

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

**Annual Report 2022**



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Celebrating 2022**

## 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.



Date..... 29 March 2023 .....

# Fulfilling our purpose

## Ministry Team

*'Come, let us rebuild' Nehemiah 2:17*

2022 has been a year of change, of hard work, and of seeing shoots of new growth as we rebuild following the losses of the Covid pandemic. I am always so moved and so thankful for the dedication and commitment of many people in our church community who offer their gifts, care, money and time to the flourishing of our church. Without them, the life and light of St John's would not shine so brightly.

Our shared worship anchors all that we do in the word and sacrament we receive. We are glad we have been able to rebuild our sacristan and serving teams, resume the sharing of the chalice, and return to the altar rail to receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist continues to draw us together and nourish each of us on our pilgrimage of faith. We are blessed to have a huge team of people who give their gifts and time to make our offering of worship possible. They include sacristans Alan Croft, Maxine Plunkett and Eloise King, servers, readers, intercessors, and ministers of communion, choir and musicians, sidespeople, sound and livestream team, flower team and after-church coffee team, along with our churchwardens, Julie Whitney and Tayo Olatunde, and backup from our parish administrator and Tina our caretaker-cleaner. Without them our Sunday worship would be all the poorer.

This Eucharistic hospitality spills out into life beyond Sundays: the Coffee Morning continues to be a place of wonderful hospitality, where new friendships are forged over coffee and delicious cakes. Thank you to Sue O'Neill, Christine Camplin, Jane Hawkins, and all who make our coffee morning a fantastic place to be. The Goose Green Lunch Club was officially incorporated into St John's in 2022, and has been able to rebuild as a very popular activity for our guests. We are hugely thankful for chef Sally, and an amazing team of volunteers who serve delicious meals with a cheery welcome. We were enormously grateful to Denise Fulgoni who has worked hard with Goose Green Centre groups as they settled back into regular meetings following the pandemic, and has given huge support to church events, often going the extra mile.

Our Christian Aid Café and Carols by the Green events were very successful, and enabled us to offer hospitality to our neighbours as well as supporting those in need. Carols by the Green was especially popular, and we were amazed at the number of people who came along and found a welcome, as well as festive music, mulled wine and mince pies; proceeds went to the Southwark Foodbank this year. We also enjoyed hosting the Southwark and South London Society of Organists' Education Day for Young Organists event in January, with organist and conductor, Anna Lapwood.

We were delighted to celebrate with Assistant Curate, Gemma Birt, as she was ordained priest at St Mary's Lewisham. Gemma is flourishing in ministry, and we are hugely grateful to have her with us. Gemma, with Jim Nurton, led an excellent 'Living in Love and Faith' course and a Lent book group - you can read about them later in the report - and she has also strongly supported our work with children and young people, planning and helping to lead Messy Church services, preparing young people for confirmation, recruiting and encouraging new servers, and organising two events, the theatre trip to *Six: the musical* and our advent craft



evening. In February and March I was able to take a mini-sabbatical, which had been delayed from 2020 for understandable reasons. I am grateful to Gemma, who, along with the Revds Anne Clarke, Alistair McCulloch and Rosemary Shaw, meant I could leave worship and pastoral care in their safe hands. Unfortunately, catching Covid

affected my sabbatical plans, but I was still able to enjoy a study break.

The Black Voices Matter group has continued to bear fruit. The 'Becoming Allies' workshop has gained interest beyond St John's. Laura Williams organised a series of fantastic talks for Black History month. The Black History library continues to grow. In October we were delighted to hear for the first time the specially commissioned anthem *Give us the wings of faith* by Jack Abbott, a young Black composer, musician, and music student.

Sadly, we said farewell to some members of St John's who died in 2022, especially Rex Thompson and Anthony LaMothe. In St John's wider networks, we also said goodbye to Ianthe Pratt, who had been a key member of the women's spirituality group, and Dotty Todd, who had been held in our prayers for some time. We give thanks for their lives, and all they brought to the life of our community.

Jim Nurton stood down as churchwarden; he has given a great deal to the life of St John's, and we are enormously grateful. Jim continues to serve our church in a number of ways. Tayo Olatunde joined Julie Whitney on the churchwarden team, and we are hugely thankful for their hard work and dedication, often unnoticed and behind the scenes. Their efforts mean that we have a repaired sanctuary ceiling, a tidy churchyard, functioning lighting and heating, and, hopefully, a fox-proof church! I am personally grateful for their support and encouragement in my role as Vicar.

We have been able to do all of these things and more because of sound financial management. Our Treasurer Sarah Goudge stood down after many years in the role, and we welcomed Claire Nylander as our new treasurer. Martin Howell has been a dedicated leader of our stewardship group, encouraging generosity and efficient giving. Thank you to all of you who give regularly to our church, we could

not manage without you. I am also grateful for PCC Secretary Christine Camplin, for keeping us organised, and for compiling this report.

At the start of their term of office, our new PCC looked at the story of Nehemiah, who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem after it had been broken down. It paints a picture of a collaborative effort, with men and women of different walks of life working together to rebuild what was lost, often in the face of adversity. In a way it mirrors the extra effort we have all made to rebuild the church after a time of loss. Along with all those mentioned in this report, there are many, many people, too many to count and name, who enable our church to flourish and grow. Thank you for all you do for the life of our church, and may we continue to grow in fellowship and faith.

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 8.00am, with an average congregation of 10, provides a quiet and contemplative service.
- Sung Mass at 10.00am, 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. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 95. Numbers were significantly higher during the Christmas and Easter periods: on Easter Day there were 144 communicants.

