



GIFT DAY 2023

‘A transforming Christian presence – a place for everyone’

To: St John’s Church Parishioners.

2nd November 2023.

Dear Parishioner,

I am writing to you in preparation for our annual Stewardship ‘Gift Day’ ~ this year, on Sunday 5th November.

It is helpful to share a little about the particular financial and support needs of our Parish Church, in addition to encouraging you to review your weekly/monthly stewardship giving, and (if feasible) to invite you to consider making a one-off gift. I am extremely grateful for the generosity of Church members, which makes our local Christian ministry possible, and helps to fulfill the vision & mission of our Parish.

Thankfully, after several years of concerted effort, and reducing our outgoings – in the wake of the earlier pandemic (2020-2022) – we are now in a more sustainable position, as a local Parish Church.

However, looking ahead to 2024, there are a number of anticipated outgoings, including cost increases, that need to be taken account of, if we are to remain secure and able to deliver our priorities:-

- Firstly, alongside other Church of England parishes in Ely Diocese, *our annual Parish Share* (which meets the cost of our ministry, as well as essential Diocesan support costs, such as St John’s Vicarage & Diocesan ministry support functions) will increase from £80,526 per annum to £82,942, a rise of 3%
- Secondly, we recently installed a new *audio-visual system* at St John’s, which has been budgeted, but not yet paid for (we had a six month trial period, whilst we made, and continue to make, necessary snagging adaptations of our new facilities). This will cost us around £40,000.
- Thirdly, we are aware of the reality of *rising fuel costs*, in terms of gas and electricity. We were fortunate to have a fixed price contract for gas until 31 October 2023, but the price has just quadrupled, with effect from 1 November 2023. This will cost us the region of an extra £15,000 over the next three years.
- Fourthly, following a Quinquennial Building Inspection, in the summer of 2023, and accepting our ring-fenced Quinquennial fund, we are anticipating significant building maintenance works, in order to meet essential and desirable *Church building repairs* and adaptations, not least in terms of places where there appears to have been some water ingress into our building. Minor repairs are needed to the roof of the church porch and the condition of many of the cast iron gutters and downpipes is of concern.

- Finally, we are hoping to appoint an eight-hour per week *Communications Officer*, to assist with key tasks in our St John's Parish Office, principally around publicity, communications and maintaining our exciting new St John's Church website and Hubb. This has been budgeted for, but we want to encourage you to help invest in this vital support function, accepting that our other Office work is done on a volunteer basis, to save funds.

I therefore invite you, as we consider our vision, commitment to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and serving our local community, as well as caring for & nurturing Church members to:-

1. **Review your giving**, considering an inflationary increase, if possible, of 3 or more %.
2. **Transfer to the Parish Giving Scheme**, if you are not already part of this, as it has many benefits; making our local management of giving less labour intensive.
3. **Consider making a one-off gift**, if your resources allow it, in order to help fund the works above, as well as to plan for Church growth.

Further information can be found on our website - [St John the Evangelist, Cambridge \(stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org\)](http://stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org) [+ its Giving section: [St John the Evangelist, Cambridge : Giving \(stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org\)](http://stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org) *see below – or through picking up a Parish Giving Scheme leaflet in Church, or making a discreet gift, using Gift Aid envelopes in Church. We continue to have available our Contactless Giving Plate in Church, every Sunday. Our regular planned offerings, according to our individual circumstances, remain central to our commitment to serving God, and – alongside prayer, worship and offering of our talents – help make our Christian community & mission possible.

With much gratitude.

Yours in Christ



***Running a busy church like St John's requires a significant annual income.** At the moment about 50% of our income is used to support central Church of England costs; 40% is spent on maintaining the church and running its many activities and 10% is given to charities, both abroad and at home.

Whether you just want to make a quick **one-off gift** towards the work of St John's, or you want to give regularly, we encourage you to give to St John's via the **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)**. This has many advantages, including the much faster recovery of Gift Aid. You can easily do this online or you can pick up a paper pack about the Parish Giving Scheme at the back of church.

If you prefer to give by **Standing Order**, you can set up a Standing Order payable to:

PCC St John the Evangelist No 2 Account
Barclays Bank, 9-11 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, CB2 3AX
Sort Code: 20-17-19 Acc. 23848043

The Revd. James Shakespeare

Vicar, St John's Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8RN

Rural Dean, Cambridge South | Bishop's Spirituality Adviser

St. John's Vicarage, 9 Luard Road, Cambridge. CB2 8PJ Tel. 01223 241815.

[St John the Evangelist, Cambridge \(stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org\)](http://stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org)