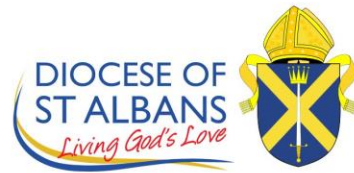




stJOHN'S
Living God's Love



Parish Profile

March 2021



Welcome to St John's church profile and thank you for your interest in our parish.

Like many other churches, we are learning how to be a church in a time of change and upheaval, with all the challenges and opportunities that brings. Yet who we are and the core values of the St John's family fundamentally remain the same.

We are an inclusive, welcoming church, with a liberal theology, a strong community spirit and a clear sense of social justice. We believe that every person, regardless of age, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability is valued and equal. We enjoy the creative arts and have a strong musical tradition. We are a parish that is growing in confidence in our vision and direction, with a sense of momentum on which we hope our new vicar will build. In the face of the Covid pandemic and the resignation of our previous vicar, we have shown resilience, hopefulness and commitment.

We hope this profile gives you a sense of who we are and what we do, and we sincerely hope you will be ready to find out more.

St John's Parochial Church Council



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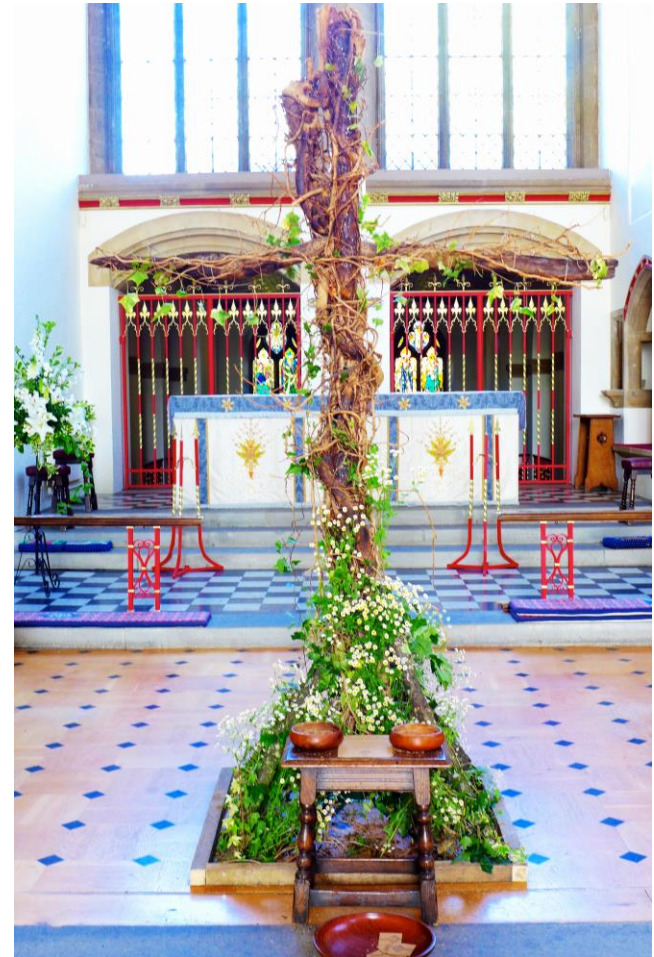
PARISH OF ST JOHN'S HARPENDEN

Our Mission

To welcome everyone warmly and enable all to grow spiritually - nourished and transformed by reverent and relaxed worship and inspired to live and share God's love.

Our Vision

To sustain and develop our vibrant all-age worshipping community, living out our faith in Jesus Christ in all we do, so that more and more people in our parish are touched by His love.





Our strengths

Inclusive worship: We offer a variety of accessible worship styles, and a loving welcome to all.

Commitment: We have an enthusiastic team of supportive and dedicated people who are involved in all aspects of church life. There is a strong sense of being part of the St John's family.

Creativity: There's an energy in our creativity and a desire to take risks, as we seek new ways to share God's love. We have filled the church with thought-provoking art installations, uplifting concerts and beautiful music as we share our talents and God's gifts with the community.

