



stjohn's
welling
transforming life through Jesus Christ

Parish Profile



ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME



Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to be the next Vicar of St. John's, Welling. This is an exciting time in the life of Rochester Diocese as we reflect on how we, as a Diocese, and in different ways in each of our parishes, might Change and Serve and Grow so that God's Kingdom can be increased, and more people can come to know the love of Jesus. Our Diocesan vision and strategy prioritises parish ministry, and we are committed to supporting our clergy and lay leaders in their mission and ministry in their local context. We have recently been awarded £11m of SMIBB funding (from National Church) to support this vision.

St John's is a missionally focused, Spirit-filled, prayerful church with a history of supporting and resourcing neighbouring churches. I can see potential for St. John's to be part of our strategic thinking around church planting; therefore, in addition to the need to build up and encourage the local congregation, I pray for a new Vicar with a heart for mission and evangelism and a vision for working collaboratively.

The people of St John's value the variety in their worship styles, with a mix of liturgical and informal charismatic services. The consistent aspect across all the services is a commitment to prayer and a high regard for the authority of scripture. St John's holds a traditional Evangelical view on the Bible and is open to the ministry of men and women, having had male and female curates who have thrived. There is a committed team of lay ministers and leaders who are excited to welcome and support a new vicar.

I am praying for a leader with a passion to make Jesus known, a commitment to Biblical teaching, a heart for collaboration and the ability to nurture faith and vocation.

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern whether you are the person the Holy Spirit is calling to join us in this next stage of mission and ministry in Welling. I'd be delighted to have a conversation with anyone who may be interested.

Ven Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley

HOW TO APPLY

If you believe God might be calling you to join us in sharing the love of Jesus with the people of Welling and to play your unique part in building the Kingdom of Christ we would love to hear from you. Application details are available on the Diocese of Rochester website at www.rochester.anglican.org

If you would like an informal conversation about this post please contact Archdeacon Allie via her EA Fiona Porter on fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org

Welcome to St John the Evangelist Welling

Transforming life through Jesus Christ

Our Church Overview

We're so glad you're taking the time to get to know us through our parish profile. We are a parish in the south-east of London serving part of the town of Welling, which has a population of around 41,000.

The church is a welcoming, prayerful, Bible-based and Holy Spirit led church with an electoral roll of 158. It has strong links with other local churches.

In the year we hopefully welcome our new vicar, our verse for 2025 is Joshua 1:9.

Our New Vicar

We are prayerfully seeking a vicar who is:

- ✓ rooted in God's Word, prayer, the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit;
- ✓ passionate about introducing people to the living Lord Jesus;
- ✓ a gifted preacher and teacher with a traditional evangelical view of Scripture;
- ✓ a wise and experienced leader, able to shape healthy church culture and lead teams well;
- ✓ a caring pastor who values everyone, loves the marginalised, and nurtures ministry to those in need;
- ✓ collaborative and encouraging, helping others grow in their God-given calling.

We offer:

- a dedicated team of four lay ministers, two churchwardens and two deputies;
- a church administrator and assistant;
- a welcoming PCC and a congregation eager to grow;
- our friendship, fellowship and faithful prayers;
- a spacious four-bedroom vicarage near the church and local park;
- a well-maintained church building, soon to celebrate its centenary in 2026.



Our Church

Our Vision

We are a thriving, welcoming, all-age church where everyone is encouraged and enabled to:

- grow in faith
- walk closely with God
- live a holy life
- discover and develop the gifts God has given them

We seek to serve the whole body of Christ across Welling and Bexley, and to play our part in transforming lives – locally and beyond – with humility and love.



Our Core Values

Relying daily on God's grace and forgiveness, we are committed to:

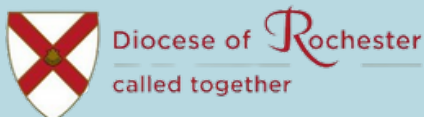
- Compassion that takes action
- Valuing every person
- Encouraging growth in all
- Bible-centred teaching
- Honouring one another's ministries
- Relevant, relational evangelism
- Worship that is genuine and wholehearted
- Living lives that reflect God's holiness
- Ministry led by the Holy Spirit
- Prayer as the foundation of all we do

St John the Evangelist is:

Part of the Erith Deanery



Within the Rochester Diocese



Associated with



NewWine



CEEC
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
EVANGELICAL COUNCIL

Parish Context

A Church Family in the Heart of Welling

St John's Welling has been part of the local community since 1926 and is known for being a warm and welcoming church. We're a mix of ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds, united by a desire to follow Jesus, grow in faith, and share His love with others.

Rooted in the evangelical and charismatic tradition, we're a prayerful and active church with plenty happening for children, young people, and adults – whether they're exploring faith for the first time or seeking to grow deeper.

We have an informal partnership with nearby churches, Bishop Ridley, Falconwood, and St Peter's Bexleyheath, sharing similar theological views and values. We're also part of the Erith Deanery (13 local Church of England parishes in the Diocese of Rochester) and Churches Together in Welling, a wider network of nearly 20 local churches working together to serve our community and share the gospel.



Our Local Community



St John's Church
Danson Lane
Welling
Kent
DA16 2BQ

St John's Welling has been at the heart of its community since 1926. We're nestled in a residential street just a short stroll from Welling High Street, in the London Borough of Bexley — a green and friendly borough on the edge of South East London.

Living in Bexley offers the best of both worlds: close enough to enjoy the energy and opportunities of central London, while also being a stone's throw from the peaceful countryside of Kent. Excellent transport links make both easily accessible — with Welling train station just a few minutes' walk away, offering direct trains into London in around 35 minutes. The nearby Elizabeth Line and the new Superloop bus network further improve connections across London and beyond, including direct access to Heathrow Airport.

Families are well served in Bexley, which is known for its strong and inclusive school provision across all ages. Children often travel in from neighbouring boroughs to attend schools here, with two well-regarded primary and secondary schools just minutes from our church.



Danson Park Lake

The local area is rich in green spaces, including award-winning parks, nature walks, and heritage sites. The beautiful Danson Park — home to the historic Danson House and a much-loved tearoom — is right next to us, offering a peaceful spot to enjoy creation. Welling is also part of the Green Chain Walk, a network of footpaths connecting parks and woodlands across South East London.

