



PARISH PROFILE

2023

the
EPISCOPAL PARISH
of
ST. JOHN
the EVANGELIST

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WHO WE ARE



WELCOME & OVERVIEW

The Episcopal Parish of St. John the Evangelist is a vibrant spiritual community located approximately 20 miles south of Boston in the seaside town of Hingham, Massachusetts. Founded in 1879, we are well-established and ever-evolving. Our congregation spans many generations and viewpoints, but we share a love for St. John's and each other, an appreciation of strong preaching that reveals the Gospel's relevance in our lives, and a vital commitment to outreach.

Worship anchors our life together. Rooted in the Book of Common Prayer, we regularly hold three Sunday services: Rite I at 8 a.m. and Rite II at 10 a.m., and a contemporary service at 5 p.m. known as SW5. We also offer a Wednesday morning Eucharist, and lay-led Morning Prayer daily via a private Zoom link. Our acclaimed music program, with both an adult choir and junior choristers, enriches spiritual reflection and connection. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's has regularly live-streamed its 10 a.m. service, drawing worshippers wherever they are. Our well-attended weekly Coffee Hours, annual fall Homecoming Picnic, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and SummerFest Barbecue all attest that our parishioners enjoy one another's fellowship.

We value Christian formation for all ages, starting with our robust Sunday School and High School Confirmation programs, and continuing with our Adult Education offerings. We are also deeply committed to community outreach and social justice. We are proud of our many flourishing outreach ministries, some of

Parish Mission Statement

At St. John's, we seek to share the Good News of the Gospel through engaging worship, faithful service, and life-long Christian formation while joyfully living out our faith in this community and the world.

which are long-standing, while others have formed more recently in response to community needs. Whether through annual service trips to Appalachia, volunteering in a local laundromat, hosting safe summer programming for Boston youth, starting a statewide charity to provide dignity to those who cannot afford menstrual

products, creating a Not-So-Spooky Haunted House in October, decking the halls for our annual Holiday Boutique that supports the church's budget, or working towards true equality and inclusivity with our anti-racism ministry, we strive to be hands-on as we live out our faith by learning and by serving those in need.

We emerged from the disruption of COVID-19 even more mindful of and committed to faithfully addressing the many challenges in our local communities, the nation, and the world. We are excited to welcome a new rector who will inspire us, challenge us and, most importantly, who will demonstrate God's love for us as we live into our mission.



Parish Overview by the Numbers

- Average Sunday Attendance: 191
- Staff: 2 full-time clergy, 7 part-time support
- Clergy Support: 2 (Priest Associate, Rector Emeritus)
- Operating Budget in 2023: \$477,347
- Pledge Units in 2023: 170
- Average pledge amount: \$3,067
- Pledged in 2021 Capital Campaign: \$1.1 million
- Lay Led Committees/Ministries: 24 (see Appendix A)
- Sunday School Enrollment: 79
- Confirmations in 2022: 18
- Guests at the 2023 Not So Spooky Haunted House: 3,500
- Annual Loads of laundry funded through Laundry Love: 600
- Menstruation products donated through Free. since 2021: 802,343
- Population of Hingham: 24,284
- State rank of Hingham High School, [US News & World Report](#): 44 (of 405)

OUR DISCERNMENT PROCESS

In November 2022 the vestry commissioned an 11-member search committee after our rector of 14 years accepted a call to serve in Florida. The parish enthusiastically participated in a formal discernment process, which included a standardized survey issued by Holy Cow Consulting, 14 well-attended small discussion groups, and direct interviews with parish staff and key constituents.

The discernment process gave parishioners the opportunity to go deep with each other.

We repeatedly heard that St. John's has been a place of inspiration, respite, hope, and community. We heard deep gratitude in how the church community has shown up for each other during challenging times. We also heard that we are over-scheduled, worried about our families, seeking true connection, and tired. We heard how the hyper-partisan national political scene has left some on both sides of the spectrum feeling alienated. We resoundingly heard that us-

ing our privileges and resources in the service of others is a priority.

This discernment process also helped us identify fundamental characteristics of our parish. We overwhelmingly value excellent preaching. We welcome a variety of perspectives: while solidly theologically progressive, some theologically conservative parishioners also call St. John's home. We appreciate our liturgical traditions rooted in the Book of Common Prayer and the high caliber of our church music. We are at the middle mark in terms of how much we like change, showing more flexibility in programming than in worship. We are blessed with very strong lay leadership and volunteerism.

Our priorities in the near future are to continue the legacy of strong preaching while strengthening our pastoral response to people in need—emotionally, physically, and spiritually—and to expand ministries that help across these same areas. To serve our many school-age parishioners, we want to continue to rebuild our youth program, which suffered recent setbacks due to clergy turnover and the COVID pandemic. We want to love and be loved: to continue to grow through sharing the blessing of St. John's with the community.

