



## **Stewardship Matters**

**Nov 2018**

**Welcome to the latest issue  
of Stewardship Matters**

Feedback from this year's Annual Parochial Meeting was that once or twice a year was a popular frequency for financial updates. Therefore, in addition to the report at the APCM, there will be this annual Stewardship leaflet to keep the church family informed about parish finances including how God is using them to build His kingdom in Ashtead.

**Thank You!**

On behalf of the Rector and the whole parish,  
a massive thank you for  
your continued support of the church in Ashtead.

## Volunteers

The church is hugely grateful not only for financial gifts, but also for the gifts of time donated tirelessly by so many volunteers in the parish. As a thank you, a number of social events were held in July which over 150 volunteers attended.

**Thank you again — the church really couldn't carry on without you!**

Could you use your skills to help the church?

New volunteers are always welcome.

Please speak to the clergy or a member of the staff team if you would like to know more about volunteering.

## Enabling Ministry

Here are some examples of what your generous giving of time, talents and financial gifts have enabled in the parish this year.

## Maturing as Disciples

One of the aims of the church for 2018 is to continue to mature together as disciples of Christ. There has been a programme throughout the year to help spiritual growth including led Quiet Days; spiritual book and TV groups and a series called 'Pathways to Prayer' where we encounter God in new ways of praying, perhaps through painting, photography, serving people or through nature.

## Other events and groups include:

- **Alpha:** 24 people have attended the two Alpha courses this year, sharing supper and exploring the Christian faith.
- **Young Adults:** Our ministry to students (Triple SG) and young adults (Kindle) continues to develop. These groups meet regularly and link into the new evening service 'The Six' at St George's.
- **Tonic:** This occasional programme for women has held three events this year, to which women of all ages have come to deepen relationships, hear inspirational speakers and grow in faith.
- **Shed time:** This men's group continues to meet regularly to offer similar opportunities for fellowship.
- **Theology for Everyone:** Using the teaching from a leading theological college, St Mellitus, 84 people are enjoying an 8 week course examining the Bible.

- **Kingfishers:** The Sunday group continues to thrive and, in the summer, 18 young adults with learning difficulties were welcomed to the Kingfisher week, where the theme of 'God our Father' was explored through fun, friendship, food, activities and outings.
- **Summertime Social:** In August, the annual 'Holiday at Home' took place for those in the community who might feel isolated, lonely or forgotten. 50 people attended for three days of activities and entertainment.

## Children and Youth

- **Little Flames and The Ark:** The last few months have seen a steady growth of these church groups for pre-school children and their carers with an average of 50 children attending each week
- **Free drop in and play sessions:** In the summer holidays, 60-100 pre- school and primary school aged children and their carers attended each 3 of these sessions.
- **Messy Church:** The first monthly after school 'Messy Church' for families with primary school aged children will be on 29th November 2018.
- **Pathfinders:** In June, this group of year 5 & 6 children had a fantastic weekend away at Carroty Wood in Kent.
- **'Space Academy' holiday club** took place in July, when over 100 children from the church and wider community enjoyed three days of fun, games, craft, drama and learning about God through the story of Daniel. Your donations meant that this could be offered at a significantly reduced cost this year.
- **House:** A new 'House' youth club meets on the 4th Friday of each month at St George's.
- **Soul Survivor:** 39 young people aged between 14 and 18 attended from the parish this year.

## Choir and Organist Fund

As part of the church's development of its strong choral and organ traditions, a scholarship programme for choristers and organists has been launched. The application process has recently opened and the first grants will be awarded from September 2019. This has been enabled initially by a legacy and it is hoped that this fund will grow through donations to enable longevity of these scholarships.

## **Connecting with the community**

As well as being used for ministry, quiet days and other church groups and events, the church halls continue to be used by over 50 local organisations and groups including the Scouts, NCT, U3A, art, dance and exercise classes.

St George's Café is open 5 days a week in term time for morning coffee and lunches. A trained listener is available in the café each weekday. This offers those who come a welcoming face and an informal way of sharing perhaps a difficulty or worry.

This year, St Giles' and St George's also had a stand at Ashted Village Day.

## **Mission**

### **Prison Ministry**

The church's commitment to supporting HMP Send is growing. This past year has seen church involvement in:

- Supporting those at the prison who are taking part in courses.
- Leading musical worship in the chapel, monthly.
- Financial giving to the charity 'The Nazareth Way', which funds the ministry of the prison chaplaincy.
- Work placements to women released on temporary license.