We're grateful to be part of such a vibrant, diverse, and well-connected community — and we seek to serve it with the love and welcome of Jesus.

Worship Community

Worship at St John's

Our worship is varied, welcoming, and centred on Jesus. Teaching is grounded in the Bible and led by the Holy Spirit. We value both tradition and innovation, with services that appeal to different spiritual temperaments and generations.

Current Patterns of Worship

1st Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30pm Zoom Prayers for Peace

2nd and 4th Sundays

10.30am Morning Praise
4.00pm The Life Service
6.30pm Evening Communion (CW)
7.45pm Prayers for Peace

3rd Sunday

10.30am Morning Praise
4.00pm The Life Service
6.30pm Zoom Prayers for Peace

5th Sunday

10.30am Morning Praise
4.00pm The Life Service
6.30pm Possible "Churches
Together in Welling" Service
at one of the Welling Churches



Sundays at 10:30am

1st Sunday – Parish Communion

A Common Worship Order One Communion service, with Eucharistic Prayer H and robed clergy. Music blends traditional hymns and contemporary songs, led by organ and music group. Liturgy and lyrics are projected, with printed copies available. Around 70–90 attend. Jesus Kids (our children's ministry) joins the main service at the Peace, after their own time in the hall. The service runs 80–90 minutes.

2nd to 5th Sundays – Morning Praise

A more informal service, using elements of CW Morning Prayer, with similar music to our communion service. Screens are used throughout. Around 60–80 attend, and it lasts 70–80 minutes. Jesus Kids begin in the main service and then go out for their own teaching.

At all 10:30am services:

- Prayer ministry is available before and after
- One of our seven mission partners is prayed for during intercessions
- We regularly include a recording of the Lord's Prayer in Ukrainian
- Refreshments are served at the end



Parade Services (3–4 times per year)

Held on special occasions such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest, and Remembrance, these services involve our uniformed groups and often feature badge presentations and the National Anthem.



Jesus Kids and Uniform Organisations may help lead readings and prayers. Attendance is 80–100 and the service lasts about an hour. On Remembrance Sunday, the service begins at the War Memorial at 10:50am.



The Life Service (every week except the 1st Sunday of the month)

The Life Service is our contemporary, café-style gathering — a relaxed, Spirit-led space where all ages can meet Jesus in an accessible way. We sit around tables with refreshments on hand and warmly welcome anyone curious about faith or seeking something different.



The service features modern worship, relevant Bible teaching, prayer, and space to respond — often including testimony, creative elements, or guest speakers. When we expect newcomers or those exploring faith, our prayers become more interactive to help everyone join in.



First-time visitors receive a welcome bag with church info and a few thoughtful extras. The Life Service also has its own modern branding to reflect its distinct, informal style and to help it connect well with a broader and often younger audience.



Attendance is usually 40–60 and lasts about 70 minutes. Special services like Mothering Sunday, Bonfire Weekend, and our Contemporary Carol Service — where everyone receives a festive gift — attract larger crowds and are great opportunities to invite friends and neighbours.

Sundays at 6:30pm – Evening Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)

A quieter, reflective service of Holy Communion (CW Order One), shared with our friends at Bishop Ridley and St Peter's, whose ministers often help lead. Traditional in style, with hymns and songs accompanied by the organ, and printed liturgy. Recent sermon series have included Hebrews, Isaiah, and the Gospel of John. Attendance is 8–15, and the service lasts 60–80 minutes.



Sundays at 6:30pm / 7:45pm – Prayers for Peace

A 30-minute prayer gathering either in the Prayer Room or on Zoom. Originally begun in 2022 as Prayer for Ukraine, the group has broadened its focus in response to global conflict and remains committed to praying for peace, particularly in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Special Services

Though we don't have a regular midweek service, we gather for key moments in the Christian year: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, and several Christmas services (including Crib, Midnight Communion, and Christmas Day All-Age Worship).



Prayer, Care & Housegroups

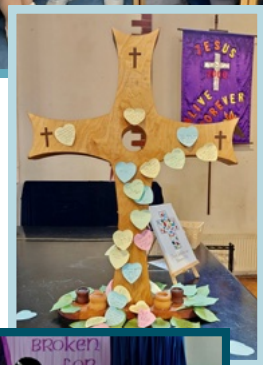
Prayer: At the Heart of It All

Prayer is one of our core values at St John's – it shapes, supports, and sustains everything we do. Nothing happens here that hasn't first been soaked in prayer.

Both our Sunday services – the 10:30am and 4:00pm The Life Service – include time for prayer ministry, with dedicated teams available to pray with anyone who asks. We're blessed with a peaceful, purpose-built Prayer Room, but we also encourage prayer wherever it's needed – in pews, around tables, in corridors, and in conversation.

In response to the war in Ukraine, we began holding regular Prayers for Peace, continuing the pattern of evening prayer that emerged during lockdown.

Zoom has also become an unexpected gift. In the isolating days of the pandemic, we quickly adapted and began meeting for prayer online each morning. These Zoom prayers still take place Monday–Saturday, helping many stay connected and grounded.



Housegroups: Growing Together

With ten thriving housegroups meeting across the week, these small communities are at the heart of our life together. They bring together people from all three of our congregations, creating spaces to share life, grow in faith, pray, study the Bible, support one another and discover gifts for ministry and leadership.

Many of our housegroups follow the Sunday morning teaching series and are the first place people turn to for pastoral support and friendship. Leaders receive regular updates and support, including a termly planning and encouragement evening.



We also host Zoom Prayers for Peace at 6:30pm when there is no evening service, and nightly Compline (Monday–Thursday at 9:00pm) – a short, gentle close to the day.

We offer a monthly Prayer Diary and regularly updated prayer lists in the weekly notices, encouraging the whole church to pray with purpose and hope.

Pastoral Care: Supporting One Another

We believe in pastoral care that begins in community – and for us, that means housegroups. Group leaders are often best placed to notice needs, offer support and stay connected.

But they're not on their own. When something needs a little more help, our Pastoral Hub steps in. Headed up by our Pastoral Assistant, the Hub includes clergy, wardens, housegroup coordinators, and youth representatives – all working together to make sure no one falls through the cracks.

Children & Young People

Growing in Faith from the Start

At St John's, children and young people aren't just the church of tomorrow — they're part of the church today. We want each one to know they belong, to feel safe, valued and encouraged, and to discover God's love in real and relevant ways.



