

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

27 October 2024



Dear friends,

Today, we launch our Stewardship Campaign. What is meant by stewardship may need unpacking. At its heart, it concerns how we offer ourselves to the care of others, our church, our local community, and the world in service of God's love. You might say stewardship runs through the fabric of all that we are and do at St George's. This is because our ministry and mission depends entirely on the contribution of all of you who make up our church. A stewardship campaign, therefore, provides a chance for each of us to consider how we participate in the life of St George's. Many already contribute a great deal, some may wish to begin doing this for the first time, others to change their involvement. In reflecting on this, it is helpful to look at stewardship in two parts: 1) Time and Talents, and 2) Financial Resources. People's contribution of their time and talent is vital. It enables our different ministries to grow and flourish. The quality of our welcome, fellowship, and engagement is down to all the people who build up our shared life. The offer of financial support works in tandem with this, enabling us to fund our ministry and mission in a sustainable way. Like other Church of England churches, St George's is effectively self-funding. We receive no funds from the wider church or the state. The largest proportion of our costs relate to having a full-time parish priest, the maintenance of our building, other essential overheads, and investment in mission and ministry, such as our children's work. Our current financial position is rather precarious, especially if we are committed to having a full-time priest. The Stewardship Letter sent out electronically, with hard copies available in church, spells out the implications of this for regular financial giving. Alongside this is a booklet that goes into more detail about Stewardship. There are also forms for those who would like to make a financial pledge and offer time and talents. I invite you to give careful consideration to these and thank you for all that you already give. It means so much to so many.

With my prayers and blessings,

Fr Angus

DONATE TO ST GEORGE'S

The life and mission of St George's are entirely dependent on your support. There are many ways to donate:

Gift Aid: Gift Aid envelopes are available in church that enable us to reclaim tax on donations made by UK taxpayers, increasing the donation by 25%.

Regular Giving: Set up a standing order, preferably via the Parish Giving Scheme (<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk>). Contact the treasurer for details.

Contactless Giving: A card reader is available in church for card donations. Card donations are also accepted via our website.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk: Use this when you buy online. For each purchase, a donation will be made to your nominated charities.

QR code: Scan this image to donate via your smartphone:



Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH OFFICE

01243 782885

stgeorges@whyke.info

RECTOR

Fr Angus Reid

01243 533112

frangusreid@outlook.com

Rest day on Friday

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Susan Howell Evans

she1549@yahoo.co.uk

YOUTH WORKER

Zara Cross

zaracross2011@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDEN

Sam Kelly

drsamkelly@gmail.com

DEPUTY WARDENS

Mark Arnold

mmarnold@btinternet.com

Jill Merry

merryjill@btinternet.com

Mike Mower

mikemower@outlook.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Ginnie Wyllie

safeguarding@whyke.info

TREASURER

Alison Davis

acd_123@live.co.uk

PCC SECRETARY

Mary Howick

mary.howick@sky.com

NEW TO ST GEORGE'S?

Welcome! If you have any questions, please ask a Warden or Fr Angus, we are happy to help.

VOLUNTEERING

There are many ways to engage at St George's. Please ask the Rector or Wardens.

COME AND SING!

Our choir sings at the main services and practises once a week. You are welcome to come along. Contact Susan Howell Evans.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER: newsletterwhyke@outlook.com

Please submit by Thursday

PARISH NOTICES

Stewardship Campaign Documents And Assistance
Copies of the Stewardship Campaign Letter, Booklet and Forms are available electronically and in church. Members of the PCC Finance Subcommittee will be present at the back of church to hand out the documents, answer questions, and provide assistance on each Sunday during the campaign which ends on 17 November.

Clocks Go Back This Sunday

Please do remember that the clocks change this Sunday, otherwise you will be an hour early for church!

Half-Term Breaks

Due to half-term, there will be no St George's Tots this week and no Mass on Thursday.

New Encyclical By Pope Francis

With his characteristic warmth, ecumenism and humanism, Pope Francis has issued a new encyclical letter entitled *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us") in which he speaks about the importance of the heart: "Living as we do in an age of...rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and... unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart." The [encyclical](#) is recommended for your spiritual reading list.

WRAP-CHAT

On Wednesday 6 November in the Centre @ 3pm, we look forward to welcoming our very own Penny Mason who will be telling us about her role as a Civilian Investigator with the Police. There will also be an opportunity of putting questions to Penny regarding the Police & Justice System. Another talk not to be missed. Light refreshments will be available. We just request £2 to meet overhead costs. We look forward to welcoming you, why not bring a friend.

All-Souls Service

Our All-Souls Choral Mass, in which we commemorate our loved ones who have died, will be held on 2 November at 6:30pm. There is a list in church for anyone to add names to be read out during the service. If you prefer, you can contact the parish office on 01243 782885 or stgeorges@whyke.info.

Halloween Party For Families

On Sunday 3 November 2pm-3:30pm, there will be a Halloween Party for families at St George's. The event will look at the Christian roots of Halloween in the feasts of All Souls and All Saints. It will include activities and crafts in the centre and a time of prayer in the church to remember loved ones who have died. Do come dressed up in your best Halloween costume. Refreshments are provided. There is a suggested donation of £3.50 per family.

Fish & Chip Quiz Night, Friday 8 November, 7pm

Come and test your wits at our famous St George's Quiz Night. Teams of up to 6 people, come as a team or join one when you arrive. Tickets will be sold in church after the Sunday services and must be bought in advance so food can be ordered, price includes fish & chips (or veggie burger). Bring your own drinks.

Secondary School Admissions

If you require a Church Support Form to be filled in to support a school application, do contact Fr Angus to arrange a meeting.

Special Services

17 Nov All-Age Eucharist

Upcoming Events

8 Nov Fish & Chips Quiz, 7pm

30 Nov Christmas Fair

Rumboldswyke Children's Choir (RCC)

RCC is based at St George's church and open to all children from year 1 upwards. The runs every Tuesday during term time from 4.30pm. Please email music@whyke.info if your child wish to join.

Friends Of St Mary's Churchyard

The Friends are a group of volunteers who care for, celebrate, and enhance our churchyard as a sacred space and haven for wildlife. For info, scan here the QR code. You can also email friendswhyke@gmail.com.



Prayer List

If you want to add someone to the parish prayer list, please contact the parish office or Fr Angus.