Outward-facing: We have launched a number of successful outreach initiatives and events involving the wider community (Cultivate Arts Festival, Southdown Festival). Our monthly Tea@3 and Soup4theSoul offer friendship and support, particularly to the elderly. We have excellent links with the local Infant and Junior schools.

Forward-looking: Our vision to replace our old church hall with a new Parish Centre is in place and fundraising has begun. This will be a transformational project for our church and our community.

Social responsibility: We are committed to raising awareness of the need to care for God's creation. Our active Eco Church group has just been awarded the Bronze level in A Rocha's Eco Church award scheme. There has also been greater engagement with the charities we support.



Our challenges going forward

Post-Covid: We will need to find ways to redefine and reimagine what our church will be in a post-Covid world – how to keep connected with our new ‘virtual’ worshippers, welcome back those who will worship with us again in church, and reach out to new worshippers, particularly families and young people. Together we will need to work out how we maintain our relevance in the ‘new normal’.

Further develop our outreach: We want to continue to support our community and find new and imaginative ways to serve them and share God’s love, particularly with people at the margins. We wish to strengthen our ministry of welcome.

Nurture talent: We have many musicians, artists and other talented members within the congregation whose skills can be channelled to enhance our worship and outreach.

Promote stewardship: We have been able to balance our books in recent years but we need to encourage more people to commit to regular giving.

Fundraising for the new Parish Centre: With many demands on our personal finances we need to continue to inspire our congregation and community to support our vision for the new Parish Centre.

Continue to communicate: We have an informative website and a highly regarded parish magazine, both of which need to remain current and relevant.



We are looking for a collaborative leader and compassionate communicator who will be able to:

- build on our growing confidence and sense of direction, and lead us forward as we reimagine what it is to be a church in 2021 and beyond
- encourage us to deepen our relationship with God and develop our spiritual life
- inspire us to engage in our mission, encourage us to learn, and develop our talents and vocations
- preach with empathy and understanding, sharing the love of God with people of all ages and at all stages of their faith journey, in an inclusive and engaging style
- get to know the people of St John's, nurture our children and young people, and connect with our local community
- challenge us to take risks when sharing the Gospel
- encourage a lively involvement in church giving and fundraising



It is essential that our new vicar is a supporter of women priests, has an interest in maintaining our status as a training benefice and is willing to continue the practice of accepting children to communion before confirmation.



We can offer...

- a warm welcome from a sociable and creative community who are open to new ways of working together
- an experienced and capable ministerial team who will share in liturgical and spiritual leadership and are eager to collaborate with our new vicar
- a supportive and experienced team of churchwardens and PCC members, and a parish administrator who works four days a week
- space for your own personal development and ministry, respect for your well-being and home life, your privacy and your need for time off
- a lovely, well-maintained church and a comfortable four-bedroom home in an attractive, well-positioned town within easy reach of London





Adapting to the Covid-19 pandemic

It has been our priority and responsibility throughout the pandemic to keep our congregation safe and to follow government and Church of England guidelines. Since the first lockdown in March 2020, members of the congregation were involved in the preparation and delivery of well-received pre-recorded Sunday services to keep us all connected. When we were able to re-open the church in August, we held a Sunday Eucharist at 5pm. In November this reverted to 9.30am and we began live streaming these services on You Tube.

Worship

- We are live streaming our weekly 9.30am Parish Eucharist on You Tube
- Morning Prayer is held via Zoom from Monday – Friday
- The Junior Church team has shared pre-recorded activities and services on You Tube
- The Church is open on Sundays for private prayer with safety measures in place

Pastoral

- Hard copies of 'Church at Home' are delivered to those unable to join the online service
- St John's pastoral group supports the house-bound, bereaved and sick with regular phone calls
- Coffee time after the 9.30am service is held on Zoom, hosted by members of the PCC
- The Advent book group took place on Zoom, with plans for another book group during Lent

Communication

- Our weekly newsletter is delivered to more than 200 people via email
- We launched our Just Giving website to support our finances and online fundraising events

General

- Funerals are held in church with limited numbers, and we can also offer live streaming
- The church hall was re-opened to our community hirers from September until November, with safety measures in place
- Regular maintenance continues for the buildings, the garden and the grounds
- Since August, beautiful floral arrangements continue to enhance the church thanks to the Flower Guild



In late 2019 we began the process of revising our Mission Action Plan, following a series of excellent 'Soapbox' sessions, workshops and consultations. However, the revised document, drawing these priorities together, has not yet been finalised.

