;
- Promote sacramental worship in the Catholic tradition;
- Preach and teach the gospel in a way that is both engaging and accessible;
- Encourage more people to join us in worship, especially underrepresented groups such as young people and families;
- Provide pastoral care and support to members of the benefice and wider Christian community in Beckenham;
- Work collaboratively with other clergy and lay leaders in the deanery to promote the Christian presence in Beckenham;
- Be passionate and committed to serving the local community;
- Manage his time effectively, recognising where his input is most needed and valuable;
- Reserve time for his own spiritual development, rest and recreation.

Other desirable qualities:

- A willingness to be sociable and engage with the wider community, including youth organisations, social events and providing a presence at local schools;
- An open and approachable manner;
- Good communication and delegation skills;
- Ready to bring new suggestions and take on new ideas to grow our congregations and better serve the local community;
- Compassionate and patient, especially with less able members of the congregations.

Welcome To Our Town!

Beckenham is a vibrant and diverse town in the London Borough of Bromley, located just 10 miles from Central London. It's a great place to live for people of all ages and backgrounds, as attested to by the Sunday Times who in 2023 singled it out for having "outstanding schools, choice of stations, lively high street and green space odyssey".



Beckenham is home to a number of beautiful parks and green spaces, making it a great place to enjoy the outdoors. Beckenham Place Park is a large country park with over 490 acres of woodland, meadows, and lakes. It is a popular spot for walking, running, cycling, picnicking - and even outdoor swimming!



Other popular green spaces include Kelsey Park, Croydon Road Recreation Ground – complete with bandstand where David Bowie once performed! - and Beckenham Town Green, which regularly hosts markets and seasonal events. These public spaces offer a variety of amenities, such as playgrounds, tennis courts, and bowling greens. There is also South Norwood Country Park a short walk from Elmers End providing a range of footpaths to enjoy the wilder side of nature.

Beckenham has a thriving community with a lot to offer residents. The town has a wide range of shops, restaurants, and bars, as well as a variety of leisure and cultural facilities. It is also home to a number of good primary and secondary schools, both state and private, making it a sought-after location for families with children.

The town is well-connected to London and the rest of the UK by road and rail. Beckenham has several railway stations offering direct services to various major London stations. There are also regular bus services to Central London and other nearby towns. There is a modern tram service linking Beckenham to Croydon, Wimbledon and other destinations on the network.



By car, Beckenham is easily accessible from the M25 motorway and South Circular. The town is also close to London Gatwick Airport, which is just a 40-minute drive away. It is also close to large shopping and entertainment centres with Bromley and Croydon nearby.

Beckenham Beacon hospital is a local NHS Primary Health care centre, providing a range of outpatient and GP services.

The Benefice Churches

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH: A Welcoming Community, Approaching 150 Years of Service to the People of Beckenham

In 1857 the arrival of the railway in Beckenham resulted in a surge of new residents, necessitating the creation of new churches. In 1879 St. James's Church was built, replacing a small iron church that had served the Elmers End ward of Beckenham for several decades,

Today St. James's Church has a friendly congregation, committed to working together to create a welcoming ambience for all. There are rotas for efficient running of the church and services. A small committed adult choir and organist ensures the continuity of our musical tradition. We have a Compton organ which is tuned twice yearly. It was built for the church in 1935 by the John Compton Organ Company, a wonderful example of the work of the Compton company and retains its original specification.

During term time the halls are used during the day by a pre-school group, and in the evenings by uniformed organisations: Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We are pleased to report the re-introduction of a Scout Group at St. James's Church in 2023 after a 7 year break. The fact we have these groups shows the dedication and professionalism of the leaders. Additional lettings include a tutor group, a mini athletics group and children's parties, and various other groups subject to availability.

Mr. Colin Podmore, a prominent senior layman with a distinguished record of service to our patron, SMF, and the Guild of All Souls, came to St. James's Church to photograph the memorial to Fr. Arthur Tooth, which now features as an illustration in a book published for the 15th anniversary of The Guild of All Souls.





Fr. Tooth was a ritualist priest, a member of the Society of the Holy Cross, briefly imprisoned in 1877 for using proscribed liturgical practices, with incense, vestments and altar candles.

St. James's Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2029, and we should like to make sure that as many people as possible are able to celebrate this special time with us.

THE PCC

St. James's have 8 PCC members including the PCC secretary and safeguarding officer. Additionally, there is a treasurer and one warden. We meet about 7 times a year.