Pastoral Ministry

Please contact Fr Angus for pastoral matters like visits, baptism, confirmation, first communion, weddings, funerals, house blessings, etc.

Sacrament Of Reconciliation (Confession)

Available by appointment with the Rector.

THIS WEEK

SERVICES

Last Sunday after Trinity 27 October

10:00am Choral Mass (with J-team)

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Monday-Thursday

Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

11:30am Wednesday Said Mass (followed by refreshments)

9:30am Thursday – NO MASS

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

All Souls 2 November

6:30pm Choral Mass with commemoration of the dead

All Saints 3 November

10:00am Choral Mass (no J-team)

EVENTS

Halloween Party, 3 November 2-3:30pm



THE PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S WHYKE

Registered Charity No. 1133301

Parish Office, Cleveland Road, Chichester PO19 7AD

27th October, 2024

Stewardship Campaign 2024

This year at St George's we are launching what, I and the PCC hope, will be the first of an annually held Stewardship Campaign. The campaign will run this year from Sunday 27 October to Sunday 17 November.

First and foremost, a Stewardship campaign offers us a valuable opportunity to take stock and give thanks for all the different ways so many people support the life of our parish. Stewardship, fundamentally, is about how we offer ourselves to the care of others, our church, our local community, and the wider world in service of God's love. The ministry, mission and, life of St George's depends entirely on the contribution of all of you who make up our community. Sometimes this contribution is obvious, often it is hidden, yet the part each person plays is invaluable to all that we are and do.

A crucial part of the life of our church concerns its finances. This is something we can easily overlook or feel uncomfortable talking about. But this should not be the case. Our faith should encourage us to reflect on and respond to all aspects of human existence in light of the joy of the Gospel. This includes questions about money, how wealth is to be distributed to serve others, and how churches are best resourced. Most people today do not realise that parish churches such as St George's are almost entirely self-funding, with little help from the central Church of England and no support from the state. Simply put, it is up to us.

Each year, the Diocese of Chichester asks St George's to contribute to a central fund which pays for the costs of having a full-time parish priest – the so-called Average Ministry Cost. This includes clergy stipends and training, pensions, and central administration and support. In addition to this, as a parish church we are responsible for maintaining our church building and churchyard and investing in the growth of our mission in the local community.

In 2024, the Diocese asked St George's, as a parish with a full-time parish priest, to contribute £78,795. Through your generosity, we are currently contributing £52,500 towards this, though clearly this falls short. Our current contribution is roughly equivalent to the cost of a half-time post. For 2025 the Average Ministry Cost for each parish with a full-time parish priest totals £81,445. We would like to contribute as much as we can towards this cost. This aspiration comes with some urgency. It is uncommon for a parish with a single church, such as ours, to have a full-time rector. And we cannot rely on this always being the case if we continue substantially to underpay our share of the ministry costs.

I invite you, therefore, to carefully consider your existing contribution to our financial resources and to ask whether you are in a position to increase your giving to St George's, however small that may be. An increase of 3.4% to our existing levels of giving would allow us to increase our pledge towards paying the Average Ministry Cost in line with the rise in cost to the Diocese. However, ideally, we would like to offer a larger increase to reflect our commitment to having a full-time parish priest and to be able to invest in our outreach and mission. In making this commitment, however, it is also important to recognize that we are a relatively deprived parish and that everyone must only contribute what they feel is appropriate given their financial situation.

Whatever you decide, please complete the attached pledge form and return it to our PCC Treasurer, Alison Davis, by 17 November. This will allow the PCC to plan the budget for 2025 when it meets on 18 November and inform the Diocese of how much Average Ministry Costs we are committed to pay in 2025. All the stewardship pledges will then be dedicated at the Parish Mass on Sunday 24 November, the Feast of Christ the King.

Alongside this letter is a Stewardship Campaign booklet which offers a more detailed explanation of Christian Stewardship, including the importance of offering gifts of time and talent to the church alongside financial support. Copies are available electronically or in church.

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on this year's Stewardship campaign. If you have any questions, please do feel free to contact me or Alison Davis.

And thank you for all the ways in which you already support the life and ministry of St George's.

With my blessings and prayers,

Fr Angus

Parish Office: St George's, Whyke Cleveland Road Chichester PO19 7AD • 01243 782 885
www.whyke.info • stgeorges@whyke.info

Rector: Fr Angus Reid, The Rectory, 199 Whyke Road PO19 7AQ • 01243 533 112
frangusreid@outlook.com

ST GEORGE'S WHYKE

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

I have reviewed my financial giving to St George's, Whyke, and I would like to give:
£..... each week / month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate)

This gift will be:

- An increase in my current giving
- A continuation of my current level of giving
- A decrease in my current giving

In addition (if applicable):

- I have changed my giving via the [Parish Giving Scheme](#) or via my bank
- Please send me details for the Parish Giving Scheme as a method to make regular payments and claiming gift aid
- Please send me the bank details for setting up a Standing Order
- I would like to give weekly using the printed envelopes provided in church

Name.....

Signature.....

Address.....
.....
.....

Email.....

St George's Bank details:

Account Name: Rumboldswyke, Whyke and Portfield PCC

Sort code: 20-20-62

Account Number: 60766844

Barclays Bank, 74 East Street, Chichester, PO19 1HR

If possible, please return this form to Alison Davis (PCC Treasurer) by 17 November 2024 in time for the PCC meeting on 18 November. The form can be sent digitally at treasurer@whyke.info, handed to Alison personally, or posted to the parish office for her attention. Alison will gladly help you with any questions.