### **Refugees**

St Giles' and St George's are involved in the Ashted Churches Community Trust plan to welcome a Syrian refugee family to the area via the Community Sponsorship Scheme.

Thanks to kind donations so far this year, the trust has raised the initial £9,000 to support the application which has been submitted to Mole Valley District Council and The Home Office.

For more information visit: [www.ashtedchurchescommunitytrust.com](http://www.ashtedchurchescommunitytrust.com)

### **World Mission**

10% of regular giving is used to support our mission partners, both in the UK and internationally.

### **Church Premises**

Thanks to generous donations, the church has been able to invest wisely in buildings and facilities. Improvements in 2018 have included:

- A new IT server to support the growing administration.
- The refurbishment of the bell tower louvres at St Giles’.
- Professional survey of the Park Lane wall at St Giles’.
- Re-flooring the car park foyer and the Upper Room at St George’s.
- Work on the St George’s church window sills and roof.
- New LCD screens and lighting in St George’s church to support worship ministry.
- Reorganisation of the St George’s hall AV system to support the church’s many users.

## Finances - did you know ...?

- 90% of the parish’s income comes from church member donations.
- The church provides financial support to the Diocese and wider Church of England in the form of a monthly Parish Share payment of £19,000 to help God’s kingdom flourish outside of the Parish of Ashtead.
- It costs £2,100 per day to keep the wheels turning at St Giles’ and St George’s and support the church’s ministry and mission.

The table below shows forecasted income and expenditure for 2018 across all funds, compared with the total budget for 2018 and actuals for 2017:

Higher than expected one off gifts and hall hire income have meant that total

	<b>2018 full year forecast £'000</b>	<b>2018 Budget £'000</b>	<b>2017 Actual £'000</b>
Income			
Donations	851	811	849
Other Income	116	86	109
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>959</b>
Expenditure			
Operations	304	313	267
Parish Share	265	265	237
Ministry	233	254	201
Property Maintenance/ Projects	107	118	107
World Mission and other donations	81	80	66
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>878</b>
Surplus	-22	-133	81

income for 2018 will be around 5-10% more than budget and slightly higher than in 2017.

A general growth in ministry and associated support services will lead to an estimated growth in costs from 2017-2018 of just over 10%, but not as high as originally budgeted due to various savings.

The general fund budget target is always to break even or make a surplus. However, costs of maintaining and improving our properties and other IT or ministry focussed projects (which come from a separate project fund) often take the overall budget into deficit. This is why the current focus is to build up this project fund so that the church is not using reserves.

At the end of September 2018, total cash reserves in the parish were just over £1million, made up as follows:

The majority of these funds are held for specific purposes, for example,

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Ring-fenced Funds</b>	
Project Fund	654
General reserves	116
Other restricted funds	162
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	
General Fund	90
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>1,022</b>

£600,000 of the project fund is ring-fenced to repair St Giles' church roof over the next 5 years.

Some examples of other large costs coming up include:

- Repairs to the Park Lane wall at St Giles' over the next 5-10 years, costing around £100,000.
- New fire alarm and telephone systems at St George's.
- Upgrading obsolete sound, audio and visual equipment to support services and hirer needs.

Thanks to legacies in recent years, the PCC have been able to build up the project fund to meet some of these large costs but, by December 2019, it is anticipated that this will be largely depleted. With many more exciting plans in the pipeline, this is why the church continues to focus on growing regular donation income in order to achieve its aims and grow the church in Ashtead.

**Please see the SGSG Giving Leaflet for details  
of how you can play a part financially.**



Once again, the church would like to thank all of its members for their continued support and generous gifts of time, talents and finances.

If you have questions about anything in this leaflet,  
please contact the Treasurer or Finance Leader:

Simon Mould (Treasurer): [simon\\_mould@hotmail.com](mailto:simon_mould@hotmail.com) / 01737 357 244  
Claire Whittaker (Finance Leader): [claire.whittaker@ashteadparish.org](mailto:claire.whittaker@ashteadparish.org)



Tonic



Holiday Club



Pilates at St George's



Organised Activities



Ashted PCC, St George's Christian Centre  
Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted, KT21 2DA

Registered Charity Number: 1132244