

To contribute to St George in 2021...

please pray.



It's important to give generously even when money is tight because it demonstrates:-

- we know where our money comes from (James 1 v 17)
- we understand what's really important in life, our real priorities
- we trust God and his promises

It's not the size of the giving that matters; it's what it reveals about us and our dependence on him that matters to God.

Christian giving 2021



• ST GEORGE'S •



"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

What we do as a church costs time, effort and money.

St George's is all about worshipping God, following Jesus, and learning together. That's not just a purely "spiritual" process but also involves material resources, our time, effort and money. As evidenced by several rotas, a host of tasks have to be carried out by a large number of people before a service can even begin. ***To everyone who contributes time and money (and some have done so for many years), THANK YOU very much indeed.***

The Financial Cost of Our Ministry

Like every parish in our diocese, we contribute to the **Common Fund** of the diocese through our **Parish Share**. In 2021, based on the size of our congregation and our 'socio-economic status' we are asked to contribute £83,768 (that is £1,610 per week). In return, we receive from that fund our share of clergy salary, housing, training and other resources. The Common Fund also supports poorer parishes that would close without the support of churches like us, church schools and special projects.

On top of the Parish Share, maintaining our church building, the Hall, the Office, our contribution to Bishop Henderson School Chaplaincy and Churchyard normally costs in excess of £70,000 a year (about £1,300 per week). In total, it therefore costs nearly £3,000 every week to maintain our basic ministry. All of our ministry has been paid for by the 'behind-the-scenes', regular committed giving of the majority of the 160 members of the congregation.

In addition to this, every week in normal times we give all our collections in Church to other charities (£13,000+ p.a.), so that no visitor to our services pays anything towards the running of our church. St George's is quite exceptional in that respect.

We would like to thank everyone who cheerfully contributes time, effort or money to the ministry of St George's, reflecting the generosity of the God we worship. However, as a church we are now facing both a challenge and an opportunity.

The Opportunity

The PCC has previously thought about and listed some important improvements that would enrich our worship, fellowship and growth as a community. With the start of our new Vicar's ministry it is likely that further opportunities will be identified, and some of them may necessitate further investment. We can only do that when our normal running costs have been covered. When the pledge forms from this review of our Christian Giving are all collected and totalled, we will have a better idea of what improvements we can afford.

The Challenge

In 2020 our income fell behind our expenditure, our financial reserves were reduced (we are supposed to reserve the equivalent of 3 months of running costs), and our utility bills have risen significantly. The Parish Share we now need to pay to the diocese's Common Fund has increased by 3.9% this year. So, it's a real challenge. To meet it will require faith, prayer and commitment, but we know from long experience that members of St George's are not short of these. We believe if we all respond to God's leading, we will once again experience His generosity and grace.

Please PRAY:-

- Thank God for all he has given you.
- Reflect on your gifts and abilities. How might God want to use them?
- Decide how much of your income to give back to God.
Can you increase it? That's a big request because it could involve a review of all your income and expenditure.
- Ask for wisdom in deciding how much of your giving to God to commit to St George's and how much to other charities. If it helps, use the chart on the back page.

And ACT:-

- If you have started coming to St George's regularly, or have been coming for some time but haven't yet done so, may I encourage you to join our committed Christian Giving scheme by completing a pledge form and possibly a standing order form.
- If you pay income tax, and have not already done so, please consider Gift Aiding your giving.
- If after praying about it, you would like to change the amount you are already giving to St George's, you will need to fill out a new pledge form and, if appropriate a new standing order form.
- If you are putting your affairs in order and are considering making a will or revising an existing one, would you like to remember St George's?
There is a St George's leaflet on "Legacies"; if you would like one, just ask.

Could you please respond by returning any new pledge and standing order forms in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Christian Giving" to the Church Office, or Michael Small (our Christian Stewardship Officer). **This information is confidential and is only seen by Michael Small.** This will enable us to plan our expenditure for the coming year. We would also like to think it will allow us to report back to our congregation with praise and thanksgiving. May God bless you in His service,

Peter Joyce and Hilary McKegney, St George's Churchwardens