My offering of 'Time and Talents' to St George's

BUILDING UP OUR MINISTRIES AND MISSION

Adults

Visiting housebound and sick (DBS Check required and Safeguarding Training provided) – *approximately once a month at a mutually convenient time of day*

Starting a new Bible Study Group hosting leading refreshments - *typically one evening a month*

Offering lifts to and from church for the infirm – *Sundays based on each person's capacity*

Children

J Team Children's Church (DBS check required; safeguarding training provided) leading sessions helping existing leaders - *being on a rota and working with another adult, typically once or twice a month*

St George's Tots Toddler Group set-up refreshments - *Monday mornings during term time*

Supervising children during Rumboldswyke Children's Choir (DBS check required; safeguarding training provided) - *Working with other adults on Tuesday afternoons during term time*

Helping to assist during All-Age Service - *Once a month during term time*

Other children's ministry (seasonal parties and events) - *Various one-off events throughout the year, typically involves helping to set up, offering refreshments and/or doing craft or activities*

Welcome and hospitality

Meeting and Greeting people at church on Sundays - *Sundays on a rota with others*

Sunday hospitality (refreshments after the service) - *Sundays on a rota with others*

Welcome and hospitality during monthly Friday Concerts - *Once a month in the evening on the last Friday of the month*

Events and Fundraising

Helping to plan events and fundraising moments as part of the Events Committee *Committee meets every 6 weeks in the evening*

Helping to set up/down (move furniture, hang bunting) for big events *Twice a year*

Helping on stalls at events like the Plant Fair *Twice a year*

Hosting and greeting at events like the Fish & Chip Quiz *Twice a year*

Helping to plan out musical events, including engaging new audiences *Meeting up a few times a year*

Hospitality and greeting at musical concerts *Few times a year*

Helping with monthly WRAP CHATS – set up refreshments offering a talk or presentation - *Takes place once a month on a Wednesday afternoon*

Be on stand by as an occasional baker to bake for events, etc *Whenever the need may arise, working in collaboration with other bakers*

Communications

Publicity and poster designs

Publicity and leaflet distribution

Social media

Churchyard / Friends of St Mary's Churchyard

Helping to co-ordinate volunteers for working groups maintaining the churchyard

Joining a working party to help maintain churchyard

Joining Friends committee to help co-ordinate the work of the Friends

Other activities related to churchyard or Friends

Governance

Parochial Church Council (Required DBS check, eligibility check and safeguarding training) - *Three-year term with meetings held every other month on Monday evenings*

Churchwarden role (Required DBS check, eligibility check and safeguarding training) - *One year term. Sits on the PCC with meetings held every other month on Monday evenings. Works alongside other churchwarden and deputy wardens.*

Deputy Church Warden role (safeguarding training) - *Helps with Sunday services, opening and closing the church, managing greeting team, keeping order during the service, acts as key point of contact for emergencies during the service. Work with a team of other deputy wardens and churchwardens on a rota.*

Liturgy

Altar serving at 10am (including candle bearer, crucifier, thurifer, MC) - *On a rota, typically service once or twice a month.*

Church flower arranging - *Typically helping once a month alongside another volunteer, with extra preparation during major feasts such as Christmas and Easter.*

Choir - *Rehearsals every Tuesday evening and singing at the Sunday service and other occasional services*

Music (playing an instrument before, during, or after Sunday service)

Reading a lesson - *On a rota, typically once a month*

Leading the intercessions at Sunday Eucharist - *On a rota, typically once a month*

Sacristy (service preparation) - *Helping to set up for the Sunday service or during the mid-week working as part of a team*

Lay Minister of Holy Communion (requires training and authorisation) - *On a rota, typically once a month*

Acting as a verger at funerals and weddings

Prayer and Fellowship

Healing ministry during Sunday Service - *Every other month, working as a part of a team*

Helping to lead weekly meditation sessions - *Every Monday during term-time*

Starting a new regular prayer group (rosary group, Taize, etc)

Outreach and community

Governor at Rumboldswyke Church of England Primary School (DBS Check required, eligibility check, and training provided) - *Meetings every other month and additional responsibilities*

Helping to set up and coordinate UK Harvest Community Food Hub - *Hub takes place fortnightly one a Friday morning. Work as part of a team.*

Serving refreshments at UK Harvest Community Food Hub - *Hub takes place fortnightly one a Friday morning. Work as part of a team on a rota.*

Helping at service of Holy Communion at Lakeview Grange Care Home - *Once a month on a Thursday morning*

Training, Vocation and Discernment

Diocesan Living Faith Course (starts January 2025) - More details available on Diocesan website (<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/living-faith/>)

Authorised Lay Ministry Training (deadline to apply 9 December 2024). Modules include Pastoral Care, Mission, Chaplaincy, Worship & Liturgy, Preaching, Care of creation and Eco Church, Rural Ministry, Small Group leader and Youth and Children. See Diocesan website for more details (<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/authorised-lay-ministry/>) - *Please state which module you are interested in.*

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HOUSEKEEPING

Tending to quiet garden outside kitchen

Care of outside spaces around the church (removing weeds, visual check of drains, etc)

Church cleaning - *Weekly rota*

Treasury duties including bookkeeping (*assisting our treasurer*) banking (*helping to pay in money, etc*) counting money (*1-2 hours a time working with another person*)

Researching and applying for grants

Building projects (helping to find and meeting contractors, coordinate works)

Health and Safety (working with the Health & Safety officer, wardens and rector)

Utilities (plumbing/electrics/IT/fabric maintenance — please state skill

.....

Church hire/event invigilation

I would like to move from a ministry to which I currently contribute (please state which) and would welcome a conversation about succession planning:

.....
.....
.....

I have time and talents to offer (please describe) and would welcome a conversation about how they could benefit the life of St George's:

.....
.....
.....

I would like to see the development of new ministries at St George's — especially in the following areas:

.....
.....
.....

Thank you for taking the time to reflect, pray and fill in these questions.

Name

.....

Address

.....
.....

Postcode.....

Telephone number.....

Email address.....

Please return this form to Alison Davis (PCC Treasurer) by 24 November 2024
treasurer@whyke.info



ST GEORGE'S, WHYKE DATA CONSENT FORM

Your privacy is important to us, and we want to communicate with church members in a way which has their consent, and which is in line with UK law on data protection. Please fill in the contact details you want us to use to communicate with you:

Name:

Address:

.....

Email Address:

Phone Numbers:

By signing this form you are confirming that you are consenting to the PCC of St George's, Whyke, holding and processing your personal data for the following purposes (please tick the boxes where you grant consent):

I consent to the church contacting me by post phone and/or email.

To keep me informed about news, events, activities and services at St George's (note you can unsubscribe from the church e-newsletter at any time);

To including my details in the Church Directory which is circulated to the Rector and other Church Officers for the purposes of ministry and mission.

Signed: Dated:

You can grant consent to all the purposes; one of the purposes or none of the purposes. Where you do not grant consent we will not be able to use your personal data; (so for example we may not be able to let you know about forthcoming services and events); except in certain limited situations, such as where required to do so by law or to protect members of the public from serious harm. You can find out more about how we use your data from our Data Privacy Notice overleaf.

