



PARISH PROFILE 2018  
**St John the Evangelist**  
Duxbury, MA

*Through the power of the Holy Spirit  
the mission of St. John's  
is to present Christ in life and in work in ways  
that all will be led to know him and  
follow him as Lord.*



# INTRODUCTION

This Parish Profile was prepared by the Search Committee based upon a four-month discernment process. In this intensive period of self-reflection, we hosted 14 small group and in-home gatherings. Participants represented a cross-section of the Parish from the Men's Breakfast to the Ladies Guild, seniors at the Village of Duxbury to middle and high schoolers in our youth programs, and from choir members to fellowship participants at God on Tap. Every parishioner in the St. John's directory was contacted personally and invited to share their perspective.

All in all, we spoke with over 167 parishioners. In these conversations, we explored perspectives on five questions.

1. What are the most important aspects of life in the parish for you?
2. How do you see God in action at St John's?
3. What are our greatest strengths and challenges?
4. What are your hopes and dreams?
5. How should we prepare for the future?

The search committee is heartened by the sincere and passionate perspective of our parishioners. This period of discernment helped us understand our identity and now provides the foundation for a thoughtful search process.

The Wordle on the previous page is a visual representation of the themes from the discernment process. The Search Committee has synthesized and interpreted the discernment findings to create this Parish Profile that is organized around three key issues.

**Who we are as a Parish?**

**Where we hope to go?**

**Qualities we seek in our Rector?**

St. John's recognizes that the transition to a new Rector requires the complete support of the Parish. To that end, the Vestry will be forming a Transition Team of parishioners to integrate our new Rector into the Parish and to make him or her feel welcome.

We would encourage readers of the Profile to spend time on the parish website: [www.stjohnsduxbury.org](http://www.stjohnsduxbury.org) where you can find a wealth of information about St John's and its missions and ministries.

Peace,

The Search Committee

*"Before you decide who you will walk with, you need to know who you are and where you are going."*



# WHO WE ARE



Located in a small seaport town south of Boston that was founded by the Pilgrims, the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury is proud of its history and traditions.

Of the 225 families that comprise our congregation, 80% are from Duxbury with the balance from the surrounding towns of Kingston, Marshfield, Plymouth and Pembroke. Although we lack the diversity of larger suburban churches closer to the city, we have a mix of cradle Episcopalians, parishioners who converted from the Roman Catholic Church, and those who have simply chosen St. John's to be their faith home. There is a strong core of families who grew up in the church and connect us with our history, and a complement of newcomers. On Sunday, we are joined in worship by the Sisters of the nearby convent, the Society of Margaret, and by a loyal group of seniors who arrive by bus from the retirement community, The Village of Duxbury.

We cherish the beauty of the liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer. We are inspired by our music and the dedication of our small and talented choir. We appreciate thoughtful sermons that educate us and help us make sense of the world. We are grounded and nourished by Holy Communion, and we find respite from the hectic pace of our lives in the silence of prayer.

Our parishioners tend to be private about their spirituality, but in many ways, we express our relationship with God through our fellowship. During the Peace, our clergy and service assistants descend from the chancel, circling the aisles, embracing and connecting. Our parishioners reach across pews shaking hands, greeting, making eye contact. The Peace at St. John's affirms the vital sense of community that draws us together. Following the service, we gather in the Parish Hall where we reconnect and affirm our bond.

The parish is proud of its outreach programs, especially our high schoolers, nearly 35 strong, who give up their Sundays to participate in our Youth Program. We admire those who serve the homeless at Father Bill's Table in Brockton and our adult mission team which travelled to Honduras to work with the children of the El Hogar Primary School.



*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them." Matthew 18:20*





We have a lot to be thankful for, but we are also human. We describe ourselves as welcoming, but there is a New England reserve that can hold us back until we feel comfortable and we know this is an opportunity for improvement. Our young families are busy. Sunday school overlaps with athletics so we try to attend during the off-days. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the short New England summer invites us to be active and outdoors as much as possible. Duxbury Bay is alive with sailing, boating and fishing so we consolidate our summer worship to one service and attend, depending upon the tide. We all pack the pews at Christmas and Easter.

