



Parish Profile

2024



Making Jesus
known - in
everything we do





Welcome!

Thank you for taking an interest in our church. St Patrick's Wallington (St Pat's) is a welcoming, evangelical church on the edge of South London. We believe that God loves each of us deeply. At the heart of who we are is our love for Jesus and we seek to follow Him and share His love with others in all that we do.

We affirm the Bible, in its entirety, as God's word without error and fully reliable. We sit joyfully under the Bible's supreme authority in all matters of life and doctrine as we encourage one another to live lives that are faithful to Jesus.

Our church family is friendly, multigenerational, and reflects the diverse community we serve. We are praying that our new vicar will be excited to partner with us in making Jesus known.



What We Believe at St Pat's

We hold to orthodox Anglican beliefs, subscribing to the Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith and the 39 Articles of Religion.

We affirm our belief in:

- the sovereignty and grace of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- the divine inspiration and authority of the whole Bible as the word of God
- the sinfulness of all human beings
- the substitutionary atoning death of the Lord Jesus as the sole means of redemption from sin and its consequences
- the justification of the sinner solely by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ crucified, risen and ascended
- the recreating, equipping, sanctifying, guiding and healing work of God the Holy Spirit
- the witness of all believers who form the Church in proclaiming the Gospel
- the expected visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ in power, judgement and glory

We value greatly being part of the Church of England and the opportunities for mission that it provides. We affirm the Bible's teaching that singleness and celibacy are to be greatly valued, and that marriage is between a man and woman. The PCC unanimously disagrees with the proposals to introduce Prayers of Love and Faith and has written to the Bishop of Southwark to explain our reasons.



Our New Vicar

We are excited about a new vicar joining us as we seek to make Jesus known. We welcome the various gifts and experience that a new vicar will bring but the following are particularly important to us:

Ministry

- an evangelical who will work to strengthen our faith through expository preaching and teaching rooted in the Bible
- committed to cultivating a culture of evangelism
- will encourage and help the family of St Pat's to become more like Jesus by developing our prayer life, discipleship and pastoral care
- will lead, grow and equip a team, of staff and volunteers, to progress these ministries

Gifts and Experience

- able to teach the Bible clearly and show the relevance of its truths to everyday life
- able to communicate clearly the good news of Jesus and passionate about reaching the lost
- proven experience in organisational and staff management and seeks to foster a culture of care and support for staff and volunteers

Character

- holds to the primacy of scripture in all matters of faith, life, worship, conduct, identity and doctrine and whose personal life bears witness to this
- loves and is deeply rooted in Christ, evidenced by a lifestyle of disciplined prayer and private Bible study
- seeks to show courageous faithfulness to the gospel
- a servant leader with humble confidence in the Lord
- approachable and compassionate



Our Support of You

We are greatly blessed and very thankful for all the people who serve at St Pat's.

We have three part-time, paid staff members: a Children and Families Minister, a Church Administrator and a Church Cleaner. A Ministry Trainee, in whom we invest by funding a theology course at Cornhill, complements our team.

Our many volunteers serve in a whole host of ministries across our activities.

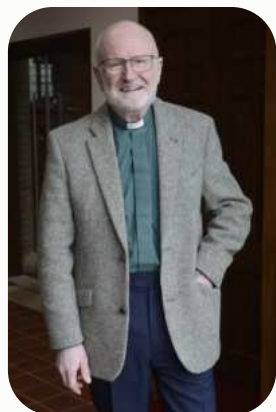
We are delighted to have recently appointed a new full-time Church Operations Manager to lead in developing teams and manage the running of the church site.



We recognise that despite this latest appointment, our current staff team is not sufficient for a church of our size. The PCC has discussed appointing an Assistant Minister to support the vicar in leading the church and we look forward to discussing possible ways forward with the successful candidate.

