



Vision 2022

'Sing to the Lord a New Song'

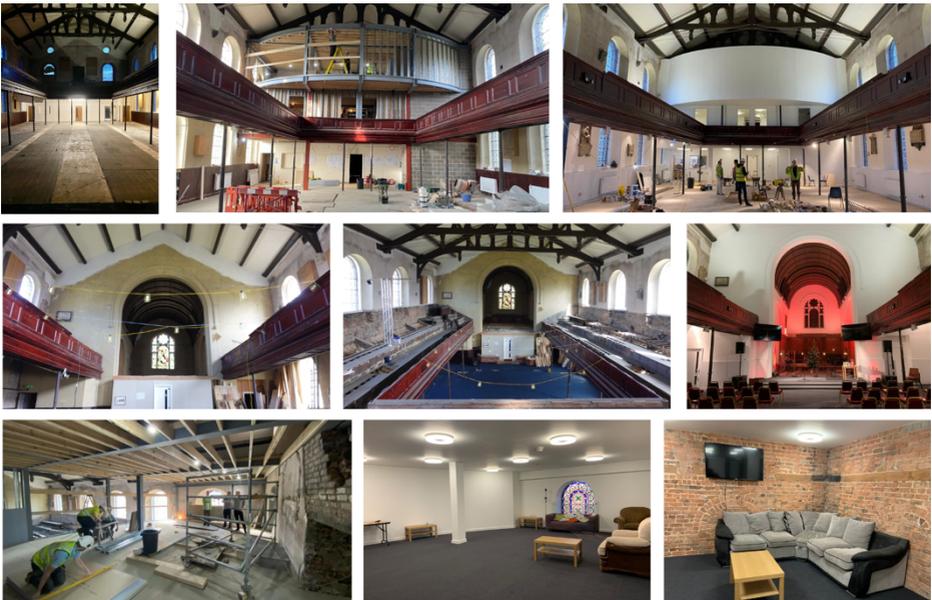
Psalm 96:1

Bigger Church, Bigger Difference

Together with all churches in the Diocese of Liverpool, we are called to be a bigger church making a bigger difference in L1, L8, and beyond. Last year, God reminded us of one of our primary purposes – as individual Christians and as His Church in our city – to hand on the baton of faith and ministry to others. This year, that purpose remains central, but with a renovated building and hopefully life beyond lockdown, we can discover new shapes and rhythms of life and ministry, lifting new songs of praise to God, both individually and as a Church family.

2021 Building Project

If you have been part of STJ for a while you will have seen numerous building projects and tent extensions. However, the tent reached its full potential and by the grace of God, we now have a renovated building, with new rooms, central heating and a much bigger and more useful worship space. We could not have done this without several grant funders and the generosity of our congregation.



We started 2021 with our biggest financial ask at the worst possible time and due to God's provision, we hit our target to enable this project and to further the work of Love Your Neighbour and our existing ministries.

We're excited to use these extra rooms for kids work, Alpha, prayer meetings, small groups, youth and student work and more! We created the top floor mezzanine which has been unofficially named 'The Loft' specifically for our youth ministry. The space will include games consoles, TVs, table tennis tables and a servery with plenty of space and capacity to produce amazing milkshakes!! We have also added a staircase into the building, and a lift is being installed.

We are planning an official Launch Service in March 2022.

Looking back: 2021

We have had so much to be thankful for in 2021. It has had unbelievable challenges but through God's provision and guidance, STJ has grown in so many ways. Not least a renovated building, and an opportunity to step more fully into the vision the Anglican Diocese has asked us to fulfil; to be a Resource Church for the next generation, planting and revitalising other Churches and ministries across our city.

Liverpool Next Generation

With funding from the Church commissioners, we were able to continue and grow both our schools and university missional teams.

Students' Café which meets on campus. We have connected with over 50 students, mainly from China and India, and have 12-18 students regularly attending on a Friday lunchtime. We have held a number of pop-up events in accommodation blocks which have included Welcome Events, Pumpkin Carving and a Christmas Open Mic event. Each Chaplain spends time with the students in their Church and we have seen growth in the Student Ministry at all Churches. Finally, we have invested time in our Find Your Steeple Instagram, posting regularly and attracting more followers.

