



S^tJOHNS
Angell Town

Welcoming
in Love

Worshipping
in Faith

Witnessing
in Hope

MISSION ACTION PLAN: 2017 - 2020

Whatever you do
to these the least of your brethren,
you do it unto Me”.

MATTHEW 25:45

Let us serve the Lord
with all our heart, all our soul,
all our mind, and all our strength.

Mark 12:30

And let us serve one another in Christ

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH:



St. John's seeks to be an inclusive community church, committed to welcoming in love, worshipping in faith and witnessing in hope to the love of God and the Good News of Christ in Angell Town and Brixton.

The Church was consecrated on 30th April 1853 by the Bishop of Winchester. It was designed to accommodate about 1100 people. During the 2nd world war the Church suffered bomb damage to the roof and north side of the Church, and there was a serious fire in 1947. It was restored between 1947 and 1951, and rededicated on 15th June 1951. For over 150 years the Church has been a beacon of faithfulness to God and has brought the presence of Christ to the people in this part of South London. It continues to do so today, in the midst of all the rapid changes in Angell Town and Brixton.

The Church has a modern catholic tradition of worship. Hospitality is our watchword, and all who come feel a good sense of welcome. At St. John's we have the confidence that we are good at welcoming strangers, encouraging all age participation in ministry and worship, and engaging with the community on a range of pertinent issues that meet the common good. We work collaboratively with our local parish school in all our mission initiatives.

As a Church, we want to grow as a visible symbol of Christian presence in our community. We have an emphasis on welcoming and serving and supporting families, to enrich their lives in various ways. We hope to extend our activities for young mothers and toddlers, and for older children we seek to build their confidence so that they can take their place in the church community as young leaders. At all times, we aim to demonstrate God's love through our actions and to build good relationships between the Church and all members of our local community.

THE PEOPLE

The congregation is lively, includes a wonderful mix of ages and household types, ranging from young single adults, young families and families with grown up children, and senior citizens. The congregation has grown steadily in the past few years and reflects the cultural diversity of the local population. On an average Sunday, there are around 80 adults and 50 children worshipping in church, and young and old members comfortably interacting with one other.

In an economically poor area, the church is rich in social capital. There are a high proportion of 16-64 year olds regularly involved in the life, worship and service of the Church. The real strength and the resources of our Church are its people. They are different in social class, ethnic cultures, skin colours, languages and lifestyles. Many members are of West African origin, but there are also substantial numbers of folk from Caribbean backgrounds, from East Africa, from India and from the United Kingdom. Some people are lifelong Anglicans, and others have joined the church from other denominations and faith traditions.

The other resource of the Church is the Ministry Team which is as diverse as our whole congregation: The Vicar from the Caribbean, one Assistant Priest from Wapping in East London, and the other from South India. The Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA) is from West Africa, and the Parish midwife is from Yorkshire.

The diversity of the ministry team and the congregation means that we have experience and understanding of many issues facing our area and those who come to us. That does not mean that the range of issues people face and their different lifestyles and expectations do not present a real challenge in offering support as we come together as one family.



THE PLACE

Angell Town/Brixton is one of the most diverse and vibrant areas of London, and the local population has a younger profile than the average in the country. Due to current levels of inward investment the area is developing financially, new businesses are opening, gated communities being built and the profile of the income population is made up mainly of young professionals.



Despite this level of socio-economic development, the ward (Coldharbour) in which the church is situated is one of the most deprived in the UK, and is challenged by significant social and economic issues. St. John's is the most deprived Parish in the Diocese of Southwark (and one of the most deprived Parishes in England) according to the Church Urban Fund. The multiple indicators of deprivation that affect residents can be summed up by poverty and debt, overcrowding, transiency of residents due to refugee and asylum seeker status, unemployment and underemployment, especially among younger people, lack of social activities for young people and lack of meeting space for community groups. Angell Town has very few upwardly mobile residents, as the parish is comprised of 5 large housing estates. While the wider area in Brixton is being affected by increasing levels of gentrification, the escalating house prices means that poorer long term residents are being priced out of the area.

