



The Revd. Canon James Shakespeare
Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

St John's Church, Hills Road, Cambridge.
CB2 8RN. Parish Office 01223 241316
Office email stjecambridge@gmail.com
www.stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org

Dear St John's Church member

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP | GIFT DAY, Sunday 27th October 2024

I am writing to you, on behalf of St John's PCC, about our Annual Stewardship and Gift Day, today, Sunday 27th October. We appreciate that it will take a little time to read & digest this letter, so the invitation is for you to review your giving, and (if possible) consider a one-off gift, during November.

We realise that everyone's situation is different, and giving is confidential to the Treasurer & Gift Aid Officer, so each of us is encouraged to discern, prayerfully, how best to offer our gifts to God, in the mission of his Church, and within our local Parish of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge.

So, firstly, a reminder of our local Vision –

“St John's aspires to be a welcoming, hospitable and diverse Christian community, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nurturing disciples of all ages, serving our neighbours, and building God's transforming Kingdom.”

In terms of the past 12 months at St John's, there has been much encouragement, as we've welcomed a number of new families, seen a significant increase of younger members of St John's Choir, reinstating our weekly Children's Church activities, continuing to welcome a range of students and ministry team members, to share in our teaching & pastoral ministry, seeing the ongoing vibrancy of our Community Lunches and Toddle Along group, as well as a wider range of Concerts & other community events, most recently our 3rd annual Eco Fest.

With regard to *initiatives specifically linked* to new finance or one-off gifts or legacies, in the past year we installed a new audio-visual system, improving our sound quality and live-stream capacity; we welcomed Liz Hurst, our part-time Communications officer, enhancing our communications, including work on our St John's website; and we successfully maintained St John's fabric, although significantly more remains to be done, following our Quinquennial, about which more follows.

In general, *St John's is building on firm foundations*, in terms of stewardship, thanks to people's generous giving, not least through the 'Parish Giving Scheme', alongside care in keeping expenses down, maximising use of our St John's Centre, sustaining our income, to offset expenditure.

Nonetheless, *St John's annual Parish Share will be going up*, in 2025, by 4%, increasing to a total of £86,260, in line with inflationary increases in stipends. Alongside of this St John's expends approximately £43,000 on building maintenance costs and staff costs, and around £5,000 on supporting our overseas mission links, per annum. We therefore encourage everyone to review your giving, according to what you are able to afford, in supporting the mission of St John's.

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Registered Charity Number: 1155126

Please do consider giving in a planned way, if you are new to St John's or don't do so already, as this is by the most effective way to give, especially through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

Finally, I would like to highlight *some particular opportunities & challenges for 2025*:

- **Quinquennial review.** Next Year's planned first stage of follow-up will cost approx. £22,500, as well as St John's developing plans for a longer-term Conservation strategy.
- **Gas & electricity.** We have come to the end of our present contracts. Our gas costs have now quadrupled, and our electricity costs risen by 40%.
- **Administrative work.** St John's is likely to need further paid admin capacity, additional to the 8 hours per week, carried out by our St John's Communications Officer.
- **Lighting in St John's.** This is due for a major up-grade, not least with the wide range of concerts, as well as different kinds of worship services that are held, each week.
- **Children's area.** This could benefit from an up-grade of furniture and equipment, and we also wish to ensure that our Children, youth & families work is properly resourced.

We therefore invite everyone, as we consider our commitment to serve God in our local area, to:

- A. **Review our Giving**, considering an inflationary increase if possible, of 4%, in line with our overall projected cost increase for 2025.
- B. **Transfer to Parish Giving Scheme**, if we are not already part of this, as it has many benefits, making local management of giving more straight-forward.
- C. **Consider a one-off Gift**, in order to help us fund the specific works above, as well as to help facilitate Church growth.

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has many advantages, including faster recovery of Gift Aid. You can do this online [Home - Parish Giving Scheme](#) or pick up a paper pack about the Parish Giving Scheme in Church.

If you would rather give by **Standing Order**, you can set this up payable to: 'PCC of St John the Evangelist No 2 Account', Sort Code 20-17-19, Acc. 23848043. <Barclays Bank, 9-11 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge. CB2 3AX>

To make a Gift, use the **Gift Aid envelopes** in Church. We also have a **Contactless Giving Plate** at St John's, available every Sunday.

Thank you for your generous presence at St John's, sharing in the exciting & transforming work of God's Kingdom, in South Cambridge.

Yours sincerely



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