

# **St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich**

**Annual Report 2021**



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Celebrating 2021**

## Aim and Purposes

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Gill O'Neill, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church, the Clergy House and the Goose Green Centre for Church and Community (GGC).

## Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit especially the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and members of the congregation.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is essential that we maintain the fabric of St John's Church and the Goose Green Centre.



This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd Gill O'Neill, Chair of the PCC.

*Gill O'Neill*

27.4.22

Date.....

# Fulfilling our purpose

## Ministry Team

We began this year dealing very immediately with the realities of the Covid pandemic. Local infection rates in Southwark at the time were very high, and in response to this we had closed our doors, though kept services online, just before Christmas. On the 8 January 2021, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and the Leader of Southwark Council asked all places of worship to close. We re-opened for in-person worship on Palm Sunday, with numbers quite limited at first. With the success of the vaccine programme, and mitigations in place, we have remained open ever since. Holy Week consisted of a mixture of online and in-person services. 2021 has seen a gradual increase in numbers, and a cautious resumption of some other features of our worship, including a reduced choir, congregational hymns, and servers in the sanctuary. With the 'Omicron' surge in the winter, we saw a return to mandatory face-coverings, and council leaders in Southwark, which had one of the highest infection rates in the country at the time, asked faith communities not to hold community events.

All of this forms the rather challenging background to a year in which we have continued to flourish. Green shoots of growth are to be found in all kinds of places, despite the hard pruning of lockdowns and Covid restrictions. We have been delighted to welcome new members to church, and I am proud that people find St John's to be a warm and welcoming place, even though the doors remain open to provide good ventilation!

It has been wonderful to resume weddings; firstly celebrating with Olivia Coates and Chris O'Neill for their 'micro-wedding' back in April, with a much bigger wedding blessing service in September, and five other weddings in 2021. Families are also seeking us out for baptism, though at the moment we hold them as a separate service at 12 noon after the 10am Sunday Mass. In addition, it is always a privilege to walk alongside families experiencing the grief of loss, and offer funeral ministry to those in our congregation and parish.

We have found new ways to welcome families and young children with the launch of our new Messy Church service. Starting in July 2021, we have developed a Covid-safe formula that enables us to play, learn and worship together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Messy Church is for anyone and everyone, young, old, single, attached, all are welcome, and those who come along have a fabulous time while growing in faith and fellowship. We have also managed to hold some social events, a Spring Quiz, Harvest Barbecue, and a delightful outdoor café for Christian Aid Week. We have continued to support the Robes project, managing to support homeless guests in accommodation, and the Southwark Foodbank and the Manna Society at a time of great need. In October we invited a guest speaker, Deborah

Akinlawon, from the Met Police's Christian Association, to speak to us about how her faith supports her life as a police officer. Continuing the work begun by the Black Voices Matter initiative in 2020 on allyship and unconscious bias, we offered a successful Saturday workshop for our PCC members. With huge thanks to Laura Howell-Williams and Joy Taylor for devising and delivering the workshop, which is now sought after by other churches and the Diocesan team.

We were sad to say goodbye to the Revd Raymond Baudon as he left St John's on Easter Sunday to become Deputy Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and we thank him for his friendship and service during his curacy. We were delighted to welcome the Revd Gemma Birt who joined us as Assistant Curate following her ordination on Saturday 26 June. With her husband Simon, and her family, Gemma has already become very much part of the team here. We were also sorry to have to say farewell to Bradley Collins, our Parish Administrator, when he moved to a new life with Alistair in East Sussex. We were very pleased indeed to welcome Denise Fulgoni as our new administrator in September. Denise has thrown herself into the role with gusto and we are thrilled to have her in the St John's family.

We have said other goodbyes: Nicola Harland left us in April after many, many years at St John's and in the East Dulwich area, and we wish her well in her new life in Essex. Earlier in 2021 we held the funerals for Malcolm King and David Lemm, both faithful members of our congregation, and we continue to miss them. In the last days of December we also said goodbye to Rex Thompson, whose funeral was held in January 2022. In July we were able to hold a long-awaited memorial service for the Revd Deepthi Wickremasinghe, with members of her family and friends from the congregation past and present. It was an opportunity to gather in a way we had not been able to, share stories and give thanks for Deepthi's friendship and deep faith.



*The Ministry Team*

In all this, I and the rest of the ministry team are deeply thankful for all those who give their time and energy to enable the life of our church to flourish. I am grateful to my colleagues, the Revds Gemma Birt, Anne Clarke, Alistair McCulloch and Rosemary Shaw who formally joined our ministry team last year. Our hardworking churchwardens, Jim Nurton and Julie Whitney, our Treasurer Sarah Goudge, Secretary Christine Camplin who has put a great effort into this report, Stewardship Secretary Martin Howell, and parish administrator Denise Fulgoni, Coffee Morning, and Communications teams, including Sue O'Neill, Christine

Camplin and Tayo Olatunde, Safeguarding Officers Mary Dawson and Tina Hampson, caretaker Tina Steadman, John Webber and our choir and musicians, our dedicated gardening volunteers, and to the many others who keep the community of St John's strong with caring phone calls, visits and deliveries.

I hope that we will be able to nurture the green shoots of growth we discern in our shared life, and see them come to fruition as we grow together in 2022. With thanks for all of you; for all that you are, and all you bring to the life of St John's.

Gill, on behalf of the Ministry Team

## Worship and Prayer

The PCC offers a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Everyone is welcome to attend. On a 'normal' Sunday there are two masses each Sunday:

- Said Mass at 8.00 a.m., with an average congregation of 10, provides a quiet and contemplative service.
- Sung Mass at 10.00 a.m., a traditional service with robed choir and hymns and at which our team of servers assist. Tea and coffee are available afterwards in the Centre or in the churchyard.



*Testing the livestream equipment*

2021 has not been a normal year, however. At the start of the year the church was still closed, and all services were on Zoom while the country was in its third Lockdown. On Palm Sunday, 28 March, we reopened with numbers initially limited to 35. Gradual relaxation continued through summer,

numbers increased, and in September the choir was allowed to return. However, in December the Omicron variant of Covid arrived. The 8am and 10am Sunday services continued in person with everyone attending being asked to follow strict guidelines. They were reduced in length, the number of hymns reduced and the Choir limited to 12 singers. Some people preferred to stay at home and attend the livestreamed services.

