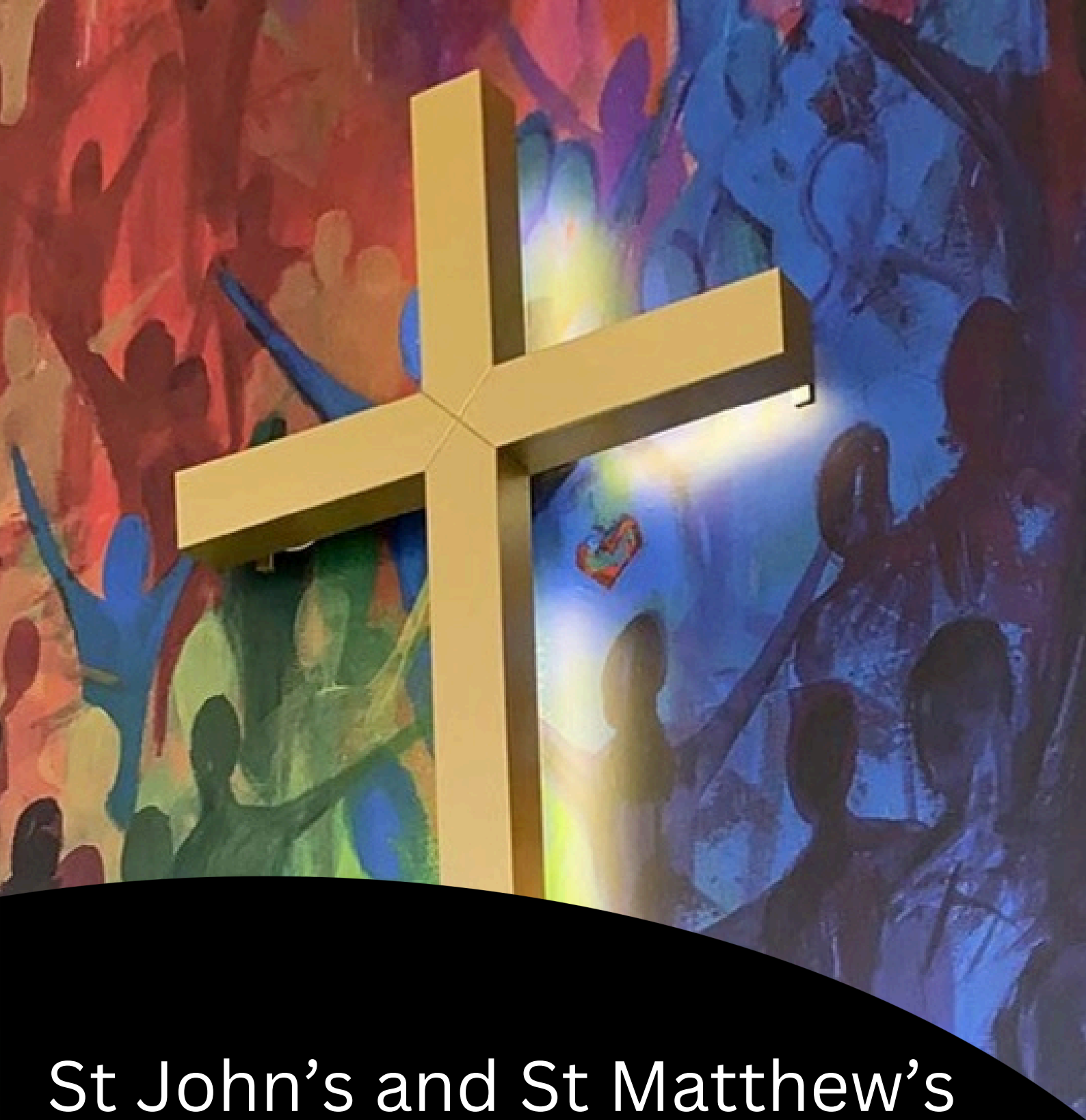




St John's and St Matthew's Church, South Hornchurch

Parish Profile 2026



St. John's
& St. Matthew's, Sth Hornchurch

Who are we?

St John's is a vibrant Anglican church rooted in scripture, Holy Spirit ministry and loving as Jesus did. We are as passionate about sharing the love, truth and peace of Jesus in our community as we are about worshipping God together on a Sunday.

