

ST JOHN THE DIVINE SELSDON

Diocese of Southwark in
the Deanery of Croydon
Addington

Parish Profile

www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk



St John's who we are

“St John’s exists to worship God and to show the love of Jesus Christ in Selsdon. We seek to be an accessible, inclusive and welcoming Christian community exploring the ways we can serve Christ and share the gift of faith”



We are an inclusive, welcoming and faithful community worshipping in a modern liberal catholic tradition and with a firm place within the community. St. John’s was originally a mission church held in a small hall and affiliated to St. Peter’s at South Croydon and we have grown alongside the Selsdon community. The church of St John the Divine had a rocky start, dedicated in 1936, partly bombed in 1940 and rebuilt in 1949.



We are blessed with a large airy church, with a brand new adjoining garden room leading to a quiet and contemplative Garden of Remembrance which is greatly appreciated by many of our community in times of turmoil. Our Rectory sits behind the church in a large and peaceful garden The well appointed and excellent church hall is well used by community groups and, in addition, Guide and Scout huts sit on our site.



Our long established and faithful congregation contribute to the life of the church with many actively involved in church and community life and with a reputation for a friendly welcome to all.

St John's has many strengths including an excellent choir, a large cohort of volunteers, an active social committee organising harvest suppers, quiz nights, trips, barbecues and fairs. There are teams of established servers, chalice bearers, intercessors and readers.



Over the past few years our mission has been to improve links with the local community through many initiatives , including our very popular Mother and Toddler Groups, Messy Church, Parish news letter, Quiet Christmas (for those recently bereaved), the very popular Christmas Concert and a comprehensive Christmas and Easter package of services.

We have an excellent parish administrator, skilled with social media who helps to advertise our services and initiatives. The Hall is ably run by a small committee and is a significant source of both outreach and income.

We have also raised significant funds to build the new Garden Room, in order to improve facilities in church as well as provide a community space.

St. John's is part of the Croydon Addington Deanery working together with seven other churches across a varied area. Our previous incumbent was Area Dean and representatives from the PCC continue to serve at both Deanery and Diocesan Synod.



Over the past 6 years we have been working towards our Mission Action Plan which we felt was a programme of Building for Growth.

The three areas for action were identified as –

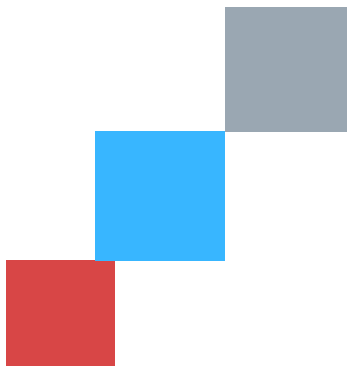
- Outreach – Reaching out to the community, encouraging and developing ministry to the whole parish;**
- Focus on Youth – Build links with young families by offering more youth focused activities;**
- Improving access to the church – Improving physical access to the church and updating facilities making it fit for modern day use and outreach.**

Our hope was that our plan would reflect all of the Five Marks of Mission and mirror the Southwark Diocese Hearts of Fire initiative with a commitment to

- Serve our Communities**
- Share our faith with great joy and gladness**
- Be the Church, a people with hearts on fire, loving God, walking with Jesus and led by the Spirit.**

We hope that our Parish Profile shows what we have accomplished over the past 6 years but we are aware that these achievements are stepping stones on our mission path.

We are poised now to take our next step in our mission to deliver God's word and for that we need an inspirational priest to lead us



Our new Rector

Should be inclusive, liberal and kind, supportive of our liberal catholic tradition, a leader, team player and excellent communicator, and with a will to develop and expand our congregation

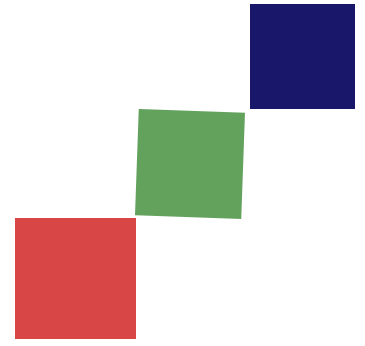
Some qualities the PCC suggested -

Energy, Vision, Faith, Welcoming, Interpersonal skills, Stamina, Charisma but most important 'a good sense of humour'

Should be someone whose life is grounded in prayer, and whose spirituality is apparent, infectious, and readily communicated to and received by those encountered.



