

St John's

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

On behalf of St John's Church family, we'd like to express our thanks for reading this profile of our Church.

Please get in touch with the Church Office if you would like to know more. Email: churchoffice@stjohnstw.org

| We are a Christ-centred, Bible-believing church family, committed in our mission statement to 'Knowing Jesus better, making Jesus better known'.

| We are a conservative evangelical church preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and of him crucified.

| We believe in penal substitutionary atonement.

| We believe that the Bible is God's living and active Word and the means by which he speaks to his people today.

| We aim to give God's Word the central place in all of our meetings – whether through expository preaching and teaching in our Sunday and midweek meetings, or by prayerful study in our Growth Groups.

| We are a complementarian church, believing in and preaching the equality of men and women while seeking to uphold God's good design for men and women in the family and the church.

| Our aim in everything we do is to be under the authority of the Word of God.

St John's

TUNBRIDGE WELLS



PARISH PROFILE

KNOWING JESUS BETTER | MAKING JESUS BETTER KNOWN

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WELCOME FROM TOM NASH

I have had the privilege of serving as the pastor of St John's since 2020. While words can only go so far in capturing the heart of our church family, I would warmly encourage you to join us for a Sunday morning to experience the love and warmth of our community firsthand.

At St John's, our foundational commitment has remained constant: to honour Christ as we're built up in him through his word and as we actively seek to reach our town and the nations with the gospel. We are blessed to be a true 'family' church, enriched by a wonderful diversity of ages, life stages, and backgrounds - young and old, singles and married couples, men and women all serving together.

Over the past five years, we have witnessed God's grace at work in several encouraging ways. Our church family has become increasingly diverse, both ethnically and socially, reflecting the community we serve and those moving into the area. We have also experienced sustained growth in our Sunday morning attendance - not merely a post-pandemic recovery, but continued momentum for which we give thanks to the Lord.

Our future plans rest in God's hands, but we are excited about several key initiatives. We have appointed a church plant developer and are partnering with the Diocese to establish a new church in an area of significant population growth where the gospel witness is urgently needed. Additionally, we are prayerfully exploring building improvements and facility reordering that would enable further growth and enhance our ministry capacity.

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile and prayerfully considering this role. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to learn more about this opportunity to serve at St John's.

Thomas Nash

Rev'd Tom Nash
Vicar





About Us

Our priority is for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to go to people in our parish, our town, our country, and around the world.

We are a conservative evangelical church and seek to serve one another for Jesus' sake, through preaching, teaching, and being obedient to his Word, summed up in our purpose statement:

KNOWING JESUS BETTER | MAKING JESUS BETTER KNOWN

St John's is a Bible-believing church which seeks to glorify God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – by:

TEACHING

the Word of God, to help people of all ages grow in Christ

PRAYING

and caring for everyone within our church community

SHARING

the good news of Jesus Christ with our parish, our town, and the world beyond.

Our ministry is gospel-centred, with a commitment to having expository Bible preaching and teaching at the heart of our meetings.

We believe that the Bible is God's Word, that he speaks to us through his Word, and that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and doctrine.

We uphold the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England and the doctrine of penal substitutionary atonement.

We are a complementarian church. The Church of England has made provision under the 'Women Bishops' Legislation' for churches who, on theological grounds, could not accept the ministry of a woman bishop. The PCC of this parish has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests in order to reflect its convictions on the distinctive ministry of men and women. St John's has a warm relationship with Bishop Rob Munro, Bishop of Ebbsfleet, who serves Parishes across England who pass the above resolution. Bishop Rob has visited us on a variety of occasions in recent years.

We love to see new faces each Sunday, and extend a warm welcome to all, whatever their views about the Christian faith. Numerous small groups meet during the week, and those who want to make the church their home are encouraged to belong to one of these groups. We are committed to every member ministry, as outlined in Ephesians 4, and to growing a church of disciple-making disciples. We believe that the church is God's manifestation of his kingdom on earth.



Our Vision & Priorities

Our vision is for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to go to people in our parish, our town, our country, and around the world. As such our church purpose statement is 'knowing Jesus better, making Jesus better known'.

We believe that God speaks to us through what is written in the Bible, and so we aim for God's Word to be taught clearly in all of our meetings and activities. In addition to the expository preaching of God's Word at our two Sunday services, we encourage everyone who attends St John's to join a Growth Group, where God's Word is studied, we pray together and mutual support and care is given and received.

Two key priorities for St John's are:

Evangelism

We desire to all play our part in reaching people with the good news of Jesus, and want to make the most of the opportunities that God gives us. We want to continue to grow in our love for both God's glory and for the lost, to grow in boldness in sharing the gospel, to find fresh, culturally relevant ways to engage people with the good news of Jesus, and to grow in our commitment to praying for God's mission in our communities, our town, and across the world.

Discipleship

We recognise the important role that we all play in discipling each other within the family of God, as we grow in wisdom, love, and faith to become the mature body of Christ. We want to learn how we can better encourage each other to grow in maturity, and to develop clear pathways for discipleship within the church community – including developing our welcoming ministry, improving our follow-up for evangelistic programmes, and training more people in Growth Group leadership and one-to-one discipleship.