Changes had been made just before Christmas 2021 due to very high Covid rates in Southwark. The 8am and 10am Sunday services continued 'in person' following strict guidelines: they were shortened, the number of hymns reduced and the Choir limited to twelve singers. There was no tea/coffee afterwards. The Thursday lunchtime service and Messy Church were suspended. Some people preferred to stay at home and attend the livestreamed services. 'Normal service' was gradually resumed during the year, and the chalice (wine) was reintroduced at Holy Communion from Sunday 20 November.

Morning Prayer continued on Zoom three times a week. Said Mass on Thursday midday (average attendance 12) resumed in February. Messy Church restarted on 13 March and has been held monthly since except for a summer break. Between 40 and 50 people attend, usually around equal numbers of adults and children. Sung Evensong was held three times last year, the third on Advent Sunday.

During 2022 Sung Mass took place on all major feast days including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day and All Souls' Day. All

the special services took place in church and several were also livestreamed. Palm Sunday Mass was preceded by a procession from Goose Green into the church.



Holy Week services included Maundy Thursday Mass and watch of prayer; Good Friday Children’s Worship and the Liturgy of the Passion after Music and Meditation. The Dawn Mass was followed by breakfast in the Goose Green Centre and Festival Mass of Easter. We were able to receive gifts brought to Harvest Festival, and laid wreaths in the Calvary Garden at the Act of Remembrance in November.

For the first time since 2019 all the Advent and Christmas services and events took place as planned; this year none had to be ticketed. Carol Service was attended by 121 people (even though the FIFA World Cup final took place the same afternoon!) and we welcomed everyone to mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

There were two Christingle Services again, both very popular, with almost 500 children, parents, and grandparents and 220 Christingles were distributed. A total of 310 people later attended the Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services. The Deanery Confirmation service was held at St John’s on 19 June. Bishop Karowei confirmed ten candidates from St John’s, eight of them under 18. Revd Gill, Revd Gemma and Julie Whitney led the confirmation preparation sessions.

The 10am Mass and many festival services continued to be livestreamed on both Zoom and YouTube. More than a dozen people regularly join us.

The electoral roll was revised before the 2022 Annual Meetings: on 31 December 2022 there were 144 people on St John’s church electoral roll, about 66% 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. We held the following events in our church in 2022:

<i>(2021 figures in italics)</i>		Admission to Communion	
Baptisms	29 9	Confirmations	10 0
Banns read	15 8	Funerals in church	8 4
Marriages	5 6	Funerals at cemetery	4 3
Marriage Blessings	1 1	Deposition of ashes in Calvary Garden	0 0

## Prayer and Discipleship

In addition to our services on a Sunday morning at 8am and 10am, and midday Mass on Thursdays, the Daily Office has been a mainstay of the life of prayer at St John's. We continue to meet for online Morning Prayer on Zoom on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our weekly email gives a short pause for thought, looking ahead to the Sunday readings, and in the email we provide information about the various opportunities for engaging with and sharing in the life of St John's and the wider community.

During 2022 we were pleased to welcome a number of guest preachers: Simon Brown, A Rocha / Eco Church (March), Canon Wendy Robins (June), Susan Patterson (July), Revd Canon Joyce Forbes (October), Revd Delorine Green (November).

In January and February we led the *Living in Love and Faith* course at St John's; twelve members of our congregation participated. Here are comments from some of the participants:

*I am personally so grateful that we felt safe enough to tell the truth, to listen so well to each other, that there was such kindness and support that allowed everyone to feel that their views were welcome.. (Lucy)*

*I am pleased that at St John's we have had the opportunity to participate in the LLF course... (Chris)*

*I joined LLF to add my voice as an LGBTQI+ ally to the response to the Bishops. At the end of the course I am more hopeful and optimistic for change. I appreciate the patience and love of our community at St John's but I feel the church must not be passive on this subject. The course materials were outstanding. (Lois)*

During Lent in 2022, we hosted a Lent Reading Group. The group read and discussed Paula Gooder's book *Women of Holy Week*. The group was made up of eleven women in total. This enabled us to have very interesting and rich discussions about the characters and stories created by Paula Gooder in her book. A number of the participants noted how much the book enabled them to re-engage with the life of Jesus and his disciples and followers, many of whom were women, but who do not feature much in the Bible.

As Revd Anne Clarke who was one of the participants in the group has said,

*'Paula Gooder makes women visible rather than seeing them just as 'bit' parts. She is a New Testament scholar, and uses understanding and knowledge of the time of Jesus in her writing.... This discussion group became the highlight of my week.'*

On Good Friday, we held a quiet reflective service led by members of our congregation, who provided beautiful music and also spoke about 'what the cross means to me'. This was a beautiful service in which we were encouraged to listen and also reflect on our own life of faith.



## Children and young people



We have been glad to be able to reinstate our children's and parent's corner filled with books, toys and activities in church, which has become a welcoming space for young children, babies and their parents

during our main 10am service on a Sunday.

Our young people contribute to our worship life in a number of ways. In the autumn of 2022 we welcomed five young people to the altar party serving team; several of them had been confirmed in June. It has been a joy to see them stepping up in this way, seeking to live out a life of discipleship through serving at the altar, and in doing supporting the prayer and worship life of all at St John's. They have become an important part of our serving team, taking it in turns to act as acolytes each Sunday.

*I enjoy serving as an acolyte at church...lighting all the candles and processing to the front...holding our candles while they recite the Gospel...I hope other servers like it too. (Errol, 11)*

Some of our young people take an important part in leading some in our main Sunday services at 10 am and our special services like our Passion Sunday readings, Carol services, Christingles or the Deanery confirmation services. We have excellent team of young readers and intercessors, as well as a good number of young choristers who are a part of our Choir.

But we have had social activities, too. In September we held a successful 'pizza and learning to serve at the altar' session, which was a good way to gather our young people together to explore how they might like to get involved in our worship life.

