

Clay Hill Parish, Enfield



Parish Profile

ST JOHN & ST LUKE
— ✠ —
CLAY HILL



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Bishop's Statement for St John with St Luke, Clay Hill.

I'm glad that you are seriously considering becoming the next priest for Clay Hill. These are delightful churches, serving the very diverse communities, at the very northern edge of the Diocese of London.

There are some key challenges too, which will need to be addressed.

These are:

Firstly, we are looking for a new priest who will focus upon developing healthy models for church growth, in partnership with other churches in the area. There is a great scope to work with the Senior Staff of the Diocese and others in the Deanery to enable this growth. The new priest must take seriously the need to discern new forms of Church presence and worship, develop our ecclesiological ecology, and be excited by the possibility of new forms of church.

Secondly, the congregation is drawn from people from a number of different socio-economic communities, ages and cultures. But we are not fully culturally or demographically competent. The new priest will need to oversee the development of a safe church, where racial diversification of leadership (including potential ordinands) and a heart for children and young people is critical.

Thirdly, our hope is that discipleship and teaching the faith will be central to all church's life. The new priest will be a lifelong learner and pass on their love of learning to the wider church. They will oversee small groups and a digital discipleship presence, as we seek to be a church for all Londoners.

Finally, there is the need for creative engagement with other churches within the Deanery in a time of significant change. This is a large parish, it has a wonderful school, and local clergy who are very keen to develop partnerships. There is a local cluster being formed, where churches are looking to work much more collaboratively together, and our new priest will want to help shape the nature of these relationships. It is clear that in order for each church in the Deanery to thrive, we are looking for clergy who are able to respect other local churches, and pray for each church to thrive in a spirit of generosity. This means that Chapter and Synod will need to be high priority for the new priest, as they play their role in developing a cohesion for our mission across Enfield and across the Area.

These challenges, if faced with enthusiasm, along with the vision set out in the Mission Action Plan and the Diocesan Vision 2030, offer an exciting and rewarding ministry for the right man or woman.

+Robert Edmonton
November 2022

Welcome to our Parish Profile

Thank you for showing an interest in the Parish of Clay Hill in Enfield and taking time to look at our Profile. We hope it gives you a sense of what we are doing and our ambitions for our Church to reach out to the wider community and to help nurture and build people's faith.

Our vision and mission

Vision

Our vision for serving Jesus Christ in Clay Hill is for every person in the parish to encounter the love of God in Christ.

Mission

In the gospels, Jesus is constantly sending people out to proclaim the good news of his saving love. We want to be a Church which is always looking onwards and outwards, prayerfully and confidently discerning what God is calling us to do, and to grow the faith and reach out and find creative ways to engage with the community.



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Our Strengths, Opportunities & Challenges

We have reflected on how we want our Church to improve and move forward.

Our Strengths

- We are welcoming, open to all, caring and compassionate, and value everyone
- We have a monthly children's service that started three years ago in St John's
- We have two churches with different attributes, both with flexible furniture arrangements, enabling greater use for a range of community activities
- All Parish buildings are in reasonable condition and well maintained
- The Parish provides financial, volunteer and other support for several charities
- The Parish is financially stable
- The lease for St Luke's Hall provides a reliable income
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Opportunities for Improvement or Development

- To develop a mission action plan to deliver our aims, focussing on the challenge and opportunity of mission and community engagement
- To work actively with other local churches, organisations, charities, and community groups
- To get greater use of our buildings, thereby reaping the rewards of the large amount of time, effort, money, and resource that have gone into repairing and maintaining our buildings, and so increase the relevance of our Church to people in our parish
- To nurture and grow people's faith in the parish, with additional and creative ways to enhance and improve Christian teaching and learning for all
- In seeking to grow the Church, we need to have a greater understanding from young people in our parish, what will help them to engage with our Church

- Music and creative arts are a useful and imaginative way of getting people engaged and involved in Church. We want to explore, for example, the scope for more live music in our services, and for drama productions
- To improve our communications particularly with the wider local community
- Both churches are set in large grounds that have provided the opportunity to 'connect with nature', expand the team maintaining and improving the gardens, and ideal for providing benefits for and with the community
- To be aware of and improve our environmental impact by continuing to develop our work in the Eco Church scheme run by A Rocha UK

Challenges

A key challenge for our Parish is how we build back better after the pandemic and lockdowns. They had a profound impact on the life of all Churches – the loss of worshipping together in a physical space; the sense of isolation and loneliness; the drifting away of people; and the disruption of community events.