Our new Rector



Should actively share in our Mission Statement and develop this vision

**Suggested by Sophie (11) and Hannah (7)
'Someone who speaks clearly and actually likes children'**

Should be sensitively confident, enthusiastic, reliable and balanced personality, happy and accomplished in dealing with people. They should be comfortable with and easily relate to children and young people.

There are two main areas where it appears to us that attention and effort need to be focused:

Outreach and Young people & families.

We have just completed the construction of our Garden Room; built not only for congregational and outreach use, but primarily as a pastoral facility for support groups and organisations within our immediate area. This modern and comfortable facility could enable or assist our new incumbent to initiate and develop our ministry to the locality, and demonstrate the love of our Lord to the Parish.

We would like our new incumbent to continue and develop outreach into the community, together with other local churches, in:

- **Care homes**
- **Schools**
- **Community groups**
- **Uniformed organisations**
- **Toddler groups**

St John's congregation is largely representative of the parish. We are a welcoming church but, as is probably the situation in many churches today, our congregation seem to be lacking people in their 20s and 30s. The ministry of our new incumbent should include and minister to young people and young families within the Parish. The congregation is very supportive of their parish priest –taking on many organisational, pastoral and administrative responsibilities.

Our next incumbent will introduce new initiatives to encourage the spiritual growth of individuals within the congregation – at various levels ranging from those who have been church-going Christians for a number of years, to those who are new to faith. There are lay members of the congregation who will be willing to assist in this, if led and supported.



It would be good if our new incumbent could encourage and sensitively extend lay involvement in the life and mission of our church; perhaps delegating their non-priestly tasks to enable them to devote their energies to their priest-essential ministry.



Worship at St John's is centred around the Eucharist, which is celebrated in the liberal catholic tradition, supported by a traditional church choir, servers and lay readers/intercessors. We hope our new incumbent will respect this style, and as appropriate develop new service styles to encourage a wider congregation- to not be afraid of making change if required - be bold and offer fresh opportunities to attract new members of all ages.

In very broad terms, we would like St John's to become a "destination" - a living community at the heart of the area with a co-ordinated strategy for services, events, mission and outreach to the parish, spiritual development and opportunities to grow in faith and service.



There are many areas where there are opportunities for the mission of the church to be nurtured, and we have the facilities to support that mission. We have potential, which needs to be focussed, pulled together and led sensitively, to enable the vision and vitality it represents to be converted, with a caring style of leadership that will involve the congregation to assist to fulfil the potential we possess and convert our shared vision into real growth. Our parish and congregation offer our next incumbent an opportunity to realise their own vision as they exercise their own particular sacred ministry.

We need a positive, caring style of leadership that will involve the congregation to assist us to fulfil the potential we possess and achieve our shared vision. It will be necessary for our next incumbent to communicate that vision to the whole congregation to enable us to work together more effectively to the Glory of God and the building of His Kingdom here in this place.



About the Parish

OUR COMMUNITY

Selsdon is a suburb on the southern edge of the London Borough of Croydon, to the north is central Croydon and to the south the Surrey and Kent countryside. It was developed in the 1920s and 1930s with further development in the 1970s and 1980s. St John the Divine was built in 1936 to serve the growing community of Selsdon – an aim which saw the establishment of Contact neighbourhood care association in 1973 by the then Rector and congregation of St John's.

It has since become an ecumenical organisation supported by the Selsdon churches and in 1979 the Selsdon Centre for the Retired was set up by the local churches and both organisations continue to be supported by them.

Selsdon has a flourishing Residents' Association and produces a monthly gazette. Selsdon's Christmas lights, sponsored by the Association in conjunction with local businesses are considered to be the best in the Borough!

We are fortunate to be blessed with open spaces, Selsdon Woods (NT), Littleheath Woods and Croham Hurst as well as public and private golf courses. There are excellent sports facilities at Croydon High Sports Club and Monks Hill Sports Centre as well as tennis at Selsdon Tennis Club. Junior football and netball is provided by Selsdon Little Leagues.