Aided by our modern and contemporary buildings built in 1957, we are able to be, first and foremost, a Christian community following Jesus' heart for the isolated, the lonely, the struggling and the forgotten.

There are 71 people on the 2025 electoral role, with an average attendance at our 10.30am Sunday service of 40 people, 7 of whom are under 16.

We are also blessed by five other Christian groups using St John's for their worship services, two every week and three on an ad-hoc basis. In all, there are approximately 200 people who would call St John's their spiritual home.

St John's appetite for the word and spirit of God has grown enormously in the last few years with a commitment to show the love of God through community and social action. We belong to the New Wine network, regularly attending their annual summer festival and leadership network events.

Our Vision

To continue being a place of community, love, compassion and provision for those who typically do not experience these things in their lives, particularly those suffering from addiction. To carry the saving message of Jesus Christ to every person in the parish, leaving no one behind





The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

Welcome from the Bishop



Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse dioceses in the Church of England. We are home to more than 3 million people representing many socio-economic, ethnic and faith groups and a fantastic variety of cultures and traditions.

We have enormous opportunities for mission and service and considerable challenges to face and resolve as we continue to deal with the local, national and global challenges that have a direct impact on our parish churches, schools, chaplaincies and the communities we serve.

It is within this context and following a period of listening and discernment that started when I became Bishop of Chelmsford in 2021, that we set out a future direction of travel as a Diocese with a focus on travelling well together:

- Our purpose is to love God and to love our neighbour; to worship faithfully and empowered by the Holy Spirit, witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ as we
- serve the extraordinarily diverse array of local communities in Essex and East London.
- Our approach is to enable and empower parishes and worshipping communities to discern how they are to be God's people in their own very different local contexts and as part of one diocesan family.
- Underpinning our approach is an invitation to a way of being articulated by shared diocesan values which might shape how we travel together, support each other and provide mutual accountability.

Since I became Bishop of Chelmsford, I have witnessed people's great warmth and I have seen first-hand, the wonderful things going on in our parishes and schools. Any new priest joining us in the Diocese of Chelmsford does so at a time of challenge, a time of change and most significantly a time of hope for our Church in this most diverse and vibrant of dioceses.

Bishop Guli

Bishop of Chelmsford



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

Welcome from the Archdeacon



Thank you for taking the time to explore the possibility of coming to join the community at **St John and St Matthew's**, as their Vicar. The Church has worked to put together this profile which offers an insight into their ministry and the broader context within which they serve and how they see their new Vicar making an important contribution to their on-going development and mission. I hope that you will find this Parish Profile helpful in your discernment and prayers.

Please be assured of my prayers, and the prayers of the community at St John's, as you reflect on the possibility of this ministry. If you would welcome an informal telephone conversation with me to explore further any aspect of this role please contact Julie Nagle, my PA, and she will be very happy to find time for a chat.

I am aware that the discernment process can be an exciting and unsettling experience. Thank you for considering this possible ministry and I look forward to hearing from you if you would like to explore this further.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

Chris Burke

Archdeacon of Barking



Welcome from the Patron CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society)

Thank you for taking the time to explore this Parish Profile. At CPAS, we believe that times of transition offer a valuable opportunity for both churches and clergy to discern God's calling afresh. We hope these pages will give you a sense of the life, ministry and mission of this parish, the community it serves, and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

St John's and St Matthew's provides a wonderful opportunity for someone with vision, enthusiasm and a passionate heart to reach out into the community to help transform lives and make a difference.

At CPAS, our purpose is to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ through the ministry of local churches. Everything we do flows from that calling, and from a longing to see churches and leaders equipped for mission and evangelism, serving their communities with faith, hope and confidence.

We have four prayerful aspirations that continue to inspire and focus our work: that every church is a pathway to faith, every leader a catalyst for evangelism, every Christian a courageous witness, and every child has the chance to explore Jesus. As well as our patronage work with 700 churches around the country, we offer training, resourcing and support to leaders for mission and evangelism, and offer help for ministry amongst children and young people, in schools and through our residential Venture and Falcon holidays.