We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment policy and are proud of our enthusiastic, experienced and DBS-checked team. We're also a nationally accredited **Child Friendly Church**, reflecting our commitment to welcoming and nurturing children in faith.



All our groups aim to be inclusive. Leaders are experienced in supporting children with additional needs and work with parents to meet each child's individual needs.

Visiting children are always welcome at Jesus Kids, and older children often support as 'helpers' — growing in confidence and leadership.



As a congregation and PCC, we've agreed to admit children to Holy Communion before confirmation. When the need arises, we run a Saturday morning Communion Workshop for children and a parent to attend together, helping them understand and prepare for this sacred step.



CRÈCHE

Crèche (Under 4s)

We have a spacious, well-equipped crèche area within the main church building, available during both the 10:30am and 4:00pm services. Parents stay with their little ones and supervise them, while still feeling part of the wider worshipping community. It's a great way to ease into church life with very young children.



Children's Groups (Reception–Year 6)



Sunday Mornings

Jesus Kids runs during term time as part of our 10:30am service. Children begin in church with the whole congregation before heading to the Hall for their own fun and faith-filled session.

Each week includes games, Bible stories, music, crafts, prayer and plenty of laughter — all centred on growing in relationship with God.

On some Sundays, we hold All-Age Services, where everyone worships together in a way that's interactive, inclusive and family-friendly.

Jesus Kids currently has 12 children on the register, however attendance fluctuates.



Sunday Afternoons

At our 4:00pm Life Service, children join in the opening worship with the whole church before heading to the Prayer Room for Jesus Kids @Life — a smaller, more relaxed session with Bible teaching, crafts, prayer and snacks.

This group runs on the two middle Sundays of each month. On other Sundays, families are welcome to use the crèche area where we provide informal children's activities, so parents and carers can still join in worship together.





Youth Groups (Year 6–Year 13)

Our youth groups are all about friendship, fun, and growing in faith — creating a safe space where young people can be themselves, ask big questions, and discover how Jesus fits into real life.

Dubsters (Years 6–9, Ages 10–13)

Sundays, 5:30–7:00pm in the Church Hall. Named by the young people (as the 'mini 3Dubbers'), Dubsters is for those in school years 6–9.

Each session includes snacks, games and time to chill, followed by age-appropriate Bible study, prayer and creative or musical worship.

We currently have 12 young people on the register, with around 8 attending weekly — including youth from three local churches.

Dubsters



3Dub (Years 10–13, Ages 14–18)

Sundays, 7:00–8:30pm in the Church Hall. 3Dub stands for Word, Worldwide, Worship. It follows the same format as Dubsters — relaxed, fun, and focused on real faith — with teaching and discussion designed for older teens.

We currently have 7 on the register, with regular attendance from across three partner churches. One of our 3Dubbers is also a member of the Diocesan Youth Council.



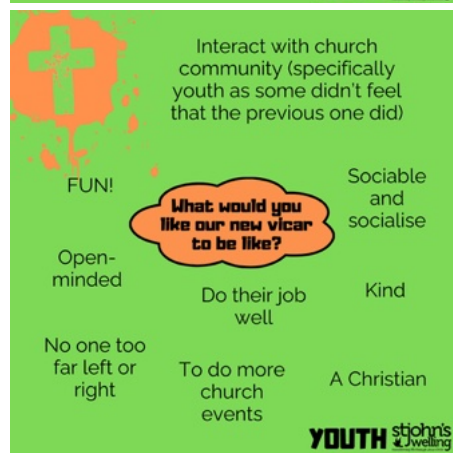
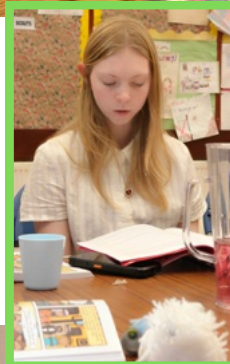
Youth Service (First Sundays, 4:00–6:30pm)

On the first Sunday of each month, all our youth gather for worship, creativity, and exploring their gifts — followed by food and chill time together. Friends are always welcome.



Youth Cell Group (Thursdays Fortnightly, 5:00–6:30pm)

A smaller discipleship group for those wanting to go deeper. We eat toast, hang out, and study the Bible — currently working through Mark's Gospel in graphic novel form, with young people helping lead.



Midweek Groups: Faith, Friendship and Community

St John's Playgroup

Established in 1971 by church members who saw a need, our thriving, Ofsted-rated "Good" preschool runs in the church hall each weekday morning and Monday afternoon during term time. It welcomes children aged 2 to rising 5 into a creative, caring and Christ-centred environment. Many staff are Christians, and the manager is required to be a practising Christian — ideally from St John's. Over the years, Playgroup has helped many families take their first steps into the life and love of our church.



Open Door

Thursdays, 1:30–3:00pm (term time)

Run by St John's volunteers, this friendly stay-and-play group welcomes babies, toddlers and their carers for toys, crafts, snacks, songs, stories, prayer and pastoral support. Many children go on to join Playgroup and our uniform groups — becoming part of the St John's family as they grow.



GOTS (Girls On The Spectrum)

Responding to the needs of a St John's family, GOTS was founded to support autistic girls and their parents. Meeting fortnightly on Thursday evenings, sessions alternate between parent-only gatherings and safe, welcoming meetups for the girls. Families come from across Bexley and beyond, and GOTS often hosts guest speakers and social events, building community and confidence.



Lamplighters

Fridays, 6:10–7:30pm

A treasured part of St John's for 58 years, Lamplighters is a Friday evening club for children aged 5 to early teens. With games, crafts, worship songs and prayer, it's a joyful hour of fun and faith.



Founded to support The Leprosy Mission, the group lives out its motto: "To light the lamp of love for those with Leprosy." Over the years, Lamplighters, their families and St John's supporters have raised thousands of pounds and deepened awareness of this vital cause. See more under our Mission Partners.

