

# Fruitful

Joyfully and generously  
partnering in the gospel  
to see lasting fruit for Christ



'Not that I seek the gift, but I seek  
the fruit that increases to your credit.'

PHILIPPIANS 4:17

'I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,  
always in every prayer of mine for you all making  
my prayer with joy, because of your partnership  
in the gospel from the first day until now.'

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5



# Thank you

The work at St John's depends, under God's provision, entirely on the generous giving of individuals and families. We receive no financial contribution from the Church of England.

We are so thankful to the Lord for every contribution, whether it's like the widow's offering (Mark 12:42) or the wealth of a king (1 Chronicles 29:3).

When we give to support gospel ministry, we are not just donating, we are engaging in a partnership (Philippians 1:5). As members of God's family, we are called to work together to see the gospel advance both locally and globally. Our financial contributions are key to this partnership.

A wholehearted thank you to everyone in the church body who is already giving towards the work at St John's.

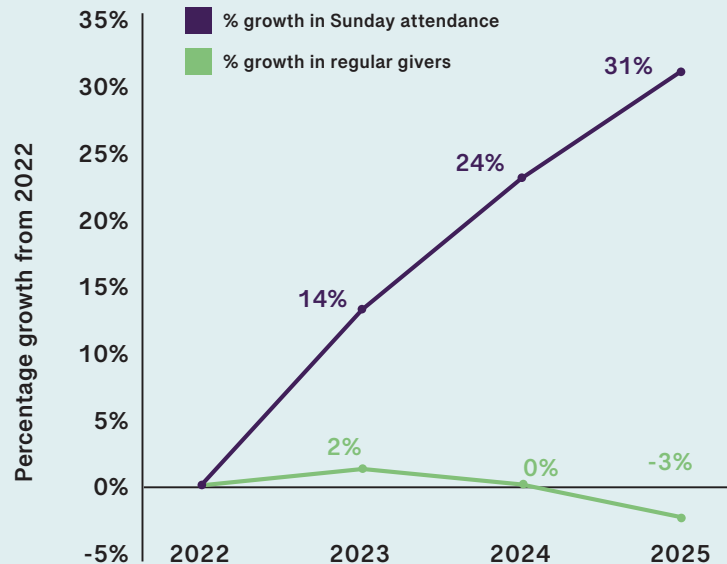
We hope that all of us who are actively involved, on Sundays or midweek, will prayerfully consider how we can each give financially to support this ministry in which we benefit and serve.

# The need

## GROWTH VERSUS GIVING

Excitingly, the congregation at St John's has continued to grow and even with careful financial stewarding, costs have naturally increased. However, giving has not kept pace.

