

## Report of the Stewardship Team (2021)

### Introduction

The Stewardship Team was formed in September 2018 and charged with developing and communicating a fresh vision for Christian giving to support the life and work of the church.

### Our mission

- To encourage members to give **joyfully**, **freely**, and **generously** to the work of the church, in **love**, as prompted by the **Holy Spirit** and as taught in the **Bible**.

### The things we most want to say are ...



**“Thank you” to God** who has sustained us in every way through the challenges of the past two years,

**Thank YOU** for your faithful and generous giving to the work of the church – your gifts of time and money are hugely appreciated.

Almost all our income comes from individuals, many of whom give a regular, monthly amount. We depend on this to sustain and grow the churches’ work and mission.

### A new challenge

Whilst 2020 and 2021 were difficult because of the pandemic, 2022 will bring its own challenges to stretch our faith and finances as the cost of living (and of running the church) continues to rise.

The church has operated a deficit budget in recent years, with an average shortfall of income against spending of about £20,000 every year. This has been manageable, as we have strong reserves, but it can’t go on indefinitely. The church’s budget for 2022 aims for a smaller deficit (£15,000) as well as a **7% increase in giving** compared with 2021. Accounts can be viewed on the church website.

How will we respond to this challenge? Is now the time for each of us to review our giving, carefully and prayerfully?

### Principles of stewardship and giving

The Bible’s teaching is very clear – God calls us to be faithful and generous in our giving, both of our time and talents, and of our money. God knows (and we recognise) that some can afford more than others, and even the smallest gift can be of infinite value. The Bible encourages us to give in response to God’s love:

- Regularly
- Generously
- Willingly
- Cheerfully
- In keeping with our income
- Sacrificially

### How can I respond?

Most people give by **regular standing order** from their bank. It makes planning easier, both for the giver and the church. There are also **envelopes**, for regular giving at Sunday services. People sometimes make **one-off gifts**, perhaps to celebrate a life event or as a special thank you to God. You can help us recover 20% tax on most gifts if you complete a simple **Gift Aid** form. Some people choose to **leave a legacy** to Trinity Churches in their will.

### Find out more

Please visit the “giving” section of the church website <https://trinitychurches.org/give/> or pick up a leaflet at church. You can also speak in absolute confidence to Rob Surl, or any member of the Stewardship Team, to discuss any aspect of supporting the church financially, or if you have any questions. Contact the church office by phone (01743 362399) or email ([info@trinitychurches.org](mailto:info@trinitychurches.org)). Thank you!