Love Your Neighbour

Love Your Neighbour food hub has continued to provide vitally needed meals to vulnerable people around Liverpool. We have mobilised volunteers and partnered with other local churches whilst our building project has prevented us from using St James'. Over 70 local families have continued to be supported including homeless people, vulnerable women, sex workers, refugees and asylum seekers, families struggling with food insecurities and people directly affected through Covid poverty. Since May 2020 we have provided 81,000 meals.

Alpha

We have hosted four Alpha courses in 2021. In Spring/Summer we held two online courses, but in the Autumn/Winter we hosted one Alpha course online and one in-person in a café in town. All four went really well and we had people from all over Liverpool and further afield, including the Wirral, Lancashire, Birmingham, and even the Isle of Wight attending. We are looking forward to hosting more in 2022, both in-person and online.



Families

We began 2021 continuing to meet online with families connect and events. As the year progressed and restrictions eased we were

pleased to be able to meet together again and re-start our kids Sunday groups. We had our Easter Treasure hunt where the famous (funny looking) STJ bunny brought some Easter joy around town! Followed by our Picnic in the Park event in the summer which brought



us together with other families from other churches across our deanery. It was a great day and lots of people joined in who were not from church backgrounds. We have had five new families join our Church family, with others connecting in at various points. We have been so pleased to be able to meet together again for Families Connect and days out. We have been

bowling, gone on treasure hunts, visited the River of Lights and saw a REAL camel at the Crosby Nativity! Our kids worked so hard at putting together our own Nativity, which you will get to see in the New Year! We were excited to have a BBQ in September for families and the Sunday Kids Teams to share the vision we have to make the Families Ministry even more BRILLIANT in 2022, with holiday clubs, messy events, school connections and potentially a Kids Connect Group! We would value prayers as we continue to dream and plan how we grow our reach to share the love of Jesus to families and children.

Minis started to meet in person again during 2021, using St Cleopas' as their venue whilst St James was being refurbished. They have had a great time, welcoming new local families and encouraging them to attend STJ family events. Minis Extra restarted, where lunch is provided for parents and toddlers who would like to have a deeper discussion on God, parenting, the Bible and being a follower of Jesus. We are very grateful to the faithful volunteers who have kept this ministry going over 2021.

Youth

In September, our Youth Group relaunched in person after a year of lockdown and being online. There was a new excitement and energy in Number 4 Lady Chapel Close, and it wasn't just because of the new Xbox and TV! The group quickly regathered in September, playing games, eating plenty of donuts and playing the classic card game Uno.



Each week we would have a different guest come to Youth Group to tell their story (testimony). We welcomed all kinds of people from all different walks of life to come and share their story, with the young people taking it in turns to share their story at the end of term too.

We had special 'one off' socials throughout the term with Fireworks on Bonfire Night and a Christmas party at the end of term. The young people played their part in the carol services, being part of the welcome team, 'games extraordinaires' and doing the prayers and readings.

As we look towards 2022 we are so excited to host Youth Group and Youth Church in the Loft (the top room in our newly refurbished building). We are also ready and excited to welcome new young people who have had first contact with our School Chaplains as we grow in relationship and discipleship this year ahead.

Connect Groups

Connect Groups continued online for the first half of the year before taking a summer break. Some met for socials outside where restrictions allowed. Since then, most are having a hybrid approach and have enjoyed gathering physically and eating together! We currently have 8 Connect Groups, including a



fully online one. We are continuing to encourage people who have recently completed Alpha to transition into a Connect Group.

The groups have done a variety of different courses and all groups have participated in the 'CHURCH' course that coincided with our 'CHURCH' sermon series. One group has completed Helen West's mental health resources and we hope for every group to complete this in the spring term.

When Michelle arrived with us at St James, she took over the running of Connect Groups from Matt.