In November 2022 we organised a trip for eighteen young people from St John's (some with their carers or family members) to visit the musical *SIX*. It was a great success, and kindly supported by Southwark Diocese who provided us with a grant so that we were able to offer subsidised tickets.

In December we organised a quiet reflective Advent craft session for our young people which was well attended.

We held two Christingle services which were both very well attended.



## Messy Church



Messy Church has continued to take place once a month on a Sunday afternoon and is becoming an established

and important part of our life of prayer, ministry and worship at St John's. It continues to be led by a team of lay and ordained members of our congregation. It enables all-ages to pray and worship together in a way that is very relaxed and creative. Everyone is welcome.

Each service based on either a seasonal theme or that Sunday's Bible readings. As Covid regulations have been gradually removed in 2022 we have been able to integrate activities and hospitality so that participants can mix with each other more easily. Households no longer need to sit together and we are able to serve drinks and refreshments indoors at the end of the service. Children can all gather together for final prayer and reflection time at the end of the service and we no longer ask people to register before they attend.

One particular highlight was our November 2022 service when we lit a bonfire outside church at the end of one of our Messy Church services and served hot chocolate and Parkin to those who were there. A number of families who were just passing joined in, and we were pleased to see them return to the next Messy Church.

The services are led by a dedicated team of members from St John's without whom these services would not be possible. Many of the children who attend our Messy Church services do not come to our 10 am Sunday services and so this has become another valuable way in which we are able to offer worship and hospitality to the local community. People of all ages enjoy our Messy Church, here are some quotes from our supporters:

*I really enjoy listening to all the readings and doing the fun arts and crafts. Messy church is a great way of learning stories from the Bible. (Iliia, 11 years old)*

*Messy Church is fun and creative (Xenia, 7 years)*

*'I love Messy Church because I love doing messy things. And I also like being quiet and listening when church people are talking'. (Ivor, 4 years)*

## Music at St John's



In 2022 we were back to singing with full Choir again and our assistant organists have been playing as in days of yore. We have now restored almost everything which a few years ago we had had to abandon. The Choir is again meeting to rehearse midweek and before every sung service.

Choral Evensong takes place three times a year, with extra singers invited. The Choir continues to provide music for special days in the Church's Year, sung as All Souls, Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Holy Week and Christmas. Four choristers are tackling Royal School of Church Music examinations.

The thrice yearly organ recitals took place in 2022 as usual and drew good audiences from wide and far (but we would also love to see more members of our congregation in the audience).

The enthusiasm of the Choir cannot be doubted; several of them sang at Rochester Cathedral in March to sing at Evensong with a large gathered choir I had brought together. We were invited by Southwark Sinfonietta to sing *Ave verum corpus* by W A Mozart when the orchestra gave a concert at St John's in May last year. Most of the Choir went to Derby Cathedral to sing for a weekend in August when the resident choir was on its summer break. On 15 December members of the Choir sang in the Carol Service at King's College Hospital under my direction.

My thanks to the Choir, whose friendship and loyalty are greatly appreciated.

I have had regular meetings with the Vicar during the year; my thanks to Gill, the other clergy and to our recent Administrator, Denise Fulgoni for all their support.

John Webber

*I like being in the Choir because I get to sing lots of different pieces of music. I get to have lots of opportunities, such as doing the RCSM Dean's award and going to cathedrals such as Derby and Southwark. The other people in the Choir are friendly and nice. (Maya, 13)*

## Pastoral and spiritual care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to poor mobility, frailty or illness. In 2022 we have been able to resume home visits, having had to pause or adapt these to a great extent during the pandemic. The clergy team work together to provide pastoral and spiritual care to parishioners, including bringing Home Communion to some parishioners. Where appropriate and with the permission of those concerned, the clergy liaise with other clergy from other parishes or chaplaincy teams in local hospitals.

The weekly Coffee Morning has continued to be a very supportive environment for those seeking company and friendship. It has been an important and valued way in which members of St John have been able to offer pastoral care to those in the wider parish community.

Since the Thursday Lunch Club has been brought within St John's activities, it should also be noted what an important role it plays in the life of this community. It is always well attended and is clearly a place and time of companionship and nurturing, and a place where joyful friendships are established.

## 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 reasonable measures are taken 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 Southwark Diocese manual *A Safe Church* is available in the church and via this link:

<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.

During 2022 the Safeguarding Team included Mary Dawson (Parish Safeguarding Officer), Tina Hampson, Joy Taylor, Revd Gill O'Neill, Revd Gemma Birt, and Churchwardens Jim Nurton, Julie Whitney and Tayo Olatunde.

St John's continues to utilise a 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

## Communications



Covid compelled us to find and develop new ways to keep in touch and to promote the Church, its activities and mission. Many of

these have been continued even though the pandemic has ended.

The primary means of contact with congregation and parishioners is the weekly online newsletter (Mailchimp); this audience has 432 contacts. 323 of whom are subscribers. The printed pewsheet containing details of Sunday readings, music and coming events is made available in church and also posted on the website.

The 10am Mass and major festivals (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Carol Service and Midnight Mass) are livestreamed both to Zoom and YouTube. We repeated the Calvary Garden 'outside broadcast' in November. Those unable to take part on Sundays can 'catch up' - there are often more than 30 views on YouTube within a few weeks. Zoom provides a valuable opportunity for people to chat; to feel they are participating, not simply observing.

PCC meetings have been held both on Zoom and in the church, though hybrid meetings proved unsatisfactory. Standing Committee and many other meetings continue to be held online.

Eight issues of *The Gander*, our parish magazine were produced in 2022. It is distributed to the parish email list and posted on the website and Twitter. Paper copies are available in church. *The Christmas Gander* was a full-colour printed four-page issue for wide circulation locally instead of a Christmas card. It contained details of all the Christmas services and events.

