

# **St John the Evangelist Church**

## **PARISH PROFILE**



**We are part of the Family of God on  
earth,  
sharing His Light & His Love with  
everyone  
A Beacon of hope & happiness on the Hill**

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## Foreword from The Rt Revd Adrian Newman - Bishop of Stepney

*Statement in relation to the benefice, the needs of the diocese and the wider interests of the Church*

### **The Benefice**

St John's is a lively parish with a rich history and a clear commitment to its neighbourhood. The new incumbent will follow the long ministry of Karowei Dorgu, who recently left to become the Bishop of Woolwich – this will require a certain maturity of faith and outlook, building on the strengths that +Karowei brought to the parish while needing to fashion the new phase of life for St John's with their own gifts, abilities and emphases in ministry.

In common with most parishes in the Stepney Area, the last 10 years have seen substantial population growth and increasing demographic diversity, and one of the challenges in a parish like St John's is for the church to be a place where different communities meet and explore the common good. One of the significant features of Islington is that rich and poor live cheek by jowl and it's important that the new Vicar has the character and ability to relate across this social spectrum, and grow a church that can do the same. So the new Vicar will need to be mature in faith, emotionally intelligent, socially adept, and with a human touch.

The aspiration for growth at St John's is clear and exciting, so I will be looking for someone who can grow churches in difficult and challenging circumstances. 'London churn' is a reality that every London Vicar faces. People come, stay a while, then move on. If you are from within London already you will be familiar with this – if you're from outside it may come as a shock. It is one of the inhibiting factors to growth in London churches and whoever is appointed will need to be aware of it and have a realistic understanding of the challenge it brings to ministry here.

Despite St John's large Electoral Roll and its commitment to evangelism and service, congregations are not as large as they might be. The parish's Mission Action Plan is now some years old and the arrival of a new Vicar may be a good time to renew it.

The Parish Profile highlights the 9 schools in the parish, and the young demographic of Upper Holloway. An incoming Incumbent will need to relish this opportunity with young people and approach it positively.

You will see a welcome emphasis on Evangelism in the Profile; this is part of the parish's DNA and the Vicar has certainly taken a lead. I share St John's sense that their next Vicar should be someone who is committed to faith-sharing, and training the congregation in the same.

The congregation embodies some core values of risk-taking and openness to exploring new ideas, but a new Vicar will always need to be aware of the collateral tension between a well-established congregation and lay leadership team, and a desire for change.

An incoming incumbent will need to have well-developed administrative skills and be capable of leading a culture change in terms of systems, structures and process.

### **The Building**

The Parish Profile describes this well. The church building is wonderfully 'visible' and well located on the main road, and the opportunities for thinking seriously about the mission and

development opportunities of the building are enormous. But there is no doubt that the opportunities are matched by the challenges, and an incoming Vicar needs to take the building seriously and be committed to seeing it as an opportunity rather than a threat.

### **Finance**

Parish finances have been relatively stable in recent years but have become more challenging in the vacancy period. A new Vicar cannot afford to be fazed by finance and the challenge of managing it well in a place and parish like this.

### **Collaborative Ministry**

Ministry here will be collaborative – in the Group; with the Deanery; through the establishment of partnerships with secular organisations and agencies in the local community; and alongside the laity in St John's. So the next Incumbent must be a natural 'team player', able to encourage and develop collaborative leadership.

### **The Diocese and the Wider Church**

Islington Deanery is very diverse, with many different traditions and expressions of church life. It is absolutely vital that clergy have a generous approach to those who see things differently from them, and a willingness to work with other churches in the Deanery across a range of social issues that unite Christians far more than their churchmanship might divide them. An incoming Vicar will need to continue the parish's commitment to good and positive relationships with the broader Church of England networks, and I expect all clergy to play a full part in the wider life of the Deanery, Area and Diocese, and to encourage their congregations to do the same.

### **The Complexity of London**

It is crucial that all clergy working in the Diocese of London recognise the complexity of the task that will confront them. Any new clergy appointment needs to be alert to the needs and opportunities which arise from a place of diverse culture and faith. It is important that there is a willingness to grow in understanding of what it means for the parish church to be present and engaged with the wide spectrum of people living and working in the wider community.

### **Capital Vision 2020**

The mission and pastoral context of all that we undertake in the Diocese of London is set by Capital Vision 2020, and the emerging commitments set out here:

<http://www.london.anglican.org/mission/capital-vision-2020>

Capital Vision 2020 was launched in June 2013 and I would expect the incoming incumbent to grow a vision for St John's in line with the 'Capital Vision 2020' framework.



## 1. Our Mission and Vision

As the people of God our mission is to:

Know Christ personally and make him known.