We have good links with other gospel-believing evangelical churches in the area, particularly St Nic's in Sevenoaks and St Peter's at the other end of Tunbridge Wells, both at clergy level and among our congregations. We enjoy good relations with the Diocese and value their support for church growth initiatives and more generally in the life of the church. We collaborate closely with our Archdeacon, who shares evangelical convictions, in clergy appointments and for his advice on Diocesan matters.

At a national level we support ReNew, AMiE and the Church Society. Clergy and PCC members regularly attend the annual ReNew conference. Members of our church who work in London are encouraged to join midweek London workers' meetings and strengthen our links with other evangelical churches.

Internationally we pray for and support financially missionary work in various parts of the world.

Commitment to Safeguarding

Creating a safe and welcoming environment (culture), where everyone is respected and valued, is at the heart of safeguarding.

We, at St John's, are committed to implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and practice guidance. A formal statement to adopt the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church safeguarding policy statement' is approved by the PCC annually. This was last agreed in May 2025. We seek to promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, strive to protect those who are at risk of being abused, and respond well to those who have been abused. All who serve at St John's Church follow the Diocesan policies for safer recruitment and undertake safeguarding training.

We take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

Staff & Volunteers

We have a team of paid staff who work closely with a host of volunteers covering all areas of church life. For a Who's Who of the staff team, please visit www.stjohnstw.org.

Cornhill Students

We have welcomed a number of placement students from Cornhill at different times over the last few years. The students spend time with the Cornhill Training Course in London during the week, and then work in various areas of ministry in St John's at other times. The precise duties of the student are tuned according to their gifts and preferences, as well as to the needs of the church, but would include leading services, giving talks, leading one-to-one Bible studies, or leading a small group.

Ministry Trainees

St John's runs a Ministry Trainee scheme with trainees working for the church for one or two years. The scheme has the primary aim of equipping Christians for full-time gospel ministry in the UK or abroad, by providing training and experience of ministry in a local church. The scheme includes practical service (such as photocopying, moving chairs, and setting up toddler groups), ministry experience (such as helping with the children's or youth work), and Bible input and training.

PCC

Our PCC meets ten times per year and plays an active role in the governance of the church, with much work carried out by its sub-committees.





Church Life

Sunday Gatherings

Each Sunday, a morning service is held at 10.30am, and an evening service at 6.00pm. The study of the Word of God is fundamental, with a focus on expository preaching. Sermons usually cover a book of the Bible at a time. There is an informal feel to our services, with a mix of traditional hymns and modern songs, played mainly by a band but also some with an organ. The Lord's Supper is included regularly.

There were 335 names (2024: 329) on the Electoral Roll at the APCM in April 2025. Usual Sunday attendance during the year was 393 adults (2024: 372) and in addition 135 children under 14 (2024:126) in the mornings.

Prayer Meeting

We hold a monthly prayer meeting for all church members which is repeated in the morning and the evening. We start with a thought from the Bible, then pray for topics such as areas of church life, small groups, mission links, forthcoming events, the Church of England, and the wider world. The meeting is advertised to the congregation as our most important gathering (after our Sunday gatherings), and attendance in the last two to three years has been encouraging, with typical numbers of approximately 45 in the morning and 50 in the evening.

Growth Groups

At St John's we see Growth Groups as a vital and integral part of church family life. Growth Groups meet throughout the week in a variety of venues from members' homes and the Church Centre to one of our local pubs to study God's Word together, pray and encourage and care for one another. Currently we have around 40 midweek groups meeting weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Three of our staff team are involved in supporting, training and resourcing leaders, overseeing the setting up of new groups and finding places in Growth Groups for newcomers. Our prayer is that through our Growth Groups we will increasingly realise our church's vision to know Jesus better and make Jesus better known.

Bereans

Bereans is a Growth Group for young adults. The group is a great forum for younger church members to have fellowship with people of a similar age, particularly if the person is new to the area. It is also a good way for returning students to keep in touch with the church through holiday periods during their studies.

