

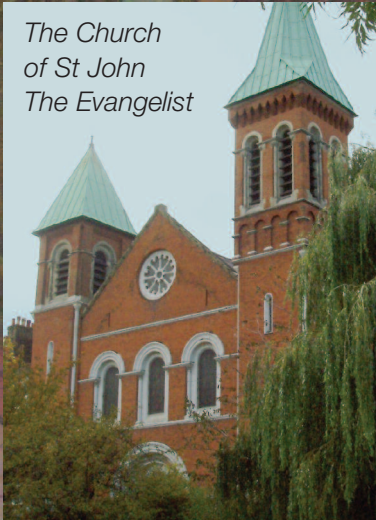
An Appeal

A Brief History

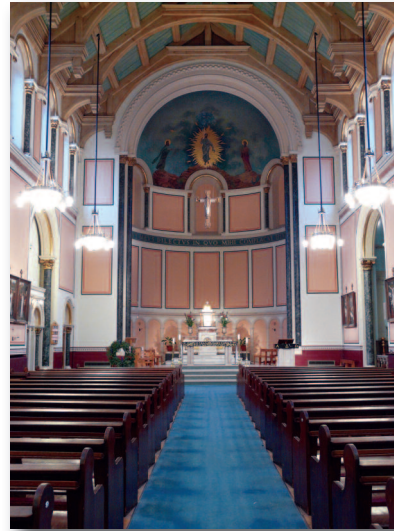
How You Can Help

Please help
to restore the
side chapels

*The Church
of St John
The Evangelist*



The historic church of St John the Evangelist was originally founded by Fr John Rolfe, Rector of Moorfields. It was designed by JJ Scoles, and opened on 26th June 1843.



St John's serves not only the local Catholic community in Islington (some 1,000 people attend church services each week) but also plays a major role supporting a much wider community, of all races and creeds.

As well as being simply a place for quiet reflection away from the hustle and bustle of Islington, the crypt is regularly used as a Youth Centre, a Night Shelter and Weekly Drop-in Centre for the homeless, and a Play and Stay group for pre-school children and their parents. The church is open every day of the year.

The building is now over 160 years old and, being Grade II listed, provides a continuing challenge in terms of its maintenance and ongoing repair. In 2006 the parish organised the restoration of the main body of the church to reflect the original decorative scheme when it was built. The side chapels are far less ornate today than when they were first built and decorated. Due to the concept of 'noble simplicity' called for by the 2nd Vatican Council in the 1960s the intricate original details and decorations were painted over. They are now in a very poor condition and detract from the rest of the church.

We now need to complete our renovation project by restoring the side chapels to reflect their former splendour, thus unifying the church's interior into an harmonious whole.

The Church of St John the Evangelist
39 Duncan Terrace, Islington, London N1 8AL

www.stjohnsislington.org

It will be wonderful to have the side chapels restored so that we can all appreciate fully the beauty and spirituality of our church. Please help in any way you can.

First and foremost we ask for your prayers for the success of this project.

Secondly we need your help in a tangible and immediate way by making a donation to Phase II of the Church Restoration Appeal. Please use the contribution form attached to this leaflet when you make your donation.

The founders of St John's paid for the building of the church by regular monthly subscriptions. This is a particularly helpful way to contribute if you feel able to do so. Or perhaps you could consider remembering St John's in your will. Please tick the appropriate box on the contribution form if you are able to contribute in any of these ways.

If you pay UK tax, the Gift Aid scheme means that the tax man will add 28p to every £1 you give at no extra cost to yourself. Please use the Gift Aid Declaration at the back of the contribution form if at all possible.



Please be as generous as you possibly can.

Thank you for your support and God bless you and your family.

*Fr Howard James
Parish Priest*

The Conversion of Hermogenes The Sorcerer: wall painting by Holt in the Baptistry

St Francis and St Dominic by Sir Edward Armitage RA: the St Francis Chapel

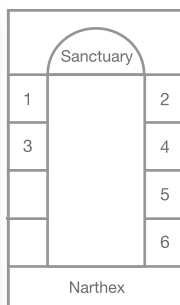
Restoration Work – Phase I

During 2004/05 the Parish of St John the Evangelist began the great task of restoring the Nave and Sanctuary where the lighting, wiring, and decoration had become sadly decayed over the years.