During the week, the parish is alive with other activities and opportunities for faith and formation. The youth group hosts a pancake supper and fundraiser. The Men's Breakfast comes together for fellowship, prayer and a topical speaker. Alcoholics Anonymous meets to provide fellowship to community members who have issues with substance abuse. The Book Club provides stimulating conversation and moral support to the women who participate. The Men's Bible group prays and studies scripture. Parishioners attend "God on Tap" at a local Chinese restaurant for fellowship and conversation. The St. John's Guild, a group of parish women organized in 1888, raises money to support our mission team and other causes. Our Prayer Team offers private confidential prayer and reflection during times of need.

These are just a few examples of God in action at St John's. We are blessed with dedicated lay leaders and volunteers taking advantage of the wealth of opportunities to serve.

*"The most important part of parish life for me is the people...the love we feel, genuine love"*



*An important part of our community is our relationship with the Sisters of St. Margaret which began in 1907. The Sisters participate in our worship and welcome us to share in their activities as they minister to a wide variety of groups in need.*

# HOW WE WORSHIP

Worship at St. John's is taken primarily from Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer. We are flexible and open to new experiences depending on the tone of the liturgical season and the purpose of the service. Some seasons, like Lent, find us using Rite I's more penitential mood. In other seasons like Pentecost and during the summer, we experience a more casual celebration of the Liturgy.

Music amplifies and supplements the scripture readings and the tone for the day, through choir anthems, congregational hymns and service music. We love to sing the old familiar hymns, and at the same time we enjoy learning something new. We rejoice in the gifts of various parish musicians, especially during Christmas and Easter services.

Lay people of all ages fill a majority of the worship leadership roles. All are welcome to serve at the altar, participate in readings, lead the prayers, usher, and serve as acolytes (The acolyte program is currently dormant but we hope to return to an active acolyte program). Training and mentoring helps new participants learn the ropes.

Children and youth are welcome at all services. There is child care available at the 10 A.M. Sunday service for children ages 3 months – 4 years. Family Worship Sundays offer a specific chance for our children and youth to participate in worship leadership roles.

During the program year from September through May we offer two services: Our 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist is more formal, quiet and contemplative, without hymns or choir. The 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist has full musical accompaniment, varied by season, choir anthems, hymns and service music. Sunday school takes place during the first portion of the 10:00 AM service and all gather as we celebrate God's love through Holy Communion. On Family Worship Sundays (1st Sunday of each month) all ages worship together

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, we have one service at 9:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist with congregational singing and music by the Director of Music.

On Wednesdays at 10 A.M., we offer the Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing and an informal discussion of the lessons for the day, often focusing on the holy women and men who are our ancestors in faith.



# RECOGNIZED STRENGTHS

















- There is a strong sense of tradition at St John's that is linked to the history of the Parish and how it fits into the history of Duxbury. We are thankful for the traditions of the Episcopal Church, how we worship, our liturgy, the music in our hymnals, and the creeds we say in worship that express our beliefs.
- This tradition is supported by the long history that connects our families and St. John's. Many of us grew up in the parish and form an intergenerational chain carrying out the word of Jesus.
- We have an extremely strong youth program and youth leadership that is consistently mentioned as a source of pride for all. Each year, 20 to 35 teens meet on Sundays and dedicate their spring break to go on a mission trip to rebuild homes and do other good works for people of need.
- Our lay leadership provides governance that insures long term stability of the Parish. As service assistants, Vestry members and leaders of missions and ministries, these parishioners set an example for future lay leaders of St John's.
- Our 10 A.M. service includes uplifting and meditative music performed by our Senior Choir. The Senior Choir is comprised of 12 dedicated and experienced singers who lead the congregation in worship and meditation. There is one central objective -- glorifying God.
- St John's has a strong commitment to Outreach through our youth and adult mission work, and support of Father Bill's Table in Brockton, the Duxbury Inter-faith Council, and other causes.
- Over the past five years we have made a commitment to building the St John's Legacy Fund. This endowment, which stands at just over \$1 million will exist in perpetuity to ensure that future generations will enjoy St. John's as we do today. Through our planned giving program, we expect the Legacy Fund will continue to grow.