In the midst of all this change the church continues to witness to the transforming love of God. Since its consecration, through the two world wars, the wave of migration post Second World War and the Brixton riots of the 80s, St. John's church has always sought to reach out to the local community and become involved in the life of the parishioners. The church celebrates the diversity of place and people by ensuring that the national day of every country represented in church is marked with thanksgiving on the relevant Sunday, and that of course includes the Saint's days of the United Kingdom. We also celebrate important ethno-cultural rites of passage for members as part of our inclusive liturgy.

OUR SCHOOL

St. John's the Evangelist Primary School is a one form entry Church of England inclusive Primary School. 99% pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds. Around 80% of pupils have English as an additional language including speakers of French, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish. So, there is diversity of cultural and faith family backgrounds. Quite a number of students and their families are members of the church congregation.



OUR MISSION

WELCOMING IN LOVE

WORSHIPPING IN FAITH

WITNESSING IN HOPE

OUR MAJOR ASSETS AND ATTRIBUTES:

- ❖ A welcoming church, with prospects to share with others locally
- ❖ Friendly active members across all generations and different cultures.
- ❖ A vibrant community involved in a variety of social events and group activities.
- ❖ Hospitality at the heart of what we do and who we are.
- ❖ Young people actively participating in worship, events and activities
- ❖ A Baby friendly church and children and toddler friendly activities for families
- ❖ Solid community relationships with a variety of local stakeholders
- ❖ A wonderful church school and an excellent relationship between church and school

OUR POTENTIAL

- ❖ Develop the building for community use
- ❖ Opening our doors more often for occasional and led prayer
- ❖ Holding more regular Bible study sessions
- ❖ Developing cooperation and capacities to tackle social justice issues
- ❖ Developing Lay Leadership among young and old, even if studies and paid work make it difficult for people to find time.
- ❖ Working with the school and young people and families
- ❖ Further developing connections with the many committed local community groups.

OUR WEAKNESSES ARE

- ❖ Insufficient lay leaders and support from the congregation outside Sunday morning for week day activities and community engagement
- ❖ Lack of follow-up work with newcomers
- ❖ Lack of finances
- ❖ Lack of usable space in the church building (the Hall is currently unavailable)
- ❖ Insufficient toilets in church space in the building

OUR SPECIFIC PRIORITY GOALS

1. TRANSFORM THE CHURCH BUILDING FOR BETTER USE BY CHURCH AND COMMUNITY AND SECURE OUR FINANCIAL VIABILITY

1. Develop the North Porch for storage to free up space for the Baby Friendly Area in church and take forward plans for more toilets
2. Fundraising for the Hall repair and redevelopment after the recent lead theft
3. Exploring mechanisms how we can become more financially secure and **commercially** viable to enhance our ministry and mission
4. Good management of the church finances and administration

2. GROW THE CONGREGATION THROUGH HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME AND ENGAGING AND INCLUSIVE LITURGY

1. Creating an inclusive church that brings together established and newer members, with quarterly meet and chat sessions with food after church service on Sunday - to enable members to get to know each other better, build ties that bond and bind, celebrate our lives together and become involved in church life
2. Promoting the Christian presence and welcoming the wider community through civic services, special services, Dedication, Harvest and Christmas
3. Nurturing the pastoral care of the church through the work of the SPA and develop pastoral befrienders in church for families and for the more elderly
4. Inspire joyful engagement in the liturgy and enhance our worship such that it tells the Christian story and reflects our Anglican heritage in ways that also take into consideration the cultural diversity of the contemporary community

3. DEEPEN THE FAITH AMONG OUR MEMBERS THROUGH TEACHING, GROWING VOCATIONS AND BUILDING UP CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN CONGREGATION

1. Proclaiming the gospel and nurturing the faith of the congregation. Christian discipleship will involve Baptism, Confirmation and bible study classes
2. Encouraging wider congregational involvement in ministry in the church
3. Ensuring regular Junior church and Youth Church activities
4. Discipleship classes for new and long term members
5. Embedding prayer ministry in church, augmented by prayer walks in the community
6. Establishing a Mothers Union and encouraging elder women to lead
7. Embed, monitor and evaluate our innovative Youth warden scheme and establish a group to encourage young adult leadership