Parish Search Prayer

Loving God, we your children ask you to send us a rector who will love us every day, show us how to be like Jesus in our world, and teach us to act like Jesus towards our neighbors. We pray for patience and wisdom on this journey. Amen.

WORSHIP

St. John's offers two Sunday morning services: Rite I at 8 a.m. and Rite II at 10 a.m. From September to June, we also offer a contemporary, informal Sunday evening Eucharist at 5 p.m. known as SW5. In addition, there is a midweek Eucharist at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays followed by Wednesday Faith Journey, a group committed to studying spiritual readings. Lay-led Daily Morning Prayer is offered via a private Zoom link. We also hold a number of special worship services throughout the year including All-ages Worship, Advent Lessons & Carols, Choral Evensong, Taizé, the Blessing of the Animals, and our outdoor service, Mass on the Grass.

The 8 a.m. service is quiet and contemplative; no music is played. The spoken service contains the Liturgy of the Word, followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The 10 a.m. service has a full choir, and is structured so that family members of all ages can have a meaningful worship experience. Church school is held during the first part of the service, with children joining their parents during the singing of the Offertory hymn. This service is live-streamed and available on our web page, drawing hundreds of hits each week.

A focal point in the liturgy of all services is the sermon. Discernment overwhelmingly confirmed that the thoughtful delivery of a well-developed sermon, based on the lectionary but with interpretation and application to current issues, is a vital part of St. John's worship experience.

Discernment also highlighted the integral role that music plays in our worship experience, which is thoughtfully selected by choirmaster and organist

Elisabeth "Buffy" Gray. Buffy also leads two active choirs. Four paid section leaders, who have advanced musical education or experience, anchor the adult choir. Our Chorister program for children is growing, and sings the service several times a year.

Parishioners of all ages participate in services. Active teams of lay Eucharistic Ministers, Chalice Bearers, Readers, Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild members, Flower Guild members, Shining Lights, Stream Team, Digital Ushers, and Counters generously give of their time every week.





FORMATION

Sunday School

Our Church School Program is a cornerstone of St. John's, and is supported by a part-time Church School Director, Alexis MacElhiney. More than a dozen volunteer Church School leaders lead weekly classes. Our Sunday School meets during the first half of our 10 a.m. service, which the children join during the Offertory Hymn.



Activities such as All Ages Worship, two Christmas pageants, an Easter Egg hunt, Shrove Tuesday pancake races, and a bouncy house at our SummerFest event allow our whole church community to embrace our children's spiritual growth and make St. John's a fun and welcoming community for all.

PRE-K–GRADE 2

Our Sunday School curriculum begins with Godly Play: a Montessori-based curriculum that teaches children the same Bible stories over the course of several years, much as lectionary repeats. Every time the children encounter the story, they access new elements of it as their own language, imaginative, and critical thinking skills develop.

GRADES 3–5

Our older Sunday School students use Episcopal Children's Curriculum, developed by Virginia Theological Seminary. This program offers insights into Bible stories and an introduction to the history and practices of the Episcopal Church. In upper elementary school, our students are presented with their own Study Bibles.

Youth Ministry

Our Middle School and High School Youth are actively engaged in the life and ministry of St. John's, whether serving on the altar, volunteering at our Not-So-Spooky Haunted House and our Holiday Boutique,

helping with Outreach, as a member of the Becoming Beloved Community anti-racism ministry, hosting a supply-packing party for Free., or constructing an outdoor labyrinth as part of a high school senior's independent project.

Discernment revealed that our youth appreciate and respond to clergy involvement in youth ministry, and that clergy turnover, combined with the COVID pandemic, had a disruptive effect on our programming. Rebuilding the youth program is a priority. We currently offer the following youth ministries:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our Middle School Youth use the Journey to Adulthood/Rite 13 curriculum, which employs Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, and outreach ministries to strengthen their relationship to the church and each other. It typically meets twice per month on Sunday afternoons or evenings.

HIGH SCHOOL

Our High School Youth Group provides a supportive and inclusive community for young individuals to explore their faith, promoting service and outreach activities once a month to help others in need. Youth members also take part in monthly social gatherings

where long lasting friendships are fostered and cultivated. Confirmation class is traditionally offered in 10th grade, although it is available to all high school youth (9th graders by invitation). Confirmands must attend the twice-monthly meetings and complete service hours, and are guided by adult mentors from the congregation who serve as their sponsors.

