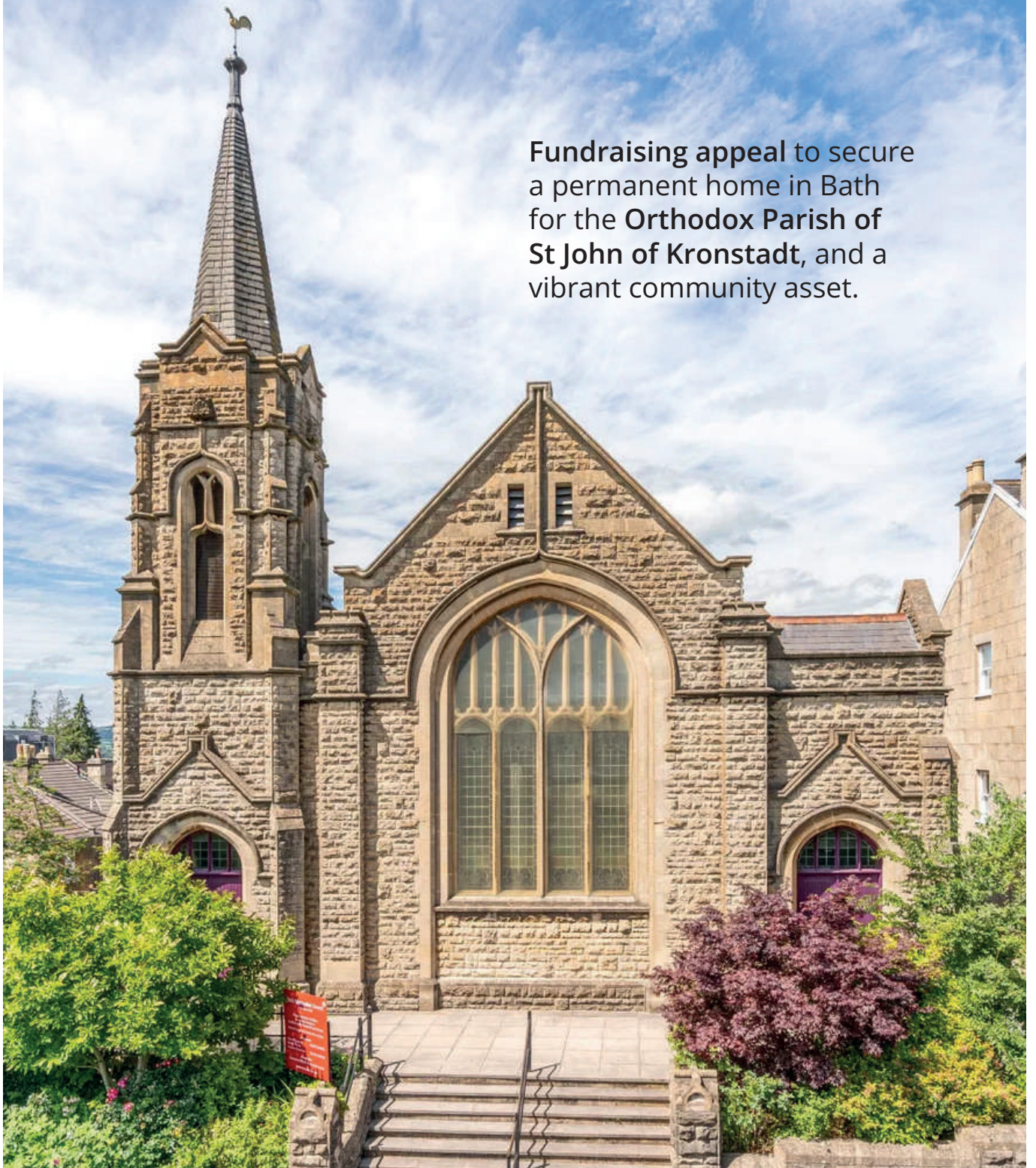


*A place for worship
A place for community
A place for generations*

The Meeting Place

Fundraising appeal to secure
a permanent home in Bath
for the **Orthodox Parish of
St John of Kronstadt**, and a
vibrant community asset.



A rare opportunity

For more than forty years, the Orthodox Parish of St John of Kronstadt has been part of the life of Bath.

Since its founding in 1980, our community has worshipped first in the home of our founding priest and, subsequently, through the generous hospitality of Anglican churches.

During those years we have grown into a thriving parish, rooted in the city and committed to worship, hospitality and service.

Today, a rare opportunity has arisen.

Beechen Cliff Methodist Church has become available for purchase.

Situated within walking distance of Bath city centre and well served by public transport, the building includes a worship space for around 250 people, a large community hall, meeting rooms and office accommodation.

Already recognised as an **Asset of Community Value**, it is a much-loved building serving local residents through choirs, children's activities, arts organisations and community groups.

We believe this building can continue that story. Not simply as our church, but as ***The Meeting Place*** – where worship, culture, learning and community life come together.

We are grateful for your interest in this ambitious project and would welcome your support to bring it to life.



Fr Richard Penwell

richard.penwell@btinternet.com
01225 315028



The Orthodox Parish of St John of Kronstadt in Bath is a registered charity (No: 1205191) and part of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.

We embark on this process with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain.



Pledge your support

Please scan the QR Code



Individual donations

Please scan the QR Code

Corporate donations

Please contact Fr Richard Penwell for further details

Our vision. The Meeting Place

Converting the church for Orthodox worship, alongside maintaining and extending community use.

The Orthodox Church has always understood itself as a meeting place.

A meeting between heaven and earth. Between God and humanity. Between neighbour and stranger. Between beauty and service.

Our vision is to create a building where those same meetings continue to happen every day.

- A permanent home for Orthodox worship
- A welcoming centre for local community life
- A place where people of every age, background and culture can gather

For us, purchasing this building is not simply about securing premises. It's about creating a place where relationships flourish, culture is celebrated, faith is explored, and communities are strengthened.



"The Parish of St. John of Kronstadt in Bath has been a landmark in my spiritual life. My experiences of this wonderful community have created strong and important bonds within me. They are my parents, my home, my family"

Edna Lucia Rivera de Herrera
Tegucigalpa, Honduras



Church main entrance



Large hall with adjoining kitchen



A perfect space for our weekly Parish lunch and hospitality



Also available to the wider community for existing and new events



A meeting with God

At the heart of our parish is the worship of the Orthodox Church.

Rich in beauty, music, prayer and ancient tradition, Orthodox worship invites people into an encounter with God that has remained largely unchanged for centuries.

Each week, people from across Bath and the surrounding region gather to pray, celebrate the Divine Liturgy and share life.

Recently, we have welcomed a growing number of people with little or no church background who have discovered the Orthodox faith through the openness and hospitality of our community.

A permanent church would allow us to share this rich spiritual heritage with many more people for generations to come.

A meeting with one another

Hospitality has always been one of the defining characteristics of our parish.

- Every Sunday, worship is followed by an open invitation to join a shared meal
- Children play together
- Students sit alongside retired pensioners
- Families, visitors and newcomers are welcomed around the same table
- We have supported refugees who have arrived in the city

Throughout the year, this shared life continues through Bible study, reading groups, children's activities, parish weekends, teaching events and celebrations.

In a society where loneliness and isolation are common, we believe places where genuine community can flourish are more important than ever.



"Having been born into the parish, I have seen it develop from a small, close-knit family to the now ever-thriving, active and loving community. I realise more clearly just how this parish has helped shape me.."

Simeon Bates
Bath



"I started attending the services at the parish in 2011, when I had just arrived in the UK to start a PhD degree. This parish has welcomed me and nourished me spiritually, and I have found many friends here"

Prof. Alin Olteanu



A meeting with the community

For over forty years, we have sought to be a good neighbour.

Our parish has worked alongside churches across Bath, supported local charities and developed positive relationships with people of different faiths and backgrounds.

Members of the parish have volunteered with the **Genesis Trust**, led **prison visiting**, contributed to chaplaincy work at the **Royal United Hospital** and the **University of Bath**, and participated in **civic and inter-faith initiatives**.

Environmental concerns are also important for us, and we have initiated and supported events that highlight these issues, building awareness and promoting a creative response.

The building itself is already an established community resource and our intention is not simply to preserve that role, but to expand it.

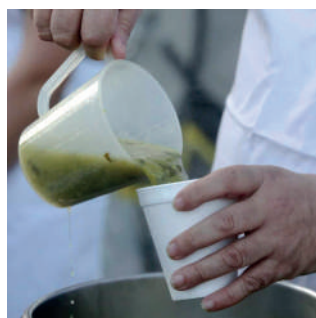
Existing community groups would continue to use the hall and meeting rooms, alongside new activities, so the range encompasses:

- children's and family groups
- arts and music organisations
- educational events and lectures
- community meetings
- exhibitions and heritage activities
- a lending library
- cultural festivals
- charitable initiatives

We want this building to remain a place where the local community feels welcome.

Our community participates in activities in support of the **Genesis Trust** for the homeless and prison, university and health service chaplaincies.

We have an active commitment to **environmental issues** and an appreciation of our need to be wise stewards of our natural resources.



"The move to Beechen Cliff Methodist Church would help everyone in our parish to grow further spiritually. The Orthodox faith offers something really different in Bath. With our own church, not only could we share it with many more people, but we could finally take our full place in Christian outreach in the city. It's also important to give a spiritual home for students and families from other countries, and a building will help us to extend our hospitality even further!"

James Jackson,
Abergavenny





A meeting between cultures

Although firmly rooted in Bath, our parish reflects the worldwide nature of the Orthodox Church.

Our community includes people from Britain, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Greece, Cyprus, South Africa, Belgium, America, Malta, Syria, Georgia, Turkey, and others.

Students from Bath's two universities regularly become part of the community and not only worship with us but also develop life-long friendships.

Other visitors arrive from across Britain and overseas – often dropping in as part of their visit to Bath.

This diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

It enriches parish life and offers opportunities for friendship and understanding across cultures and generations.



We have supported the St Paul's Orphanage and Academy in Kenya for many years.



People from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds have made our Parish their home.



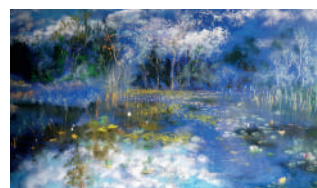
Our community is growing with local people joining us, visitors discovering us and vacationers from abroad making it a stop on their travels.

"I am an Orthodox Christian from Georgia who moved to Bath after my marriage in 2013. I was very lucky to discover the Orthodox Parish of St. John of Kronstadt. This made my life in Bath happy and spiritually nourishing. I would also like to highlight that the parish could be considered an exemplary, where one finds love, attention and compassion. It so much deserves its own home!"

Nonna Iliukhina,
Bath

Sharing beauty

Through music, iconography, architecture and hospitality at the Festival of Orthodox Arts.



For more than a decade, our **Festival of Orthodox Arts** has shared these treasures with Bath. The Festival brings together iconographers, artists and musicians from across Britain and abroad, and attracts many visitors.

Many people attending have never previously encountered Orthodox Christianity. So, for some, it is a cultural experience. For others, it becomes the beginning of a journey of faith.

This vibrant event reflects our vision to share the rich treasures of our living Orthodox tradition in a community spirit.

"The Festival is an extraordinarily profound event offering visitors a breadth of experience and inspiration that is genuinely enlightening, even for non-church members."

Anonymous,
Bath resident

"A great example of this community's living faith. A mix of education, hospitality and fundraising for the Genesis Trust"

Anonymous,
Bath

The **Festival** has become a unique part of the cultural calendar of the city.

We have plans to increase the international scope of the event (artists and visitors already participate from many countries) and increase its profile and impact over the coming years.



Wera Hobhouse MP (centre)



Why now?

Our parish has never been stronger.

Attendance at the Divine Liturgy regularly approaches one hundred people and continues to grow. Young families continue to join the parish, and children's work is flourishing.

Yet after more than four decades, we still worship in borrowed accommodation.

While we remain deeply grateful for the generosity of those who have hosted us over the years, borrowed buildings inevitably limit what we can achieve.

A permanent home would provide stability, security and the opportunity to develop our ministry and community work for future generations.



Why this building?

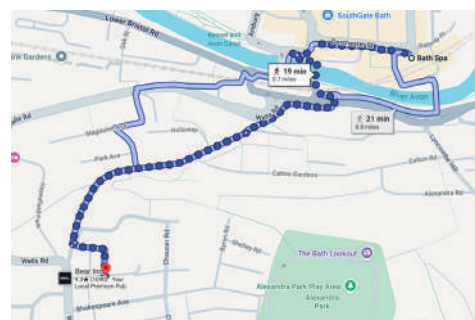
Beechen Cliff Methodist Church offers an exceptional opportunity because it's:

- close to Bath city centre
- easily accessible by foot, bus and car
- already recognised as an Asset of Community Value
- large enough to accommodate future growth
- equipped with a substantial community hall
- supported by local residents
- capable of remaining a thriving community resource

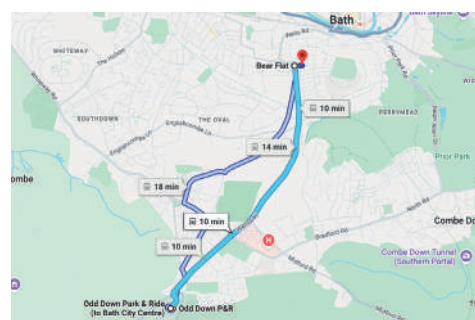
We have searched for many years, and no previous opportunity has combined location, accessibility, facilities and community benefit so well.



View towards the rear of the Church



19 min walking route from Bath Spa station



10 min bus route from Odd Down P&R

Building for the future

Our vision will be delivered in phases.

Phase One 2026/27

Purchase of the building

- Carry out essential repairs
- Continue existing use by local community
- Establish a parish office
- Establish Orthodox Worship with our existing church furniture and iconography
- Establish a lending library

Phase Two 2028

Develop the church for Orthodox worship

- Carry out further repairs
- Remove pews and replace the heating system
- Replace the sloping floor with a flat suspended timber floor
- Install ramps and steps
- Remove the organ

Phase Three 2029+

Further development of both the hall and church

- Fresco part of the church
- Re-decoration and development of hall
- Expand local partnerships
- Increase cultural events
- Build the meeting place reputation

2026/27

2028

2029 onwards

"Having a permanent place of worship would have a huge impact on the ability of the parish to increase its involvement with the wider community and to better provide for the needs of its growing membership."

Chris Munday,
Bath

"I came to Bath to pursue my MBA. My wife Florence and I found a home and spiritual nourishment within the St. John of Kronstadt Community. We cannot forget the ever jovial and never-give-up spirit of the entire church family."

Crispine Okeke,
Kajiado, Kenya

"I discovered the beauty and felt the spirituality that I had never before. I found home. That was 20 years ago. I belong to the big family of the church and have had such wonderful prayer and support from the community of St John Kronstadt."

Anonymous,
Bath



Phases 1 & 2 fundraising target

£870,000

Financial summary

We're raising funds to make a bid for **Beechen Cliff Methodist Church**, carry out necessary repairs and improve the church for Orthodox worship.

Our fundraising target is aligned with anticipated costs incurred in Phases 1 & 2 of this project, as outlined on the previous page. Our aspirations for Phase 3 are, as yet uncostered.

We have already allocated **£180,000** from our parish savings towards the overall fundraising target. We will work with trusts and grant funding bodies to bid for additional capital grants.

Individual pledges of support and donations will be critical to building our vision and creating *The Meeting Place*.

The following page gives details of how you can support us.

Professional advice

To ensure any offer we make is based on sound professional advice, **Alistair Colston** BSc MRICS, Consultant and RICS Registered valuer at CSquared is advising us on valuation and associated aspects of the project.

The costs for developing the church for Orthodox Worship described in Phase 2 were provided by **Martin Pickard**, MRICS Chartered Quantity Surveyor and Cost Consultant.

These costs are based on an architect's brief and indicative drawings provided by **Slade Smith and Winrow**, chartered architects, surveyors and planning consultants.

Target bid date:
7th October 2026

Please make your pledge or donation before this date.

Our decision concerning making a bid will be taken in line with professional advice concerning the valuation and in consideration of the funds we have available at this time.



How you can help.

Donate or pledge your support.

For more than forty years, the Parish of St John of Kronstadt has worshipped, served and welcomed others from spaces we have rented.

Now we have the opportunity to create something permanent. Not simply another church building, but a place where people can gather. Where neighbours become friends. Where beauty is shared through worship and events. Where cultures meet, children grow, music is heard, learning is encouraged and where those in need are welcome.

This will be a place where ancient Christian worship will continue to enrich modern life and where Bath gains not only a church, but a lasting community resource.

This is The Meeting Place.



We invite you to help make this vision a reality.

Our target date for placing a bid is **7th October 2026**. Pledges of support and donations received before this date will be taken into account when we decide whether to make a bid.

Pledge your support

By completing the form at:
[bath-orthodox-church.co.uk/
pledge.html](https://bath-orthodox-church.co.uk/pledge.html)



Please scan
the QR Code

Individual donations

Can be made directly at:
[bath-orthodox-church.co.uk/
donate.html](https://bath-orthodox-church.co.uk/donate.html)



Please scan
the QR Code

Corporate donors

Please contact
Fr Richard Penwell
richard.penwell@btinternet.com
01225 315028

This is a conditional pledge. You will only be asked to fulfil this financial gift if the Orthodox Church in Bath (CIO 1205191) successfully secures the purchase of Beechen Cliff Methodist Church. Your gift may be used both for the acquisition and the renovation and fitting out of this building.

Your gift may be used both for the acquisition and renovation of Beechen Cliff Methodist Church. Your gift will be placed in a restricted fund, set aside for the lease or purchase, renovation and/or fitting out of any current or future church building and meeting rooms.

Other funding sources

Please share recommendations with Fr Richard Penwell