The updated website went live in 2021: [www.stjohnseastdulwich.org](http://www.stjohnseastdulwich.org)

We continue to publicise the Get-Connected Scheme, an initiative to help those without internet access get online. Chromebooks are available at Coffee Morning to look up information and for visitors to familiarise themselves.

## **Maintenance of the fabric**

### **Church and Goose Green Centre**

Having spent time in 2021 investigating the repairs needed to the sanctuary roof, we made the decision to have the box gutter between the minstrel's gallery and sanctuary re-lined with copper. This was because the inspection by cherry-picker identified several cracks in the copper lining of the box gutter which had already been repaired many times. Due to further water ingress during very wet weather, we decided to go ahead with this work without seeking grant funding, as this would have delayed progress. We are pleased that since doing this work, the water ingress problem appears to have resolved.

During 2022, we have continued with usual maintenance, getting gutters and downpipes cleared, servicing the boilers and fan heaters and keeping lights working. Just before Christmas, the Western Gallery was cleared and tidied and we sold a small selection of church chairs which were not being used and taking up space there.

In the churchyard, the hedges and some of the shrubbery was cut back and the lime trees pollarded. A team of volunteers have continued to maintain and tidy the garden - particular thanks to Martin Howell, Chris Eldridge, Mary Dawson and Lucy McGrath for this.

In 2022, we also welcomed the Archdeacon's visitation in May and our Quinquennial architect's inspection was undertaken in June.

### **Hinckley Road flat**

Our ground floor tenants have remained in the flat throughout 2022 and the tenants that moved into the upper flat moved on and new tenants moved in. As well as regular expenses including boiler servicing, this year, we were required to purchase a property licence from Southwark Council for each flat.

Tayo Olatunde and Julie Whitney, Churchwardens

## **Archives and records**

This year has seen more progress in sorting, appraising and listing historic records, mainly papers on the St John's Children's Holiday Scheme, including fundraising, administration and the carnival (1975-1998) and on the Goose Green Centre, including the appeal, the building and its management (1989-2006). The papers on the Goose Green Centre are already proving useful background for the current project to upgrade the Centre facilities so that it remains true to its initial purpose of serving the local community.

I have also done some research in Lambeth Palace Library for the story of the post-war rebuilding of St John's and for Christine Camplin's fascinating account of the

interfaith marriage of a St John's parishioner, Charlotte Fitch, to Mohamad Ahmad in 1891 which appeared in *The Gander* this year.

There have been a number of enquiries about baptism records, including one on the philosopher Mary Midgely who was born in the parish as her father, the Revd Thomas Burton Scrutton, was Curate of St John's between 1915 and 1919 and later became Chaplain of King's College, Cambridge.

An enquirer from Warwick School asked for information on Ernest Ironmonger Sola FRCO, organist & schoolmaster at the school. Sola then went on to train at Sarum Theological College and served as Curate of St John's from 1902 to 1905.

An enquirer from the USA, researching Thomas Farmer Baily, grandson of Thomas Baily founder of East Dulwich Chapel, wondered if we had more information on the source of the family's wealth. This has led to my transcribing Thomas Baily's Will of 1838 which gives details of the property he held in East Dulwich as well as the family ironmonger's business in Cheapside.

We have received some appreciative comments:

*I immensely enjoyed reading it, and it's such a touching story. It's so counter-cultural in the context of contemporary suspicions of race, ethnicity, religions and imperialism. The letters between Charlotte and her father-in-law are very moving. (Bill)*

*Thank you so much for all your trouble. (Gervald)*

*Thank you so much for the background and sources. (Donald)*

I must also express my thanks to Christine Camplin for her generosity in sharing her knowledge of the parish and its history and access to various online sources.

Clare Brown, Parish Archivist

## Eco Church

St John's cares about our environment. We all share a responsibility to care for God's world, and we can demonstrate this in our worship and teaching, how we care for our buildings and land and how we engage with the local community. Regular articles on eco initiatives are published in our parish magazine, *The Gander*.

We are in the process of applying for the A Rocha Eco Church bronze award as a sign of our commitment, as a church, to be more eco-conscious.

March and April saw St John's organising its first ever Eco-Lent. Instead of the traditional sacrifices that people commit to, the congregation was encouraged to consider what they might give up or take up on eco-friendly principles during Lent. Simon Brown, Speaker's Co-ordinator at A Rocha, visited St John's and gave an eco-related talk on the day. It is our hope that people will continue with these eco-related activities beyond Lent.

## Mission and hospitality

Opportunities to bring our church family together and to reach out to the wider community increased during 2022 as Covid restrictions receded. Tea and coffee after Sunday Mass resumed outdoors in February, and moved back indoors in November. In May a fundraising Christian Aid Café was organised to coincide with The Dulwich Festival Fair on Goose Green. We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with celebration cake after Sunday Mass in June. A 'Come and Sing' event in September provided 45 minutes of singing fun. The Harvest Lunch/Black History Month Celebration, a barbecue and 'bring and share' lunch in October, was enthusiastically supported.

## A building for every day of the week

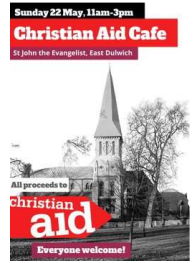
St John's Church has been part of the East Dulwich and South Peckham landscape since 1865. It replaced an earlier 1820s chapel and is a Grade II listed building. We aim to make our church and grounds available, not just to our church family, but also to the wider community. It offers:

- a space for quiet reflection or private prayer either in the church or garden. The church grounds are open all year.
- a space for community events such as the Christian Aid Café and Carols by the Green.
- a space for music: three organ recitals, all followed by refreshments, a Southwark Sinfonietta concert in May, and regular 'Bach 2 Baby' sessions.
- a space to celebrate personal life events and commemorate national. On the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September the church was open on Friday and Saturday with the opportunity to light a candle, and to sign our book of condolence. Bells were rung at noon.