Students

2021 has been an exciting year for student ministry at StJ. We kicked off the year by undertaking the 24-7 Prayer Course at Students Connect which proved to be a really significant time of discovering how we can talk to and hear from God in a variety of different ways. As lockdown began to ease after Easter, we went big on socialising; helping those students who had barely seen each other in person to connect in a much more tangible way. This often consisted of food, drink, and outdoor sports in Sefton Park on a Monday night.



We also saw significant growth of the Brewery midweek congregation despite it having been online. Students shared their testimonies and did some talks on some of the bigger questions of life as well. The Brewery has now moved into the city centre where we are putting our roots down afresh!

We have welcomed many more amazing students into our family since the start of the new academic year and many of our new and



returning folks are already serving regularly on teams. Henry also joined our team as a ministry assistant and has blessed our students abundantly! It has been amazing to host Students Connect in person again too, meeting over food and looking at “Jesus in the Old

Testament”. As well as that, at least thirty students have a mentor from the wider church to help them journey through university life – we can’t thank you enough.

Football

Since September, we have been playing football every Wednesday. Throughout September, we played in Princes Park before moving to the Astro pitches at Wavertree Lifestyles Centre. We have really seen God’s provision throughout the previous term with attendances slowly increasing throughout the weeks. Our hope for 2022 is that relationships can be formed and that it will become a pathway towards the Alpha course. Want to get involved? Speak to Henry!

Some other significant events from 2021

We started off the year in lockdown and held church online over zoom. When we were able to meet back in-person, we had a couple of services in the building before moving to St Aidan’s Centre for Easter Sunday. We also continued to livestream the services over YouTube, and we had zoom coffee and catch-up for those who weren’t attending in person. We took down the tent in early 2021, ready for the building work to get started.

We continued to hold our regular twice-monthly prayer mornings on zoom, and we moved to in-person prayer breakfasts again in

September at No.4 Lady Chapel Close. We also held dedicated weeks of worship and prayer in June and September.



We had our STJ Staycation in March, which we called “Keep Going, Keep Growing,” and this involved family fun over Zoom, a treasure hunt around Liverpool city centre (with a special guest appearance of the Easter Bunny!), and an epic online Auction. We also heard from lots of our STJ family, past and present, along with a message from Kate Yates.

In May we attended HTB’s Leadership Conference online together on zoom, and we heard from many different speakers around the world and worshipped together virtually.

At the end of May we had our confirmation and baptism service, with seven people getting baptised or renewing their baptismal vows, and four becoming confirmed. The Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt. Revd. Paul Bayes led the baptisms and confirmations, and the service was well-attended at St Aidan’s Centre and online.

In June, we celebrated with Jennie and Michelle at their Ordination Service at the Cathedral (and on the Cathedral livestream) as they were ordained and became our Curates!



We held our Focus at Home weekend at the end of July, with a family fun day at Sefton Park, the return of STJ Dines Out, a nerf centre trip for our youth and lots of great online content from HTB.



In September, we welcomed four new ministry assistants – John McCreadie who is working with STJ Youth, Titus Ellerby who is working in our social transformation ministry, Henry Clothier who is working with the students and Samuel Briggs who is working in our worship ministry. Titus, Henry and Samuel have taken up residence in the top floor of Number 4!

Our youth group launched back in person in September, led by Matt and John M, meeting every Thursday evening at Number 4.

September also saw us launch a new sermon series titled “Church”, and Michelle helped to create some great Connect Group resources to engage with alongside. This time really helped us as a congregation think about what it is to be Church, and to re-envision what the next season of Church will be like as we begin to re-gather together.



During the course of the year we celebrated being able to meet together again by having more STJ Dines Out gatherings at The Tavern, China Dina and The Greenhills Pub. We also had men’s nights at the pub and women’s walks, as well as both adults and families bowling, picnics, Sunday lunches, watching the England Euros final outside together, open mic nights and walks on the beach.

Our response to the climate crisis has taken on fresh life this year, particularly in response to the COP 26 Conference in October. We attended a Climate walk organised by Christian Aid as part of the wider pilgrimage from Cornwall to Glasgow initiated by Youth Christian Climate Network and gathered at the COP 26 day of action.