Men's Ministry

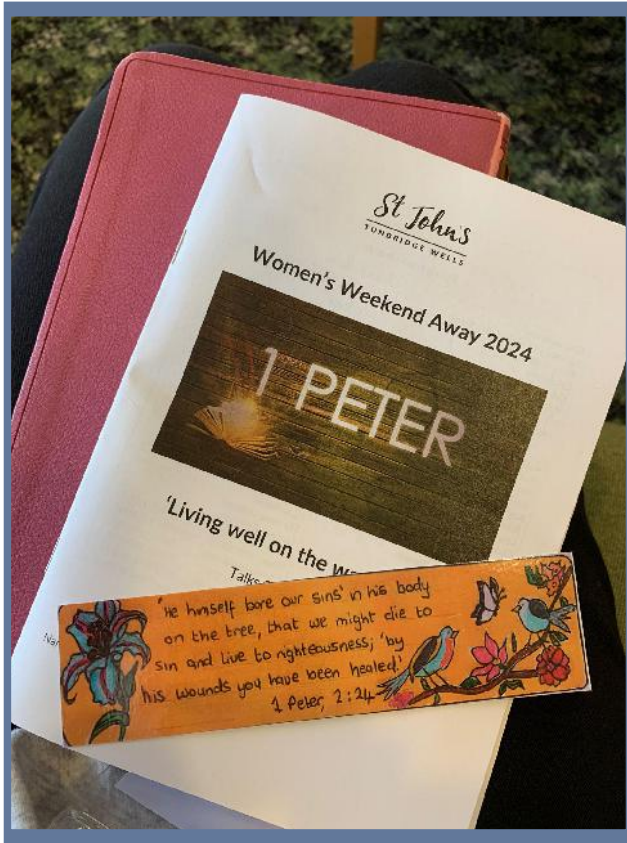
Men's ministry at St John's exists for two primary reasons:

Firstly, to enable the men at St John's to get to know Jesus better. Men are encouraged to be part of a Growth Group, there are currently six groups meeting once or twice a month, as well as the midweek mixed groups that many men attend. We have a yearly men's convention and strong links with The Proclamation Trust which give opportunity to attend courses and Book in a Day events. We also have a preachers' breakfast three times a year and provide opportunities for men to exercise their preaching and teaching gifts at St John's and elsewhere.

Secondly, we seek to create opportunities to make Jesus better known. Each year we have two men's breakfasts and a curry night which are evangelistic events with a Christian speaker and opportunities for conversation around the meal tables – we usually have around 100 or more attending. Another more recent outreach is a 'Dangerous Camping' weekend outdoors in June and an indoor event in January for Dads to bring along their friends who aren't yet believers and their children. In Spring 2026 as part of two weeks of 'A Passion for Life' evangelistic events at St John's, we are also planning to have a men's evangelistic event. We aim to run either a Hope Explored or Christianity Explored course following these events to give men opportunity to explore the Gospel further.

Our prayer is that through our men's ministry at St John's we will see many men coming to repentance and faith in Christ and to present every man mature in Christ.





Women's Ministry

Central to the Women's Ministry at St John's are our Women's Growth Groups. These are for women of any age and stage of life. They meet during term-time to study the Bible, encourage each other, and pray. There are currently eleven groups, including a Cantonese Bible study group and an evening Zoom group, meeting on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings (when there is also a crèche), Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. These groups are an excellent way of raising up new leaders and training women in Bible-handling and teaching skills, and also in welcoming those who are currently exploring the Christian faith.

We also run a number of events to encourage the women in knowing Jesus better and making Jesus better known. We have an annual women's weekend away which encourages the discipleship of older and younger women. As well as encouraging and training in personal evangelism and evangelistic courses, we run several guest events for women, including an annual Christmas event in late November, and a women's breakfast in spring.

Seniors' Fellowship

This is an opportunity, twice a month, for seniors to meet together for a Bible talk or testimony, to encourage one another in the faith, and to be better equipped in sharing that faith with others. Speakers are drawn from within and outside of St John's. Every meeting ends with tea and coffee, with a meal twice a year at Christmas and summer.

Mummy & Me



Mummy & Me is our group for mums and toddlers. There are two sessions on Monday mornings with about 30 mums at each, roughly half Christians and half non-Christians. Each week, there is a Bible story, and the mums and toddlers sing both Christian songs and nursery rhymes. The group is evangelistic, with an emphasis on speaking about Jesus to non-Christian mums, offering Christianity Explored courses, and inviting mums to appropriate outreach events. The team meet termly to plan and pray.



Internationals' Ministry

In 2011 a small team started an internationals' ministry consisting of Global Cafe, low-cost English lessons, and Christianity Explored for internationals. This ministry has evolved significantly since then. Because Tunbridge Wells has received many immigrants from Hong Kong in the last five years, we have sought to welcome them into the church family, share the gospel with non-Christians and help those who are already Christian to integrate.

The Cantonese men's Christianity Explored group has evolved into a Bible study group going through Mark's gospel together. A second men's group started meeting recently, and is going through the book of Genesis together. A Cantonese women's group started in Autumn 2024 with around 14 ladies attending, some of whom are non-Christians. As with the men's group, they have been going through Mark's gospel together.

Global Cafe is an evangelistic event held in the Church Centre once a month. A few internationals come regularly for coffee, cake, and games. For each cafe evening we have a team of around ten people who welcome internationals, run games, make drinks, and generally befriend those who attend. We focus on a different country each month e.g. Italy, Ukraine. We regularly advertise events happening at church and invite guests to come along. At Christmas, Lunar New Year and in the summer, we host special events that can attract over 100 attendees. At each event, the Word of God is preached to enable guests to learn about the Lord Jesus.





