

# St John's Church

Southall



## Parish Profile

October 2024

[www.stjohnsouthall.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsouthall.org.uk)

**...AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS A GREAT MULTITUDE  
THAT NO ONE  
COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE  
AND LANGUAGE,  
STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE  
LAMB.'**

*Revelation 7:9*



# A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP



*Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy*  
*Bishop of Willesden*

Thank you for your interest in the role of Vicar of St John's, Southall Green in the Diocese of London. This is a vibrant church with a deep commitment to foster an intercultural vision, where all are invited to experience and share the love of Christ across the rich tapestry of life in this culturally and religiously diverse corner of London. You will see all of that depth and variety reflected in the parish profile. Building on this, we are seeking to appoint someone who will lead and encourage the worshipping community as it discerns and lives the vision for the next chapter. We are praying for a wise and imaginative priest, who will work in collaboration with others, developing and sustaining a healthy culture where leadership is shared and accountable. I am delighted that you are exploring the possibility of applying for this role and I want you to know that there are many of us here in the Willesden Episcopal Area who are praying for those seeking to discern God's calling for St John's.

As a Diocese, London has an audacious and ambitious vision to see every Londoner able to encounter the love of God in Christ. To serve this vision, we have committed ourselves to be churches that engender leadership that will nurture people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith among those with whom they do life Sunday to Saturday. We want to foster the emergence of a church that is visibly and meaningfully loving her neighbours. We wish to see a church landscape of ever-increasing varied configuration with new worshipping communities emerging in new and different ways alongside inherited ministry within parishes. We also hold to the aspiration of building church communities that will reflect the rich diversity of our city, welcoming all people across ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritages, and safe places where we enable younger generations to flourish alongside others. As a Resource church, St John's sits very much at the heart of this aspiration.

As an Episcopal Area we aspire to enable innovative expressions of ministry, actively partnering with our schools, chaplaincies and Fresh Expressions of Church. It has been encouraging to explore and develop new opportunities for the resourcing and revitalisation of mission and ministry across the Area. Here in the Willesden Episcopal Area, we have been blessed with a rich diversity in theological and liturgical traditions. These have come with some remarkable examples of partnership and mutual support in mission and ministry across church traditions. As you discern whether you are called to minister in Willesden, you will need a healthy dose of enthusiasm about being part of this fluid landscape.

# A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

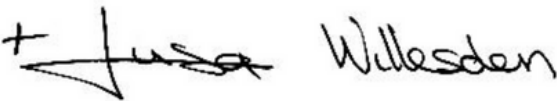
*Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy*  
*Bishop of Willesden*

Inevitably, there is an element of challenge to this venture, including the need to develop and release more capacity and establish stronger bonds across the rich mosaic of life experiences across Southall. We are trusting God's calling and are committed to the emerging vision of hope expressed by many at St John's.

For the right candidate, there is the possibility that I will also invite them to take on additional responsibility across the Episcopal Area. This is part of our commitment to better resource our shared mission and ministry, and release particular gifts brought by those God sends to us in Willesden.

If this is something that you find exciting and daunting, then perhaps God is calling you to this role. Please keep reading, and if you need more insight into this parish and the Episcopal Area, do get in touch for an informal chat

Yours in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy" followed by "Willesden". The signature is stylized with a large initial 'L' and a cross-like mark at the start.

Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy  
Bishop of Willesden

# Table of Contents



<b>1</b>	Introducing St John's	06
<b>2</b>	Our Church	09
<b>3</b>	The New Vicar	15
<b>4</b>	Church Buildings & Community Complex	17
<b>5</b>	Children & Youth	19
<b>6</b>	Resource Church in the Willesden Episcopal Area	22
<b>7</b>	Ministry, Mission & Discipleship	24
<b>8</b>	Southall & our Wider Community	27
<b>9</b>	The Vicarage & Curate Accommodation	31
<b>10</b>	Appendix	34
<b>11</b>	Contact us	35





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**Walking through these doors opened up a whole new world. Finding myself, exploring fellowship, scripture, unconditional love through the ups and downs, ask my endless questions and grapple with the Word. It's been the most worthy roller coaster ride. If there's ever a 'wardrobe door' you need to walk through, this is the one.**

”

Tina

# INTRODUCING

## St John's Church

The vision for St. John's as an Intercultural Resource Church at the heart of the Transforming Southall and Hounslow Mission Area is founded on our understanding of **Revelations 7:9**.