Adult Formation

Adult education programming varies according to interest and need. Recent classes include Sacred Ground, which was centered on race and racism; a group reading and discussion of Presiding Bishop Curry's book *Love is the Way*; a weekly Introduction to the Bible class, and "Episcopalianism 101" for people new to the practice. Other successful past offerings include a 6-week series on prayer, with parishioners actively leading sessions exploring their faith journeys during life transitions, and a Women's Lenten Retreat, held both in person and virtually during COVID. We also have a lay-led Faith Journey group that meets following the Wednesday morning Eucharist. Discernment revealed that more adult education opportunities would be welcomed.



OUTREACH

Our Outreach committee currently includes nineteen active parishioners. Each year the Outreach Committee strives to maximize help to others through long-standing partnerships as well as in new, meaningful ways.

Free. Ministry

As Christians, we respect the dignity of every human being. When parishioner Kenzie Blackwell learned that welfare benefits do not cover personal hygiene supplies, that donations of menstrual products were low, and that many South Shore residents were missing school and work because of it, she took action. She spoke to St. John’s leadership about creating a new ministry to address period poverty, and Free. (pronounced “free, period”) was born. Just two years later, Free. has supplied more than 800,000 products (“moments of dignity”) worth more than \$125,000, and recently secured a \$500,000 grant to become a source of support to schools across Massachusetts. Supplies have outgrown Kenzie’s garage, and require warehouse space covered by other grant funding. Parishioner-owned Hingham Moving Services provides transportation of large donations, and parishioners of all ages are involved in product collections and packing. Free.’s

ministry ensures that a basic biological function doesn’t act as a barrier to living a full life. Free. has served as a model for multiple other groups in Massachusetts and beyond. Please visit freeperiodministry.org for more information.

Appalachia Service Project

St. John’s has enjoyed a strong alliance with The [Appalachia Service Project](#) for 10 years. In 2023, our group of 10 youth and chaperones traveled to three counties in West Virginia, helping families with critical housing repairs to make homes warmer, safer, and drier.

B-SAFE

For 24 years, St. John’s and the Episcopal Parish of St. Stephen’s in neighboring Cohasset have provided a day camp on the South Shore for Boston youth during a week of their summer vacation. Together, we host around 100 B-SAFE campers in July. The youth take field trips to

Outreach Mission Statement
To help our fellow children of God, both near and far, through compassionate service and thoughtful financial support.

the South Shore Arts Center and Holly Hill Farm, go to the beach, and have a barbecue lunch and games at St. John's. Sixty-five volunteers help make this happen.

Laundry Love

A monthly ministry serving low-income clients at a local laundromat, Laundry Love also holds an annual Valentine's Day fund-raiser, which raised \$2,000 to support the program in 2023. On average, we fund 50 loads of laundry per month.

Becoming Beloved Community

The mission of the Becoming Beloved Community (BBC) at St. John's is to identify and dismantle racism and injustice while building an antiracist community in our church and beyond. The BBC team currently has 17 serving members, including our parish clergy and youth group parishioners. BBC focuses its energy on three areas: youth education in the Sunday School and Youth Group classes; working with adult educa-



tion in offering Sacred Ground and other programs to enhance adult formation around racial and ethnic justice and identity; and community outreach, partnering with five of the seven historically Black congregations in the diocese through Roxbury-Dorchester Power in

Community organization, and through Episcopal City Mission, which focuses its ministry on the urban poor and oppressed.

BBC continues to identify areas where St. John's can continue to ensure BIPOC voices and perspectives are an active part of shaping important decisions for our parish. For example, in 2022, BBC advised parish leadership on key questions we should be asking as part of the interview process for new staff members, and advocated successfully for the Rector Search Committee to include BIPOC representation. BBC also worked closely with the Sunday School leadership to assure age-appropriate focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. BBC has also increased diversity at our Holiday Boutique fund-raiser by recruiting and inviting BIPOC vendors to attend.

Additional Outreach Ministries

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

We work with local clergy to organize a meal-packing event on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and support three local food pantries through food drives and monetary support.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

We collected about 100 backpacks and many school supplies for our annual Backpack and School Supply Drive for the Quincy Family Resource Center.

ANGEL & WARMING CHRISTMAS TREES

Gift cards, essential outdoor winter wear, toys & games are donated by our generous parishioners to provide brighter Christmases for scores of people in need on the South Shore. Organizations that we partner with include Blue Hills Healthy Families, Quincy Family Resource Center, St. Stephen's Youth Programs, Christmas in the City, and Wellspring.

"You'll find Jesus at Laundry Love. Every single time!"

— parishioner comment

SPRING “CLOSET CLEAN-OUT” CLOTHING DRIVE

We partner with Cradles for Crayons in Boston to provide infants and children living in homeless or low-income situations with essential items they need to thrive. In the spring of 2023 a group of 15 parishioners delivered more than 75 bags of donated clothes, books, diapers, and toys, and helped sort incoming items at their Giving Factory headquarters.