As you read on, we encourage you to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to join this church in the next chapter of its journey. The parish is seeking a leader who recognises the challenges and is excited about the opportunities for mission and growing the church. We pray that this profile will help you discern whether your gifts, experience and sense of calling align with the vision and aspirations of this church.

Be assured of our prayers for you as you discern God's calling.

The CPAS Patronage Team

Welcome from the Church Wardens



I have been working in the Rainham area as a barber from my own shop for 30 years and attending St John's Church for 25 of those years.

I had a God given vision 8 years ago to transfer my business from the shop to a mobile barber van in St John's Church car park, and this came to fruition 6 years ago.

I view St John's as my spiritual home and having my barber business in the car park has only strengthened my connection here with God providing hundreds of faith encounter conversations with client's passing through the barber chair.

I was asked to become church warden 5 years ago which seemed to be part of a calling with me and the barber van already being at St John's 3 days a week. It felt right to take on the responsibility of a church warden and I really look forward to working with whoever feels called to lead St John's.



Luke Leadbitter
Church Warden

I have been part of St. John's for nearly seven years and I very much enjoy being part of this church. I can really feel the love and caring nature of God amongst the people here . For the past six years I have assisted Luke and our previous Vicar in all manor of tasks around the Church. When the position became available, I was asked to become a Church Warden. It is my pleasure to continue to support our new vicar, helping out practically where needed.



Paul Lawrence
Church Warden

Our Services, Ministries and partnerships

Our Services

We have an informal worship service on a Sunday starting with refreshments and conversation from 10.30am followed by the start of the service at 10.45am.

All sung worship is contemporary with lyrics shown on the large LED screens and music through our modern sound system.

The leading of our services and Bible teaching is lay led, and we are affirming of both men and women in all ministry roles. The robing of clergy has always been discretionary.

Time is always given over for corporate prayer and personal testimony, with a constant desire to provide room for responding to the Holy Spirit. The offer of personal prayer with one of our team is made available at any point throughout your visit to St John's on a Sunday morning.

Young children are always very welcome at St John's and all ages currently stay in our service. There is also a designated area at the back of the church for them to use if they wish.

In 2025 we were blessed with 19 baptisms across all age groups, 2 weddings and 1 funeral. It's typical for our adult baptisms to be 'full immersion' using our large baptismal pool that is erected for the occasion.



Our Ministries

- **Men's Ministry Group 'MFJ: Men following Jesus** – fellowship, teaching and prayer every Tuesday. 'MFJ' welcomes all who wish to grow their faith within a community of people some of whom have been a Christian for years, others a short time, and some who are 'just looking'. Simon says "it's such a great opportunity to meet up with guys who are interested in faith, who ask questions and share life with them"
- **Women's Bible group** – meeting each Thursday to pray and learn more from the Bible. Regular attendee Ann says "As a new member I felt instantly welcomed and accepted into the Women's Bible Group. And Amy says "Meeting together is a lovely part of my week. It's a place where we can share our lives and our faith, and encourage one another"
- **Wild Goose Cafe** – a place to meet friends and make new ones over free tea, coffee and cake. All taking place in our small hall with access to an outside seating area during the summer months – Every Tuesday. Feedback from visitors: "I get friendship and support from others." – "People look out for each other." – "(It's) important for places like this to be available." – "(There's) no pressure to pay for food"
- Our **night shelter** is provided in partnership with local charity Ahava Community. It provides a hot meal and an overnight bed for homeless individuals in our community and beyond using both our small and large halls every Thursday evening/night. Chris, one of our regular volunteers says "I thoroughly enjoy my Thursday nights, I enjoy everyone's company and putting them at their ease. They need all the help and all the joy you can give them"
- **The Recovery Course** – An Alpha style course following the AA 12 step program that is made up from referrals from both the AA and CA groups taking place at the Church
- **Alpha Course** – An annual invitation to explore the Christian faith.



Our Partnerships

There are currently five Christian worship communities using our church building for their worship services. Two every week and three on a more ad-hoc basis;

- **East London SDA community church** (once a week, predominately Pakistani)
- **International Methodist Church** (Brazilian/Portuguese speaking)
- **Indian Orthodox Church** (two worship communities meeting occasionally)
- **South Indian Anglican Church** (meeting occasionally)

Other weekly groups & activities include;

- **Cocaine Anonymous (CA)** and **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Meet in our small hall each Monday and Tuesday respectively
- **Rainham Food bank** – working with the Trussell Trust in combating poverty and hunger in our area
- **St John's Pre School** – est. in 1981 and located in our main church hall during term times
- **Dignity Freedom Network** – As well as focusing on our own community, St John's partners with DFN, to also share our heart for the poor, and marginalised across South Asia
- **Car Park Barber** – Our local barber and church warden offering his services from his mobile van.