We are seeking a Vicar who will lead us in our call to follow Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations and peoples and to **embody** the Revelation vision.



As we step into the next chapter of St. John's, we warmly invite you to join us on this transformative journey to become the **intercultural** church we believe God has called us to be. Together, we aspire to be a community where everyone is welcomed, valued, and empowered.

Life in **Southall** is vibrant and dynamic. We are a bustling area with a rich cultural tapestry and a historic sense of community. Southall is a multi-religious area with strong Sikh, Hindu and Muslim faith groups as well as growing churches which are predominantly South Asian in membership. Southall is a place of commerce and culture with a history of anti-racism and protest.



"In this place I feel acceptance, love and community. It's where I find strength, support, and a sense of belonging, surrounded by people who genuinely care."



"St John's is a little taste of heaven, being able to worship together, with sisters and brothers from many nations, and to journey with Jesus together"









# OUR CHURCH

## St John's



**We love** that our church represents the **multiethnic community** that we live in, as expressed in diverse preachers and perspectives, and in the ways that we have been exploring intercultural worship.

### **Get to know our St John's community**

There is a strong South Asian, African and Caribbean heritage in Southall, reflected in our church family at St John's. We believe diversity reflects God's kingdom and we are committed to being part of a wider global community. Our church membership and attendance is strong, and several hundred more people feel part of St John's and travel to attend our seasonal and celebratory events.



St John's has a long and distinguished history of championing diversity in worship, placing a strong emphasis on community, fellowship and intergenerational relationship. We have a growing number of young families.

We believe there is a real opportunity for St John's to build on this foundation to find imaginative and meaningful ways to bring the love of Jesus and his kingdom, extending our reach beyond Southall.





# MISSION **GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST**

## **Multi-ethnic and Intercultural Church**

We are committed to be interculturally driven in all areas of our life together; especially in our leadership, worship and fellowship.

## **Renewal of our spiritual life**

We are committed to developing and expanding our worship, prayer, pastoral care and discipleship.

## **Empower the next generation**

We have a special responsibility to empower children and young people from all backgrounds to be active members and leaders of the church.

## **Outreach to our community and beyond**

We are called to be present and engaged in mission in the wider community of Southall, our workplaces, the natural environment and in God's world.

## **Resourcing mission**

We are called to be a resource church equipping the local and national church in multi-religious and multi-ethnic contexts, especially through the King's Centre.



# Celebrating the Joy of Our Faith through Musical Worship



**We love** our continuing focus on a variety of **worship** styles (including the contemplative as much as the exuberant), and more intercultural events and worship.

Intercultural **musical** worship is an integral part of life at St John's, and we are keen to see this area develop further. Our style is **contemporary**, with an all-age worship group playing guitar, keyboard, bass and drums. We sing a range of modern and traditional songs.

We embrace music and song in multiple **languages**, reflecting our diverse backgrounds and unified by our faith. Embracing the rich heritage of our Asian communities we also use tabla, Indian harmonium (or baja) and sometimes, sitar. We sing songs in Hindi and Farsi with an English translation.



# ST JOHN'S

*a warm welcome & open to All*

**We love** that our church offers inclusive fellowship with fantastic food and **hospitality** (breakfasts, and refreshments after a service).

We want to continue to strengthen relationships through more social activities. We are a welcoming and open church community that is accessible for all, especially the differently abled and those with additional needs. We want each and everyone to know how much they are loved and valued.