Uniform Groups

Our church hall is home to a full set of thriving uniformed organisations during term time:

- Monday: Explorer Scouts (14+) **EXPLORERS**
- Tuesday: Beavers (6–8) **BEAVERS**
- Cubs (8–10½) **cubs**
- Scouts (10½–14) **Scouts**
- Wednesday: Rainbows (4–7) **Rainbows**
- Brownies (7–10) **Brownies**
- Guides (10–14) **Girlguiding**

Some leaders are active Christians, and we consider the groups part of our wider church family. One of our church members serves on the Scouts Executive Committee, and leaders regularly support church events and help maintain our woodland space.

Our Team

Staff Team

We're blessed with a dedicated and experienced ministry team that includes two Lay Readers (one with PTO), one Pastoral Assistant (with PTM), one Licensed Lay Minister. We also have two people about to begin Lay Ministry training and one completing Bishop's Certificate. Supporting the life of the church are two fantastic Church Wardens, two Deputy Wardens, and an excellent Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), alongside a small but committed team of part-time paid staff:

- Church Administrator
 - Assistant Administrator
 - Youth Worker
 - Cleaner
- plus our Organist, who is given a stipend.

Our much-loved Playgroup also employs a team of ten:

- Playgroup Manager
- Playgroup Assistant Manager
- Playgroup Finance
- Playgroup Assistant (x4)
- Playgroup Cover Staff (x3)

Safeguarding

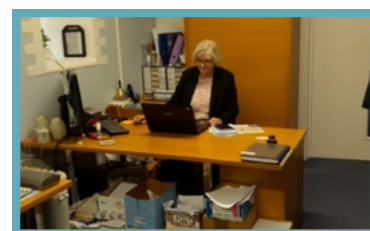
We are fully committed to safeguarding and creating a healthy, safe culture for all. Our PSO—who reports regularly to the PCC—ensures that all required training is up to date and provides additional in-house training when needed. The new incumbent would, of course, be expected to undertake all relevant safeguarding checks and training.

Training & Leadership Development

We actively encourage growth and calling. Through the CPAS **Growing Leaders Course**—an inter-church initiative within our deanery—many have begun exploring their leadership gifts, some continuing into lay ministry or ordination via diocesan pathways. St John's is a church where vocations are nurtured, and we've been blessed by both male and female curates.

Church Office

Our Office Administrator and Assistant Administrator keep everything running smoothly—from statutory returns, payroll and parish records to the website, notice sheets and prayer diaries. They also hold key safeguarding and governance roles: Electoral Roll Officer and Lead Recruiter, respectively.



PCC

The PCC meets bi-monthly, supported by various committees that meet in between. Members are a mix of elected and co-opted individuals, with our Standing Committee meeting as needed to handle urgent matters.



Wider Involvement

St John's thrives on the gifts and generosity of our congregation. Our values of All People / Each Other's Ministries shape how we operate, with many lay teams serving faithfully behind the scenes:

- Flower arranging
- Welcoming
- Refreshments
- Tech and maintenance



We also offer training for Bible readers, intercessors, and prayer ministry volunteers, through deanery courses and in-house sessions. Where required, we provide up-to-date training in health and safety, food hygiene, fire safety, and first aid.

Music Ministry

Music is a treasured part of worship at St John's. Our organist, worship leaders, and musicians offer a wonderful mix of traditional and contemporary styles. A four-part singing group of around 15 voices also contributes from time to time, enriching our shared worship.



Tech Team

Our sound and tech volunteers ensure the service runs smoothly both in-person and online. Since COVID, we've used OBS to livestream, helping those who can't attend feel part of the worshipping family.



Welcome Team

Our warm and friendly welcome team are often the first faces people see—outside in all weathers! They're ready to greet both newcomers and regulars, and even sit alongside those who may need a little extra support.



Refreshments & Fellowship

Tea, coffee and conversation are a key part of Sundays at St John's. We aim to serve Fairtrade where possible and cherish the chance to connect after worship. Bring-and-share lunches are also a valued tradition—often held after morning services when visiting mission partners join us.



Church Membership Figures

The Church Electoral Roll figure for 2025 totals 158.

The creation of a new electoral roll for 2025, has shown a slight decrease compared with previous years:

- 184 (2020)
- 180 (2021)
- 179 (2022)
- 181 (2023)
- 180 (2024)

A breakdown of the 2025 figure shows:

- Men 57; Women 101
- In the parish 96; Out of the parish 62



Church Challenges/Opportunities

Many of our volunteers are getting older and pressure of current life means younger people are less able to step up and serve.

For the same reason and the cost of housing in the area, we are lacking in younger families.

Due to Covid a number of outreach activities were put on hold and have not restarted. For example: delivering the Christmas and Easter postcards to all the houses in the parish (rather than just a subset); Carol singing around the parish; Christingle services; community lunches; Messy Church; holiday clubs; and 24x7 prayer.

The TOFFS (Those Over Fifty-Five) group ceased last summer, following the death of its leader and the lack of a person willing to take over its running.

TOFF'S

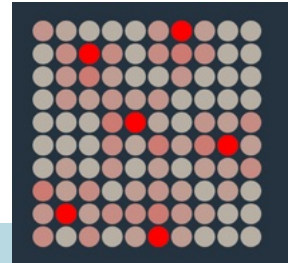
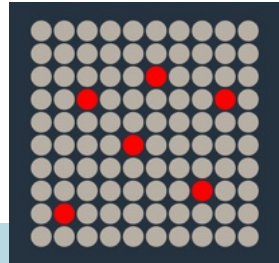
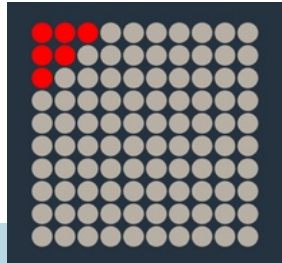
Our uniformed groups are a great outreach to local youngsters and their families. We aim to continue to support and build up these groups by attracting and encouraging church members to actively volunteer with them.

We need to make better use of our grounds by offering the opportunity for children to be active outside and learning about flora & fauna great for mental health and fitness etc .



Outreach & Community Engagement

At St John's, our vision — Transforming Life through Jesus Christ — doesn't stop at the church door. It shapes how we live and love from Monday to Saturday just as much as on Sundays. Whether it's in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools or friendships, we believe Jesus changes everything — and we're passionate about sharing that Good News wherever life takes us. (Inspired by LICC Frontline Sundays).



