



**ST JOHN'S
CHURCH**
BECKENHAM

Parish
profile



Welcome to St John the Baptist Beckenham

Shining Christ's Light in Our Community

Hello!

We're delighted you have taken the time to explore our parish profile. At St John the Baptist Beckenham (known as St John's Church Beckenham), we're on an exciting journey of faith, and we believe God is calling someone special to join us as our new Vicar. *Could it be you?*

Our Vision

"To be a beacon of light and hope, building our lives on Jesus' love and transforming our communities."

This vision isn't just words on a page – it's the heartbeat of our church family. We're a vibrant and diverse community, united by our love for God and our desire to share His love with others.

Who We Are

Step into St John's, and you'll find a lively, friendly atmosphere where all are welcome. We're proud of our Church of England heritage, but you won't find stuffy formality here. Instead, expect warm smiles, relaxed services, and a genuine sense of belonging.

Our congregation spans all ages and walks of life. Whether you're a lifelong believer or just curious about faith, there's a place for you here. We have 175 on our electoral roll.



The Journey

Looking to 2030: Our Aspirations

We're dreaming big for the future of St John's. By 2030, our vision is for:

- Sundays that are truly unmissable, with our church packed with local families
- Supporting people from our community on their faith journey.
- Flourishing children's and youth programmes
- A welcoming café serving as a community hub
- A thriving ministry team including an Associate Vicar or Curate, dedicated paid Children's and Families Worker and Youth Worker, with an Operations Manager and a full admin team to support our ministries
- A mix of traditional and modern services to cater to all
- Strong pastoral care, with our Vicar deeply connected to the congregation

Where We Are Now

We know we have an exciting vision ahead of us, and we have moved some way in that direction. In the last three years we have opened a community café ('The Green Bird Café') which is buzzing! The new suite of church halls sees more than 60 community groups using them and many in the community see us as their home.

However we have also faced a number of challenges in the past few years. Staff illness and departures have hit morale, and mean that we haven't had an active vicar since 2023.

Sadly, our thriving ministry to children and young people didn't survive the pandemic, and so we have had to start it all again from scratch. The toddler group is flourishing again, but the other ministries have a long way to go. We yearn to see a new children and family worker, supported by the vicar.

We anticipate we that there will be some initial work needed to help us refocus our vision and consolidate our ministries as a springboard for the future. We may not yet have achieved our hopes for St John's and the community, but our core congregation of 80–90 adults and 6–12 children are strongly united and committed to our vision – and we are encouraged by all the Lord is continuing to do in our parish and excited by where he might lead us under our new incumbent.

Join Us on This Journey

The PCC of St John's is filled with optimism about the future. We sense God's hand preparing us for an exciting new chapter, and we're eager to welcome the leader He's chosen to guide us.

As you prayerfully consider this role, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. We're excited to meet the person God is calling to join our church family and lead us into the future He has planned.

We look forward to the possibility of meeting you and exploring how we might serve Christ together in Beckenham.

Warmest blessings,

The PCC of St John's Church Beckenham



The Next Chapter

The Future of St John's

We are seeking to discern God's will for us as a church.

Key opportunities for the future include:

- Our hall complex which has established itself as a community hub and home for many local organisations
- Our facilities which play a key part in realising our vision to reach out to the local area, with our Green Bird community café being a focal point for much of our outreach. A key challenge is using the links we have through our facilities and outreach events to bring more people to the knowledge of Christ
- Further developing a strong ministry to older people from the congregation and beyond

- Building on our present work through our babies & toddler group, our baby bank and the soon to be established not-for-profit pre-natal course run by an independent local midwife. '.
- Extending on our present work among children and young people (including Messy Church), and reaching out to local schools. We will be seeking to appoint a Children & Family Worker to support this work (we have already raised money specifically to fund this role)
- Establishing a midweek youth group to engage with young teenagers
- Establishing a clearer local presence through active communication on social media and other platforms

The Person & The Role

After a series of meetings of the PCC and wider consultation with our church congregation, including our young people, it was clear there was much common ground regarding the qualities needed in an incumbent.