Morning Prayer continued on Zoom three times a week. Said Mass on Thursday midday resumed in June.

The first Messy Church was in July and has been held monthly on a Sunday afternoon. Up to 55 children and adults have attended, including several families

new to St John's and others whom we have not seen for a while.

The 10am Mass and all festival services have been livestreamed on Zoom since May 2020. From February they have also been streamed to YouTube. This has enabled people to view the service during the week. There were over 60 online worshippers each Sunday at the start of the year; this has gradually dropped but still remained at about 20 at the end of the year.



*Easter Day 2021*

The Ash Wednesday service was livestreamed from the church, but since Palm Sunday we have been able to hold most of the planned special services 'in-person'. The church was open for private prayer during Holy Week though the Maundy Thursday Mass was online. Good Friday morning Outdoor Stations of the Cross in the churchyard was followed by the Liturgy of the Passion in church. The Dawn Mass and Festival Mass of Easter took place in church, as did Ascension Day in May, and commemoration of All Souls (November). We were able to receive gifts brought to the Harvest Festival Masses, and at our annual Act of Remembrance in November we even managed an 'outside broadcast' of the laying of wreaths in the Calvary Garden. Despite the surge in the Omicron variant, most Advent and Christmas services and events took place (with caution) as planned except for a reduction in length of the Carol Service and the cancellation of one of the two Christingle services. All Christmas services were ticketed but some spaces were left as not everyone has access to Eventbrite.

The average weekly attendance with a combination of physical and online services can only be an estimate. During October at least 70 adults and five children attended. Of these, 55 adults and five children came to the church. On Christmas Day there were at least 80 people present from 45 households. However, numbers are increasing weekly.

The electoral roll was revised before the 2021 Annual Meetings: on 31 December 2021 there were 139 people on St John's church electoral roll, about 68% of whom were not resident within the parish.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

Due to Covid restrictions many baptisms and weddings had been postponed from 2020. We held the following events in our church in 2021:

*(2020 figures in italics)*

Baptisms	<b>9</b>	<i>2</i>
Banns read	<b>8</b>	<i>4</i>
Marriages	<b>6</b>	<i>3</i>
Marriage Blessings	<b>1</b>	<i>0</i>

Admission to Communion	<b>4</b>	<i>0</i>
Confirmations	<b>0</b>	<i>0</i>
Funerals in church	<b>4</b>	<i>2</i>
Funerals at cemetery	<b>3</b>	<i>3</i>
Deposition of ashes in Calvary Garden	<b>0</b>	<i>0</i>

## Prayer and Discipleship

The Daily Office has been a mainstay of the life of prayer at St John's, with online Morning Prayer held on Zoom on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. During Lent we enjoyed an online course focussing on ecological justice, with materials from USPG: 'For such a time as this' was a gentle, meditative time of prayer and discussion, with stories about environmental justice from all over the world. In addition, we invited people from our congregation, and from the wider Diocese and beyond, to contribute a reflection for 'Lent in Daily Life' to encourage us all in our pilgrimage of faith as we go about our life and work. In the Ascension to Pentecost period 'Thy Kingdom Come' was celebrated with an invitation to join the Southwark Cursillo group's day of prayer and reflection. Our weekly email gives a short pause for thought, looking ahead to the Sunday readings, and we share some of the many resources for prayer available in-person and online that have sprung up during the pandemic. Establishing Messy Church has enabled all-ages to pray and worship together in a way that is very relaxed and creative. We look forward to new opportunities to grow and be formed in prayer in future.

## Children and young people



*A successful Street Doctors workshop for young people was held at St John's in November*

In 2021, it was not possible to reinstate the children's activities during the Sunday services. However, as things started to reopen over the spring and summer, we looked into alternative ways to worship with children and families.

In July 2021, we had our first 'Messy Church' service. Messy Church is 'a way of being church for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration' (<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>). It was not possible to use the traditional format for Messy Church – which involves those in attendance being able to move around and choose from a variety of tasks and finishing with a meal.

Due to social distancing requirements, the Messy Church team bring the activities to tables, where each household sits together. Drinks and snacks are served outside after the service. Our first service was based on John 6:1-14 and we made clay plates and paper baskets and conducted an experiment to make foam expand. We also got very messy by trying to make 5000 footprints in paint! This was a great success, thanks to our wonderful Messy Church team and from then on, services were held monthly from September to December.

We were pleased to be able to admit four children to receive Holy Communion in July 2021. Some of the children had waited a long time for this as we could not hold the preparation sessions in 2020.

It was very good to be able to hold a Christingle service in the church on 24 December. This service was ticketed to ensure there was no overcrowding, so numbers were lower than usual. The service raised around £500 for the Children's Society.

Julie Whitney

## Music at St John's



*'Psalms, Psinging and Psandwiches' in October*

The last year has seen many changes of guidance regarding Covid and therefore our ability to use the building for services and thus our use of the organ and of singers in services. We have used a cantor (only), a quartet (in the gallery) with a cantor near the sanctuary, the full choir and, by the end of the year, a choir with a limited number of singers. We have had very little input from assistant organists. Certain events have been possible, such as a service to commemorate All Souls and the Christmas Carol Service.

Until August, I additionally provided three organ pieces for the 8.00a.m. said Mass; from September I was preoccupied with the Choir and so my link with the 8.00 services stopped.

In the first part of 2021, both the Adult and Junior Choirs met on Zoom. This was an important means of keeping in touch. Until the return of the Choir, I sent a regular newsletter to the Choir, assistant organists and clergy. The birthdays of the musicians are always recognised with a card or e-mail.

Organ recitals planned for 2020 were given in addition to those already booked for 2021, six in all.

In October, we hosted an event on music in the Psalms, in conjunction with the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Speakers and audience came from other parts of the country and the singing was led by members of our Choir. We also relayed this online. Thanks are due in particular to Sue O'Neill for her work behind the scenes in preparing for this day.