8. Encouraging debates on issues that explore spirituality, and challenges to Church and faith, through discussion on developments in the wider church
9. Continue to develop and embed musical worship, encourage more members to join the choir
10. Involve the church in generous stewardship development, of time, talents and tithes
11. Set up weekday activities in church and prayer ministry group at school

4. ENGAGE OUR YOUNG FAMILIES AND CREATE A BABY FRIENDLY CHURCH THROUGH THE PARISH MIDWIFE PROJECT:

This project benefits young mothers and children but it also transforms the lives of the people in other ways such as social, economic, physical, and spiritual, thus improving the well-being of the community. The key target group is young toddlers, mothers and their families in the church and community. Working with the school this project will reach out to people of faith and no faith, and to culturally diverse groups in Angell Town.

1. Embed the Baby Friendly policy in church
2. Start a Stay and play group with the school

5. ENGAGE IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP:

The school and the Church work together to put faith into action to compassionately witness to social justice, local need and the common good.

1. Involve the church in social transformation of the local community
2. Equip and train congregation members to engage for social action in the community, on a range of local issues (such as refugees, asylum seekers, housing and the environment) through forming partnerships and co-organising activities with local stakeholders including with Lambeth Citizens/Citizens UK
3. Work with the school, Entitled to Excel and Karibu Education Centre on reading programmes and on assisting young people to grow in their knowledge and pride in the history of the local area and its people and culture
4. Promote our Word for Weapons Knife bin project, and work with Big Local on Peace and Reconciliation programmes for young people

5. Work with Deanery and Diocesan projects and programmes and explore our links with local churches
6. Continue to build relationships with our civic partners including the local councillors, MP and the Borough Council
7. Build relationships with other faith communities

HOW DO WE WANT TO DESCRIBE THE CHURCH IN 5YRS TIME?

1. A church that is well known in the whole community for its radical welcome and inclusion
2. A church open to being spirit led and guided by prayer
3. A church where discipleship is taken seriously; through bible study and encouragement of members to reflect on and participate in all forms of ministry and service, including lay and ordained service and ministry
4. A church connected to the Deanery and Diocese by actively participating in Diocesan structures and programmes
5. A church engaging more fully with children, families and young people
6. A church that uses its building for the support of the community, offering opportunities through week day access and activities
7. A church that is working for the common good in partnership with the community on local issues and social justice

HOW WILL WE KNOW THAT WE ARE ACHIEVING OUR GOALS - EVIDENCE OF IMPACT AND MEETING CHALLENGES?

1. Case studies
2. Focus groups
3. Stories of change

MISSION ACTION PLAN RECORD

FIRST YEAR OR ANNUAL/MAJOR REVIEW

DETAILS

Name of Parish St. John the Evangelist Angell Town

Deanery North Lambeth

Dates

MAP Process commenced 2011

Looking completed 2014

Discerning completed 2015

Planning completed 2017/3

Action Started 2017/5

MAP adopted by PCC 2017/3

MAP presented to APCM 2017/4

MAP sent to Bishop

MAP Review planned for 2018/4

Notes about MAP

Process led by:

Canon Rosemarie Mallett

Our Vision is

How we want to be described in five years' time. To be included in the MAP Summary

- 1. A Church that is well known in the community for its radical welcome and inclusion**
- 2. A Church open to being spirit led and guided by prayer**
- 3. A church where discipleship is taken seriously through bible study and encouragement of members to reflect on the possibility of lay and ordained service, ministry and mission**
- 4. A church connected to the Deanery and Diocese by actively participating in Diocesan structures and programmes**
- 5. A church engaging more fully with children, families and young people**
- 6. A church that uses its building for the support of the community**
- 7. A church that is working with the community on current uses of the common good**

Our Priorities: Our FOUR key priorities for the next five years.

