

## Christian Stewardship – Some FAQs

Starting in March, 2007, Holy Cross will be experiencing a Stewardship campaign. For those new to the notion, and as a reminder to the older hands, Neil Richardson answers some questions.

### **What is Christian Stewardship?**

It is a vision for life provided through the insights of the Christian faith.

### **What sort of vision?**

The vision is that everything we see and all we have are the fruits of God. From our family connections to the fecund earth upon which we live, we experience God's generous provision. Christian Stewardship is about our response to the generosity of God our maker. It is in fact, a Christian response to creation.

### **How can we respond?**

- a) First of all, we respond with wonder at the beauty and complexity of it all, and then at how much provision has been made for us-enough for the whole world to have plenty.
- b) Then we respond by accepting that this world needs responsible stewardship or resources will be exploited out of existence. We are all involved in making this happen.
- c) Finally, we respond by managing our own lives to express our celebration of being part of God's family, the Church, which exists to promote the vision. Its in your hands!



### **What is it that we “manage”?**

We are called by God to manage the resources of the world and of ourselves wisely and fairly. We are also called to support the work of his Church in many ways, from participation in its life to funding its mission as responsible Christians.

### **So, its about money, is it?**

We live in the real world where being part of a church creates costs, so the congregation should be meeting these basic costs from their regular committed giving to the church. There are other spending needs too, including paying for growth in our parish ministry, and supporting other Christians who are not so well-resourced financially.

### **Does Holy Cross have a great need of more money?**

Stewardship is about a lot more than fund-raising, as I answered earlier. Fund raising for specific things like our Access Project and the new church heaters is in addition to our Christian Stewardship responsibilities. Holy Cross Church is blessed with two fine buildings and these are in constant need of care which is costly, but just as much, we should be seeking ways to extend our ministry to those who are not in the church community. We have a mission to grow.

### **What will happen in the Stewardship Campaign?**

You will receive information about a variety of important issues. You will be asked to join the Planned Giving Scheme if you are not already a member and then you will be asked to make your financial pledge realistic for both yourself in your own private circumstances, and realistic for the church's needs.

### **When will the Stewardship Campaign take place?**

We will have a linked campaign, joining together the renewal of our Electoral Roll and our Lenten groups, starting with a launch on Sunday 11th March and ending on Palm Sunday.

### **Who is the Stewardship Campaign for?**

It is for everybody. It offers a chance to get really involved and be part of change for the better.