We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Psalm 78:4

Youth Ministry

The vision of youth ministry at St John's is one generation telling future generations the glorious deeds of the Lord Jesus. Our aim is to do this faithfully according to the scriptures, working hard to apply Bible truth to the lives of 11-18-year olds in a fun and relevant way so that they may trust and obey Jesus. The other role we hold is the training of current and future leaders for youth ministry. We are blessed to have a gifted and energetic team and want to work hard at equipping them for the roles they hold.

Rock Solid

Our 11-14 group gathers together on a Sunday morning, starting off in the main church service at 10.30am before heading out for our own group time. Some of the young people also meet in mid-week Bible study groups to study the Bible. Once a month, Rock Solid also meet on Friday evenings.

Engage

Our 14-18 'Engage' group meets every on Friday evenings during term time.

Summer Camps

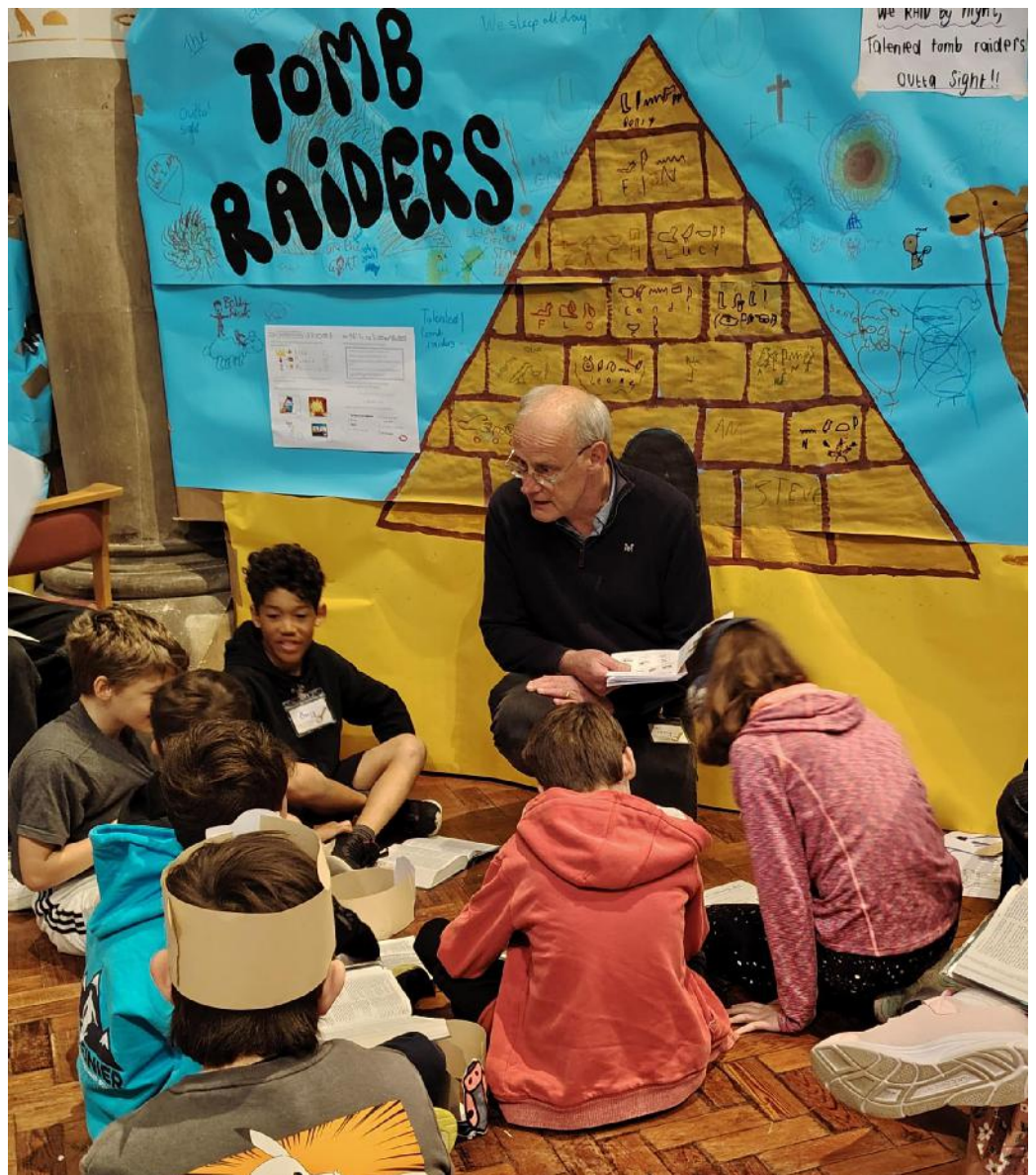
Many of our teenagers participate in summer camps such as Woolhampton, Sparkford, Foremarke, Lymington, and CPAS. We also have adult volunteers who help run camps as well as help with cooking, washing up, and looking after the children.

The Ark

The Ark is our ministry to children under 11. On Sunday mornings during the church services we have 3 groups for pre-schoolers - Baby Ark, Toddler Ark and Mini Ark - and 4 groups for school-age children - Reception, Years 1&2, Years 3 to 6 and our SEN group. In each group, we teach Bible stories, and do other age-appropriate activities, including learning memory verses, singing, doing craft and playing games. In the Year 3 to 6 groups, each child opens up a Bible to discuss the Bible passage.

