

Resourcing God's Mission in Hillingdon and Beyond

We have many things to celebrate and thank God for here in the parish of St. John's.



A VERY BIG THANK YOU for all you do for the Church by giving your time, energy, skills and finances.

We want to continue to grow as a faith community, in making disciples and in sharing God's love in mission.

For the '5 Marks of Mission' listed below we outline just some of the things we are able to do with your ongoing help, and also some of the ways we want to develop further.

1. Tell & show the good news of God's Kingdom

- We want to grow in being vibrant church communities. We thank God for our congregations at St. John's and for the Garden Centre Group. We want to plant out further faith communities in strategic locations. We want to have more fun events so that others can also enjoy our hospitality and community.
- We have connections with local schools and we want to improve and strengthen these. We want to see more schools using the church and serve the schools in a variety of ways including taking more assemblies.
- We have a new website and we are using social media and email for communication. We want to significantly improve our media communications with those in and around St. John's.

2. Teach, baptise and nurture believers

- We are encouraged by the wide mix of all ages. We are grateful to God for the children, young people and their families that are a part of us. We have recently started up 'Let's Go' Parent 'n' Toddler, Junior Church and Youth Breakfast. We wish to grow in these areas and provide further opportunities through events, holiday clubs and parenting classes.
- We are encouraged by our smaller groups and courses. These include Lent courses, Confirmation classes, home groups, 'Words & Music', and our 'Monday Group', amongst others. We want to increase the number of groups so that we can grow further as disciples and in our connecting.



3. Tend to human need by loving service

- We naturally support and care for one another and some pastoral care takes place through home visits, hospital visiting, bereavement care and in other ways. We support many charities through fund raising and our collections e.g. for Hillingdon Foodbank. We want to develop in our pastoral care to include improved opportunities for members of the community to find support, to socialise and to alleviate loneliness.
- We want to take part in more social action projects, including teaching basic skills and in working together with other churches and agencies.

4. Transform unjust structures of society

Many find us to be inclusive and welcoming, although we don't want to rest on our laurels. We welcome all, regardless of colour, race, gender, age or sexuality. We want to continue to work against injustices and to support those who have become victims of societal structures, or of the attitudes and prejudices of others.

5. Treasure the life of the earth and safeguard creation

Our 'Green Group' has been renewed and we already have some points for action as we seek to treasure the earth's resources. We want to take things to the next level by example, teaching and encouragement and we would thereby like to achieve an Eco Church Award.

Much in our church life has been filled with the contribution of people generously giving their time, energy, skills and money in serving God in this place, and in the community. There are many things to be thankful for.

How are we going to fulfil God's ongoing mission for us?

With your help we can fulfil our mission in increasing measure.

YOU, the people that make up our church family are our resource. We are all baptised into being members of Christ's body, all with a part to play. We want to encourage you who are new, as well as our more established members, as we



all grow further in using our time, talents and treasure for God's glory. In continuing to see God's Kingdom grow we encourage everyone to journey together as we:

- **Pray:** It is important we continue to strengthen our reliance on God in personal and corporate prayer.
- **Serve:** We want to help everybody find their calling in serving God in the body of Christ, 'every member ministry'.
- **Give:** As part of our worship we will encourage everybody to grow as disciples by giving generously to God's work.

We give back to God as worship what he has entrusted us with and we give thanks for all the many gifts he has given to us. Seeing our role in his great plan enables us to give generously from our hearts in joy, feeling uplifted by his love, and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We are always available to discuss how you can worship God by serving, and how you can discover your gifts.

How to start giving or adjust your giving

Please use the **Annual Giving Response Form** enclosed or available from our website www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk at 'Love to Give → Resourcing God's Mission'.

We are asking for everybody's feedback to this document, please use the **Feedback Form** enclosed, or from our website.

We look forward to hearing from you.

THANK YOU!

In God's love & grace,

Alan

Vicar, St. John's Church