ELECTORAL ROLL

55 on the Electoral Roll. 37 are non-resident within the parish boundary.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The main asset of St. James's Church is a parish house which is let out privately, Our main sources of income include rental income from this property, letting out of church halls, fundraising events and collections at services.



ASSETS:

- Parish house: £650,000 market value (annual rental income £21,000 Sept 2023)
- CCLA fund: £26,000
- Current account balance: £56,000 (end August)



ST. MICHAEL WITH ST AUGUSTINE CHURCH: A Vibrant Community Hub

The parish of St Michael and all Angels was founded in 1908, being carved out of the mediaeval parish of St George, Beckenham. In 1978 it was combined with the Parish of St Augustine which was eventually closed in later years.

The present Church was rebuilt in 1956 on the site of the old Church which was entirely destroyed by bombing during the second world war. It is a modern and inviting space that plays an important role in the local community. Located at the crossroads of Kent House, Penge and Anerley, the Church is easily accessible by public transportation and on foot.

The Church's most recent refurbishment in 2018 transformed it into a bright and airy space that can be easily configured for worship, prayer, or entertainment. It is also home to a fine John Mander's organ, installed in 2012, which enhances the musical accompaniment for services, sacramental events, and concerts. We have a wonderful collection of stained-glass windows, particularly in the Angel Chapel (the former baptistry) and Lady Chapel, some of which are dedicated to those who have served the parish over the years.

In addition to its religious services, St. Michael's Church also hosts a variety of community groups, including advocacy groups, fitness and wellbeing classes, and music and arts groups. The Church is committed to serving the local community and was pleased to host weeknight dinners for residents of a local homeless shelter pre-pandemic, and to support the recent Warm Spaces initiative. We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for all.





THE PCC:

The PCC is made up of a small but efficient group of 4 people, comprising one Churchwarden, a Secretary, a Treasurer and the Sacristan. We meet approximately 6 times a year.

ELECTORAL ROLL:

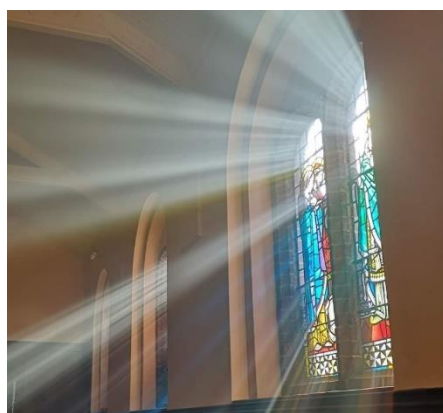
We have 21 people on the Roll, 3 of whom are non-resident in the parish.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:

St. Michael's Church is in a good financial position. We have a diversified portfolio of assets and a regular stream of income from a variety of sources. This allows us to meet our current financial obligations and plan for the future.

ASSETS

- CCLA investments: £918,000 (generating an annual interest income of £28,000)
- Property adjacent to the church: £678,000 (currently rented out privately for £20,000 p.a.)
- Current account balance: £20,000
- Deposit account balance: £28,000 (presently designated by the PCC for any future repairs or maintenance of the Church building.)



Supporting Each Other And The Benefice Community (Collective Events)

Members of United Benefice Churches are united in their faith and their commitment to community. One way that this has been expressed is through a shared pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Pilgrimages are a time for members of the two Churches to come together in prayer and fellowship. They are also a reminder of the bond between us and our shared commitment to the Christian faith.

St. Michael's and St. James's Churches play a vital role in the local community by opening their doors to a wide range of community groups, providing space and resources for the community to meet and thrive. St James's acts as a collection point for the local food bank, run by the charity Living Well Bromley. A member of the congregation volunteers with this initiative, makes regular deliveries and keeps the church informed of their activities. St Michael's previously did the same pre pandemic and is keen to reinstate this in future.



We also participate in the World Day of Prayer and are members of Churches Together in Beckenham, whose activities include a Lent Course, a procession to Beckenham Green on Good Friday, 'Picnic in the Park' and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. St James's have teams which arrange Christian Aid Week, fund raising for the church with quizzes, meals and fairs. Other outreach initiatives include the Fellowship Group, a social group which meets once a month, and a free monthly newsletter.



Both Churches benefit from halls and fully operational kitchen space to accommodate these events. The income generated from the hire of our spaces helps us to maintain our buildings and continue to serve our community.