In addition:

- the churchwardens will meet with you regularly to provide spiritual and practical support
- we will pray for you regularly
- we fully support the diocese recommendation of regular and extra days off and will encourage you to build sabbath rest into your schedule
- we will provide you with the time and resources to attend training and a retreat every year
- a retired Anglican minister and two experienced Readers (one male, one female) can assist with preaching and leading



Sundays at St Pat's

	Timings	Typical Numbers
BCP Communion Service Quiet, reflective service.	8am 1 st & 3 rd Sundays	10-20 adults
Morning Service Relaxed and accessible service which includes sung worship led by our music group, all-age teaching, and a sermon. Children up to Year 9 leave for age appropriate groups before the sermon, returning for the final songs and blessing. A creche is available. Ten times a year, everyone worships together for the whole service; six are led by our Family Service Team. The 10.30am service is broadcast live on our YouTube channel: St Patricks Wallington – YouTube	10.30am Every Sunday Once a month we celebrate Holy Communion.	120–150 adults 30–40 under 16s
Afternoon Service Traditional service with hymns and a repeat of the 10:30am sermon.	3pm 4 th Sunday	30-40 adults
LifeTime Informal church service with contemporary sung worship, a sermon, prayer, occasional communion, and opportunities to be led by the Spirit in encouraging and praying for each other.	6pm Every Sunday <i>Excluding school summer holidays</i>	20-30 adults 5-10 young people
4:Twelve Our youth group (school years 10 – 13)	7.30 – 9pm	8-12 young people

In all our services we have lay people contributing to all aspects of the worship and dedicated teams serving by welcoming people, and in many other ways. Our young people are an invaluable asset with the visuals (morning and evening services) and the Livestream in the 10.30am service. Recent sermon series have included: Mark's Gospel, godly leadership, Joel, Ephesians, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and 1 Peter. Refreshments are served at our 10.30am, 3pm and LifeTime services.



A Week at St Pat's

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Staff and Leadership Meeting (twice monthly)	Stay and Play Play, craft, Bible story, singing and snacks for pre-schoolers and their parents / carers (weekly)	PCC Meeting (monthly) Family (all age) Service Team Meeting (monthly)
Tuesday	Staff Devotions (twice monthly) Drop In Café (weekly)	Lunch Club (weekly) SPLAT Games, Bible, sweets, fun School Years 3- 6 (twice monthly)	Small Groups (mostly weekly) Prayer Meeting for children and young people (half termly)
Wednesday	Mums/Carers Bible Study (weekly)		Small Groups (mostly weekly)
Thursday	Drop In Café (weekly)	Small Groups (mostly weekly)	Small Groups (mostly weekly)
Friday			4th Fridays Working age gathering (monthly)
Saturday	Church Prayer Meeting (half termly) Church Premises Working Party (quarterly) Café (monthly)	CAMEO Fun and friendship Often includes a speaker (monthly)	Frog and 4:Twelve Youth Socials (half termly)
Various	Rainbows/Brownies/Guides/Beavers/Cubs meet across the week. We also welcome a growing number of external hirers, not listed above.		

Discipleship and Evangelism

As we seek to make Jesus known, we recognise our call to invest in the youngest to the oldest of our church family. Whether exploring Christianity or having an established faith, our activities encourage, grow, and enable people to learn more about Jesus, and to become more like Him.

Children and Young People

Our 10.30am services begin with the whole church family together. Most Sundays, the children depart before the sermon for age-appropriate teaching in their groups and return for the final song.



The groups are Sparklers (Toddlers to Reception), Gospel Rock Juniors (school years 1-3), Gospel Rock Seniors (4-6) and Frog (7-9). All share a clear focus on learning from God's word and include a variety of games and activities.

Our older youth (4:Twelve) meet after the LifeTime service. Many of them serve in a variety of ways including AV, music group and LifeTime café.

Regular Frog and 4:Twelve youth socials are an opportunity to develop relationships within the groups and an attractive invitation for friends. The older youth attend Sorted in the autumn, and we are taking them back to the Keswick Convention this summer.



Our children love their groups. We really appreciate that they can ask questions, explore faith and build friendships in a supportive setting.

