



St Joseph's & St John the Baptist
EAST BRIGHTON CATHOLIC PARISH

OUR VISION, OUR MISSION



Our Vision:

Transformed by the love of Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant and compassionate community where all are welcome. We desire to worship God, grow in faith, share God's love with others, and to serve our city.

"Coming to the East Brighton Parish has been a transformation in my life: connecting with other people and coming back to God when I felt cold, tired and abandoned. Through this community I have become closer to Christ. This parish is special to me because I believe God led me here."

- Liyla, young adult, recently baptised



Social Justice

"BUILDING A CIVILISATION OF LOVE" ST JOHN PAUL II

We are dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms, spiritual, emotional, social or physical, and to building community in the local neighbourhood.

The Fitzherbert Community Hub at St John the Baptist is a sanctuary where the diverse people of East Brighton can connect and thrive. We partner with wonderful local charities as well as home grown initiatives. With the **Real Junk Food Project**, we offer a 'pay as you feel' cafe which tackles food poverty and social isolation. We have begun a **Music Outreach** Project to enable young people to learn instruments and sing in a choir. Our Hub offers a home to **Voices in Exile**, supporting asylum seekers and refugees, and the **Brighton Table Tennis Club**, working with children, people with disabilities, the elderly and many other groups. We also run a **Food Bank** which serves 60+ people every week.

We have a **Care Group**, befriending the elderly and isolated, and a **Ministry of Consolation** to support the bereaved, as well as supporting chaplaincy to the local hospital.



We are very active members of **CitizensUK**, campaigning to create social change to transform lives in our city. Our work includes fighting for the real living wage, affordable housing, and mental health support for young people.

So that our mission flows from the Gospel vision, we offer formation opportunities on **Catholic Social Teaching**.

Students & Young Adults

FORMING A NEW GENERATION IN FAITH

We are passionate about supporting young people to discover true meaning and purpose in their lives, and to become missionary-disciples of Jesus. We offer a wide-ranging programme of opportunities for students & young adults to encounter Christ, explore the Catholic faith, create friendships, grow in prayer, discover their gifts, and serve others.

The UK is seeing a 'quiet revival' of faith in young people: many are thirsting for a vision for life and discovering a path to happiness in the Catholic Church. We are accompanying increasing numbers of young people on a journey into Christian faith.

"Encountering the overwhelming passion and enthusiasm of the young adults group in Christ, gave me hope that even in a world increasingly shaped by modernism, individualism and atheism, faith still lives on in young hearts, encouraging me to rekindle my spiritual life and return to prayer after four years." - Nidhi, Student.

Our programme for young adults/students includes weekly formation and prayer, retreats, theology events, trips, leadership development, and opportunities for service. Through our team of chaplains, we offer a Christian presence to students within the universities, and create a home for them within the parish.

"Deep Waters is life-changing, I confessed after 25 years, I felt God's forgiveness, was surrounded by peace and support, and through prayer, talks, and friendships, I found true belonging and experienced real spiritual growth." - Leonardo, Young Adult.



Families & Children's Ministry

CELEBRATING THE JOYFUL FAMILY OF GOD

We create a discipleship journey for parents and young people that supports them to grow spiritually from birth to parenthood and beyond. We offer families a range of opportunities to join a community, build friendships, grow in their faith, worship together, support each other in parenting, serve others, and build the domestic church. This ministry is coordinated by our Family Ministry Director, Julia Wingfield and a fantastic team.



Baptism - For many families, requesting to have their child baptised is their first contact with our community. So far this year, 50 families are on this journey - not only receiving catechesis for baptism, but an invitation to belong to our community and to re-connect with their faith.

Parents, Babies and Toddlers group - fortnightly meetings include an opportunity for conversation and play as well as prayer in the church.

Family Faith Formation - Monthly sessions for parents and children offer faith formation for the whole family including preparing for the sacraments.

Messy Church events - Bringing together people inside and outside the community for food, games, Christ-centred craft activities and Bible storytelling.

Children's Liturgies of the Word run at both churches at the 11 am mass on most Sundays.

Parenting For Faith group meets weekly online offering support for parents and carers

Proclaim Youth Group - fortnightly meetings with food, games, meaningful conversations, friendship, opportunities for service and sacramental preparation.

