



Any questions?

This leaflet is designed to answer questions you may want to ask during **Treasure, Time & Talents**, our Stewardship Campaign for 2015. If you have a question which isn't answered here, or there is anything else you would like to discuss, please do ask Fr Daniel, Fr Justin or Sian.

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the notion that everything we have on earth is entrusted to us by God. This includes our money, our gifts and skills, and our time, hence the title of our stewardship campaign: *Treasure, Time & Talents*. Stewardship is about how we steward those things as followers of Jesus Christ, and how we use our treasure, time and talents to God's glory and the furtherance of his kingdom.

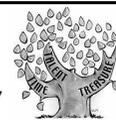
What is Common Fund?

Common Fund is money given by congregations in every parish in the Diocese of London. It is collected every year from wealthy parishes, as well as those with more modest financial resources, to provide and support clergy, and to further our work in every parish across London. That is why our contributions are called the 'Common Fund'; they are made by everyone, for everyone. The average one-priest parish costs the **diocese** about **£80,000**, which pays for the parish priest, providing a vicarage, training new clergy, supporting parishes, helping schools, and helping the wider church.

St John's currently pays £16,000 to the Common Fund, although we cost the diocese considerably more than this.

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is a policy which enables charities (including



churches) to claim back tax on donations they receive. If you are a UK tax-payer, the church can reclaim 20% of your donation at no extra cost to you.

How does Gift Aid work?

If you are a UK tax payer, £20 of every £100 you earn is paid to Revenues and Customs as tax. So if you make a donation of £80 to a charity, that charity can reclaim the £20 from Revenues and Customs. Gift Aid Declarations forms are available in church, or can be downloaded from our website, www.sjebp.com

What is a Standing Order?

A Standing Order is when you set up a fixed amount of money to transfer from your bank account to another bank account. Only you can change the amount which is transferred. There are more details available in the Stewardship Campaign leaflet. Standing Order forms are available in church or can be downloaded from our website.

Can I set up a Standing Order online?

Yes, if you bank online. You will need the details of the church bank account when you log in to your account, which are:

- Bank: Barclays
- Account number: 4095 4012
- Sort code: 20-46-57

It would be helpful if you could fill in a Pledge Form too.

What is the Envelope Scheme?

Each member of the Envelope Scheme has a pack of envelopes, one for each Sunday of the year, which has their unique reference code on the front. This is a form of Planned Giving, and is particularly useful for people who cannot give by Standing Order (because they do not have a bank account, or their income is low or erratic). If you miss one Sunday, you can bring two envelopes the next.



What's wrong with just putting money in the collection on Sunday mornings?

Nothing! However, Standing Orders and the Envelope Scheme are ways to help you plan your giving, and also enable the church to budget and plan for the future.

How often should I review my giving?

As often as possible. It makes sense to review your giving if you have a change in circumstances (eg: a pay-rise, unemployment, or retirement). The purpose of a Stewardship Campaign is to help us review our giving as individuals and as a community.

Where does my money go?

Money from giving is used very carefully. Our main expenditure as a parish is our Common Fund payment, which helps the diocese pay for a priest here. Money is also used for mission and outreach, worship, administration, utilities, and upkeep of the building. Nothing goes to waste!

What if I'm on low income or benefits?

We realise that those on low incomes may find it more challenging to give to the church. We ask that everyone plays their part in contributing to the mission and ministry of the parish, however small. We do not want you to struggle financially because of what you give to the church, so we ask you to make sure your giving is realistic.

How much is too little?

There's no such thing as too little. We ask everyone to think and pray carefully about what they can give to the church, and whatever you feel you can afford to give will be gratefully received.



I already give my time and talents to the church. Do I have to give financially as well?

We do encourage *everyone* to contribute to the life of the church in terms of time, talents, *and* money, even if it's only a small amount.

Why can't the Church rely on other income?

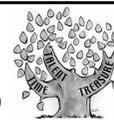
As our parish our only other significant source of regular income is from rent. Parts of the church are hired to outside organisations throughout the week. The Church of England receives no state funding, and the dioceses are not able to fund parishes other than by providing a priest.

Why do I need to fill in a Pledge Form and answer the Questionnaire?

Firstly, filling in a Pledge Form and a Questionnaire gives us a chance to think and pray about how much we can give to the church. We've set a deadline of 29 November to help us focus our minds. Secondly, these forms will give us an indication of roughly how much we can expect to receive as a church financially and through people's time, which helps us budget and plan for the future.

What happens if I don't fill in a Pledge Form and a Questionnaire?

Although we're encouraging *everyone* to fill in a Pledge Form and a Questionnaire, nobody's going to be forced to do anything they don't want to do! If we don't receive a Pledge Form from you by Sunday 29 November, a member of the stewardship team will be in touch to see if you have any further questions or concerns; this will be no more than a gentle nudge!



What if I'm already giving to other charities?

It's great that you already give to other charities. We hope that all members of the church can see their giving as something separate from other charitable giving. Stewardship is about giving back to God what is already his, so it differs from what the church traditionally calls almsgiving, or giving to the poor/charities. Remember too that the parish has a commitment to reaching out to the poor and marginalised, and we always budget for giving to other charities as part of our giving as a parish.

Can I give via the website?

Unfortunately our website is not set up to receive donations at the moment. However, all the information is available at www.sjebp.com, and you can set up a Standing Order if you bank online.

What is tithing?

Tithing is an Old Testament principle of giving one-tenth of one's income (or produce) to the church. It is still practised by orthodox Jews, and in some Christian traditions. At St John's we do not expect people to tithe, but it might be a helpful way of giving for some people. Ask if you want more information.

Who sees how much I give?

The PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid recorder sees how much each person gives. Fr Daniel has access to the records too, but doesn't look at them often, and has an appalling memory for numbers! No-one else has access to this information.



Treasure, Time & Talents Stewardship Campaign 2015



FAQs

'Frequently Asked Questions'