Spark in the Park

Spark is our biggest annual gift to the local community — a much-loved 5 days of free fun in Danson Park, run in partnership with over 20 local churches. Children enjoy everything from big games to crafts, inflatables to an under-5s play area, plus a 30-minute God Slot packed with creative storytelling, songs and reflection.

There are also three evening meetings where whole families gather for relaxed, engaging activities — all centred around welcome and connection. Alongside the Main Marquee, there's a Prayer Tent, Youth Tent, and a Quiet Zone for those who prefer somewhere peaceful.

Hundreds of families come each year, many returning again and again. For some, Spark is where they first hear about Jesus in a way that feels personal and accessible. It's a joyful, hope-filled week — and we're so proud to be part of it.



Alpha: Exploring Life and Faith

Our passion is helping people experience the life-changing hope of Jesus — and Alpha is one of the ways we do that. We offer the Alpha Course once or twice a year, creating a welcoming space where people can explore questions of life and faith in an open, relaxed environment.

Many in our church family first came to faith through Alpha, and it continues to be a key part of our outreach. We believe in evangelism that's relevant, relational and real — and Alpha remains one of our best tools for that.

Schools

We're thankful for strong, growing relationships with local schools. We currently have a small team taking assemblies at Danson Primary and Foster's Primary, while Hook Lane Primary and Bexley Grammar regularly use the church for Christmas services.

We value these connections deeply and love being a welcoming, familiar presence for young people and their families in our parish.

Bowls Club

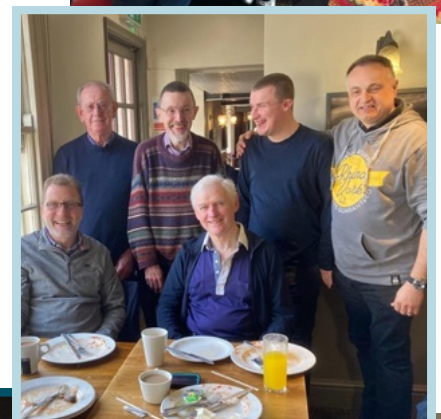
Started in 2009, our Tuesday afternoon Bowls Club was created with older members of the parish in mind — but all are welcome. Meeting weekly in the church hall, it now has around 20 members, over half of whom are not part of the St John's congregation. It's a wonderful example of inclusive, low-key outreach where friendship grows week by week.



Friendship Through Food: Curry Nights & Breakfasts

Friendship often begins around a table! Our Men's Curry Nights are a long-standing tradition, offering affordable food, good company and the chance to bring a mate along in a low-key setting.

Our Ladies' Breakfasts and Men's Breakfasts are more recent but already thriving — held bi-monthly at a local restaurant. With over 50 different women attending across the past year, these gatherings are light-hearted, sociable and gently invitational. The food's good too — and not just the fry-ups!





Fun Days, Celebrations & Community Sundays

We love opening our doors and bringing people together to celebrate! Whether it's family fundays, community events, or marking national occasions like the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation, we've welcomed many into our building for friendship, food and fun. These well-attended gatherings are always filled with laughter, warmth and that special St John's hospitality.

The Wider Christian Family

We're proud to be part of the wider body of Christ in Welling and Bexley. St John's plays an active role in Churches Together in Welling (CTiW), contributing to events like the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Lent groups, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We also take our turn hosting a quarterly joint evening service, and members serve on the CTiW executive.



We're also deeply involved with Transform Bexley Borough (TBB) and its youth arm Transform Bexley Youth (TBY). These networks gather churches of all sizes and denominations for prayer, social action, and youth events — including the powerful Take It Back 24-hour worship gatherings where young people encounter God in fresh ways.



Serving in Compassion

Active compassion is a core value for us. We encourage everyone to prayerfully explore where God may be calling them to serve.

Some from St John's are involved in:

- Bexley Winter Night Shelter
- Street Pastors and School Pastors
- The local Food Bank
- Evergreen – a local Christian charity supporting vulnerable people with care and friendship

We're passionate about helping people make a real difference — whether that's through direct service, prayer, or support.



Our Mission Partners

At St John's, we believe we're called to be part of God's work not just here in Welling, but across the UK and around the world. Mission is at the heart of our church life. We currently support seven mission partners — through prayer, financial giving, and active involvement — and we're deeply committed to walking alongside each one of them in love, faith, and friendship.

Each mission partner has a link person at St John's who helps keep us connected, sharing updates and prayer needs with the wider church family. Many of our members have visited our overseas partners or are personally involved in the work of our local ones. These partnerships are not just about giving — they're about learning, encouraging one another, and seeing where God might be calling us to serve, too.

We regularly pray for our mission partners during services and throughout the week, and we host mission-focused Sundays where they are invited to come and share what God is doing in their ministries. It's our hope and prayer that these connections will not only bless our partners, but also inspire and equip people in our own congregation to explore where God might be leading them — especially if mission is part of their calling.

We're excited for our future leader to build on these strong foundations, deepening our relationships with current partners and helping us to grow in generosity, prayer, and active support.

Missionary Council

Our Missionary Council oversees the distribution of 10% of all congregational giving to our mission partners. This is a reflection of our commitment to giving back a portion of what God has blessed us with. The church also regularly hosts fundraising events and activities throughout the year to further support our partners, using the church buildings and grounds to bring the community together in a shared purpose.

Who We Support

We are privileged to partner with the following seven organisations:

Home for Good

Home for Good champions fostering and adoption within the Church, believing every child deserves a loving, secure home. They equip churches to wrap around families and influence systems to create lasting change.

www.homeforgood.org.uk





Christian Resources in Bexley Schools (CRiBS)

CRiBS is a brilliant local charity helping children and young people explore values, faith, and identity through engaging school-based work. Their heart is to inspire growing faith and promote living values.
www.cribsonline.org



The Leprosy Mission (TLM)

As well as supporting TLM through our children's group Lamplighters, we have a special link with Purulia Hospital in India, which a member of our church family visited in person.
www.leprosymission.org.uk



Open Doors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide, Open Doors is a vital part of our prayer life at St John's. We also share their prayer needs on our social media, helping to raise awareness and stand in solidarity with those who suffer for their faith.
www.opendoorsuk.org



Church Mission Society (CMS)

We support the work of Mirna, an Indigenous Christian leader sharing the love of Jesus with Indigenous communities in Northern Argentina.
www.cms-uk.org



International Justice Mission (IJM)

IJM works to rescue people trapped in slavery and oppression, both overseas and here in the UK. We're blessed to have close personal links with IJM staff in the UK.
www.ijmuk.org

Rukungiri Modern Primary School, Uganda

This incredible school serves over 800 children, many of whom are orphans. Each year, a team from St John's travels to Uganda to offer hands-on support and friendship.
www.rop.uk.net



Our Buildings

Our Church Building

St John's has stood at the heart of Welling since the foundation stone was laid in 1925. A year later, in 1926, the church was consecrated — and we've been welcoming worshippers, friends and seekers ever since.