My thanks to the Choir, who have been keen to contribute through their singing in services. Their friendship and loyalty are appreciated. I have had regular meetings with the Vicar during the year; my thanks to Gill and to both Bradley Collins and his successor as Administrator, Denise Fulgoni for all their support.

John Webber, Director of Music

## Pastoral and spiritual care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to poor mobility, frailty or illness.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, through much of 2021, home visits have not been possible. Instead doorstep visits, walks, telephone calls, online coffee mornings and emails have enabled pastoral care to be shared by everyone in this parish. For many, it has been a very difficult and traumatic time, and everyone at St John's has been acutely aware of the pastoral and spiritual challenges that have been borne by many.

Towards the latter half of the year, as vaccination rates increased and restrictions were eased, Revd Gill O'Neill, and the rest of the clergy team began making home visits again, including bringing Home Communion to some parishioners.

The weekly coffee morning has been a very supportive environment for those seeking company and friendship, especially throughout the pandemic. It has been an important and valued way in which members of St John has been able to offer pastoral care to those in the wider parish community.

## Safeguarding

St John's Church is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults, and promoting their welfare. The Safeguarding Team ensures that we take all reasonable measures to create an environment where people are confident to undertake activities where risk (including mistreatment, abuse and harm) is minimised. Where there are concerns about the welfare of an individual, the Safeguarding Team acts in accordance with the Church of England safeguarding policy to address those concerns.

A copy of the updated Diocesan manual *A Safe Church* is available in the church and online at: <https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures/> This contains the Diocesan policies, procedures and guidelines for safeguarding children, safeguarding adults who may be vulnerable, and responding to domestic abuse, in line with the Church of England policy, 'Promoting a Safe Church'. The Safeguarding Team liaises with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser to ensure the safety and welfare of all members of our community, especially the most vulnerable.

The Safeguarding Team is composed of Mary Dawson (Parish Safeguarding Officer), Tina Hampson, Joy Taylor, Revd Gill O'Neill, Revd Gemma Birt, and Churchwardens Jim Nurton and Julie Whitney.

Due to the continuation of the Covid 19 pandemic, St John's utilises a bespoke livestreaming policy during services, and risk assessments are carried out for online youth meetings, public worship, choir rehearsals, open church and 'working and

volunteering in church'. All users of the Goose Green Centre continue to utilise appropriate risk assessments.

The Safeguarding Team has ensured that the safeguarding page on the church website is up to date, and conforms to the statutory requirements laid down by the Diocese. The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

No serious incidents occurred during the year that should have been reported to the Charity Commissioners.

Mary Dawson, Parish Safeguarding Officer

with Tina Hampson, Joy Taylor, the Revd Gill O'Neill, Churchwardens Jim Nurton and Julie Whitney.

## Communications



In 2021 *The Gander* and website teams were merged into a single Communications team consisting of Gill

O'Neill, Jim Nurton, Sue O'Neill, Tayo Olatunde, Christine Camplin, Martin Howell, with Raymond Baudon (until Easter) and Gemma Birt (from September). It is a team rather than a committee; its purpose is to produce *The Gander*, keep the website under review and up-to-date, and review the *A church near you* website. The team meets regularly via Zoom to plan *The Gander* and website, and would welcome more members.

### Zoom and YouTube

Services continued to be livestreamed via Zoom with numbers fluctuating with the progress of Covid: up to 60 people participated during February. The first service was livestreamed to YouTube on 7 February, enabling those unable to take part on Sundays to 'catch up'. The 10am service and all major festivals have been streamed both to Zoom and YouTube since then. Zoom service provide a valuable opportunity for people to chat before and after the service; to feel they are participating, not simply observing. PCC and Standing Committee meetings continued to be held on Zoom rather than in-person.

### Coffee Morning Get-Connected Scheme

This is an initiative to help those without internet access get online. It combines assistance with broadband connection costs with the loan of a basic tablet with simple instructions. Though we received further Southwark Neighbourhood funding to equip the Scheme during the year there was limited take-up of the Scheme. It is hoped that different approaches during 2022 might encourage more people to take part.

## Emails and pewsheet

Weekly Mailchimp mails were sent to 385 people. The printed pewsheet containing details of Sunday readings, music and coming events was available in church and also posted on the website. Coffee morning emails were sent weekly to all those who asked to be included.

## *The Gander*

Ten issues were produced in 2021 (with a break at August and Christmas/January). It included reports on church events, local news and activities, history of the church, as well as profiles of members of the congregation, recipes, gardening updates and book reviews. It is published online, emailed to the Mailchimp list, and a paper version is also printed and posted to about 40 addresses.

## Website

The new website went live on 19 March at [www.stjohnseastdulwich.org](http://www.stjohnseastdulwich.org) (the same address as the old one).

We employed a specialist company, UK Churches (<https://ukchurches.org/>) to redesign and also to maintain the site rather than paying a one-off fee for the website to be redesigned. We can update pages ourselves but the contract includes content design and all technical support.

All the content has been revised and new material is being added. It includes details of current services and the latest pewsheet and *The Gander*. We want to ensure the website is always up to date; it should be a living document and not static, so if you spot anything that needs changing or adding, please let one of the Communication team know.

It is a 'shop window' for our virtual presence.

## Maintenance of the fabric

### Church and grounds

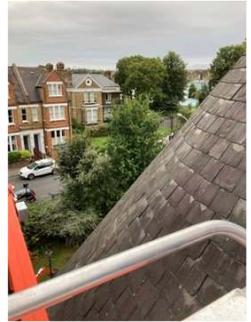


With the ongoing pandemic and church closure at the start of the year, we continued with the work of ensuring the safety of our building and worship. This involved regular maintenance checks while the building was closed between January and March and then continuing to review and update risk assessments over the year.

When the church reopened, we installed new equipment to improve the streaming of services on Zoom and YouTube so that those unable to attend can

continue to participate. Thanks to the donation of new equipment and a willing team of volunteers, we were also able to offer socially distanced tea and coffee in the churchyard after the 10am Mass.

