

All Saints – serving the parish of Gunthorpe, Paston and Walton

This stewardship campaign is an invitation to reflect on how much you value belonging to your Church and an appeal to review your financial support to help this church in its mission and ministry.

The first thing we want to say is **'Thank you!'** Thank you for your involvement in and commitment to the life of this parish. Thank you for all the time, energy and skill you give and thank you for your financial support. Without such giving we cannot survive, let alone develop and grow. There are so many encouraging signs and there is so much to be thankful for in the life of our church. We thank God for your faith, love, service and presence with us. We thank you for who you are and thank you for your presence with us!

Why a stewardship campaign now? Well, we have all enjoyed a wonderful 800th anniversary year and now step into our 801st year of faith as a church. Yet to step with confidence into this year we are asking the following from those who worship with us:

If you do not regularly give to help this church to maintain its fabric and to offer ministry and undertaken mission, we would be so pleased if you could: to set aside a financial offering each week and pledge that amount will really help us step out in confidence in faith.

And to all friends – those who regularly give and those we are inviting to

Are you able to review your giving to the church? We operate a very 'tight' ship and try to weed out any un-necessary or wasteful expenditure, but the increase in parish share as needed by the diocese and increases in other costs means we are facing a deficit in our budget of £11,064.

An increase of £3.50 a week from those who give, or who could start giving (based on sixty givers) would enable us to meet that shortfall and be a means both to pay our way and grow in confidence.

Our stewardship campaign is spread over four weeks. This leaflet has information about ways to give, our budget and answers to common stewardship questions. Included in it is a pledge card for you to return. Sunday sermons will explain in more detail what stewardship is, Christian giving and our budget. There will also be an open meeting for members to come and have any questions answered, and for us to go into more depth in terms of parish and diocesan finances. (Date on the pew sheet).

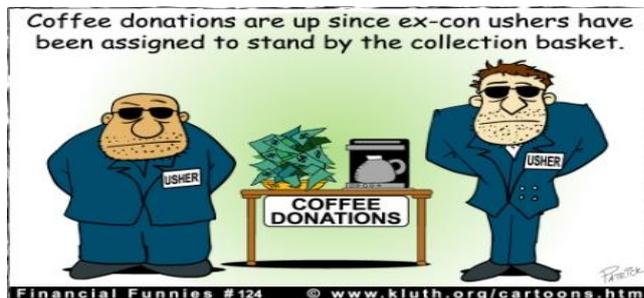
Thank you for being us in worship and involved in our life and we hope that you might be with us financially to maintain our life and grow in faith.

Rev Mark – on behalf of the Parochial Church Council.

Giving at All Saints – notes from Ivana, our Stewardship Secretary

Money, we can't live without it and I'm afraid the church is no exception, and like any other household looks to you, it's family, for help in making sure that it has sufficient funds to fulfil its obligations. As you know the collection plate that comes around at every service is a very important part of our income, and I dare say that come Sunday morning you are 'scratting around' (that's one of my mother's old sayings) for change to put into the collection. I am going to tell you different ways of giving to the church and therefore no need to scratting around on a Sunday morning.

The two methods I am going to mention have nothing to do with whether you are a tax payer, but, if you are, then all the better because for every £1 you give to us we can claim 25% back from the tax office. This equates to £2.50 for every £10 you have given. The first way is by direct



debit/standing order, and I am sure you are all aware of how these operate.

The advantage to you is that, no more scratting around, and when you come to church you can pick up a card which is available from the table near the door and put the card onto the plate. The advantage of this method to the church, is that we get the tax, if you are a taxpayer, every month i.e. £12.50 for your £10.00 or £5.00 for every £20.00. Even if you are not a tax payer, it means the church can rely on a more regular income which is helpful. The second option is by way of a white envelope. Again, you do not need to be a taxpayer to use this option. You can then put the money into that week's envelope throughout the week, and save yourself the last-minute searching for change. If you decide that this is the way for you, you will be given a box with 52 envelopes inside, each dated with a Sundays date, and a unique number. If you are a tax payer, this number is how I know who you are when claiming your tax back, which I do every six months. If you are a tax payer, the direct debit/standing order is the better method as we get your tax back monthly.