Past and present regular community groups using our Churches spaces include:

- Advocacy
- Homeless shelter
- Fitness & wellbeing
- Music & Arts
- Pre-school
- After school tutoring
- Organ Recitals
- Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Taekwondo
- Mini athletics
- Children's parties
- South East London Orchestra
- Beckenham Concert Band

How to Apply

If you believe God might be calling you to join us in sharing the love of God with the communities of Beckenham and to play your unique part in building the Kingdom of Christ as priest for St James and St Michael with St Augustine we'd love to hear from you.

For an informal conversation please feel free to contact the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, via her EA at Fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org or Fr. Phillip Corbett (Society for the Maintenance of the Faith) at philippetercorbett@gmail.com

Application details are available of the Diocese of Rochester website at www.rochester.anglican.org

Appendix I - Financial Statement 2022, St James Beckenham

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JAMES BECKENHAM

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTE	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	TOTAL	TOTAL
	General	Designated		2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>					
Voluntary receipts					
5a Voluntary income	13,896	0	0	13,896	22,914
5b Activities for generating funds	37,108	0	200	37,308	26,471
5c Investment Income	18,834	17	0	18,851	17,859
Total receipts	69,838	17	200	70,055	67,244
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
Church activities					
6a Costs of generating funds	420	0	0	420	490
6b Other church activities	69,122	13,830	272	83,224	78,185
6c Investment property expenses	1,070	0	0	1,070	1,978
Total payments	70,612	13,830	272	84,714	80,653
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH BALANCES</u>	-774	-13,813	-72	-14,659	-13,409
Balances at 1 January	44,847	59,718	562	105,127	118,536
<u>CASH BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER</u>	44,073	45,905	490	90,468	105,127
<u>STATEMENT OF CASH FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022</u>					
Bank current account	18,306	42,460	400	61,166	14,734
CCLA CBF Deposit Fund	25,767	0	0	25,767	
Deposits at Rochester DBF	0	3,445	0	3,445	3,360
Cash in hand	0	0	90	90	3,360
Total	44,073	45,905	490	90,468	21,454

The notes on pages 11 and 12 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

_____ Chairman

_____ Member

Appendix 2 - Financial Statement 2022, St Michael With St Augustine

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MICHAEL WITH ST AUGUSTINE BECKENHAM

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTE	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Voluntary receipts				
4a Voluntary income	6,348	0	6,348	7,903
4b Activities for generating funds	19,455	1,609	21,064	15,797
4c Investment Income	44,051	0	44,051	43,037
4d Other incoming resources	0	27,540	27,540	7,942
	69,854	29,149	99,003	74,679
Proceeds of investment sales	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	69,854	29,149	99,003	74,679
<u>PAYMENTS</u>				
Church activities				
5a Costs of generating funds	0	0	0	0
5b Other church activities	63,382	1,609	64,991	61,387
5c Investment property expenses	601	0	601	933
Total payments	63,983	1,609	65,592	62,320
<u>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</u>	5,871	27,540	33,411	12,359
Transfers between Funds	27,540	-27,540	0	0
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH BALANCES</u>	33,411	0	33,411	12,359
Balances at 1 January	18,229	398	18,627	6,268
<u>CASH BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER</u>	51,640	398	52,038	18,627

The notes on pages 8 and 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MICHAEL WITH ST AUGUSTINE BECKENHAM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

NOTE	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS				
Bank current account	20,191	398	20,589	14,734
Bank deposit account	28,073	0	28,073	533
Deposits at Rochester DBF	3,376	0	3,376	3,360
Total	51,640	398	52,038	18,627
 1 INVESTED ASSETS				
121 Ravesncroft Road, Beckenham	678,663	0	678,663	678,663
CBF Investment Fund - Income shares	918,910	76,463	995,373	1,128,178
	1,597,573	76,463	1,674,036	1,806,841
 LIABILITIES	0	0	0	0
 NET ASSETS	1,649,213	76,861	1,726,074	1,825,468
 REPRESENTED BY:				
General Fund	967,174	0	967,174	1,056,382
Capital - Real property	678,663	0	678,663	678,663
Church repair fund	3,376	0	3,376	3,360
Church Hall maintenance	0	76,463	76,463	86,665
Choir fund	0	398	398	398
TOTAL	1,649,213	76,861	1,726,074	1,825,468

The notes on pages 8 and 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 5 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

_____ Chairman

_____ Member