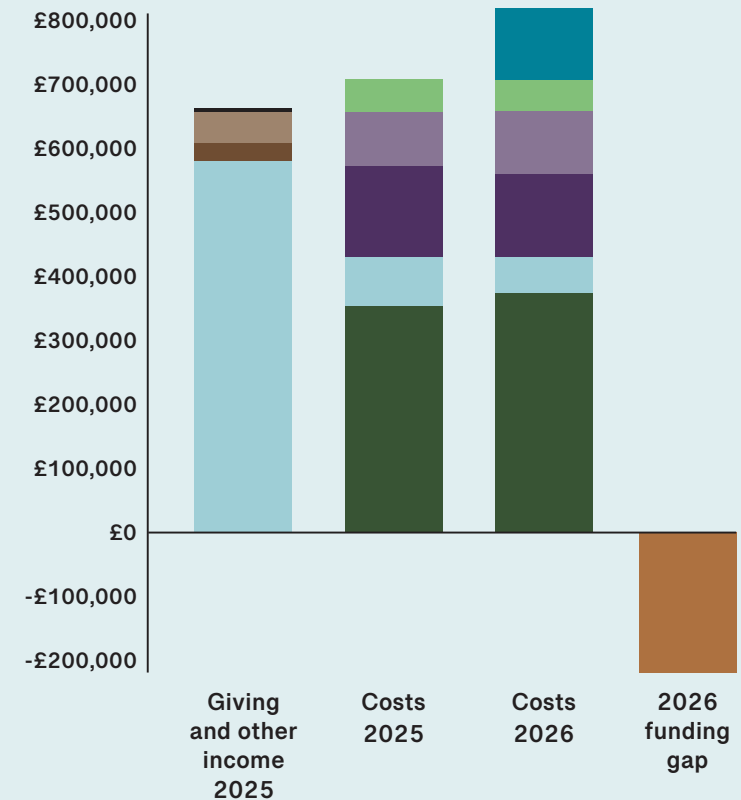
Church growth and giving



## PROJECTED LEVELS

At the current level of deficit, our cash reserves will run out during 2026.

Our income and costs



Church plant 2026 funding gap Parish share  
Ministry & associated costs Buildings  
Fees, dividends & interest Hire of church  
Charitable activities Giving Staff costs



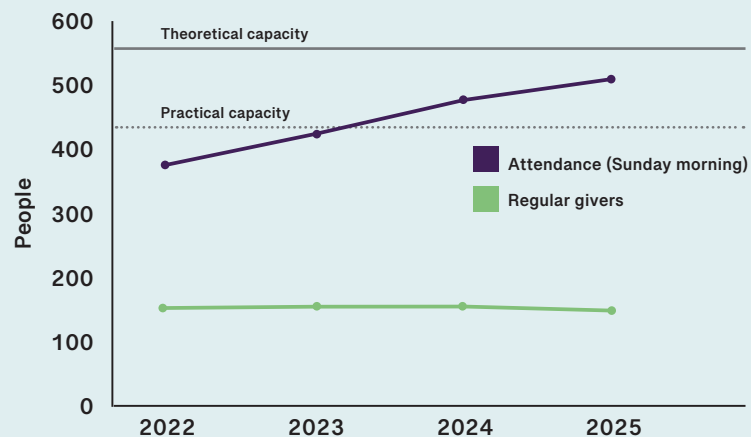
# The opportunity

## GOSPEL GROWTH AT ST JOHN'S

We long to see more gospel growth at St John's. People growing more like Jesus, growing in their love for him, our love for one another, and our love for the lost. Especially as we look forward to A Passion for Life, we pray the Lord will be adding to our number those who are being saved.

To support and enable this growth we would like to appoint new staff. Although, God-willing, the church plant will free up some space at St John's, the church leadership is also investigating how to accommodate more people on a Sunday.

Attendance vs regular givers with capacity benchmarks



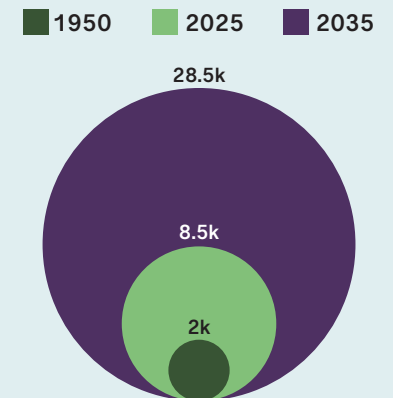
## GOSPEL GROWTH WITH THE CHURCH PLANT

There is an extraordinary opportunity for the gospel in Paddock Wood. Over the next 10 years, the population is set to quadruple, with over 20,000 more people expected to arrive in Paddock Wood. This makes it one of the fastest growing areas in the UK.

As the population grows, there will be increased opportunity and need for a new faithful, Bible-believing church in the area.

Furthermore, we are above the practical capacity of St John's and a significant number of congregation members live within the vicinity of Paddock Wood. The gospel opportunity of planting in Paddock Wood is too good to ignore!