The Person

- You will have a strong, Biblically-based faith and a deep prayer life, with a desire to bring the church family a greater understanding of the Christian faith and how to relate it to daily life
- You will be passionate about drawing people to Jesus and helping us to share the Gospel
- You will be able to help us refocus our vision and mission to our community
- You will be good at engaging with all kinds of people – young & old, families & singles – ensuring they feel supported and valued on their faith journeys.
- You will be well organised and able to help us strengthen the ways in which we manage the details and demands of a busy parish,
- You will be experienced at developing leaders and building a strong team of both paid staff and volunteers.
- You will be able to manage changes sympathetically, honouring the past and helping the church to move forward together
- You will have a passion to inspire and grow a strong faith in our children and young people, and the experience to help us grow our ministries to children, young people and families enabling them to participate and integrate into the life of the church.

The Role

Alongside your role in leading the strategic mission, fellowship and worship of a growing congregation

- You will be responsible for preaching, teaching and leading worship which respects Anglican tradition, using a variety of service styles
- You will lead our teams of volunteers as they share in the planning and delivery of our outreach and services to the schools and care home of our parish
- You will oversee the development of creative opportunities for teaching, worship and Bible study outside the traditional Sunday service times
- You will have overall responsibility for the motivation and encouragement of the leaders of our children's groups and for finding ways to grow the number of young families in our church
- You will support and develop the ongoing ministry to older people and singles
- You will be part of and responsible for the development, support and encouragement of the pastoral team
- You will be active in attending Deanery Chapter and Synod
- You will have overall responsibility for safeguarding working co-operatively with the Parish Safeguarding team



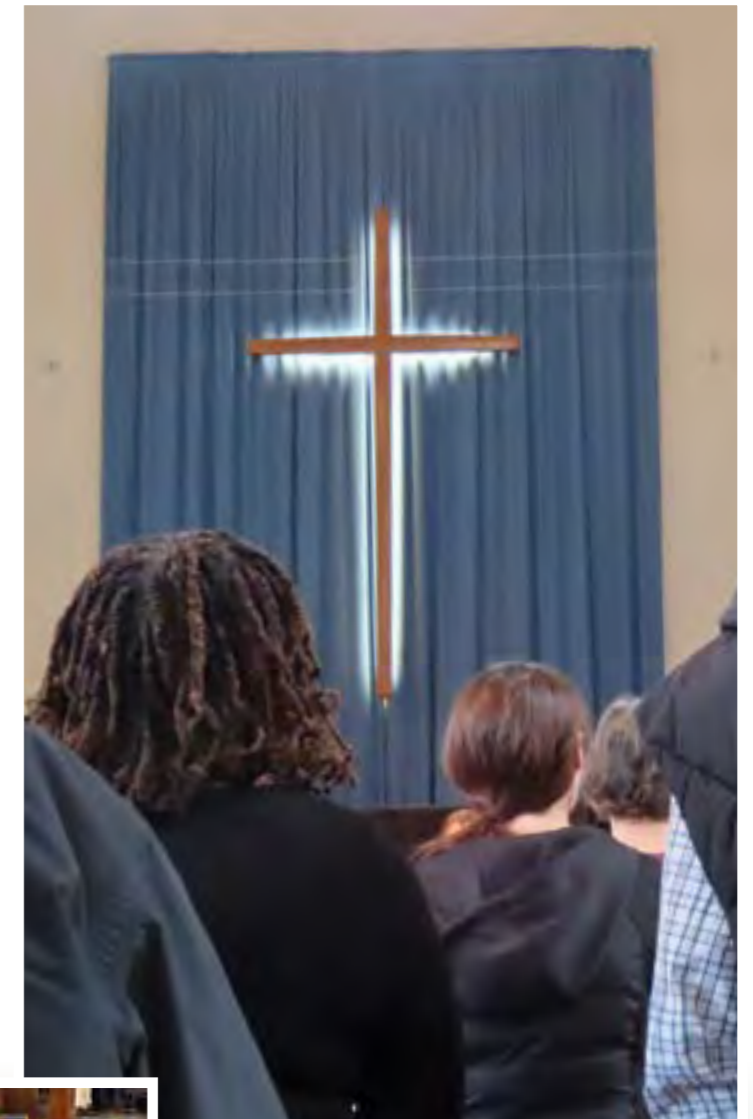
Ministry & Leadership



Our parish primarily comprises 1930s terraced houses, mostly owner-occupied. A recent boundary extension has added larger homes and new developments to the area, so the parish now includes two secondary schools, two primary schools, and a care home. St John's remains the sole church serving this community.