*“One of our greatest strengths at St John's is our music - it is a treasure.”*

# S T. JOHN'S BY THE NUMBERS

2017 data:

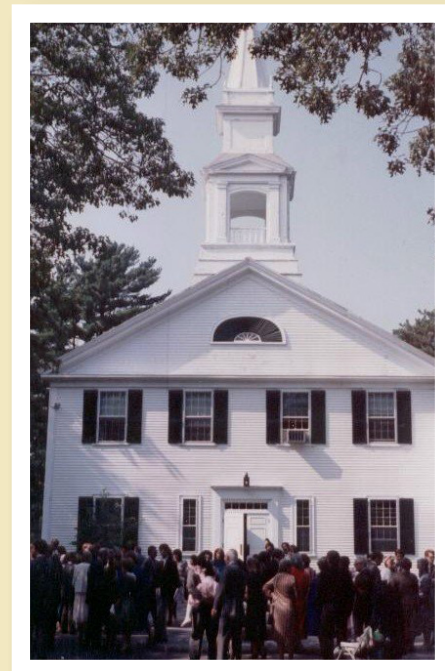
	Average Sunday Attendance	135
	Average Summer Attendance	71
	Easter Attendance	338
	Christmas Attendance	547
	Pledging units	140
	Pledge Revenue	\$343,000
	Annual operating budget	\$397,574
	Legacy Fund (endowment)	\$1,041,042
	Church school enrollment	91
	Youth Mission Trip	36
	Adult Mission Trip	15
	Baptisms	15
	Confirmations	6
	Weddings	1
	Burials	11
	Adult choir	12
	Youth + Junior choir	9



# WHERE WE HOPE TO GO

Although we are a strong Parish, on the rebound, with a solid foundation to build on, we recognize that we have significant challenges. We are excited to partner with our new Rector to focus on opportunities to improve:

- Through its worship, traditions and work, St. John's is a compelling option for people who are looking for a spiritual home. We are committed to becoming a more welcoming church by organizing ourselves to engage newcomers from Duxbury and surrounding towns. We are planning to reinvigorate our ushering program, identify and greet newcomers and invite them to participate. By developing a program of visitation, we hope to increase new member retention.
- We wish to create a vision for the St John's of the future within the Episcopal tradition. How do we stay relevant? How can we help people stay connected to their faith and find deeper meaning in our complicated world? How can we integrate traditional worship with more contemporary elements to provide a broader appeal?
- An important part of growth is developing the next generation of lay leaders by attracting young families. We hope to make our worship, church school and youth programs a compelling complement to sports and other activities that keep families from making church a priority on Sunday morning.
- As our population ages we need to find ways to minister to a growing elder community. We have a plan to broaden our pastoral care by providing Holy Communion to parishioners who can't attend church, comforting the infirmed and their families, supporting people that need prayer. There is an initiative underway to organize a pastoral care team. We are sending parishioners to diocesan training to become Eucharistic Visitors to assist in this vital ministry.
- We embrace the use of technology to spread the good news of our Lord and Savior. To improve communications to parishioners and the public, we plan to expand our use of Social Media and have enhanced our parish website.
- We want to focus on improving Stewardship by encouraging people to respond to God's love by giving of their time, talent and treasure. This involves more than simply asking for money. It means engaging more parishioners in the importance of giving of themselves, inviting them to become involved in our missions and ministries and creating more opportunities for connection and fellowship.

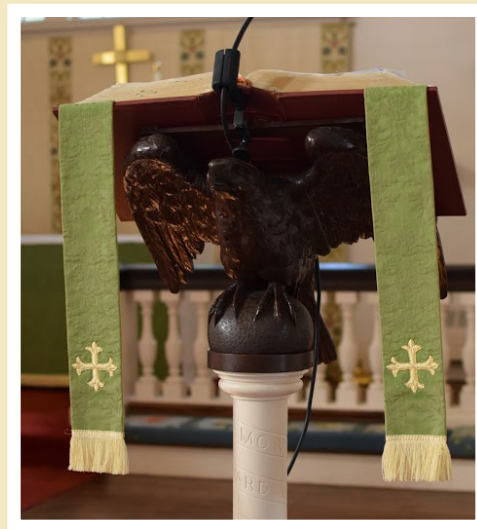


# QUALITIES WE SEEK IN OUR RECTOR

In 2018, there is a sense of optimism and renewal at St John's as we begin the search for a new Rector to lead us in what we understand to be God's will; to study, share, serve and love Jesus Christ. St. John's is looking for someone that can build on our strengths and address the challenges and opportunities discussed in this Profile. We know the qualities we are looking for and recognize that candidates' life experiences outside the church, as well as backgrounds different from our own, can bring wisdom and valuable perspectives.

