

Responding to Generous Love

Holy Cross Stewardship Programme

September, 2010



In September, the Rector, Churchwardens and PCC will invite you to consider your financial contribution to the reality of running Holy Cross Church. There will be a Stewardship Programme aimed at helping everyone focus on this issue. Here is a taster of the information which will be presented to the congregation.

There are several different ways in which people give money away!

Sometimes we feel inspired to support a project in which we are involved, and a good example of that would be the recent successful Access Project at Holy Cross Church which has opened up our buildings to all-comers.

Then there are times when we feel we might have sufficient surplus income to give to a good cause close to our heart, such as the many very worthy charitable causes in the world today.

Christian Stewardship is rather different.

Christian Stewardship is a response to the generous love of God which we see in the life and death of Jesus Christ. The response is not about one-off donations or giving from our surplus income, but of regularly dedicating part of our income to support our Church which is actively promoting and declaring that generous love in all that we do together.

Christian Stewardship is a sacrificial response to God's love, a response which shows our personal thanksgiving for all that God has done, and a practical method of ensuring that his church has the financial resources to continue its work today, in many different aspects.

That work includes many things, including the role of the stipendiary clergy, which involves many important community activities. These range from baptism, to weddings, to funerals, to work with children, and work with schools and support for the various groups in our community. The role of the clergy is not limited to the church but affects all the community.





It is vital that our young people grow up feeling comfortable with the Church and learning about our faith naturally and happily. They may find some of this happening at a Church school, but that is not enough. The Church community also needs to promote Christian values and Christian faith among our young people. That is our job as a Church. In addition, members of the congregation are enabled to do all the many excellent things they do for the good of other people and this work is founded on our common life and worship at Holy Cross Church. That involves our buildings, of course, which are expensive to maintain as we use them day-by-day.

In order to ensure that all this important work is to continue and even improve, the congregation is asked to respond to God's generous love by making a generous and regular financial commitment, ensuring the joy and fun of our parish life is shared by more and more people, and including all ages in the process.

Without that financial response, those charged with responsibility by election as Churchwardens or Parochial Church Council members, will have an increasingly difficult task to maintain and

pay for the work we do as a Church.

So, we will ask you to consider these matters deeply and to respond generously.

- a) If you are already in our Direct Giving scheme, please consider increasing the financial level of your gift.
- b) If you are not in our Direct Giving scheme, please fill in the necessary paperwork to join and make a huge difference.

If you pay income tax, please choose to make a tax-efficient gift using the form in the pack.

It is important to remember that we have no other sources of income apart from the parochial fees, rental from 177 Coston's Lane and the generosity of the congregation. There is no Government assistance for the Church of England, as some people think.

We live in an age in which there is ever-more choice and this includes choice of religions. Being Church of England may once have been an easy option, a default position, something to rely on without making much, if any effort. Those days have gone, forever. The future of the Church of England now lies in the hands of those who choose to be in the congregation, share its life, participate in its activities, want the church schools, enjoy the fellowship and friendship to be found there, and are called to worship God and be inspired to live a fully Christian life.

Let us do our best to support the Christian Church as a sign of God's love and a beacon of hope for all the world.

Nobody else will do this but us.