RESPONDING TO CURRENT NEEDS

St. John’s regularly responds to support local and global communities in times of acute need.

In 2023 we donated \$7,100 to the Family Welcome Center, a local refugee intake and housing center established by Bay State Community Services. These monetary and in-kind gifts were raised by the Not-So-Spooky Haunted House in partnership with the Hingham Unity Council.

In 2022 we raised \$1,333 from the Not-So-Spooky Haunted House for Ukraine relief. SummerFest raised another \$2,500 for Ukraine that year. Additionally, the Vestry used earmarked funds to support the World Central Kitchen’s relief work in Ukraine.

I think of St. John’s as a dynamic parish of folks who are joyfully ready to roll up their sleeves and help.

— Guest preacher Rev. John H. Finley IV,
co-founder and head of Epiphany School



IN-REACH MINISTRIES (PARISH FAMILY)

Our parish family supports one another through a myriad of different ministries. Lay leaders chair committees covering all aspects of our life together, including Fellowship, Coffee Hour, Flower Outreach, Foyer (Dinner) Groups, Newcomers, Helping Hands, Online Directory, the Prayer Team, and the Men's Group.

Annual Events

Our special events draw the parish together, raise funds, and bring newcomers through our doors. In addition to raising vital funds, this event shows how welcoming St. John's is, and we have become a church home to many through these welcoming, community-wide occasions.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & PARISH COCKTAIL PARTY

Our biggest fund-raising events of the year, St. John's Holiday Boutique and Parish Cocktail Party bring together more than 100 volunteers and transforms Upper and Lower Weld Halls into a juried holiday market, complete with visits from Santa. The parish is invited to a cocktail party, live and silent auctions, and private shopping on Friday evening. On Saturday, we welcome more than 1,000 guests through our doors



to shop. Admission proceeds are donated to a charity chosen by the Outreach Committee, and a percentage of the vendors' proceeds benefits the church's general funds.

“The community drew me here. I knew so many people with good values and a strong work ethic that were members here that I thought to myself, ‘they are doing something right and I want to be a part of it.’”

— parishioner comment



NOT-SO-SPOOKY HAUNTED HOUSE

The NSSHH has been an innovative part of St. John's since it was initiated in 2017. Geared towards young children, the NSSHH transforms the undercroft and basement into a slightly spooky, high-tech multimedia experience. Guided by St. John's youth, our guests exit into a Halloween reception of donuts, cider, and games. This event has grown every year. In 2023, we hosted 3,500 guests and raised approximately \$22,000.

SUMMERFEST

SummerFest was founded in 2018 as a celebratory end to the program year and is organized by the Men's Group. Festivities for the parish include outdoor worship, live music, adult beverages, catered barbecue, food trucks, and carnival rides for the kids. After a two-year hiatus during the COVID pandemic, SummerFest returned with a bang in 2022. In 2023, more than 175 parishioners enjoyed the June afternoon and raised more than \$2,000 in net proceeds for the ministries of the church.

Administrative Ministries

Our church is well-run due to the faithful service of our staff and parishioners involved in a variety of administrative ministries.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Buildings and Grounds is responsible for the church structure and its grounds, as well as those of the rectory and the adjacent rental property on Water Street. The committee ensures that the essential systems



we rely on each day at St. John's are dependable and well-maintained, and that the property is cared for in a thoughtful manner. Buildings and Grounds provides facilities that accommodate all parishioners and visitors in a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment; maintains St. John's stature as a Main Street landmark; and ensures we are a good neighbor.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee assists the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of St. John's to fulfill their responsibility to oversee the integrity of the financial reporting process, the investment policies and activities, insurance coverages, annual budgeting process, regulatory compliance, and capital requirements planning.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee runs an annual pledge campaign in the fall, and encourages every member of the St. John's community to consider making a financial commitment to support the mission of the church, in addition to donating their time and talent throughout the year.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

Our website, stjohns-hingham.org, is maintained by a small team of experienced web developers. It serves as a showcase and repository of all our public-facing information. We also have a [Facebook page](#) for the general public, and an active Facebook group for the congregation.

Launched at the outset of the COVID pandemic, the Stream Team operates two broadcast-quality remote cameras in the Nave to produce a high quality live stream of the 10 a.m. Sunday service, shared on the website and Facebook, and later rebroadcast on Harbor Media, Hingham's local cable access network. Digital Ushers host the Facebook stream, interacting with online viewers as necessary throughout the service.

A small, rotating group of parishioners give their time on Sunday mornings to count and record the plate offerings collected each week, and to deposit these in the bank.

