



St Stephen's and St Wulstan's
knowing Jesus + making Jesus known

PARISH PROFILE

St Stephen's and St Wulstan's Church
Selly Park, Birmingham

A Biblically-Faithful Anglican Church





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WELCOME TO ST STEPHEN'S AND ST WULSTAN'S CHURCH, SELLY PARK, BIRMINGHAM

Welcome to St Stephen's & St Wulstan's, Selly Park. We're delighted that you are interested in finding out about our church family and ministries, and our vacancy as Senior Minister. We warmly invite you to read this parish profile and explore our website. We'd also invite you to come and visit us over the coming months to find out what is great about our church and life in Birmingham!

We have been an evangelical church for over 60 years and have come to stand in the conservative evangelical tradition. Our Senior Minister is retiring after 26 years' service. We are therefore prayerfully seeking a conservative evangelical to be our next Senior Minister, to shepherd and equip the church family and staff team as we seek, under God, to implement our vision of "Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known".





FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF EBBSFLEET, RT REV DR ROB MUNRO

The church community of St Stephen's and St Wulstan's is a testimony to the fruitfulness of biblically faithful, gospel minded, inter-generational, multi-national Anglican ministry – committed to serve their community and nurture disciples.

Following the long faithful ministry of the previous Senior Minister, the varied contexts which the church serves will require a particular character of experienced leader: able to build confidence across the variety of the church members through clear biblical preaching and vision, able to lead and build on the various existing teams so as to equip and enable their flourishing, able to support the pastoral needs of the church community through a time of great challenge and change in the church itself, the nation and in the Church of England in particular.

As the Bishop granted extended episcopal care of many churches in accordance with the House of Bishop's Declaration, I am delighted to support St Stephen's and St Wulstan's in discerning the person God is calling to this next chapter in their story of God's grace in Selly Park, and to stand with them and the new Senior Minister God is calling, in continuing to uphold and proclaim the life transforming truths of the gospel.





FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM, RT REV DR MICHAEL VOLLAND

Thank you for showing an interest in a post within this Diocese.

This is an exciting time for Church of England Birmingham, as we seek to share the good news of Jesus in the West Midlands and pursue our vision of a Transforming Church in order to see growing churches at the heart of each community.

To give some context to our city and region, Birmingham is the UK's second city, is superdiverse and has the youngest urban population in one of the most lively, diverse and creative city regions. As a diocese, Church of England Birmingham (CofEB) was founded in 1905, is geographically small but densely populated, covering an area of nearly 300 square miles and includes parishes in Birmingham and parts of Solihull, Sandwell, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and often to people's surprise, our rural parish communities make up 15% of our family.

Birmingham is the 'poorest' CofE diocese (based on IMD rankings) but also one of the most generous

(based on giving as % of income). We are recognised for being innovative, making good use of scarce resources, which resonates with the character of Birmingham being known as the 'city of a thousand trades'.

Churches in our Diocese embrace a wide spectrum of traditions from evangelical and Catholic, liberal to conservative and choral to charismatic in their outlook on mission and ministry. I am committed to ensuring that all can find a home, and flourish alongside lay and ordained colleagues within Church of England Birmingham.

Finally, thank you for showing interest in this post, and I hope the profile provides all the information you need. Be assured of my prayers as you discern whether this might be the role and region to which God is calling you. Please pray for Church of England Birmingham as we seek to witness to Christ and see lives, families and communities transformed by the power of the Spirit and to the glory of God.





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I love the vibe with so many people who are genuinely eager to learn, grow and serve. I am heartened and moved by the way that people share their burdens as well as their joys and encourage one another to seek the Lord's will and to walk faithfully in his ways.

”

CHRIS PORTER



WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for a minister who will continue to build and develop our ministry team. We would want him to prayerfully lead, love, teach and disciple us, helping us to grow as a church family both in spiritual maturity and in numbers as we reach out more effectively to our community with the good news of the gospel. We are looking for someone who...