One event we were able to reinstate this year was Carols by the Green. This featured carol singing led by St John's Choir with brass accompaniment, a beautiful performance of carols and festive songs by Opal Flutes, and an acted-out version of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Also on offer were toy and produce stalls, a craft activity, mulled wine, mince pies, delicious giant sausage rolls and, of course, cake! It was a joy to welcome crowds of local people to our Christmas event for the first time since 2019.








2022



**St John the Evangelist,  
East Dulwich**



Palm Sunday, 10 April 2022  
Procession from Goose Green at  
10am to the church.  
Please do join us and the choir for this event.  
Weather Permitting  
With best wishes, Revd Gill O'Neill







Jim with a "wand"





## Goose Green Centre



*Dementia Friends session*

The Goose Green Centre for Church and Community was opened in 1996. During 2022 activity in the Centre has grown and is almost back to pre-lockdown levels.

There are a mixture of users ranging between private hire for parties, hire by businesses, and use by the church for outreach. A variety of organisations regularly use the Centre, offering

activities for the full breadth of age groups. Groups include sing-and-sign, dance, drama, art, Tai Chi and Yoga. The Centre also provides a space for anonymous support groups to meet on three evenings of the week. After the pandemic, based on feedback from support group members, we made the decision that these groups would use the Centre on different evenings (as opposed to pre-pandemic when they shared the use of the Centre on one evening), as this gives them the space to be able to conduct meetings more effectively.

In 2022, the Centre has been increasingly used for activities run by St John's PCC. We were delighted to start the Strong and Steady exercise group on Wednesday mornings – which provides evidence-based fall prevention exercise for older people, and the Coffee Morning continues to grow in popularity. Lunch club uses the hall on Thursdays, and we began serving tea and coffee in the hall after Sunday church services. We are looking forward to using the Centre to host Robes guests again from the beginning of January 2023.

We are grateful for the hard work throughout 2022 of Denise Fulgoni, our parish administrator, for overseeing the day-to-day maintenance of the Centre and collaborating with Centre users, and to Tina Steadman our Centre caretaker and cleaner, for keeping things running smoothly and ensuring the Centre is clean, tidy and welcoming.

The next steps for the Goose Green Centre include the project to refurbish the toilets and the front doors. We hope this will take place in 2023 and look forward to the impact this will have on those using the church and Goose Green Centre in the years to come.

Tayo Olatunde and Julie Whitney, Churchwardens

## Goose Green Community Lunch Club

After a break over Christmas due to Covid, the Lunch Club reopened on 3 February and has met every Thursday in term time for the rest of the year. We usually serve 25–35 lunches for members and helpers, with the number slightly increasing over the year as we have attracted a few new regular members. Highlights of the year included a lunch to celebrate the Jubilee, 'annual' outing and Christmas party.

The outing was held for the first time since the pandemic, generously supported by a grant from Southwark Charities. We travelled to Woodcote Green Garden Centre in Wallington in an old Routemaster bus, which was much admired by members of the Club and enjoyed a full cream tea, with time for browsing before we returned to St John's.

## Goose Green Coffee Morning



*making Christmas table decorations*

During 2022 Goose Green Coffee Morning met from 11 until 12.30 every Wednesday except 28 December. At the start of the year it had been meeting outside since 22 December. It returned indoors on 2 February. Activities are organized some weeks, such as guest speakers, creative sessions and our singing

group, The Singing Geese. Some of these activities are supported by a Neighbourhood Fund grant from Southwark Council. Many weeks are just for chat, something everyone seems to enjoy. The number of regular attendees has steadily grown - by the end of the year to between 20 and 30 each week - and our team of volunteers provide a warm and welcoming place of hospitality. Coffee morning emails are sent weekly to all those who asked to be included.

Feedback from our visitors has been very positive:

*What we enjoy at Coffee Morning: meeting new people and sharing thoughts about life experiences; being able to drop in at any time after 11; Coffee Morning gives me an opportunity to get out of the house and meet pleasant people in a safe place (because it is not a pub), especially for women; friendly and welcoming; coffee and cake! (Coffee Morning participants)*

## Strong and Steady Exercise Group



The Strong and Steady Exercise Group has been made possible by the award of a Neighbourhood Fund grant from Southwark Council. The purpose of the group is to improve strength and balance, and to build confidence thus enabling older people to maintain their mobility both at home and in the local environment.

The class meets for one hour each week and takes participants through a set of exercises that research has shown improves muscle strength and balance. Since the Neighbourhood Fund award was announced in March 2022, work has been carried out to put the scheme in place, including developing the application process, recruiting a Level 4 postural stability trained exercise instructor and publicising the scheme. The group met for the first time on 7 December. So far nine people have signed up for the class and there is continuing interest from new applicants.

*I recently joined this weekly exercise programme. It keeps me fit and reasonably active knowing how to prevent falls and continue a normal life. I enjoy the class immensely and find it valuable and useful in my daily life. (Audrey)*

## Black Voices Matter

The Black Voices Matter group has continued to work together to promote dialogue, reflection and learning at St John's, and in the wider community.

## Black History Library

The library has continued to grow, with a steady stream of borrowing and new additions. This year there has been a particular emphasis on providing inclusive books for the young children and their parents who sit at the back of church. Many of these, such as *Anti-Racist Baby* by Ibram X Kendi, and *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin, provide parents with age-appropriate materials for parents to talk to their children about racism and discrimination. There are also books for older children and teenagers which we hope will be relevant and inspiring to both black and white young people.

## **Black History Month**

Black History Month was launched with a wonderful Harvest Lunch with the church resplendent in the BHM colours. Later in the month St John's welcomed a visiting preacher, Canon Joyce Forbes, and the Choir performed the first performance of a specially commissioned piece of music - *Give us the Wings of Faith*, by a young, local Black composer, Jack Abbott.