We spent much of 2021 investigating the repairs needed to the sanctuary roof as it was unclear what remedial work would be required to fix the water ingress into the sanctuary. Initially, a drone assessment of the roof and guttering was undertaken which identified several possible causes. One possibility was a defect in the copper lining the box gutter that sits between the sanctuary and the minstrel's gallery. There were also possible issues with guttering and flashing. Therefore, it was necessary to arrange a visual inspection of the roof area. This was conducted with our inspecting architect using a cherry picker. This inspection identified several cracks in the copper lining of the box gutter. The lining has already been repaired many times as it was originally lined when the church was rebuilt after the Second World War. We plan to apply for grant funding to replace this in 2022.



During 2021, we have continued with the usual maintenance of the gutters, heating and lighting. At the same time as the roof inspection, the cherry picker was used to replace several loose and missing roof tiles.

In the churchyard, a team of volunteers have continued to maintain and tidy the garden. In September, a service was held to bless the new rosemary bushes planted in memory of loved ones in the Knot garden. Thanks to Chris Eldridge for carrying out this work.

## **Hinckley Road flat**

Our ground floor tenants have remained in the flat throughout 2021 and Revd Raymond Baudon moved out of the first floor flat in May as he relocated to his new role. In August, new tenants moved in. The first floor flat required roof repairs to fix a leak and the ground floor flat had a new boiler fitted.



Jim Nurton and Julie Whitney, Churchwardens

## Archives and records

Much that I had hoped to do this year has been put on hold because of intermittent access to the church during the pandemic. However, I have been able to complete a general tidy-up of the Minstrels' Gallery and moved artefacts to more secure storage. I have continued my survey of the archive cupboards to ascertain how much material still remains unappraised and unlisted. I have also dealt with a couple of queries relating to the baptism and marriage registers and given advice on family history sources to some visitors to the church. Apart from that I have done further research on Fr. McKenzie and the rebuilding of the church after WW2 bombing and collaborated with Christine Camplin on various aspects of the church's history.

Clare Brown, Archivist

## Eco Church

2021 saw us starting the year in lockdown as we continued dealing with Covid and the pandemic, This affected the ability for the Eco Church group to meet in person and implement some of the more tangible objectives we had planned. However, it did not stop our determination to continue this journey.

In May, the group had a Zoom Q&A session with the Eco Church Lead of St John's Church Upper Norwood to understand their eco journey. It was a follow-up to the fact-finding visit made by a group of us in 2020.

The lockdown also saw us providing eco-related articles in monthly issues of *The Gander*. These articles touched on important eco-topics such as electric vehicles, cycling, and reducing our carbon footprint. They also provided essential information needed to make eco-conscious decisions.

August saw one of our member families taking part in the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) relay to COP 26 and writing a piece for *The Gander*, sharing their experience and motivation for participating.

In December we launched an online Christmas card. Church members left goodwill messages which everybody could read. This ensured that whilst keeping within the Covid guidelines, the St John's community was still able to come together.

As we closed out the year, our objectives for 2022 were clear. We, as a community must continue our eco-journey. To this end, activities such as an eco-themed Lent (Eco Lent) were proposed. We would also continue working towards completing the Eco Church survey by identifying tasks we could undertake in 2022 to improve the church's eco rating and gain the Eco Church bronze award.

Tayo Olatunde and the Eco Church group



*bird boxes made by school pupils*

## Goose Green Centre

The Goose Green Centre for Church and Community was opened in 1996. Its purpose was to facilitate increased church activities, especially with younger and older people, accommodate the many groups which used or applied to use the vestry, and to be of key significance in the outreach commitment of St John's.

Within a few years it was in use for Sunday church activities and large social and fund-raising events. During the week there was a Nursery most days, a Baby and Toddler Group, a Monkey Music Group and a Maths and English Tuition Group, Yoga, and Alcoholics Anonymous. There was a weekly Lunch Club, the local M.P. and councillors held monthly surgeries and the hall was used for public consultation meetings and elections. Then in March 2020 all 'normal' use was curtailed.

At the start of 2021 we were once again in a Lockdown: the Centre was closed except for the nursery, after-school care and support groups. BUDS Nursery left at the end of March, a loss both financially and in our involvement with the community. Some alternative options have been explored but they all have problems, usually with the business model and hours of use.

By July about 50% of the evening groups had returned; all were asked to follow guidelines and have their own risk assessments. There were a number of party bookings, but few daytime bookings. The Coffee Morning returned (outdoors) in June and the Lunch Club in September.

Bradley Collins left the role of Parish Administrator in summer and Denise Fulgoni joined on 1 September. One of the first tasks she undertook was to contact all the users, most of whom are now returning to the Centre.

By mid-November Denise had tidied up all the centre cupboards and made space for all existing Centre users to have storage. The number of users increased to twelve groups a week and Sunday afternoon party bookings. On some days there were up to four users in the centre a day. These were wide and varied in their type and function within our community: baby and toddler activities, junior drama classes, art classes, yoga, Tai Chi, along with a number of support groups.

Now, as the impact of the pandemic wanes and we work to live with the new situation we need to decide how we want to use the Centre in future. Some refurbishment is planned: toilets refurbishment, looking into improving internal doors, and soundproofing doors between the church and Centre.

The Goose Green Centre should be used by the wider community, especially coming out of the pandemic. I am looking at local need to engage with local charities, theatre groups, Youth support services, Dulwich Festival and our local councillors, and trust that the Centre will continue to develop and grow following the original Goose Green Centre objectives.

Denise Fulgoni, Parish Administrator



2021





*In seedtime . . .*



*. . . and in harvest.*



## Goose Green Community Lunch Club

One of the activities that the Goose Green Centre hosts for the older members of our community is the Lunch Club.

Due to the Covid pandemic Lunch Club meetings were suspended in 2021 until the end of September. Committee members had stayed in contact with our regular guests during the period we were not meeting. In the autumn around 20 people plus helpers joined us for lunch each week until we had to suspend meetings again on 16 December, the date of our planned Christmas party.