Our activities for children in the week are Stay and Play, and SPLAT (St Patrick's Loves A Tuesday). At the heart of these is a desire to point people towards Jesus Christ. We hope that the way we welcome, include, engage, and care for the children and adults we encounter will speak of our love for Jesus. We aim to be intentional in our conversations and ensure that each activity has a focused time to hear from the Bible.



Adults and Community

For those wishing to explore and ask questions about Jesus, we use resources from Christianity Explored Ministries. Our courses are usually timed to follow events attended by those who don't attend church regularly or at all.

Small Groups (involving over 100 people) meet regularly to study the Bible, pray together, and encourage each other in godly living. An annual retreat, held in January, is a peaceful opportunity to hear from God's word, take some time to reflect and pray into the coming year.

New for 2024 is 4th Fridays; a social gathering for those of working age, providing fun, support, and encouragement to church family and their friends.





Lunch Club and Cameo (Come and Meet Each Other) provide much appreciated company, with a two-course meal at Lunch Club.

Lunch Club has a growing focus on making Jesus known through monthly services and, recently, a short course, 'Hymns We Love'.

The twice weekly Drop-In café offers a warm welcome to those in our community. Some people come along to enjoy board games, live piano and conversation; others bring their laptops and enjoy the change of scene from working at home.

A monthly Saturday café includes a variety of stalls and the money raised supports overseas missionary work.

In addition, we support Sutton Food Bank through donations, and organise social events such as film, quiz and jive dancing evenings.



We take safeguarding seriously and, across all our church activities, we adhere to national safeguarding procedures under the guidance of our two Parish Safeguarding Officers. We follow Safe Church processes, including for safer recruitment for volunteers. Staff, PCC members and all volunteers complete the relevant level of safeguarding training.



Special Events

Everything we do is important because it is an opportunity for someone to get to know Jesus, but we run a variety of events that involve more planning and people:



Easter Egg Hunt

Harvest Festival

Big Brilliant Bash (alternative Halloween party)

Toy Service (with new toys donated to children's charity HomeStart)

Christingle service

Carol-Singing on the High Street

Carols by Candlelight with Christmas Community Choir

Children's Christmas Eve service with an all-age orchestra

Hope Explored and Christianity Explored courses



Whether regular or one-off, big or small scale, our hope and prayer is that the Lord will work through our efforts at making Jesus known at every event.

Church Prayer Meetings

We recognise that all we might achieve is by God's strength alone – so we believe that the church family should come together regularly, to pray. Our main gathering is the twice termly prayer breakfast with an average attendance of 30.

We meet weekly to offer prayers for healing, monthly to pray for our mission partners, and every two to three months to focus on our children and youth ministries.

Mission Near and Far

It's a privilege for us to partner with ten individuals and organisations. Our mission partners include those who work with persecuted Christians, those who provide relief and those who tell others about Jesus. We greatly value them, and we look to strengthen our relationships with them by praying for them in turn during our morning services. 10% of our income is shared out amongst our mission partners and additional donations are made on our annual Gift Day for Mission.



Our partners in South America



Our partners in Europe



It was a source of great joy that as part of our recent church centre building project, 5% of money received was sent to Open Doors as a Thanks Offering and all the toilets were twinned through the Toilet Twinning Project.

Church members on short term mission trips are supported with a designated fund helping towards the financing.



Pastoral

At St Pat's it is our hope we will be known as a caring family putting Jesus' love into action. Sundays offer opportunities for prayer and conversation. We offer prayer ministry at some services and Home Communion is taken out to those who are unable to attend in person. In an emergency, our Prayer Chain enables a team of people to pray at short notice.

Our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator draws together a team of people for services such as hospital visits and bereavement support. In addition, much of the midweek pastoral support goes on behind the scenes – the staff team, dedicated individuals and church groups demonstrate the love of Jesus in spiritual and practical ways. To help equip our church family in pastoral matters we have organised awareness sessions in dementia, and inclusivity of those with disabilities. Future training will include loss and bereavement, and mental health awareness.



I am overwhelmed by the acceptance of the application [to the Compassion Fund]... It is an enormous help, thank you so much.