You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the Parish Administrator at Parish Office, St George's Church, Cleveland Street, Chichester PO19 7AD or office@whyke.info. Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.

Please return this form to Alison Davis (PCC Treasurer) by 24 November 2024
treasurer@whyke.info

DATA PRIVACY NOTICE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St George's Church, Whyke, Chichester

1. Your personal data (information) – what is it?

Personal data relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data. Identification may be by the information held alone, or, in conjunction with any other information in the data controller's possession, or, likely to come into such possession. The processing of personal data is governed by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

2. Who are we?

The PCC of St George's Church, Whyke, Chichester is the data controller (*please see contact details at bottom of this page*). This means it decides how your personal data is processed and for what purposes. In general, all employees, office holders and other volunteer workers of the church process data for the PCC in this respect. Exceptionally, however, the Rector, as Incumbent, may act as a separate data controller, determining the manner and/or purposes of data processing independently. Please see the separate Data Privacy Notice for the Rector. As part of the Church of England, the PCC and Incumbent work with a number of different organisations and office-holders to deliver the Church's mission in each community. They work with i) other clergy and churches within the Deanery of Chichester; ii) the Rural Dean of Chichester; iii) the Archdeacon of Chichester; iv) the Bishop of Chichester and other Bishops within the Diocese; and v) the Chichester Diocesan Fund and Board of Finance which is responsible for the financial and administrative arrangements for the Diocese of Chichester. As the Church is made up of these persons and organisations working together, we may need to share personal data we hold with them so that they can carry out their responsibilities to the Church and our community. These organisations are joint data controllers. As such, we are all responsible to you for how we process your data.

3. How do we process your personal data?

The PCC of St George's Church, Whyke, Chichester complies with its obligations and responsibility under the GDPR by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access, and disclosure, and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

4. We use your personal data for the following purposes:

- To enable the provision of pastoral and spiritual care.
- To enable us to provide a voluntary service for the benefit of the public;
- To administer membership records;
- To fundraise and promote the interests of the charity of St George's Church;
- To maintain records for the purposes of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults;
- To manage any employees and volunteers;
- To maintain our own accounts and records, including the processing of gift aid applications;
- To inform individuals of news, events, activities and services in the life of St George's Church;
- To operate the and deliver the services that individuals have requested as part of the South-East area of Chichester website;
- Our processing may also include in the future the use of CCTV systems for the prevention of crime.

5. What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?

- Explicit consent of the data subject to enable us to keep you informed about news and initiatives in the life of St George's Church.
- Explicit consent of the data subject to enable us to process your gift aid donations and financial pledges;
- Explicit consent of parents or carers so that we can register and safely look after the young people who wish to attend our outreach activities.
- Processing is necessary for carrying out obligations under the employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement;
- Processing is necessary either a) for our legitimate interests enabling us to fulfil our charitable, pastoral and missional aims as a parish church belonging to the Church of England or b) for the legitimate interests of third parties;
- Processing is carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided:
 1. The processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it regarding those purposes); and
 2. There is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

6. Sharing your personal data

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be shared with other members of St George's Church to carry out a service to other church members or, for the purposes connected with the church. We will only share your data with third parties outside of the parish with your consent.

7. How long do we keep your personal data?

We keep your personal data for no longer than is reasonably necessary in accordance with the guidance set out in the guide 'Keep or Bin: Care of your Parish Records' which is available from the Church of England website¹ Specifically, we retain electoral roll data while it is still current; gift aid declarations and associated paperwork for up to 7 years after the tax year to which they relate. Parish registers for baptisms, marriages, funerals are kept permanently.

8. Your rights and your personal data

Unless subject to an exemption under the GDPR, you have the following rights regarding your personal data:

- The right to request a copy of your personal data which the PCC of St George's Church, Whyke, Chichester holds about you.
- The right to request that the PCC, as above, corrects any personal data if it is found to be inaccurate or out of date.
- The right to request your personal data is erased where it is no longer necessary for the PCC, as above, to retain such data;
- The right to withdraw your consent to the processing at any time;
- The right to request that the data controller provide the data subject with his/her personal data and where possible, to transmit that data directly to another data controller, where applicable, (known as the right to data portability). *This only applies where the processing is based on consent or is necessary for the performance of a contract with the data subject, in either case the data controller processes the data by automated means.*
- The right, where there is a dispute in relation to the accuracy or processing of your personal data, to request a restriction is placed on further processing.
- The right to object to the processing of personal data, where applicable. *This only applies where processing is based on legitimate interests, or the performance of a task in the public interest/exercise of official authority; direct marketing and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics.*

9. Further processing

If we wish to use your personal data for a new purpose, but not covered by this Data Protection Notice we will provide you with a new notice explaining this new use prior to commencement, setting out the relevant purposes and processing conditions. Where and whenever necessary, we will seek your prior consent to the new processing.

10. Contact Details

To exercise all relevant rights, queries, or complaints, in the first instance please contact the Parish Administrator – Email: data@whyke.info or Tel: 01243 782885

¹ You may contact the Information Commissioners Office on 0303 123 1113 or email <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/email/> or the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF. Details about retention periods can currently be found in the Record Management Guides located on the Church Of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/libraries-and-archives/records-management-guides>.

St George's, Whyke

Serving God and the community in Chichester



Stewardship Campaign Booklet

Registered Charity No. 1133301

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Introducing the Stewardship Campaign

The expression 'stewardship campaign' might give you reason to pause. Its meaning may not be obvious or you may have a sense that it has something to do with fundraising or volunteering; but that further clarification is required. This may be true even if you are familiar with church life.

This booklet is offered to everyone at St George's to help us better understand Christian stewardship and how it is an essential part of our life and mission as a parish church serving God and the wider community.

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a distinctively Christian idea rooted deeply in our faith.