Local employment is largely found in shops and businesses, schools and The De Vere Selsdon Estate (formerly Selsdon Park Hotel). The majority of those in employment commute to Croydon or London. There are good bus links into Croydon and fast train services to London. The bus also provides a link to the tram system providing a service to Croydon, Beckenham and Wimbledon. In addition there is easy access to the M25 and M23.

There are two state primary schools in the Parish, Selsdon Primary and Greenvale as well as Croydon High School for Girls, a member of Girls Day School Trust. There are a number of state and independent secondary schools in the local area, including Archbishop Tenison's CE High School.

The shopping centre has a good mix of local shops and businesses including two supermarkets, hairdressers, opticians, pharmacies, newsagents and post office and a building society. The Sainsburys complex houses the library, Community Hall, Contact and Selsdon Centre for the Retired. There is a good variety of food outlets, from takeaways and cafes to restaurants as well as a pub and amicro-brewery.

Like St. John's, Selsdon has a strong sense of community and retains a village feel from its early days.



About the Church

Ethos of Worship

The style of worship at St John's is liberal catholic, with the celebration of the Eucharist as the centre of our worship theme and a good degree of congregational involvement. Full vestments are worn, and the Sacrament is reserved in the Aumbry in the Lady Chapel.

Over the years we have developed a sense of welcome and inclusiveness. Our congregation includes residents from nearby assisted living and the church is fully accessible. The PCC agreed to admit children to Holy Communion from the age of seven after a short period of preparation.

In the conduct of worship, the incumbent has the support of three honorary staff:

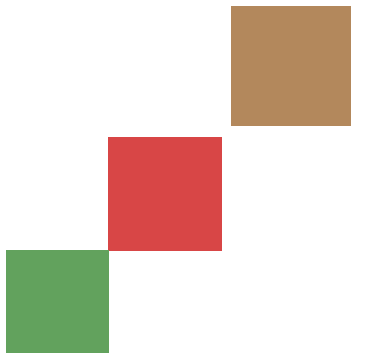
The Revd Michael Skinner **The Revd Stephen Wright**

Mr Peter Crocombe (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary)

A former curate, Revd Andy Dovey,

Senior Chaplain at Croydon University Hospital, also assists from time to time.

**There is also a high degree of active lay participation in worship
(see the separate section of this profile).**



Sunday Services

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662): prior to lockdown, this was held in the chancel.
- 10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Common Worship). Activities for children are provided in the children's area at the back of the church.
- On the 2nd Sunday of the month, and other occasions such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday, the service is an all-age Eucharist especially geared for children's participation. These are sometimes Parade Services with uniformed organisations represented. The service is followed by refreshments in the church hall.
- Holy Baptism is sometimes administered during the 10 a.m. service and or, alternatively, a separate service at 11.45.
- 6.00 p.m. Choral Evensong (2nd Sunday of the month)
- A healing service is held occasionally at 6.00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- During the lockdown period, a simple pre-recorded 'virtual service' has been put on the website each week, including a welcome, the Gospel reading for the day, talk, intercessions, and blessing, contributed by different people, closing with a musical contribution from our organist.

Weekday Services

- Every Thursday 10.15 a.m. Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 1st Monday of the month 7.30 p.m. Eucharist in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham



Seasonal Services

- Advent
- Advent Carol Service
- Christingle
- 'A Quiet Christmas'
- Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
- Christmas Eve
- Crib Service
- Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day
- All-age Eucharist (10.00 a.m.)

- Lent and Holy Week
- Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist
- Reflective services for Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week
- Tenebrae (Wednesday of Holy Week)
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Vigil
- Good Friday afternoon meditations and liturgy
- Easter Eve – Easter Vigil and Eucharist
- Easter Day – normal Sunday services

- Ascension Day Sung Eucharist (in recent years this has been a joint Deanery service)
- All Souls
- Service of thanksgiving and remembrance (Sunday evening)

Music @ St John's

The union between liturgy and music is central to in the regular pattern of worship at St. John's. We are in the fortunate position to be able to support two musicians, one as Director of Music and one as Organist. Through their work and with the support of the congregation, the rich choral music tradition which our church has enjoyed for many years is kept very much alive and well.