■ **THE**
■ **RECOVERY**
■ **COURSE**



Where is God leading us ?

What are St John's strengths?

Under our previous leadership, St John's has grown into a community of God fearing people showing a heartfelt desire and ability to reach out to those who are both searching for more in life or struggling with less than they need. We're a small church with a big heart for reaching people groups who need to receive the saving message of Jesus. Our strength is found in being a highly relational and collaborative group of Christians who will support you with anything and everything that seeks to reach people with the gospel of Jesus.

Where are the opportunities?

The key opportunity is to come alongside a group of believers whose sole focus is to support you in sharing the love and truth of the gospel. In addition, there remains a huge opportunity to continue building a strong relationship with a recently established connection with a **local schools** group. In particular, the local secondary school and the young families involved with it.

We also continue to offer tangible support and respite to those struggling with **homelessness and/or addiction** through the relationship we have with the local AA/CA groups that meet at the church (some of whom have given their lives to Jesus) and our **night shelter** providing a hot meal and a bed at the church one night a week. Tangible support we feel strongly about maintaining and developing.

We also have a strong emphasis on supporting the spiritual growth and development of the **community of believers** here, both those who attend services on a Sunday morning and those meeting throughout the week. There is a real desire for learning how we can trust God more in living our lives with and for Him through the Holy Spirit's power and guidance.

Our two modern and equipped halls are used extensively by the church and hired by the local community and we have appointed a part time manager/caretaker to assist with those using the church and the halls throughout the week.

Where are the challenges?

Worship – StJohn's has not had a live worship band for some time. Our worship has not been stifled as a result and can only mature with a form of live worship.

Families – There are currently 7 or so younger children who are part of our congregation and whilst they have always been included in our services the desire to build on this Sunday morning group via the schools connection remains a priority if they are to develop and grow in their faith and feel a sense of community around them.

Who will lead St John's?

We all know there can be a huge expectation on the ordained minister to be gifted in all things, to all people, at all times. We do not have that expectation!

More than anything else we are praying for someone who shows a deep **love for Jesus**, a **passionate heart** for the isolated, the lonely, and the struggling, and a strong **desire to serve**. Someone with a desire to include the **Holy Spirit** in everything, a personal **commitment to prayer**, and an equally strong desire to encourage all of these things in others.

We would consider ourselves truly blessed however if that same person was also able to demonstrate **abilities** and **skills** in the following;

- The ability to create, develop and empower a community of believers to constantly seek spiritual formation rooted in deep scriptural discipleship and a hunger for the Holy Spirit
- Someone with the skill and ability to continue prioritising provision for children, youth and families
- A strategic thinker and leader, with experience in inspiring, raising up and developing others into the positions of leadership and oversight needed to develop the opportunities highlighted
- Able to evidence experience in proactive and successful relationship building and conflict management
- Able to evidence experience and involvement in inspiring and encouraging proactive evangelism in the wider community.

Our commitment to you

A healthy church culture that is welcoming, spirit led and prayerful, with collaborative lay involvement that has always been free from unnecessary conflict.

A culture that sees you as a person first, not just leading us but belonging among us in a place where your own time and spiritual growth is respected and your family can flourish (the Parish is surrounded by a substantial number of very well regarded and academically strong primary and secondary schools).

You can also expect a very 'present' PCC, ministry team and congregation that partners with you on the new ideas you bring as well as coming alongside you in tackling any challenges.

Our Church Team

Clergy & Staff

The vacant position of vicar is currently the only ordained minister position at St John's. All services, preaching and ministry is lay led.

We currently employ one amazing administrator working three days a week who (in conjunction with our treasurer) manages all our finances, hall bookings and church enquiries. As mentioned previously, we have also now appointed a part time caretaker to assist with the practical oversight of church activities during the week and all the organisations hiring the halls.