Inside, the west end glows with beautiful stained glass windows, while the clear glass on the other sides allows us to enjoy the changing beauty of the seasons — a daily reminder of God's creation all around us.

In the 1980s, the chancel was opened out, giving us a spacious area that works wonderfully for guitar-led worship, dance, and more informal gatherings. While we still treasure the original communion table at the east end, we now use a smaller, moveable table nearer to the congregation, allowing for a greater sense of connection during services.

We are fortunate to have a three-manual Slater organ, installed in 1963, and our talented resident organist leads us in worship most Sundays, bringing depth and beauty to our traditional services.

About 20 years ago, the old wooden chairs were replaced with more comfortable seating, giving us the flexibility to arrange the space for both formal worship and café-style gatherings.

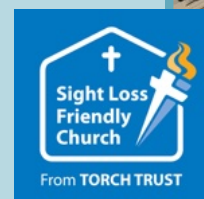
Thanks to a generous bequest and successful fundraising, we've recently been able to improve our facilities:

- A new Prayer and Meeting Room in the north aisle
- A fully accessible toilet
- A small kitchen for serving refreshments
- 'The Upper Room' — a flexible space often used for youth groups, with built-in storage

We also have a dedicated open crèche area, welcoming our youngest members and their carers.

Our sound desk was recently upgraded, improving our in-person and online services. We're a registered Sight-Loss Friendly Church, have a Hearing Loop installed, and our building is wheelchair accessible, with a ramp leading to the hall and accessible toilets in both church and hall.

Our church office, open Monday to Friday, is at the back of church and doubles as the vestry. We're blessed with a faithful voluntary team who help care for the building, and our most recent quinquennial inspection was very positive — a reflection of the ongoing commitment to maintain our space for worship and welcome.





Our Church Grounds

Approaching from Danson Lane, you'll first pass the Vicarage, surrounded by its own fenced garden. Beside it are the church gates, and just beyond them, a pedestrian entrance into Danson Park.

As you come up the church drive, you'll notice flower beds, evergreens, and memorial benches along the way — a peaceful space to pause and reflect. The church building sits quietly behind the Vicarage, while to the south, near the Memorial Border and Welling War Memorial, there's a grassed area and a small car park.

Further along, past the church hall, there's more parking space, additional grassland, and to the east and north of the church, a stretch of natural woodland. We're mindful of our responsibility to care for this area, which includes a space maintained by our Scout Group around the old scout hut foundations — the original building was sadly lost in a fire during the 1990s.

We hold regular church work days throughout the year, where volunteers come together to keep our grounds looking their best — from planting and painting, to pothole repairs, drain checks, and general maintenance. It's a great time for teamwork, fresh air and a shared sense of pride.

In 2022, we created a Jubilee Memorial Garden at the east end of the grounds — a peaceful tribute to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



Our Church Hall

Our church hall, built in 1977, is accessed via steps at the south-east end of the church and is a well-used and much-loved community space.

In 2024, after a tree fell through the roof, we took the opportunity to replace the ceiling and begin a wider refurbishment. New entrance and fire doors were fitted on the west side, and a ramp installed, making the hall fully accessible. Refurbishment of the kitchen is planned for summer 2025, and the walls are scheduled for repainting that year too. Toilets were recently updated and are accessed via the vestibule.



The hall is a vibrant hub during the week. It is used:

- Daily in term time by our Playgroup
- Weekly by our Girl Guiding and Scout groups, Bowls Club, and Open Door (for toddlers and carers)
- Most weeks by Jesus Kids and our youth groups
- Fortnightly by GOTS, which supports girls on the autistic spectrum and their families

While the hall is generally not available for public hire, occasional lettings are considered at the discretion of the wardens and vicar.



The Vicarage

Built in 1955, the Vicarage is a comfortable detached family home, conveniently located close to the church. On the ground floor there is a study, dining room, spacious lounge, kitchen, utility space, a toilet, and an integral garage.

Upstairs are four double bedrooms, one of which has a vanity unit and hand basin, along with a separate bathroom and toilet. There is also easy access to a large loft, offering useful storage space. The house is set in a generous garden, with a gate at the bottom that opens directly into the church grounds — a helpful link for a vicar serving in the heart of the parish.



Clifton Road

St John's part-owns, together with the Diocese, a semi-detached house in Clifton Road, which is used to house a curate when one is appointed.

Currently, the property is privately let by the Diocese, providing a modest income to the parish once maintenance costs have been covered. It remains an important asset, offering flexibility to support future ministry.



Our Finances

Financial Summary

We're grateful to report that St John's Welling is currently in a stable and healthy financial position. Our Treasurer works closely with the wider Finance Team to ensure careful stewardship of all our resources.

A full Financial Statement is available in Appendix 1.

The Finance Team

Our committed team includes a Treasurer, Book-keeper, Payments Organiser and an Administrator, all working together to manage church finances with integrity and transparency.

Income and Giving

In 2024, we received regular giving totalling **£108,000**, and this remains our projected figure for 2025.

We are thankful for an additional **£15,000 donation**, and a generous **£8,000 bequest**, both of which helped us cover key costs.

We also make it easy for people to give with an on-site "SumUp" card machine for contactless contributions.

Expenditure

Our largest regular expense is our Parish Share, set at £75,000 for both 2024 and 2025.

Other significant costs last year included tree removal, roof repairs, utilities, and improvements to the church hall – including new toilets and a new ceiling.

St John's currently employs four part-time staff:

- Two Office Administrators
- A Youth Worker
- A Church Cleaner

Hall Refurbishment Fund

Thanks to our **Gift Month collection**, which raised **£6,000**, we now have a total of **£40,000** in our Hall Refurbishment Fund. This is earmarked for a **new hall kitchen** in 2025 – an exciting project that will serve both the church and our wider community.