St John's is a community rooted in the open Evangelical tradition. We embrace diversity while united by our faith in Christ and dedication to God-honouring lives.

While we are likely as a PCC to hold diverse views around the Prayers of Love & Faith we desire that our thinking should be rooted in the bible, that we should be able to continue in fellowship together, and that we should not be distracted from our mission to Beckenham.



Overseen by the incumbent, our ministry team comprises:

- Two Church Wardens
- Congregation members who are actively involved in the services at St John's. Currently, we have individuals that the Archdeacon has granted permission to officiate. A commissioned Anna Chaplain takes a regular fortnightly service at a local nursing home
- A worship band of talented musicians for the Sunday services
- An Administrator who runs the church office and hall bookings
- A Treasurer and Finance Co-ordinator who work alongside the Standing Committee
- A Verger who sets up all the church events and services
- A Staff Cleaner
- A dedicated safeguarding officer, supported by two PCC members
- A pastoral team – a group of dedicated St John's Church Family members who meet to pray, visit and support members of the congregation who require pastoral care
- A team of volunteers who run our children's work
- A social team which organises multiple events for both the congregation and the wider community to enjoy
- In the past, the Vicar has been supported by an Associate Vicar and/or a Curate. We have always encouraged the training of others in ministry and preaching; St John's has a notable tradition of members of the congregation pursuing a vocation into church leadership



Outreach

The Green Bird Café

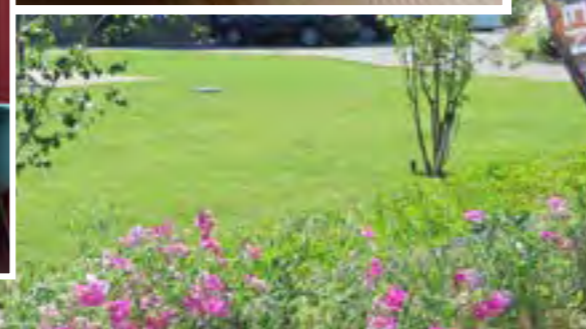
We operate The Green Bird Café, which launched in 2021 as a facility to serve the local community. The café is open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 9.30am-2.00pm. On weekdays, the staff are all volunteers – both church members and community offering their time and support. On Saturdays, we are delighted that the young people of our church take responsibility to run the café, enabling both weekend groups and families to access it.



We offer barista coffee with a selection of hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and a tasty lunch menu. The café has become a real 'hub' for the community. Some of the groups we host are:

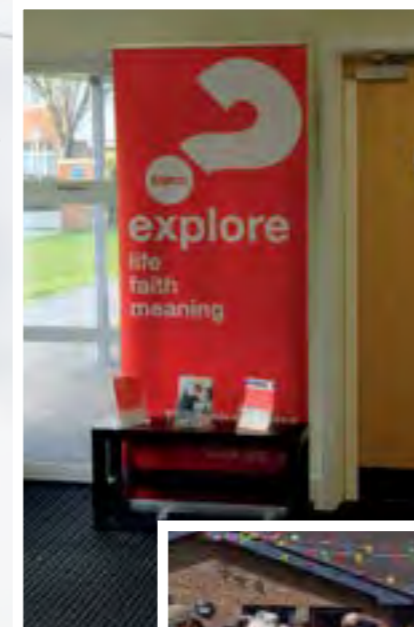
- YODA (Young Onset Dementia Awareness)
- St Christopher's Hospice Bereavement group
- The Nest Craft Workshop
- Dog Walkers
- Men's Breakfast
- Ladies' Nights
- Lunching with friends
- Volunteers' lunches and lots more!

This outreach initiative is a place valued by the community where people can come and be welcomed, listened to and encouraged and prayed for. P.S We are dog friendly!