We believe there is scope for us to build on our strengths, grasp the opportunities to grow, and show compassion in action in Clay Hill.

Our Next Vicar

We fully support the ordination of women and the successful candidate, whether male or female, must therefore be willing to work with women priests and bishops.

We hope our next vicar can help us realise the opportunities of our Parish and bring ambition, creativity and new ideas.

To foster and grow our faith

To help us achieve our Christ-centred vision and mission, we are looking for a priest who will embrace working with us, to foster and grow a shared vision of the Church as a place of welcome and love from where we can serve our communities as disciples of Christ. We hope our new priest will:

- preach the gospel with faith and passion, enrich our understanding and beauty of the liturgy and reflect theologically on the gospel and be able to communicate their passion and understanding to others
- build and nurture the existing congregations through prayer, teaching and the sacraments, and draw more families and young people into our worship
- have a love of music in worship – to encourage and enable the development of music and singing, but also be open to developing new, more informal services.
- be approachable, friendly, pastorally sensitive, and able to relate to all sorts of people of different ages and backgrounds, recognise their gifts and potential, and encourage the use and development of those gifts and so help them to flourish

To lead our mission into the community

To succeed in building compassionate communities we hope our new priest will:

- have experience of growing a Church, who can lead positive change, including enabling greater lay participation and leadership, through training, delegation and encouragement
- develop collaborative working with neighbouring Churches as an informal cluster to improve coordination of worship, learning and support for health and wellbeing for the local community by increasing cooperative sharing and more effective use of skills and resources
- reach out with imagination to connect with our wider parish community and raising the profile of the Church
- explore creative ways of using our church buildings for both faith and community events
- manage and navigate controversial community issues, such as the local authority's plans for development in Clay Hill

Supporting the Diocese of London's 2030 Vision

In Clay Hill we embraced Capital Vision 2020, of a Church that is Christ-centred and outward looking, and we support the 2030 Vision as we seek for everyone in the parish to encounter the love of God in Christ.

We take up and want to contribute further to delivering the three ambitions of *confident disciples* (through teaching and nurturing the Christian faith), *compassionate communities* (showing the practical love of God in action) and *creative growth* (bringing people into the life of the Church).

Our Parish

The Parish of St John with St Luke Clay Hill, Enfield more commonly called Clay Hill Parish lies within the Edmonton Episcopal Area, the Archdeaconry of Hampstead and the Enfield Deanery. It is in the north of the London Borough of Enfield just south of the M25.



Geographically it is one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of London with an area of four-square miles, much of which is fields and parks. We are approximately 14

miles north of the centre of London with excellent public transport links.

We have two churches; St John the Baptist is a country church and St Luke the Evangelist a more urban red brick church. St Luke's Parish was originally carved out of St John's Parish in 1899 and the parishes remained separate until 1987 when they were reunited to form what is now the Parish of Clay Hill, one parish with two churches.

Our current electoral roll is 118. We enjoy good links with our sponsored scout group the 12th Enfield beavers, cubs and scouts and work closely with our own St John's Church of England primary school.

The parish today has a population of about 8,000 in approximately 3,500



housing units, of which nearly 20% are in a mainly local authority housing estate. Overall, 60% of housing in the parish is owner-

occupied. Although over 75% of the parish is classed as of low or no deprivation, the local authority housing estate ranks in the second worst (out of ten) level of most deprived neighbourhoods in the country.

The new Chase Farm Hospital opened in 2018 including an urgent care centre, and the rest of the site has two new schools, and more housing.