CONVICTIONS

- Is a conservative evangelical, believing that the Bible is the inspired word of God revealing God's truth, and has a life that reflects this belief.
- Humbly depends on the work, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- Prioritises personal spiritual growth through daily private prayer, repentance and Bible study.
- Upholds the Christian beliefs expressed in the Thirty-Nine Articles and Jerusalem Declaration, including a penal substitutionary understanding of the atonement, and holds to the church's traditional teaching on human sexuality and marriage.
- Recognises the urgent need for everyone to be saved through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and has a heart to reach out with the gospel in the light of the Great Commission.
- Is committed, as things stand, to remaining in the Church of England, contending for the gospel.





WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR (CONTINUED)

CHARACTER AND GIFTS

- Demonstrates godly character according to Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
- Is an able expository Bible teacher who can effectively encourage us to apply Scripture to our everyday lives, and who is willing to preach on contemporary issues whilst remaining faithful to God's word.
- Has energy and enthusiasm, combining vision with practical action.
- Has a collaborative approach, can effectively lead and manage the staff team and volunteers, and is an encouraging and supportive leader who makes people feel valued, listened to and cared for.
- Has experience in parish ministry, including church growth, families' ministry and helping people to grow in godliness.
- Has ability and experience in training others in ministry, appropriate for a possible training incumbency role in the diocese.
- Has a vision for outreach and has successfully implemented outreach initiatives.
- Will encourage us pastorally and develop the gifts of church members, enabling them to serve fruitfully and develop their leadership potential.
- Has the Christian maturity to be self-aware and self-reflective.
- Can relate to everyone, regardless of age, education or background.
- Will foster a good safeguarding culture in the church.
- Is willing to carry responsibility and show perseverance through both the joys and the challenges of ministry.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Has an understanding and experience of managing people and leading teams.
- Will want to build on the relationships we have with other local, gospel-minded churches.
- Has experience of working with people from other countries and cultures.





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We've been attending St Stephen's and St Wulstan's Church since we moved to the UK in 2022. We have found it to be a very welcoming and inclusive church with a strong focus on Bible teaching.

SAM AND ARIES CHOW

”





WHO WE ARE AS A CONGREGATION

We are two congregations (morning and evening), meeting in two geographically separate buildings within a mainly residential suburb of south-west Birmingham, bordering the University of Birmingham campus.

Our church buildings are St Stephen's (the larger of the two) and St Wulstan's. The two congregations are diverse in age and ethnicity with a substantial number of families.

In the last few years, we have been blessed with the arrival of around 30 new members from Hong Kong. Our total electoral roll is currently 164, with just over 200 individuals registered on ChurchSuite.

Currently around 60 members of our church family are under 18.

The parish is a relatively compact area and well over 50% of our members live outside the parish boundary. We estimate that the majority of the adults are tertiary educated.



WHERE WE STAND

As a church, we want to be Biblically faithful in our teaching and ministries, contending graciously for the gospel. As such, we consider that the UCCF Basis of Faith summarises the key beliefs that form the basis of all that we do as a church. We affirm the Thirty-Nine Articles and the GAFCON Jerusalem Declaration. We value the distinctive roles of men and women and are under the extended oversight of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. In our context, this means that women jointly lead fellowship groups with men, provide children's and seniors' ministry and are also involved in speaking and leading in services under the authority of the Senior Minister.

We affirm the Basis of Faith of the Church of England Evangelical Council including the two additional declarations. The PCC has resolved that the Prayers of Love and Faith will not be used. Despite the current difference of views within the Anglican Communion on this matter, we believe that it is right, as things stand, to remain in the Church of England.

In the Birmingham Diocese, we are grateful to be led by evangelical diocesan and assistant bishops who are publicly committed to an orthodox understanding of marriage. We have a good working relationship with them, wishing to encourage them in their ministry. In so doing, we aim to support the transformation of Anglican witness in this city and region.





WHERE WE STAND (CONTINUED)

We helped to re-form the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship in 2018 and continue to be committed supporters. We have representatives at the Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council who help to provide an evangelical voice and maintain the integrity of our witness in the Church of England. We have good relationships with local evangelical churches, both Anglican and independent: notably St Bartholomew's Edgbaston, Christ Church Selly Park, and also City Church and Monyhull Church, both members of the FIEC.