Alpha

We have run Alpha courses regularly in the past and would hope to see these these becoming an annual event in the future, with a dedicated infrastructure for follow-up for new Christians.



Babies & Toddler Group

Our Babies and Toddler group for 0-5 year olds runs every Tuesday morning during term time. We welcome between 70-100 carers and children through our doors. For a number of families, this is their first, and in some cases only, contact with St John's.



Baby Bank

St John's Baby Bank - making sure no child goes without. Launched in 2022, the Baby Bank runs monthly in the church on a Saturday morning. This is reliant on donations and ensures those most in need have access to baby items, nappies and formula milk on a self-referral basis.



Summer Festival

Every June, to coincide with St John's 'birthday', we hold a Summer Festival with a wide range of free and subsidised activities. We see this as an important outreach event. Other recent popular events have included family movie nights, a Christmas pantomime and our annual Easter egg hunt!

CTiB - relations with other churches

St John's is a member of Churches Together in Beckenham (CTiB) which provides opportunities of fellowship with members of other churches and events such as:

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- World Day of Prayer
- Good Friday: Walk of Witness
- Christian Aid week.

St John's is the host of the CTiB Lent Course, held every other year, attracting around 100 participants.

Worship

Our Services

Sundays

Our main weekly service takes place on a Sunday at 10.30am. Our current service pattern comprises an all-age Family Service on the first Sunday of every month, with a Holy Communion service on the second Sunday of the month and Morning Worship on the remaining Sundays. Children are encouraged to attend age-based groups during the service. Whilst respecting our Anglican tradition, our services are informal with a mix of worship songs and some hymns led by the worship band.



Our monthly all-age service is designed to facilitate the whole church family – from the youngest to the oldest – to worship together. We value our inclusive atmosphere and actively promote the involvement of everyone in our services. Average attendance is currently around 80 – 90.

We hold an occasional 'Shift' Sunday evening service. This is a time of music, prayer and reflection, and a chance to relax together in God's presence.

Midweek Communion

On Wednesday mornings at 11.30am, we hold a Holy Communion service in the chapel. This service is particularly valued by senior members of the church and those who may be unable to attend the Sunday service. Average attendance is currently around 15.

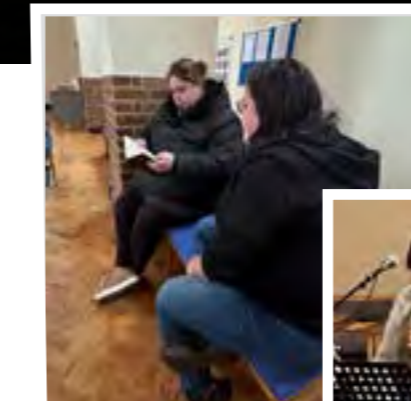


Prayer & Life Groups



Prayer

We believe prayer works. Since lockdown, two small groups have met on Zoom in the early morning to pray weekly for the world, local community and the church. People are now also coming half an hour early to church every Sunday to pray for our new incumbent. There are invitations for personal prayer after a service. Prayer is also at the heart of many of our activities; for example, at the start of the day of our community café opening, we meet briefly to pray for the smooth running of the café and for good conversations.



Life Groups

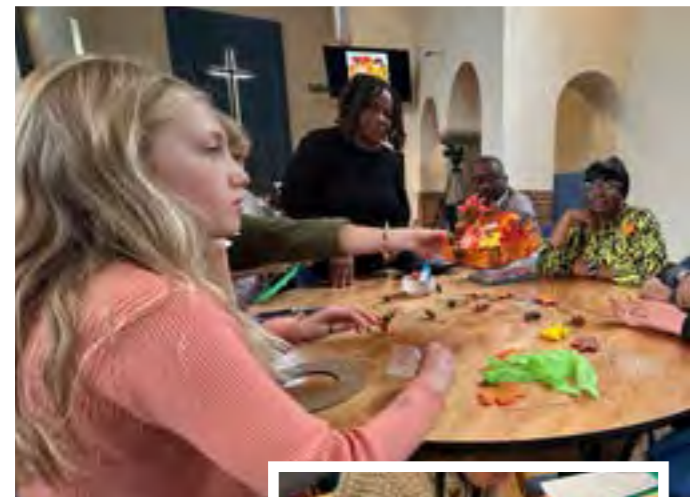
Life groups form the heart of St John's. They are the place where friendships are built, relationships with God are deepened, and equipping for the Christian life takes place. In life groups, people meet together to live out the life of God. Our life groups offer a place to belong and to be known, and to become rooted and settled in the life of the church. We currently have nine groups which mainly meet fortnightly either in people's homes or in the church buildings; some meet in the evening, while others meet during the day.