## A Pastor... who understands us, connects with us and is present with us.

- Community and Fellowship are vital to our parishioners. We hope to attract a Rector who is sincere, engaging and warm, with a sense of humor; someone who appreciates our history and traditions and wants to be with us.
- St John's seeks a builder who can work with us to create a modern vision for how St John's fits into our lives, while staying grounded in our rich tradition and liturgy.
- We are seeking a servant leader and role model who can walk with us and lead us. Our Rector should be strong and secure, possessing emotional intelligence.
- The new Rector will be willing and able to engage with all aspects of our congregation, work with our seniors, connect with our youth, attract new families and provide pastoral care to those in need.
- We hope for a Rector who will inspire more parishioners to become involved in our missions and ministries.



## A Preacher... who shares the Word with Intelligence and insight

- Our congregation appreciates thoughtful sermons that connect with God and inspire us through both the heart and the head. There is a preference for sermons that use scripture to help us understand the world around us without a political point of view.

## A Leader... who will work collaboratively to fulfill the mission of the Parish

- We hope for a Rector who sees value in working with lay leadership to set priorities and make changes at a comfortable pace.
- Candidates should be capable of overseeing and mentoring our staff.
- The Rector should be comfortable talking and preaching about stewardship and planned-giving.
- We seek to find someone who sees value in being an active and visible leader in the community..



# HISTORY

In 1895 Lucy Sprague Sampson, purchased and donated the land and church buildings of the old Methodist Church Society to be the permanent home of the Episcopal Mission in Duxbury. This church building is now the current home of St. John's. After extensive renovation, the building was consecrated by Bishop William Lawrence on June 19, 1900.

The early years were difficult. The mission was unable to attract or keep a resident vicar until 1930. Services were mostly held during the summer months when Duxbury's population swelled with vacationers. During this period, support came from many Boston-area clergy. In 1907, the sisters of the Society of St. Margaret built a summer convent and chapel in Duxbury. The sisters shared the services of St. John's vicar and worshiped with the mission congregation on Sundays. We continue that relationship to this day.

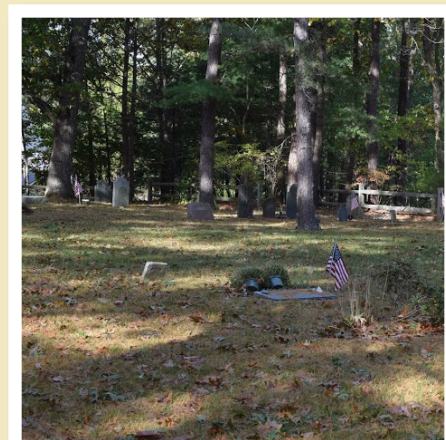
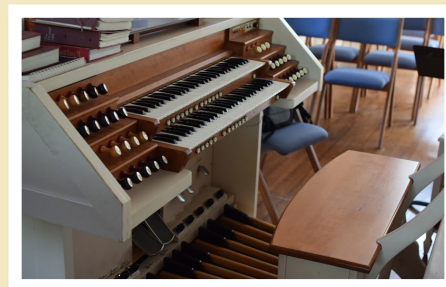
In the 1940s, the town of Duxbury began to change from a small agricultural and summer community to a suburban commuter town. The Rev. John Hatch Philbrick was the first full-time priest, who from 1940 to 1948, presided and oversaw the change from mission to parish of St. John the Evangelist in 1946. The parish undertook a number of building programs and renovations in the forties and fifties, starting with the erection of the parish hall, named for Lucy Sprague Sampson.

Since the term of The Rev. John Hatch Philbrick, the parish has been served by:

1949 – 1957	The Rev. William Stevens Anthony
1957 – 1967	The Rev. David John Siegenthaler
1968 – 1985	The Rev. Lewis Hartman Mills
1984 – 1987	The Rev. Paul Newman Taylor, Interim Priest
1987 – 2005	The Rev. Michael Joseph Marrone
2005 – 2007	The Rev. William W. Eddy, Interim Priest
2007 – 2017	The Rev. Roy Tripp
2017- present	The Rev Mally Ewing Lloyd, Interim Priest

In the 1990s, St. John's undertook another major church building renovation. Aptly named the Second Century Campaign to prepare St. John's for its next 100 years, the congregation raised more than one-million dollars to add new office space, classrooms, and a choir room to the church. The five-bedroom Rectory which was fully renovated in 2006, is located in a private wooded setting about 100 yards behind the church.

