

# stGEORGE'S

WESTCOMBE PARK

## Mission Action Plan 2025-2030



Growing

Serving

Praying

Sharing

**A safe and inclusive place for everyone to encounter the love of God**

# The History

St George's Parish was carved out of the parish of Christ Church, East Greenwich in the 1890s and the building was completed and consecrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1892. Situated on the slopes of Westcombe Park in southeast London, the building and the church within it have a strong history of community engagement and social action. It has never been a large church and its history is one of threat of closure due to lack of funds at various times throughout the last (nearly) 150 years. That said, there has always been something special and unique about the church at St George's and it has always continued to serve the community through the grace of God and the dedication of its congregation.

St George's is now part of the Parish of East Greenwich, with sister churches in Christ Church - East Greenwich and Holy Trinity -Greenwich Peninsula. The three churches all bring something unique to the parish, and work together whilst maintaining their distinct identities.

A strength of St George's has always been its people, and it has a long history of working for inclusion and for the love of God to be known by all, especially those who might otherwise be at the margins of the church. St George's has formally been an inclusive church for a number of years and continues to work for the inclusion of all.

A big challenge for us is the building itself, which needs significant work to be completed to it to enable it to continue to serve the community and serve as a place of worship. We want to continue to be a place of gentle healing for those who have been hurt by the wider church and a place for everyone to know that their whole identity is created and loved by God. St George's is well thought of in the community and needs to build on this history of community engagement and support.

It is on the foundation of this history that this mission action plan has been drawn up.

## Inclusive Church

St George's is committed to being an inclusive church and subscribes fully to the statement of faith from the Inclusive Church network.

“We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

## Areas of Mission

The four initial areas of mission were agreed following a PCC Away Day in November 2023, and St George's has added a fifth of 'Facilitating' to encompass the way that the building facilitates all that we undertake and the importance of repairing, preserving and developing it and making sure there is an inclusive community of faith here for generations to come.

Growing	Serving	Praying	Sharing	Facilitating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Growing in the fruits of the spirit and making it easy for others to join us.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serving the local community and caring for God's creation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Praying together and relying on God, not on our own strengths.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sharing our spiritual lives and resources together as a parish and with the wider church.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making sure that the building facilitates our worship and our wider work.</li></ul>

## Current Activities

The following are examples of things that we currently do, that we want to continue, and where they might fit in the areas of mission (although there is, and should be, considerable overlap between the areas).

Growing	Serving	Praying	Sharing	Facilitating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cafe Church</li><li>• Inclusive youth work</li><li>• Tuesdays at the Vicarage</li><li>• First Friday's - Fellowship, Food and Fun</li><li>• Social events</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eco church</li><li>• Community Cafe</li><li>• Community Lectures</li><li>• Soup Lunch</li><li>• Craft and chat</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish Prayer meeting</li><li>• Wednesday Morning Prayer</li><li>• Parish prayer card</li><li>• Make Space</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Messy Church Goes Wild</li><li>• East Greenwich Kick Academy</li><li>• Parish social events</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A programme of work to fix the issues with the building.</li><li>• Hiring the building out to the local community.</li></ul>

Action Goal: Continue to grow with God

Priority Area: Growing

Person/s Co-ordinating Goal: Ed Mayo

Aims/What we want to achieve:

To grow in our love of God and in the fruits of the spirit, and, through this and other work, to make it easy for others to join us.

	Planned Sequence of Actions:	By Whom:	By When:	Other Resources:	Updates on progress / Points to consider:
1	To undertake a branding review, to ensure that all our communication is consistent in message and style.	Church Administrator and Laura Faturoti	Summer 2025		To include website and A Church Near You.
2	To alter the Tuesdays at the Vicarage format to a more relaxed discussion based look at issues we face in the world and what the bible might have to say about them.	Laura Faturoti	Sept 2024		
3	To include QR codes for the newsletter and for giving on the notice board outside church.	Laura Faturoti	Feb 2025		
4	Through a combination of music events and community lectures to have a vibrant programme of events with local partners and 200 attendees every quarter	Ed Mayo and Laura Faturoti	End of 2026		
5	To explore whether there is a way to digitally capture info on visitors to the church and to have an easy way to keep in touch with them.	Church Administrator	March 2025		

Outcomes/Success Measurements – what we will see as a result:

St George's will be well known in the local community and will be building a reputation as a meeting place.

The church community will be growing in our love of God and the fruits of the spirit.

**Aims/What we want to achieve:**

Work with the Westcombe Society to serve the local community and find out ways in which the church can bridge any gaps in local provision, whilst working alongside other local stakeholders, such as Mycenae House.