Wider ministry team

We are greatly blessed with lay/volunteer leaders in;

- Worship provision
- Pastoral Prayer
- Support and guidance for those living in recovery from addiction
- Evangelism
- Mens & Womens pastoral groups
- Welcoming newcomers
- Sound, tech and media provision



Parochial Church Council (PCC)

There are currently eight members serving on our PCC, including our safeguarding officer, treasurer and two church wardens. We also are committed to our local 'Churches Together' group working with the churches in our area in supporting and caring for the people of the parish through the love and life of Jesus.

Safeguarding

At St John's, safeguarding is central to the life of our church and reflects our vision and commitment to the Gospel. We're committed to fostering an environment and culture where everyone—especially children, young people and vulnerable adults—feels safe and can flourish. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer works closely with the churchwardens and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. The PCC has adopted the 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy, and safeguarding is the first agenda item at every meeting. All relevant roles follow Safer Recruitment procedures and require an active Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, alongside appropriate training renewed every three years. Our website links to our safeguarding policy, and a dedicated safeguarding noticeboard is displayed in the foyer. We are working towards level three on the Parish Dashboard and review our policies and procedures annually.

We expect our new vicar to work collaboratively with our Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC to strengthen a culture of appropriate pastoral care always informed by our safeguarding guidelines. We're committed to this being at the heart of all we do, ensuring all those requiring help through any challenging issues they have, or continue to experience, feel safe and cared for.

Our Ministry Team



Sharon Evangeli

Administrator



Jim Morton

Treasurer



Jane Bradley

Recovery Co Lead



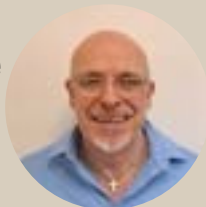
Joe Cox

RecoveryCoLead



Rowena Lawrence

Prayer lead



Luke Leadbitter

MensCoLead &
Evangelism



James Stuart

Sound/tech & media
lead



Jenny Byrne

Safeguarding Officer



Glenda Morton

Welcome



Simon Picknell

Mens Co Lead

Our Church Buildings

In addition to the large worship area with its own newly refurbished small kitchen for refreshments, we are also blessed with one large community hall containing our main, full catering kitchen, also recently refurbished. The large hall can easily be divided into separate halls.

Large Hall

Home to the Pre-school during school term time, our homeless shelter/food provision every Thursday night and various other church activities and hires. This hall enjoys two entrance options that are entirely separate to the church entrance.

Small Hall

Created by way of a robust sliding wall, this hall is home to our **Wild Goose cafe** on a Tuesday morning/lunchtime, CA and AA every Monday & Tuesday evening, and various smaller church group activities and hires.