We have been a committed member of the Midlands Gospel Partnership since it was formed in 2004 and currently host its training course at St Stephen's.

Looking further afield, as a church we have a long-standing and dynamic commitment to World Mission, particularly through our support of a number of Mission Partners sent out from and supported by our congregation over many years. In the past year, we have established a fruitful and exciting partnership with Cristo Luz del Mundo, an Anglican church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.





**Spending
time with my
friends**

**It is fun
and I like
Pathfinders**

**I like the craft
activities at
Sunday Club**

**Being part
of a big
family**

**The club with
biscuits, balls,
the Bible and
songs**

**It is SUPER
fun and
interesting**

What I like about church

(Children and youth)

**The community
that I am part of
and being able
to play my cello
in the band**

**I really enjoyed
Holiday Club as
a child. It's nice
to be a leader
now too!**

**Church
family and
my friends**

**The community/family
feeling when everyone
talks to everyone and
sings together**

**We get to make
new friends**



MINISTRY TEAM

We are privileged to be led by the Senior Minister and Associate Minister. We have a Licensed Lay Reader (female), and a retired Bishop is a member of our church and active in ministry.

We are also served by a staff team comprising a Youth and Families minister (not ordained) and a Children and Families Minister (not ordained). There is a Church Manager for financial and administrative support and (in most years but not currently) a Ministry Trainee.

There are a substantial number of lay members of the congregation with leadership potential, supporting a range of ministries, notably in children's, youth, and seniors' work, fellowship group leadership and ministry to those joining us from abroad.

Our PCC has approximately 20 members and meets bi-monthly.

There are also committees looking after the Fabric of the buildings, Finances and Mission Partners.



Helen Buckley
Children and Families Minister



Tom Bryant
Youth and Families Minister



Ben Wells
Associate Minister





WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

We seek to be obedient to the Great Commission of our risen Lord Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), confident that it is by his word that God 'brings us into the kingdom of the Son he loves' (Colossians 1:13) and gathers us into a 'great multitude before his throne' (Revelation 7:9). So, we give absolute priority to the faithful expository preaching and teaching of the Bible, not only in public worship, but in all church gatherings.

Public worship in the parish occurs at St Stephen's Church at 10am, typically welcoming up to 200 adults and children. There are children's groups for under 18s for three weeks per month, and the fourth week is All Age Worship.

St Wulstan's Church is the venue for the evening service at 6pm which attracts 30-50 adults, followed by a student Bible Study. The building is also currently used earlier on Sundays by an Iranian Christian Congregation.

Our services are structured differently each week using liturgy and a mix of modern songs and traditional hymns. Sermons are usually approximately 25 minutes in length, and there is a live YouTube Feed for our morning services. The tone is carefully balanced between formal and informal, and preaching is always expository. A monthly All-Age service encourages the whole church family to worship together and often includes quizzes and action songs aimed at children.



WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO (CONTINUED)

Our weekly mid-week ministries include Children and Youth meetings, Fellowship Groups, hosting the Midlands Gospel Partnership training course, a toddler group, a Cantonese Bible Study, a community café (which is a new initiative) and hosting the Globe Café, a ministry of Friends International.

In addition, we gather for monthly prayer meetings and hold Seniors' Teas alongside visiting local residential care homes. On a termly basis, there are book clubs for men and women respectively, alongside Dads' Stay and Play sessions and assemblies in local primary schools. Both Christianity Explored and Hope Explored courses run regularly throughout the year.

Annually, we benefit from a Church Weekend – either away or at home – to spend time in God's word and enjoy fellowship together and our Youth Group enjoys an annual weekend away as well as attending Summer Camps. We take part in the Passion for Life evangelistic initiatives, aiming to reach those in our parish with the gospel, and run a Christian Holiday Club for local primary-school-aged children at the end of the summer holidays each year.

In the recent past, we have supported a local Christians Against Poverty debt centre and hosted a Winter Night Shelter for the homeless in our city.