## **Education**

This year we focused on three main topics:

- Black British Civil Rights Leaders
- Forgotten Fighters: the contributions of Black service men and women in armed conflict
- The Legacy of the Slave Trade and models of reparation.

These were explored during a series of talks and discussions that highlighted the link between historical events and the injustices and inequalities that exist today. The talks were attended by a number of people from the local community as well as church members.

Given the theme of Black History Month was Actions not Words, we continue to be challenged by the need to make a difference and be the change we want to see.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

Following the talk on Forgotten Fighters, some of whom had Southwark connections, a display on the theme of 'Black Poppies' and a leaflet were created in church for Remembrance Day. For the first time black poppies were sold in church and worn together with the traditional red poppies. These were obtained from an organisation called [www.BlackPoppyRose.org](http://www.BlackPoppyRose.org) which provides information and educational materials about the generations of Black men and women who helped defend this country, often with little recognition or thanks.

## **Becoming Allies Workshops**

Two further workshops were held this year and we were joined by two members of St Paul's Herne Hill, who would now like it to be run for them in 2023. We have also had a request from the Parents' Association at a local primary school to run a workshop for parents there. This has been a challenge due to illness and family commitments but we are trying to empower more members of the group to feel confident in delivering the workshops so we can expand their reach.

**Southwark's Anti-Racism Strategy** This remains relevant and copies are displayed in church. We acknowledge the need to display more inclusive images and to encourage a wider group of church members to become involved in church activities, for example in positions of leadership.

## Robes Project at St John's



In 2022, due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, the Robes project continued with the same format as in 2021 where guests lived in hotel accommodation and were supported by the Robes central team.

Churches were able to support guests by providing monthly and weekly support packages. Volunteers from different

churches took it in turns to provide every guest with a package of clothing, toiletries and non-perishable food items, snacks and fruit.

St John's volunteers provided 15 support packages both in January and March 2022.

We learnt at the end of 2022 that in 2023 Robes would be returning to its previous format but with smaller numbers of guests on the circuit. St John's PCC agreed to participate and as such we spent December recruiting volunteers and preparing for opening the shelter in January 2023 by holding volunteer training sessions and setting up the volunteer rota.

## Charitable giving

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith.

Each year the PCC selects up to four charities, in addition to Christian Aid, for special collections at the Sunday services during the year. The charities selected for 2022 were: The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call, Christian Aid and the Alzheimer's Society. During the year a donation of £500 was made from general funds to the Ukraine emergency appeal via DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee). A Dementia Friends session followed the Alzheimer's Society collection.

Two charitable fundraising events were held in 2022: The Christian Aid Café in May and Carols by the Green in December. The gifts offered at our Harvest Festival service were taken to the Manna Society Day Centre. At Christmas orders were taken for 'The Real Advent Calendar' and 'The World in your Kitchen' calendars, and, at Easter, 'The Real Easter egg', all in aid of the Fairtrade Foundation.

The Southwark Foodbank collection point was moved into the porch on Sundays to be more conspicuous: over 220 kilos of donated produce was taken to the Foodbank just before Christmas 2021.

### Summary of charitable donations:

Carols by the Green	£1,236.19	Southwark Foodbank
Christingle services	£918.61	The Childrens Society
General funds	£500	Ukraine emergency appeal (DEC)
Special collection	£1,000	Alzheimer's Society
Special collection	£1,198.75	Christian Aid
Special collection	£456.71	The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call



## Treasurer's report

The 2022 accounts have been prepared by our Independent Examiner, Chaweevan Williams.

### Incoming and outgoing resources

Total income for the year is £256,051, compared with £168,721 for 2021. This includes all the funds over which the PCC has control whether unrestricted, designated or restricted.

Looking at regular giving, our main source of income, this is similar to the amount given in 2021. Donations by standing order and the envelope scheme have remained almost the same as in 2021. Thanks go to Helen Hunt, our Gift Aid Secretary, who has claimed £17,632 in the year. Thanks also to all those who now give via the Parish Giving Scheme which is efficient and cost-effective.

Our second largest source of income is from the hire of the halls in the Goose Green Centre. This year income totalled £45,006, almost £20,000 more than 2021 which was £28,273. This reflects the return of users as the pandemic recedes. We would like to thank Denise Fulgoni for all her help in taking bookings for use of the halls and chasing payment.

Finally, we received net rental income of £29,858 from the two flats at 11 Hinckley Road.

Total expenditure in 2022 was £225,028 compared with £187,819 for 2021. In addition to our usual running costs we spent larger sums on maintenance and repairs. We made a Parish Pledge of £89,500 to Southwark Diocese, an increase of £1,000 on 2021.

Sarah Goudge, PCC Treasurer



## Reserves Policies

### General Reserves Fund: £55,000

In the case of a drop or complete loss of usual income this would be used to enable the church and Goose Green Centre to continue with business as usual and include payments for:

Staff salaries  
Maintenance

Utility bills  
Clergy expenses

Consumables  
The Parish Pledge

### Other designated funds to be held in reserve for specific purposes

#### Boiler replacement/repair fund: £25,000

To be used repair or to go towards the replacement of the church boiler. Expenditure on the annual boiler service and maintenance and gas safety certification is excluded from this fund.

#### Designated fabric fund is renamed as: Restoration and Major Works Fund: £35,000

This fund should be used for restoration or major works to the church, the grounds, the Goose Green Centre or the Clergy house (11 Hinkley Road). This fund is intended for emergency repairs and restoration when works are needed without adequate time to fundraise. This includes works identified as urgent at the quinquennial inspection and any unplanned or unexpected works where costs cannot be claimed via insurance (or where payments need to be paid while awaiting an insurance reimbursement).