We have three groups leading the music in worship:

- the robed Church Choir sing most Sundays, at major festivals and occasional mid-week evening services;
- the Come and Sing Choir made up of members of the congregation who sing once a month;
- a group based around the Church Choir but joined by members of the congregation and other experienced singers who come together to sing Choral Evensong once each month.

In addition to weekly services, the Church Choir sing carol services at Advent and Christmas and make a special contribution to services during Holy Week. They also visit our Diocesan Cathedral to sing services regularly and are looking to develop the opportunity to share the worship of other cathedrals.

Our church possesses an extensive music library and a well maintained two manual organ originally by Rushworth and Dreaper, now serviced by Nicholson & Co Ltd. We are enthusiastic to continue to develop the music at St. John's to meet the needs of the worshipping community as well as to glorify God through the beauty of music, achieved in no small part through a close working relationship between the Director of Music and Incumbent.



Lay involvement in public worship and pastoral care



Many people from within our congregation support and are actively involved in our public worship and pastoral care, and see this as an important part of their personal ministry and a valued contribution to the work of the Body of Christ here in Selsdon.

As well as our Choir and Servers, members of the congregation take turns in preparing and leading the Intercessions at our Parish Eucharist, others are Chalice Assistants or Epistle Readers. During Holy Week a number of the congregation join together to present a Dramatic Reading of Our Lord's Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

Although we do not currently have a Sunday School, we do have a group who look after children in our Children's Area within the nave during the Parish Communion – making them feel welcome and encouraging them to feel part of the congregation. However, the completion of our Garden Room offers many possibilities to cater for the needs of children attending church – an area of work and nurture we would like to develop.



Lay involvement in public worship and pastoral care

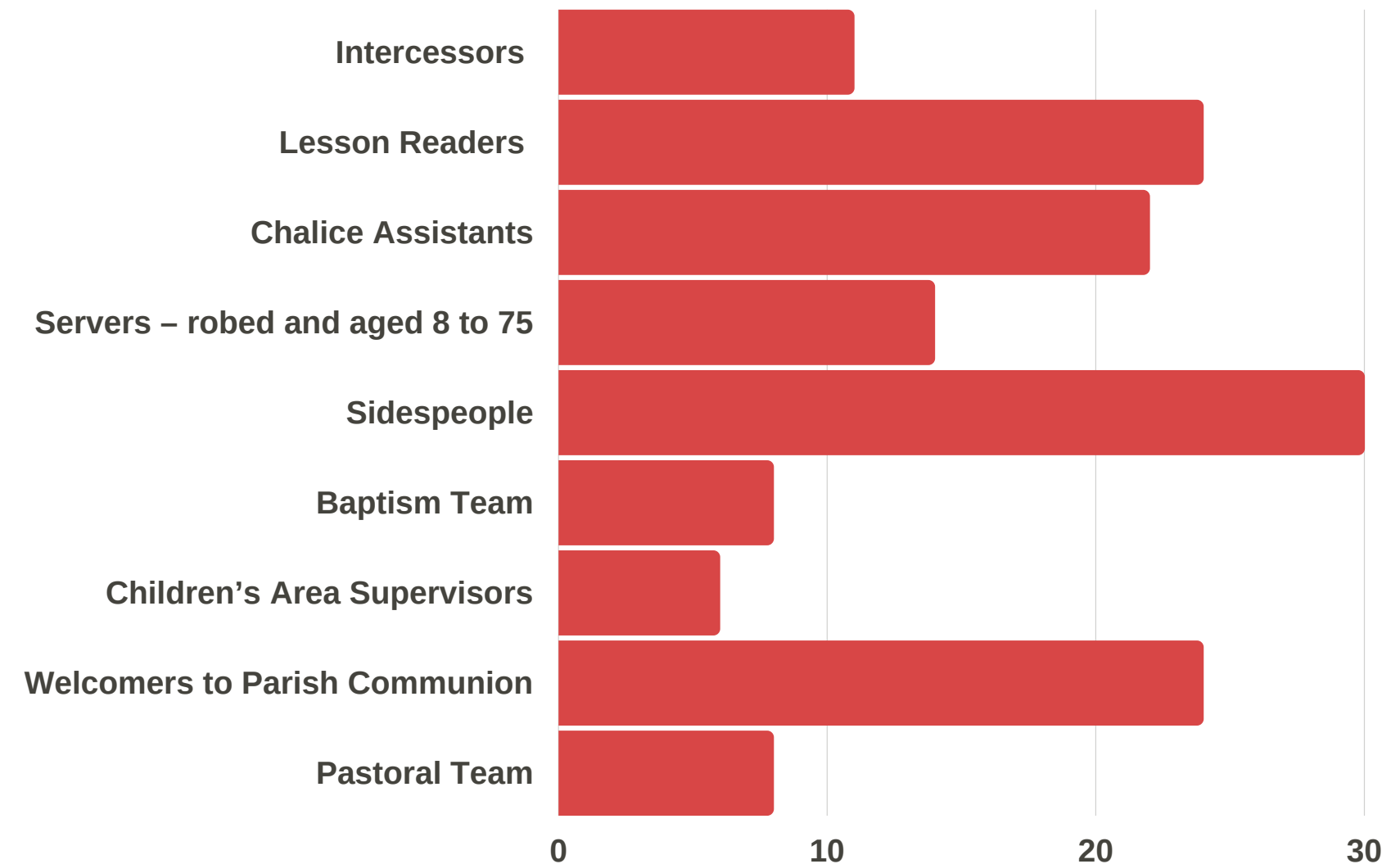
We also have a Baptism Team who help to set up the church prior to the service and greet families, trying to make them feel as welcome as possible.

