# **Our Hope**

This is a ministry for everyone – 'each according to your means' – 2 Corinthians 8:11

Our hope is that you will catch our vision to shine brighter and want to be part of what God continues to do in this parish.

Giving generously of your time and finances, as many already do, is an expression of love for God and our neighbours, and blesses those who give as well as those who receive.

Our Parish Giving Scheme has 37 members, 18 people give by regular standing order and 11 by blue envelopes. Our electoral roll numbers are 139.

Can you start giving regularly?

Inflation is about 10%, but many people haven't increased their giving accordingly.

Is it time to increase the amount you give?

Giving generously to God's work, including your church, is a sacrifice, but should be a priority for those who follow Jesus as we give our best not our leftovers.

Is it time to review your giving?

The bible gives a guideline to tithe – give 10% of our income to God's work. With the cost of living some may only be able to give a smaller percentage, while others may be able to give more.

Is it time to give a percentage of your income?

# **How to Help**

There are various practical things you can do to help us finance our vision.

- > **Increase** your giving, however small, ideally at least in line with inflation.
- ▶ Join the Parish Giving Scheme, a great monthly giving scheme which saves us time administratively. It is very easy to set up and change how much you give. Go to www.parishgiving.org.uk or use a form available in each church
- ➤ **Give regularly** by **Standing Order**, monthly, quarterly or annually. Forms are available in each church and at <a href="https://www.stpeterwoking.org/giving">www.stpeterwoking.org/giving</a>.
- > Optimise your giving using Gift Aid if you pay tax. This gives us 25% extra.
- > Make a legacy gift through your will to the parish, preferably without a restriction. Please don't put it off.
- ➢ Give proportionately of your income, considering biblical tithing.

God has poured out his generous, kind and selfless love on us. Please take time to think and pray about how it is right for you to respond. If you can do so by June that would be appreciated. Thank you.

#### **Further information from:**

Louise Webb, Parish Treasurer treasurer@stpeterwoking.org
Caroline Harvey, Parish Office
01483 755852, admin@stpeterwoking.org
Rev Jonathan Thomas, Vicar
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### **Stories**

Church is the people of God. Here are brief stories from two of our church family:



### **Marie Blomfield**

I had my 3 children, Charlie, Riley and Evie christened at St Peter's 3 years ago. Since then we have been going to

church every Sunday.

We feel welcomed and love it; everyone is so friendly. My children love taking part in church activities, especially dressing up for the nativity and going to Sunday School. They love God, singing, doing the wiggle song at Energise and making people smile. Thank you for helping me and my family feel welcomed. We will keep following God through his church.



#### **Brenda Collard**

For many years our family was loosely involved in St Peter's through bell-ringing, a wedding and christenings.

My husband had mental health problems and suddenly took his own life which left me traumatised. I had this urge to go to church and my friend Jane took me to St Peter's. As I walked into church St Peter's wrapped its arms around me. God called me home, I was at peace. Church is my other family, I've always felt extremely welcome and spending time with them is so important to me. Thank you God!

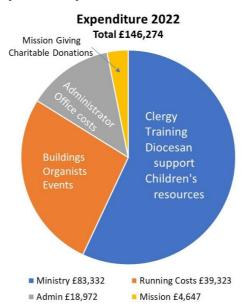
# **Our Ministry**

This ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but overflows with many thanksgivings to God – 2 Corinthians 9:12

### Our ministry includes:

- Funerals, weddings, baptisms
- Refresh Café and Tots
- Connections Café and Bereavement Support Group
- Connect Groups and Morning Prayer
- Sunday services and Sunday schools
- Assemblies and Open the Book
- Pastoral Care
- Outreach events for the community

This is all part of our vision to be shining out, guiding in, welcoming home, and is sustained by your financial giving. The chart below shows what we spent our money on last year.



# **Our Challenge**

But just as you excel in everything ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving - 2 Corinthians 8:7

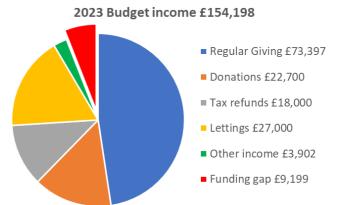
Our parish relies upon the generous financial giving of those who support our churches, as we receive no support from the government or Church of England.

About 50% of our income comes from regular planned giving. However, since 2019 our regular giving has reduced by 9% whilst regular costs have increased by 7%.



This year we are excited to welcome Lucy Bush as our curate, with her family, who will enhance our ministry.

However, we do need to pay her housing costs for the Rectory.



Without an increase in regular giving our projected deficit is £9,199 this year. If this continues for a few years we may need to make some hard decisions, including not being able to have a curate in the future.