Expenditure excluded from this fund includes planned maintenance, as per the annual maintenance plan and planned repair or restoration projects.

#### Mission opportunities fund: £10,000

To be used in line with the mission action plan. It could be used for:

- One off projects
- Staffing
- Consumables for mission projects
- Consultation with advisors on areas of mission
- Promotion of mission projects



## Stewardship

St John's relies on donations to fund the work of the church. We are very grateful to all those members of church who support St John's via planned giving, either through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), Standing Order or weekly envelopes.

If you would like to join the planned giving scheme, please look at the Donation page on the church website or let me know. Giving through the PGS direct debit scheme, is the most efficient way to give as we receive 100% of donations and gift aid and it requires less administration.

In November 2022 we resumed taking collections during the offertory hymn at the 10.00 Mass, both cash/envelope donations and via the card machines. With fewer people carrying cash, the card machines are increasingly important. In 2022, we took over £8,500 in card machine donations, including donations at the Christingle Services for the Children's Society and donations and purchases at Carols by the Green for the Peckham Food Bank. In December 2022, we launched our collections towards the improvement works to the Goose Green Centre.

However you give, thank you.

Martin Howell, Stewardship Secretary

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



The first school associated with 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 (2023, Chair) and Namukale Chintu (2020). 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

Four members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Dulwich Deanery Synod met three times in 2022, twice on Zoom, and once in person thanks to the hospitality of lay chair Sandra Potter, who hosted us in her extensive garden in Sydenham in the summer. Our March Synod was enlivened by guest speaker, the Revd Jonathan Evens of St Martins in the Fields, who spoke on 'Church becoming fully alive: exploring a theology of abundance.' In November, the Revd Gill O'Neill stood down, and we continue to await the appointment of a new Area Dean.

# 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 up to two members appointed from the PCC. The Standing Committee met nine times in 2022.

The full PCC met ten times during the year with an average attendance of 70%. Seven meetings were held online via Zoom and two in the Church. We are aware that not all members can access Zoom, but it does enable others to attend who might be shielding, isolating, unwell or with caring responsibilities.

The Annual Meetings on 15 May were held in the Church.

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	Julie Whitney

Other PCC representatives appointed during 2022:

Safeguarding Officers	Mary Dawson, Tina Hampson and Joy Taylor
Electoral Roll Officer	Denise Fulgoni

During 2022 the PCC received regular reports from the PCC Treasurer, Churchwardens, and representatives for Deanery Synod, Stewardship, Children

and Young People, Communications and Eco Church. Matters brought before the Council included:

- Church and Centre fabric. The PCC agreed: to sell the surplus chairs in the gallery; to the full cost of the bell repairs for refurbishment of tower bell and smaller sanctuary bell; to ask John Bailey of Thomas Ford & Partners to carry out the Quinquennial Inspection; to refurbish the Sacristy toilet.
- Goose Green Centre refurbishment (project to fully replace the existing front door and toilet facilities of the Goose Green Centre). The PCC agreed to commission an Access Audit and apply to funding bodies as specified in the report, do a funding exercise and allocate £20,000 of our reserves towards the cost of the project contingencies.
- Finance. Further discussion on delayed 2020 Accounts; Chaweevan Williams (Verdant Accountants) was appointed Independent Examiner on March 30; PCC accepted the 2020 and 2021 Accounts on September 21; 2023 Budget agreed; Parish Support Fund and an increased Parish Pledge for 2023. The 2020 and 2021 Accounts were finally lodged with the Charity Commission in October.
- The PCC were kept informed of Covid risk assessment and management as Government advice and our response to the pandemic changed during the year.
- Personnel. Revd Gemma Birt was ordained priest on July 2. Denise Fulgoni resigned as Parish Administrator on October 17. Sarah Goudge stood down as Treasurer at the end of 2022 and Claire Nylander was appointed to take over from 1 January 2023. Revd Gill O'Neill was on sabbatical January 31-March 21.
- GDPR Audit. Revision of 2018 Audit of all personal data collected and stored.
- Goose Green Centre: to increase hall hire fees; booking priorities.
- Charities. Nominations for charities for special collections; arrangements for charitable giving; Joy Taylor was appointed Charity coordinator.
- Miranda Wightman was re-appointed as a Foundation Governor at St John's and St Clement's School.
- Lunch Club: Responsibility for Goose Green Community Lunch Club was transferred permanently to the PCC.
- Review of Advent/Christmas and Holy Week/Easter services and events.
- Inclusive Church. To make an annual donation of £250 pounds to Inclusive Church as a sign of our support for their work and mission and to replace our current website statement with that of Inclusive Church.
- Projects. Coffee Morning: exercise class for older people led by a specialist exercise instructor, and a community gardening group.

- Defibrillator. Agreement in principle to the installation of a defibrillator.
- Policies and forms approved: Reserves Policy (November 16); draft Service Of Thanksgiving (for marriage) Booking Form (April).
- Faculty applications approved by PCC:
  - To replace the copper box gutter. (February 23)
  - To install a key safe at the Goose Green Centre entrance. (February 23)
  - To install a defibrillator outside the Goose Green Centre. (March 30)

Finally, Julie Whitney took PCC members on a practical tour of the building included such diverse items as church and GGC lights, locks and mops.