Population growth in Paddock Wood



# Discipleship

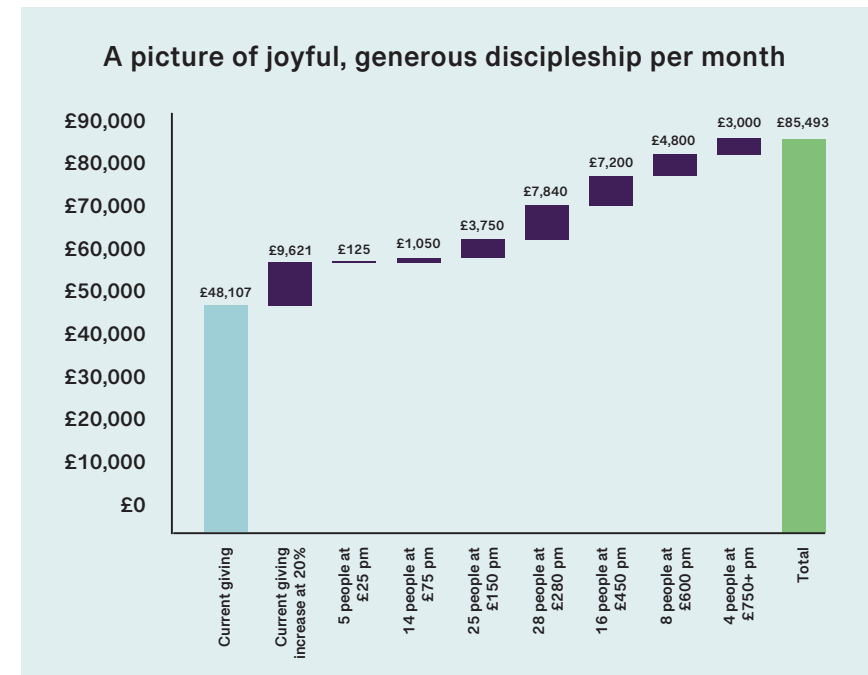
At St John's we are focused on knowing Jesus better and making Jesus better known. To that end we make it our aim to grow in our faithfulness to Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 8:9 we are reminded that we only give out of and in response to God's generous grace to us in Jesus, 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.'

And in Philippians 4:17 we are told what really matters is not how much we give, but the godliness that accompanies such giving, 'Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.'