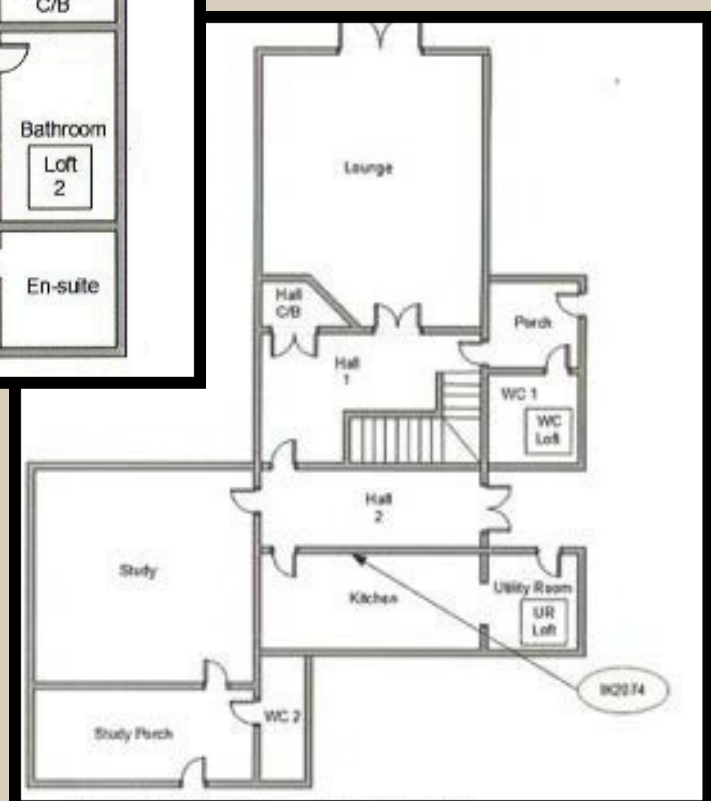
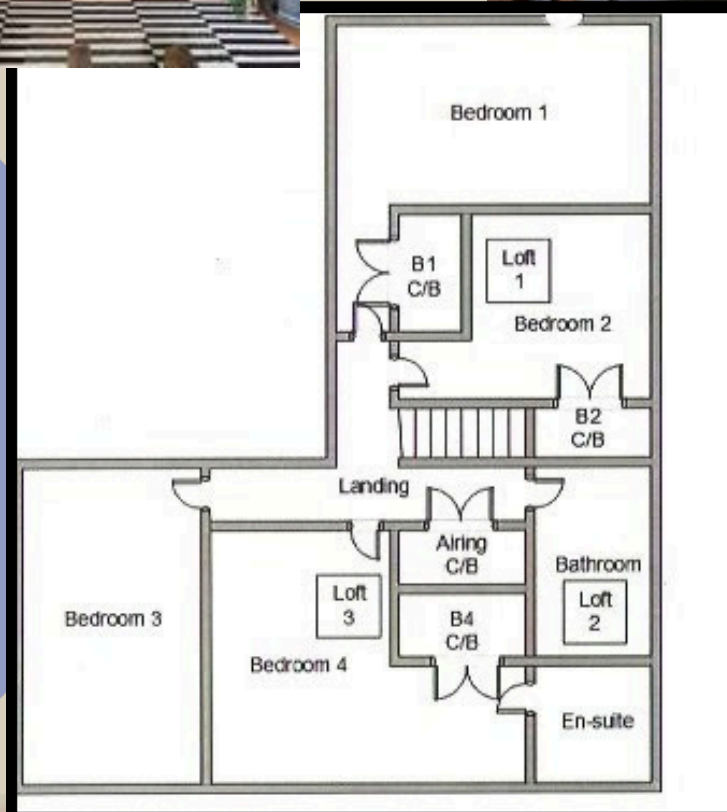
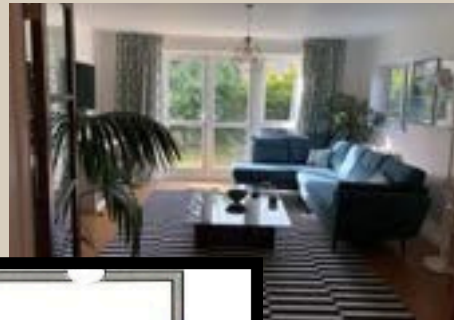
Car Park

We have a large car park at the front of the Church building with a separate entrance and exit which can park up to 20 cars.



The Vicarage

- Attached to the church with direct access to/from the house
- 4 large Bedrooms, one en-suite
- A study/office accessed from both the church and the house
- A modern kitchen
- A large, well kept garden
- A large garage with space for another car on the drive
- Fully insulated and double glazed with full gas central heating



The Finances

The worshipping community at St John's continue to be generous with their giving most of which is given by way of standing order.

Further income is generated from the hire of both our large and small halls including the pre-school, dance school and numerous community groups.

Our parish share has been paid to the Diocese of Chelmsford for the 6th consecutive year and we continue to support our charitable and social action partners in both the UK and overseas.

We hold good cash balances, ably overseen by our treasurer, maintaining our reserve policy of the equivalent of two months general running costs, one months administrator salary and a small building maintenance contingency. A total reserve of £25,000. Our last buildings quinquennial was satisfactorily completed in 2025.

A brief summary of our income and expenditure for 2025 is shown opposite and a full copy of the Church audited accounts can be made available on request or viewed on the charity commission website.

INCOME	2025
Donations/Legacies	1,010
Tax Recovered	11,032
Church Giving	40,924
Hall Hires/Church Income	65,386
Other	681
Total	119,033
EXPENDITURE	
Parish Share	47,149
Charitable Activities	3,345
Salary	11,440
Property/ Church expense	37,548
Total	99,482
NET SURPLUS	19,551