Children & Young People

On a Sunday

Currently, during a Sunday morning service (apart from the all-age worship service), our children gather in two age-specific groups – Children's Church for ages 3–10 years and Pathfinders for ages 10–16 years.

We have a self-service creche at the back of the church for young babies and toddlers. We are a child-friendly church and prefer to live with a little noise occasionally!



Messy Church

This monthly event brings our church alive with the sound of... children! Supported by a willing band of volunteers, 20–30 children and their families come together on a Sunday afternoon to play, learn about the Bible, engage and generally have fun! Currently, we have paused Messy Church at least until January - Currently, we have paused Messy Church, at least until January, as we have lost a number of key Messy Church leaders and helpers, and our remaining volunteers are in need of a break.

Links with Local Schools

We would love to improve our links with local schools and have been delighted to welcome them into St John's for Christmas Carol services and for class visits as part of their Religious Studies curriculum.

The Future

- To have a Children's and Families' worker and a Youth worker
- To grow in numbers so that we are able to give teaching to more specific age ranges
- Holiday Clubs
- Drop-in hub for 11–18 year olds

Our Buildings

Church & Halls

St John's Church was dedicated in 1933 as a daughter church to Christ Church Beckenham before becoming an independent parish in 1936. The original Church building has flexible seating enabling the Nave to be set out in different styles to accommodate different services.



St John's is an 'open house'. We have hosted an extensive range of events including concerts, art exhibitions, school exams and craft fairs. The church has wifi and we are equipped to live stream and record services and the current system benefits from a hearing loop and up-to-date tech. There is also a side chapel whose sound quality has also been recently enhanced.

Within the main church complex there are an additional three rooms. We are eager to transform them in order to provide a warm, comfortable office space and a meeting room for staff and clergy. A faculty has been submitted for this renovation work.

The large church hall building has a basic kitchen, toilets and two small meeting rooms.

There is a purpose-built two-bedroom flat which has, at times, been used as staff accommodation or let to deserving tenants; it is currently rented out to a Ukrainian refugee family.





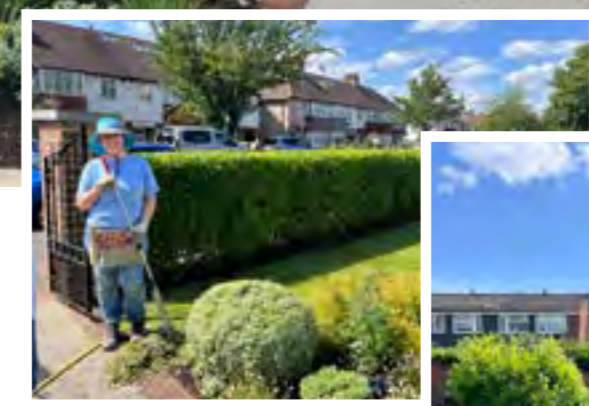
A new halls complex was opened debt-free in 2016, funded almost entirely by gifts from the congregation. It is a fantastic facility for both the church and the community. It has a full commercial kitchen, toilets, a smaller hall, The Green Bird community café, and has full disabled access.

In addition, there is a self-contained child-friendly space that includes its own toilets, a small kitchen and enclosed secure garden play area. This is rented on weekdays in term time to a well-established pre-school, rated Good by Ofsted in July 2024.



Within the spacious grounds is our sacred garden (maintained by our gardening team) that has been licensed for interments of ashes. It has just won the best community garden prize in the Borough of Bromley.

St John's also owns a nearby three-bedroom terraced house previously used as a home for curates and their families. It has recently been refurbished and is currently rented out commercially.



