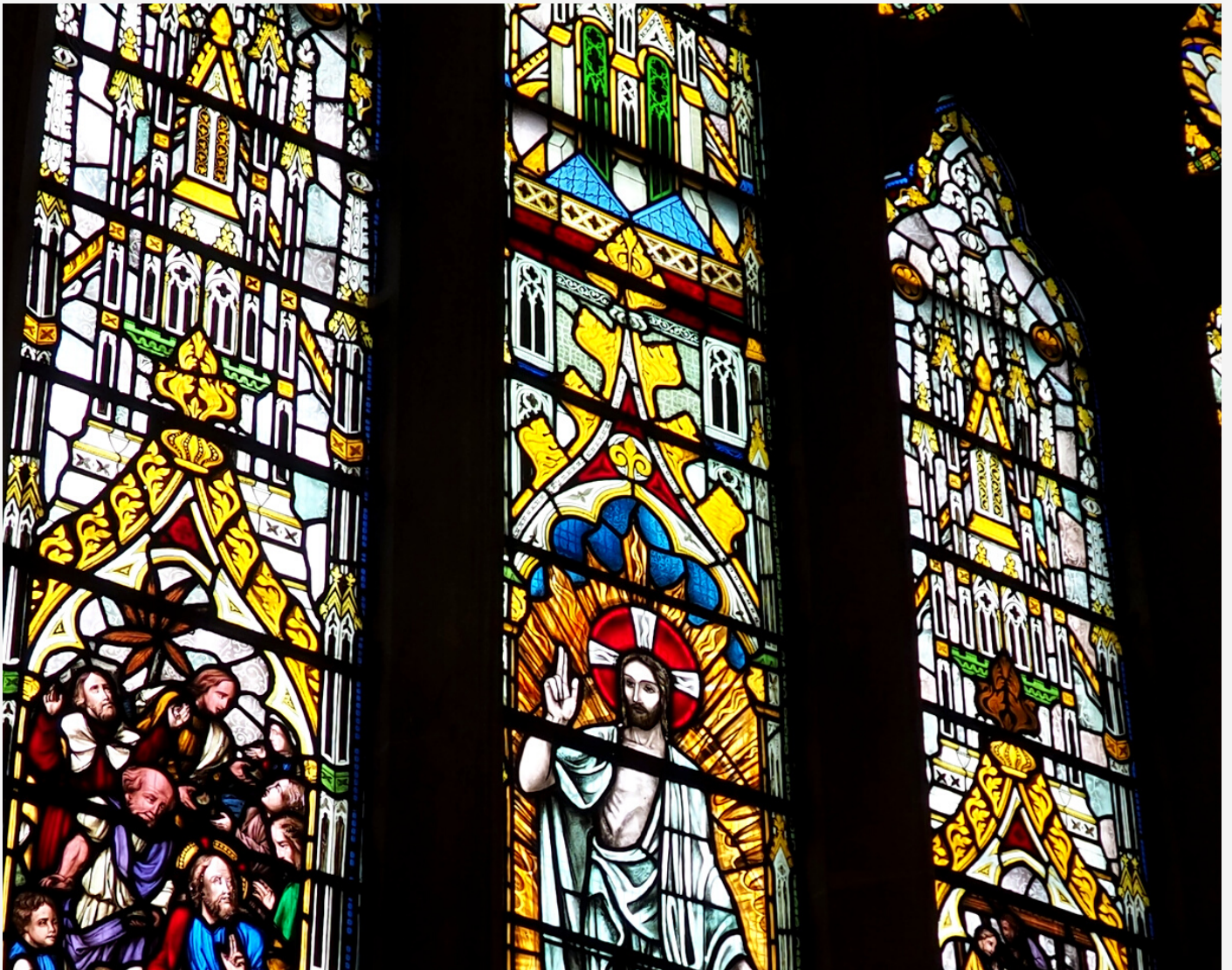


**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST,
GREAT STANMORE**



**MISSION
ACTION
PLAN 2021**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST,
GREAT STANMORE

MISSION ACTION GROUPS
Children & Young People
Discipleship
Environment
Outreach

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the Diocese of London established 'Listening to London, Listening to God' to discern God's call for the 2030 Mission Action Plan for the city of London. As part of this, the PCC of St John's agreed to establish four subgroups of the PCC to further mission in Stanmore by discerning the will of God in four key areas:

- 1.Children & Young People
- 2.Discipleship
- 3.Environment
- 4.Outreach

This report will outline what each group has achieved so far and it's goals for the future.



01

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE **Encouraging the Church of today**

Current Achievements:

- 1.Established opportunities for the congregation to undertake both accredited and unaccredited courses on the subject of mental health and mental health first aid. The courses are provided by The AIM Group and Transforming Lives for Good (TLG: <https://www.tlg.org.uk>).
- 2.We supported the Diocese of London Lent appeal 2021 focusing on youth violence supporting The eXcel Project (XLP), TLG & Redthread.