	<b>Planned Sequence of Actions:</b>	<b>By Whom:</b>	<b>By When:</b>	<b>Other Resources:</b>	<b>Updates on progress / Points to consider:</b>
<b>1</b>	To speak to Westcombe News about the possibility of a regular column from St George's.	Laura Faturoti	Feb 2025	N/a	
<b>2</b>	To explore how the community can use our garden, specifically the ways in which we can grow fruit and veg together to share.	Ed Mayo	Summer 2025	N/a	
<b>3</b>	To undertake a leaflet drop before Christmas to raise awareness of our activities, our Christmas events and our building fundraising.	Laura Faturoti	Nov 2024	Congregation to drop leaflets, or pay a company to do this?	
<b>4</b>	Meet with Mark Johnson-Brown, manager at Mycenae House, to ensure our activities are complementary rather than competing with each other.	Laura Faturoti	March 2025		
<b>5</b>	To consider if there is any way that we can support the local Work From Home Community. A place to meet or work?	Laura Faturoti	March 2025		

**Outcomes/Success Measurements – what we will see as a result:**

An increase in awareness of St George's and our activities in the local community, and build awareness from us of the issues in the local community and how we might meet/address them.

Action Goal: Keep our focus on God

Priority Area: Praying

Person/s Co-ordinating Goal: Laura Faturoti

Aims/What we want to achieve:

To ensure that all that we do is focused on God's love for ourselves and others. To develop our own spiritual practices to be able to grow in that love and show it to others.

	Planned Sequence of Actions:	By Whom:	By When:	Other Resources:	Updates on progress / Points to consider:
1	To continue to widen our choice of songs that are sung in worship and to make sure that all of them promote God's inclusive love.	Julie Mason	Ongoing		Can we also encourage other musicians to lead in church? Perhaps starting with café church?
2	Place a "song suggestion" box in church for people to suggest new hymns/worship songs for us to sing in services.	Laura Faturoti	Feb 2025		
3	Consider holding a 24 or 12 hour prayer event, with a focus on local issues, the world and the building project.	St George's Ministry Team	Easter 2025		
4	To explore the possibility of further small group activities for people to pray and study together.	Laura Faturoti	May 2025		Possibly another similar to Tuesdays at the vicarage, or prayer triplets etc.
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Outcomes/Success Measurements – what we will see as a result:

We will see a congregation focused on God.



**Aims/What we want to achieve:**

We want to be a safe and inclusive place of healing for young people who have been hurt by the church, especially those in the LGBTQI+ community.

	<b>Planned Sequence of Actions:</b>	<b>By Whom:</b>	<b>By When:</b>	<b>Other Resources:</b>	<b>Updates on progress / Points to consider:</b>
<b>1</b>	To consider offering the church at reduced rates (or free) to community groups who support marginalised young people,	Laura Fatureti and Judith Eastaugh	Jan 2025		
<b>2</b>	To work with the parish youth worker to develop an inclusive youth group which enables young people to explore their faith, their identity and the Bible and to unlearn what they may have been taught.	Laura and Ebun Fatureti	March 2025		
<b>3</b>	To attend London Pride parade as visible allies of the LGBTQI+ community.	Emma Lewington	May 2025		
<b>4</b>	For the DCC and other key members to undertake Unconscious Bias training	Laura Fatureti	March 2025		
<b>5</b>	To continue to monitor all our activity for accessibility and inclusivity in line with the inclusive church statement.	St George's DCC	Ongoing		

**Outcomes/Success Measurements – what we will see as a result:**

All members of the church, young and old, knowing that they are known and loved by God in all of their identity and to be able to confidently speak of their faith in the context of their whole identity.

Aims/What we want to achieve:

To have a building that is maintained and weather proof whilst we work towards reordering the inside to make it more useable.

	Planned Sequence of Actions:	By Whom:	By When:	Other Resources:	Updates on progress / Points to consider:
1	Fix the church roof and make the building sound	Building Committee	Aug 2026		
2	To develop a programme of meetings with key stakeholders to share info and ideas for reordering plans	Building committee	Dec 2025		
3	To apply for a grant from the diocese for the fixing and maintenance of the gutters and church leaks on lower roofs.	Caro Stickland	March 2025		
4	Explore the possibility of getting the building listed, which will save us 20% VAT on building work.	Caro Stickland	Feb 2025		
5	To liaise with the diocese and start a process of appointing new church architects.	Laura Faturoti	Dec 2025		
6	To apply for funding for and then undertake Eco and Access surveys on the church building	Caro Stickland	Dec 2025		

Outcomes/Success Measurements – what we will see as a result:

The building will be sound and maintained, and we will begin to develop ideas for how to use the building in the future and how it might need to change.

## Values

*Underpin how we do everything*

An **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate, with a building that encourages worship and serves the local community

## 3 – 5 Year Vision

*What God is calling our church to do and become in the next three to five years*

A place of gathering for the local community, where everyone is accepted and welcomed.

A place of healing for those who have been hurt by the wider church.

## Core Statement

*Our purpose/reason to be here*

A safe and inclusive place for everyone to encounter the love of God

## Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Look at the use of the community garden – include ways of growing produce, benches for sitting and bike racks etc for green transport and to landscape the church gardens in improve visibility of the church and use of the grounds.
2. To work towards a full re-ordering for the inside of the church, including heating and lighting to make the space work for us and the local community.
3. To develop the prayer life of the church and the spirituality of the members
4. To grow in numbers and in the fruits of the spirit and to be a beacon of light and hope to the local area and the wider church.