During the Summer of 2021, Enfield Council published a first-stage consultation draft Local Plan for the borough. The Plan includes highly controversial proposals to 'de-designate' areas of the Green Belt and



allocating a target of 3,000 homes over 20 years in Crews Hill, within our parish, with potential for longer term expansion. An updated Plan will be published in early 2023, but it has a long way to go through the planning process before the plan can be approved and adopted, if the proposals go ahead, it will have a major impact, particularly for St John's church, potentially doubling the population in the parish.



Our Church and its People

The liturgical tradition of the Parish is in the modern Catholic tradition of the Church of England. The Eucharist is formal, following Common Worship. Before the vacancy, Sunday Eucharist was celebrated at both churches.



During the vacancy, we have a single Sung Eucharist at 10.00am alternating between St Luke's and St John's each week, with a family service on the first Sunday of the month and a children's service at 9.00am at St John's on the second Sunday.

Three times a month, the Sunday Evening Prayer and Discussion Group meet in St John's Hall where the daily office is said and followed by discussion

There is a joint evening worship with Lancaster Road URC on the third Sunday of the month, led by a lay person from the URC church.

Common Worship Daily Prayer is used for all the daily offices during the week and there are additional celebrations of the Eucharist on feast days.



Before the vacancy, there was a mid-week Eucharist, and morning and

evening prayer services at St Luke's on Tuesday to Friday, and we would like to see these return.



The parish hymn book is Anglican Hymns Old and New and has been used since 2011.

As with many churches, attendance at services has dropped since the pandemic.

Average weekly attendance.

- Family Eucharist with parade at St Luke's: 50 adults; 30 children
- Sung Eucharist at St Luke's: 40 adults; 3 children
- Sung Eucharist at St John's: 30 adults; 3 children



- Children's service at St John's: 6 adults; 4 children
- Evening prayer service at St John's: 7 adults

Our Leadership and Support Team



Jeremy Foot

During the vacancy, Father Jeremy Foot, a NSM, is supporting us. He was licensed to our parish as a priest in November 2021, having previously supported St Mark's and St Stephen's Bush Hill Park from December 2017.

We have a retired priest, The Revd David

Nash, who lives in the parish, worships regularly with us and is available for cover in our churches.



David Nash

Michael Mansfield, a Pastoral Assistant, has also been authorised to work in the Parish for the past nine years.

The Parish administrator, Mary Englefield, assists the Vicar on tasks as requested, and also acts as weddings clerk, responsible for the administration of weddings and the payment of

wedding fees.

Parochial Church Council

Membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, two churchwardens for each church (currently only one at St John's), two representatives to the Deanery Synod, the Pastoral Assistant, all of whom are automatically ex officio members. Up to 12 additional members are elected each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Most church officer roles are carried out by PCC members.

Communications

The Parish has a well-established website that contains information about the Parish activities and organisation: www.clayhillparish.org.uk.

We have Twitter and Facebook accounts and regularly post information. During the lockdowns, there was much greater use of social media, with many services posted live on Facebook.



We use paper versions of the weekly newsletter and readings sheet, and also an electronic newsletter that is emailed to subscribers and posted on the website.



The Church and the Community

Music - We have a Parish organist, a member of the congregation, who acts as choirmaster, and a deputy for holiday cover. There is a small choir

of almost exclusively female voices. Although the choir has scope to be developed, some of its members are of a near

professional standard. A new junior choir is being planned. There is a mixture of traditional and more modern hymns.

Baptisms - There is a steady demand for baptism from within the parish: approximately ten per year, either administered as part of the Eucharist service or a separate service.

Marriages - In 2022 there will have been two weddings in our two churches.

Funerals - In addition to funerals in church (approximately eight to ten per year), the Vicar also conducts funerals at the cemetery or crematorium chapels.



House Groups - There are two house groups meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, one in the morning and one in the evening, with approximately 12 attending

Prayer Group - A prayer group started in 2021, meeting monthly on Saturday mornings, followed by breakfast, with approximately 10 attending.

Meditation Group - started weekly in 2014, run by a lay person in the Parish, who was an experienced member of the World Council for Christian Meditation. The leader has moved away, but it is hoped the group can be reconvened in the future.