I actually have no words at the moment except for thank you so, so very much, ... right now I am just so, so grateful and speechless. Thank you so much, you have no idea just how much this means!

COVID was the catalyst for St Pat's to set up two new initiatives: the Buddy Scheme supporting those who are housebound and the Compassion Fund which helps those within the church family suffering financial hardship. More details about the fund can be found here: [Compassion Fund](#).

Church Buildings

The present church building is the second on the site. Externally it has changed very little but internally it is an inviting and flexible space that is continually evolving to allow us to reach our community with the news of Jesus.

The church building includes:

- a small kitchenette at the rear of the church which enables us to offer hospitality
- a designated area for our musicians who lead the sung worship
- an organ (used for weddings and funerals)

The garden behind the church is being re-developed as an additional area available for church activities.



The PCC has agreed to and financed the following projects which we hope will enhance our worship:

- the front of church will be altered to be accessible to all
- the sound system will be upgraded to give greater flexibility for our musicians, and improve efficiency with live streaming
- the lighting will be renewed with energy saving LED lighting



November 2022 saw the culmination of a nine-year project to replace our previous church hall with a new church centre. The church is now linked with the centre providing extra meeting areas for our groups, excellent church office facilities and improved accessibility. The centre has a modern, fully equipped kitchen and our new hall, is equipped with full audio-visual facilities. The building is energy efficient with an A-graded EPC rating.

In its first full year of operation there has been a very encouraging response from outside groups and individuals wishing to use the centre – with really positive feedback. We are delighted that it is enabling us to bring Jesus’s love and message of hope to the community.



Areas for Growth

In recent years we have sought to become more confident in naming Jesus in a natural way and last year we refreshed our vision for evangelism:

Making Jesus known – in everything we do.

We are committed to growing in evangelism and ensuring that all activities point to Jesus.

We know it is the Spirit who convicts and transforms, yet we feel that there is work to do on our pathways from activities through to evangelism, church attendance, discipleship and mission.

The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful church and centre. The newly appointed Church Operations Manager has been tasked with developing a strategy for using our resources to engage with the community more effectively.

We are very thankful to the Lord for the many ways He has equipped and blessed us. We have identified some areas for development yet recognise that a new vicar's fresh perspective may lead to different areas being prioritised.

We aspire to have wider representation of our church family in all aspects of our public worship so that all can exercise their gifts and have opportunities to learn and develop.

Our hope is that our Sunday congregations will feel part of our church family across the week, and we continue to explore ways to encourage this.

Church prayer meetings are a precious time yet are not as well attended as we would like.

We greatly value our small groups but recognise that they would benefit from co-ordination.

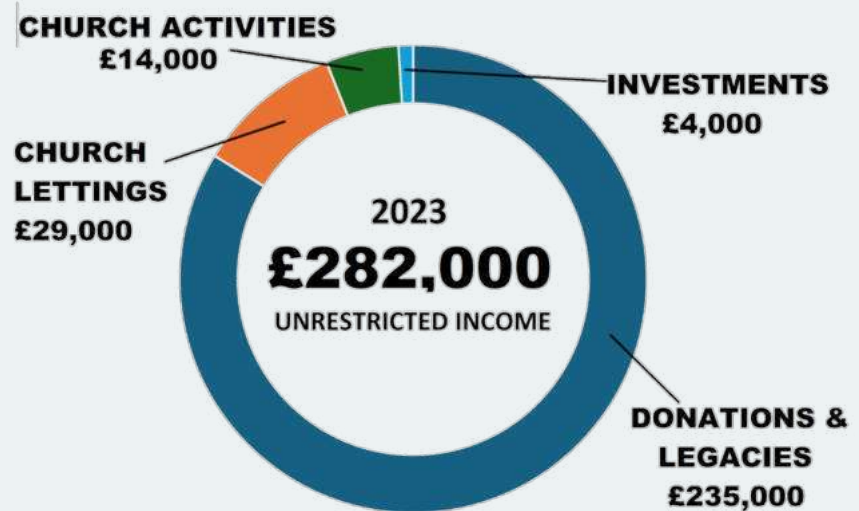
Finance

Most of St Pat's income comes from our church family who regularly give via direct debit, and we were greatly blessed that general giving to the church maintained good levels while the money for the new centre was being raised.