The foundation of Christian stewardship lies in the story of creation in the book of Genesis. God makes human beings in his image and likeness to be stewards of creation. God gives humanity the responsibility to look after the world because we can do so in a way no other animal can. We possess freedom, reason, language, creativity, scientific discovery, technological knowhow, moral responsibility, artistic and spiritual depth. As such, we have a unique capacity to tend to all that exists and every living thing as gifts to be stewarded within human culture and enterprise. We do this whenever we celebrate and nourish beauty; pursue and nurture what is good; seek out and communicate truth; all as part of embodying a love that builds up ourselves, others, and the whole of creation to the praise and glory of God. When we live out this fundamental vocation, we act faithfully as God's stewards. Rather than being an impossible burden, such responsibility is a joyful and liberating expression of who and what we are. That said, it will challenge us and ask that we change our lives.

After the account of creation comes the story of the Fall, which accounts for humanity's tendency to turn away from our God-given nature and vocation, and instead prioritize ourselves and our own interests. We turn the world, others, and even God into things we must possess, control, exploit, and mould in our own image. Our failure to be good stewards stems from this deep tendency to put ourselves before all else and ignore our interdependence on all things in God.

The good news of the Gospel is that God comes to help us, in the gift of his Son Jesus Christ, who by his life, death and resurrection, reveals God's self-giving love for us, a love that is at the heart of all things and which nothing can overcome, not death, not our selfish destructiveness. And, through the additional gift of the Holy Spirit, God offers every human being an intimate share in Jesus' loving relationship as God the Son with God the Father. The Spirit is the personal gift of loving

communion with Jesus that establishes the Church as a renewed human community in which each person is bound ever more closely together in their relationship to God and, with others, shares in the common vocation to be God's stewards.

In short, the Gospel declares God is love. God is Trinity. God is the endlessly self-giving creative loving communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, calling into being all that is not God and delighting in the human race.

This deepens our sense of the purposes of creation and our role as stewards within it. The gift of sharing in God's own being, the very gift that creates and sustains all things in their beauty, goodness and truth, is one that flows freely from the loving communion of God's own triune life. In Jesus, with him and through him, we are invited to participate freely in this divine communion, in our very humanity and as unique persons, receiving friendship with God as a gift of love in faith with thanksgiving. It is a gift, moreover, that is renewed again and again in the material and spiritual stuff of our lives and relationships – most especially in the words of scripture, prayer, acts of service, the water of baptism, and above all in the Eucharist. By receiving the gift of Christ's body and blood, the gift of his real presence, we receive ourselves, others, and all of creation afresh, as gifts consecrated to God and shared for the sake of building up live-giving communities of service. By sharing the gift of God's own life like this, the dignity of our nature is restored. We behold the beauty and mystery of the world anew. We are re-commissioned and empowered to live out our vocation as God's stewards, especially in the face of scarcity, suffering, and vulnerability.

This is not something we can do alone. We live our baptismal identity and Christian discipleship only with others who share our faith and walk in the same way of hope and love. That is what the Church is: the company of Christ's disciples seeking to serve humanity as we journey towards the new heaven and the new earth, a destination whose light comes to meet us and already breaks into our daily lives.

To be a member of the Church therefore has huge significance. It is no mere social club or religious sect. As the Church, we belong to each other in communion with God and all things. We are brothers, sisters, friends, who make up Christ's living body. Each person is integral to the Church. No one is to be left out. Each of us has a vital part to play. We are each called and given responsibility to welcome new members of Christ's family, and with them to transform the world in the light of the gift of God's love. It is in the Church, with others, that we receive and share

the gift of the Holy Spirit, who gives us spiritual gifts with which to bless and restore the world around us.

Because the Church is where the transformation of the world begins, how we relate to it is crucial. The Church can never just be an external institution or a loose collection of individuals. It is made up of each of us who support each other as its living stones, with Christ as the cornerstone and the Spirit as the energy and life that unities and nourishes us.

Christian stewardship, then, is about how we live this out in solidarity with others and the rest of creation as we seek to be fully alive to the purposes of God's love shown in Jesus.

Like ripples spreading over the face of the waters, our Christian stewardship has its focus in following Jesus more closely in the Church but with an ever greater openness to all others that has a universal significance, one that ricochets and criss-crosses beyond the Church's visible boundaries and structures. Our stewardship towards the whole of creation, the common good, and each person's dignity is shaped by and oriented towards our hope in the kingdom of God's love made flesh in Jesus and in us. By growing closer to God in Christ, we grow closer to every other human being and the fullness of our nature. And how we care for the Church, for each other, helps and motives us to care for all humanity and the entire world.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Christ's Church at St George's

Let us take a step back from that overarching picture of Christian stewardship and think now about our part in Christ's Church at St George's. We are a church in which generations of people over the last 120 years have come to know Christ and his transforming love through the ministry of our community within the south easterly quadrant of Chichester.

But we should also acknowledge St George's witness in the present day. In an age and context of declining church attendance and anxiety about the meaning and purpose of human existence, and after the shock of the Covid pandemic, St George's has continued to have a vibrant congregational life: our numbers have remained strong, with modest growth in recent years especially amongst families and children. Attendance at the Sunday service is good and participation in liturgy is deepening across age groups. There are a variety of ministries being offered in different areas of our parish life, which receive and give support within our worshipping congregation and the local community.

Even a quick glance at the regular work and activities at St George's shows something of the liveliness of our church. What are we doing?

We are:

- Offering the Eucharist together as a whole parish each Sunday with an All-Age service once a month during term time. Our liturgy is enriched by music, the choir, altar serving, sacristy, bells, flowers, J-team children's provision offered to three different age groups (infants and toddlers, older primary school and secondary school) and ministries of welcome, healing and hospitality, and much more;
- Praying in church during the week with Morning Prayer each day, meditation sessions on Mondays with spiritual reflection and poetry, and two midweek Masses;
- Celebrating the calendar of the Christian year with special services and shared hospitality all rooted in and flowing from the central mysteries of Christmas and Holy Week;
- Making and teaching new disciples through preparation for Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation;
- Celebrating precious moments of life at the time of marriage, birth and death;