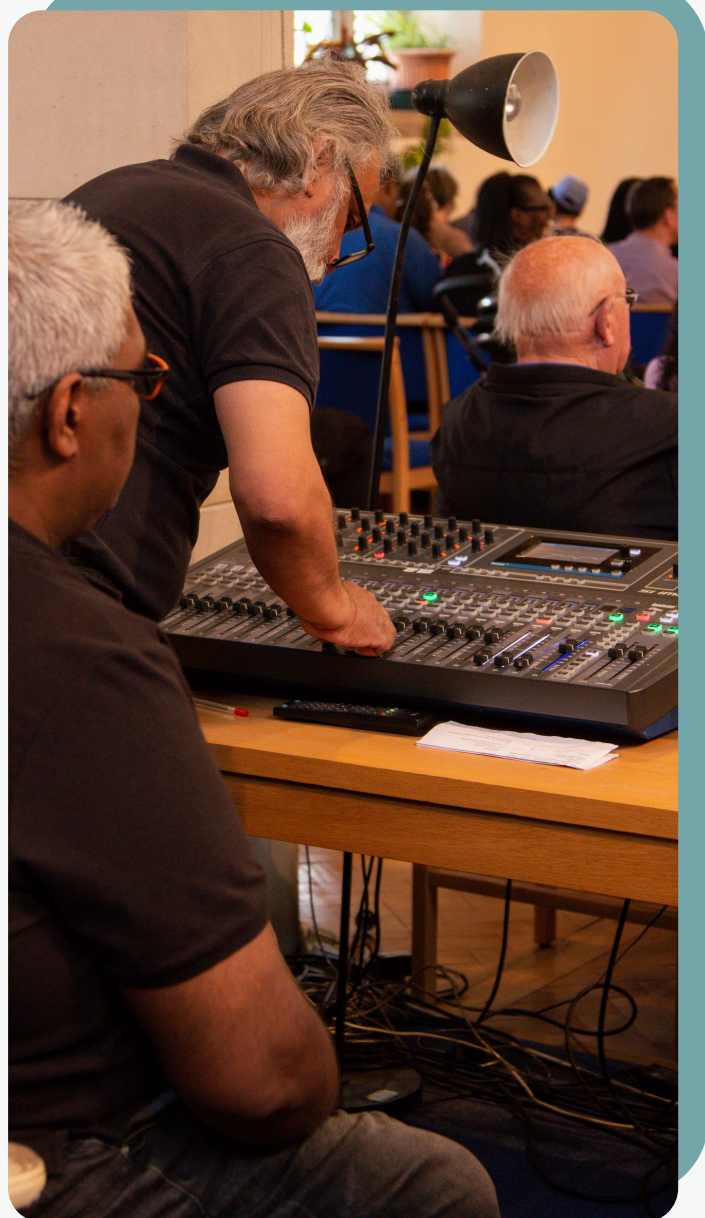


Our commitment to inclusion offers safe spaces, with a creche for under 3s, and more recently, for children with special educational needs or disability (SEN/D).

We have multiple, committed operational teams of people with a broad range of expertise and skills who work collectively behind the scenes to ensure the seamless delivery of our different ministries and services:

- AV Tech Team
- Media
- Worship Group
- Welcome Team
- Service Managers
- Hospitality
- Seasonal Decoration Team
- Children's and Young People Ministry
- Pastoral Outreach
- Prayer Team

For our services, we project the order of service, hymns, liturgy, and worship lyrics on screens, supported by a dedicated audio-visual and technical team.





# THE NEW *Vicar*

We love that we feel energised and excited as we look forward to welcoming a new vicar who will open the next chapter in the story of St John's growth.

We are hoping to find somebody who can offer strong leadership, with the ability to inspire and encourage us on our collective faith journey as a community.