Be welcoming to all people of every race and class to share in God's family, through knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

### **Living as the family of God**

We are committed to living as part of the family of God where we worship God and care for one another. Jesus said; "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

### **Disciple one another**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we believe His Word is central to our lives, both personally and as the corporate body of Christ. Therefore, studying, and helping others understand God's word, is one of our highest priorities. We are committed to sharing Jesus love with all the Parish in as many different ways as possible, to evangelise to our Parish community as Jesus commanded us to Mathew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

### **Love one another**

"For God so loved the world" - John 3:16...As a church dedicated to Christ, we believe in the power of Jesus Christ to change lives; and in the importance of God's word revealed to us in the Bible. Under our most recent Vicar we have become "a Church of prayer for all nations," reflecting the multi-ethnic community around us. We are community-focussed and have good relationships with other local churches.



## **2. Who we are**

St John's Church congregation do not only come from the local Parish but also come from such far distant places as Boreham Wood, Ealing & Hackney. Some of the congregation are people who have moved away from the local area, but still have strong attachment to the church. It is this family bond that makes us unique as we see ourselves as each other's keeper.

The church worshippers reflect the ethnic mix of the area for example, our congregation currently includes over 33 nationalities with people from Iran, Barbados, Ireland, Nigeria, Wales, Cape Verde, Malaysia, Spain, Ghana, Sri Lanka and England. Overall, people who identify as African or just as Black are the largest groups, and we also have people from South Africa, Sweden, and Jamaica.

We truly rejoice and celebrate our diversity which enriches everything we do and results in some amazing Bring & Share get-togethers!!!

Currently there are 306 names on the electoral role. 60% are resident in the parish, and most others live in north London.

## **3. Our Area – our Parish**

Archway and parts of Upper Holloway community, in North London, is part of the borough of Islington which is home to Arsenal football club. Archway is a residential district with good transport links. It is a richly diverse area with people from all ethnic backgrounds living in mostly flats rented from the council.

Recently Vantage Point, an iconic London landmark with one of the best panoramic views featuring 118 bespoke apartments and a Premier Inn hotel were added to the Archway landscape at the corner of Highgate Hill. Topographically, the area is of medium elevation between Highgate above and Islington below and has seven small parks and two large parks. A large proportion of the west of Archway is Whittington Hospital. The local MP is Jeremy Corbyn, the labour leader. The largest age group within the area are the 36-65 age range.

There are florists, Deli Junction, award-winning Turkish & Italian restaurants, hardware, lighting and electrical retailers, estate agents and newsagents including an award winning gift shop – MAP on Junction Road. The Whittington Hospital, the Upper Holloway Overground & the Archway Tube station service both the community and a wide range of commuters and travellers. We have a local Saturday market with organic foods and an eclectic range of stalls, and a brand new Plaza has just been built by the Tube station.

There is a well supported modern public library as well as a fully equipped leisure centre boasting of a two-storey gym, leisure pool with a sloping beach flume, a spa pool and sauna.

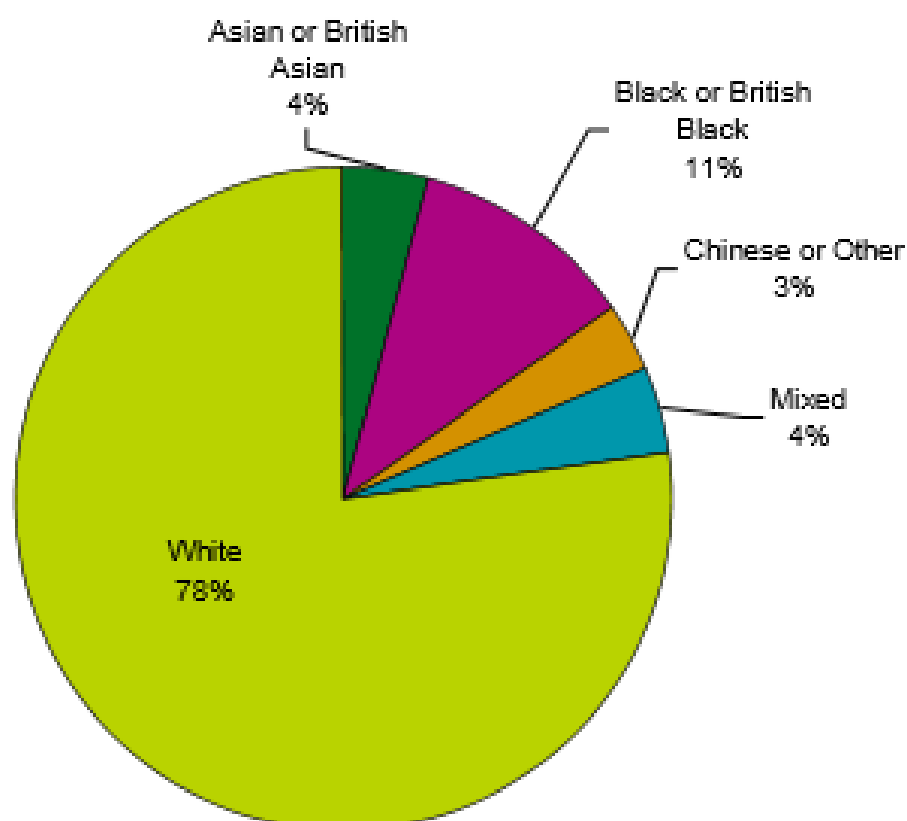
### **Local Schools**

There are 8 primary Schools and 1 Secondary School within the Archway area, of which one is in the Parish. These include; St John's Upper Holloway CofE Primary School, Mount Carmel Catholic College for girls, Brookfield Primary School, Duncombe Primary School, Hargrave Park Primary School, St Joseph's RC Primary School, St Marks CofE Primary School, Whitehall Park School, Yerbury Primary School. There are a few nurseries and Toddler groups within the area.