The Vicarage

The vicarage is a large, purpose-built house constructed in the 1930s, and is adjacent to the church. Over the years, it has benefitted from modifications such as UPVC double glazed windows and gas central heating. In 2023, new cavity wall insulation was fitted, which has substantially reduced the heating costs.

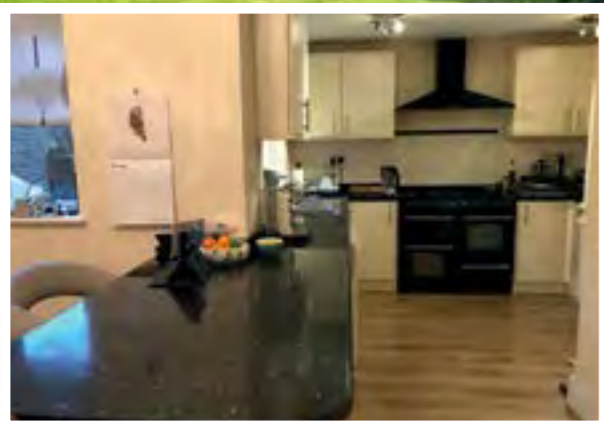
The vicarage can comfortably accommodate family and house guests, whilst offering the incumbent a private working space where they can also meet with visitors without disturbing family life.

The rear garden is largely laid to lawn with flower borders and a fruit tree, and has direct access via a private gate to Harvington playing fields. The gate conveniently provides a short-cut to and from local schools. The front garden is laid to lawn with flower beds, and adjoins a driveway to the detached garage.



The accommodation has been maintained to a good standard and comprises:

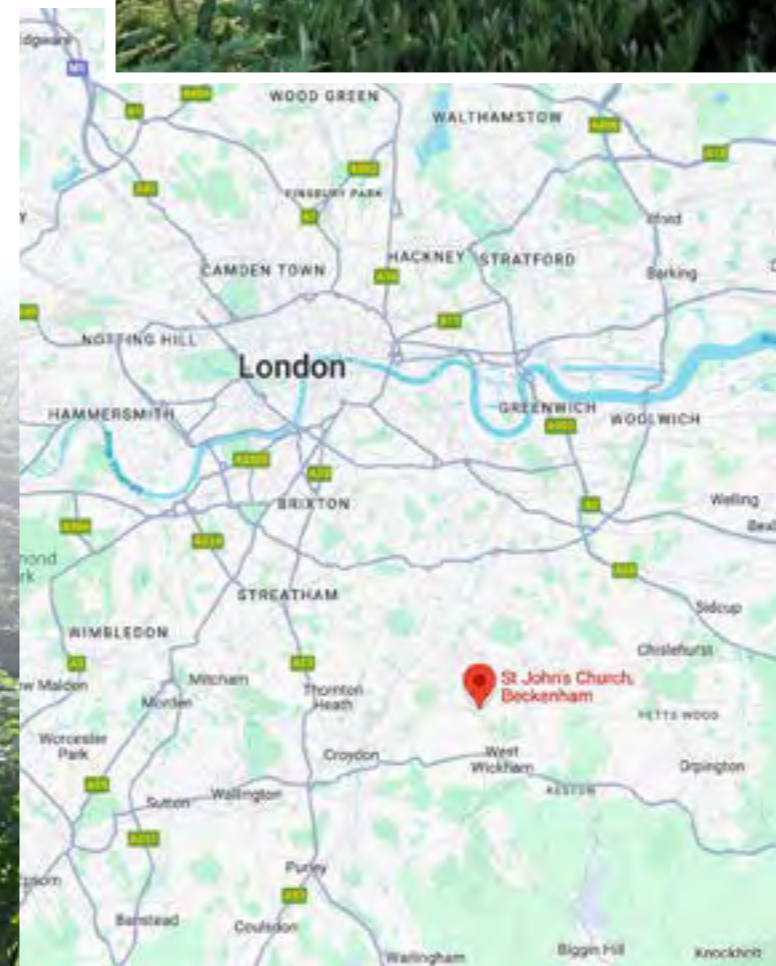
- Three reception rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Large, contemporary kitchen with dining area
- Utility area
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Family bathroom
- Four additional bedrooms, including two on the second floor with shower and toilet
- Double glazing
- Single garage
- Additional off-road parking
- Pleasant, good-sized gardens



Where We Are

Eden Park is a suburb of Beckenham, a town in the London Borough of Bromley. It has a local Sainsbury's, independent cafés, restaurants and takeaways, a pub/hotel, garden centre, hairdressers, petrol station and sports clubs. Eden Park station provides rail links to London Bridge, Waterloo East and Charing Cross. Eden Park also enjoys excellent local bus services.