# WE ARE SEEKING A LEADER

1. Who has the strategic **vision** to develop a strong core base at St John's of operational and ministry teams.
2. With strong **leadership** skills and experience in **building** teams of clergy and lay leaders to grow a family of churches and congregations in Southall.
3. Has exceptional **communication** and interpersonal skills, and an ability to prioritise pastoral care of the congregation. Capable of effectively articulating St John's mission and vision as an Intercultural Resource Church. They will help foster strong relationships across Southall and a cohesive community, creating a sense of unity and shared purpose.
4. Who can offer biblical **teaching and training** which connects to a diverse intergenerational church community – a gifted preacher, firmly rooted in God's word, open to the work of the Holy Spirit and can explain what the Bible teaches
5. Who inspires others through their faith in Jesus Christ and will explore ways to further nurture and deepen **intercultural** worship, witness, fellowship, and community within the life of the church.
6. Who will oversee the equipping of **disciples** from all backgrounds through the training, equipping and encouraging of both ordained and lay leaders, some of whom will lead new congregations and plants
7. Who can develop our vision for **community** engagement and ministry, to develop our missional activities, using more opportunities to create links to the wider community and spread God's kingdom. To work together to develop our vision to become an intercultural resourcing church for Southall.



# Church Buildings & Community Complex



**We love** that our church is committed to **climate change** and seeking to protect God's gift of our green world and is working towards Gold by making a bold commitment to sustainability.

The church is well located in the local community, both geographically and relationally, with a strong local presence, and trusted by faith and civic leaders.

Completed in 1909, the church building is a hidden **gem** with a beautifully reordered interior. It is a welcoming and flexible space for worship services and community events. The St John's Church Centre is popular as a **community space**, widely used for commercial and private hires as well as to our core midweek church ministries.



A commitment to climate change is demonstrated by our long term support and links to our mission partners, A Rocha, part of a global family of conservation organisations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and to equip others to do likewise. St John's is aspiring to achieve a silver award as part of the **Eco-Church** scheme nationally organised by A Rocha UK.

Just around the corner on King Street, St John's also owns an old chapel building, and a former home of St John's. Closed pending significant renovations, we hope to restore St John's Old Church as a state-of-the-art Christian run **youth centre** and community ministry hub.







## Children & Youth

**We love** that our church has always had a strong emphasis on young people and children and is committed to deepening this further. We want to continue **to invest** in our youth, to grow new leaders and to further explore how that might be expressed through a youth congregation, worship, discipleship and leadership.

At St. John's, our mission is to see our children and young people become committed disciples of Jesus Christ.





**Children's Ministry (Ages 3-11):** Our Sunday morning sessions welcome children aged 3-11, offering a variety of activities with arts and crafts, games, stories, and videos. We prioritise safeguarding and our sessions are designed to be accessible and inclusive, with resources and equipment for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEN/D).

**Youth Ministry (Ages 11-16):** Our Sunday morning sessions for 11-16-year-olds are active and engaging. Many of our young people participate in the Youth Worship Group, with all age, youth-led services, and we have a strong team of volunteer helpers.

We aim to grow and strengthen further our Children and Youth Ministry and are currently looking to appoint a full-time youth worker to support our Friday Night youth sessions.

**Crèche (Under 3):** St. John's offers a crèche for children under 3, where they can play with toys and games during the service. Parents and carers can still hear the service while looking after their children.





#### Mid-Week Groups:

- **Little Angels Toddler Group:** Held every Thursday morning during term time, this group is for children aged 0-3 and their parents/carers. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect and build friendships while enjoying toys, crafts, snacks, stories, and songs. The group attracts around 30 families per week.
- **Bumps and Babies:** Held on Thursday afternoons during term time, this session offers valuable health and baby care advice for expecting parents and those with newborns in a relaxing environment.
- **Messy Church:** Regularly hosted, Messy Church provides activities for primary school-aged children and fun for all families. Run by volunteers, it attracts around 80-100 children and their families, sharing the good news of Jesus.

These mid-week groups collectively strengthen our sense of community and engage with children and families within Southall and creates a space for the community to engage with the life and faith of our church.



# RESOURCE CHURCH IN THE WILLESDEN EPISCOPAL AREA

**We love** that we are a resource church working at the heart of the **Transforming** Southall and Hounslow and Southall Mission Area of thirteen parishes.

St John's is designated as a **Resource Church** in the Episcopal Area of Willesden, due to its long history of training and equipping of church leaders through the work of our training arm, **the Kings Centre Southall**, and as a centre for mission and ministry within Southall.