We are well-connected to our own local church Primary School of St John`s.

Below are some of the demographics of our local parish taken from the 2011 Census which give good insight into the area. Like many inner-city churches we face certain challenges such as a more transitory younger population but stable older population;

### Ethnic Composition of Junction

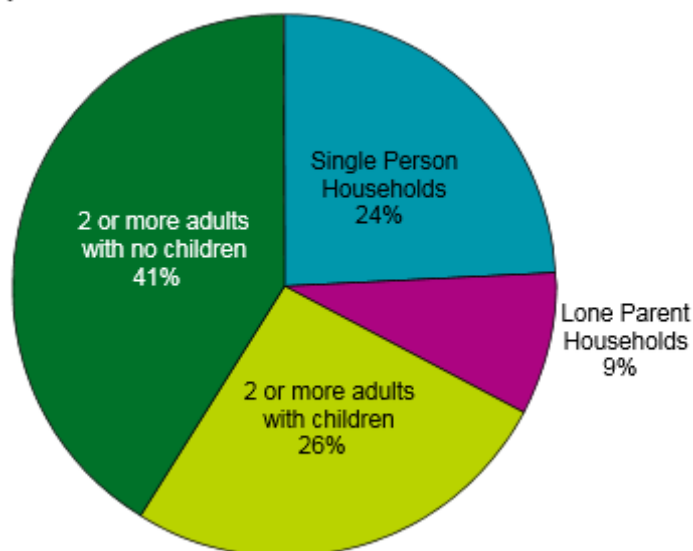


### Religious Affiliation

	Junction	Islington	London
Christian	54.33%	54.21%	58.23%
Buddhist	0.98%	1.05%	0.76%
Hindu	1.34%	1%	4.07%
Jewish	1.48%	1.05%	2.09%
Muslim	6.09%	8.11%	8.46%
Sikh	0.36%	0.34%	1.45%
Other	0.62%	0.41%	0.51%
None	24.34%	23.72%	15.76%

Source: Census, 2001

**Household Composition in Junction**



Source: Census, 2001

#### **4. Area Dean's Statement**

The Deanery boundaries are coterminous with the Islington Borough except for a small area in the South . The Borough is roughly rectangular in shape, and lies either side of the A1. The southern boundary is within easy walk of St Paul's Cathedral. Islington is one of the smallest London Boroughs with a population of about 206,000 (an increase from 180,000 ten years ago). On the eve of World War II the population stood at 440,000 many of whom lived in large Victorian villas which had been subdivided into flats. The decline in population came about as a result of the destruction of housing in the Blitz, the demolition in the 1960s of what were called at the time "slums" and their replacement with lower density social housing. Also gentrification meant that multi-occupied properties were converted back into single family homes.

The borough is famous for its "cappuccino culture" beloved of the media, but this ignores the significant areas of deprivation found here – often alongside great affluence. 46% of children are living in poverty, the second highest child poverty rate in England. Three quarters of residents live in flats, and overcrowding is a common problem. Islington has the smallest amount of green space per person in London. 1 in 9 children aged 11 – 16 has a mental health problem, 36% higher than the national average. Primary school attendance rates are the second poorest in London, and eighth poorest for secondary schools.

Although socially diverse Islington is not as ethnically diverse as other London boroughs. Islington has avoided the ghettoisation seen elsewhere in London.

We are well served by transport links – the Underground, the Overground, Network rail and numerous bus routes. Kings Cross/St Pancras is a major transport interchange, and the location of the Channel Tunnel terminal.



Most churches in the deanery are within the Evangelical tradition, but there is strong Catholic representation mainly in the south of the borough. Chapter morale is good and there is a genuine sense of wanting to collaborate across traditions,. We meet about every six weeks, and every 18 months go away for 24hrs. Although in the past Deanery Synod has not been so well supported, things are changing and there is now a renewed impetus. The need for able and committed lay Synod representatives was clearly explained before this year's Annual Meeting.

Over the last year the Deanery has started to think more strategically, in response to a paper from a lay representative about Climate Change. The Richard Cloudesley Charity is enabling an audit of all parishes in the Deanery and enabling a funding stream to support the outcomes of the audit.

Chapter responds to issues raised by our changing context by gathering, sharing and reflecting on missional experiences across traditions.