A group from within the congregation take the Communion to the sick and housebound, and we have a pastoral support group who visit and “keep an eye on” others who are sick or incapacitated within the parish.

St John’s were instrumental in establishing the Selsdon Contact Scheme (good neighbours) 40 years ago, and many within the congregation still are active volunteers with this scheme, and others are Trustees, managing the scheme.

Members of the congregation host and prepare refreshments in the Hall for those attending our two Mother and Toddler groups.

Given the degree of lay involvement, we have established the following rotas: -



All rotas are compiled and distributed by members of the congregation.



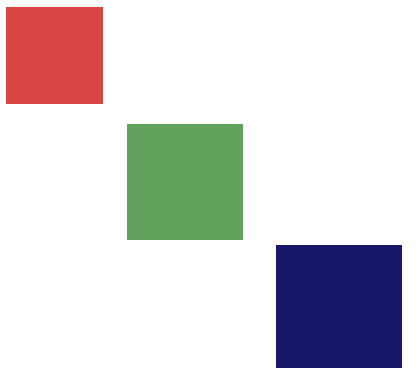
Relationships with neighbouring churches

ST FRANCIS, SELSDON, CONVENTIONAL DISTRICT

On 1st February, 2006, a conventional district was formed by agreement out of a portion of the Parish of Selsdon, St John the Divine with St Francis. Such arrangements are made between the incumbent of the parish where the district is located, and the Bishop. As such, they should be reviewed on a change of incumbent. The agreement entitles St Francis to a minister, licensed by the Bishop, to officiate independently of the incumbent of the parish. Persons resident in the district, or on the electoral roll of the district, have the powers to elect a PCC, to elect churchwardens and deanery synod representatives, and to collect and disburse offertories within and for the use of the district.

Such arrangements may be seen as a halfway house to becoming a parish, with a periodic review by the Bishop to assess whether the district is ready to become a separate parish. As noted above, the current arrangement has been in place for 14 years.

During any transition, however, the district continues to be part of the benefice of St John's, sitting on land which it does not hold in its own right. St Francis is about to embark on a project to build a £500,000 community hub on the site of its existing church hall, and the involvement and support of St John's incumbent and PCC will therefore be essential. It is to be hoped that the new facility will bring an asset which will benefit all of the residents of the parish and be complementary to the existing facilities at St John's and St Francis' sites.



The Church and the community

Baptism

We have an open policy with regard to those seeking baptism for their children or themselves. We welcome any enquiries and we seek first to build up a relationship with the family or the individual, as part of the preparation for the baptism.



