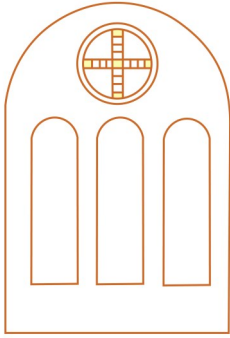


# THINKING ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

## Resourcing our church for the future



This autumn we've been thinking about the theme of stewardship. Christian stewardship is about using and managing all our God-given resources faithfully and responsibly, in ways that honour God, and seek to fulfil his purposes.

The Bible has lots to say about stewardship, and we've touched on a few of those themes in our Sunday services. If you haven't had a chance to hear those sermons then you can catch up here:

[www.goodpeter.org.uk/sermons](http://www.goodpeter.org.uk/sermons)

Christian teaching on stewardship reminds us that...

The earth and its resources are provided by God for the needs and wellbeing of all humankind.

Our skills, resources, time, opportunities and possessions are entrusted to us by God, to be enjoyed, and to be used to serve God and others.

The Church is called to continue the work of Christ in the world. We can do this individually, in our daily lives, and collectively, as part of the Church.

If we want *our* church to make a difference, then we need to play our part, and use what we have to support our church's mission and ministry.

We're invited to give because we *want* to give - not because we're obliged to give; and because we care about who and what we're giving to.



## THINKING ABOUT OUR CHURCH'S MISSION

As a church we currently have four mission priorities:



**Discipleship** - Exploring, releasing and supporting each other to live out our faith in everyday life.

**Worship** - Encouraging variety and creativity in our worship, mission and practice

**Widening inclusion & participation** - Being a church that is younger and more diverse.

**Community** - Pursuing social justice for all

These four priorities are reflected in the things we're already doing, such as transforming St. Peter's, into a resource for social action, running our foodbank for vulnerable migrants, expanding our children's work, being a pilot project for *Flourish* - an initiative to nurture new Christians at Trinity School, offering English classes to Ukrainians, developing our work as an 'Eco Church', and much more.

There are also areas where we'd love to invest *more* time and energy, such as nurturing new Christians, supporting and enabling a wider range of people to take on leadership roles, expanding our Sunday services, and enabling all of us to feel more confident to live out our faith in daily life.

To maintain and develop our work as a church requires resourcing. **We are very thankful** for all that people give to our church - both seen and unseen - to help us sustain the work in our parish.

## HOW ARE YOU PLAYING YOUR PART?

As we think about our hopes for the future, we're encouraging everyone to reflect on how they're supporting our church's mission and ministry. In our weekly stewardship talks we've been reminded that the majority of our income comes from the giving of our church members, and the biggest part of our expenditure goes on supporting our ministry. This year we have an operational deficit, which is one of the reasons we're thinking about stewardship.

### We invite you to reflect on the following questions...

What resources, gifts, skills and opportunities has God given you?

How are you using those things to serve God in your daily life?

How are you using those things to serve God in church?

Does your level of giving feel right, for you, for now?

Some may feel that it's the right time to get more involved in supporting our church - either through giving their time and skills, or through their financial giving. Others may feel that their circumstances have changed, and they're no longer able to be involved in the same way. The way we answer these questions will be different for each of us.



For those who feel like it's the right time to get more involved, there are some practical suggestions overleaf. You're also very welcome to come and talk to our clergy and churchwardens about any ideas, thoughts or questions you have.

## USING YOUR GIFTS AND SKILLS

There are many potential roles and tasks that you could take on. Some involve joining existing teams of volunteers - such as making coffee,



operating sound / Zoom, folding service booklets, playing in a music group, leading the intercessions, being part of our prayer ministry team, helping out with Children's Church, serving at the foodbank, and so on.

Other roles others require a co-ordinator who can recruit additional volunteers, such as running stalls at community events, coordinating hospitality for Open Studios, caring for our buildings, running pre-prepared courses like *Alpha* or *The Bereavement Journey*, or helping to coordinate rotas for specific areas of ministry.

If you'd like to find out more about any of these opportunities, please speak to our clergy and churchwardens.

## FINANCIAL GIVING

If you'd like to give to the church on a regular basis, make a one off donation, or amend your giving, you can do so through online banking:

Sort Code: 20-49-81

Account No: 90659096

Account Name: P C C OfThe Church OfThe Good Shepherd And St Peter Lee (*Caps and spacing as shown. This is a business account*)

Please use your name as the reference.

**If you would like to Gift Aid your donation**, download a Gift Aid form at [www.goodpeter.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Gift-Aid-Form.pdf](http://www.goodpeter.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Gift-Aid-Form.pdf)