There is an active Faiths Forum in Islington. This has become more effective with the renewed commitment from representatives of the Muslim community, after a noticeable lack of participation in the previous few years. We have strong links with the Finsbury Park Mosque and the Muslim Welfare House and have helped to support the mosque after the recent attacks.

One of the major influences in Borough is the development at Kings Cross – the largest in London since that of Regent Street in 1820. This comprises transport, business, leisure and residential (including eventually a new school), as well as the Central St Martins College of Art & Design. Although the development itself is in Camden (Borough and Deanery), access to the new facilities is from Islington. There is a ripple effect through the adjacent boroughs – slowly increasing the amount of gentrification at the same time increasing the number of students living in the borough. A working group has been established to define what the nature of the church presence in the development should be.

Crime rates are almost double the National Average. A lot of young people say they don't feel safe in our community. Many have experienced being robbed or attacked in the street. These crimes often go unreported for fear of the consequences or mistrust of the police. However, in spite of this, Islington is seen by most residents as a "nice" place to live. During the riots of 2011 there were several incidents in Islington (more than we realised at the time), but these were nowhere near on the scale of what happened elsewhere.

The next vicar would be assured of a warm welcome by the Chapter, and continued support in the future.

**Jonathan Brewster**  
Area Dean of Islington  
July 2017



## 5 . Family life in Church

Vibrant services are held at 9am and 11am every Sunday and 6.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.  
Services are listed below;

### **Sundays**

**9am Holy Communion** (every Sunday)– this is a more traditional service with Holy Communion and a regular attendance of 25-30 people who reflect both the age and cultural diversity of the area. Both modern & older hymns are sung usually to recorded music and once a month to the organ. Up until last year there was a Sunday school available but due to all three Sunday school teachers getting married and starting their own families this has now had to stop.

**11am Morning Prayer** (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)– this is a more lively family service with Sunday school and Youth Group being held on most Sundays. There are up to 70-100 people attending with their family. The worship is mostly modern with some traditional hymns led by a different Music group each week. This creates a uniqueness to every week as each music group has it's own style.



Sunday service in full swing

### **11am All Age Family Service**

This is with cubs, scouts & beavers (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month) Children & youth join us for this service where the sermons and worship is more geared to the children and young people. It is a lively, fun service. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 11am there is a Holy Communion service with Sunday school and Youth Group,

### **6.30 Evening Prayer**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening there is a 6.30pm Evening service which has taken various forms over the years including offering healing, meditation, worship & evening prayer services. It has always needed more focus and encouragement but has a core group of around 8 people attending.

### **Weekdays**

Every Wednesday morning, we have a lunch time informal Holy Communion or fellowship service followed by a Ploughman's lunch which also attracts some new people. There are usually around 12-15 people attending and the service is brief and lively sometimes reflective and always enjoyable.



Accapella singing at the midweek service



## The Music Groups



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship Team

The Worship Coordinator leads informally with each week having its own team and leader, this has worked really well for us as the worship is varied and interesting. We are fortunate to have one person who is a professional musician who can play our wonderful pipe organ however most worship music is led by the guitar or clavinova. No live musicians? No problem - we are happy to sing acappella on some occasions!



Some of our Worship Leaders singing together

## **Bible study & prayers**

Each week we have a number of mature Christians leading Bible study in their homes on different times & days, where we aim to relate the Bible to our lives, and encourage and support each other to live out our faith. The leaders working with the Vicar meet termly to reflect on how things have gone and decide on what Book to study next. The groups are all different, but what they have in common is a great fellowship and friendship where people can gain a deeper understanding of what is meant within the text, the context and its application in our own lives. We all pray together and one group also has a prayer chain where any request for prayer can be immediately passed on to 19 people. Bible study/homegroups sometimes do prayer walks around the Parish, and have contributed to community outreach sessions.

This year we have studied Matthew, Daniel, and Gideon, we also had a Lent reflection series which was well-received that allowed us time to pray and have quiet time together whilst looking at the significant events in the days that lead to Christ's death and resurrection.

We have a regular prayer group at the school with parents and the children are encouraged to put their own prayers in the prayer box which are then shared and prayed for, some of the prayers are extremely serious regarding a parents illness or parental strife, others are more frivolous !!!

There is a Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday of every month and a day of prayer & fasting is occasionally held. The Prayer Breakfast is an important meeting for church members to come together at the beginning of each month to think about and pray for the world, the country, the Parish, the community and themselves.

Prayer ministry team: this is offered after the 11.00am service by various mature church members in the Henry Venn Chapel, however prayer ministry is also offered regularly as needed by the incumbent and Lay ministers as well as church members.



Our essential sound & tech team

## **Lay Ministry**

Our Licensed Lay Ministers who all work in other fields full-time, regularly preach and lead services. Mrs Uzor Monu has been a regular attender of the church for many



years, and is passionate about preaching the Gospel, not only that but she makes amazing cakes too.

Ms Vicki Davies lives in the Parish, and is currently also the Parish Coordinator. She has held varied responsibilities including running the Youth Group when her children were growing up.