- Extending welcome to children and young families through St George's Tots, our toddler group; regular events for children timed around the Church year such as a pancake party, Halloween event, Stations of the Cross, and a Crib Service; a fortnightly youth group for teenagers; additional activities for children during the summer focussed on ecology and faith; and much more;
- Starting a new children's choir open to all children in Year One and above to encourage singing, teach music and confidence, and prepare children to help lead worship as part of a robed choir during Sunday services;
- Engaging with the life of Rumboldswyke Church of England primary school, through governance, leadership of collective twice each week (once by the Rector and the other by the Director of Music) and day to day pastoral care of pupils and staff;
- Curating monthly musical recitals, and with them welcoming members of the local community who come to the church for recreation, hospitality and friendship;
- Putting on large and small scale events with the help of volunteers to engage different groups within the community, welcome new people into the church setting, and fundraise for the church including a Plant Fair, a Harvest Fair and Produce Show, a Christmas Fair, several Fish and Chips Quiz nights and Happy Café Breakfasts;
- Opening our beautiful building to anyone who wants to rest, pray or enjoy its history and cultural heritage;
- Visiting the sick, housebound and dying and offering support from both lay and ordained ministers;
- Offering hospitality, fellowship and engaging talks and activities for local residents, especially any who may be isolated or alone, at the monthly WRAP Chat;
- Partnering with local charities in particular UK Harvest to host a fortnightly community food hub to fight food waste and poverty and offering hospitality and welcome to people from the wider community;
- Together with the Friends of St Mary's Churchyard, a subcommittee of the PCC, with members drawn from the church and wider community, organising work parties and events focused on maintaining the churchyard, managing its wildlife to encourage flora and fauna, offering bat walks and family activity days, exploring its historical significance and the lives of those buried there, and providing a space for beauty, stillness and reflection for all who passby;
- Working with churches across the diocese to safeguard and develop best practices around ecological questions in church life and mission;

- Managing and maintaining our church centre and facilities as a space for parish use, community activities, and regular and one-off hirers;
- Governing our parish life, managing our finances and administrating our day to day affairs;
- Encouraging new vocations to lay and ordained ministry;
- Offering a wide range of different opportunities to volunteer;
- Caring for our building, and planning for its development and preservation, including its Nicholson organ;
- Meeting in small groups in Lent, Advent, and at other times to read, pray and grow spiritually;
- And much more besides...

As in any church community, things are never perfect; and there is always more ministry and mission which could be offered. But there is a great deal to be positive about in our life together at the present time.

Your part in this ministry

Taking even a quick snapshot of the life of our church is instructive. It seems we are very much full of life!

At a deeper level, there are things we all need to recognise and acknowledge about the life of our church:

The life of St George's is a gift. In all its breadth and depth, it is not something we as a group of Christians are fully in control of or possess. God is sharing his triune life with us in this community, through the power of his Holy Spirit after the likeness of Jesus Christ and his self-giving love.

Absolutely nothing in the life of our church takes place or gets done without individuals working together for the good of the whole church. God is putting us to work corporately.

As a consequence, every single individual has a vital part to play in our corporate ministry and mission. This means God is calling you to take part in this work. Nobody's contribution is irrelevant, everybody's contribution is valuable.

Given how valuable everyone's contribution is to the whole, the question arises: what is my part in this ministry? How am I contributing to the whole ministry of this church? Another way of asking that is, how am I caring for and looking after this church and its people and mission; or, how am I exercising my Christian stewardship at St George's?

There are as many ways to answer that question as there are members of our church. There is no single, right answer. The important thing is that we ask ourselves the question and give a considered reply. That is a core theme which recurs in every stewardship campaign.

You may feel that your involvement in our ministry is just beginning, and that you would like to be more engaged, using more of your skills and gifts than you do at the moment. Or you may feel that your part in our life is well established and appropriate where you are in your life at present. You might feel the need to rest for a while from some of the things you have been offering, perhaps for a long time. All of those responses are valid. Seasons come, go and return again and with them our part in the various activities of the church changes. Churches change, just as Christians change.

What can you offer?

The short answer to that question is: anything you have to give which will build up the life of St George's! Some of those things may be tangible; some of them will be intangible, but no less valuable. A helpful way to break down the question is by thinking about your offering in two different forms:

Time and Talents • Financial Support

They are two sides of the same thing, but they benefit distinct areas of St George's life:

Time and Talents: enable our ministries to take place and flourish day by day, and week by week. The vibrancy of our life together is what it is only because lots of people work together across a wide range of activities, to nurture our corporate life.

Financial Support: establishes our ministries on a stable institutional foundation, and provide for their future development. Like other Church of England churches, we are effectively self-funding. We receive no funding from the wider church or the government. The largest proportions of our costs cover the stipend of our full-time priest, the maintenance of our building and other essential overheads.

Let's take them one at a time.

Gifts of Time and Talents

To help you reflect on your part in our ministry at the back of this booklet is a breakdown of some, but by no means all, of the areas of our life which require Time and Talents at present and which we anticipate will be needed in the near future. Each area gives details of the level of commitment involved, including if there are any requirements for training and criminal background checks.

You are invited to consider and pray about how you relate to each of these areas, and whether you feel drawn to offer your Time and Talents to build them up. There is also a section in which you can indicate that you would like to move on from one or other ministry and into a different role. At the end, there is also a more open-ended section, where you are invited to write about any gift or skill you feel you might like to give, but which doesn't seem to fit any of the categories above.

What you write will be treated confidentially, and only reviewed by the Rector, churchwarden and treasurer. After our Stewardship Campaign is complete, one of them will be in touch with you to take your offer forward.

Please complete the time and talents form alongside the financial support pledge form (if appropriate), and return it to our PCC Treasurer, Alison Davis, during the month of November. This can be sent to her digitally at treasurer@whyke.info, handed to her in church, or posted to the parish office for her attention. Our stewardship pledges will be dedicated at the Parish Eucharist on the feast of Christ the King, Sunday 24 November 2024.

Gifts of Financial Support

To help you reflect on your part in our financial wellbeing, the final part of this booklet explains why we need financial support, and how any gift you may be able to offer will benefit the ministry and mission of our church.

As mentioned above, St George's is essentially self-funding. Although the Church of England (i.e. The Church Commissioners for England) does have considerable assets (including land and investments) only a limited proportion of the income it generates from these assets is spent on funding parish ministry. Most of the church's income from this portfolio pays historic clergy pensions, funds specific mission projects, supports dioceses with limited resources and pays for bishops' ministry. Therefore, like most other parish churches, St George's receives no Church of England funding to pay for our building, administration, children's work, outreach etc.

It is down to us. We are responsible for sustaining our own financial wellbeing, just as we are responsible for building up the life and mission of our church community in its dedication to God, others, and the world.