1. Welcome: Transform the Church Building for better use by church and community
2. Worship: Grow the congregation through hospitality and welcome and engaging liturgy
3. Witness: Deepen the faith among our members through teaching, growing vocations and building up confidence and leadership in congregation
4. Witness: Engage in our Community through collaboration and Partnership
5. Engage our young families and create a baby friendly Church through the parish midwife project:

Three salient things to know about our parish and our world

1. A deeply prayerful community full of the Holy Spirit within and outside the church
2. Huge opportunities to work together with the community for the common good
3. A Vibrant community, but often fragmented, that lacks space to come together

Three salient things to know about our church

1. A place of hospitality
2. A vibrant church with a large number of young people and young families
3. A need for increased discipleship of members and increasing generosity of talent and tithes

PLANNING and ACTING - 2017

PLANS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS AND THE MILESTONES TOWARDS COMPLETION.

Goal number **1**

Welcome: Transform the Church Building for better use by church and community

Our plans

How we will do it	Who will do it	Time Frame
Develop the Baby Friendly Area	Angie Sherridan; Michelle Haffner	Spring 2017
Fundraise for the Hall Repairs	Treasurer & fundraising Group	2017

Things we will need to do it

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Our actions

Milestones achieved	Communicated	Date

Goal completed?

Communicated

Date

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Lessons learned

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PLANNING and ACTING - 2017

Goal number **2**

Worship: Grow the congregation through hospitality and welcome and engaging liturgy

Our plans

How we will do it

Who will do it

Time Frame

How we will do it	Who will do it	Time Frame

Things we will need to do it

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Our actions

Milestones achieved

Communicated

Date

Goal completed?

Communicated

Date

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Lessons learned

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PLANNING and ACTING - 2017

Goal number **3**

Witness: Deepen the faith among our members through teaching, growing vocations and building up confidence and leadership in congregation

Our plans

How we will do it

Who will do it

Time Frame

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Things we will need to do it

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Our actions

Milestones achieved

Communicated

Date

Goal completed?

Communicated

Date

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Lessons learned

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PLANNING and ACTING - 2017

Goal number **4**

Witness: Engage in our Community through collaboration and Partnership

Our plans

How we will do it

Who will do it

Time Frame

How we will do it	Who will do it	Time Frame

Things we will need to do it

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Our actions

Milestones achieved

Communicated

Date

Goal completed?

Communicated

Date

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Lessons learned

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PLANNING and ACTING - 2017

USE THIS SPARE SHEET FOR RECORDING PLANNING/ ACTION FOR OTHER GOALS

Goal number **5**

Engage our young families and create a baby friendly Church through the parish midwife project

Our plans

How we will do it

Who will do it

Time Frame

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Things we will need to do it

Our actions

Milestones achieved

Communicated

Date

Goal completed?

Communicated

Date

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Lessons learned

APPENDIX 1: THE MAP PROCESS - 2011 - 2016

The MAP process has been rooted in prayer, discussion, research and fellowship.

We have worked over the past 6 years with the congregation through a range of meetings, and with the PCC on a planning day out to explore our priorities and how to move forward in our Mission. We have also worked with external agencies and interns who helped us to refine our vision.

We have informally engaged in several the activities listed but have now formally drawn them together in this plan.

Milestones on the journey to developing the plan have been:

1. A PCC away day with Colin Boswell (September 2011).
2. Work done with the congregation and PCC by a group of SEITE Students for a Mission project (early 2012).
3. A PCC Extraordinary meeting in June 2013.
4. Community Footprint Surveys carried out by Matt Drummond for the Parish profile as part of his ordination training (August /September 2013).
5. Interviews done by Paul Bickley with church members and key community stakeholders as his team prepared the Theos **Good Neighbours: How Churches Help Communities Flourish Report** in early 2014. St John's features in the book
6. A Money Talk at Parish Communion led by Theophilia Shaw of the dioceses' Church Credit Champions Network (15th Feb2015).
7. Work with the Evening Standard and Big local regarding the churches role in the community

APPENDIX 2: THE PARISH PROFILE SEPTEMBER 2013

AUTHOR: MATT DRUMMOND (ORDINAND ON PLACEMENT)

Summary

St. John's is the second most deprived Parish in the Diocese of Southwark (and one of the most deprived Parishes in England) according to the Church Urban Fund, coming high in multiple indicators of deprivation. However, it is also a Church with a high proportion of 16-64 year olds regularly involved in the life, worship and service of the Church. It is also a Church rich in social capital and one that is heavily involved in the life of the Angell Town and Loughborough Estates.