Holy Communion

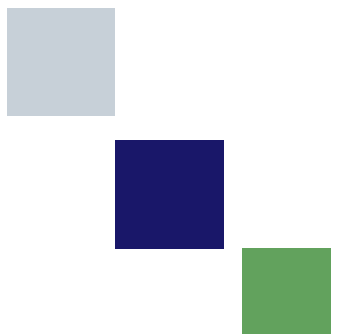
Confirmation is usually offered from the age of thirteen.

Weddings

St. John's provides a lovely setting for a wedding. The current practice is to allow the marriage of divorced people at the Rector's discretion.

Funerals

St. John's has an excellent relationship with local funeral directors and offers support to bereaved families with an invitation to an All Souls service and a chance to remember a loved one at Christmas through a Christmas Remembrance Tree.



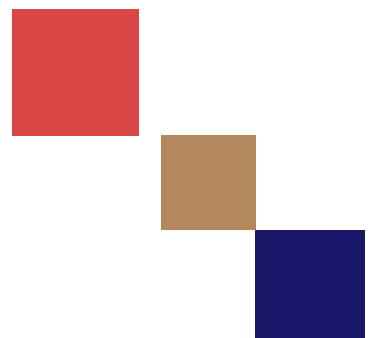
Children and Youth

We have a Children's Area with books, toys and activities within the nave for use during the Parish Communion. Our aspiration is to start a Sunday School. We have a monthly "child-friendly" All Age Parish Eucharist, where the children can take an active part. We also encourage youngsters to take an active part in our Parish Eucharist – a number of our servers and choristers are youngsters, and we encourage young children to assist with the collection and as many other little tasks that we can think of!



Young Families

We have a number of young families within our congregation, although we would love to have more! Over the last few years, we have developed a friendly and supportive relationship with the two really flourishing Mother and Baby groups who meet in our Hall. Many of the families represented by these groups have attended our church services and Messy Church, we are anxious that they should be supported, nurtured and encouraged to find faith.



Messy Church

St. John's runs a thriving Messy Church which has been running three times a year for the past six years. The sessions last for two hours. Messy Church incorporates the church calendar of festivals, such as Epiphany, Easter and Harvest.

Our Messy Church sessions include a range of activities which vary from session to session. We also include a cartoon video or story which focuses on the theme of the session. After all crafting is complete, we join in with a song together. The children are provided with a healthy hot or cold snack to end the session. Parents and carers are provided with tea or coffee.

Our sessions are open to the wider community of the parish of Selsdon and beyond. Everyone is welcome. Parents stay with their children and are invited to take part in the messy activities.

Messy Church is a welcoming, friendly atmosphere which has proven lots of fun for all the children who attend and where parents and carers can relax and talk to the Rector and helpers.



St John's Mother and Toddler Group

Originally set up by the Church to be a group parents and carers could come to meet and chat while children played in a safe environment. The group has been running for over 40 years and is still well supported. The group runs on a Monday and Thursday and is attended by 30-50 children and carers every week.

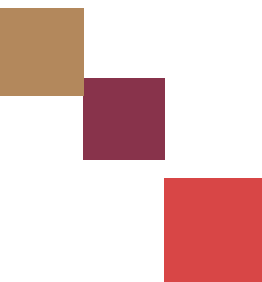
The Toddler group offers a full range of toys and craft activities and a singalong session at the end of every group. Refreshments are offered and are always appreciated by carers and children.

The group is linked to the church by a group of helpers from the congregation and weekly visits from the Rector. Members of the group are invited to join our Messy Church activities and also Church services for all ages.



Uniformed Organisations

There are Scout and Guide huts located on church grounds immediately adjacent to the church building. These organisations are invited to particular Parish Eucharist services throughout the year, and we would like to extend and foster our links with these groups.