Mrs Debbie Onyekwuluje is currently studying to be a Licensed Lay Minister and has just completed her first year. She has also written a book called `My Diary of Upside Down Prayers` which is available at all good book stores.

Mrs Jacintha Taylor is currently on a Pastoral Care course with the Diocese. She worked for a busy Medical practice for many years and she has been very helpful in all areas of work but particularly in supporting the Noah`s Ark group

Angel Teibas and his wife Jenny joined the team last year, from the London City Mission. Angel is the Outreach & Evangelist worker. Please see more under Mission.

There is a rota each month for members of the church who regularly do the readings and the intercessions. This group has recently expanded as members are encouraged to grow in confidence.

There is no formal structure for pastoral care, but all the groups above include pastoral care. There are also prayer chains which are activated when there is need, for example if someone falls ill or has an accident. Home visits are also made as the need arises and church members regularly visit people who are ill or housebound.

Our part time parish administrator, Mr Innocent Shams, works in the church office where we have a computer, telephone, printer, Internet access and a large photocopier used to produce all service programme and booklets.

**The Christmas Carol Service** (one of the highlights of the year) worship is different, and the congregation members who participate come under the leadership of a Music Director to coach them through some new carols. We start in darkness as candles are gradually lit.

Harvest is another celebration, which often sees generous donations which go to the Drop-in or families that are in need.



Harvest service

This Easter we held our first Maundy service Vigil after the main service and on the Easter Sunday for the first time in many years we celebrated a Dawn Eucharist. Both services were well attended by 25-30 people.

### **Occasional Offices**

On average over the year St John's has 12-14 funerals which are mostly burials, 4 marriages, 6-8 baptisms and 17 adults & children were confirmed last year. Home communion has not been regularly offered.

The main crematorium and cemetery is approximately 7 miles away in East Finchely on the main A1 road.

### **Our policy on Christian Initiation (Baptism & Confirmation)**

A baptism enquiry is followed by invitation to worship. A clergy visit follows and when two or three enquirers are ready we run a short three session course. They meanwhile are invited to regular worship and other ways of sharing our corporate life, so that usually after some months a baptism will happen for several children or adults. Parents are invited to Alpha (a basic Christianity course), and a Baptism course or Confirmation course

Currently there is no set pattern for baptisms they are usually held when requested however we hope to start offering four opportunities for Baptism per year. Confirmation is annual.

## **6. OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**



Junior Church

### **Sunday School**

Our children & youth are amazing and a top priority for us, we offer a number of opportunities for them all to come together, play together, enjoy activities and learn more about Jesus, God our Father and the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to help our children & young people to develop their own, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We want to help them to build a strong foundation for their faith, which will uphold them throughout their life.



Sunday School

### **Junior Church**

This is held every 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month during term time. Each week we have approximately 10-20 children joining us. We meet in the Church Hall while the service is taking place, spend 10 minutes in praise and worship, and then split into age groups for the main lesson. The children are grouped according to age: 3-7 and 8-11. Each group has two volunteer adult leaders to organise and assist with the sessions. In total there are 8 Junior Church leaders and/or assistants.

We have a wonderful group of children at St John's, although the Junior Church team believes that there is potential to do more - we would like to see the children be further integrated into the heart of the church and for their role in the church to be more visible

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church is a once-a-month get together involving a mix of arts and crafts, bible story, meal and children choruses. it's a joy to see and hear children call it their church and even parents who would not claim to be Christians find the atmosphere welcoming and the lives are being touched by the Lord. We have a dedicated team



which is an immense blessing to see God's people working in unity with one goal - to see the Kingdom extended within our community.

Messy Church is on the fourth Saturday of the month from 3-5pm. It's free and is usually hosted at St John's church hall.



Messy Church

**Noah's Ark** (mother and toddler group twice a week )

Our Playgroup is run by members of St John's for the residents of the local community living in and around the area. It is for children aged 0-4 and the adults who look after them.

We aim to provide a place where both children and their carers can make friends, have fun and relax. We are open on Monday 9-11 am & Friday 9.30-11.30 (Term Time) and these sessions are approximately 2 hrs long.

Activities each week include: lots of toys to play with, a craft activity, free tea, coffee and biscuits for adults, fruit and a drink for the children, singing and lots of fun!

**Youth Group** (three times a month)

St. John's youth group provides a platform for young people of secondary school through to college age attending St John's church to engage in pertinent topics such as evolution vs creation, relationships etc. and activities suited to their age group.

On 3 out of 4 Sundays, the youth meet during the 11am service in the church vestibule. On occasion, the youth are encouraged to lead informal services or components of the standard liturgy.

Our aim is to encourage young people to make God the centre of their everyday lives. We want to see God centred young people going into universities, jobs and relationships that God has chosen for them, having more of an understanding of practical day to day Christianity, getting to grips with reading the bible and praying daily, seeking God's will for their lives.