FINANCIAL PROFILE

St. John's is blessed with a strong financial position, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and the leadership of our Stewardship and Finance committees. We invite you to view our [Annual Report](#) which includes a more detailed look at the church financials.

At our Annual Meeting on Jan. 29, 2023, our Finance Committee and Vestry presented a balanced operating budget for 2023 of \$870,000 in support and expenses. Giving is budgeted to be about the same as 2022 at \$581,000, but down 6% from 2020 levels.

Total cash balances at the end of 2022 were \$523,000 including restricted balances.

OUR ENDOWMENT

The endowment at the end of 2022 had a total market value of \$1.8 million, down 18% from a year earlier due to the challenging market environment. Total draw from the endowment to support operations in 2023 is budgeted to be \$76,324, equal to 4% of trailing endowment balances.



CLERGY & STAFF

Please see our [church website](#) for a full biographies and a complete list of the wonderful people who serve St. John's professionally. Some of the faces you'll see on Sunday morning follow.

THE REV. SARAH D. MÁTO, ASSOCIATE
RECTOR

Sarah has served St. John's as Associate Rector since June, 2022, and as Bridge Priest between Fr. Tim's departure and the arrival of our interim rector. Previously, she served as the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in North Andover, Mass., and as the Assistant Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans, Mass.

Sarah was ordained to the diaconate and to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. She is also an associate of the Society of St. Margaret.



Sarah received a Master of Divinity, a Certificate in Spirituality, an advanced Masters in Sacred Theology, and is currently working on a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Sewanee School of Theology in Tennessee.

Prior to seminary, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and taught in the public school system for several years. A trained soprano, Sarah studied

voice at the Capital University Conservatory of Music and has sung and soloed in many choirs. Sarah loves being a mom to her two young children, Aidan and Anna.

ELISABETH "BUFFY" GRAY, ORGANIST/
CHOIRMASTER

Buffy Gray has been serving as the Organist and Choirmaster at St. John's since 2015. Originally from New Jersey, Buffy is the daughter of a church organist and has had a lifelong vocation in church music. She has a degree in Church Music and Organ from Westminster Choir College and has been serving in Episcopal churches in the Boston area since 1996.

Buffy is a skilled liturgist and outstanding choral director who focuses on enabling volunteer singers to perform music of the Anglican choral repertoire to a high standard. She is also passionate about teaching children to sing and has led several successful youth choirs including St. John's Choristers.



REV. ROBERT EDSON, RECTOR EMERITUS

The Rev. Robert Edson graduated with a B.A. from Tusculum College, Greeneville, Tenn., in 1963, and earned his Master of Divinity from the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Mass., in 1966. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1966 and to the priesthood in 1967 in the Washington National Cathedral. He served in parishes around Washington D.C. and New York state, and was the rector of Saint John's from 1981 until he retired in 2007.

Fr. Robert continues to serve St. John's as Rector Emeritus and Pastoral Associate, having assumed these roles at the invitation of our prior Rector.

ALEXIS MACELHINEY, SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR & YOUTH COORDINATOR

St. John's robust church school program grew under Alexis' leadership from 2015–2000, and we were delighted to welcome her back to the position in 2022. She has lived in Hingham for the past 17 years with her husband and two boys. She grew up in Knoxville, Tenn., and received her Bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Tennessee. Alexis has also served St. John's as Treasurer and a member of the Vestry.

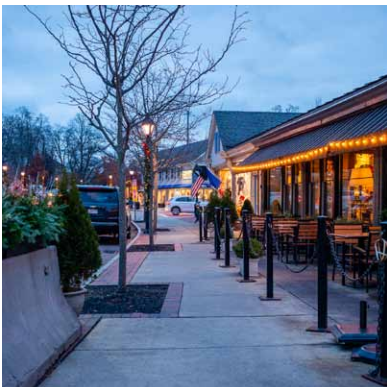


“I come to church to be reminded that there is a better way to live. A holy way to live.”

— parishioner comment



WHERE WE ARE



CAMPUS

St. John's sits high on the hill at the corner of Main Street and Water Street, less than a half mile from Hingham Harbor and historic Hingham Square. The 5-acre property contains the church building, the rectory, the Water Street duplex, a memorial garden, a fenced playground, an outdoor labyrinth, and parking for approximately 75 vehicles.

The Church building dates to 1920 and includes a sanctuary capable of seating 310 worshippers and altar staff. There are two large meeting halls of approximately 1,800 square feet each (Upper and Lower Weld Halls). Upper Weld Hall includes a stage and kitchenette; Lower Weld Hall includes a Youth Group room and a commercial kitchen. The Sunday School area is comprised of seven classrooms including dedicated nursery and preschool rooms. Other facilities include a small meeting room, patio courtyard, choir vesting room, and six distinct office spaces.