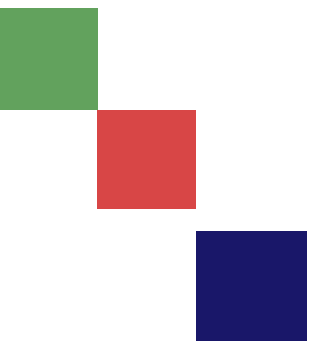


Local Churches of other denominations

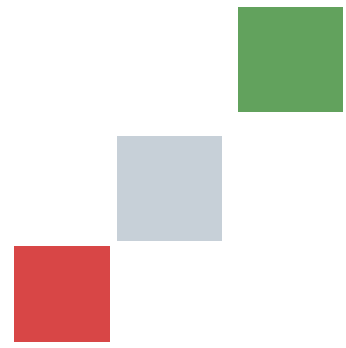
The Rector and representatives from St. John's meet regularly as 'Churches together in Selsdon and Addington' with the following local churches

**Selsdon Baptist Church
St. Columba's (RC)
Addington Methodist Church
Croydon Jubilee Church
St. Francis, Monks Hill (CofE)
St. Mary's, Addington (CofE)**

Ecumenical Lent groups are organised and an ecumenical service is held on Good Friday hosted by a member church and followed by a Walk of Witness through the town centre. The group also organises other ecumenical activities such as quiet mornings and walks.



Outreach within the Community



Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care and Selsdon Centre for the Retired

Both organisations were initially founded by St. John's in response to a need to support the elderly and vulnerable in the community. St. John's supports both organisations financially and actively through volunteering and trusteeship to the charities. In addition, St. John's supports the food bank organised by the Salvation Army in New Addington.

Local schools

There are three schools in the parish – two Primary schools and an independent girls school. St. John's has had a good relationship with Greenvale Primary School who regularly use the church as a teaching resource and hold their Christmas concerts in the church. The previous Rector has taken assemblies at the school. There is the opportunity to improve the relationship with the other schools. The independent girls school has been more community minded during the recent pandemic situation.

Christmas Concert

One of the most successful events over the past years has been the annual Christmas Concert – a community event held in the church – with involvement from local choirs and schools – always popular and well attended.

Publicity

A brochure is professionally printed three times a year promoting services, events and groups at St. John's as well as a Christmas Card with a message from the church and details of Christmas services. These are delivered to one third of the parish in rotation as well as being available in the church and elsewhere in the parish.

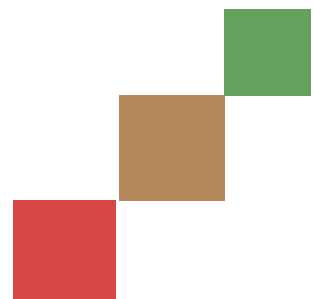
The Church Building

St John the Divine Church occupies a place at the heart of Selsdon, built at same time as most of the houses and serving this community faithfully ever since. If you have an opportunity to visit the church in person you will find an interesting building, a bit like a tardis – red brick outside, light and airy inside.

The church was built in 1935-6 to the designs of Newbury and Fowler. The chancel and Lady Chapel were destroyed by bomb damage during the Second World War and were rebuilt to their original design in 1944. The church is simple in plan with narrow projecting aisles. Vestries and tower are located at the north east corner and a Lady Chapel at the south east corner. There are porches at the north west and south west corners. There is a secondary entrance on the east side of the tower and a further porch at the east end of the north aisle. It is built of brick with tiled roof and was opened in 1936. It has been well maintained and is in good condition. There is seating for 286 in the main church and for 28 in the Lady Chapel.

There is a Baptistry, server's vestry, choir vestry and robing vestry. Services are conducted from the nave altar although the high altar is still in place. The church has a comprehensive sound system with hearing induction loop. There is a carpeted children's corner with books and toys.

There is no churchyard. There is a Garden of Remembrance alongside the church for interment of ashes, maintained by the 'gardening team'.



The Garden Room

The Garden Room project came about as a response to the need to update facilities in our 1930s building making it fit for modern day use and outreach. The project is community focused for the use of groups and individuals within the Selsdon area in addition to church groups.

Officially opened on 16 June 2019 by Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, the Garden Room is a pleasant, quality built, modern and fully accessible extension sited on the south western side of the church overlooking the Garden of Remembrance. It is easily accessible directly from the main church building but can also be closed off as a separate space with an external door from the garden. The room has a purpose-built refreshment hub and fully accessible toilet facilities including a baby changing area just off the lobby. Offering flexible set ups the room can accommodate up to 20 people comfortably and there is also improved access into and around the whole church building.