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 Curate:	Revd Gemma Birt	
Hon. Assistant Priest:	Revd Anne Clarke	
Wardens:	Julie Whitney ds	
	Jim Nurton #	
	Tayo Olatunde *	
<b>Elected members:</b>		
Christine Camplin #	Silbert Crichlow	
Mary Dawson	Chris Eldridge *	
Eloise Fotiadis	Sarah Goudge	PCC Treasurer
Martin Howell #	Jayne Mallett *	
Lucy McGrath *	Gill Nash #	
Claire Nylander	Sue O'Neill	
Kingsley Ogbonda *	Tayo Olatunde #	
Maxine Plunkett *		
<b>Deanery Synod:</b>		
Alan Croft	Ish Lennox	
Joy Taylor		
<b>Co-opted members:</b> (appointed annually)		
Martin Howell (25 May)		Stewardship Secretary
Revd Alistair McCulloch (22 June)		Assistant Priest
Revd Rosemary Shaw \$ (22 June)		Assistant Priest
<b>In attendance:</b>		
Christine Camplin		PCC Secretary
<i># Until 15 May 2022                      * From 15 May 2022</i> <i>ds Also Deanery Synod rep.          \$ From 8 December 2021</i>		

Christine Camplin, PCC Secretary

## Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have given their time and energy to work so hard to ensure the smooth running of St John's and make our Church the caring community it is. Some are seen at services and events, many others work tirelessly behind the scenes. Here is just one example.

## Flowers at St John's



Members of the congregation will be used to seeing the colourful displays of flowers in church whether they are to mark a festival in the Church calendar or have been dedicated by members of the congregation to remember a loved-one, or to celebrate a joyful event.

Although it may appear that things are much as they have always been, in the past year there have been some significant changes, the most notable being the departure of Sally Gross to Huntingdon to be nearer her sister. Sally is a talented florist who has overseen church flowers and managed the flower rota for many years.

Those of us who are left will miss Sally greatly but are thankful for all we have learned from her. Perhaps the most valuable lesson we have been learning how to match the flowers and type of display to the person being remembered, or the event being celebrated, and to try and capture their meaning and significance through the language of the flowers. There have been some very warm and positive responses to the arrangements, which suggest that Sally has trained us well!

Along with adjusting to Sally's gradual withdrawal and departure, as a group of arrangers we have also tried to be mindful of environmental concerns. Following a meeting with Rev. Gill we have devised a plan to ensure that in future the provision of flowers in church is based on principles of sustainability and justice. In effect this will mean using fewer flowers which have been flown from long distances, using more home-grown flowers and foliage, reducing/eliminating the use of oasis, and using a wider variety of materials to create displays in church. We also hope that this will allow us to continue to provide flowers for dedications without needing to significantly increase the charges. Another innovation has been decorating the church throughout October with the colours of Black History Month.

We have, or will be, attending workshops to improve our skills and to learn new ways of providing flowers in more sustainable ways, which we hope will continue to enhance and be integral to worship at St John's.

It would be wonderful to be more inclusive and to have more helpers so if anyone is interested in joining the team and learning some of the skills which have been passed on to us, please contact the Parish Administrator.



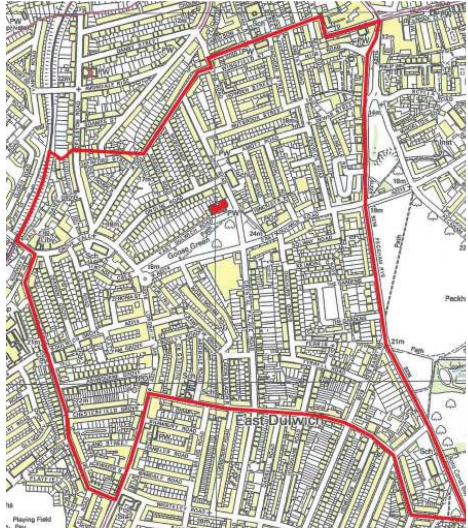
## Administrative Information

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

Chaweevan Williams FCCA  
Verdant Accountants  
20-22 Wenlock Road  
London N1 7GU

### Architect

John Bailey  
Thomas Ford &  
Partners  
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Sydenham  
London SE26 4QH

### Parish Administrator:

### Parish Office:

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

### Website:

### Twitter:

### Registered Charity:

[www.stjohnseastdulwich.org](http://www.stjohnseastdulwich.org)  
[@StJohnsEDulwich](https://twitter.com/StJohnsEDulwich)  
1134088

## A brief timeline of 2022

January 1	At the start of the year: services continue in person in church but are shortened with no tea/coffee afterwards. Messy Church, Lunch Club and Thursday lunchtime service are on hold. Coffee Morning has been meeting outside since 22 December.
January 16	Hymnbooks are back in use!
January 18	Living in Love and Faith course starts - moved to Zoom.
February 2	Coffee Morning now back indoors.
February 3	Lunch Club and Thursday lunchtime Mass restart.
February 24	Remaining Covid restrictions were lifted in England under a 'living with COVID' plan announced by the government. Tea/coffee on Sundays reinstated outdoors.
March 6	Choir back to full numbers.
March 13	Messy Church restarts.
May 15	Annual Meetings held in the Church.
May 22	Christian Aid Café in the churchyard.
June 5	Jubilee Sunday.
June 19	Deanery Confirmation service at St John's.
July 2	Ordination of Revd Gemma Birt at St Mary The Virgin, Lewisham.
September 8	Death of Queen Elizabeth II. Succession of King Charles III.
October 2	Harvest Lunch/Black History Month Celebration.
November 6	Collections during the offertory resume at 10.00am Mass. Card readers trialled for donations.
November 25	After service tea and coffee now back indoors in the Centre.
December 7	The first session of the Strong and Steady Exercise Group.
December 17	Carols by the Green.
December 24	All Christmas services took place as planned. There were two Christingle Services again.



## A future with hope

At the end of Nehemiah, when the walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt, all the people gather in the town square to hear the scriptures read aloud, and they bow their heads in worship. We do well to follow their example, and as we look to the future, to listen to the word of the Lord as we discern our direction for the future. We are enormously blessed to have St John the Evangelist as our patron saint; may his words shape our faith and our shared life:

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.*

May our church be a place where the grace and truth and glory of God is made visible, living among us, calling us all into fullness of life.