The Rectory is a classic New England colonial style home, built in 1788, and located within a historic district. The house was extensively renovated in 2006. Its 4,739 square feet include 5 bedrooms, and 2 full- and 2 half-baths. It also features a large, private backyard.

The Water Street duplex is a two-unit residential property that historically, has been used

as our Curacy. Currently, Rev. Sarah and her family live in one unit, and a third-party tenant lives in the other.

The Cornerstone Campaign was launched in 2020 to address key restoration and building needs. Work began in 2021 and ended in 2023. Completed projects in the sanctuary include: stained glass restoration, hardwood floor restoration, lighting restoration and upgrading, painting, and installation of central air conditioning. Non-sanctuary projects include masonry restoration, HVAC updates, rubber roof replacement, and numerous other improvements throughout the campus.





HINGHAM AND THE SOUTH SHORE

Hingham is a coastal town situated on Boston Harbor about 20 miles south of Boston. Located in Plymouth County, it has a population of approximately 24,000 people, and is considered one of the best places to live in Massachusetts by the Niche website.

HINGHAM THEN

First known as Bare Cove, Hingham was settled in 1635, when Peter Hobart and his followers arrived from Hingham, England. By the time of the American Revolution, the population had grown to over 4,000. In the nineteenth century, Hingham became a port of entry and major fishing port with many small businesses such as sawmills, salt works, iron, copper, and brass foundries, cooperages, bucket mills, and ropewalks. Because of these industries, Hingham became closely tied to Boston. In 1849, the railroad was completed and became a major means of transportation to the city.

HINGHAM NOW

By the twentieth century, Hingham became more residential in nature but preserved its classic New England streetscapes (and its town meeting form of government). Today, the town takes great pride in its historical properties, small town feel, and excellent proximity to Boston on the commuter rail or by ferry. Hingham's population is well-educated, with 76.8% of adults holding Bachelor's degree or higher.

TOP SCHOOLS

Hingham prides itself on being a town that values education. Its public school system ranks in the top 5% of all Massachusetts districts and participates in the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity ("METCO") Boston program, which works to eliminate racial imbalance through the bus-ing of students from Boston to participating suburban public schools. Hingham has four public elementary schools districted by neighborhood, one middle school, and one high school of approximately 1,200 students. Private schools, including a Spanish immersion pri-

mary school, a Catholic gram-mar school and girls' middle and high school, and Derby Academy (which runs through grade 8) offer a wide range of independent educational opportunities as well. The town is also home to a campus of the South Shore Conservatory, Massachusetts' largest commu-nity music school, which offers extensive music lessons and performances.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Outdoor recreation is easily accessible in Hingham and highly valued by residents. The town's twenty-six square miles includes the majority of Wompatuck State Park, a 4,000-acre park with over 12 miles of bike paths and trails; a town forest with walking trails; World's End Reservation (251 acres); Bare Cove Park (429 acres), and hundreds of acres of conservation land, as well as three golf courses (public and private), a community sailing and rowing center, a private yacht club, and a harbor and public town beach for water-based activities.

SHOPPING DISTRICTS & LOCAL TRADITIONS

Hingham has an upscale retail shopping center and a vibrant downtown area with local merchants, restaurants, and a Community Center. The town has a strong community spirit, and events like the Fourth of July Parade, Christmas in the Square, and Juneteenth bring the town together steps away from St. John's front doors.

DIVERSITY

St. John's parishioners come from all over the South Shore, including neighboring communities of Hull, Cohasset, Norwell, Rockland, and Weymouth. While the racial diversity of these communities is well below the state average, the national census data shows modest increases in the Black, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino populations in the area over the past decade, and as development continues, we anticipate the demographic data will continue to change. In recent years, local organizations have formed to promote inclusivity among all minority populations, including the Hingham Unity Council and South Shore Pride, which supports the LGBTQ+ community.

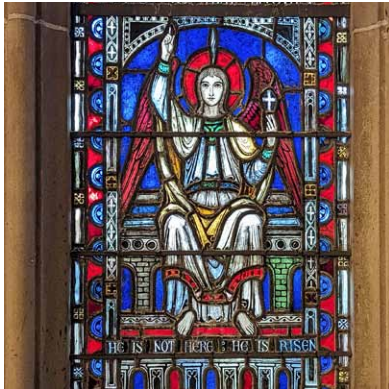


“St. John’s makes me a better version of myself.”

— parishioner comment



CHALLENGES & HOPES



Pastoral Care

Discernment revealed that deepening St. John's pastoral capabilities is a high priority. Our new rector must be adept at building the personal relationships that sustain a community. Additionally, some parishioners value clergy visits and check-ins during times of need. We look forward to developing our lay pastoral team. Overall, we want to find ways to strengthen inclusivity and intergenerational community, and to help members new and old feel more connected and supported, both in challenging times and in everyday life.