Youth members and leaders @ Soul Survivor camp

### **Soul Survivor**

Soul survivor is an off-site camping experience in Somerset. This is an amazing opportunity for our young people to deepen their relationship with God, meet other young Christians and experience God's presence. St. Johns' Youth supported by adult supervisors are regular annual participants in this.

### **Scouts, Cubs & Beavers j**

They join us every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month for our family service

Some young members of the church are part of the 19th/23rd Islington Cub Scouts – a group that regularly takes part in St John's services.

The 19th/23rd Islington Cub Scouts meet at Duncombe School, Sussex Way, London, N19 4JA

Beaver Scouts (6-8 year olds) – Monday 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Cub Scouts (8-10 year olds) – Monday 6.45pm – 8.15pm

Scouts (10-14 year olds) – Monday 6.45pm- 8.45pm

### **St John`s Church Primary School**



Happy school members with work display

The School is an extremely important part of church life, we have congregation members whose mother used to attend the school, 50 years ago whose grown-up



children attended the school 25 years ago and families whose children now attend the school. This gives us a wonderful feeling of continuity and pride.

The school recently celebrated getting a 'Good' Ofsted report and an outstanding SIAMS report. Three Church members are on the Governing Committee and enjoy working with other School Governors, teachers and the Headmaster to celebrate and monitor achievements throughout the year.

The school has a significant number of children from other or no faith backgrounds who are included, welcomed and experience the love of Christ through all the work done to encourage and nurture each child. School assemblies are shared between ourselves and our sister churches St Andrews & St Marys and are lively interactive sessions that teach about Jesus work and life.

The school and church work together to provide the Christmas, Easter, Harvest and End-of-year services in the church

St John's also supports and works with the Friends of St John's School and leads weekly prayers with parents for the whole school.



The revamped school playground is well used

## **7. Church Organisations, activities and partnerships**

- The Summer Fair is church calendar highlight with a huge opportunity for outreach



A chance for some Rest & Relaxation



It's a family affair selling drinks to thirsty customers!!



The Professionals on the BBQ!!!

- The Nigerian Chaplaincy meet once a month, this is an important service for the Nigerian community to come together from different parts of London
- The Shoe Box appeal is held every Autumn and over 100 shoeboxes are usually put together and filled to send out to children around the world
- There are two sheltered housing homes that have monthly services and one of our senior church members also visits people in the Whittington hospital
- Alcoholics Anonymous meet once a week in the church hall, there is a very good attendance
- We support the Islington Nightshelter each year, this is a special partnership between 7 churches who open their church one night a week each from January to March to a number of homeless people, providing them with a hot meal, a bed for the night and a good breakfast. Whilst St John's does not host an evening we do support our sister church St Andrews. This is another a huge opportunity for outreach and building new relationships and several church members volunteer.
- Annual Parish Retreat – this is usually held in February with our sister churches St Andrews and St Mary's. Up to 25 individuals come together to attend the Pleshey Retreat Centre near Chelmsford. It is normally a silent retreat with a number of guided sessions and plenty of time to rest and reflect. Everyone who attends finds it a source of refreshment that brings a new understanding of their faith journey.



- Coffee Morning (once a week)- this is held on Wednesdays and started in February. It aims to attract passers-by and to build relationships with local people
- CAP Release Group (currently on hold)  
This was launched in February and aims to work with people who have addictions. It is a scheme run by Christians Against Poverty. It is hoped to be able to start the project again at some point.
- Weekly ecumenical Drop-in for homeless & vulnerable people. This has been running for over 20 years and is a joint effort by a number of local churches. The drop-in is held on Mondays in the Holloway Baptist Church up to 40 people attend regularly for fellowship, food and friendship



Volunteers at the Drop-in Centre

## Key Partners

- **The Archway Group**

We are part of a group of churches with St Marys, Hornsey Rise and St Andrews, Whitehall Park. It was formerly a team but made the decision to become a looser knit group. Clergy & Lay Ministers meet every 6 weeks for fellowship and prayer.

During Holy Week we each take an evening to host a 30 minute meditation to which all 3 church congregations are invited.

There is a joint Annual Retreat held usually in February which is organised together.

- **Upper Holloway Fellowship of Churches (includes Archway)**

Upper Holloway Fellowship of Churches (meets monthly to share fellowship and plan outreach events ). There are seven churches currently involved including the Methodist church, the Baptist church and the Catholic church across from us. This group meet to pray for the area, to plan joint events and to support one another. Currently the group works together on planning the Good Friday walk of witness and the open-air church service on the Archway Plaza. We are also developing ideas to do more outreach and expressions of love more often.

The Drop-in for Homeless people on a Monday morning is also an ecumenical project which has been running for many years and is now at the Baptist Church.

