



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

PLANNED GIVING

*What does St Michael's give to you?
What do you give to St Michael's?*



www.stmichaelbarnes.org

Stewardship 2016

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEPHEN

'Through me the message might be proclaimed.' 2 Tim 17

So says St Paul as he speaks of the offering of himself for the sake of the Gospel. The theme of our stewardship promotion this year is 'A Celebration of Giving'. It is first of all a thank you to all that you are already giving and make possible at St Michael's for the Good News of Jesus Christ in this parish.

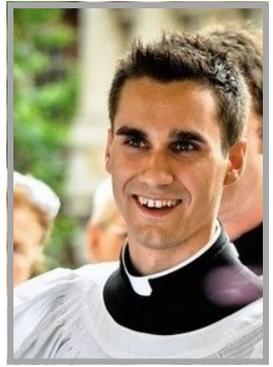
St Michael's is a well-run church in a relatively affluent area, and this can give the impression that it is wealthier than it is. In fact, being a relatively young church, St Michael's has no historic assets or endowments and relies entirely on congregational giving. It is my belief, that the core costs of ministry and the running costs of our church should come from such giving so that any other resources may be used for new projects and activities that lead to growth in our life as a church and community.

Through this promotion we are seeking to encourage more and better giving in a number of ways. First and perhaps most important of all, all giving should be founded on your **spiritual life**, and as a joyous response to what you believe and feel you have received from God through his Church. Giving should never come from a sense of obligation or guilt, but arise out of a natural impulse to give back. So my question to everyone is this: *What does St Michael's give to you?* So that you may then respond to a second question: *What do you give to St Michael's?*

Second, while a church is definitely not a club or a company, like other organisations we do need a **reliable source of income** so that we can fund our ministry and make sensible plans for the future. Many people do already give in a planned way through Standing Order, but my particular appeal is to encourage you to consider this way of giving if you do not do so already. It is true to say that some ways of giving are more helpful to us. A small amount given in a regular and direct way, and Gift Aided, enables us to do so much more than even relatively large sums in the collection when you are at church.

Third, we are asking you to consider the **level of your giving**. You may well be giving sacrificially already, and for that we are grateful and no change may be needed. However, perhaps you have not reviewed your giving for some time, and a small increase might be possible. Over the course of a year, even the monthly increase of the cost of a cup of coffee makes a remarkable difference to us, and ultimately to you, as you see and experience the benefits of a flourishing church.

Financial matters are never easy to talk about, but they are real issues of spiritual significance and practical importance. I hope that through prayer and reflection we can celebrate our giving as something that is done well, enabling us to better proclaim the message of Good News together.



SOME IMPORTANT POINTS

- At present 43% of the Electoral Roll is on Planned Giving - the normal average is 60%.
- We aim to cover our contribution to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund and most of our running costs through giving.
- Currently, giving in church (planned giving, blue envelopes and cash collection) including Gift Aid just covers the contribution to the Parish Support Fund of £69,590.
- Current estimated cost of maintaining a stipendiary parish priest in the Diocese of Southwark is £72,000 (this includes stipend, pension, housing, administration and many other diocesan costs); and to help support poor parishes we should aim to give more than the minimum.
- We aim to meet more of our running costs of £52,000 (utilities, parish office, music etc.) from donated income. (Running costs do not include the cost of church maintenance which is met from the rent received from 41 Elm Bank Gardens.)
- We aim to increase donated income from its current level of about £70,000 to £85,000.
- Over the past few years Planned Giving has dropped due to people moving out of Barnes, or sadly, passing away and we haven't encouraged Planned Giving for some time.

GIFT AID

If you normally put money in the collection, joining Planned Giving and signing a Gift Aid Declaration means that every £1 you give is worth £1.25 to the church.

If you are a higher rate tax payer, Planned Giving can help you claim a personal tax benefit via the 'Charitable Giving' section of your tax return, which could give you 25p back on every £1 you contribute.

	Gift Aid benefit for church (25p for every £1)	Provides predictable revenue for church 'Stewardship'	Potential Tax benefit for higher rate taxpayer
Cash in plate	x	x	x
Blue envelope	✓	x	✓
Planned Giving Standing Order	✓	✓ & easy admin	✓



Thank you for your consideration. A Standing Order form is enclosed together with a Gift Aid declaration. Please complete them to join Planned Giving, or to increase your level of Planned Giving and return them to the Parish Office marked for the attention of:

Jacqueline Russell
Hon Treasurer
Parish Office
c/o The Vicarage
39 Elm Bank Gardens
London SW13 0NX

If you have any questions please contact the Parish Office:
admin@stmichaelbarnes.org or 020 8876 5230