We are the strategic hub within the Bishop's Mission Order serving Southall and Hounslow and the recipients of a £2.7 million Strategic Development Fund award for the planting of fifteen new congregations over five years (2022-2027), with the training and equipping of sixty lay leaders and the discipleship of our churches to be both missional and to be quantifiably impactful in social enterprise, youth ministry and environmentally.









# Ministry, Mission & Discipleship



**We love** that our church has a long history and a wide range of **outreach** in the local community.

Throughout the week we support different ministries for women whose first language is not English, children and young people, and senior citizens.

The church has a rich history in offering a wide range of outreach in the local community. The **English classes** for women have been running for over 30 years and continue to attract 30-50 women from outside the church who are looking for a safe space to learn English.

Complementing this is our **Women's Ministry**, which offers dedicated support, empowers women and affirms and encourages the leadership of women to all levels of the Church locally and nationally.

The church's ministry amongst **young families** over many years has engaged a large fringe of families from outside the church, which gives an opportunity to build relationships and share God's love in a relaxed and joyful way.



The church hosts a weekly **coffee morning** and an **over 60s** club, both of which draw in older church members as well as those from the wider community.



We can see opportunities for closer connections between the outreach and service ministries for the community and the worshipping life of the church. We have recently started a **Prayer-in-the-shops ministry**, and are connected to the local food bank and homeless ministries, run across multiple local churches. We would love to see the gospel continuing to be shared through these different ministries, and closer connections developed between the outreach into the community and the worshipping life of the church.

We host **The Table**, a weekly meal-based discipleship space for those coming from other faith backgrounds to explore more about Jesus and develop a greater understanding of what it means to be a Christian. We are keen to keep exploring new ways how God's love can be shared with the wider communities through these different ministries.



# Discipleship

**We love** that our church has grown leaders and sent several to ordained **ministry training** over the last few years.

The church has hosted homegroups, small groups in church and often held Alpha courses over Lent, but we are seeking an additional focus on discipleship, for example by renewing our approach to small groups, encouraging prayer and fellowship mid-week, and by hosting more faith-based courses.











# **SOUTHALL** *and our Wider Community*

**We love** the urban surroundings of Southall, the buzz of Old Southall and Broadway, the smell of spice and the infectious noise of **community** life.

## **The Vibe**

Southall is a vibrant suburb in **West London**, known for its ethnic and religious diversity, expressed through shops, restaurants and places of worship that represent its mixed community. Historically, Southall is known for its very large South Asian community with communities from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, alongside those from Somalia, Kenya and the Caribbean.

Southall and its people are a complex mix of paradoxes, with extreme wealth on display during Indian wedding baraats, and devotional generosity with food and water donated to all throughout Vaisakhi; alongside extreme poverty, and neglect.



## The Place

St John's Church is based just off Kings Street, a mix of **shops, restaurants and places of worship**. The parish includes several mosques, Hindu and Sikh temples.

Many residents in our community live in older houses of varying quality, often shared by multiple families or generations. **Housing** remains a significant challenge, and we are seeing a growing number of unhoused people experiencing rough sleeping or sofa surfing.

The parish includes one high school and several primary **schools**, and the church has good relationships with all of these, with pupils regularly joining us for commemorative events such as Remembrance Day services, or Messy Church.

This rapidly changing area has also resulted in many new housing developments around the railway **station**, principally bringing new people to the community and presenting opportunities for engagement with those wishing to learn more about the Christian faith.

The influence of Southall's proximity to **Heathrow** is reflected in the network of local roads and public transport infrastructure which defines the surrounding area. Many in our community either retired from, work for or are connected to the airport.



## Voices from St John's on Racial Justice

Historically, for a generation of our older **South Asian and African Caribbean church members** newly arrived in the 1960s, Southall was a gateway to a new life, and not one that was always welcoming.

The experiences of these communities resonated deeply with the news of George Floyd's murder and the stark disparities of COVID-19 with disproportionately high deaths among Black and Asian ethnicities impacts significantly. Along with a powerful sermon on racism, these elements catalysed the establishment of our **Faith, Race, and Culture group**.