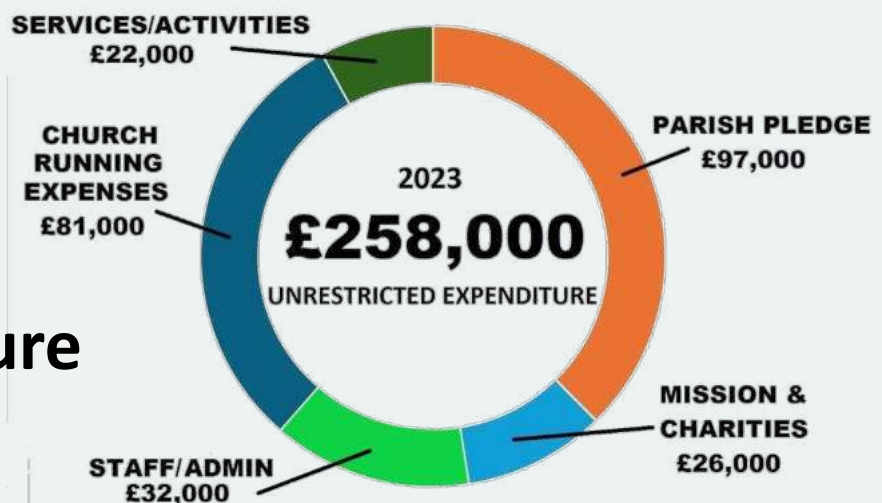
The project is now completely paid for, and we have been able to transfer a small surplus into our general funds. We have agreed with the diocese to pay our full Parish Pledge for 2024, but because we are net givers, the surplus has been allocated to another church within the deanery which shares our views on Prayers of Love and Faith.

The charts show the income and expenditure for 2023.

Income



Expenditure



These charts are derived from the [2023 Financial Statement](#)

The Parish

Wallington is a pleasant suburban area in the London Borough of Sutton. The High Street consists of popular chain stores and places to eat, as well as smaller independent shops; the Oasis Christian Bookshop is a long-established business with close links to St Pat's. There are good transport connections to Central London.

The Borough of Sutton is well known for its wide variety of excellent schools. Wallington High School for Girls lies within our parish and as a church we also enjoy close links with Holy Trinity Junior School.

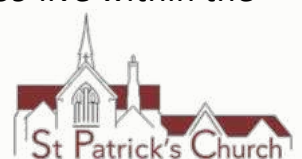
We have a number of beautiful parks near the parish, some of which have good facilities for sports such as tennis, basketball and skateboarding. Other facilities nearby include a large leisure complex with swimming pool, a local public golf course and a climbing centre. Wallington Public Library falls within the parish boundary.

The area is served by NHS hospitals St. Helier Hospital and the Royal Marsden. There is also a good number of GP surgeries and dentists.



The parish was created in 2010 formed from the southerly part of our mother church Holy Trinity Wallington. It stretches for approximately 1.7 miles and comprises a blend of open countryside and built-up residential area including 28 streets and 2,324 residents. 60% of the properties are purpose-built flats with the remainder either detached or semi-detached properties. Approximately 65% of housing is owner occupied.

The church electoral roll has 192 people registered of whom 39 live within the parish and 153 live outside of the parish.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated just outside the parish boundary in a small, quiet cul-de-sac and is maintained by the diocese.

The upstairs accommodation comprises four bedrooms, with two bathrooms. The master bedroom has ensuite facilities and there is a second double bedroom and two single bedrooms.

Downstairs is a modern kitchen/breakfast room, sun-room (used as a dining room), large lounge and two further reception rooms.



The house has a detached double garage with a workstore/office at the rear. There is a driveway for up to four cars, and small landscaped gardens to the front and rear.