Please do come and join us if you are free on a Thursday lunch time.

As part of the planned re-opening we decided to come under the Church's wing as the cost of insurance as a separate organisation, post pandemic, proved to be prohibitive. We are grateful for the support provided by the Vicar and the PCC.

Martin Howell, Barbara Deller and the Lunch Club Committee.

## A building for every day of the week



St John's Church was built in 1865, replacing an earlier 1820s chapel. It has stood on the north side of Goose Green, witnessing the growth of East Dulwich around it. It is a Grade II listed building.

The church is not just for Sundays; despite Covid restrictions it has been able to be open to the local community during the week. Visitors

have dropped in to see the building, or simply for a quiet space.

There have been musical events: a Bach to Baby Family Concert each month from September, Psalms workshop in October, and also rehearsal space for some local musicians. In September, too, there was a week-long art exhibition by Sam Newman. School events have been held in the church, and a Street Doctors youth training event in November.

We have hosted Copleston Centre management team meetings, a SDCAS (Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers) meeting and a party for the South London Cares community network.

The church grounds have remained open all year. There is seating and the gardens offer a quiet and reflective space for the local community away from the bustle of East Dulwich Road and Lordship Lane.

We hope to resume larger events such as the May and Christmas fairs next year.

## Mission and hospitality

There have been a few social events. Until summer they were held via Zoom or outdoors: a Spring Quiz via Zoom (March); Christian Aid Café (May). Refreshments after services resumed outdoors in April; the weather was fortunately fine for tea and cakes after church to welcome Gemma, our new Curate, and her family (June), and we had a Harvest Festival and barbecue (October). Finally we brought the Christmas message with lights and Christmas tree outside.

## Goose Green Coffee Morning



2021 has been a year full of changes. At the start of the year Coffee Morning was still meeting by Zoom on Wednesday mornings as it had for much of 2020. We carried on providing activities at some sessions, including film groups, guest speakers and art sessions. These all worked well in the Zoom setting. The art groups were very popular and attracted lots of new visitors. The sessions were very well lead by The Arts Factory and everyone seemed to appreciate the techniques we learnt. We were fortunate to be able to continue using our Neighbourhood Fund grant from Southwark Council for the art sessions, as well as for publicity and to assist St John's improved online presence. We hosted talks by Marcus Dickey Horley from the Tate Gallery, by Revd Rosemary Shaw about hospital chaplaincy and by The Clewer Initiative on modern slavery.

We continued to miss visitors from before the first lock-down, many of whom we had lost contact with. Conversation by Zoom was different to the normal ebb and flow of chatting but we persevered. One benefit was that we could include visitors from far afield: the most distant visitor was on the Isle of Wight! We found the

number of visitors to our Zoom Coffee Morning declined a little in April and May. As the Covid situation improved, we started meeting in the churchyard at the beginning of June. We were very fortunate with the weather and barely had to use Zoom during the summer, apart from for two very interesting talks given by the RSPB and by Friends of the Earth. It was highly enjoyable to meet outside and be able to socialise again. We were very pleased to see some pre-lockdown visitors return to Coffee Morning, though two of our Coffee Morning regulars sadly died while we were not meeting in person. Since starting to meet up in person in June the number of visitors each week has slowly increased. We continued to regularly review our Covid risk assessments, to keep as safe as possible.

At the end of September, with the return of worse weather and a fairly good Covid situation, we made the decision to start meeting inside church again. This also provided an opportunity to start organising some activities; we had a visit by Goose Green Safer Neighbourhood Team and a craft session making Scandi-style Christmas Cards. However, when the local case numbers became very high some weeks later, we had to revert to meeting outside for the last meeting of the year. We transformed our planned Christmas Coffee Morning session into a take-home gift bag and enjoyed a quick hot drink outside!

We had obtained further Southwark Neighbourhood funding for 2021-2022, for art and music activities, publicity and the Get-Connected Scheme. However it was not practical to organise guest speakers or other activities whilst we were meeting outside so spending was delayed. With stops and starts to meeting indoors, it was not possible to spend much of the budget during 2021. Some spending is planned for the first quarter of 2022. During the year a further Neighbourhood Fund application was made for 2022-23, for activities during coffee morning plus parallel groups to run on Wednesday mornings.

We sought feedback from the group by an on-line survey in March and in feedback meetings; one was on Zoom and two were in person. In our survey we found that a proportion of respondents found it difficult to join in conversation on Zoom, either through not being able to find a chance to speak or through Zoom not working well for them. Nevertheless, more than 90% of participants stated they liked coming to coffee morning 'a lot' or 'quite a lot'. More than half liked the chance to meet others or found the group made them feel more connected to other people. Similarly more than half liked the opportunity to hear interesting talks or take part in other activities. In our meetings it was useful to hear ideas on how Coffee Morning could be improved, such as making it easier to start coming to Coffee Morning in person or on-line, improving publicity, which activities worked best, etc.

This has been a fluctuating year, but one in which the opportunity to mix with others has been enthusiastically grasped, even when online. Covid has shown us all how important it is to meet up and socialise with each other.

## Black Voices Matter



*Deborah Akinlawon spoke in Black History Month*

The group has continued to highlight issues of racial justice over the past year despite the continuing challenges of the pandemic.

At the beginning of the year the group piloted an online workshop on racial justice called *Becoming Allies*, and worked together to

produce a format which would be appropriate to roll out at St John's, ideally in person. It was agreed that as change depends on leadership, the workshop would first be offered to the PCC. The first session took place in September and was well-attended and lively. The group of PCC members produced a list of intentions based on Southwark's Anti-Racism charter. Thought is also being given to making the images in church more diverse and improving the representation of UKME church members in leadership roles.

Encouragingly, a number of other churches and groups in the Diocese have shown an interest in the group's work and we are currently considering the best ways of sharing the learning from St John's anti-racism journey.

A group was also formed to plan for Black History Month. During the whole of October the flowers in church reflected the BHM colours of red, green and gold, there was a display of Black History books, poetry and literature and our preachers in October all spoke about faith and racial justice. A grant was given by Southwark Council which enabled the group to commission a piece of music by a local young Black musician and this is still being progressed. The books are now available to borrow as a small library at the back of the church.