When considering how we can financially resource ourselves there are several sources of funding:

- Regular planned giving
- One-off donations and legacies
- Grants
- Fundraising events and initiatives
- Income from hire of the centre
- Income from investments

A stewardship campaign is targeted principally at the first of these sources of funding, namely, regular planned giving. This makes up the majority of the income of our church and flows from people's ongoing commitment and contribution to the life of the church. As a predictable stream of income, regular giving enables our ongoing life, mission and ministry as a parish church. This allows the Rector and other members of the Parochial Church Council to plan, budget and monitor finances in sustainable way to ensure we cover our costs and invest appropriately in growing our mission and ministry to meet the needs of our congregation, community, and the wider church and world.

The other sources of incomes listed above are all vitally important too and the PCC has a duty to ensure that all possible funding options are explored. That is why we run several fundraising events throughout the year such as the Last Friday

of Month Concert series, the Christmas Fair, the Plant Fair, the Autumn Fair and Produce Show, together with other smaller events such as the Fish and Chips Quiz Nights, Happy Cafe Breakfast and others. Fundraising can also be particularly effective for raising money for identified tangible items and specific well-defined projects. We have also begun to apply for grants, something we have not often done as a church. The potential for the centre to bring in more income is also something that needs to be further explored while being mindful of how the centre is a space meant to enhance and support the life and mission of the church to the local community. One-off donations and legacy make a substantial and often immediate difference. Recently, they have allowed us to undertake much needed repairs to our fabric, buy new equipment for the centre, as well as invest in opportunities for growth by funding our Youth Worker and youth work. Finally, unlike other parishes, George's receives hardly any income from endowment/investment funds or nothing at all from rent as we do not own any property beyond the church and centre.

All this said, these different sources of funding, as vital as they are, should be seen as supporting and supplementing our regular giving in line with the principle of Christian stewardship where we are each active and valued stakeholders in the church and each make a gift of ourselves and our resources for the sake of the life of the community and its ministry and mission.

Average Ministry Costs (previously known as Parish Ministry Costs)

The largest proportion (57% in 2023) of our costs is called Average Ministry Costs, often known as Parish Share, and is the amount we are asked to pay to the Diocese of Chichester.

The Average Ministry Cost is the total budgeted expenditure of the Diocese divided across the total number of parish clergy posts. This figure acts as a key financial benchmark for individual parishes to consider whether they can give more or less than the average cost. The underlying principle, which is a fundamental part of the Church of England's identity and mission to serve every community in the country, is that wealthier parishes should contribute more than the average cost of ministry in order to support deprived areas and economically deprived parishes who will invariably pay less.

For 2025 the Average Ministry Cost for each parish with a full-time parish priest totals £81,445 and is split as follows:

Stipend of parish priest and National Insurance	£33,552
Pension contribution	£7,413
Clergy housing maintenance	£10,438
Training of ordinands and cost of curates	£10,072
Ministry support costs	£3,158
Diocesan support	£13,589
National Church Responsibilities	£3,223

In 2024 the equivalent cost has been £78,795 and, through your generosity, we are contributing £52,500 towards it. This is itself quite an achievement; but we have still had to underpay by some £28,795 to ensure we do not go into deficit or exhaust our reserves.

The diocese would like us to increase our contribution as far as possible. This request has some urgency attached to it. Nowadays it is uncommon for a parish with a single church, such as ours, to have a full-time rector or vicar. We are fortunate, but we cannot rely on this always being the case, particularly if we continue to underpay our costs. By way of comparison, our current contribution to Parish Share is roughly equivalent to a half-time clergy post. Underpaying also makes the prospect of having a curate, that is, a priest in training who supports the rector, increasingly unlikely any time soon.

The challenge before us, therefore, is to offer an increase on the contribution to Parish Share that we are already making.

Costs and Investment in Mission and Ministry

Despite its name the Average Ministry Cost is perhaps best seen not as a mere cost but as a vital investment in the growth and development of the life, ministry, and mission of St George's. Parishes with a full time priest consistently see better growth in terms of numbers of people attending worship and in growing deeper in their faith, commitment, and relationship to God and in the impact in the parish's ministry and mission to serve others.

In addition to funding a full-time priest via Parish Share, planned giving and other sources of funding do not simply pay the bills but allow us to invest further in additional areas of vital mission and ministry. In particular, in the last year we have been able to employ a part time youth worker through a legacy left to the church. This has had a material impact on our ministry to families and children. We plan to continue funding this post in the medium term through the use of legacies and grant applications. However, beyond this, and to make this mission and ministry sustainable in the long term, we will need increasingly to fund it through planned giving and fundraising.

Similarly, plans to expand our mission and ministry through the development of the new children's choir, greater use of the church centre for mission, a more effective online presence, and outreach projects to more deprived areas of the parish will need to rely on a mixture of fundraising, grants, and incremental increases in planned giving to be viable.

Alongside these investments in mission and ministry, and underpinning them, are all the other things we do have to pay for over the course of a year: the maintenance of our building; insurance; clergy expenses (including council tax and water rates); lighting and heating; compliance with regulations; supplies for our worship and ministry; other staff costs; administrative overheads and other materials for our mission.

Invitation

As we face both the challenge of increased costs and the opportunity to invest in our growth, mission and ministry, you are invited to consider whether you may be able to renew your financial support for St George's, or perhaps begin such a commitment for the first time.

The most efficient way to make a Gift of Financial Support is through planned giving: that is, forward-planning and committing a regular sum to the life of the church and maintaining this as far as you are able throughout the year. This can be done by Standing Order, preferably through the Parish Giving Scheme (<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>), or through a regular Standing Order or through the weekly envelopes that are part of the collection on Sundays.

How much should I give?

This is understandably a very common question. Ultimately, of course, you this is your decision alone to make but we can look to guidance from the church to inform our decision. Many churches, based on Biblical teaching, operate a 'tithing' scheme, in which church members are asked to designate 10% of their disposable income (gross pay less tax and other statutory deductions) for the benefit of the church. The Church of England itself recommends a 5% tithe to the Church and 5% to other charities. However, we recognise that for many people even a 5% tithe is unachievable. We, therefore, want to encourage a different model, called proportional giving, which is more flexible. Each individual, depending on their particular circumstances, selects a percentage figure, appropriate to their circumstances.

