

St Nicholas Church

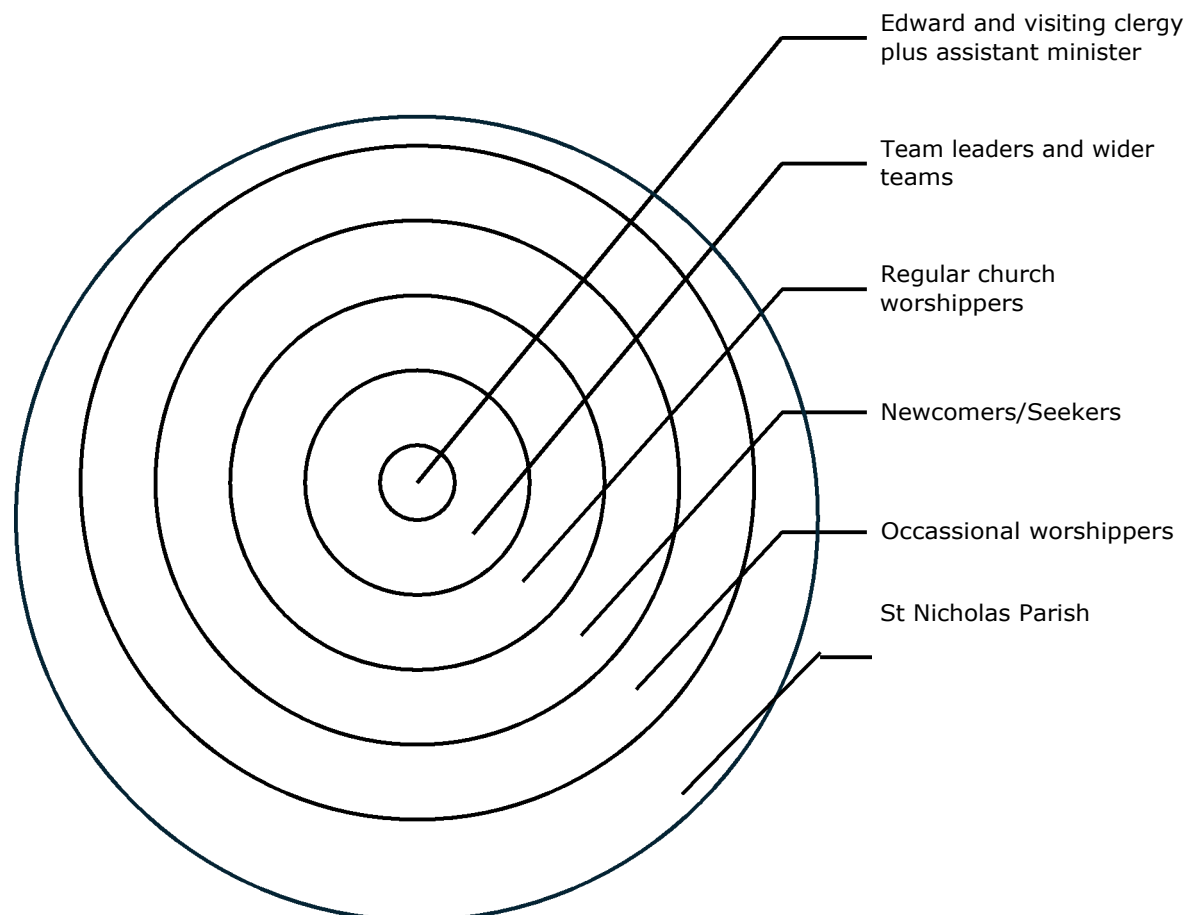
Mission Action Plan (MAP) June 2025 - June 2027

A MAP is a process which enables the local church to prayerfully discern the priorities God has for it, and to plan the mission activities it is going to undertake over the coming months and years. The St Nicholas Church Mission Action Plan is a strategic document which outlines our vision, ambition and where our efforts will be over the next two years.

St Nicholas church is the oldest church in the town. It is also the largest parish within the borough of Stevenage. The benefice has a population of approximately 22,000 people. Future housing developments such as Forster Park will increase the size of the parish to approximately 28,000 and with it an opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus. Currently, the church has 110 people on the electoral roll (as of May 2025) which is 0.5% of the parish.

We seek to be a welcoming Christian community with an outward focus which desires to reach the people in our parish with the love of Jesus. Our church family is diverse in many ways including age, ethnicity and a significant number of adults who either commute or work shifts (e.g. at the hospital). We have grown in number since the end of the pandemic and are seeing new people coming to church.

The diagram below depicts how we might view the church and the parish.



Within St Nick's, we currently have a range of volunteers who form teams to support the worship, discipleship and fellowship of the church which will continue. These include the:

- Evangelism team
- Maintenance team
- Flowers team
- Cleaning team
- Sound and streaming team
- Finance team
- Welcome team
- Sunday children's and young people team
- Music team
- Coffee rota team
- Prayer ministry team
- Readers and intercessors team
- Pastoral team
- Online presence team
- Women and men's ministry teams
- Home group leaders' team
- Life event teams i.e. those who support baptisms, weddings and funerals

Our Vision

To draw people in, build them up, and send them out with the good news of Jesus.

Our Ambition

Our ambition is to increase the number of people who are faith filled regular worshippers (regular is defined as attending at least once a month) from 0.5% to 1% of the parish population with a longer-term aim of increasing this to 3%.

Our areas of development will be:

- a) increasing our outreach work in the community of St Nicholas' parish so more people come to church to hear about Jesus
- b) welcoming and discipling existing occasional worshippers so they start to come more regularly and grow in faith
- c) welcoming and support newcomers to our church especially those who are seekers or are new Christians
- d) helping regular members to deepen their faith to enable them to be able to reach out to their own friends, family and neighbours in the parish

- e) increasing our capacity to build God's kingdom through expanding existing lay teams and leaders to help develop the faith of others by encouraging regular members of the church who do not yet contribute to join these teams
- f) increasing the capacity of the clergy to lead people to be spirit filled, bible believing Christians

The way that we will do this is through the following:

a)

1. Continuing our evangelism work and outreach to the wider community e.g. through door-to-door visits and events such as the Christmas tree festival, snack and chat
2. Continuing to involve Cornhill mission teams to support our wider outreach work
3. Building on our existing children and young people's work through schools' work, youth work, hot chocolate drop ins, holiday groups such as music club, attending summer camps and other Christian youth events

b) and c)

4. Providing new opportunities for learning and studying the bible for occasional worshippers, newcomers and for members of the church family who due to other commitments such as commuters, shift workers, parents with young children find it difficult to commit to regular home groups

d)

5. Increasing the number of people who belong to home groups to grow in faith and to support them to be able to witness to others

e)

6. Increasing the capacity of the existing teams to reflect the increase in numbers of new people by encouraging more of the existing members of the church family to volunteer or to try new ministries
7. Offering training to members of the church family who may need it to develop their knowledge and skills in order to exercise their ministry effectively
8. Developing new teams as new opportunities and needs emerge

f)

9. Expanding the number of visiting clergy to support our vicar
10. Supporting the development of the new assistant minister post