

## **“Lord, you know I love you” (John 21:15)**

These words flowed from the heart of St. Peter when he encountered Christ after the resurrection. Three times Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?”, and three times Peter says “Yes”, counteracting his denials the night before Jesus died. Whatever sacrificial gifts we make - as a pledge to commit ourselves to God’s work - they flow from our love for Christ. We are often required to make sacrifices for those we love, and our love for Christ should be deeper than our love for all else. In fact, if we love Christ as he loves us, we will love others as Jesus loves us. Pledged giving of our time, our gifts and our financial resources to the service of God’s Church is counter-cultural to the message of our times, which encourages us to make personal choices to ensure our own happiness.

Our love for Christ is reflected in the unconditional way we love, welcome and include others.

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***[Please cut out this section and place it in the confidential box in church, or respond via the parish website:  
[www.horfieldparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.horfieldparishchurch.org.uk)]***

## **GENERATING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY**

What practical gifts of time and talents are you able to **PLEDGE** to Holy Trinity to get involved in the work of God’s kingdom?

I [name] .....

Am able to offer

.....

.....

Dated .....

**With grateful thanks for your prayers, pledges and practical gifts.**

***The Revd. Canon Dr David McGladdery – Rector of Holy Trinity.***

## **THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY WITH ST. ANDREW & ST. EDMUND**

***HORFIELD***



## **CREATING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY**



***Christian stewardship is a generous and practical expression of love.***

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

### “Lord, you know I love you” (John 21:15)

Stewardship is essentially about looking after something for someone. That **‘something’** in this case is our Church - its people; God’s Mission; our building and our resources - and that **‘someone’** is God.

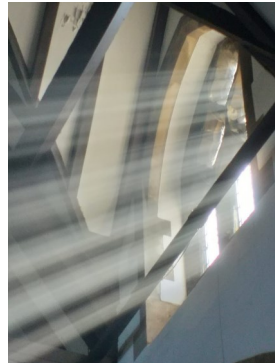
We know that God will provide, but the evidence of millennia is that God largely



chooses to provide through human beings acting as God’s agents. All our gifts come from God, and we regularly need opportunities to consider how we can best use our talents, time and money in God’s service. Whether you have been here for many years or are relatively new, we welcome you to take part in the exploration of how we might do this. Whilst we offer our talents,

time and our money partly to ensure the Church runs as we would wish, true giving comes from the heart and is an expression of our love and commitment to God through how we live our Faith as disciples of Christ.

This leaflet outlines some of the needs of our Church in terms of both practical assistance and money, but these are merely a prompt as to how we as individuals might express our love.



**“We have learned to live a holy and unconditional welcome here at Holy Trinity” (A parishioner at the last Annual Church Meeting)**

### Why now?

There is never a right time to ask for money, but it is five years since we last undertook a major stewardship campaign and the evidence suggests that many have not revisited their giving since, despite significant inflation. If not now; when?

### What happens next?

As the leaflet explains, we shall offer all the responses in thanksgiving on 24<sup>th</sup> November then assess the results and how they may guide our future planning.

### Why waste money on...

The accounts are discussed every year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), and decisions on significant expenditure are made by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) whom you elect at that meeting. You can raise concerns at any time by talking to the treasurer, warden, members of the Finance Advisory Group or the rector.

### Why not save money by not going ahead with the Welcome Project?

Some of the work under the broad Welcome heading needs to be done (e.g. the church paths and making safe the electrics). It would surely be irresponsible in all but the very short term to just put a lick of paint on the hall (and perhaps update the electrics) when we have an opportunity to rethink our provision and make it fit for the second half of the century (and hopefully beyond).

### Why do we need to reconsider our planning giving of time, talents and wealth?

Because personal circumstances change; time passes quickly from year to year and so it is practical and good practice to pause for reflection at regular intervals to assess whether our practical and financial contribution to the work of God’s church is appropriate.

**Remember to consider generously your practical responses:**

**Pledge Form      Gift Aid Declaration      Bank Standing Order**  
**Practical Gifts Offer      Prayer**

**[www.horfieldparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.horfieldparishchurch.org.uk)**

## CREATING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY (STEWARDSHIP)

### FAQs

#### God will provide, so why worry?

All the evidence of recent *millennia* is that God's preference is to provide through human agents. We are God's agents in this time and place (who else is there?), so by saying God will provide, we should do it/pay for it ourselves from the gifts with which we have been blessed.