Here are some examples of how this method translates into financial support:

Annual Income	Monthly Giving					
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
After Tax						
£5,000	£4	£8	£13	£17	£21	£42
£7,500	£6	£13	£19	£25	£31	£63
£10,000	£8	£17	£25	£33	£42	£83
£15,000	£13	£25	£38	£50	£63	£125
£20,000	£17	£33	£50	£67	£83	£167
£25,000	£21	£42	£63	£83	£104	£208
£30,000	£25	£50	£75	£100	£125	£250
£40,000	£33	£67	£100	£133	£167	£333
£50,000	£42	£83	£125	£167	£208	£417

How much do we need to raise?

We can also consider our finances not only from the perspective of what people can afford to give, but what we need to raise as a church to remain financially solvent and viable, and to fund our full-time parish priest and ongoing mission and ministry.

In the current financial year, a number of factors have adversely impacted our finances. There have been increases in our costs due to inflation and higher than expected essential maintenance and repair costs to our church building.

In addition, our financial situation has been impacted by the fact that several regular donors have moved away, had their financial situation change, or died.

When thinking about how much money we need to raise in any year, a key priority for the PCC as trustees of the charity is to avoid running a deficit. The exception is where our reserves have been specifically earmarked for particular purposes in line with our charitable purpose and agreed by the PCC, such as a fabric maintenance or mission and ministry. In these instances, reserves will be used to fund associated costs if they go beyond our yearly income and result in a deficit.

Another central element in calculating what we need to raise depends on how much Parish Share the PCC judges it is appropriate to pay, given our running costs and our commitment to having a full-time Rector in the future, as well as investing in mission and ministry initiatives. Against this background, any extra funds raised from an increase in giving will need to be apportioned according to an order of priority:

- 1) regular running costs and investment in core mission and ministry activities;
- 2) average ministry costs;
- 3) additional investment in growing our ministry and mission.

The diocese is keen to ensure that where parishes do have an operating surplus, parishes prioritize paying Parish Share rather than investing in non-essential activities. Contributing surpluses to Parish Share in this way allows parishes in more deprived areas to have a priest.

It is unlikely that St George's will be able to pay full Parish Share in the foreseeable future. This partly reflects the fact that we have always been a relatively poor parish and that we are situated in an area of relative deprivation. Nevertheless, it is important that we assess our current capacity to give. Many people do give generously; others give as much as they can afford; others could give more; and

some may yet to have started giving, perhaps not realising that the church depends entirely on donations.

If we were to consider next year's budget based on this year's current levels of giving, we would be unable to increase our Parish Share pledge beyond the £52,500 for this current financial year. This is well below the Average Ministry Cost of £81,445.

The table below, however, shows how this capacity would change if the current levels of giving were increased by different percentages. For information purposes, the table also shows how much giving would have to increase to pay the full amount of Average Ministry Costs for 2025.

	Draft Budget 2025	% INCREASE IN GIVING						
		1.0%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%	38.3% <i>(Full Parish Share)</i>
INCOME								
Total Giving	51,186.00	51,697.86	52,731.82	54,050.11	55,671.62	57,620.12	59,924.93	82,885.34
All Other Income	34,468.00	34,468.00	34,468.00	34,468.00	34,468.00	34,468.00	34,468.00	34,468.00
Total Income	85,654.00	86,165.86	87,199.82	88,518.11	90,139.62	92,088.12	94,392.93	117,353.34
EXPENDITURE								
Parish Share 2024	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00
Other Costs	35,908.34	35,908.34	35,908.34	35,908.34	35,908.34	35,908.34	35,908.34	35,908.34
Total Expenditure	88,408.34	88,408.34	88,408.34	88,408.34	88,408.34	88,408.34	88,408.34	88,408.34
Net Surplus/Deficit	-2,754.34	-2,242.48	-1,208.52	109.77	1,731.27	3,679.78	5,984.59	28,945.00
Adjusted Parish Share assuming 100% of surplus used				52,609.77	54,231.27	56,179.78	58,484.59	81,445.00
<i>Difference compared to full Average Ministry Cost</i>				<i>- 28,835.23</i>	<i>- 27,213.73</i>	<i>- 25,265.22</i>	<i>- 22,960.41</i>	<i>-</i>

The table shows that, as a minimum, if existing giving were to increase by some 2.5% compared to our current levels, this would be likely to generate a small surplus which could then be used to increase our Parish Share Pledge for 2025.

Another useful and more ambitious benchmark is that Average Ministry Costs to the Diocese for 2025 (£81,445) have increased 3.4% compared to 2024 (£78,795). A 3.4% increase in our giving, therefore, would be a better show of good faith.

Ideally, however, a higher increase would be much more preferable as it would allow us not only to increase our Parish Share, and show greater commitment to having a full time priest, but also to apportion funds to additional mission and ministry projects in the parish.

In short, an increase in giving of 3.5% or above would be gratefully received so as to allow us to increase our Average Ministry Costs contribution towards having a full-time parish priest and invest in our mission.

The PCC will decide on what pledge to make to the Diocese for Average Ministry Costs for 2025 on 18 November when it will meet to agree the budget for next

year. The amount pledged to the Diocese will reflect any increase in giving that results from this Stewardship Campaign.

Please complete the financial support pledge form alongside the time and talents form and return it to our PCC Treasurer, Alison Davis, during the month of November. This can be sent to her digitally at treasurer@whyke.info, handed to her in church, or posted to the parish office for her attention. Our stewardship pledges will be dedicated at the Parish Eucharist on the feast of Christ the King, Sunday 24 November 2023.

One-Off Gifts and Legacies

Other ways to support the ministry of St George's include one-off gifts, and legacies. A legacy enables you to continue supporting the life of the church after you die: it is an act of generosity and charity which will benefit those who are still making their earthly pilgrimage within the family of faith. If you wish to leave a legacy to St George's, please make the Parochial Church Council of St George's Church Whyke a beneficiary of your Will. You may wish to add to, or to alter, an existing Will; this is done by means of a Codicil. We advise that you speak to your solicitor if you wish to make this kind of gift.

In addition if you have not completed a data consent form you will find one on the next page.

Thank you for taking the time to consider and pray about your Christian stewardship at St George's. If you have any questions about this year's Stewardship Campaign, please feel free to contact Alison, one of the Churchwardens or Fr Angus. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving - Colossians 2:6-7