Ongoing Projects:

- 1.Hosting an evening focusing on the subject of Mental Health with a talk and a Q&A panel to raise awareness around mental health. The Children & Young People group hope that this will be a community-wide event with local members of the community involved in the panel.
- 2.In September 2021 the PCC agreed to fund TLG training for at least five members of the congregation to become mentors for children in local schools such as St. John's, Aylward Primary School and Bentley Wood High School.
- 3.To revamp the Youth group in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

02

DISCIPLESHIP

Deepening our faith through love and worship

Current Achievements:

1. Increased advertising for Home Groups
2. Survey to assess the impact of Online Ministry during the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a result of this survey, an online Advent course is being explored for 2021.

Ongoing Projects:

1. The group discussed that many find the commitment to a homegroup challenging but a short course is a more manageable commitment. It was agreed that an additional course would be introduced in the 2nd half of the calendar year. For 2021, the Discipleship group agreed to study Tom Wright's 'Lent For Everyone.' In the 2021 St. John's online survey, it was determined that 50% of those surveyed were able to attend Church activities online where they wouldn't have been able to if the event was meeting in person. As a result of this, the discipleship group agreed to host the Advent course online to provide optimal accessibility.
2. The 2021 online survey also showed that the congregation were interested in big topic talks such as 'Why Does God Allow Suffering?' and 'Why does God not always answer prayer?' The Discipleship group agreed that the Lent 2021 course could focus on these significant apologetic questions. The book chosen to support this course was 'Unbelievable' by Justin Brierley
3. Encouraging more members of the congregation to be involved in reading and intercessions in the services. The group agreed that a more intentional approach should be made in conjunction with pew sheet advertisements.

03

ENVIRONMENT Caring for God's creation

Current Achievements:

- 1.St. John the Evangelist has made several changes to reduce the environmental impact of the church including teaching in services, using environmentally friendly cleaning products and researching different power sources to the oil boiler such as Solar Panels.
- 2.These changes have resulted in a Bronze Eco Church award from A Rocha UK.
- 3.An Environment walk around Stanmore as a way of focusing our minds on the beauty of God's creation.

Ongoing Projects:

- 1.Continuing to explore Solar panels.
- 2.Switching to a more sustainable Gas Supply that uses green gas such as Bio-methane.
- 3.Researching methods of offsetting the Carbon Footprint of St John's as a result of the heavy use of oil used by the oil boiler in church.
- 4.Reflecting on how can St. John's use its land to create natural habitats for wildlife. St. John's has two areas of land that are used by wildlife such as Foxes, Hedgehogs, nesting Kestrels & Woodpeckers.

04

OUTREACH Being a voice in the local community

Current Achievements:

1. The Outreach team was involved in the design of the St John's online survey 2021 in order to better understand online mission as a form of Outreach.
- 2.Improving the advertisements on Church noticeboards.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Hosting a church open day, in Easter 2022, to engage with the local community and advertising various church activities.
2. Running an Alpha Course
3. More online presence by advertising through social media.
4. Using carol singing as a form of outreach in 2022.
- 5.A new, permanent banner advertising regular service outside the church.

This section outlines what St. John's has done, or plans to do, in line with the Diocese of London's vision 'for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ.'

CONFIDENT DISCIPLES

- 1.New home groups
- 2.New courses (such as an Advent course) for those unable to join home groups.
- 3.Running the Living in Love & Faith course.
- 4.Further engagement in apologist questions such as 'Why Does God Allow Suffering?'
5. Strategically encouraging the congregation to be more involved in readings and intercessions.
- 6.Preparing both adults and children for confirmation and admission to communion before confirmation.
- 7.Committing to online ministry for the foreseeable future.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES

- 1.Committing to reducing the environmental impact of St. John's.
- 2.Providing financial and practical support to charities such as Flyspec, the Mission to Seafarers, Bereavement Care, The Harrow Foodbank & Firm Foundation.
- 3.Engaging with issues such as mental health through mentoring programmes provided by TLG.
4. Enabling members of St. John's undertake mental health first aid training courses.

CREATIVE GROWTH

1. Planning Church open days to encourage people into church and other activities.
- 2.Planning an evening to explore topics around mental health for the wider community.
- 3.Using carol singing as a form of outreach in 2022.
- 4.Continuing to increase our Junior Church after considerable growth as a result of online Junior Church.

04

GROWING YOUNGER

1. Adjusting our Junior Church structure in the light of Covid-19 pandemic with a games afternoon.
2. Preparing children and young people for confirmation and admission to communion before confirmation.
3. Assisting local charity Regeneration with their work in local primary schools.
4. Welcoming local primary and secondary schools into the church for RE lessons.

05

SAFER CHURCHES

1. An up-to-date safe guarding policy.
2. All volunteers that work with children are required to have an up to date DBS check and sign a role description and a code of conduct.
3. St. John's has an active safeguarding officer, children's champion and vulnerable adults champion.
4. Relevant contact information is made accessible throughout all Church premises.

06

STRIVING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

1. In 2021 St. John's appointed an Equality, diversity and inclusion officer in order to reflect on the provision of St. John's to be welcoming and inclusive.