The **safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults is treated with the utmost importance. We believe that everyone with whom we have contact should be safe from harm. Therefore, everyone working with children or vulnerable adults has passed the necessary DBS checks and completes statutory safeguarding courses in a timely manner. Safeguarding update reports are given at every PCC meeting. Overseeing safeguarding is the responsibility of two members of the staff team.





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We love the encouragement of being in Fellowship Groups, studying the Bible together and sharing our lives with our church family!

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MARK CHECKETTS



THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES WE FACE

In 2025, we were successful in a bid for nearly £600,000 from the Church Commissioners for the purpose of revitalising St Wulstan's. This exciting project is on hold until a new incumbent is appointed, but it presents a wonderful opportunity for local Christian witness! This links with our desire to do better at reaching the population in our parish who are mainly (but not exclusively) second- or third-year students, or international post-graduate students, at the nearby University of Birmingham. St Wulstan's in particular is very conveniently situated for outreach work to these communities, being less than 200 metres from one of the main gates of the University.

Another great opportunity is that St Stephen's morning service is consistently 80-90% full and we seek godly leadership on how to reach more people, possibly through additional services or church planting. This represents another significant opportunity for a visionary gospel-hearted leader.





THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES WE FACE (CONTINUED)

We would love to see our brothers and sisters from Hong Kong nurtured in faith and integrated more fully into our Church family. For other new arrivals in our locality, it would be good to re-establish more social action initiatives, such as Welcome Boxes or other practical and spiritual support for refugees.

We hope to establish a Pastoral Care Team to support those not in a Fellowship Group or whose needs are beyond what can normally be provided within the Fellowship Groups.

Finance is a challenge to all our ministries. Whilst the church had a healthy annual income of approximately £380,000 in 2025 from sacrificial giving within the congregation, the costs are rising in all areas of ministry. The latest parish accounts are found in the Annual Report. Work has begun on a Creation Care project looking into stewarding our resources effectively to become more eco-friendly as a church.





WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

Our parish comprises Selly Park (a Victorian suburb of mainly detached family homes, where the vicarage and St Stephen's Church are situated), and the Bournbrook part of Selly Oak, which is terraced Victorian housing primarily occupied by students, where St Wulstan's is situated. The parish sits between two arterial roads leading south from Birmingham city centre – the Pershore Road and the Bristol Road. There are several primary and secondary schools in or near the parish and we are close to Edgbaston Cricket Ground, the Priory Tennis Club, as well as the range of amenities of Birmingham City Centre and the independent businesses of Stirchley and Moseley. We are also close to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, the local teaching hospital.



St Stephen's Church was built as a Victorian Church and substantially refurbished in 2015. It now includes a large foyer and a new parish centre comprising meeting rooms, offices and a kitchen. The interior of the church was re-ordered with updated heating, audio-visual equipment and flexible seating. St Wulstan's Church dates from the 1960s and has a flexible space with meeting room, kitchen and toilets. Some of the funds from the Church Commissioner's bid for St Wulstan's will go towards upgrading its facilities as part of the revitalisation plans.



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I love St Stephen's for the children's ministry and how my children feel so safe and included at church. I value the biblical ministry. I enjoy having opportunities to serve God and his people through different ministries.

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THOM WILKINSON





VICARAGE: 18 SELLY WICK ROAD

A large and well-proportioned two-storey detached house with spacious entrance hall leading to a study, home office, open plan kitchen / diner, utility and lounge with patio doors opening onto the garden.

On the first floor there are five bedrooms of varying sizes, a bathroom, shower room and separate WC.

To the side of the house there is a large garage, driveway and conservatory.