Future plans include running the workshops again during the coming year, organising an event for other churches and church leaders, supporting the PCC in implementing Southwark's Anti-Racism charter, and working to have more images and activities which reflect the diversity of the church and the community.

Black Voices Matter group

## Robes Project at St John's



In 2021, the usual process of guests moving around churches could not happen because of the high risk of Covid transmission. Therefore, guests lived in hotel rooms funded by the local authority while Robes support workers helped guests to find permanent accommodation.

Churches were still able to help guests by providing monthly and weekly support packages. Each month, volunteers from different churches took it in turns to provide every guest with a package of clothing, toiletries and non-perishable food items. A smaller weekly package was also provided with snacks and fruit.

St John's volunteers provided one set of 35 monthly and weekly support packages in March 2021 and a set of 12 weekly support packages in April.

## Charitable giving



*Harvest gifts*

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith.

Each year the PCC selects four charities, in addition to Christian Aid, for special collections at the Sunday services during the year. The charities selected for 2021 were: The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call, The Children's Society, Shelter and the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation.

The special collection is normally made up of money not put into envelopes on those Sundays. However, Zoom services and the absence of a physical plate have made this

difficult. We have additionally directed people to each charity's own website.

Collections for Christian Aid, The Children's Society (Christingle service) and Stephen Lawrence Day (Sunday 31 October) took place and The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call was advertised throughout Lent on the Sunday emails. The Christian Aid Café raised over £600 for Christian Aid. The gifts offered at our Harvest Festival service or left in the porch were taken to the Manna Society Day Centre. Nearly £2,000 (including Gift Aid) was raised in memory of Deepthi Wickremasinghe and donated to the Young People's Forest at Mead in Derbyshire.

The PCC agreed that the two collections that had not taken place (Shelter and The Children's Society), be carried over to 2022.

## St John's and St Clement's School



*KS2 Carol Concert*

The first school at St John's was established in 1827. The PCCs of St John and St Clement jointly appoint the foundation governors of St John's and St Clement's School, and as Incumbent of St John's, Revd Gill O'Neill is an ex-officio Foundation Governor. The St John's Foundation Governors are: Miranda Wightman (2018,

Chair) and Namukale Chintu (2020); there is a currently a vacancy. Simon Rutland (2018) is the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education governor.

St John's clergy visit the school to lead collective worship and the school holds plays, carol concerts, harvest and end-of term services in the church.

## Deanery Synod

2021 was a year of change for Dulwich Deanery Synod. During the lockdown in 2020, churches were permitted to delay their annual meetings, or roll them into one in 2021, therefore Deanery Synod elections spanned a much longer period of time. Eventually, we gained representatives from each church in the Deanery. Diocesan Synod elections also took place, and our new lay representatives are Susan Patterson, of St Stephen's, and our own Joy Taylor, of St John's Church. Clergy reps are Revd Tomos Reid, Revd Cécile Schnyder and Revd Rachael Gledhill. Following her election to General Synod, we welcomed Rebecca Chapman (Bex) as our General Synod link person, and said farewell to Adrian Greenwood.

The Deanery Synod appointed Denise Fulgoni as Secretary from 1 January 2022. This will be a paid post, funded by the 'Area Dean Admin Grant' from Southwark Diocese. The Deanery holds three synods annually. In July we had a presentation from The Revd Canon Jay Colwill (Canon Missioner at the Cathedral, and Director of Mission and Evangelism for the Diocese of Southwark) and Nelly Misenga (Development Officer of Together Southwark). They spoke on the theme of 'Deaneries, Collaboration & Community Engagement'. One outcome of that is a mapping exercise of all outreach activities provided by the Dulwich churches, to be undertaken by Denise. Other Synod topics for discussion have included the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith initiative, anti-racism and allyship, youth work, mental health, and how churches can welcome and support people arriving from

Hong Kong. In November, in a collaborative effort with Susan Patterson at St Stephen's, we held a Street Doctors training event for young people, equipping them with the skills to respond to serious bleeding injuries, this initiative was prompted by a fatal stabbing incident in the Deanery. Meetings continued on Zoom in 2021, and it is hoped they can be in-person at some point. The Deanery Standing Committee consists of Gill O'Neill as Area Dean, Lay Chair Sandra Potter, Treasurer Joy Taylor, and Secretary Denise Fulgoni.

Gill O'Neill, Area Dean

## Treasurer's Report

The 2020 and 2021 accounts are being prepared by our second new Independent Examiner who was appointed in March. The Independent Examiner we appointed last year has been unable to complete the 2020 accounts although he has done a lot of work on them. As the 2021 accounts have not yet been prepared the following details are based on my records for 2021.

Total income for the year was just under £136,000. This includes all the funds over which the PCC has control, whether unrestricted, designated or restricted.

Donations totalled £86,000 of which £70,000 were gift aided. Total donations in 2019 were £94,400. I would like to thank everyone for their generosity in keeping up their donations in difficult times and when many were not able to attend church in person. In particular, I thank all those who transferred to the Parish Giving Scheme which is efficient and cost-effective.

We received £25,000 from hire of the halls in the Goose Green Centre and the church. The comparative total in 2019 was £78,000. Our Parish Administrator, Denise Fulgoni, has worked very hard to increase the number of groups and individuals who hire our spaces. She has managed the Centre very effectively and welcomed with a smile all who use it.

Finally, the net rental income from the two flats at 11 Hinckley Road was £17,000. In 2019 rental income was £12,500, from the lower flat only as our Curate, Raymond, was occupying the upper flat.

When the 2021 accounts are completed they may show a small loss. This is not a surprise because the church and Centre were closed for some months in 2021, giving rise to less income though our expenses remained the same or increased. Gas, electricity and water came to over £11,500 and we spent over £5,500 on printing and computers etc. because all our services were on printed sheets and we needed to buy better equipment for our online services and meetings.