We have also established the STJ Climate WhatsApp group to encourage one another and create a space to learn more.

In October we started a new 6:30pm worship gathering on Sunday evenings. We met for an hour to worship and pray together in preparation for launching our new evening service which will be launched in February 2022.



In December we were finally able to move back into the newly refurbished building, with our first meeting being our three carol services (along with fireworks in the grounds!), attended by over 300 people. We were also able to hold our STJ Kids Christmas parties in our new rooms upstairs, and everyone was very excited to be back! Due to a rise in Covid cases we had to postpone our nativity service, so we're looking forward to this in the new year as soon as it is safe to do so.

Our staff team has changed somewhat this past year. Kirsty Fazakerley went on maternity leave at the end of February and Janet Wightman stepped into the role of Operations Manager. Ruth Wong joined us as our Operations Administrator, and Danielle Broadbent as our LNG Administrator. Danielle also was our Food Hub co-ordinator for 6 months. In June we celebrated Jennie Hardy and Michelle Goodwin getting ordained and joining our team as Curates. We also said goodbye to Rebecca Speakman as she left to train as a musician in the army. In November Michelle went on adoption leave, to return to be with us in January. Jude Padfield continues as Vicar, Matt Courtney as Associate Pastor and Creative Director, Becky Courtney as Families Worker and also Schools Missional Chaplain alongside John Lisle, who also continues to work with our students and leads the Brewery. Matty Bentley continues as the Lead Schools Missional Chaplain, and

Hannah Padfield as University Missional Chaplain. Lois continues to be in Hannah's team, as well as being our Finance Assistant and Assistant Worship Pastor. Rachel Harley continues as our Minis (parent and toddler group) Leader.

Our team is here to help you discover and grow in your giftings and to enable the Church to be the Church in all its different forms. Do continue to pray for them as they look to serve you and others.

Looking forward: 2022

If you give time, money or prayers to the work at STJ, then you have played your part in making our shared life possible; life in community, spiritual growth, serving others, building the Kingdom and all as an act of loving worship to God. As a pioneering Church, every year is like a new start, as we look to grow, reshape ministries and respond to what God is doing in our city. With a newly developed building, and hopefully a year with far fewer restrictions than the last two, there are tremendous opportunities to discover new ways of being Church and to grow into all that God is calling us to be.

For the year ahead, we want to discover the new songs that God is calling us to sing. Songs of worship & prayer, but also songs of spiritual friendship & growth as well as songs of mission, evangelism and service in our different communities. To do this, every Church family member needs to play their part; listening to the Holy Spirit, listening to each other and joining in with what God is doing. To discover these new songs, on a very practical note, there are at least 2 major financial challenges for us as we look ahead.

New Song – Creative Mission & Church Life

With a newly renovated building, with all the big life questions that Covid has brought to people, and with strong inroads into local

Schools, Universities and different communities across the city, we have a tremendous opportunity to creatively re-imagine Christian mission and Church life. We don't know what this will look like exactly, and you may have some of the ideas that will help us move forwards. Some things may remain much the same, but we want to be ready to respond to the doors God opens and we anticipate this requiring additional finance. One example of this is our new 6.30pm service which will take a different shape to reach different people. Amongst our young people we would love to host a 5.30pm youth gathering in the loft and a wider monthly youth service. We are exploring the possibility of an after-School group for primary age children (Kids Connect). There are also a variety of ways in which the Brewery, Minis and other ministries could be developed to reach more people. Whatever we decide to do, it will require additional finance, as will buying chairs, TVs, sound & AV kit, sofas, notice/promo material and all the other Church furnishings, equipment and increased heating costs as we inhabit our building more.

Additional finance required: £6000

Stabilise Church Finances

The financial impact of Covid is still with us. There has been tremendous generosity across the Church as we've responded to the building project, Love Your Neighbour and other priorities over the past 12 months, but we need to increase our giving base if we are to maintain our current ministries. We anticipate needing at least an additional £5,000 this year, to avoid impacting our current Church financial reserves, and to give us a platform from which we can securely explore the New Songs God is calling us to sing.