Book-keeping and Reporting

Our bookkeeper provides monthly financial reports and prepares full-year-end reports to support our annual audit process. These reports help keep our leadership informed and accountable.

Appendix 1 – Financial Statement

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S WELLING					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £
Incoming resources					
<i>Voluntary income</i>	2a	155,867	422	10,690	166,979
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>	2b	601	-	96,615	97,216
<i>Income from investments</i>	2c	943	-	-	943
<i>Church activities</i>	2d	10,971	-	-	10,971
<i>Other incoming resources</i>	2e	15,306	-	-	15,306
Total incoming resources		<u>183,688</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>107,305</u>	<u>291,415</u>
Resources expended					
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>	3a	150	-	-	150
<i>Church activities</i>	3b	141,177	17,764	114,992	273,933
<i>Governance Costs</i>	3c	875	-	-	875
<i>Support Costs</i>	3d	6,213	-	-	6,213
Total resources expended		<u>148,415</u>	<u>17,764</u>	<u>114,992</u>	<u>281,171</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		35,273	(17,342)	(7,687)	10,244
Transfers, other gains and losses		(14,071)	16,369	(2,298)	-
Net movement in funds		<u>21,202</u>	<u>(973)</u>	<u>(9,985)</u>	<u>10,244</u>
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2023		49,806	21,238	109,494	180,538
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2023		<u>71,008</u>	<u>20,265</u>	<u>99,509</u>	<u>190,782</u>

Appendix 2 - Useful web links

Church Website

<https://www.stjohnswelling.org.uk/>

Erith Deanery Website

<http://erith.org/>

Rochester Diocese Website

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/ourvision/><https://www.bexley.gov.uk/discover-bexley>

Transport for London – Green Chain Walk Website

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/walking/green-chain-walk>

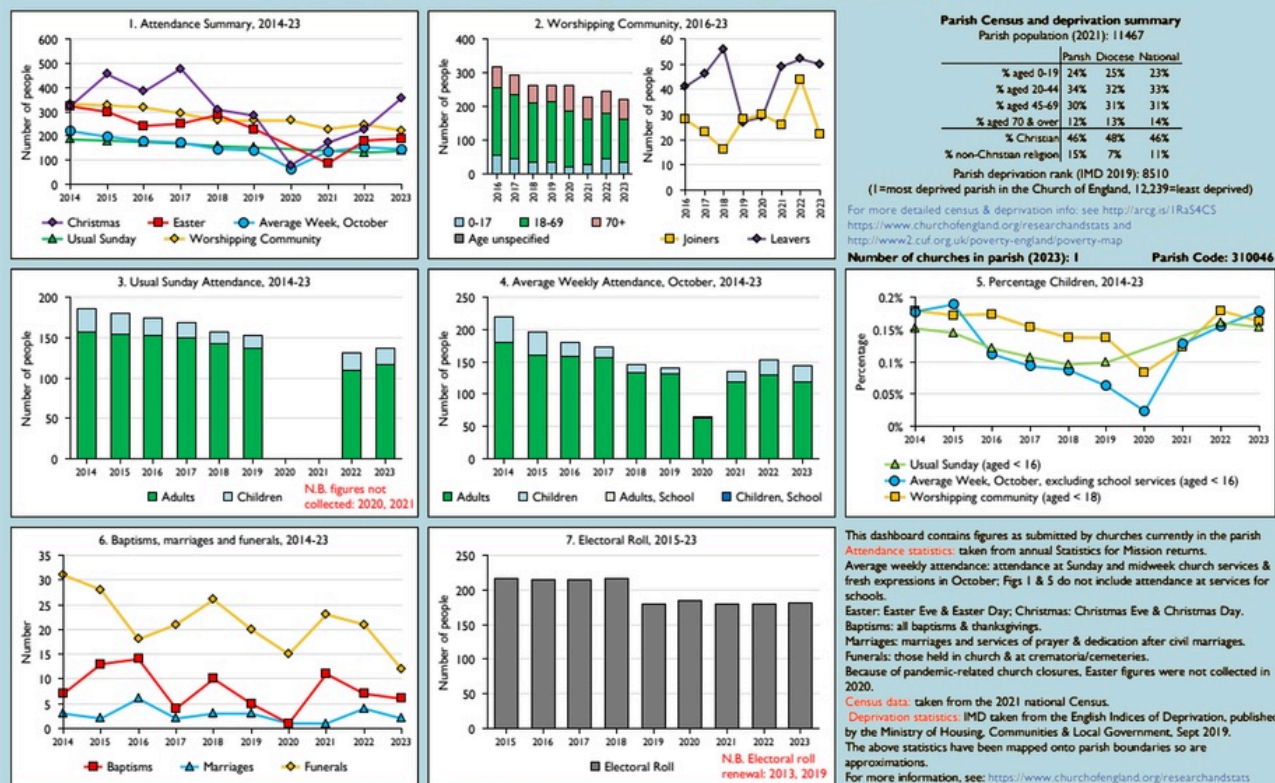
Discover Welling Website

<https://www.discoverwelling.co.uk/about-welling/>

Appendix 3 - Erith Deanery Charts

Dashboard Data for St John's Welling

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Welling: St John the Evangelist in the deanery of ERITH



Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2014 1; 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1; 2023 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 25/11/2024.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org



Follow us on Twitter:
 @cofestats



THE CHURCH
 OF ENGLAND

SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Welling: St John the Evangelist in the deanery of ERITH

Report	Field	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	322	454	382	477	308	283	79	171	228	356
	Easter	322	299	241	250	286	228	-	86	180	189
	Average Week, October	220	196	179	172	146	141	65	135	153	145
	Usual Sunday	185	180	174	168	157	152	-	-	131	137
	Worshipping Community	330	326	317	293	262	263	263	228	246	222
2. Worshipping Community	Total			317	293	262	263	263	228	246	222
	0-17			55	45	36	36	22	28	44	36
	18-69			200	189	176	178	163	134	135	126
	70+			62	59	50	49	78	66	67	60
	Age unspecified			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joiners			28	23	16	28	30	26	44	22
	Leavers			41	46	56	27	29	49	52	50
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	157	154	153	150	142	137	-	-	110	116
	Children	28	26	21	18	15	15	-	-	21	21
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	181	159	159	156	133	132	63	118	130	119
	Children	39	37	20	16	13	9	2	17	24	26
	Adults, School	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Children, School	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	15%	14%	12%	11%	10%	10%	-	-	16%	15%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	18%	19%	11%	9%	9%	6%	2%	13%	15%	18%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	18%	17%	17%	15%	14%	14%	8%	12%	18%	16%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	7	13	14	4	10	5	1	11	7	6
	Marriages	3	2	6	2	3	3	1	1	4	2
	Funerals	31	28	18	21	26	20	15	23	21	12
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	216	215	215	216	180	184	180	179	181	