Sarah Goudge, PCC Treasurer

## Reserves Policy

The PCC considers that a General Reserve of three months' expenditure is sufficient to deal with unexpected events. At present this amounts to £55,000. If necessary, this fund is maintained by transferring funds from other reserves. In addition, we have a boiler reserve of £25,000 and designated funds of £45,000 for restoration and major works on our buildings (Church, Community Centre and Clergy House) and for Mission Development. It is PCC policy to invest funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

## Stewardship



With the restrictions on activities in the Goose Green Centre and the loss of the nursery, congregational giving is even more important in helping to sustain the funding of the church.

During harvest-tide we ran a Stewardship campaign which asked people to consider starting or reviewing the amount they pledge to give to the church and to consider giving via the Parish

Giving Scheme (PGS). This is a Direct Debit service which is operated by the central church on behalf of parishes across the country and also collects any associated Gift Aid at no direct cost to the parishes, whilst also reducing our administration. Just under 40 people directly responded to the campaign and a number of other people also increased the amount they give via Standing Order or the envelope scheme. We now have 35 people who give regularly via PGS. It is never too late to join!

Supported by the Diocese, we trialled the use of CollecTin More contactless giving machines. This proved successful and with the help of two generous donations we purchased two machines in December. These arrived just in time for the Christmas services and were particularly well used at the Christingle Service.

We also continue to accept online donations via the DONATE page on the church's website, where you can also find information about the PGS and other ways of giving.

However you give, we are grateful to the many members of the congregation who donate to St John's. Thank you.

Martin Howell, Stewardship Secretary

## Structure, governance and management



The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity (No. 1134088). All PCC members are Trustees of the Church.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St John's membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, Assistant Curate, Hon. Assistant Priests, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All Church attendees

are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC; we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible. All new members receive an introduction to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. All PCC sub-committees and working groups are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

**Standing Committee:** The only committee required by law, it meets to consider the minutes of the previous PCC meeting and set the agenda for the next. It transacts the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the latter. It also has financial responsibilities. Membership consists of the Vicar, Assistant Curate, Wardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary, Stewardship Secretary and two members appointed from the PCC. The Standing Committee met eight times in 2021.

The full PCC met nine times during the year with an average attendance of 77%. All the meetings have been held online via Zoom. We are aware that not all members can access Zoom, but it does enable others to attend who might be shielding or isolating.

The Annual Meetings on 16 May were held online. The date of the meetings was moved from April 25 due to the resignation of the Independent Examiner in March.

The following Officers were elected/re-elected at the first PCC meeting following the 2021 Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

Secretary	Christine Camplin
Treasurer	Sarah Goudge
Vice-Chair	Jim Nurton

Other PCC representatives during 2021:

Safeguarding Officers	Mary Dawson, Tina Hampson and Joy Taylor
Electoral Roll Officer	Bradley Collins
Deputy Churchwardens	Gill Nash and Joy Taylor

The PCC were kept informed of Covid risk assessment and management as Government advice and our response to the pandemic changed throughout the year. When the church re-opened in March the congregation were invited to complete a questionnaire on how they felt.

During 2021 the PCC received regular reports from the PCC Treasurer, Churchwardens, and representatives for Deanery Synod, Stewardship, Communications and Eco Church. Matters brought before the Council included:

- Church and Centre fabric: refurbishment of Centre toilets and front door; sanctuary roof (replacement of the box gutter); memorial to Revd Charles McKenzie; Hinkley Road flat - repairs, cleaning, new tenant in first floor flat; sound system upgrade; churchyard maintenance; repair to Adys Road gatepost.
- Goose Green Centre users: Robes project, Nursery: BUDS Nursery left on 26 March.
- Finance: appointment of Independent Examiner; delayed 2020 Accounts; Parish Support Fund and the Parish Pledge for 2022.
- Safeguarding: all PCC members were asked to complete the online course on basic safeguarding training. The DBS list status was reviewed: all PCC members must now have an up-to-date DBS check.
- Personnel: Bradley Collins resigned as Parish Administrator and Denise Fulgoni was appointed from 1 September. Revd Raymond Baudon left on Easter Day and our new curate, Revd Gemma Birt, joined us in June. Revd Rosemary Shaw joined St John's Ministry Team and was co-opted onto the PCC in December. Tayo Olatunde (Eco Church rep) took up a 2-year casual vacancy on the PCC.
- Stewardship: the PCC agreed to join the Parish Giving Scheme.
- Communications: new website; *The Gander* (parish magazine); Coffee Morning 'Goose Green Get Connected Scheme'.
- Charities: nominations for charities for special collections; arrangements for charitable giving; Joy Taylor was appointed Charity coordinator.
- Lunch Club: the PCC agreed to take on liability for the Lunch Club (financial, Health & Safety and safeguarding).
- Eco Church: the PCC agreed to the actions necessary to become a Fair Trade church and to apply for a Fairtrade Foundation membership licence.

- ‘Where do we go from here?’ St John’s is now registered with HeartEdge. Several PCC members have attended HeartEdge workshops.
- Review of Advent/Christmas and Holy Week/Easter services and events.
- Projects: Messy Church for children (first session Sunday 18 July); In September PCC members attended an Allyship course developed by St John’s Black Voices Matter group.
- Policies approved: Livestreaming policy (25 May); Grievance Policy (22 September); Complaints Policy (22 September); Disciplinary Policy (17 November).
- Faculty applications approved by PCC:
  - To install a stone memorial tablet in the church to commemorate its restoration after the Second World War, and in addition to adjust the position of the existing memorial (24 March)
  - For a new entrance door and renovation of toilets in the Goose Green Centre (23 June)

Finally, the PCC even managed to hold two Zoom parties: a bring-your-own drinks party on Easter Day to bid farewell to Raymond, and end of the year festivities following the December PCC meeting.