Our previous **Mission Action Plan** identified our priorities in the following categories:

- Worship
- Prayer and spirituality
- Evangelism and outreach
- Pastoral care and fellowship
- Community involvement and service

We have made significant progress in working towards these goals but there is still more to do. The following sections highlight our key achievements and the areas of opportunity.





Worship

We have a strong liturgical and musical tradition, and the congregation generally value our more formal services, such as our Parish Eucharist. Other services are more informal and creative, and have been well-received.

- Taizé and Celtic services on Sunday evenings have been well attended and have attracted new worshippers.

We would like to enrich our worship by exploring more varied and informal services.

- Our small team of Junior Church leaders have been active during the pandemic producing 'Junior Church at Home' videos, short services and activities, and an excellent Nativity service.

We would like to build on these foundations and connect more fully with families and young people, exploring more imaginative ways of engaging them in our All Age worship and in Junior Church.

- We have a very committed small choir. For festivals and special services, other members of the congregation have been invited to join the choir which has been much appreciated. In the past we have been lucky to have some talented young musicians who have played at our services, further enhancing our worship.

We hope that more musical talent will manifest itself within the congregation, offering us the opportunity to enhance our worship more fully.



Prayer and spirituality

- Our weekly Fellowship and Study group continues to offer a valuable opportunity to explore our beliefs through reading, discussion and lectures.
- In some years we have also run our own Lent and Advent groups or have supported inter-denominational groups run by Churches Together in Harpenden.

There is potential to do more to encourage the spiritual development and prayer life of all age groups within the congregation.

- We have been more active in promoting daily morning and evening prayer, and we have enjoyed more reflective and creative services during Lent and Advent.

These services indicate an appetite for exploring a pattern of worship that is not necessarily limited to Sunday.





Pastoral care and fellowship

- St John's Visitors is a small group of specially trained people who visit those in the community who have been identified as in need of care and support. They have been very active during lockdown, making regular contact with the vulnerable and offering practical, emotional and spiritual help, and working in tandem with other local support groups.
- Tea@3, launched in 2015, offers tea, cake and fellowship once a month to older members of the wider community, and has become a very popular event with 30 people attending regularly.
- Soup4the Soul, launched in 2019, offers a monthly communion service at midday on a Thursday, followed by a light lunch of homemade soup in church.
- Space2Create, an initiative in the pipeline, will offer people the opportunity to explore creative activities such as sketching, painting and sewing, while they relax in a calm, friendly and encouraging environment.
- A special annual service for the relatives of those who have died in the previous three years offers comfort and the opportunity to stay in touch.

We would like to continue to support and develop this area and to consider other needs within the parish that require specialist support.



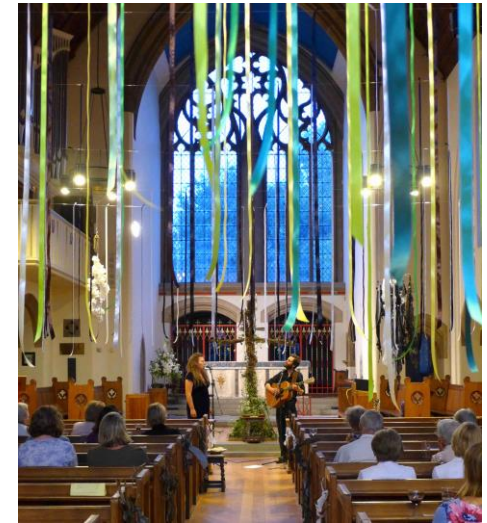
Tea@3 in the Church Hall



Evangelism and outreach

We have thrived in creating a number of imaginative ways to share God's love. They have given us a new sense of purpose and we are keen to discover more and more creative ways to touch people's lives with God's love, hope and joy.

