

# Gift Day

7th November 2021







# Letter from the Rector

This year our main annual Gift Day will fall on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November – the Sunday after All Saints Day.

You're probably expecting me to emphasise the importance of regular financial giving, since the yearly appeal can only help us so much, if it doesn't also help us review our year-round contribution. That's true! It's a mistake to hope that Gift Day will give our accounts a sufficient cash injection to help the church get by. Much better to spread the growth predictably over the whole year!

But instead I want to hold out a rather different kind of giving for everyone, mentioned by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15.

**'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'**

There is plenty happening in our world at the moment which might cause us to wobble or even collapse. We could easily justify to ourselves the need to take proper care of ourselves and therefore to give ourselves a break from any challenge. But Paul encourages us instead to 'stand firm' – and to give not just money or time, but **to give ourselves** to God and his work.

This aims high – giving not just the minimum – what I can afford – but the maximum: all that I am (which includes all that I have). When we do that, we are promised that this gift will have an impact and won't be 'in vain'. We have the joy of knowing that our life counts.

And we will be following the example of Jesus, the one who gave everything and held nothing back when he died for our sins. May all the glory go to Him!

With love from,

Simon Scott



# Why give

From a practical point of view, your generous financial giving allows us to maintain and expand the ministry of All Saints Little Shelford.

This includes:

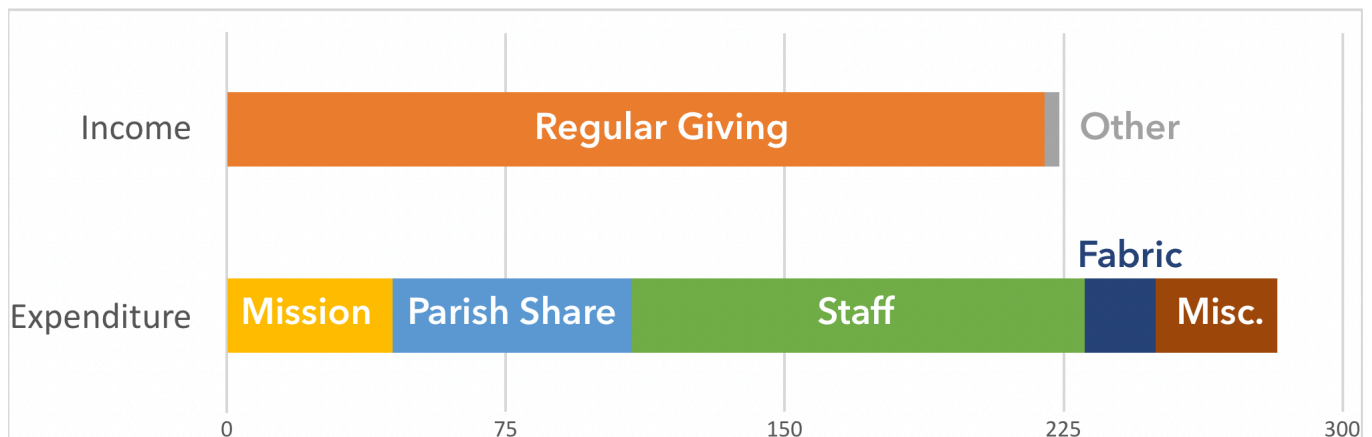
- Funding Simon Scott's post with a payment to the Diocese (salary and housing)
- Paying for our curate Edward Keene's post (salary and housing)
- Paying the salaries of Alison Hynds, our part-time administrator; Josh Cairns, our Youth and Families Minister; and Monica Cragg, our part-time Associate Minister for Youth and Music
- Maintaining the fabric of our buildings and equipment
- Expenses for the many activities taking place

In addition to the above, for every £5 you donate, £1 is allocated to fund 'External Mission'. Each year we give tens of thousands of pounds to our partners in the Gospel: training ministers in Uganda, assemblies in local schools, a church plant in the New Forest, and many others.

Our plans for 2022 include the church Weekend Away and improving and maintaining our buildings (the "Quinquennial" inspection).

## How did we spend our budget last year

The diagram shows the budget we set at the start of the year, which includes a projected deficit of around £58,000. This would leave only £25,000 remaining in the general fund by the end of 2021 without Gift Day income.



The Parish Share includes the cost of the Rector's pay and housing, and support for the broader Church of England.

Over 95% of our budgeted income comes from regular giving. Having this stable, predictable income allows the PCC to make plans confidently.



# Gift Day 2021 Appeal

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) have set two targets that we would like our Church fellowship to aim for on this Gift Day:



An increase in our regular giving amount will enable the PCC to plan confidently for the future needs of the fellowship.

Any one-off giving is also really welcome and would help to restore our reserves.

## How to give

If you wish to respond to this Gift Day, please use the response form in this pack. To help the PCC plan for 2022, please try to make any changes by 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## FAQ

### What expenditure comes under 'Misc'?

This list is not exhaustive! Printing, hall hire, group materials, coffee, equipment, insurance, utilities, repairs, Weekend Away, flowers, cleaning, newsletter, software.

### Does the church have a policy on reserves?

No, but the PCC regularly monitors fund levels and is kept aware whether reserves are likely to be sufficient to meet expenditure.

### What happens if we don't raise the targeted amount?

The PCC reviews its annual budget in the months following Gift Day, looking at what is affordable in the coming year. Plans for staffing and activities are adapted accordingly.

### What if I am unable to give financially? What if I need to decrease my giving?

We each have a responsibility to give according to our circumstances, and giving is not something to do out of guilt. If you can't give, or need to decrease your giving, then that's fine.

**I am a higher-rate taxpayer - how does that affect Gift Aid?**

If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate taxpayer you can declare your giving on your tax return to obtain additional tax relief. However, note that if you use your employer's Give As You Earn scheme (GAYE) then all the available tax relief has gone to the church.

*On behalf of Simon Scott (Rector), Tim & Sarah Glauert (Treasurers),  
David Brock and Clive Ayling (Churchwardens), and the Parochial Church Council.*