The Bible is explicit when it tells us that the primary responsibility for teaching and modelling God's truth to children lies with their parents (Eph 6:4, Deut 6:4-7, Prov 22:6). So our vision for the Ark is to partner with parents to reach the next generation. We recommend and give out books to help parents to teach the Bible at home, and we seek to ensure that parents know what their children are learning in the Ark, so that they can reinforce the Sunday teaching.

We aim to reach out to children and their parents who don't yet come to church. We regularly hold activities such as Holiday Bible Clubs and Light Parties, to which the children can invite their friends. And we undertake some schools work.





Christianity Explored & Hope Explored

As we are committed to knowing Jesus better and make him better known, we encourage our members to share the good news of the gospel and run regular outreach events and courses such as Christianity Explored and Hope Explored.

These courses have been run regularly at the church for many years and have also taken the form of a group meeting in a church member's home with a meal followed by the video and discussion. We have also run the course for women's groups, in a local pub, and for internationals.

Regular outreach events include guest services, music events, and events specifically for men, women, internationals, seniors and young people.





Mission Partners

The Mission Team implements the PCC's policies for grant-making. The committee meets during the year to allocate gifts to support mission partners, and mission and relief agencies in the UK and worldwide, subject to PCC approval. The funding for each missionary and organisation is assessed on an annual basis according to circumstances and needs.

The Mission Team looks after St John's missionaries, ensuring that they are supported in their work through prayer, encouragement, and financial contributions from the church family. Our missionaries are actively involved in a wide range of organisations. Currently we support the work of the gospel through links with People International, Crosslinks, OMF and CrossTeach. The Mission Team keeps the church family up-to-date with any news through articles and prayer updates, and presentations in church services.

We have Christmas and Harvest offerings, which allow us to contribute to the work of other mission organisations and projects.



Parish & Environment

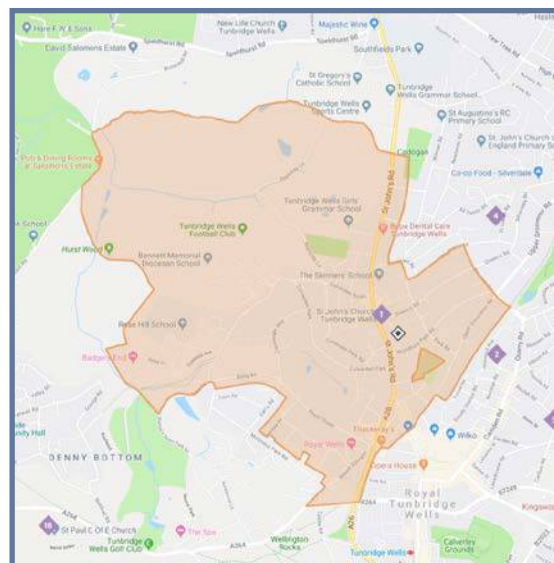
St John's Church is situated in St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. It is part of the Diocese of Rochester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is