We also support the Winter Night Shelter run at St Andrews Church

## 8. Mission & Outreach



An Easter Service in Archway Plaza

As an evangelical church, the heart of our mission is always to reach out to the unchurched to share the Good News. It is part of the DNA of our church and is demonstrated by the list of outreach and partner activities we undertake each year. This is also expressed through our work with the school, and in many areas of our church life. We aspire to work as John Stott suggested to Proclaim and Demonstrate

We run an Alpha course every September which is attended by a number of congregation members who want to deepen their understanding of their faith as well as some new people who are exploring what it is to be a Christian for the first time. The evening starts with a lovely meal together in the church hall followed by the Alpha message for the evening which is usually video form. We then move into 2 groups with leaders for a time of discussion and where people can ask any questions. There is an away- day during the course where we go to another venue. The aim of that day is to learn about the Holy Spirit, to look at His work in our lives and to pray for people on the course individually that they may receive the Holy Spirit.

In early 2015 we committed to supporting the JJohn evangelist event, along with many other churches, which was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July this year at the Arsenal Emirates Football Stadium. Tickets sold well and the stadium hosted 24,000 Christians and those wanting to know more about Christ. There was good participation from our congregation along with people from a wide range of churches from all over England. The worship was wonderful and over 600 people came forward to talk to counsellors about either recommitting to faith or wanting to give their life to Christ. and we are praying for many more people to come to know the love of Christ.

Many of the activities listed above have an evangelistic element

### **Overseas & Charitable Mission**

Evangelism being one of our priorities, there is a strong commitment to supporting missionaries in various places including Scotland (with refugees) and Malawi.

Through the missionaries work, more people come to know and experience the love of Christ, and they reach people that we cannot reach directly here at St John`s church, which is why we support them.

We regularly communicate with the mission workers in Glasgow, Edinburgh & Malawi, and we recently were delighted to welcome Chris & Hannah back from Malawi for the

Sunday services where Chris preached and they both shared some of their experiences. We also contribute financially to a number of Christian organisations including Christian Aid & World Link

### **Working with London City Mission**

We have employed Angel Teibas as an Evangelist & Outreach worker and he is tasked with increasing our work in the community through outreach work in the Parish using every opportunity to share the love of Christ with our more disadvantaged community members.

In particular one of his main priorities is developing outreach on the Girdlestone Estate which used to be served by our sister church St Peter's until it closed some years ago. This is part of our Vision plan and one of our aims through this work is to lead a church plant on that estate.

Angel is working in some of our current projects such as the Drop-in and has recently begun to develop some new work which includes Friday outreach (giving out tracts & praying) outside Archway tube, a coffee morning and a book stall outside the church.



On a mission at Archway

## **9. Church Buildings**

St John's church is a Victorian Church, the product of the evangelical revival of that era. The church building was designed by Sir Charles Barry who later became famous for his work on the Houses of Parliament. It was consecrated on 2 July 1828. It is located on St John's Grove, Upper Holloway, Islington. It is visible on the ever-busy A1/Holloway road.



It is a Grade 2\* listed building and has preserved box-pews.

The Spire & Bell Tower forms a significant feature of the skyline of Upper Holloway. It houses the clock & the church bell.

There is a Crypt which is in need of much work & which houses a number of old coffins.

Like any church of it's age, the church fabric is in need of modernisation. In recent times, much work has gone into this, including replacement of the church roof, replacement of the old heating system, though the church can occasionally be cold especially in the winter months in spite of the new heating system.

The church has a pipe organ in perfect working condition which is used regularly, a smaller electric one used during some services and a piano in addition to several other modern musical instruments. The church recently acquired a modern audio -visual system with three overhead projectors (digital/laptop) for real time projection and recording of songs, sermons and any activity within the church.

The church has a seating capacity of over 600 with a top gallery, a pulpit, a vestry, a toddler's room at the back of the church which is connected to the audio-visual system to allow parents using the room follow the service.

The old baptismal font stands at the back of the church though is not in use now, there is a small book store, a vestibule, toilets for males and females, a kitchenette serving tea/coffee and other forms of refreshment after service, an office space, a kitchen/Toilet and a church hall.

The church is set on an extensive ground area with large sized gardens at the sides and back with benches for people to sit quietly.

There is a small Church Hall which does not effectively serve the needs of the church nor is it big enough to attract hall bookings which would give us a small income.

### **The Cloudesley Charity**

This is a well-established charity that supports all churches and some projects in the Islington deanery, This year it celebrates it's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday and is offering some extra grants to mark the occasion. We have used Cloudesley to support our church building with grants for many years however it is possible to approach them for a much larger grant in the future.

It is St John's church aspiration to improve the church facilities over the next 5 years. The church fabric is tired and shabby, the kitchens not as functional as we would wish and need, and the back area which includes the vestry, kitchen and small hall really needs a complete rethink. The opportunities to develop the building and make it more community friendly with good sized spaces/rooms for multiple use are exciting.



The view from the top of the church looking south-east

### **Vicarage**

The vicarage is number 51 Tytherton Road, Tufnell Park, London N19 4PZ. It is a four-bedroom house situated on a large expanse of land and adjudged to be one of the best within the neighbourhood, a beautiful and quiet North London suburb. It is currently undergoing renovation works, in readiness for the new incumbent.