Membership

- St. John's has a significantly higher proportion of 16-64 year olds in on its membership list than is the national average. However, it has less than half the Diocesan average of people 65+.
- St. John's has a significantly higher proportion of 16-44 year olds on its membership list than is the national average (an average of 23% for St. John's over and average of 11% for England).
- Of the young people (aged 16-25 years) who attend St. John's, they feel a sense of attachment to the Church and its life; have found the influence of family/ involvement by the Church in the life of the local Primary School to have a positive effect in encouraging them to become involved. They also feel that St. John's is good at what it does in its involvement with young people.

Deprivation

- According to Church Urban Fund statistics the Parish is the second most deprived Parish in the Diocese and in the top 2% of deprived Parishes in the Church of England with significant levels of multiple deprivation (that is it has high levels of two or more indices of deprivation);
 - o High levels of child, working age and pensioner poverty;
 - o High levels of parishioners in social housing.
 - o High levels of lone parenthood.
- My own research also shows:
 - o High levels of unemployment in the Parish (37% of the total of those at employable age);
 - o High levels of long-term unemployment (36% of the total of those at employable age);
 - o A significant number of people in the Parish have no qualifications.
- This differs from the social make-up of the Parish in 1898-9, here the Parish is recorded as being demographically well-to-do/ middle class.

Crime and Safety

- According to the Met Police the Parish (Coldharbour Ward) has an 'above average' crime rate, almost double the neighbouring Wards;

Parish Profile (August/ September 2013)

Parish Population: 12,200¹

Church: Age demographic (St. John's/ National Average: Comparison)

Age	<u>St. John's</u> Percentage of Church population	<u>Diocesan Average</u> ² Percentage of Church population	<u>National Average</u> ³ Percentage of Church population
16-29	24%	12%	9%
30-44	23%	15%	26%
45-64	37%	33%	34%
65+	16%	39%	30%

The data shows that St. John's has a significantly higher proportion of 16-64 year olds in the congregation (this is particularly marked at the 16-44-year-old level). However, it has less than half the Diocesan average of people 65+. The data shows that St. John's also has a significantly higher proportion of 16-44 year olds than the national average (24% and 22% for St. John's over 9%, 11%, 15% as the national average).

Retention of young people – I took the opportunity to speak with some of the young people who regularly worship at St. John's (I am defining young people as aged between 16-25 years old, and who are able to decide for themselves whether they wish to worship here). When asked what drew them (and kept them) at St. John's, they replied:

- Loyalty – they (and their family) had worshipped here for a long time;
- Had become involved through St. John's, Primary School;
- Enjoyed being involved in the Liturgy/ singing;
- Enjoyed the worship.

When asked if they thought anything could be improved/ if they thought St. John's was missing anything, from their perspective, they answered in the negative and felt that St. John's is good at what it does.

Poverty/ Urban Deprivation⁴

- 2nd Most Deprived Parish in Diocese.
- On the Church Urban Fund's overall deprivation scale, where 1 is the least deprived in the country, St. John's ranks 12315 out of 12775 parishes in England. **The parish is among the most deprived in the country.**
- Has the **highest rates of Child and Pensioner Poverty, Social Housing and Lone Parenthood in the Diocese**⁵.

¹ Church Urban Fund Parish Profile: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/2013F-370023>

² Diocese of Southwark 'Parish Spotlight'

³ Data taken from Tearfund: <http://www.whychurch.org.uk/age.php>

⁴ Data: Church Urban Fund 2013

⁵ CUF Parish Profile *ibid.*

Poverty Indicator	Percentage of Parish population in the category
Child Poverty	46%
Pensioner Poverty	49%
Social Housing	69%
Working Age Poverty	22%
No Qualifications	21%
Lone Parenthood	51%

Nb. The high proportion of Social Housing within the Parish is unsurprising, as the Parish has, within its boundaries, five large housing estates⁶, including the Loughborough and Angell Town Estates.