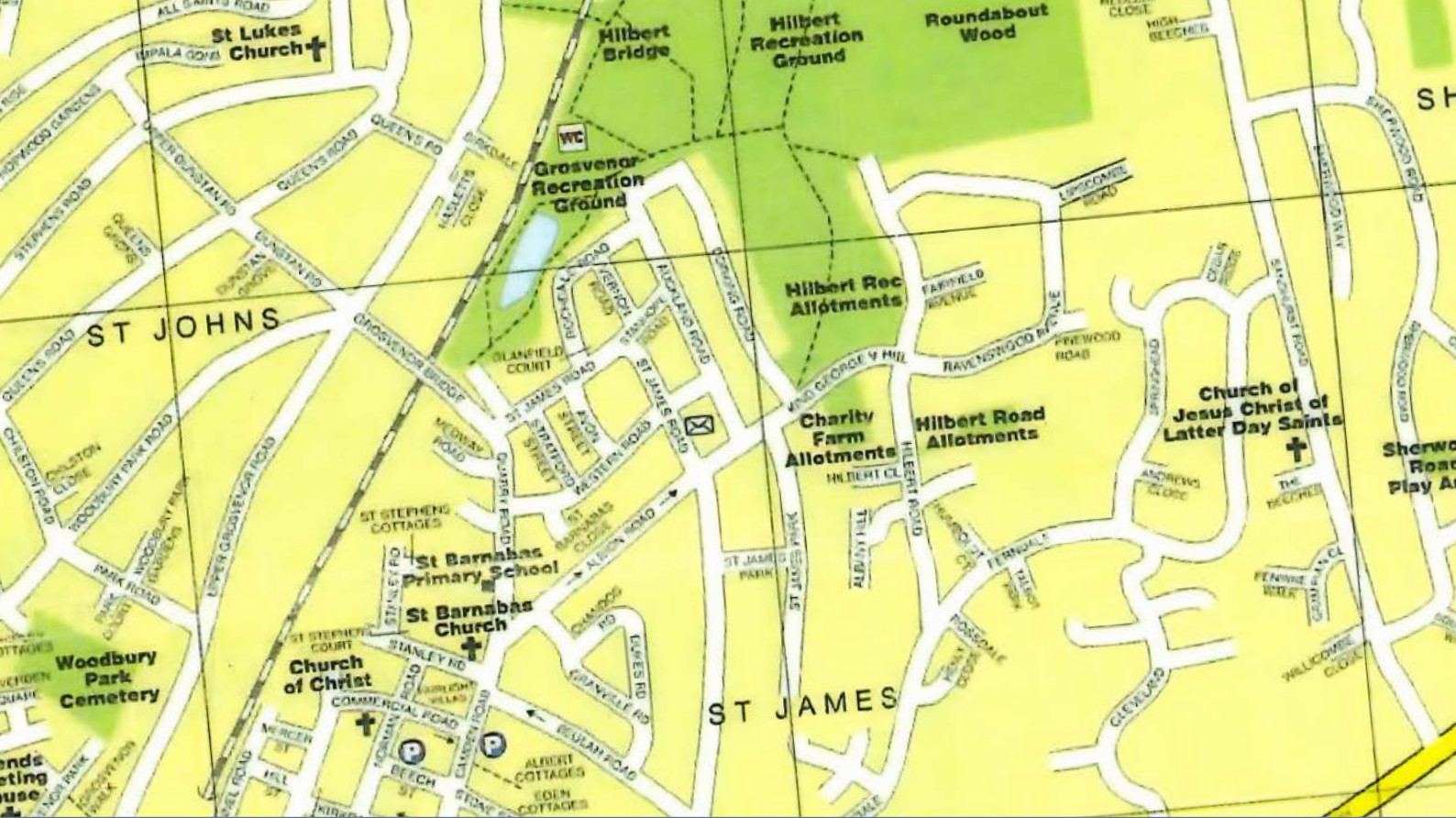
**St John's Church Office,
Amherst Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent
TN4 9LG**

Royal Tunbridge Wells (often shortened to Tunbridge Wells) is a large town in West Kent, England and is the largest town between London and Hastings. It is about 40 miles south-east of central London by road, connected by the A21 dual-carriageway, which joins the M25 at J5 at Sevenoaks. It