Whichever of the two options you choose, no one, not even Rev Mark knows who you are. I, as the Steward, am the only one who does, and at the end of each tax year, whether you are a tax payer or not, I send out a letter telling you how much you have given to the church and if appropriate how much of your tax I have claimed back. (The blue envelopes on every pew, are designed for visitors to be give to the church and for us to claim tax back: they can only be used by taxpayers.)

2018 budget for All Saints Church		
Income	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
Collection	9,259	8,600
Planned Giving	24,000	24,500
Income Tax	7,900	7,900
Church Fees	13,200	8,000
Fund Raising	8,500	7,500
Ministry Support (including children's work)	400	800
Church Magazine	1,100	1,000
Charities	2,800	1,800
Donations	2,500	4,000
Other (including flower fund of £200)	580	630
CBF Deposit Acc Dividends	450	450
Hall Lettings	5,250	4,500
Total Receipts	75,939	69,680
Payments	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
Parish Share	58,845	64,484
Ministry Support (including children's work)	1,400	1,100
Church Insurance	2,790	2,910
Salaries	3,000	800
Light Heat & Water	1,900	2,000
Repairs & Renewals	1,000	1,000
Church Magazine	920	850
Postage printing & stationery	800	900
Charitable Giving	2,801	2,000
Other (including flower fund of £200)	580	630
Church Hall: Energy, Insurance, Repairs, materials and salaries. Light Heat Water for Hall	4,187	4,070
Total Payments	78,223	80,744
Shortfall / Gain	(2,284)	(11,064)

Some of your questions about stewardship answered!

Why should I give money to the church, when millions are starving in Africa? *When we see so much need in the world it is right to question how we are spending money in the church. But surely it is right to give both to organisations that help such distress in the world, as well as wanting the church we are part of to grow!*

I don't like the church talking about money. It annoys me! *There is nothing wrong with the church talking about money. Money is a gift from God. Giving is a spiritual matter. Christian maturity means being responsible for our actions and taking charge of our lives.*

What about all the people in our church on low incomes – like pensioners and one parent families? *Too often such groups are wheeled in as the 'excuse' that certain people just cannot give! Yet surveys show that 'poor' Christians – give more per head and in proportion to what they have than comfortably off Christians.*

What about if my partner is not a Christian? *Many people in this situation find that they do have some money which is just 'theirs', so that they give from this. Does your non-Christian partner spend money on subscriptions, clubs, hobbies? If so, aren't you entitled to, at least, as much for your church?*



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We prefer to give our time for the church, rather than our money! *God calls us to be wise*

stewards of all three I'm afraid – time, talents and money! There is no way you can trade one off against the other.

The Diocese has got lots of money! *The vast majority of diocesan money comes from what each parish church gives it. The Church Commissioners nationally do have substantial sums of money - but they use it to pay pensions, housing costs and to give to poorer dioceses. The mission and outreach and payment for their clergy is up to each local church.*

My priority surely is my family and there's never much left over! *Charity that begins at home usually stays there. We must all look after the families God has given to us. But in the Bible God's people were encouraged to give willingly and generously from the best of what they have.*

All Saints Church, Paston. 2018 pledge card

Name(s) & Address:

I am on the Regular Giving Plan scheme of the church (please tick)

I am not on the Regular Giving Plan scheme of the church and would like to join by the following means (please tick)

Weekly envelopes
Direct debit/ standing order

I am a UK Tax Payer (please tick)

In prayerful consideration I pledge to give the following amount to the church:

Weekly:

Monthly:

(The church thanks you for your pledge and recognises that it could change - increase or decrease - because of personal circumstances.)

Signed:

(Please place this card in the accompanying envelope and return to church to the box provided. We would be grateful for return of the pledge cards by 18th of February).