- The beautiful art installations and programme of accompanying events for Cultivate Arts Festival have attracted nearly 2000 people to St John's. The thought-provoking themes have prompted discussion about God's creation and our place within it, and how we can keep generosity flowing.
- Our outreach events have not only drawn new people into St John's, but have also created closer ties across the congregation and the community, as people of all ages have happily worked together to share their talents as artists, musicians, poets, bakers, welcomers and installers!
- At Christmas, we have taken St John's out to the community with our carol singing in Cravells Road, a Beer and Carols evening in our local pub (The Engineer) and our 'Walking to Bethlehem' nativity.
- There are also many families from the wider community who bring their children to be baptised at St John's and we would like to be more purposeful in reviewing our preparation and follow-up with these families.
- The church's fine acoustic means that it is often used for concerts by local choirs and orchestral groups. It is also used as a teaching centre for the Royal College of Organists.



Cultivate Arts Festival



Nativity





Community involvement and service

- Building our new Parish Centre (aka Project Phoenix) is an ambitious but achievable vision for our church and our local community. The new building will offer sustainable, contemporary and flexible space for both church and community use, specially designed to offer a safe area for Junior Church and other children's groups, a main hall for large events and performances, upgraded kitchen facilities and an open and welcoming café area to host a variety of social activities. There is a need for affordable space for hire in the town (eg for a playgroup, events and activities) and to house local support services for Southdown residents.
- We continue to support a number of charities from 10% of our voluntary income. In 2020, we supported Young Carers in Herts, Azalea Luton, the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability and Rennie Grove Hospice Care.
- We also make regular contributions to a local food bank. Some of St John's members are active in running this, and in other local organisations such as The Harpenden Trust and the Harpenden Child Contact Centre.
- St John's have actively supported Christian Aid for more than 50 years with church members on the local CA committee planning the house-to-house collection and smaller fund raising events.
- St John's members have been an integral part of the organising committee for the Southdown Festival, held in September across a number of locations in the local area, creating conversations and supporting local charities.



Artist's impressions of the approach to the new Parish Centre and its café





St John's ministerial team is an experienced group of dedicated people. We have three Readers who hold the Bishop's Licence: Lauryn Awbrey, David Nye and Anne Edwards. We have one Reader in training, Emma Bresslaw, who is also a Lay Leader of Worship. We hope that our new vicar will support and lead this team in their on-going ministry.



Lauryn Awbrey



David Nye



Anne Edwards



Emma Bresslaw

We have been a training parish for many years and have welcomed and nurtured many talented curates. Our most recent curate, James Brown, was appointed to his first church in September 2020.

There are a number of lay members of the congregation who are involved in many aspects of church life. We hope that our new vicar will support and encourage the range of talents and ministries already offered by our congregation, and encourage the gifts of others still to be realised.

One retired priest – Julia White – has permission to officiate.



Julia White



James Hillman



Jane Donati

Churchwardens



Bill Moore



Martin Myers



Heather Nye

Deputy churchwardens



Tim Coleman

PCC Treasurer



Jacky Dodd

PCC Secretary

There are 19 members on our PCC, including two churchwardens, three deputy churchwardens, two diocesan synod representatives, a deanery synod representative, a treasurer and a secretary.

The PCC meets six times a year and the meetings are preceded by a communion service. Members of the PCC are elected for a three-year term. To ensure the active engagement of a wide range of people, members can opt to be re-elected for one term but then have to stand down for at least a year.

The PCC is an engaged group, with a number of people prepared to use their professional skills to benefit the church. We have established several subcommittees, covering issues such as Finance and Stewardship, Communication, Fabric, Worship, Youth & Children, Reaching New People, Eco Church and Project Phoenix. These subcommittees meet independently and report to the PCC, which endorses any decisions that need to be made. This has allowed the PCC meetings to be focused, with timed agendas.