Coldharbour Ward: Demographics (2011 Census Statistics)⁷

Total population (Ward): 16,784
Local Area/ Parish: 60% Christian⁸

Total population by age:

Age	Population
0-15	3,619
16-29	4,555
30-44	4,371
45-59	2,816
60-74	922
75+	431

When compared with **Booth's Poverty Map of London (1898-9)**⁹ there is a marked difference. In Booth's map, the area north of the railway lines is coloured mainly red (Middle Class/ Well-to-do) with some pink (Fairly comfortable. Good ordinary earnings) whereas the area south of the railway line (listed as the Parish of St. Catherine's, Loughborough Park) is mainly red (Middle Class/ Well-to-do).

Information from St. John's Primary School

⁶ Diocese of Southwark Parish Profile: <http://www.southwark.anglican.org/parishes/001cl>

⁷ Data from The Office of National Statistics:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadDatasetList.do?a=7&b=5941925&c=coldharbour&d=14&g=340592&i=1001x1003x1032&m=0&r=1&s=1377685678200&enc=1&domainId=61> and Lambeth Council

⁸ Diocese of Southwark 'Parish Spotlight'

⁹ Booth's Poverty Map 1898-9, from the London School of Economics: http://booth.lse.ac.uk/cgi-bin/do.pl?sub=list_parishes_by_deanery&arg0=Clapham

The 2012 OFSTED report for St. John's Primary School¹⁰ also provides useful information on the local area and its needs:

- Pupils come from a wide range of minority ethnic backgrounds with the largest group being of Black African heritage;
- Approximately two-thirds of the pupils speak English as an additional language;
- The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is well above the national average;
- The proportion pupils with special educational needs is also higher than average;
- A significant number of these pupils have speech and language difficulties.

In conversation, the Headmaster also mentioned a number of other factors relating to the levels of deprivation found in the Parish:

- High number of families living in cramped conditions, poverty with children sharing a bedroom;
- High level of street / gang crime;
- Some children have parents who are in prison and are thus having to live with friends, other members of their family;
- High levels of child protection issues due to stress, which has a resultant impact on education;
- One of the highest rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, teenage pregnancy and drug misuse in Europe;

Economic activity

The main centre of economic activity in the Parish centres on Brixton Market). Most of the shops within the Parish are located at its peripheries: Brixton Road, Loughborough Junction and Effra Road.

Employed	7,948
Unemployed	4,786

Of whom

Long Term Unemployed (Unemployed according to the OECD definition ¹¹)	4,589
Have never worked	1,854
Total population at employment age (16-74 years):	12,734

Percentage of those Employed, Unemployed and Long Term Unemployed

Employed	62%
Unemployed	38%
Long-Term Unemployed	36%

According to the 2001 Census, the main types of employment within the Parish/ Coldharbour Ward were:

¹⁰ Published 2012. Available through the OFSTED website.

¹¹ That is, that they have been unemployed for 12 months or more.

Profession	Percentage of employed population
Associate professionals and technical	21%
Administrative and secretarial	14%
Professional occupations	13%
Elementary occupations	13%
Managers and senior officials	13%
Personal services	8%
Sales and customer services occupations	7%
Skilled trades	7%
Process, plant and machine operatives	5%

Location of Church Members:

The vast majority of members of St. John's live in the North of the Parish, close to St. John's and on the Loughborough Estate (only a few live in the triangle formed by Station Road, Loughborough Park and Somerleyton Road). A good number also live outside of the Parish, most significantly on the St. Matthew's Estate, part of the Parish of St. Matthew's, Brixton.

Accommodation

As noted above, a large portion of accommodation in the Parish is social housing. To the north of the railway line this is mainly made up of high-middle rise buildings (3+ floors) containing flats/ maisonettes. (There are also some low rise, 1-3 story, Victorian houses, though the housing is, in the majority, post-War) South of the railway line, other than the "Brixton Barrier" the housing is mainly low rise with an increased number of Victorian properties (a mix of town houses, terraces, semi and detached properties), many of which appear to be multi-occupancy dwellings.