Behind the church, Harvington sports ground comprises playing fields, a playground and woodland. There are several other large parks in the local area, including the popular Kelsey Park.



Our local schools are:

- Unicorn Primary School
- Langley Park Primary School
- Langley Park School for Boys
- Langley Park School for Girls
- St David's Prep School

Beckenham High Street is one mile from the church and has a wide range of independent and chain shops including Waitrose, Sainsbury's and M&S Food. There is also a cinema and an extensive variety of pubs, bars and restaurants.

Beckenham Junction Station has rail links to London (22 minutes to London Victoria) and Kent. Trams run from Beckenham Junction and Elmers End to Croydon and Wimbledon.

Bromley town centre is three miles away and is home to The Glades shopping centre, The Churchill Theatre and a Vue cinema complex.

Eco Church

Eco Church

St John's is committed to the Eco Church movement and we are planning on launching our 3-year Eco Church strategy in Autumn 2024.

Our buildings and teaching are already meeting some of the requirements, but we have ambitious plans to bring the rest of our church operations up to the same level and aim to apply

for the Eco Church bronze award in 2025.

With further actions in 2026, we hope to aim for the silver or gold award during this strategy cycle. We are blessed with fantastic grounds, a mixture of modern and traditional buildings and a committed team, which gives us a solid platform to make a positive difference.

PCC & Standing Committee

PCC

The PCC of St John's Beckenham meets bi-monthly. When the church has the benefit of lay readers they are invited to join the PCC. The Administrator and Finance Co-ordinator are also invited to attend meetings.

All PCC members are required to be DBS checked and to complete safeguarding training to at least the minimum level required by the Diocese.

Standing Committee

The PCC appoints a standing committee of PCC members. This is made up of the clergy, two Church Wardens, the Treasurer, and two elected PCC members. The standing committee reviews proposals for decision by the full PCC, as well as making decisions on urgent matters that cannot be delayed for discussion at a PCC meeting.

Finance

We are a church that is in a healthy and viable financial position. We are very fortunate to have good reserves of over £200,000 held at the Diocese.

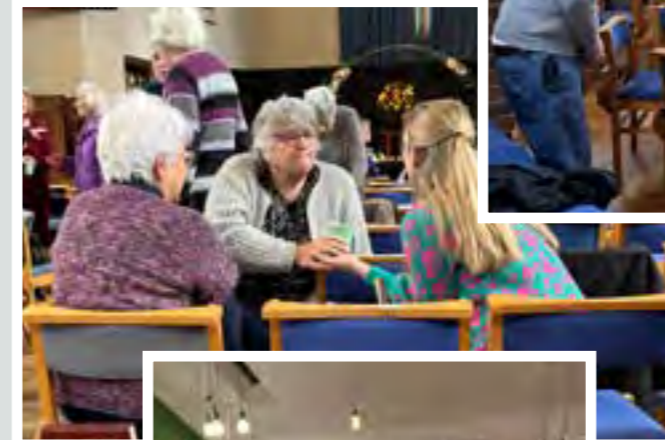
In addition we received over £130,000 last year from our hall bookings.

We have two properties which are currently commercially let - a small flat situated above our church halls and a three bedroom house just around the corner.

£15,000 was our Mission Giving in 2023, and we also donated the free will collections from our Christmas service and other special events throughout the year to our elected charities as well.

The Green Bird Cafe is making a small profit.

At St John's we are passionate about our young people, and began a fund at the end of 2021 to facilitate a youth and families worker. A considerable sum is being kept in our reserves for this use until this person can be appointed.





ST JOHN'S CHURCH BECKENHAM

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