Mothers' Union - meets monthly for a programme that includes socials, talks and services.

Clay Hill Singers - a local community singing group regularly draws in 60-80 people each week from a wide area. This is a non-performing group that primarily exists to promote singing for health and wellbeing. It is led by a semi-professional singer and music coach.



The Church and the Community

Restorative Chair Yoga Group – meets weekly with an average attendance of 20 members

Warm Welcome Space – in response to the cost-of-living crisis we are setting up a project to provide a 'warm hub' in St Luke's for one day a week, and have initiated discussions with local churches, aiming to have a network of warm places for the local community to come to. We have registered with the Warm Welcome network.



Enfield Churches Debt Centre - we provide a monthly financial contribution towards this new much-needed initiative and promote their work and their call for help with more befrienders, trustees and other support.

Night Shelter - between 2014 and 2020, the Parish participated in the Enfield Winter Night Shelter scheme hosting a group of up to 12 homeless people once a week in St Luke's church. We had a team of 80+ volunteers, and many local businesses provided support. A local charity provided several grants that helped to equip the shelter. Although roving shelters are no longer considered to be suitable, we will continue to support the local homeless charity with their static shelter and day centre.



North Enfield Food Bank – donations provided from Harvest Festival.

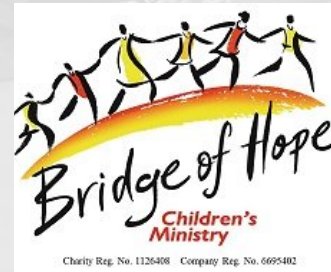


Soup Lunches – there are monthly soup lunches for church members, with money raised supporting local charities

Homeless suppers – support given to the Lancaster Road URC scheme, which has been running for many years.

Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry

(www.bohcm.org) – we provide a monthly financial contribution to the charity, with regular collections and fund-raising events. The charity was



set up by previous members of our own Parish and another Enfield church. It supports orphans and abandoned children in Rukungiri, West Uganda. Present members of our congregation regularly travel to Uganda to work and spend time with children, both in the local community and the Bridge of Hope bungalows



The Church and the Community

Twelfth Enfield, St John's and St Luke's Scouts, Cubs and Beavers - we have a sponsorship agreement with the extremely popular and well-run group with about 100 children. It is based in a newly refurbished building in Stratton Avenue within the parish. They parade monthly at St Luke's and members willingly volunteer for tasks such as gardening in the church grounds, making beds at the night shelter and running the barbecue at Parish fairs.



Social Events - a regular annual programme including quiz evenings, Summer and Christmas fairs, St John's flower show, parish lunches and concerts and recitals. The Parish has forged good links with local supermarkets and plant nurseries who generously support our social events.



Eco Church

we have registered with A Rocha UK's award scheme, starting our journey to embed care for creation in every aspect of our church life

Local Schools



The parish contains several primary schools including our own St John's Church of England primary school.

St John's C of E Primary School - is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, situated very near to St John's church and

presently has 106 pupils. Relations between the school and the Parish are extremely good. The previous Vicar conducted regular weekly assembly and often led the prayers at the Friday celebration assembly. The Vicar sits on the Governing Body ex officio and there are two governors elected by the PCC. School services take place at St John's church five times per year

Lavender Primary School - is a large local authority school near St Luke's church. Up to 2019, the church hosted their Christmas celebrations each year and there may be scope for further development of this relationship

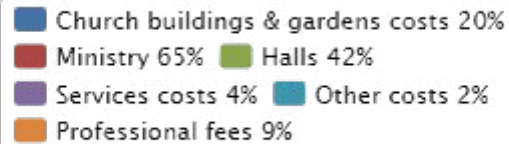
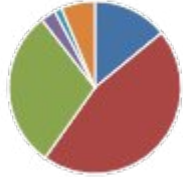
Wren Academy and One Degree Academy

These new schools are now built on the Chase Farm site within the parish and eventually will have nearly 2000 spaces. There is an opportunity to build links with these schools, and we have already established contact with the Chaplain of Wren Academy who wants a firm link with their Parish Church.