There is a new (gated) development(s) on Coldharbour Lane, opposite the Brixton Barrier (Southwyck House): Brixton Square and The Hub, Brixton Square. Prices for properties in The Hub start at around £250,000 for a single-bedroom flat. The advertising for these developments focuses on their proximity to Central London and will no doubt focus on the proximity to the Brixton Village complex, rather than on the area North East of the development, that is, outside of the Parish.

Crime

According to the Metropolitan Police Service, crime in Coldharbour Ward (of which the Parish of St. John's makes up approximately three quarters) is 'above average' with there being approximately 18.99 crimes per 1,000 people in July 2013¹². This is higher than neighbouring Wards, where crime statistics are listed as being between 9.11 per 1,000 (Vassall Ward) and 12.96 per 1,000 (Herne Hill). The Loughborough Estate has one of the highest entry levels to the criminal justice system for young black men. The local police have identified three areas of concern in the area which they are seeking to deal with:

- Gang violence/ anti-social behaviour;
- Drugs (dealing and abuse);

¹² <http://maps.met.police.uk/index.php?areacode=00AYGD> and <http://maps.met.police.uk/access.php?area=00AYGD&sort=rate>

- Burglary (unspecified).¹³

Alongside these areas of concern, Operation Unity (a three month Met Police/ Trident police operation began in the area on 21 August). This has had a mixed response from residents, many of whom fear that it will not have a positive impact on estate and will further alienate the area from that South of the railway lines.

Social Capital and St. John's

- Presence of the Knife Bank
- Involvement with Big Local North Lambeth in its anti-gang work on Angell Town and the Loughborough Estate
- Close involvement with St. John's Primary School
- Pastoral Visiting, especially of the elderly
- Involvement with London Citizens, in community engagement and cohesion activities, on campaigns that give information about Credit Unions and 'Pay Day Loans', working with #RefugeeWelcome and Love not Hate Campaigns
- Connections with Karibu Education Centre

Social Capital may be inhibited by the fact that the Church does not have a dedicated hall/ community space (though there are community spaces available within the area).

Other issues

One of the issues identified during a meeting facilitated by 'Options 4 Change'¹⁴ was the gentrification of Brixton Town Centre and the subsequent alienation of Coldharbour Ward. The gentrification has included the retailers in 'Brixton Village' and the social-mental separation of Coldharbour Ward with the area south of Brixton Station. It is felt that this separation between the two areas will lead to the exclusion of Coldharbour Ward from the wider Brixton community, leading to ghettoization and the loss of community cohesion/ access to central Brixton, as it becomes more exclusive.

Further concern was expressed over the extended/ permanent exclusion from full time education of children from the Loughborough Estate due to (perceived) behavioural and social difficulties. (It was felt that a disproportionate number of children were being excluded from education, but that the numbers being excluded were not reflected in Council statistics.) This was felt to be a systematic problem, but one that was not being acknowledged, or tackled by the local authority.

Outside perception of the Church's engagement with the Parish

[These points came out of conversations held with external stakeholders, including St. John's Primary School, The Caribou Educational Centre and London Citizens. See Appendix A for copies of the interviews.]

Of the conversations I held with external stakeholder, two raised concerns over congregational support of activities, stating that much of the (good) work being undertaken in the Parish fell onto the shoulders of one person, the Vicar. Without the Vicar, much of the work taking place by the Church in the community would not be done. Thus, was the Vicar to leave the Parish, or to be incapacitated for a significant period of time, much of this work would not continue in any significant form.

Another stakeholder wondered whether there could be closer (coherent) working between the different Churches (and Church leaders) within the Parish/ local area? At present, there was close working between local schools, which had been formed into 'clusters'.

Another suggestion was for closer engagement by the Church with the Schools in the Parish, other than St. John's Primary School.

¹³ http://content.met.police.uk/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadname1=Content-Type&blobheadname2=Content-Disposition&blobheadvalue1=application%2Fpdf&blobheadvalue2=inline%3B+filename%3D%22443%2F983%2Fpr_lambethcoldharbour.pdf%22&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1283631059597&ssbinary=true

¹⁴ Held at the Marcus Lipton Centre, Loughborough Estate: 21 August 2013