takes about 50 minutes by train to London Bridge, and 60 minutes to Charing Cross Station, with regular services every 15 minutes. Unemployment is low, with people working locally and in London.

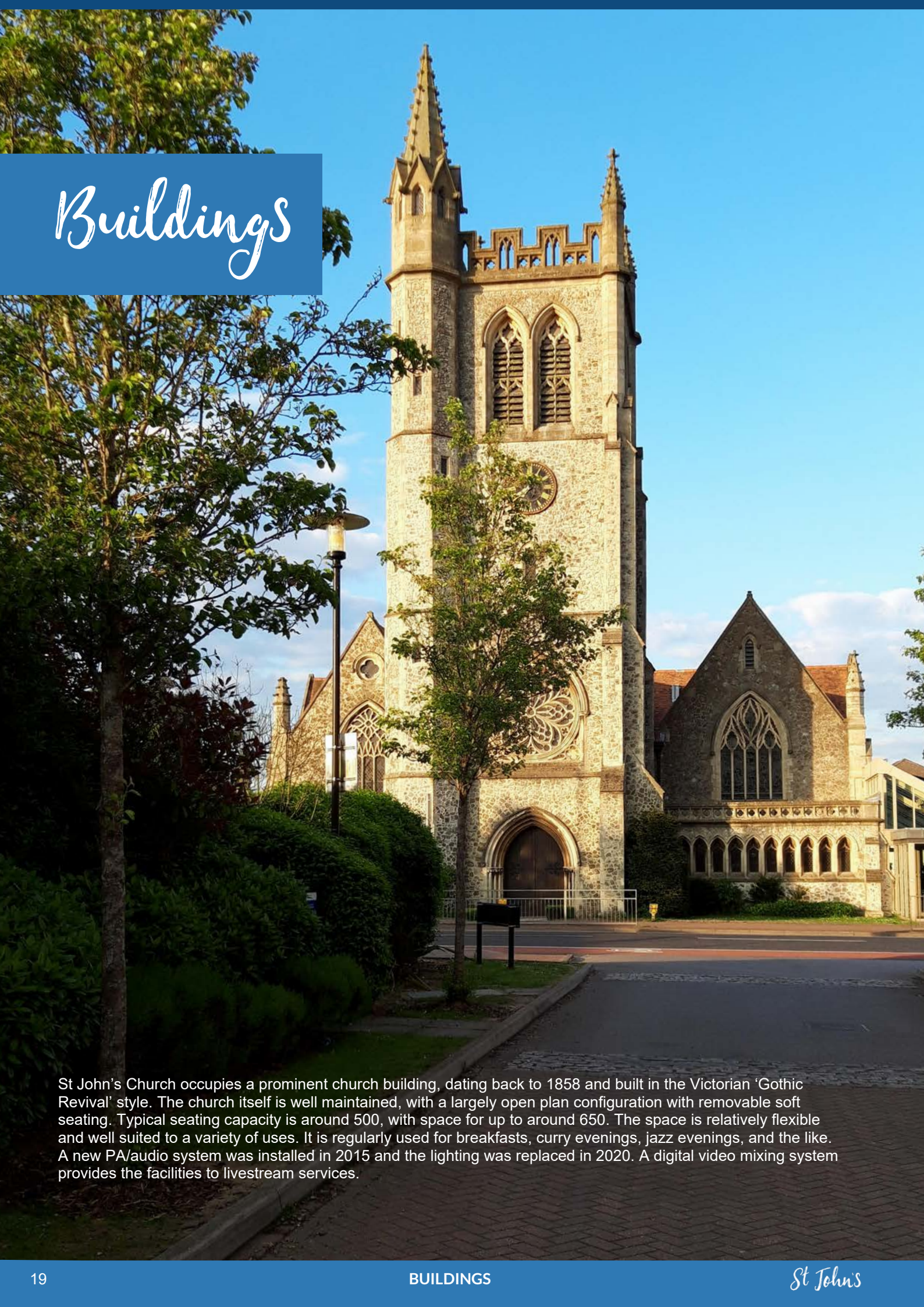
The town is close to the border of the county of East Sussex, and is surrounded by beautiful English countryside, with the Weald, Ashdown Forest, and numerous National Trust properties close by.