*St John’s PCC - December meeting*

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

<b>Ex Officio members:</b>		
Vicar:	Revd Gill O'Neill	Chair
Assistant Curates:	Revd Raymond Baudon	<i>until 4 April</i>
	Revd Gemma Birt	<i>from 27 June</i>
Hon. Assistant Priest:	Revd Anne Clarke	
Wardens:	Jim Nurton	
	Julie Whitney \$	
<b>Elected members:</b>		
Charles Corbin #	Christine Camplin	PCC Secretary
Silbert Crichlow	Mary Dawson	
Eloise Fotiadis *	Sarah Goudge	PCC Treasurer
Martin Howell	Ish Lennox #	
Claire Nylander	Gill Nash	Deputy Churchwarden
Tayo Olatunde \$	Sue O'Neill *	
Vida Smith #		
<b>Deanery Synod:</b>		
Alan Croft	Ish Lennox	
Joy Taylor		Deputy Churchwarden
<b>Diocesan Synod:</b>		
	Tayo Olatunde	<i>until July</i>
<b>Co-opted members:</b>		
(appointed annually)	Revd Alistair McCulloch	Assistant Priest
	Revd Rosemary Shaw \$	Assistant Priest
<i># Until 16 May 2021</i>	<i>* From 16 May 2021</i>	
<i>\$ also Deanery Synod rep.</i>	<i>\$ From 8 December 2021</i>	

Christine Camplin, PCC Secretary

## Volunteers

The PCC warmly thanks all the volunteers who have so generously shared their time and talents to enhance our worship and contribute to life at St John's, especially given the challenges that the Coronavirus posed to our worshipping life. The PCC is grateful for the commitment and dedication of all those who have helped prepare church building for worship, arranged flowers, enabled online worship to take place, adapted and facilitated coffee and tea and fellowship to take place outside the building and who have tended to our gardens and grounds this year. A particular highlight and joy of this year has been the start of Messy Church at St John's. This would not have been possible without the dedication and care of a group of volunteers who have supported this all-age Sunday afternoon service since it started in July 2021.

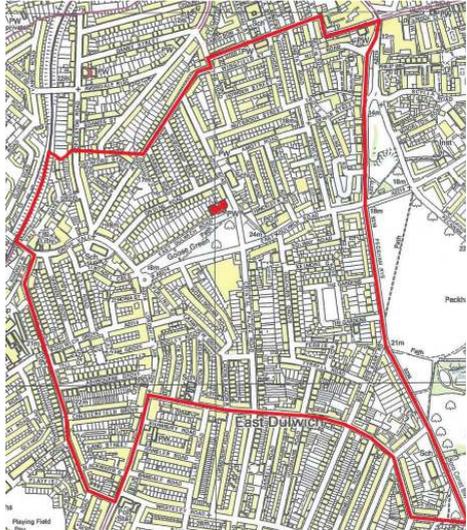
## Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in East Dulwich and Peckham, London. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England.

**Correspondence address:** 62a East Dulwich Road, London SE22 9AT

### Incumbent

The Revd Gill O'Neill  
St John's Parish Office  
Goose Green Centre  
62A East Dulwich Road  
London SE22 9AT



### Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

### Independent Examiner

- to be confirmed -

### Architect

John Bailey  
Thomas Ford &  
Partners  
177 Kirkdale  
Sydenham  
London SE26 4QH

### Parish Administrator:

Denise Fulgoni (Bradley Collins until August)

### Parish Office:

email: [office@stjohnseastdulwich.org](mailto:office@stjohnseastdulwich.org)  
phone: 020 8693 3897

### Website:

[www.stjohnseastdulwich.org](http://www.stjohnseastdulwich.org)

### Twitter:

@StJohnsEDulwich

### Registered Charity:

1134088

## A brief timeline of 2021

January 1	The church had closed just before Christmas due to rapidly rising infection rates; 10am Mass, Morning Prayer, all meetings and Coffee Morning are all held via Zoom.
Jan 4	England moved into a third Lockdown though places of worship are still permitted to remain open.
Jan 8	The Mayor of London and Southwark Council ask all places of worship to close.
February 7	First live Sunday Mass livestreamed onto YouTube.
February 10	Coffee Morning art session held online: the first online 'activity'.
February 17	Ash Wednesday evening service livestreamed from church.
March 9	Christian Aid Café in the churchyard - the first in-person social event in 2021!
March 11	St John's Fun Spring Quiz - by Zoom.
March 14	Official announcement of reopening for worship.
March 19	St John's new website went live.
March 28	Reopening with restricted numbers. 8am and 10am Mass in church; latter live-streamed to Zoom and YouTube.)
April 25	Number of worshippers in church increased to 50.
May 16	Annual Meetings via Zoom.
June 2	Government Covid relaxation: England moved into 'Step 3'.
June 10	Coffee Morning resumes in person in the churchyard.
June 18	Thursday midday Mass resumes in the church.
July 18	First Messy Church for children.
September 12	Choir returns (in the Lady Chapel); congregation sing a hymn.
September 30	Lunch Club restarted.
October 3	Harvest Festival followed by barbecue in the churchyard.
November 14	Remembrance Sunday followed by laying of wreaths in the memorial garden.
December 8	Resurgence of Covid. Government implements 'plan B'. Mask mandate for shops, all public transport, community centres - and churches.
December 8	Last PCC meeting of the year.
December 15	Carols by the Green cancelled. Southwark asks organisations to carry out activities virtually if possible.
December 16	Lunch Club and Thursday lunchtime service stopped again.
December 19	Choir limited to twelve singers, no Junior Choir. Shortened Carol Service.
December 22	Coffee Morning moved outdoors.
December 24	Christmas services cautious and ticketed - but most take place.

## A future with hope:

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm,  
to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29: 11*

The book of Jeremiah is written against a background of immense hardship, exile, political turmoil and unrest, but it contains a great promise of restoration. We hold on to the essence of that promise as we look to the future. People all over the world have suffered enormously over the past two years, loss of loved ones, of health, of life itself, of jobs, opportunities and many of the things that make life joyful and good. It can feel like a time of scarcity. However, in times of hardship, the people of God were exhorted to search for God, and to be thankful for what is good. We remind ourselves of all we are thankful for, and are encouraged to notice the good things we enjoy. This is the starting-point of our future; we begin by counting our blessings, by knowing what are our assets, and being mindful of our abundance. We have been blessed with a great many gifts here at St John's, and in thankfulness, we pray God will lead us into a future with hope.