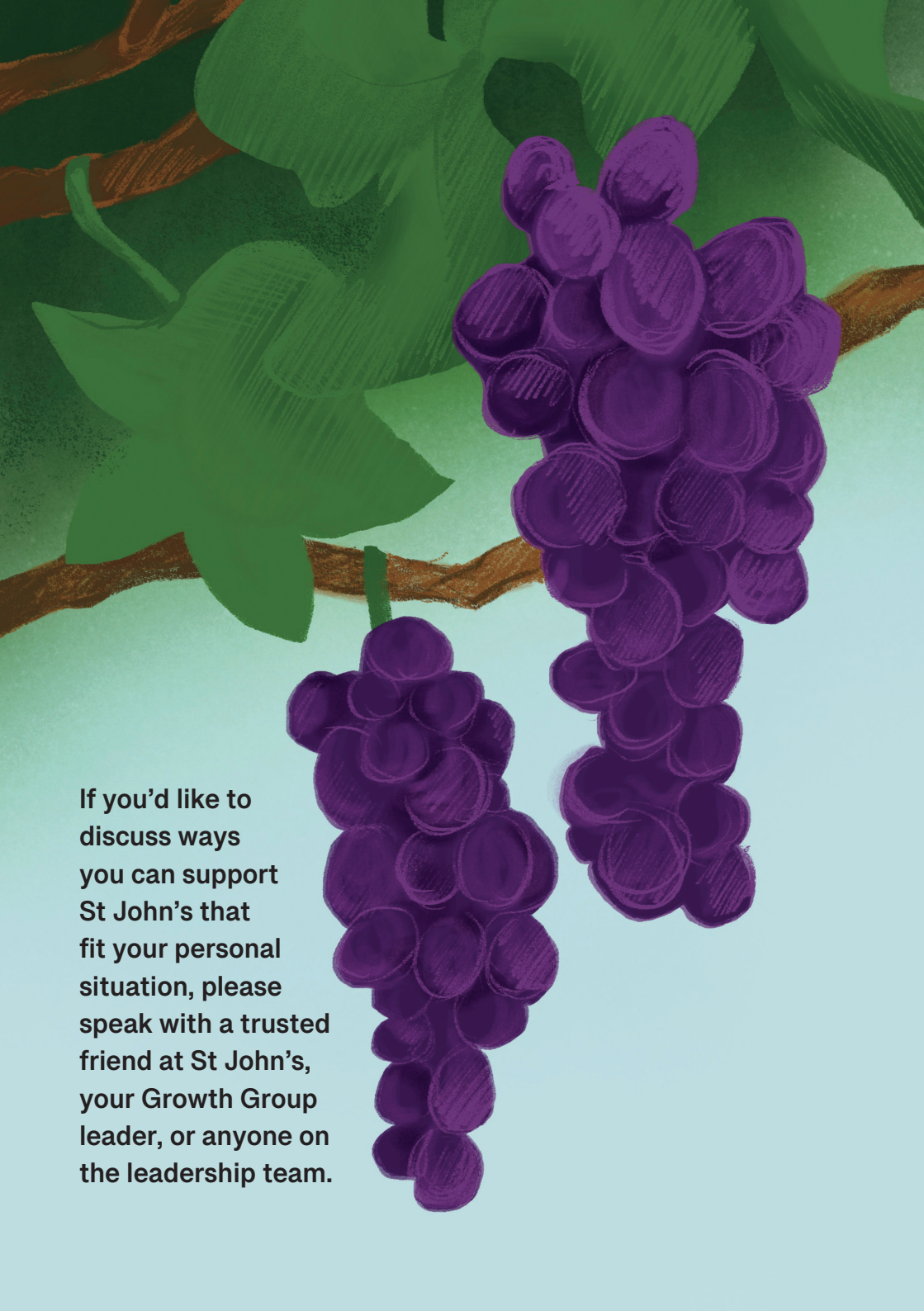
Financial giving is not something we have to do, but something we get to do. Our prayer is that all church members join in joyfully in this key way of partnering in the gospel.

Giving is part and parcel of our discipleship. We praise God for the 155 individuals and households giving at St John's. With an electoral roll of 335, we are some way short of all households contributing. Therefore, we are praying for 100 new households to join in supporting God's work here at St John's through regular giving.

For those in a position to do so, giving 10% can be a helpful starting point. However, we understand financial circumstances vary greatly, and we are grateful for any regular contribution. What matters most is not the amount, but giving cheerfully, generously and sacrificially to the work of the gospel.



Also over the last five years only 39% of givers have increased their giving. We are therefore asking all our existing givers to prayerfully consider increasing their giving by 20%. We recognise some households may not be able to do this, but others may be able to give more.



If you'd like to discuss ways you can support St John's that fit your personal situation, please speak with a trusted friend at St John's, your Growth Group leader, or anyone on the leadership team.

# What next?

## PRAY

Pray that we would joyfully and generously partner in the gospel to see lasting fruit for Christ.

## PLEDGE FORM

We would really appreciate as a first step if you could complete the pledge form which can be found at [stjohnstw.org/fruitful](https://stjohnstw.org/fruitful) or by scanning the QR code.

## FOR STANDING ORDERS AND ONE-OFF PAYMENTS

**Bank:** CAF Bank Ltd

PO Box 289

Kings Hill

West Malling

Kent, ME19 4TA

**Account name:** St John's Church

Tunbridge Wells PCC General Fund

**Sort Code:** 40-52-40

**Account number:** 00011249

SCAN HERE



## GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, please fill out the gift aid form available on our website at [stjohnstw.org/fruitful](https://stjohnstw.org/fruitful) or by scanning the QR code.



# *St John's*

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS

