

# Vision and Giving 2017

## The current situation

We are spending more than our income

In 2016 we had a shortfall of around £10,000 on the General Fund

Why was this?

Our costs continue to rise each year to support the growth in activities. We also pay more to Canterbury as our 'Parish Share' – again, this is because we are a growing church

Our income in 2016 has not increased over the 2015 levels – it has stayed at around £80,000.

## 2017 Plans

Costs are likely to rise further

We don't want to stop any of this work

In fact, we have plans to further develop and increase what we do. We will continue to maintain our church building, develop our music and worship, work with children, families, home groups, etc, have greater administrative and leader support and more money for outreach projects like Alpha and the Parenting Courses. We will also continue to support local community projects and other charitable causes at local, national and international levels by giving 10% of our regular income to these organisations

On top of this regular spend, we also have plans for some one-off capital projects

And we have a quinquennial (5 year) inspection due which is likely to require additional costs to repair and upgrade the building

## Reserves

We are still financially sound

We still have around £60,000 of reserves, so we are not broke. But we should be good stewards of these funds and our finances. We need to avoid having further years of 'losses'

## 2017 – What we need to achieve

2017 Budget

For this coming year, we should aim to have at least a balanced budget, so that we do not further deteriorate our reserves

This means that we are looking to increase regular income from £80,000 per year to £90,000 per year, excluding special projects. There are about 200 members of the church community, which means an average increase of £50 per person, across the year, would cover our current shortfall

What to do next

Please prayerfully consider whether you can increase or start giving.

We hope that some who are newer to our church would feel able to start regular giving if not already doing so

For those who regularly give, we invite you to review that commitment

We realise that it is not possible for everyone to give or to give more – most costs seem to be rising and wages and benefits are not generally keeping up.

If you can give, a regular bank-to-bank payment on a monthly or quarterly basis is the easiest way to give, and helps us to budget efficiently. We strongly encourage you to use this way of giving. If you prefer to use cash or cheque, there is an envelope scheme available and both systems enable us to reclaim the Gift Aid, which gives us 25p for every £1 you give. If you pay by bank transfer, please contact your bank using the attached form, or use your normal online/internet banking to set-up or amend your Standing Order instructions. For more information on the envelope scheme, please speak to Dave Lodge

## **Giving Schemes**

For those who want to take the opportunity to re-think the way you manage your giving to the church and other beneficiaries, you may like to consider setting up a charities account, which can help simplify your tax affairs. [www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk) is one excellent on-line service (with humans available to assist!) and they have plenty of literature if you want to think through the whole topic of giving

## **Confidentiality**

The amount that you give is between you and God. There are very few people within St Mary's who see individual details of the Blue Envelope Scheme and Bank Transfers – these are limited to the Treasurer and the Gift Aid Secretary. The Church Wardens and the Vicar do not have this information.

If you are concerned about this, please speak to Dave Lodge, our Treasurer – there are some alternative ways that may be helpful

## **Why give?**

It is a basic truth of Christianity that everything we have is a gift from God: our life, our family, our skills and our money and possessions. We are entrusted with these things so that we can use them to follow Jesus in fulfilling the great commission - to love God and to love our neighbour. So we give to follow this commandment, to remind ourselves that everything we have belongs to God, and because we want to be more like Jesus, who was generous in everything that he did

## **Why give to the church?**

The Church is the body of Christ; that means we are the body of Christ. It is our responsibility, calling and privilege to do Christ's work on earth – the work of sharing the gospel and bringing forgiveness, healing and compassion to a needy world. There is much for us to do, and we are the ones asked to do it. We give to make this possible

## **More questions?**

If you have any questions, or want to know more, please speak to either Rev Hugh, Dave Lodge or one of the Church Wardens

## **Thank You!**

**Thank you for being a part of St Mary's church**



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