Electoral roll

As reported at the last APCM (October 2020), there are 177 names on the electoral roll. Of those, 120 are female and 57 are male; 115 are resident in the (ecclesiastical) parish and 62 are not.

Profile

We have a wide age range in the congregation.

We welcome children to St John's and believe they are an important part of our community. The number of young families has reduced over the past few years; we currently have 30 children registered in our Junior Church.

Our Junior Church meets every Sunday during term time in the church hall, for activities and worship that link to the readings and themes of the main service. Children re-join their families in church just before the Eucharistic prayer. Once a month we have an All Age Eucharist where children and young people play an active part in leading our worship.

St John's was one of the first parishes in the diocese to introduce the practice of preparing children for communion prior to confirmation and has shared this practice across the diocese. Preparation classes are offered on a regular basis to children aged eight and above.



First communion – Service and Celebrations



Activities

There are a number of active groups within St John's that support our mission.

The prayer and spirituality of St John's is expressed through groups such as St Luke's Cell Prayer Group, which meets once a month to pray for the long-term sick, and the Fellowship and Study Group, which meets weekly in term time.

An active and well-supported Mothers' Union runs a varied programme of events, including outreach programmes. It plays an important role in the spiritual lives of its members.

'Little Acorns' is a fun and friendly group for toddlers and their carers, held in the church hall on Thursday afternoons during term times.

St John's also hosts 'Faith & Light', a group for adults with learning difficulties, their families and carers which meets monthly for an informal service in church, social time in the hall followed by tea.

Our church building is enhanced by the Flower Guild, which organises the flowers week by week, and Dorcas, which undertakes needlework and embroidery for the fabric of the church, producing altar frontals and vestments.

And throughout the year we have a number of entertaining social events for fun and fellowship. These have included concerts, quiz nights, BBQs, harvest suppers, cheese and wine evenings, a Beetle Drive, a wine tasting event and entertaining pancake races.



Worship



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Worship



Services

St John's offers a variety of services, which have recently been adapted due to current restrictions. Our Sunday morning service is now streamed live on You Tube.

The 9.30am Parish Eucharist is our main service on a Sunday. We use Common Worship at this and all the Eucharistic services. The clergy usually wear vestments, and our Readers and servers wear robes. Lay members of the congregation continue to play an increasingly important part in our services, as servers and readers, and in leading our prayers and administering the chalice. We have a choir, who lead the singing of hymns, responsorial psalms and the Eucharistic setting; they also sing an anthem. We serve Fairtrade tea and coffee in the hall after the service.

Once a month we hold an All Age Eucharist, where children and young people read the lesson and lead our prayers.

We also have an 8.00am Communion service each Sunday with a short address, and a 9.30am Communion service on a Wednesday morning. On Sunday evenings, we have a sung Evensong (BCP), and once a month either a Taizé or Celtic service. Morning and Evening Prayer take place each weekday.

Services for major festivals such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter are well attended. During Lent and Advent there are additional services, and during Holy Week services are held daily, with foot washing and stripping the altar after the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, and a three hours' service on Good Friday.

An evening Eucharist is held on special days such as Ash Wednesday; in recent years these services have been less well attended.

Occasionally, incense is used at special services.





Occasional offices

There are about 18 baptisms each year, which generally take place separately from the main Sunday service.

We hold about 4 weddings a year and about 15 funerals (including officiating at cremations). There is a small Garden of Remembrance for the burial of cremated ashes. Names of the departed are remembered in the prayers each week and we hold an annual service for relatives of the recently departed.





Music

Music plays an important part in the life and worship of St John's.

Our Musical Director, Roger Carter, combines the roles of organist and choirmaster and has ably directed our music for more than four decades. In addition to his role in worship, Roger holds a series of Coffee Concerts on Saturday mornings that attract an audience from the wider community as well as the congregation.

For special services, we have an augmented choir where members of the congregation are invited to join the regular choir to enhance our worship.

There is an opportunity to work with our Director of Music to develop our musical offering, and encourage the input and contribution of members of the congregation.