Our Finances

The charts below provide a breakdown of operating income and expenditure in 2021 (excludes special projects).

Operating Expenditure 2021

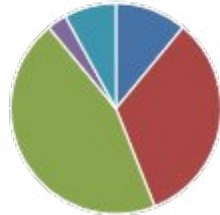


We currently forecast a deficit of approximately £10,000 in 2022 with cash assets of around £120,000. The Parish Stewardship Scheme has 44 members, the majority of whom Gift Aid their contributions. Income tax is also reclaimed on all cash collections using GASDS.

The Parish has offered to pay £57,500 to the Common Fund in 2023 which slightly exceeds the Parish Ministry Cost.

All major projects undertaken in our churches and halls in the past nine years have been fully funded by donations, fund-raising activities, and grants from other organisations without drawing on the Parish's general reserves.

Operating Income 2021



Parish Buildings

Reconfiguration of the churches has enabled more versatility and wider use, and they have been used for a range of parish and community social functions including concerts, craft shows, plays and pictures and model railway exhibitions.

St John the Baptist Church - a Grade II Listed Building, consecrated in 1857, located in a conservation area at the junction of Strayfield Road



and Theobald Park Road. It is a Gothic-styled church 84 feet long by 22 feet wide, decorated with banded red and blue bricks inside with impressive stained-glass windows all around, including a set by Heaton, Butler and Bayne. The

church has seating capacity of 120.

Repairs in the past 16 years include: rewiring (2005), underpinning (2009), new roof (2012/13), rebuild and refurbish lychgate (2019), repairs to chancel ceiling (2020). The latest quinquennial survey of St John's church was undertaken in January 2020.



Parish Buildings



There is a Memorial Garden for cremated remains outside the west end of the church. St John's is surrounded by spacious, attractive, well-maintained grounds. In recent years, vegetable plots have been added providing good crops of vegetables for donations.

Situated near to St John's

primary school it provides a venue for school services and concerts, and is well placed for outreach to children and families in St John's School.

St John's Jean Price Memorial Hall



Built in 2002 adjacent to St John's church.

The main room is 24ft by 14 feet to which are attached a kitchen, toilets and storeroom.

St Luke the Evangelist Church – a Grade II Listed Building,



consecrated in 1899 with the nave being added in 1906, is located at the junction of Phipps Hatch Lane and Browning Road.

It is a large brick-built building with stone facings in Early English style, 140 feet long and 60 feet wide.

The church has a seating capacity of approximately 400.

Repairs in the past 11 years include: rewiring and new fan-assisted gas heaters (2011) organ renovation and refurbishment (2015), refectory and kitchen refurbishment



(2016), ceiling panel repairs (2017). The latest quinquennial survey of St Luke's church was undertaken in January 2020.

Parish Buildings

The Lady Chapel and refectory are both fully enclosed and fitted with independent heating.



The choir vestry has also been fully refurbished with independent heating so that it could be used for meetings and small groups.



The spaciousness and flexibility allow the church to be easily configured in several different ways for worship, concerts and other types of performance.

Outside the east end of St

Luke's church is the Macy Memorial Garden, for cremated remains of former parishioners.



St Luke's Hall



Located a quarter of a mile away from St Luke's church, the hall is now let on a 20-year full repairing lease to Nursery On The Hill, so the PCC now benefits from a guaranteed income from the building without the responsibility of day-to-day maintenance and management.

Our Vicarage - is at 92 Browning Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0HG and backs onto St Luke's church. The building is an elegant and attractive Victorian double-fronted detached house, with a study and sitting room at the front of the house, a dining room, large kitchen, four bedrooms and a bathroom. The building is in very good condition and has a large mature garden, which has been extensively re-stocked in recent years. There is also a detached garage with easy access from a side road. The vicarage is five minutes' walk from a local shopping area and within walking distance of several primary and secondary schools.





Diocese number: 1825

Registered charity number: 1151418

Vicarage: 92 Browning Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0HG

Website: <https://www.clayhillparish.org.uk>