Youth Alpha - We have run three Youth Alpha courses over the past three years, with 25 young people attending this year's course.

Growing as Disciples

COMING TO LIFE IN CHRIST

There are many diverse opportunities to grow in your faith in our community: theology conferences, Catholic Social Teaching events, prayer groups, discipleship groups, and parenting for faith. There are opportunities for all ages and life circumstances!

Alpha - Exploring Christian Faith: Alpha is a course offering a space in which friends, family, neighbours, seekers can explore their questions about life, meaning, faith & God. Everyone's welcome.

We run the Alpha Course at least twice every year: in person and online. We encourage every member of our parish to participate at least once, to experience a renewal of faith, and as a space where you can invite others. Alpha is a wonderful opportunity for encounter with God and growth in discipleship.

"It's been a very hard year in my personal life, but starting the Alpha journey, and then carrying on to the About Becoming Catholic course and Baptism, has opened up a relationship with Jesus that I so needed just at this time" - Annie.

City Monks: A prayerful presence in the heart of the city. Fr Aidan, Fr Gabriel and Br Anthony offer opportunities to grow in prayer & discipleship through Saturday Sanctuary, Midday Stillness, and joining them to pray the Divine Office.

ABC - About Becoming Catholic: is our course for those who wish to explore joining the Church. Increasing numbers of people are seeking faith, and journeying with us to Baptism and Reception as Catholics. We are seeing a new surge of conversions - people discovering the joy and freedom of the Gospel.



The New Hub

A NEW & BEAUTIFUL CENTRE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We will be replacing the old parish hall on Milton Road with a new and beautiful hub, to create a space which will serve our wonderful ministries, support our community to flourish, and enable us to develop our outward-facing mission, serving our local community more creatively in the coming years. Our beautiful new hub will build community in the local area, responding to real needs, tackling poverty of all kinds - spiritual, material, social - and enabling people to connect, grow and be inspired.



"Being part of the Young Adults Community has been an amazing experience as it's reignited my love for the faith. I've really enjoyed Deep Waters as it's given me the opportunity to explore and deepen my relationship with Christ. I've also loved meeting new people and growing closer as a community throughout the year." - Emily

Student Centre: The new building will offer a home to our large and vibrant community of students and young adults: a space to learn, grow, celebrate and serve. **Families Ministry:** The Hub will provide a fantastic space for our ever-expanding ministry to families, enabling us to reach out to families in need locally. **Community-Engagement:** With a welcoming and homely coffee-lounge, a chapel, library, student common room, meeting rooms and a large auditorium, we will be providing a fantastic resource to the Church and city.

Building work begins this summer, and we hope to open the new centre in summer 2026!

Getting Involved

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL!

There are so many ways to get involved and serve the mission of our community. Whether it's giving practical help or using musical gifts, welcoming newcomers or supporting young people, visiting the sick or doing DIY, joining a Team is a great way to serve God, grow in faith and make a difference.

Serving is a great way to discover joy! Jesus is our model: the one who came to wash our feet,

and to lay down his life for his friends. With him, we seek to be people who live for others and so receive life in abundance.

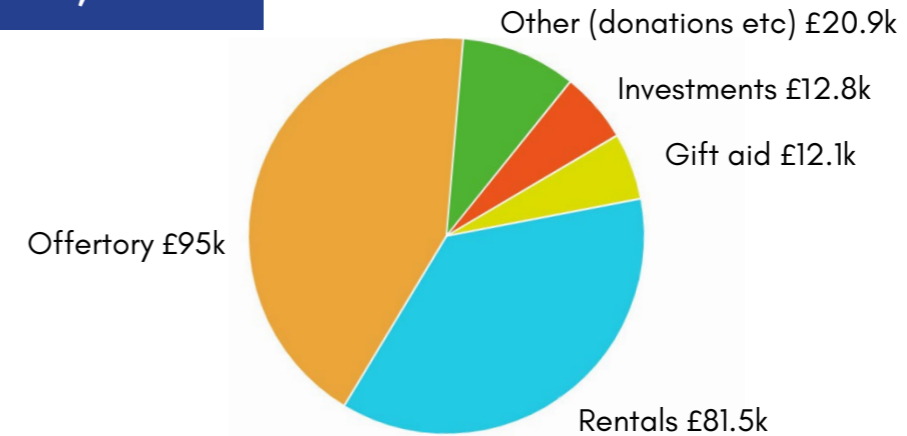
To find out more about Service Teams, visit our website and click on the "Discipleship Pathway" page, speak to a team leader, or email the parish office:

eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk

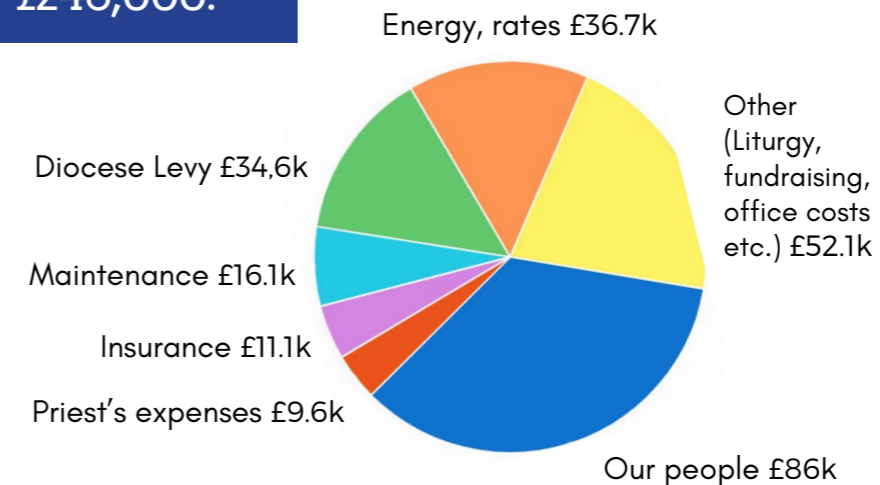
Stewarding God's Resources

Income
£220,000:

FIGURES FOR 2024



Expenditure
£246,000:



**What is stewarding?
It is using all the resources that God gives us for the building of his Kingdom.**

We receive our funding primarily from what our parishioners give, plus rent from parish buildings. In order for us to carry out our mission and continue to develop our vibrant community life, we must cover all our costs from these sources.

YOUR GIVING IS VITALLY IMPORTANT AND NEEDED.



Giving

MAKING OUR MISSION POSSIBLE

Can you support our mission by regular giving?

Thank you for being a valued part of our parish community. Your support helps us continue our mission and serve those in need. Here are the details on how to contribute:

Standing Order or Bank Transfer Setting up a regular weekly or monthly donation is the best way to enable our life and mission to flourish! If you are already a regular donor, please consider whether you can increase your giving to support new developments and meet vital needs in our local community.

Account Name: East Brighton Parish

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Account Number: 41076426

PLEASE GIFT AID YOUR DONATION!

Why Gift Aid?

Gift Aid adds 25% to your donation at no extra cost to you. For example, a £10 donation becomes £12.50 by simply ticking a box.

You can register for Gift Aid by completing a simple form online:



Scan here to fill out an online Gift Aid form

or contact the office at: eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk or by calling 01273 087839.

Or you can gift aid your donations via the Dona contactless devices.



OTHER WAYS OF GIVING:

Contactless Giving. You can find contactless devices - Dona machines - at the back of both of our churches.

Online Giving. Visit: www.eastbrightoncatholic.org.uk/support-us

Offertory Collection & One-Off Donations. You can also give by cash or cheque through the collection at Mass or by sending it to the office.

Need Help? We're here to assist you. Contact the parish office at: eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk

Thank you for your generosity. Every gift makes a difference.





MAKING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO THE CHURCH:

The money people give to the Church through legacies is a very important means of supporting the mission. Legacies can be a way to make a substantial and lasting impact on the parish's life & mission into the future. Your legacy will not be subject to 40% inheritance tax.

Could you remember the East Brighton Catholic Community in your Will? Your gift could be a means to the Catholic Church in Brighton flourishing for generations to come. Please consider including the "East Brighton Catholic Church" by dedicating a percentage of your inheritance to our vital mission. *We pray for our benefactors regularly through Mass intentions.*