#### Why list some tasks which seem to be going perfectly well?

Some of the people doing the tasks are getting less able to do them, or just need a rest or a change. So we need a steady flow of new volunteers. Succession planning is vital for the future.

#### What about unlisted tasks?

Please respond regarding the tasks which you think need doing; perhaps you are the one to do them...

#### Can't we get money from the Government/Church Commissioners/Diocese?

We get no money from the State, nor would we want the control it would entail. The assets held by the Commissioners may look impressive, but they are largely church buildings, and selling off churches to meet day to day costs would eventually kill the Church. The Diocese has very little money of its own. Its main source of income is the Parish Share from individual parishes.

#### How much should I give?

This has to be a matter between you and God. As a parish, we aspire to the Biblical tithe (ten percent), but not all can reach that and nobody is being asked to starve themselves to give to the Church. Others may be doing rather well and could perhaps give more.

#### Why three sheets of financial paper?

It might look wasteful, but the Standing Order form needs to go to your bank, the Gift Aid declaration may be needed by HMRC Audit and the third is for our own records.



**Warm Welcome;** catering and offering hospitality; working with children and families; administration; gardening; singing; altar-serving and much more.

Many in our gathered church community have been offering such tasks and joining in for many years. And for such commitment sincere thanks is due. Each generation must raise up its team to participate in ways that are appropriate at the time. We need a continual supply of new volunteers to make things happen – some will be continuing well established initiatives; others will be offering new and different things. Please consider how you might offer some of your God-given gifts and talents to develop this part of God's kingdom here at Holy Trinity.

### TALENTS

We rely on the practical gifts of our congregation to enable our Church to function as we would wish; money alone is not enough. There are many opportunities at Holy Trinity to be involved with our common life together. You may be good at neighbourly visiting; hosting



### FINANCE

Our Church exists in this world, and needs money to pay for various necessary ministries, jobs. Parish Share and 'household bills'. It cannot be run on practical gifts alone. Details of our accounts are presented every year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Renting our Parish Hall provides an additional steady income stream, yet if we are to maximise this we must undertake a major redevelopment of this community resource (the largest physical aspect of **The Welcome Project**). If we do not, it will become ever



less attractive as compared to other local facilities, and so become more difficult to let. The longer we leave hall redevelopment, the more things will fail in terms of its structure. We also aspire to develop and enhance what we do; to make it the very best we can share with our community. The majority of Hall redevelopment funding must come from match-funded grant awards; our work for God's mission costs money, the only realistic source of which is regular, planned giving and fund-raising by our Church community.

## GIVING

There is no money but ours to fulfil God's purposes. What money to give must be a matter of prayerful consideration by each individual, but we offer a few thoughts. A traditional practice was to **tithe** 10% of income to the Church (in addition to charitable giving). As a Parish, we aspire to meet this standard, but as an average, and of course some currently cannot realistically approach that level. Nobody is asked to impoverish themselves to help the Church. Others might be doing rather well and could exceed that level (offsetting those who cannot). Some will not have reviewed their giving since our last major stewardship event in 2019; since when, the cost and prices index has gone up some 25%. Of course, the income of individuals may have gone up less or by more.

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

To accompany this leaflet three forms to fill in are available. (Either paper, or on the parish website.) Your response regarding offering **Practical Gifts** may be indicated by using the back page of this booklet, or by responding online via the parish website. Please consider your response carefully. There are three financial forms for practical reasons. The first form records your **Pledge**: this knowledge of a reasonably reliable stream of income helps us to plan a realistic budget. The second form is a **Gift Aid** declaration, which for UK income taxpayers enables us currently

to claim a further 25% of your gift at no cost to you; it needs to be on a separate sheet for auditing purposes. The third form is a **Standing Order** form for those who wish to give this way; it needs to go direct to your Bank (you can, of course, choose to set up a Standing Order electronically).

The last page of this leaflet explains how and when to return your



**The gifts of your generosity plant the resources for those who follow.**

forms. Please do this even if you are not changing your pledge. We need up to date data in order to draw up a budget. We will be giving thanks at the **10am Mass on Sunday, 24 November** – the **Feast of Christ the King** - for the thought and prayer which you have put into this process. After 24 November, the Stewardship Recorder will pass on offers of practical gifts as appropriate. Individual financial pledges will of course remain confidential, but the recorder will give the Parochial Church Council at the end of November a general indication of the change in overall giving pledged as a result of this exploration.

**What it costs to run Holy Trinity Church**

**£9,600 per month**

**(including our contribution to the Parish Share)**