It is a walking distance to Tufnell park underground station and surrounded by other amenities including a GP surgery, schools, sports, ground, park and a Budgen's supermarket about 5 mins away. The Vicarage is about a 12 minute walk from the church with adequate car parking 2 cars.



The back patio & garden



The front driveway to the Vicarage

## **10. Finance & Resources**

The annual contribution to Diocesan Common Fund has increased each year by 3% and now stands at £67,464, and this has been paid regularly.

We have a Christian Stewardship scheme. Parishioners give to the church in a variety of ways eg by banker's order, covenant, cash and in an envelope scheme.

We encourage everyone to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form

We have received some grants from the Cloudesley Trust for repairs & upkeep of the building, we also receive regular income from both the St Peter's Fund & the Anatola flat.

We recognise that the church finances have recently been challenging and that we need to work on stewardship.



Bring & Share Lunch

### **Communications**

Notices and news are given in the weekly service sheet, as well as in the Monthly newsletter. The Parish website was redesigned 2 years ago, and is a wonderful way for anyone who is computer literate to see what St John's Church is doing, to hear some sermons and to make contact with us. However it does need constant updating which has not been possible lately – the web address is: <http://www.stjohnsarchway.com>

### **Church traditions**

The Patron of the Parish is CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) and St John's Church has a long Evangelical tradition – the expression of which changes in form - depending on who the incumbent is and who are the main leaders in the church. This dates back to Henry Venn who came to St John's Church in 1834. He was the grandson of Henry Venn famous for founding the Clapham Sect an evangelical group and member of Church Missionary Society.

We are open to people of all traditions and none, and many members do not come from specifically Evangelical or indeed Anglican backgrounds.





Special 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Surprise Celebration

## **11. What are the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the Church?**

### **Strengths**

We are a warm and welcoming fellowship, where people are genuinely cared for.

Members have many gifts and talents, though not all are fully utilised because not everyone is confident enough to come forward. We are keen to do better at training up and supporting leaders of all types within the church.

New community projects have often been initiated and run by members, such as Messy Church and the ShoeBox collection at Christmas

### **Weaknesses (also seen as opportunities)**

As a church we hope to serve the local community better, to be salt & light to all

We are looking for ways to involve our children and youth in more in services.

Not many people are available in the daytime during the week.

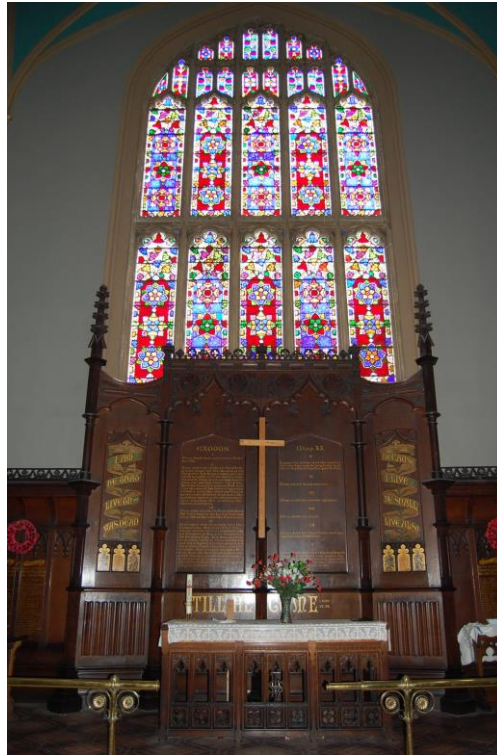
We have a main road presence, we need to have more impact and do more outreach

### **Future Opportunities**

We want to develop a Church plant on the Girdlestone estate

We need to find new space for the youth to meet

We have a vision for a major upgrade and extended facilities at the back of the church which may also provide some income generation from better facilities



## 12. What are we looking for in a new Vicar?

The ability to nurture individual's giftings, to develop effective pastoral care for congregations who include mature Christians, people on the edge of faith and people for whom English is not their first language.

Inspiring preaching,

An ability to relate to youth and build up our youth work.

We seek a gifted communicator who can also motivate, grow and lead others in their contribution.

### **Someone who:-**

- Understands process & project management
- Is experienced in funding fabric development
- Is financially and administratively competent
- Is experienced in developing positive youth engagement
- Has prayer as a priority
- Has integrity, is open and self-aware
- Grounded in theology
- Servant-hearted
- Contemporary
- Community orientated



### **Someone with a heart for:-**

- people who are lost
- evangelism
- the community and school
- pastoral care



Intergenerational Fun

### **Someone who:-**

- can pick up the baton and share with us in continuing to build and grow all ministries and activities that are good for the growth of our parish and for the building of God's Kingdom in new ways
- can shape and grow a 'rough diamond'

### **What can we offer?**

- Love & support
- Cooperation
- Encouragement
- Potential
- Fun
- Enthusiasm
- Prayer
- Help
- Diversity
- Resources – time, energy, skills, experience
- The Beauty of the Inner City
- Cohesion within diversity