Tunbridge Wells and its neighbour Tonbridge have good schools, with a mix of comprehensive and grammar schools situated very close to St John's. At primary school level we have strong links with nearby St John's C of E Primary School, where staff members regularly give assemblies. We support the Christian charity CrossTeach which goes into schools to help run CUs and strengthen the links between St John's and local schools.

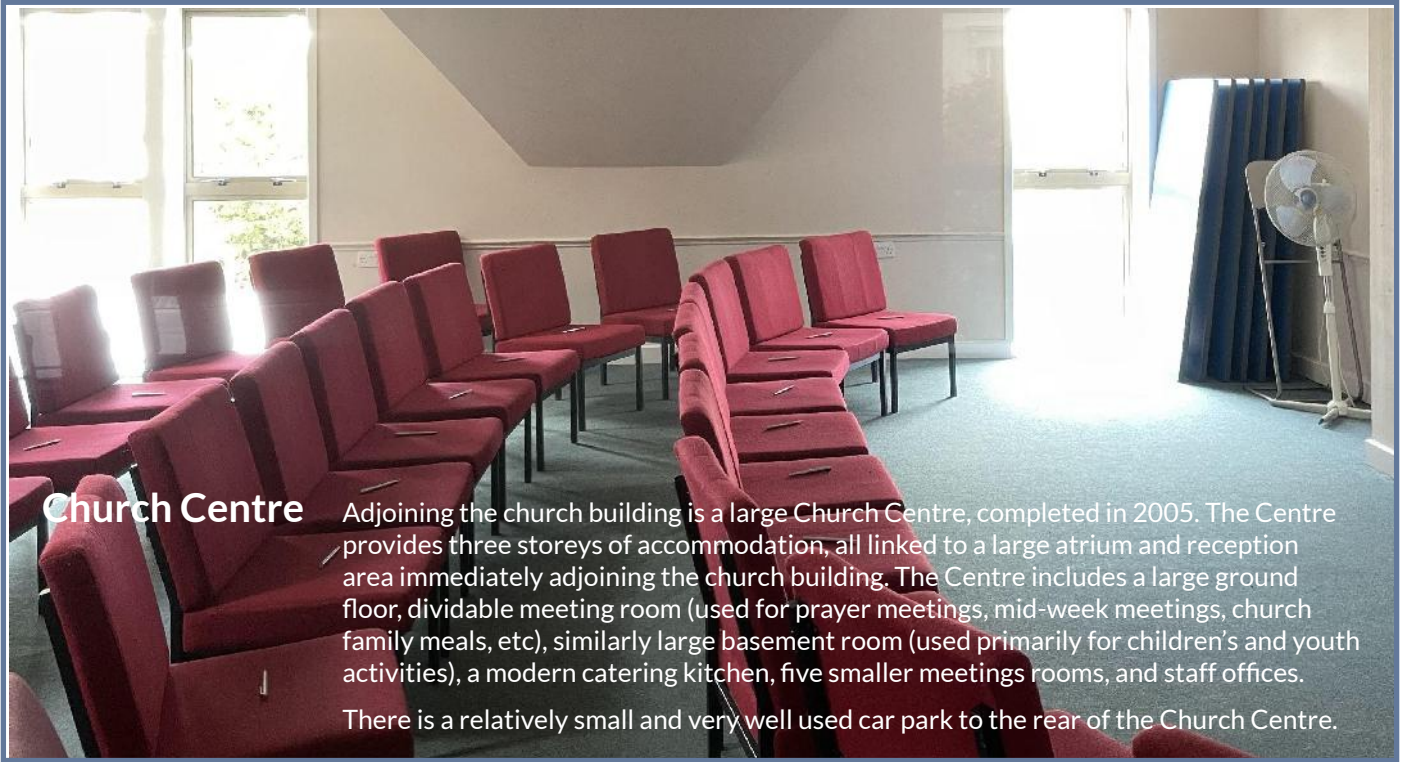




Buildings



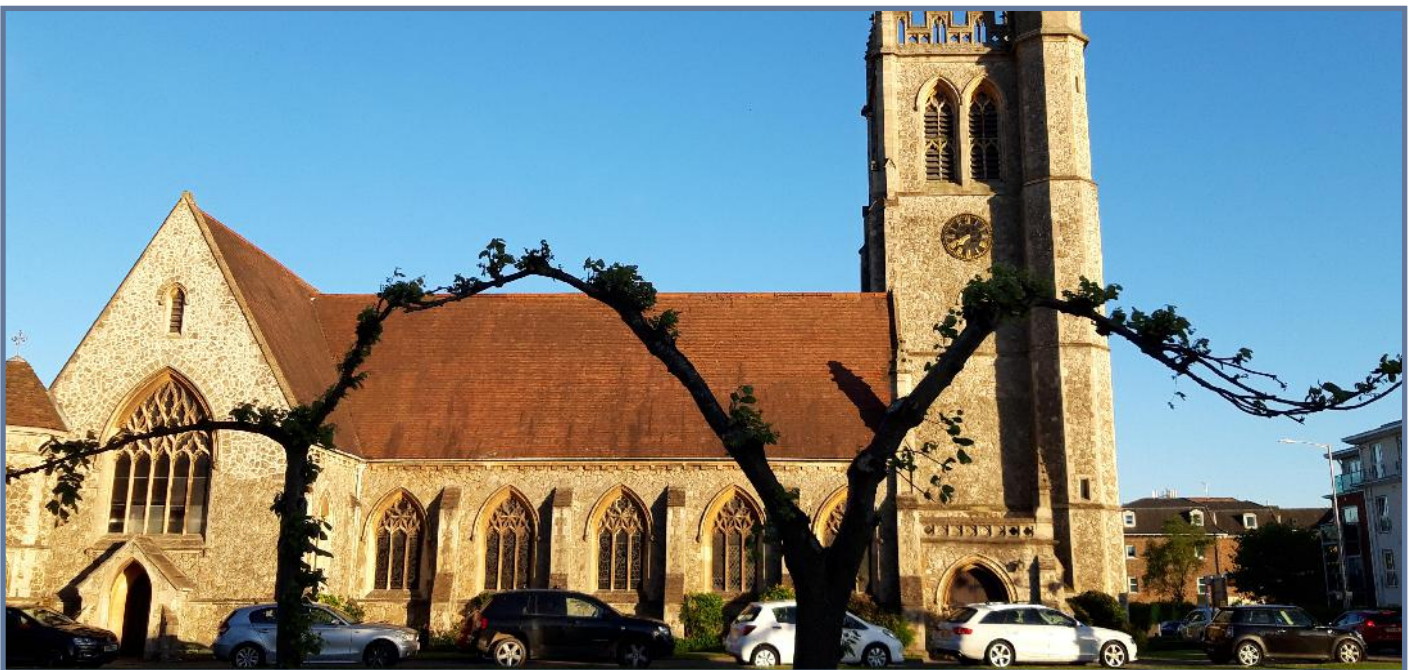
St John's Church occupies a prominent church building, dating back to 1858 and built in the Victorian 'Gothic Revival' style. The church itself is well maintained, with a largely open plan configuration with removable soft seating. Typical seating capacity is around 500, with space for up to around 650. The space is relatively flexible and well suited to a variety of uses. It is regularly used for breakfasts, curry evenings, jazz evenings, and the like. A new PA/audio system was installed in 2015 and the lighting was replaced in 2020. A digital video mixing system provides the facilities to livestream services.



Church Centre

Adjoining the church building is a large Church Centre, completed in 2005. The Centre provides three storeys of accommodation, all linked to a large atrium and reception area immediately adjoining the church building. The Centre includes a large ground floor, dividable meeting room (used for prayer meetings, mid-week meetings, church family meals, etc), similarly large basement room (used primarily for children's and youth activities), a modern catering kitchen, five smaller meetings rooms, and staff offices.

There is a relatively small and very well used car park to the rear of the Church Centre.



The Green

On the opposite side of the church building to the Church Centre is a tree-lined 'green' occupying the corner of St John's Road and Queens Road. The green provides a focal point for the community of St John's and, while normally open for public access, it is occasionally fenced off for use by Holiday Bible Clubs, and our Church Weekend at Home which takes place every other year.

Housing

The church owns nearby properties for staff accommodation. For further information, visit

<https://www.hamptons.co.uk/properties/20991106/lettings/P307642#/>