Our name, Church of St. John the Evangelist, comes from the early leadership of the Mission Priests of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Boston. The history of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury reflects the character of the town and the historical changes that make it what it is today.



# TOWN OF DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS



The area surrounding the original Plymouth colony is rich with the history of our country's founders. Settled by Pilgrim leaders Myles Standish and John Alden in 1624, Duxbury began as a small shipbuilding and fishing village, then as a summer retreat for city dwellers. Now it is primarily a residential community of 16,000 on the Atlantic coast of Massachusetts approximately 35 miles south of Boston.

Duxbury is one of suburban Boston's most desirable year-round communities - offering excellent public schools, a wonderful quality of life and convenient commuting access by commuter rail, car or ferry. Duxbury's extensive natural landscape offers access to myriad of exceptional recreational opportunities nearby; boating, fishing, walking trails, golf, tennis, and an indoor swimming pool for residents. In summer, all roads lead to Duxbury Beach, which is truly a geographic wonder to behold. Accessible by the wooden Powder Point Bridge, at six miles long and just fifty yards wide at points, this barrier beach separates Duxbury Bay from the Atlantic Ocean.

While Duxbury is considered a wealthy community, residents have a history of generosity and spending to improve the lives of all residents. The town has recently invested in a new High School / Middle School, School Athletic Complex, Police and Fire Station. The town's public schools are in the top 3% in the nation and among the best in Massachusetts. It has a strong emphasis on youth sports and its programs have groomed athletes for recent state championships in football, basketball, hockey, swimming and lacrosse.

The South Shore Conservatory's Ellison Center for the Arts offers music and arts education for people of all ages and abilities and houses the Duxbury Art Association. The Duxbury Bay Maritime School provides programs to connect people to the sea through education and recreational activities. The Duxbury Art Complex Museum serves as a regional art center and houses the impressive collection of the Carl A. Weyerhaeuser family.

Many seniors have chosen Duxbury as a great place to retire. We have one of the finest Senior Centers on the South Shore offering meals and programs to an increasing number of elders in our community. Situated on a beautiful, wooded, 38 acre campus, The Village at Duxbury is the first full-service 62+ retirement and senior living community on the South Shore. There are also a growing number of more moderate housing options being built, although many young people simply cannot afford to live in the town they grew up in. There are other financial and spiritual needs which quietly exist on the margins of the community.

Duxbury has an active spiritual community. There are ten religious organizations, including seven churches. The Duxbury Interfaith Council was founded 75 years ago to foster understanding and cooperation between these diverse organizations and to be a visible example of tolerance and respect between faiths. It provides opportunities for all people in Duxbury to join in interfaith programs including worship, charity and education.

Coastal Living Magazine named Duxbury as one of the Happiest Seaside Communities in America to call Home! <https://www.coastalliving.com/travel/duxbury-massachusetts>

To learn more about the town:

<http://www.town.duxbury.ma.us> ABOUT DUXBURY

<https://www.duxbury.k12.ma.us> DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Watch a video about Duxbury [HERE](#).



# THOSE WHO SERVE

## Search Committee

Chris Aghjayan  
Heather Ali  
Jim Badeau - Co-Chair  
Frannie Bayston  
Lisa Betteridge  
Tom Nichols - Co-Chair  
Heidi Laird  
Scott McDonald  
John Rappe  
David Ryan  
Mary Steinke – Corresponding Secretary

## Vestry

Ken Beeby - Co-Warden  
Patty Roberts - Co-Warden  
Liz Bayston - Treasurer  
Lizzi Campbell - Asst Treasurer  
Karen Renner - Clerk  
Kristin Rappe - Administration  
Doug Godfrey - Building & Grounds  
Helga Regan - Christian Formation  
Martha Popoloski - Communications  
Scott McDonald - Community Ministries  
Bill Albritton - Finance  
Sarah Gilbert - Hospitality  
Nancy Sharpe - Hospitality  
Dan Kostreva - Stewardship  
Mary Narlee - Youth Representative

Special thanks to the tireless efforts of Dottie Melcher and Martha Popoloski for their assistance in the preparation of the Parish Profile and website.

Duxbury Beach video courtesy of Mike D'Amore.





Interested Candidates should submit cover letter and resume to  
[stjsearch2018@gmail.com](mailto:stjsearch2018@gmail.com)

or

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Attn: Mary Steinke, Search Committee

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