The Garden Room provides a comfortable, welcoming and inclusive space for engagement with our community. The quiet situation of the room overlooking the Garden of Remembrance makes it an ideal space for counselling, bereavement support and mentoring. We are also exploring the possibility of working with Contact to establish a Memory Café with carers support. Our new Incumbent will be able to explore other opportunities. The room has already been successfully used for coffee mornings to combat social isolation and to provide a quiet space for refreshments after services such as All Souls and Quiet Christmas.





The Church Hall

The Church Hall is on the same site as the church and received a major refurbishment in 2010. The complex comprises the Parish Office, a light airy and fully air-conditioned main hall with stage, first floor meeting room, kitchen and toilets.

The hall provides an important part of our outreach into the community. As well as being used for church activities, it is used by a great many local community groups and is especially popular for children's parties. In a normal year the hall generates a healthy surplus from lettings.

More information and a photo gallery can be found on our web site



The Rectory

The Rectory was built in 1963 and has been well maintained.

It is situated next to the church, away from the main road and is, therefore, peaceful and private. It has a large front and back garden, with adequate parking for three cars. The back garden is completely private and south west facing so enjoys the afternoon and evening sun.

The house is large, containing four bedrooms, main bathroom, an open plan sitting/dining room, large study, downstairs toilet and a converted garage which can be used as desired. Central heating and hot water are provided by a modern gas boiler which was installed in 2003. The kitchen has space for a fridge, cooker and dishwasher, a utility area and pantry connects to a passage linking the converted garage and the kitchen in which can be installed a freezer. Maintenance has been undertaken over the years including installation of double glazing in 2005.



Parish Finances 2019

- a. Total parochial Income *£187,923
- b. Annual income from direct giving £80,147
- c. Annual income from Investments £0
- d. Capital Debts **£36,575
- e. Arrears in Parish Support Fund payments £0
- f. Parish Support Fund Payments (£81,040 in 2019) Direct Debit
- g. PCC contribution to incumbent expenses ***£920
- h. Do these cover actual costs Yes

*This figure does not include Grants and Donations of £77200 for the Garden Room

**An interest free loan of £39900 was granted by the Diocese repayable over 5 years at £665 per month.

***Expenses are for 9 months only as the Incumbent was on Sabbatical for three months. Expenses in 2018 were £1187.



Parish Support

The Parish Office is attached to the Church Hall.

St. John's employs a Parish Administrator Amanda who, in addition to manning the Parish Office, manages the bookings and day to day management of the Church Hall and garden room.

Amanda also oversees St. John's comprehensive website and also maintains a presence on Facebook. This has been extremely helpful during the current pandemic situation to publicise weekly online services and distribute the weekly noticesheet with details of services and news from the parish.

We have a volunteer who arranges claims for Gift Aid, staff salaries, tax, Ni and pensions and deals with HMRC returns.



Please see a video showing the Church and Church Hall Buildings

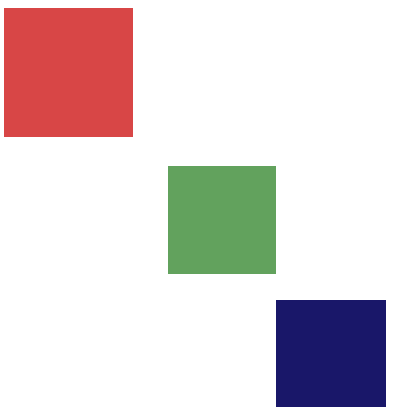


St. John's - The future

Over the past 6 years we have accomplished a lot and now we are ready for the next steps, to formulate a new Mission Action Plan building on our progress so far. We are ready to grow as a congregation and make a greater, more focussed impact on the local community.

We are looking for someone who can help us explore where our future possibilities lie; our hopes and aspirations for the future to make St. John's a destination and community

- where people in distress or on the outside of comfortable society can find peace, comfort and compassion.
- where we can all grow spiritually.
- where people can find faith, and see faith alive in those around them.
- where people experience the presence of the Holy Spirit.



Please check out the following links for more info

St John's Facebook Page



St John's Website



St John the divine Selsdon
St John the divine Selsdon

Diocese Of Southwark Facebook Page