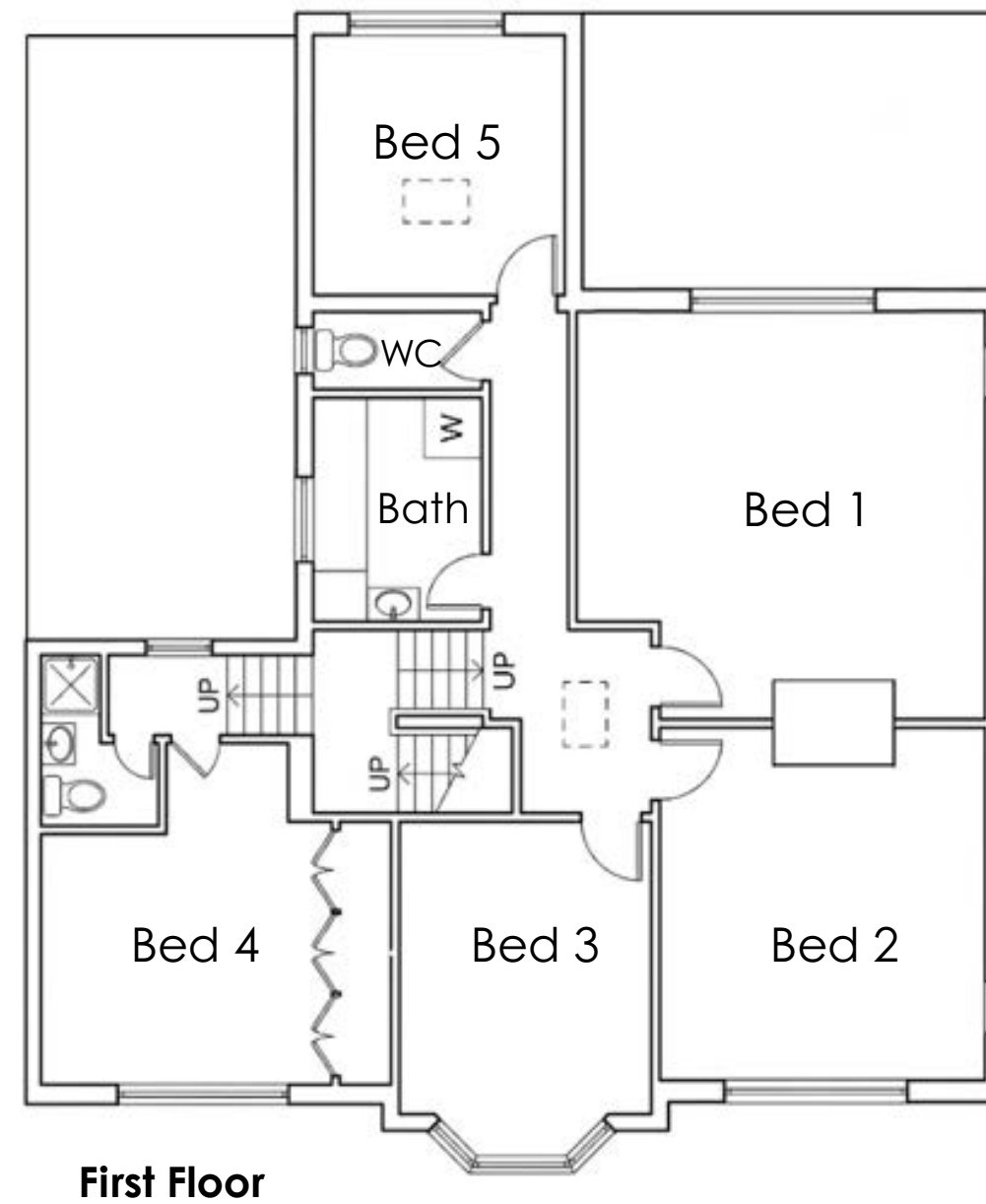
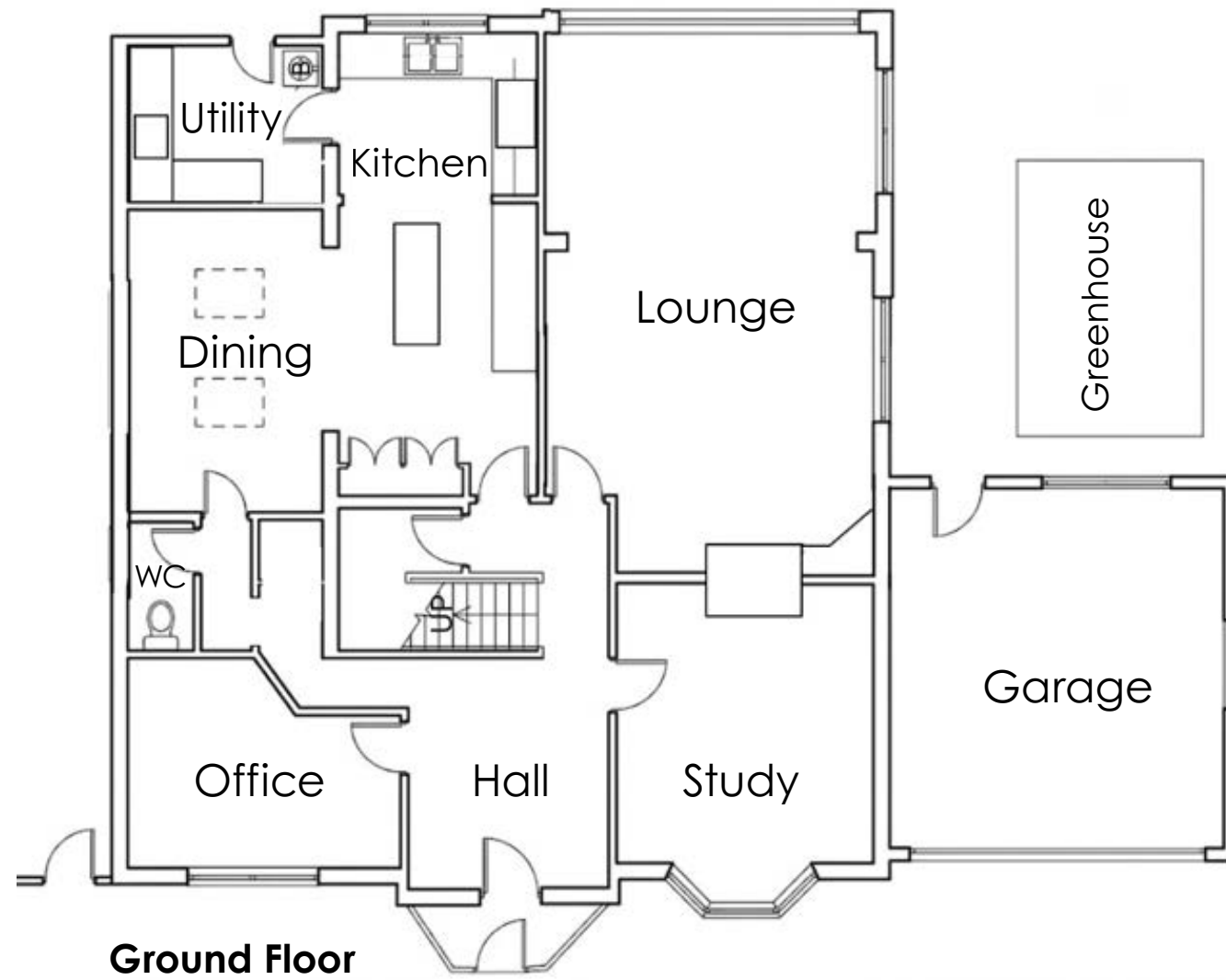
Approximate sizes of main rooms

Hall	3.1 x 2.95m	Garage	6.11 x 4.53m
Office	4.19 x 2.95m	Bed 1	4.82 x 3.22m
Study	4.28 x 3.78m	Bed 2	3.76 x 3.56m
Lounge	6.83 x 4.8m	Bed 3	3.96 x 2.97m
Kitchen	5.98 x 2.98m	Bed 4	4.19 x 2.75m
Dining	3.23 x 2.92m	Bed 5	2.97 x 2.97m
Utility	3.15 x 2.51m	Bathroom	2.01 x 1.96m





VICARAGE: 18 SELLY WICK ROAD





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IN SUMMARY

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this role. We pray that, as you consider this Parish Profile, it will become clear whether God might be prompting you to come and serve Him here at St Stephen's and St Wulstan's.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.SSSW.ORG.UK**