Additional finance required: £5,000

Total additional cost: £11,000

As we respond to God's call to sing a new song – seeking creative mission, a furnished and equipped Church building, and with stable finances – the PCC have finalised the budget and are asking the Church to give an additional £11,000 this year.

Any additional money raised will of course be invested in Church life and ministry as we seek to build a bigger Church to make a bigger difference for Jesus!

On Sunday 16th, 23rd and 30th January, Jude, Jennie and Michelle will be laying out our vision for the next year and giving more details to the new initiatives outlined in this booklet. We are asking each member at St James to prayerfully consider their giving and to give as generously as possible.

There are two key ways we can respond at the start of this year:

1. We want to encourage existing givers to consider increasing their regular monthly standing orders and perhaps also making a one-off donation.
2. We want to encourage members who aren't giving to start giving regularly.

We are aware that some members have only just recently increased their giving, and others are simply not able to increase their giving, so please respond carefully and prayerfully.

Ways to give:

1. New Standing Orders:

This is the best way to give to STJ, for both yourselves and for us. It is really helpful for us to know that we have regular amounts coming in each month, it helps our cash flow, and it is really easy to set up. This can be done via this QR code, your online banking or via Churchsuite (App or website).



If you would prefer to set up your own standing order with your bank, you can use our bank details below. Please make it clear who is giving by using a reference, your name and giving.

Account number: 6567 2855

Sort-code: 08 92 99

Reference: Surname Giving

2. Increasing an existing Standing Orders:

If you are already a regular giver to STJ you can either increase your current standing order via your bank or set up a new standing order via Churchsuite and cancel the one via your bank.

3. One off amount:

It may be that you would like to make a one-off donation. This can be done using the QR code, via Churchsuite (stj.org.uk) or you can write a cheque. Please make cheques payable to 'ST JAMES IN THE CITY' and post to 6 Lady Chapel Close LI 7BZ

Gift Aid:

A considerable contribution to our giving is recovered from the Inland Revenue by way of 'Gift Aid' – an extra 25p per £1 donated. Anyone who pays any Income Tax should fill out a Gift Aid form for their donation which can be found at the end of the booklet, you can also do this as part of any of our online giving options.

Notes:

- Any surplus made in 2022 will be carried forward to offset the large increases in expenditure we are expecting during the next few years.
- At the present time 14% of all donations received from St James' members is given away to great causes both locally and further afield.

Prayer for Life and Growth

*God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.*

*God of life, breathe on us afresh, that we would resonate
with the songs of heaven and find our own this year as an
act of worship to you.*

*God of salvation and renewal, help our Church to grow in
numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to
our city, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



St James in the City



@StJamesInTheCity



www.stj.org.uk



@stjameschurch

Pledge forms

Pledge forms help us track our progress to our target of £11,000. *Please cut out this slip and send it back to us.*

Name:.....

Tel No:.....

Email:

- I would like to start giving monthly by standing order.
£_____ per month
- I would like to amend my existing standing order by
£_____per month
- I would like to make the following one-off donation
£_____
- I would like more information in getting involved in

- Connect groups
- StJ Minis
- StJ Kids
- Other Sunday rotas
- Worship & Creative Ministries
- Youth & Schools Ministries

Signed:

Dated:

Please email to info@stj.org.uk or send to Revd Jude Padfield, 6 Lady Chapel Close, Liverpool, L1 7BZ.

If you pay tax don't forget to fill out the gift aid form.



GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of Charity: St James in the City, Charity number 1162127

Details of donor:

Title Forename(s)

Surname

Full home Address

..... Postcode

I want to Gift Aid all the donations I have made since

...../...../20.....

and all donations I make in the future.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature Date/...../.....

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Notes

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the church from the tax you pay for the current year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Please notify the charity if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration.
- Change your name or home address.
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

HMRC requires that all payments made are in a verifiable form i.e., Standing Order



St James in the City



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