The Tension of Faith and Politics

The majority of parishioners have overwhelmingly appreciated the clergy's efforts to address current issues from the pulpit while avoiding overt partisan political content. We have, however, heard dissatisfied voices on both ends of the spectrum: some felt that sermons

and church stances have crossed the non-partisan line, while others wish they did so more often and more emphatically, when necessary. Our anti-racism ministry, *Becoming Beloved Community*, is largely celebrated, however, at its inception some parishioners viewed it as too political. Originally called the Anti-Racism Ministry, or "ARM," the name change and continued work of the ministry seems to have assuaged some of those concerns.

Our new rector will need to provide wise leadership and counsel as we work out as a community where the line should be. We appreciate, as one parishioner put it, that church is "the last non-partisan place to come together." We do not want to worship in an echo chamber and appreciate that St. John's is a place where people with different views can worship, listen to one another, and serve together, but we also seek sermons and guidance on how to respond to the issues of the day as our faith requires.



Youth

Our middle and high school age youth programming was disrupted by clergy turnover and the COVID pandemic, and has not yet fully recovered. Our teens appreciate clergy participation in their faith journeys, and expressed an interest in programming that includes more spiritual guidance. We need our new rector not only to prioritize children and youth programming, but to take an active role in it and in our youths' lives.

"This is my community, my family."