The Parish was keen to restore the spiritual ambience of the church's interior and create a more prayerful environment. Through the magnificent fund raising efforts of its parishioners St John's saw the completion of the first phase of renovation in 2006.

This initial phase included the electrical rewiring, the installation of a new computer-controlled lighting scheme with eight chandeliers designed as contemporary interpretations of the original gasoliers, and the redecoration of the main body of the church. The redecoration was undertaken with the advice and guidance of International Fine Art Conservation Studios (IFACS) to replicate a scheme similar to the original 19th century designs and colouring. The total cost was around £250,000 which was achieved mainly through a fundraising programme with the combined efforts of many, within and beyond the Parish.

As the church is Grade II listed, the Finance Committee has sought and obtained the approval of English Heritage and the Historic Churches Commission for both phases of the restoration work.



- 1 Sacristy
- 2 Lady Chapel
- 3 Sacred Heart Chapel (formerly the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)
- 4 St Joseph's Chapel
- 5 St Francis' Chapel
- 6 Baptistry (formerly the Calvary Chapel)

The Side Chapels – Phase II



We are now ready to proceed to Phase II which is the restoration of the six side chapels. Originally decorated later than the main body of the church, each has its own style. Today they are all in a very poor condition and, in their present state, sadly detract from the beautifully restored main body of the church. The layout of these chapels within the church is illustrated in the diagram opposite.

As for Phase I, the Finance Committee has been advised by International Fine Art Conservation Studios (IFACSs), who are experts in this field. Within the side chapels they have removed layers of paint in discreet small areas which reveal the early decorative schemes. They have prepared a restoration plan for each chapel based on these schemes.

The Parish Finance Committee proposes that the work will be carried out on a chapel-by-chapel basis as funding permits. Thus work on each new chapel will only be started when the previous one is paid for.

The St Francis' Chapel contains two paintings by Sir Edward Armitage RA, a distinguished artist of the Victorian era, whose works in the Palace of Westminster are renowned. Sadly this chapel has been damaged by a leaking roof and so needs immediate attention to repair the roof and make it watertight. Therefore we intend to restore this chapel first.

The total cost of completing all six side chapels in Phase II, including the roof repairs, will be in the region of £220,000.



Painted details uncovered on the walls in the Sacred Heart and Lady chapels



Wall painting in the Baptistry:
Christ Raising Lazarus



Wall painting in the Baptistry:
The Baptism of Christ



Restoration samples in the Lady and St Joseph chapels

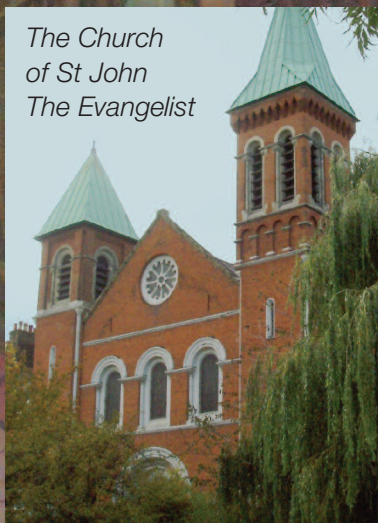


Sacred Heart Chapel floor

Donation Form

An Appeal
to restore the
side chapels

*The Church
of St John
The Evangelist*



I/We would like to make a donation to Phase II

I/We enclose £ _____

as my/our contribution to the Church Restoration Appeal

Please make your cheque payable to
St John the Evangelist, Islington
and return this form with your cheque to the above address

In order that we keep a proper record of your donation,
please complete the details below:

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

If you can help us even further by using the Gift Aid Scheme,
please complete the Gift Aid Declaration overleaf.

If you feel able to make a regular contribution that would be
very helpful. Perhaps you could sponsor a chapel or picture, or
you could consider remembering St John's in your will. If so,
please tick the appropriate box below and return the form to
the above address, we will then contact you with further details.

- ☐ Regular Contribution
☐ Sponsor a chapel or picture
☐ Legacy



The Church of
St John the Evangelist
39 Duncan Terrace,
Islington, London
N1 8AL

Registered Charity
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Gift Aid Declaration Form

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Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Surname _____

Forename _____

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Postcode _____

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Parish: St John the Evangelist, Islington
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