Buildings



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Buildings



Church

St John's is in a beautiful setting facing the Common.

The church was built in 1908 and the Lady Chapel added in 1963. In 1999 the church underwent extensive refurbishment, including re-ordering, installing new mains drainage and constructing the west porch.

A major re-roofing project was completed about eight years ago, during which all the roof coverings to the church were replaced, along with new rainwater disposal and lightning protection systems, insulation of the loft space and complete redecoration of the interior of the church.

Overall, the building is in a very good state of repair. The last quinquennial report (December 2017) stated that the church benefits from having an active fabric committee and PCC, who take care of the building.

The church seats some 200 people in the nave and another 36 in the Lady Chapel. The Lady Chapel now has new, comfortable chairs which allows us more flexibility in using this calm and peaceful space.

A sound enhancement system, including an audio loop, is fitted throughout the building.



St John's from the Common



Church hall

The church hall, at the rear of the church, was built in 1968 and extended in the early 1980s to provide essential facilities for the church and community. It consists of a hall, toilets, committee room, a kitchen, and the church office. It is used extensively both by church organisations and external groups (eg the Brownies, Rainbows, Harpenden Musical Theatre Company, Slimming World) and, until recently, an established playgroup met in the hall on four mornings each week. It is also used by the council as a Polling station. Daylight Club, a social club for adults of working age with physical disabilities run by social services, uses the hall once a week.

Although the hall has served us well over the last 50 years, it is nearing the end of its useful life and is in need of significant overhaul. As a church, we believe we have an unparalleled opportunity to replace the church hall with a mission-enhancing building that reflects our values and aspirations for the future.



Refreshments under the Magnolia tree outside the church hall – St John's Open Day



The existing church hall



Project Phoenix: building our new Parish Centre – a transformational project for our church and our community

Our new Parish Centre is an ambitious but achievable vision for the church and the community of Southdown. Our vision is to create a sustainable, flexible and contemporary building to meet the needs of the congregation and support our outreach activities and services to the local community.

The building will be full of light, with large glass doors creating an inviting welcome and will be nearer the entrance of the church, making it more accessible and visible from St John's Road. There will be direct access between the church and the new Parish Centre, to highlight the connection between our church and our community, visibly emphasising how God's love is at the heart of what we do. A welcoming café area will provide an open space for connections and conversation.

Planning permission was granted by St Albans District Council in September 2019 and we held our fundraising launch party on 29th February 2020 in the presence of the Bishop of St Albans and the Town Mayor. By April 2020 we had reached our first milestone of £500,000 (from donations, pledges and Gift Aid) towards our target of £1.6m. Sadly, due to lockdown restrictions, our five-year fundraising strategy is now being re-adjusted. However, we have launched a Just Giving website and are holding online fundraising events until it is safe to meet again in person.

The Project Phoenix team was formed in 2014 and has been supported by the professional services of Craigmyle fundraising consultants and MEB architects. Extensive consultation with user groups and the congregation has also taken place throughout the process.





Vicarage

The vicarage is a comfortable four-bedroom property located next to the church and built in 1926. It has good sized gardens to the front and rear, and looks out over the Common.

There are two main reception rooms together with a kitchen/breakfast room downstairs. An additional ground-floor reception room is used as an office.

The parish owns 2 Linwood Road, the curate's house, a smaller, more modern property on the Cross Farm estate.



*St John's church
and vicarage in
January*

About the parish



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About the parish



Location

Harpenden is a popular Hertfordshire town, five miles north of the historic cathedral city of St Albans. It has several excellent schools which attract many families to the area.

