

CELEBRATING **150 YEARS**
OF WORSHIP AND SERVICE

St. John the Baptist

WIMBLEDON

1875 – 2025



**Your help is needed to ensure a vibrant future
for this church as a centre for worship,
music and community activities**

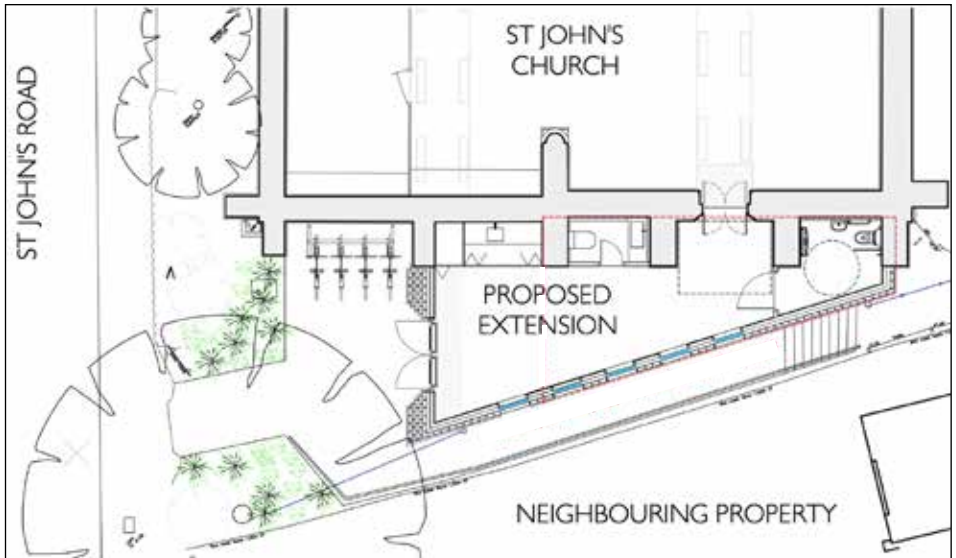
Looking to the future

St John's is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its Consecration in 1875. We are also looking to the future, and one of the priorities is to make our church more open, accessible and welcoming to all – our **Fit for the Future Project**.

Over the past 10 years we have made improvements by building a new community hall, upgrading the organ, and installing a new lighting system. But one major drawback remains.

What we lack

We badly need a WC, accessible to all, at the same level as the main church building. The existing toilets are at a lower level, approached only by a narrow staircase, or by circumnavigating the building down a steep hill, which is unsafe both for wheelchair users and for older or younger visitors. We are very fortunate to have a successful and expanding Montessori Nursery in our community hall, but this increasingly limits our access to the WCs downstairs, which makes the provision of upstairs WCs ever more important.



Plan of the proposed extension

What we plan

We are planning to build a new welcome area outside the west door, to include two WCS, one fully accessible for those with disabilities, and a small refreshment area. This space will create a meeting room which can be used by local groups as well as the vicar and church committees. It will make it much easier for us to arrange weekday services especially funerals and will provide an entrance under cover for weddings. It will give us a 'break-out area' for young children and our Sunday Club during services, which will encourage more families to join us for worship.

The building will be much more suitable and attractive for our lunchtime concerts, which are particularly popular with those who prefer not to go out in the evening, and with residents of local care homes. It will also provide the facilities needed to ensure that we can continue to organise and host concerts and events which bring many people in to experience the wonderful acoustic for music and to enjoy the beauty and peace to be found here.

These also provide crucial income for the maintenance of this historic listed building.

Another advantage is that the new entrance will prevent blasts of cold air from rushing into the back of church and give savings on heating costs. It will be economical to use the room independently as it will be heated separately.

Progress to date

Our architects have drawn up a scheme to create (on a difficult sloping site) a small extension which respects the architecture of this fine Victorian building. We have been granted planning permission, and the church authorities have given their approval. We have received a tender price from a contractor with conservation expertise.



We are extremely fortunate to have received a major grant for this project from the Tertis Foundation and are now seeking to match this with contributions from organisations and individuals who value St John's Church as a place of worship, as a remarkable Victorian building, and as a centre for music and community activities.

Members of St John's and other supporters have made generous pledges towards the costs, but we still need to raise over £150,000. We are now appealing to charitable trusts and to supporters in the wider community to make a contribution, and to join us in making this a place of warmth and welcome for everyone.

You can make a donation by using the QR code below, or going to our website www.stjohnswimbleton.co.uk and clicking on the link to support our **Fit for the Future Building Project**.

If you would like further information please email stjohnswimbleton.project@gmail.com

**Please help us in our anniversary year
to look to the future with confidence**



St John's is part of the Wimbledon Team Ministry which is a registered charity (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wimbledon, Charity Number 1134177). In the event that the project cannot proceed any donations – except where this is prohibited under gift aid rules – will be returned to all donors for whom we have contact details. Any unused balance will be used for maintenance of the building unless an alternative request is made by the donor.