— parishioner comment



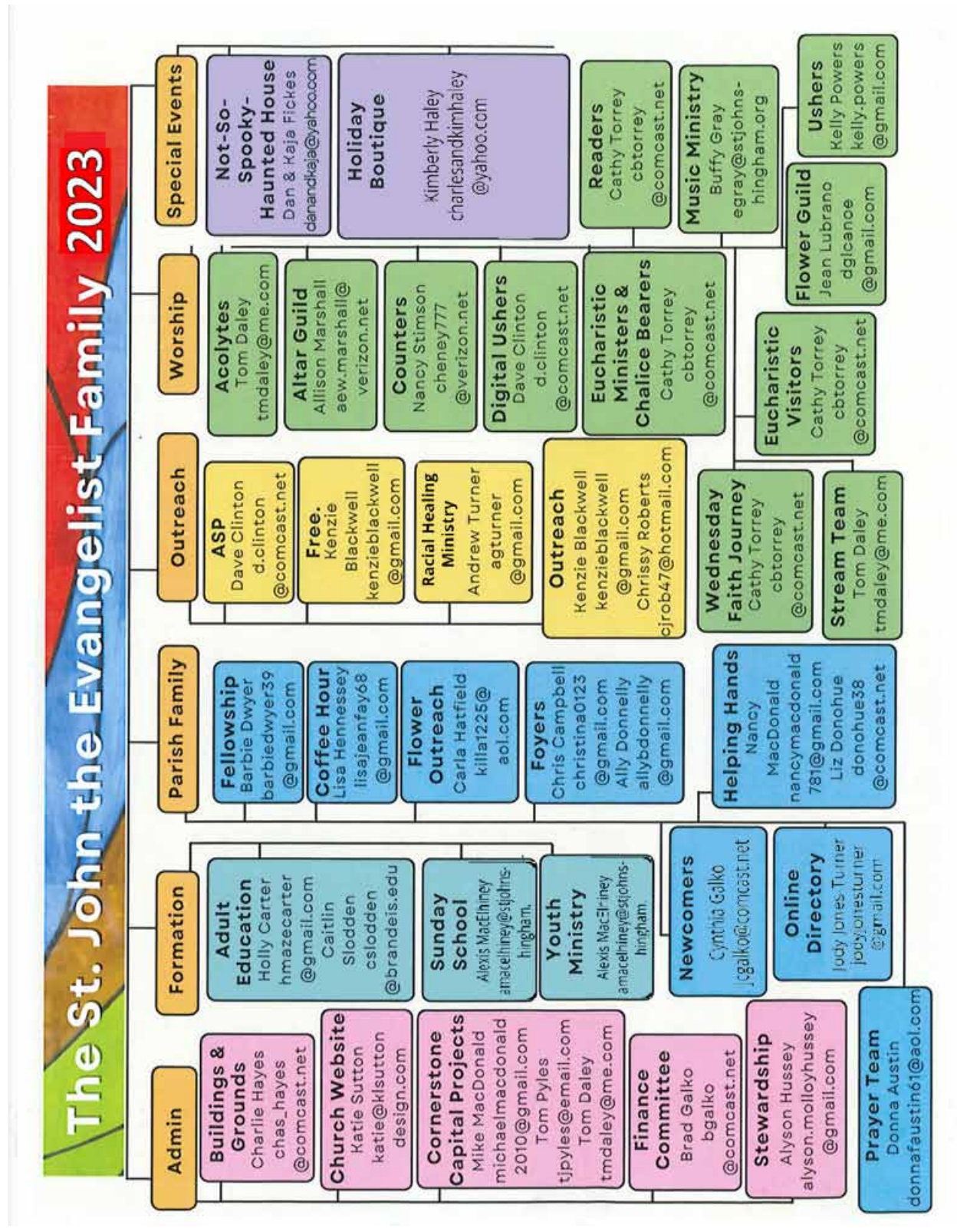
OUR NEXT RECTOR

Our next rector

St. John's is looking for a rector who embodies God's love, strengthening us and our community to love God and to serve others. Our top priorities are a rector who delivers well-developed sermons that connect the Lectionary readings to our daily lives, and who is highly effective at providing pastoral care. While "pastoral care" means different things to different people, we are looking for someone who enjoys cultivating interpersonal relationships and fostering belonging within the church—from youth to seniors, from newcomers to life-long parishioners. Outside the church, we are looking for someone who builds bridges to welcome those beyond our walls. Our rector will prioritize relevant youth formation and ministry. We are seeking someone who will also be an effective manager and an organized liturgical leader who works collaboratively with staff and strong lay leadership.



APPENDIX A: MINISTRY MAP



APPENDIX B: PARISH HISTORY

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham traces its beginnings to 1879. Land for a church building was purchased in 1881, and a wooden structure was completed in 1883. In 1906, the church building was moved across the street to the corner of Main and Water Streets, less than a quarter mile from historic Hingham Square and the waterfront.

The church's property also contains the 1788 Federal style house that became the rectory. A wooden parish hall was added to the church, but it burned down in 1912.

The rector at the time, the Rev. George Weld, used his own funds and his personality to persuade parishioners to build a stone parish hall.

In 1921, with the help of our early benefactor Ethel Randolph Thayer, a Tudor Gothic structure, made of granite, replaced the old wooden church. Mrs. Thayer not only provided funds for the construction, she also contributed artifacts, such as the stained-glass windows, the organ, and many other embellishments. Over time, other artwork and furnishings were added. These included the carved wooden reredos designed by Edgar Walker, the 15th century polychrome Madonna in the nave, and a Victorian bishop's chair that was a gift, among several, from the congregation of St. Andrew's Church in Hingham, England.

Almost as soon as construction was completed, Rev. Weld resigned, and the Rev. Daniel Magruder became the first of our long-term rectors, serving from 1921–1951. Hallmarks of his ministry were the establishment of a solid financial base through endowments after World War I, and the shepherding of the parish through the Depression, World War II, and postwar years.

Upon Rev. Magruder's retirement, the Rev. John Gallop became rector, serving from 1951–1979. His ministry was marked by the challenges brought about

by the social, political, and economic changes happening in the world. His calm demeanor and his wisdom and clarity from the pulpit helped to bring these issues to the forefront of the congregation. In addition, his ability to teach and educate enabled each parishioner to understand these changes within the context of Christian principles.

In response to overflow congregations, the church was enlarged in 1954. In 1962, Mrs. Thayer gave the parish a new 28-rank, two-manual Aeolian-Skinner organ, in honor of the 75th anniversary and in response to, and recognition of, the importance of music to St. John's. The old organ chamber became a small side chapel, and a memorial garden was installed opposite the south porch. That year also saw the arrival of the first of a series of curates who served our parish for three years at a time. Most of them lived in the curacy located on Water Street, down the hill from the church.

When John Gallop retired, the Rev. Robert Edson became rector, serving from 1981–2007. Under his



ministry, the church doors opened early every day, daily Morning Prayer was instituted, and the Sunday service schedule was changed to 8 AM (Rite I) and 10 AM (Rite II). In 1997, he led the church in a successful capital campaign to renovate Weld Hall and install a

sprinkler system throughout the church. The ongoing growth of the congregation, and of Hingham, spurred the effort to start a capital campaign in 2006 to refurbish the rectory, repair the organ, and improve the church school facilities.

The Rev. Timothy Schenck was installed as the eighth Rector of St. John's in 2009 and served until 2022. Father Tim oversaw a period of strong growth for the parish, hallmarked by excellent preaching, growth

in financial support, the formation of new ministries including Becoming Beloved Community, Free., the Not-So-Spooky-Haunted House, and SummerFest. During the COVID pandemic, St. John's immediately pivoted to online services and activities and provided a touchstone in parishioners' lives. Guided by lay experts and Diocesan counsel, in-person activities resumed in a series of careful steps in 2021.