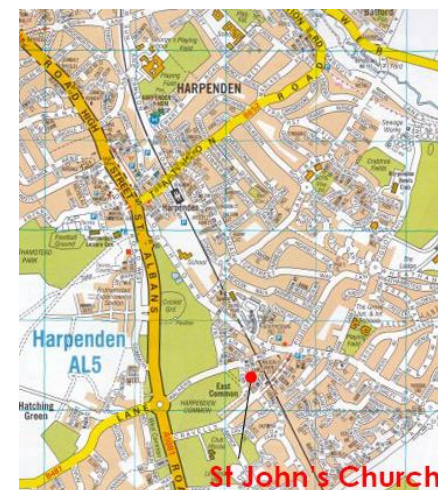
Although there are around 30,000 residents and a number of small to medium-sized businesses, Harpenden still feels like a village. The town has many cafés and restaurants, a wide range of independent shops and several good supermarkets including Waitrose, M&S and Sainsbury's. There is a very popular monthly farmers' market. There are many green open spaces in and around the town, the largest being the Green Flag award-winning Harpenden Common.

A new sports and leisure centre, together with a new theatre and arts centre, is being completed in Rothamsted Park, and is due to open in 2021.

Harpenden is also home to the world-renowned Rothamsted Research Centre, which focuses on sustainable land management and its environmental impacts.

Local bus services connect the town with Luton (and its airport), Hatfield, St Albans, Watford and Welwyn Garden City. Harpenden is on the Bedford to Brighton line, with regular fast trains taking 25 minutes to get to St Pancras.

The parish of St John the Baptist, Harpenden, lies on the south side of town. It straddles the A1081 and includes the West Common and the whole of Southdown.





Housing and population

Over the past 35 years there has been a considerable amount of building and infilling, and the population of the parish has more than doubled to approximately 9,500.

The area to the west of the A1081 consists of mainly large houses; to the east of the main road, the housing is much more mixed. Here there are several small council estates, some pre-war, terraced housing, post-war semi-detached housing and new estates. Some of the council housing provided is for the elderly and there is a McCarthy & Stone retirement development, but no dedicated care home in the parish.

Most of the housing is privately owned. Many of those living in the parish commute to London or to St Albans, Luton or other nearby towns.

Amenities

Southdown has a small vibrant retail area which can cater for almost every daily need – a medium sized supermarket (Co-Op) including a Post Office, and many small businesses that form a thriving community. These include a pharmacy, butcher, baker, a hardware store, bicycle shop, hairdresser, barber, launderette, dry cleaner and many more. There are several cafés, take-aways, pubs and a restaurant. Southdown holds its own Festival in September and a Christmas Lights Up Event which are both supported by St John's.



Schools

The Grove Junior School and the Grove Infant and Nursery School are the only state schools in the parish. Excellent relationships have been established between the church and both schools, who are frequent visitors to St John's. More than 400 pupils from the Grove Schools came to explore the installations in the church during Cultivate Arts Festival.

St John's has held the right to nominate one governor to St Nicholas' Primary School in the centre of Harpenden.

There is also a link between the church and Aldwickbury Prep School, who hold their carol service at St John's.

There are four secondary schools in Harpenden. Three of these – Sir John Lawes (SJL), St George's and Roundwood Park – have been rated outstanding by Ofsted, with fierce competition for places. The fourth, Katherine Warrington School (KWS), opened in September 2019. Children of families worshipping at St John's have the right to be considered for St George's, a non-denominational Christian day and boarding school.



The Grove school exploring the installations during Cultivate Arts Festival – 2018 & 2019





Ecumenical links

There is only one non-Anglican church in the parish – Southdown Methodist Church – and meaningful links exist between the two churches. The ministers meet regularly for coffee and share in services – for example, the ‘Walking to Bethlehem’ nativity service on Christmas Eve, which was very well attended, and a Stations of the Cross in Lent.

The church is a member of Churches Together in Harpenden, and the clergy regularly attend the monthly Harpenden Ministers’ Meeting and the fortnightly Ministers’ Breakfast. The annual Cultivate Arts Festival, a town-wide celebration of the creative arts, is organised and supported by this group.

We are part of the Wheathampstead deanery, an active deanery that organises regular discussions on topics of shared interest. We have representation on both deanery and diocesan synods and aim to play an active part in both.