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THE CHURCH
 OF ENGLAND

Appendix 4 – Church Publications/Communications

Church Publications

At St John's, we're passionate about keeping our church family informed, encouraged, and connected—both in print and online. Here are some of the key ways we share news, stories, and prayer across the church community:

Notice Sheet

Our fortnightly Notice Sheet includes everything you need to know about upcoming services, events, and opportunities to get involved. It's emailed to church members, with printed copies available for those who prefer a paper version.

Grapevine

Our bi-monthly church magazine, Grapevine, comes in a friendly newspaper-style format and is full of reflections, testimonies, creative writing, and updates from across the life of St John's. Again, it's shared via email and print.



Prayer Diary

Published each month, our Prayer Diary offers daily topics for prayer—locally, nationally, and globally—helping us unite in intercession as a church family.

Christmas and Easter Postcards

To help us invite others into the story of Jesus, we produce seasonal postcards with details of all our Christmas and Easter services. These are distributed by church members to friends, neighbours, and households across the parish.



Communications

Email remains our main way of staying in touch—by the end of 2024, we were regularly emailing church publications and updates to 171 households.

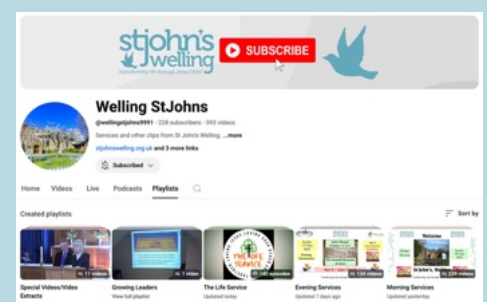
We're also active across social media, using Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp to connect, share encouragement, and build community. One highlight has been our Ladies' WhatsApp Group, which has grown into a vibrant space of prayer, support, and friendship.

Online Services

For those unable to join us in person, we livestream our 10:30am Sunday service weekly via our YouTube channel, with full recordings available to watch later.

- The 6:30pm service is also streamed with Bible reading and sermon.
- Our 4:00pm Life Service shares the reading and talk online and makes audio versions available via Spotify—ideal for listening on the go.

Whether in person, in print, or online, we want everyone to feel part of what God is doing at St John's.



Appendix 5 – Church History

The greater part of the present-day parish of St John the Evangelist, Welling, originally formed parts of the ancient parishes of Bexley and East Wickham, the border of these two parishes passing through the middle of Welling High Street.

Welling became part of the parish of Christ Church, Bexleyheath, when that parish was created out of Bexley Parish in 1866. It was not until 1926 that the parish of St John's Welling was created. However, the history of Anglican worship in the area goes back considerably further, and this is reflected in the records.

In 1869 Mr A W Bean, the owner of the Danson Estate paid for the building of a church made of corrugated iron on Welling Corner, which was known locally as the Iron Church. Between 1869 and 1923 Christ Church, Bexleyheath, provided a number of curates. In 1923 the Rev Frank Moore was appointed as the Mission Priest of the newly-formed mission district of Welling to form the parish and to build the parish church. The latter was completed in 1926 on a site in Danson Lane.

In 1935, the added chancel was consecrated, and the current Hall (replacing a previous structure) was opened in 1979. St John's also founded a daughter church, Bishop Ridley, which was consecrated in 1958 – it became a separate parish in 1989.



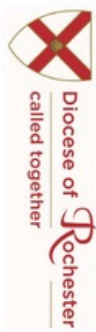
*The church ~ 1930
before the chancel was added*



Welling Corner c1950s

Local legend has it that Welling is so called because in the era of horse-drawn vehicles it could be said you were "well in" to Kent, or had a "well end" to the journey up and down Shooters Hill, which at the time was a notorious haunt of highwaymen.

Appendix 6 - Rochester Diocesan Vision



OUR VISION

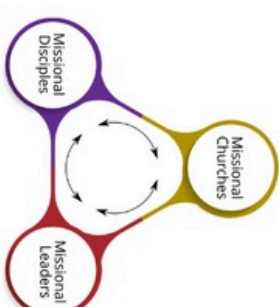
As a family of faith across the areas of Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley we understand that we are:

Seeking first the Kingdom of God, and are called together by God to change, serve and grow with compassion, courage, and creativity.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

Within this vision, our key objectives are to grow **missional churches**, with **missional leaders** and **missional disciples**, that are:

- Growing a safe and healthy culture for all
- Growing younger and more diverse
- Growing spiritually and numerically
- Impacting their communities
- Releasing financial resources for mission
- Planting and growing new missional churches



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Four workstreams help focus our work to grow **God's Kingdom** and ensure a **flourishing and well-resourced parish structure**.

All are seen through the lens of **growing safe and healthy cultures**, because if we are truly seeking God's Kingdom, then we must reflect its values of righteousness, peace, wholeness, and fullness of life for all.



BE PART OF IT

The vision stands on the shoulders of a generation of previous post-war pilgrims of the Diocese of Rochester who, also at a great moment of societal change, upheaval and challenge, had a steadfast belief that through their combined endeavour, generosity, and faith, they could grow the Church and God's kingdom.

This is what we are being called to - let's make it happen!



Dear God, Fill us with courage and vision to carry your light into new places, meeting people where they are, and sharing the life-changing truth of your gospel. Bless these communities with strong and Spirit-filled leaders, faithful disciples, and hearts ablaze with love for you. May our churches and communities become vibrant and healthy expressions of your Kingdom—places where your Word is proclaimed, lives are transformed, and communities are renewed. Guide us, Lord, and remind us always that you are with us, empowering our every step, even to the end of the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

stjohn's welling

transforming life through Jesus Christ

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