Slowly, the group shared personal and painful experiences of racism, both within and outside the church, the impact on our individual faith journeys, and looked at how these issues could be addressed within the wider church. Phase 1 of the process landed in many different ways for members of the group. For phase 2, we have decided to focus on the following actions as we await the arrival of a new Vicar:

1. Invite speakers, with a background in **racial justice** to preach regularly at St John's;
2. Framed **guidance** and criteria for service preachers and ministry leads to actively support racial justice and inclusion themes; and
3. Explore ways to further nurture **intercultural** worship, fellowship, and community within the life of the church.





UNIVERSAL  
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FRESH MEAT  
&  
POULTRY DAILY

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CAUTION



# The Vicarage & Curate Accommodation

**We love** that the St John's Vicarage will soon be a **home** again: to our new vicar and their family.

## The Vicarage

The St John's Vicarage has always been more than just brickwork and mortar and will offer the new vicar and their family a **welcoming** home as part of the St John's community. Situated at the rear of the church, this spacious home, built in 1929, is located on Church Avenue, where there is a generous amount of space for car parking.

Full of character, an elegant and generous hallway leads to several reception and office rooms, together with a cloakroom, large kitchen and separate utility space. On the upper floors, there are **five bedrooms and two bathrooms**.


Patio doors lead to a large, **secluded garden**, with ample space and secure perimeters including a gate leading to the Church Centre. This is an amazing, green and quiet space at the heart of old Southall, and is, with permission, regularly used for church BYO picnics, bbqs, PCC summer meet ups, and the occasional game of footie after a Sunday service.



## The Curacy House

Acquired in 2013, a **three-bedroom**, semi-detached property. Located nearby on Ellison Gardens, this is an asset for St John's and has been a good source of revenue, in addition to providing a home to curates and St John's mission partners over the years.



A black and white photograph of a brick wall. In the upper right, there is a dark, multi-paned lantern. In the lower center, there is a light-colored stone plaque with some text that is mostly illegible but appears to say 'IN THE CLAY OF GOD', 'MY STONE WAS Laid', 'SEPTEMBER 5th', and '1913'.

**We have the heart space to hold both pain and sadness with joy and laughter knowing that to live the Christian life is about both . The deep sadness of the Cross and deep the joy of the resurrection .**

Anita

# Appendix

## Finance

INCOME	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Giving: Regular, one-off, legacy	£170,671	£141,757	£205,889	£185,336	£309,148
Gift Aid	£28,948	£25,131	£25,291	£54,131	£24,515
Bookings & lettings	£46,321	£39,682	£59,441	£72,044	£68,215
Ministry/Mission income	£8,161	£737	£75	£2,366	£3,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>£254,101</b>	<b>£207,307</b>	<b>£290,696</b>	<b>£313,876</b>	<b>£405,449</b>
EXPENDITURE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Common Fund	£82,800	£85,200	£85,200	£85,200	£87,775
Staff	£41,556	£31,479	£38,652	£45,488	£49,944
Buildings	£46,682	£47,768	£48,706	£86,530	£62,898
Ministry & Mission	£28,710	£11,022	£14,124	£38,352	£26,700
External giving	£21,385	£20,040	£21,689	£20,328	£23,972
Running costs	£6,416	£7,721	£8,067	£11,343	£17,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>£227,549</b>	<b>£203,231</b>	<b>£216,438</b>	<b>£287,061</b>	<b>£269,007</b>
<b>PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>£26,552</b>	<b>£4,076</b>	<b>£74,258</b>	<b>£26,816</b>	<b>£136,442</b>

- Our 2024 budget of £310,409 is forecast to close with a deficit of -£37,176, due to a **major investment** in church repairs, which will be replenished by safely drawing on reserves.
- The combined **value** of all assets, without liability, was £735,958, in December 2023. This includes a curacy house, investments and a cash balance of £305,951 (of which £86,108 is for the general fund).
- St John's is supported by a PCC that is committed to ensuring financial transparency and takes very seriously its fiduciary responsibilities, with robust financial management and governance in place. In 2023 we were gifted a large Legacy by one of our Saints and we are currently in the process of deciding a fitting and appropriate use of this amazing **gift**.



# Contact Us



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