Cultivate Arts Festival images 2019



‘Flowing Free’ installation in St John’s



‘Voice of the Nations’ concert High Street Methodist Church



Concert in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church



Our financial position is relatively sound, although in recent years we have relied on legacies to cover certain running and repair costs of the church and the church hall.

Many of our members give generously, and our stewardship income in 2020 was £127,000 including Gift Aid, which covered our Parish Share of £108,000. Additional income from hall rentals and other sources took total income in 2020 to £151,000. Hall income rental was adversely affected by the pandemic, however on-going income remained stable.

Total expenditure in 2020 was £172,000, which includes our own charitable giving of 10% of our voluntary income, leaving a deficit of around £21,000.

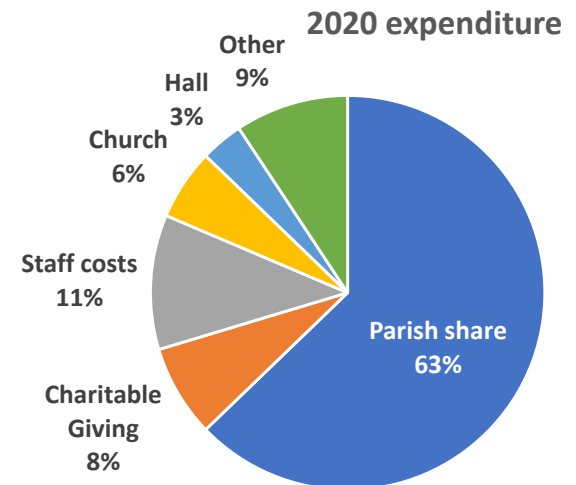
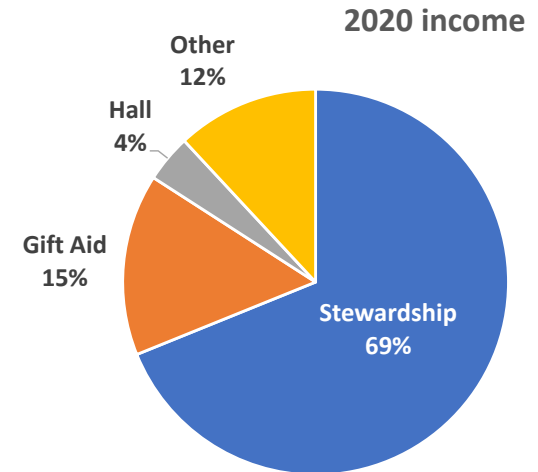
As well as the core church finances above, we have started raising funds for our new Parish Centre, and in 2020 raised £137,000. Overall PCC funds are around £354,000, of which £42,000 is the General Fund, representing around three months of expenditure.

The PCC-approved budget for 2021 anticipates breaking even, which includes an uplift from the successful Stewardship campaign in 2020. Additionally, the PCC owns the curate's house, which will be let out in 2021.

From this base our financial challenges are twofold:

- to further improve our regular Stewardship income to become financially sustainable
- to fund the development of our new Parish Centre

Our full financial accounts for 2019 can be found on the church website www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk





And finally...

Our PCC is unanimous in looking for the best person available, irrespective of gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability.

If you can lead and inspire us, take us to your heart and journey with us, and help us stay relevant in an ever-changing world, we look forward to meeting you.





Comments from our congregation

I enjoy the friendly atmosphere among the congregation and the variety of worship available.

I think of St John's as my second family. None of my real family live locally but I don't feel lonely because my St John's family are always there, listening and sharing with me the good times and occasionally the sad times.

It's a beautiful space to be silent, to be still, and to bring everything to God.

St John's offers me Christian friendship, spiritual guidance and peaceful prayer.

I have been worshipping at St John's for over 65 years. It is the people and the services that make it a special place for me.

I walk into St John's and the cares of the week are lifted. Smiling faces and happy greetings welcome me.

St. John's is a down-to-earth church where people feel welcomed and accepted.



You can find out more about us here:

www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

For our Sunday services, reflections and Junior Church activities,
visit our [YouTube Channel](#)

Follow us on Facebook/ Instagram /Twitter
@StJohnsAL5

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